

March 2014

# INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN - MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.  
P.O. BOX 432 BLENHEIM NEW ZEALAND



## CLUB CALENDAR:

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**AGM;** 13 March. EOC, 19.30hrs

**Social Group;** 20 March. 12.00hrs - The Vines

**Committee Meeting;** 27 March 07.30hrs - EOC

**VHF Mondays** 1930 hrs  
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,  
147.225MHz

**Net Controller;** Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ

## BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. **AGM**..... 13 March
2. **SAREX**..... 22-23 March
3. **Graperide**..... 5 April
4. **Conference**..... Q/birthday

**HF Net** Fridays 1930  
3.575MHz

**VHF - USB Net** Wednesdays 1930  
144.150MHz



A big thank you to all those who have willingly (or not so willingly) contributed to the club throughout the past year, especially throughout February. Your assistance at various events has been appreciated and what helps make this club so successful.



This should have been a pic of Bill and co outstanding in their (Jock White) field... but unfortunately, nobody took any photos on the day! Use your imagination, or look back at last year's pics.

**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING**  
**Held at EOC on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 @ 1935 hrs.**

**Present:** 15 members + 1 Guest.

**Apologies:** Stuart Watchman, Ian Conway, Grant Simpson

**Correspondence:**

**In:** Nil

**Out:** Sympathy card to Kaye Hannagan  
Reminder email to MDC re Building Permit



**Reports:**

- Financial report from Ken Hynds (Treasurer)
- AREC report from Paul Rennie
- Meeting at Acheron Station attended by Paul & Stuart
- SAREX on 22/23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Mountain Bike event, 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**Business Arising:**

**Repeaters:**

We have yet to hear more from Airways Corporation regarding accommodation at Kaikoura. March/April 2014 has been earmarked for the modifications at Ward 560.

**Remote HF Site:**

Still awaiting a reply regarding the building permit enquiry. A reminder email has been sent to MDC. Further enquiries are being made regarding containers.

**General Business:**

**Coming Events:**

**Field Day;** February 22/23<sup>rd</sup>

**Nominations deadline** to Club Office. February 28<sup>th</sup>. There is a vacancy for a committee member. Nomination forms available from the Secretary ([b.cousins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.cousins@xtra.co.nz)). Bill will get a form to you if you advise him accordingly.

**Inter-club BBQ;** March 8<sup>th</sup> with Nelson at Carluke Domain. See Interface for details.

**AGM;** March 13<sup>th</sup>

**SAREX;** March 22/23<sup>rd</sup>

**Grape-ride;** April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Wine & Food Festival:**

The event was generally successful - thanks to all who took part.

**NZART National Conference, 2014:**

Kaye informed the meeting on current progress towards this event. See also the Committee minutes.



**Closure:**

There being no further business the meeting was closed and followed by a presentation of anecdotes and memories of John Beeching from Nelson. John flew Mosquitos and other aircraft in WW2 and was involved with radar and aerial countemeasures in the RAF. Now a very fit 91 year-old!

We are grateful to his friend Jack Young (ZL2JRY) for the tip-off regarding this very interesting man.

**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held at EOC on 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2014 @ 19:10 hrs**

**PRESENT:** Kaye Hannagan (Pres), Rob Carter (Vice-Pres), Bill Cousins (Sec), Ken Hynds (Treas), John Neal, Stuart Watchman, Grant Simpson.

**APOLOGIES:** Paul Rennie

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Inward:** Letter of Thanks from Mountain Bike Club  
Letter from Brayshaw Park Administrators  
Email enquiry re Conference from Ted Doell  
Email from Don Wallace re website information

PO Box Invoice  
Kiwibank Statement  
QSL-cards from Bureau  
Jan/Feb Break-In

**Outward:** Email to Don Wallace re website information

**REPORTS:**

- Brief financial report from Ken Hynds.
- Rob reported on the Mountain Bike event.
- Bill reported on the Heritage Day activity and Field Day.



**BUSINESS ARISING:**

**Inventory of Club Equipment:** Ongoing.

**Kaikoura Repeater:** Ongoing.

**HF Tower:**

No reply thus far from MDC regarding Building Permit despite reminder email. Bill to contact Bill East by phone.

While in Nelson in February, Bill visited Boxman Containers to ascertain their charges for 20ft containers. Their second-hand units cost \$2900 + GST + delivery (\$480). Another container on the internet was looked at as well. This was \$2800 + delivery.

Acting on a suggestion from Gerard Van Antwerpen, Bill visited Dashwood Timber to inspect their shed accommodation. A quote for a basic unit revealed a cost of \$7000 + another \$3000 if lined and insulated. Doors & windows extra.

A letter from the Brayshaw Park Administrators gives their permission to site the tower and container as per a submitted plan.

**Repeaters:**

The Ward repeater overhaul is ear-marked for March/April. Grant to liaise with Harry Stephens regarding the frame for the solar panels.

**Past Events:**

**Heritage Day;** Generally a worthwhile effort with some public interest.

**Wine and Food Festival;** Went well with all sites staffed.

**Mountain Bike Event;** Went well.

**Jock White Field Day;** Generally a good effort despite a shortage of operators. It is expected that the Midland Trophy will go south this year.

Thanks to all concerned. (See separate report in Interface)

**Coming Events:**

**Inter-Club BBQ (Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March)**

**Annual General Meeting (Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March);** To be held at EOC at 1930 hrs.

Reports have been requested from office-holders and nomination forms for office have closed.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 13th March 2014

1930 Hrs at the Emergency Operations Centre in Wither Road Extension.

We have at least one committee member resigning his position so give some thought to volunteering yourself (or someone else - check you have their approval first though!) It is an exciting year to be on the committee with several events planned, plus the hosting of conference!

**Any nominations for office and Committee membership should be in the hands of the Secretary by the end of February. Nomination forms are available from Bill Cousins ([b.cousins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.cousins@xtra.co.nz))**

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### RADIO SOCIAL REPORT - 2013

The group is made up of retired Amateur Radio people who meet on the third Thursday each month for lunch at the Redwood Tavern.

There is no set programme for outings as the people have a wide range of interests and backgrounds. All that needs to be done is to get them started then sit back and listen with interest.

During the year, due to trips and other interests etc the average attendance is about 10 people per month. We would be pleased for any Ham Radio people to join us to keep the numbers up.

- Ross Holdaway

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### EXAMINER'S REPORT - 2013

Chris Bryant sat and successfully passed the Amateur Radio examination in September, 2013. His callsign is ZL3CNB so if you hear him on the air, please give him a call and help him chalk up the necessary 50 contacts.

There are a couple of other candidates in the wings and preparing themselves for the exam, so hopefully they will feel confident enough to sit the examination in 2014.

ZL2AYZ

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### QSL MANAGER'S REPORT - 2013/2014

102 cards were received from the ZL2 bureau this year. This was down on last year's total probably because we are now no longer receiving cards for ZL2TZE/ZL2U which generally accounted for a creditable number.

The main and consistent recipients were ZL2AYZ, ZL2JKP, ZL2TZE/ZL2U, ZL2WW and ZL2DOG.

The rarer cards are generally received direct, but of the bureau cards received, the Azores (ZL2U) and South Sudan (ZL2AYZ) were probably the most exotic. The latter entity was worked easily (instead of fighting in a pileup) on the ANZA DX net at 0515 UT on 14183 kHz.

The prediction last year that the end of 2013 could see a peak in the current solar cycle proved to be true! Current solar flux figures are around 150 and have been so for most of this year so far, so, as they say, make hay while the sun shines - it can drop off quite sharply and that will be it for another 11 years! There have been a number of rare but workable DX entities on over the last few months. See "dxsummit" on the internet for current "what's on".

ZL2AYZ

## FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-2000  
Transceiver with manuals

Yaesu G250 Lightweight  
Antenna Rotator

G4MH Minibeam Antenna  
+ Coaxial Cables and  
Connectors

**Phone ;**  
Margaret 03 5794089  
Ken ZL2BTJ (retired)

## REPEATER REPORT, AGM 2014

All repeaters are working well at present.

146.950MHz. The Blenheim repeater on The Ned got through another winter period with no power problems again. There are some occasional scratchy sounds on the received signal indicating a visit is necessary to check out possible causes of intermodulation such as the antenna pole stays or some other nearby poor metal joint. This appears to be worse when the wind is not very strong.

145.600MHz. The Ward repeater on Weld Cone was updated with the installation of four 150Ah batteries. The solar panels are still to be upgraded but the increased battery capacity meant the repeater got right through the winter without discharging the batteries to very low levels. It is hoped to increase the solar panel capacity and install the new solar regulator very soon.

147.225MHz. Picton repeater on Mt Freeth managed the winter period very well as the replacement batteries, solar panels and regulator were all installed before Winter set in. Apart from what appears to be an intermittent interfering signal on site occasionally causing the repeater receiver to hold on, the repeater has worked well.

The digipeater at Jamie's Knob has performed well with no apparent problems.

438.450MHz. The repeater has worked well since last year's repairs and minor modifications. It doesn't get a lot of use but is worth using to fill in some shaded areas the VHF ones don't manage to.

STSP. The VHF STSP has worked well since last year's maintenance

IRLP. Both IRLP units are working well. Node 6285 on the VHF repeaters has been transferred to a new computer soon to reduce fan noise and also power consumption. There will be no change noticeable to users. The 6081 node on the UHF repeater also has Echolink available for those that would like to use it. CTCSS is no longer required to access this IRLP / Echolink facility.

The 6 metre beacon has performed without any problems over the last year.

Linking to Kaikoura is still being worked on. However it is not expected to happen until the Kaikoura repeater has been re-housed in a more suitable building along with mains power. At this time, the Kaikoura digipeater will be reinstalled. Suitable accommodation is still being investigated.

We are constantly on the look out for possible repeater locations as well as digipeater locations. A TinyTrak 4 has been donated to the club and this can be set up as a digipeater as required. This could be used for tracking on sports events or to improve APRS coverage in the area.

Work to be done quite urgently is the installation of the extra solar panels and regulator at Ward. It is not easy to arrange a suitable time for volunteers to get to the sites to help, especially as they both require heavy 4WD vehicles and fine weather. If you want to help and maybe provide suitable transport then let a committee member know. E-Mail messages will be sent out to keep you all up to date with what's happening. It might not be possible to take everyone to a site but if you do want a trip then let us know!

Thanks to the many who have worked hard on our repeater system in the past and more than likely in the future. I haven't named people as you all probably know who they are and I didn't want to miss anyone out.

Thank you all.  
Grant, ZL2BK



## **LAST YEAR'S MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 81st AGM MEETING**

Held at EOC on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 @ 19:39 Hrs.

**PRESENT:** Kaye Hannagan (Chair), Bill Cousins (Sec), plus 17 members as per attached register.

**APOLOGIES:** Foss Leach, Janet Davidson, Stuart Watchman, John Neal, Ian Conway, David Clode, Tony Dakin, Bert Smith.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the 80th AGM were taken as read in view of their being published in Interface. A vote was taken to accept them as a true and accurate record.

*Mac McCulloch/Helen Harris – Carried*

**BUSINESS ARISING:** - Nil

**FINANCIAL:** The audited financial report was circulated among the members for review and comment.

The President moved that this Financial Report be accepted.

*Kaye Hannagan/Bill Cousins - Carried*

The Treasurer requested that payment for the Insurance premium on Repeater sites be approved.

*Helen Harris/Ken Menzies - Carried*

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Nil

**REPORTS:** The following listed reports published in Interface were taken as read:

QSL Manager

Exam Supervisor

Social Group

It was moved that the reports be accepted.

*Kaye Hannagan/Ron Harris - Carried*

The following listed reports were read:

President

AREC

Repeaters

It was moved that the reports be accepted.

*Ken Hynds/Paul Rennie - Carried*

A vote of commendation to President Kaye Hannagan for her leadership over the past year was proposed by Helen Harris and supported by acclamation.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The incumbents of the following positions have agreed to continue for another year:

**President:** Kaye Hannagan

**Vice President:** Rob Carter

**Secretary:** Bill Cousins

**Treasurer:** Ken Hynds

**Committee Members:** Grant Simpson, John Neal & Paul Rennie

Stuart Watchman offered to fill the position of Committee Member following the resignation of Ken Menzies. This was accepted by the meeting.

It was moved that these positions be confirmed.

*Helen Harris/Roger Burdon - Carried*

It was agreed and moved that the willing incumbents of the following positions be confirmed:

**QSL Manager;** Bill Cousins

**Examination Supervisors;** Bill Cousins and John Neal

**Call Sign Trustees;** Ian Conway, Stuart Watchman

**Repeater Trustees;** Grant Simpson, Ken Menzies

**Morse;** Ken Menzies

**Social Group Coordinator;** Ross Holdaway

**Training Officer;** Stuart Watchman

**Librarian;** Gerard. van Antwerpen

**Interface Editor;** Caryl Simpson





## NELSON MARLBOROUGH INTERCLUB CHALLENGE & BBQ

A lovely day was enjoyed by approximately 40 people (equally split between regions). The day started with a Fox Hunt followed by lunch (a wide variety of salads, meats - including a glazed ham, cupcakes, biscuits and other desserts plus a lot of home grown fruits). We then played Transceiver Toss and then the Tug O' War.

The Fox Hunt was won by Marlborough and the Transceiver Toss by Nelson so it, once again, was left to the Tug O' War to determine the Interclub Challenge winner.

Unfortunately we lost to Nelson this year but I guess it was time they won for once.



Fox Hunt



Fox Hunt winner



Handing over the trophy



BBQ



Toss the Transceiver



Toss the Transceiver



glazed ham



Hovercraft with camera underneath



Marlborough Girls



Sales table



Nelson Girls



Nelson boys



Marlborough boys

Photos taken by Caryl Simpson, Hugh Emslie & Jim Meachen