

November 2013

INTERFACE

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



CLUB CALENDAR:

Editor: Caryl Simpson
caryl@simtronics.co.nz

General Meeting; 14 Nov. EOC, 19.30hrs

Social Group; 21 Nov. 12.00hrs - The Vines

Committee Meeting; 28 Nov. 07.30hrs - EOC

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

Net Controller; Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

HF Net Fridays 1930
3.575MHz

1. Christmas Parade.....07 Dec

2. Christmas Meeting.....12 Dec

3. New Year BBQ.....TBA

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930
144.150MHz



General Meeting, Thursday, 14th November, guest speaker will be Ashley Bell.

Ashley is an old friend of Jack Young from Havelock. Ashley knew Bert Munro, of motorcycle fame, in Invercargill as a young fellow, so has an interesting story to tell.

These photos were taken by Grant last year in Invercargill. This display is in the Hammer Hardware shop there.



Where are we going,
and why am I in this handbasket???

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at EOC on 24th October, 2013 @ 19:33 hrs

PRESENT: Kaye Hannagan (President), Rob Carter (V/Pres), Bill Cousins (Sec), Ken Hynds (Treasurer), Stuart Watchman, Grant Simpson, Paul Rennie

APOLOGIES: John Neal

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inward Findings of District Resource Plan Review Letter from MDC
 Sept/Oct Break-In QSL Cards from Bureau

Outward Email letter to Brayshaw Park Administrators
 Letter of thanks to Senior Air Traffic Controller

REPORTS: Financial report from Ken Hynds,

BUSINESS ARISING:

Inventory of Club Equipment: Ongoing

Kaikoura Repeater:

Stuart reported on a discussion he had with Doug DeWhit (Airways) regarding accommodation and access to the Airways site at Kaikoura. This included topics such as rental, security arrangements, space and power requirements, etc. Stuart will maintain contact with Doug.

HF Tower:

The Brayshaw Park Administrators have indicated that they are willing to support our proposal to re-locate the tower to the Park, although a formal letter has yet to be received.

As the reply from the MDC regarding use of reserve land for this project was not very encouraging, it was generally felt that we should pursue the re-location to Brayshaw park. However, it was suggested that another noise test should be conducted on site after dark.

The next step is to determine exactly where the tower is to be located. There was also considerable discussion on suitable accommodation and a container was felt to be the best option for several reasons.

- [i] Stuart/Grant/Bill to check the noise at a mutually convenient time.
- [ii] Kaye to revisit a contact in Nelson regarding the location and cost of a reduced size container, possibly already in the Blenheim area.
- [iii] Paul to contact T.H. Barnes regarding possible surplus buildings.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Coming Events:

Next General Meeting (14th November):

The guest speaker will be Ashley Bell from Invercargill who knew Bert Munro in his early days.

The December (12th) meeting will be an informal event. Members are asked to bring a Christmassy contribution for supper.

Christmas Parade: 7th December

The New Year will kick-off with a BBQ.

AREC Equipment:

Paul is seeking approval from Jeff Sayer to purchase two Tait 8200 handhelds. He also demonstrated some overalls which could possibly be purchased for AREC staff to wear. These were inspired by the attire of emergency workers at Seddon.

Buller Sports Event, 2015:

A multisport event is being mooted for the Buller area by Pete Halligan. Stuart will monitor progress on this possibility.

NZART Conference, 2014:

Considerable discussion was held on this event.

Stuart tabled a report on research and suggestions for forums.

Kaye reported on investigations into suitable venues. It looks as if the Marlborough Club (site used for the 80th anniversary celebrations) and the Convention Centre will be used. Negotiations are in train regarding acceptable pricing.

Helen Harris and Clare Watchman are working on the alternative programme.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 28th November, 2013.

CLOSURE: There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2056 hrs.



LETTER to the EDITOR

What a great visit we had to the Control Tower at the Airport.

As related by one of us at our Social Lunch, climbing all those stairs to the viewing area was quite painful, necessitating a quiet sit down when he arrived at the top. These ageing ankle joints are really starting to be felt.

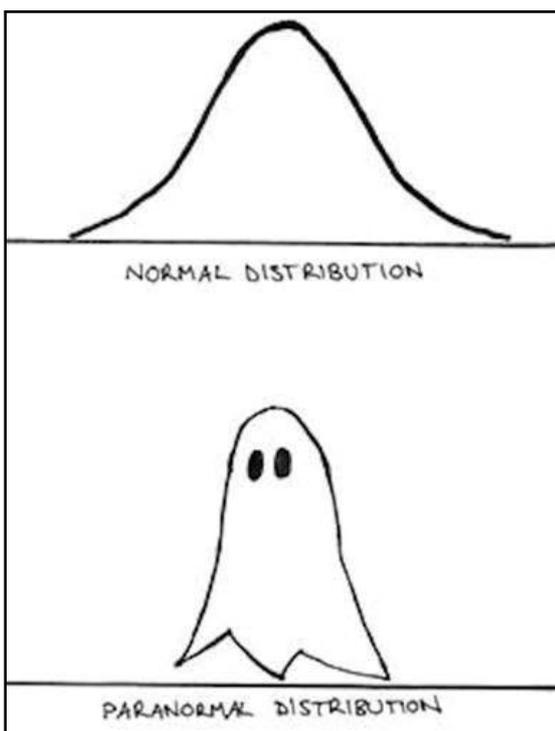
At the end of a really good discussion, down he went, painful step by painful step until he reached the ground and was able to limp over to the car. On his arrival home he carefully removed his shoe and sock to examine the now very painful joint.

Well, who would have thought it? His ball point pen had made its way from his shirt pocket down to his sock!

Oh well, a handy place to keep ones pen after all!



There are no General Minutes from last month as there was no meeting due to the visit to the airport control tower.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been busy since the last Interface so this update may be longer than my usual few words.

The airport tower MARC visit was well patronised with a good demonstration by the resident controller. It was certainly interesting to see the technology in use and how the planes were being guided in from afar.

Thank you to Bill for organising so well this visit.

HF Tower

The work on a site for the HF tower is progressing after the difficulties with the Selmes Road site. The Club has an offer from the Brayshaw Park Committee to place the tower at the back of the grounds (thank you John). Testing is underway to ensure the lower HF bands are relatively free from noise prior to installation. Club members should be giving consideration to the type of accommodation required to house any base station equipment, and the potential use of the same. Any ideas or other things to consider please talk to Stuart or Robin.

Conference 2014

The venue for the Conference has had much discussion and we are investigating a number of possibilities. It proved to be problematic to find a venue large enough to seat the numbers for an evening meal and AGM.

The most likely venue will be a combination of the Marlborough Club (where we had the 80th MARC dinner) and one of the Convention Centre halls. We have made an application to the Marlborough Club for a reduction in fees because of our non profit status, and I am hopeful this will be approved by the Marlborough Club Committee.

There have been some volunteers for various tasks. Each of these tasks is quite complex so there are others assisting but these are the key people.

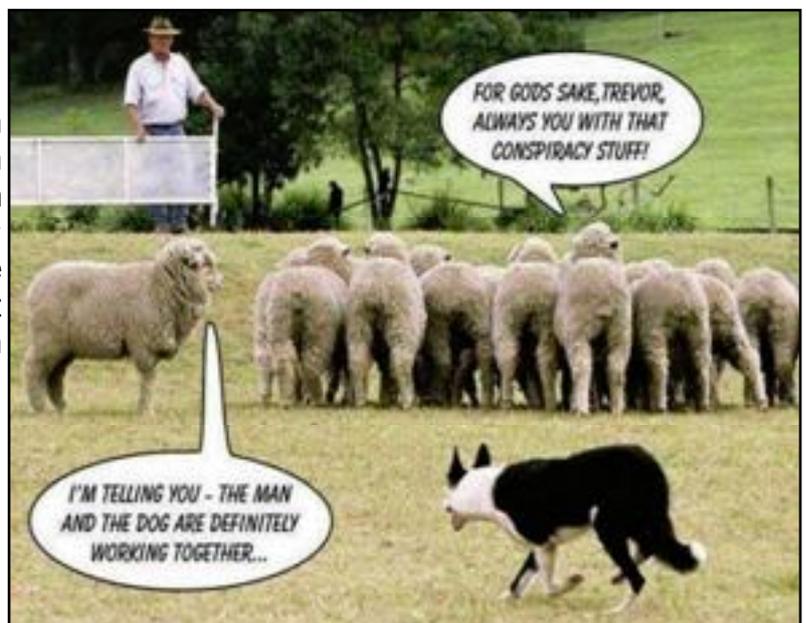
Forums	Stuart Watchman
Registrations	Caryl Simpson
Alternate Programme	Helen Harris and Clare Watchman

If you have any ideas regarding forum content, alternate destinations or anything else, please let either myself or one of the above members know. Also if you can help in any way please let us know.

I am currently working with accommodation providers who can 'hold' rooms for those from out of town and this information will be published in Break In for the January/February edition. They have offered reasonable discounts on room rates. There is a lot of pressure on accommodation in Blenheim at that time so we need to be quick to book.

Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Kaye Hannagan, President Branch 22



MARLBOROUGH MARATHON REPORT 27TH OCTOBER

The fourth Marlborough Marathon was held on labour weekend. Numbers were down this year. The organiser, Pete Halligan, was away earlier when his side-kick decided on Labour Weekend, which he thinks reduced entries.

Branch 22 had roadside personnel for the second half of the marathon keeping a rally type criss-cross sheet check. Grant and his brother-in-law Davey were again at the 41/20km intersection at Paynters Rd., Ken Hynds at the 30km point on the Wrekin saddle and Harry at the 38km point on Dog Point Rd. Helen and Stuart were at the base at the Villa Maria winery in Fairhall. Communications were also managed with a number of marshals on bikes following the various events.

Last year the event organiser, Pete Halligan, suffered a flat battery in his vehicle while out on the course. This year one of the marshals, the manager of Topp motors, managed to suffer the same problem in a near new Jaguar. Once again Branch 22 came to the rescue with jumper leads. We were well fed with a BBQ lunch, and I was able to deliver a meal each to Grant and Davey.

Communications remained unchanged with 2m and 70cm portable repeaters located at the forestry site above Kaituna. Photos of the repeaters are included in this Interface. Note that Tosca was not left to guard the 2m repeater for the entire weekend. Also note how well the antennas were tied down, there were very strong nor-westers while they were deployed.

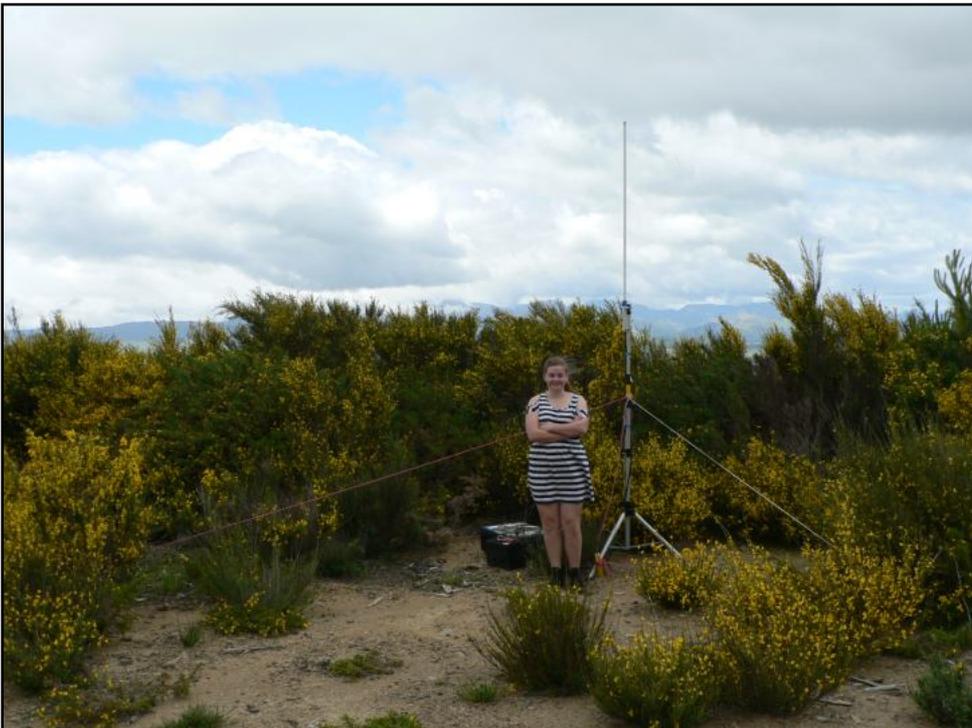
Ken helped with set up on the Thursday prior to the event and Ellie helped with dismantling on the Sunday. I convinced her that she could carry a 70 Ah battery, which she managed with no trouble, after all her back is younger than mine!



2m STSP guarded by Tosca, about to attack

A donation cheque for \$500 has already been received for our efforts. Thanks to all who helped and if you were not involved, but would like to be next year, let me know.

Stuart ZL2TW



70cm STSP modelled by Ellie. Looking southeast toward the Ned