

HAMLARKS

Christchurch Amateur Radio Club



May 2017

Branch 05 Club reoccurring events

MAIN BRANCH MEETING First Wednesday of the month 7.30pm, except January. *All visitors welcome.* At 5 Idris Road, Fendalton.

Branch 05 Website www.chchhamradio.org.nz

ACTIVITIES and STUDY NIGHT Every Tuesday 7:30 pm at 5 Idris Road, Fendalton.
All visitors welcome.

DAYTIME MEETING (Branch05)

Meet third Thursday of month, 1 pm at Branch05 clubrooms.

All visitors welcome.

COMMITTEE MEETING 1st Monday after branch meeting 7.30 pm

At 5 Idris Road, Fendalton

AREC MEETINGS Normally the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30 pm. At 5 Idris Road, Fendalton

DEADLINE FOR HAMLARKS COPY 11 days before the main branch meeting.

WEEKLY CLUB VHF NET Every Sunday 8:00 pm on 145.625 MHz repeater if available, otherwise 147.050 MHz repeater.

OFFICIAL NZART BROADCAST Last Sunday of the month 8:00 pm on 147.050 MHz repeater.

CW PRACTICE

Boyd ZL3LE every Tuesday at 8 pm. 3550 kHz. Listen in your shack or come along to Branch 05 clubrooms.

Views expressed in "Hamlarks" are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee of the Christchurch Amateur Radio Club. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles submitted for publication for reasons of clarity or length. No part of Hamlarks may be reproduced without the express consent of the Editor.

Secretary Rory's Ramblings - ZL3HB

At long last we managed to get up to Marleys for a day last Friday. A good turnout of 10 to get the jobs done; ZL3MWD, ZL3AJT, ZL2UCX, ZL3AG, ZL3TMB, ZL3RGB, ZL3RX, ZL3TOY, ZL3TAO, ZL3HB.

Cleared grass and scrub around the hut so we could dig out the cable runs and pulled all the old coax runs from the top pole.

Now we only have 3 x hardline runs after running another one. Mounted the pipe rail up the mast and shifted the n

National System south port Yagi across onto it.

Then transferred X50 across and connected APRS and NS local port onto it temporarily. X50 will go in the end.

Mounted a new shrouded dipole for 705. Eventually that will go lower down and become the APRS antenna.

Currently discussing options for new ducting back to the hut and entry points etc as hardline is a lot more difficult to run through old style trunking.

When committee decided on what aerials etc we will be back up for the next lot.

Still have the bottom pole with our engineering link plus NS north port antennas to sort. Plus Mountain Radio stuff so need to talk to them.

It was a long day and really showed we need 4 pole climbers so we can do it in relays and make the job continuous. But that's a big ask to get all of them up there at the same time so the job takes longer with two. All in all a successful day.

Would appear the council isn't going to come to the party with paths etc at the clubrooms so we can continue on with that ourselves. More working bees over winter!!

I see the locals are clearing the walnuts from the ground and I must get down and do another weed spray.

Tuesday night continues with good attendances so come on down.

See you there.

Rory ZL3HB

Programme for next branch meeting

Wednesday 3rd May

Discussion on NZART Conference remits. NB, to vote on remits at this meeting you need to have Branch 05 on your Break In wrapper. Followed by a showing of DVD "TX Factor 14 or 15",

From the Hamlinks editor

Hamlinks editor Kelvin ZL3KB will be overseas until the end of the year and I have been "volunteered" to stand in for him. So if you have copy, hamads, etc for Hamlinks please send it directly to me at john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz or phone 03-3489 084.

Thanks & 73

John Walker ZL3IB

News from Kelvin ZL3KB Wireless in Chichicastanango.

This town in the highlands of Guatemala is famous for its twice weekly market of textiles, where the Mayan stalls fill all available space in the streets.

I noticed that everyone had a cell phone, not unusual nowadays, but one would not expect this traditional Mayan culture to be the most tech savvy. Something I had not seen before - all shops had battery powered desk phones with antennas, with no wires attached. Some enquiries



revealed the story: the land next to the telephone exchange was owned by a rich local, who wanted an enormous price to sell it to the telephone company for a required expansion. A big bust-up occurred, and the town revolted by rejecting its use of landlines in protest, and now the wires bedeck the streets as bird

perches only. Ironically, the land owner also partly owns a cellular network too!

Christchurch Amateur Radio Club.

Another problem they have here, that may affect hams as well – there seems to be a grass that grows on wires with no soil. I took this picture of the growth on a wire antenna. We know we use ham radio as an excuse to avoid cutting the lawn, but these guys may have to mow the antenna occasionally. On the plus side, at least there is no “earth” on the antenna.



73's Kelvin ZL3KB

NZART HF Contests April – July 2017

Wayne, ZL2AYB, plans to use the Branch 05 facilities to participate in three NZART HF contests. If you do not have an HF station or are not already involved in contests this is an opportunity for interested club members. Although they are all single operator contests, you are invited to join Wayne at the club rooms to assist with the log keeping for some or all of the following events (or part thereof). There are CW components but you do not have to be a CW expert or even have done any CW at all.

If you have any questions, or intend to join Wayne, please contact him beforehand at fisher.well@xtra.co.nz.

1. Sangster Shield

When: Saturday 20 May and Sunday 21 May

Time: 2000 to 2300 each evening

Mode: CW

3 Memorial

When: Saturday 1 July and Sunday 2 July

Time: 2000 to 2300 each evening

Mode: SSB & CW (Field Day format)

Hamcram at Branch05

.The next HamCram will be in July, and places are filling fast.

Microphones for PA work

There are three types of microphones that **could** be used, viz; carbon, capacitor, and dynamic. Carbon is not now used because of inherent noise, lack of sensitivity, and lack of fidelity.

Capacitor is little used for PA because it is a pressure operated transducer. It responds equally to signals from any direction, and so has no discrimination against unwanted background noises and acoustic feedback. It could also be considered less robust than the usually used dynamic mic, and can be susceptible to moisture or water getting into the microphone cable where the mic is remotely powered by phantom power source from the mixer. In PA work this connecting cable could be quite long. (My record is down the full length of the Waimate township main street, AKG dynamic mic).

Nowadays **dynamic** is the usual type of microphone used. They are physically small, giving little visual obstruction when correctly placed. The pickup pattern is usually cardioid, giving discrimination to unwanted sounds. Not requiring remote power allows long cable runs without clicks or hum pickup, where the mixer input is a balanced connection. (Balanced is where each signal carrying conductor has the same impedance to ground). Sometimes there is a need to ensure continuity of service, when in a VIP situation. This is provided by setting up two microphones at the rostrum. Connection is by separate cables to separate mixer inputs.

Caution is needed here to ensure the microphones are in-phase. This is checked by advancing the volume on one mic only in a trial test. Bringing up the volume on the second mic should increase the sound volume. If it fades instead, then the mics are out of phase. (Yes, I have been caught! Due to the colour codes being changed on a mixer input transformer wires).

It is normal to hear some out-of-phase aural effects if other than a very short distance is used between the mics. Here, the second mic should run

6dB lower level than the first mic, as then any 180 degree phasing cancelling effects will not completely cancel to leave audible dips in the speech level.

Ross ZL3TFK

NZART Conference 2017

To be hosted by the Rotorua Amateur Radio Club (RARC)

Queens' Birthday Weekend – June 3rd & 4th 2017

Venue; 'SUDIMA HOTEL'

1000 Eruera Street, Rotorua 3010.

Phone 0800 Sudima (0800 783 462) or (07) 348 1174.

Email: reservations@sudimarotorua.co.nz

Web: www.sudimahotels.com

BOOK EARLY and QUOTE: "NZART QBW 2017 Conference"

GOOD RATES have been negotiated to stay at this venue:

Standard Rooms: \$120 for single/twin share, or \$150 including full breakfast.

Superior Rooms: \$140 for single/twin share, or \$170 including full breakfast.

As well as their fine conference facilities, this venue features:

Lakefront location, Naturally heated pool and spas,

Wifi available, Adjacent to the famous Polynesian Spa,

Free onsite parking, Walking distance to City Centre,

Restaurant and Bar on site.

For further information, or if you would like to host a seminar,

Please contact: Ted ZL1MG or Margaret ZL1MB,

Phone (07)345 9687 or email: tedmarg@clear.net.nz

NOTE: The Conference Website is now on line at www.hamradio.co.nz/

>

HAMADS

SELL- Collection of parts recovered from a BCNZ 12 volt, 25 amp battery charger: heavy transformer with a 133 x 111 x 100 mm core, two main windings each 16.4 V ct ; heavy current choke; 0-25 V and 0-25 A meters; bridge rectifier on a heat sink; 47,000 µF capacitor @ 40 V dc; 2 sides

and a base plate for 19" rack shelf 178 mm high. Any offers for the lot?
Contact Ross ZL3TFK. 332-8370.

Metal Plates; Cut metal squares of 6 mm thick aluminium plate, 180 mm x 180 mm are available at the Club rooms, for those wanting to make aerial crossover clamps. These facilitate mounting of horizontal VHF/UHF aerial booms to vertical support pipes.

The plates need drilling for whatever size of muffler clamps are needed to fit the pipe diameters. See Mark Atherton, with a suitable donation.

Wanted-

Access to 1960's and 1970's QST. I need to get access to these years of QST for research I'm carrying out into EME and microwave history. 1960-1969 and 1970-1979. If anyone has ALL these magazines or preferably, the corresponding CDs, and can arrange access to them for me for week or so, I would very much appreciate it.

Dave Brown, ZL3FJ Tel. 021 717 005 or 03 3527 666.

FREE. Electric motors (x3). 2000 rpm, 1/8 HP, ex main-frame computer. Freebies, contact John ZL3IB, ph 348 9084, john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz.

Stolen equipment. Keep a look out!

Stolen PA speakers

I would appreciate members watching out for four PA horn speakers stolen from the Christchurch Show Grounds. These are Toa, 600 mm diameter, 630mm from flare rim to driver rear, and are coloured a well-faded light grey shade. The drivers are round, grey plastic, and have that special Toa 4-pin plug at the rear, where you rotate the plug to set the 100v line power you want. They are being stolen in Auckland, too, and no one can work out why.... Thanks.

Ross ZL3TFK, weir.rd@xtra.co.nz.

NVIS Research Paper available.

The paper '**Radio communication via Near Vertical Incidence Skywave propagation: an overview**' by **Rosa Ma Alsina-Pagès** and **Ben A. Witvliet** is now available via the link given. Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) propagation can be used for radio communication in a large area (200 km radius) without any intermediate human-made infrastructure. It is therefore especially suited for disaster relief communication, communication in developing regions and applications where independence of local infrastructure is desired, such as military applications. NVIS communication uses frequencies between approximately 3 and 10 MHz.

A comprehensive overview of NVIS research is given, covering propagation, antennas, diversity, modulation and coding. Both the bigger picture and the important details are given, as well as the relation between them. Download this most informative paper from:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11235-017-0287-2>

Mathematical Mayhem

Noah landed the ark on Mt. Ararat and disembarked the animals with a strict injunction to go forth and multiply. Soon, the world was filled with baby animals of all species except one. Two small snakes said sadly to Noah “We can't multiply, we're only adders”

Noah thought for a few minutes, then sent his sons to gather driftwood and make a sturdy rustic table. He lifted the snakes onto the table, and in a short space of time lots of little baby adders were wriggling off into the undergrowth.

This proves that even adders can multiply by using a log table.

Computers; masculine or feminine ?

A language instructor was explaining to her class that French nouns, unlike their English counterparts, are grammatically designated as masculine or feminine for example; "house," in French, is feminine-"la maison." "pencil," in French, is masculine-"le crayon."

One puzzled student asked, "What gender is computer?" The teacher did not know, and the word wasn't in her French dictionary. So for fun she split the class into two groups appropriately enough, by gender and asked them to decide whether "computer" should be a masculine or feminine noun.

Both groups were required to give four reasons for their recommendation.

The men's group decided that computers should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computer"), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

However the women's group concluded that computers should be masculine ("le computer"), because:

1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but they are still clueless
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they *ARE* the problem
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you'd waited a little longer, you could have got a better model.!

Minutes of Christchurch Amateur Radio club meeting 5th April 2017

Apologies ZL3NW, ZL2AYB, ZL3QC, ZL3LIZ, ZL3UE, ZL3TFK, ZL3BAW, ZL3EP, ZL2UCI.

Moved to accept by Ian ZL3TAO. Carried.

Minutes of March meeting moved to accept by Rory ZL3HB, seconded Alan ZL3BWG.

Carried.

Correspondence Ragchew & Q-bit

Reports **AREC** Two searches were notified but ended before we were deployed.

Horse endurance event went well

Hakaterere SAREX went well. Codan played up. Investigating.

Repeaters Marleys clean-up not done yet. Need pole climbers. ZL3AG, ZL4FZ, ZL3ROD and ZL2UCX so far.

John ZL3ADF moved “that up to \$5000 be spent on new aerials for Marleys”

Motion lapsed due to previous meetings already agreeing to this.

QSL Bureau No new cards. Come every 3 months now.

Tuesday night Good attendances up to 35 members.

Band report 80 & 40 m OK at times.

General Business HamCram – have now got 100% pass rate overall.

Gareth ZL3VP moved ‘a vote of thanks to HamCram tutors and organisers’; seconded David ZL3DO. Carried by acclamation.

John ZL3IB, as stand-in Hamlarks editor, asked for articles to include.

Meeting closed 7.57 pm

Speaker

Jack Copeland gave an interesting and entertaining talk on Alan Turing and his work on artificial intelligence.

Christchurch Amateur Radio Club
Committee for 2017 email: rory1@xtra.co.nz
Ph home Ph work Cell phone

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---|------------|----------|--------------|
| President: | Ian MacPherson | ZL3TAO | 3549311 | | 021 048 0298 |
| | | 17 O'Neill Ave Northwood Chch | | | |
| | | Email: ian@macpherson.gen.nz | | | |
| V/President: | Mike Barnes | ZL3TMB | 03 3133321 | | 021 679 479 |
| | | P O Box 218, Christchurch, 8140 | | | |
| | | Email: mike@barnes.net.nz | | | |
| Secretary: | Rory Deans | ZL3HB | 3446292 | | 0211314599 |
| | | 29 Seymour St, Hornby, Chch 8042 | | | |
| | | Email: rory1@xtra.co.nz | | | |
| Treasurer: | Richard Prattley | ZL3UE | 325 2685 | | 027 226 2205 |
| | | 42 Ryelands Dr, Lincoln, | | | |
| | | Email: zl3ue@snap.net.nz | | | |
| Committee: | Trevor Wignall | ZL3ADZ | 3388953 | 963 9241 | 021 057 6279 |
| | | 32 Worsleys Rd, Cracroft, 8025 | | | |
| | | Email: zl3adz@xtra.co.nz | | | |
| | David O'Malley | ZL3DO | 3594117 | | 027 6581350 |
| | | 72 Crofton Rd, Harewood, Chch 8051 | | | |
| | | Email: david.b.omalley@gmail.com | | | |
| | Mark Atherton | ZL3JVX | 3376632 | | 021 0324446 |
| | | 116B St Martins Rd Chch 8022 | | | |
| | | Email: markaren1@xtra.co.nz | | | |
| | Mike Duncan | ZL3MWD | 3384942 | | 0211039338 |
| | | 243 Hoon Hay Rd Chch | | | |
| | | Email: mikedun@xtra.co.nz | | | |
| | Blair Kenton | ZL3TOY | 3392967 | | 0212922164 |
| | | 44 Dickens St, Addington, Chch | | | |
| | | Email: zl3toynz@gmail.com | | | |
| | Gareth Bradshaw | ZL3VP | 3322406 | | 0274324738 |
| | | 163A Ashgrove Tce, Chch | | | |
| | | Email: zl3vp@xtra.co.nz | | | |
| AREC | Richard Smart | ZL4FZ | 385 8355 | 3728603 | 021 443 086 |
| | | Email: rsmart@netaccess.co.nz | | | 0275085718 |

Repeater Trustees: Rob Thirkettle ZL3RX 3483815 Gareth Bradshaw ZL3VP 3322406 Mike Barnes ZL3TMB 03 3133321

Auditor: Community auditors/reviewers

Hamlarks: Acting Editor John Walker ZL3IB john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz Phone 30 348 9084.

Clubrooms 5 Idris Rd, Fendalton Mail to PO Box 1733 Christchurch