

June 2014

INTERFACE

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



CLUB CALENDAR:

Editor: Caryl Simpson
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General Meeting; 12 June. EOC, 19.30hrs

Social Group; 19 June. 12.00hrs - The Vines

Committee Meeting; 26 June. 07.30hrs - EOC

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

Net Controller; Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1.Show & Tell.....12 June

HF Net Fridays 1930
3.575MHz

Very quiet over winter as we recover from conference :-)

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930
144.150MHz

General Meeting on June 12th is an open SHOW & TELL

Members are invited to contribute on the night on any topic/demonstration of their choosing.

Time limit: 10 minutes each.

This has been well supported in recent years so hopefully will again attract a number of entries this year.

Don't leave it to somebody else - your activities and interests also appeal to others!



LETS HEAR ABOUT IT!



Official photo taken outside the venue on Saturday morning.

Well done & thanks to those Branch 22 members who helped, or participated, in the weekend.

High praise was given from many with the general consensus being that it was an excellent conference with interesting forums, good food & something for all.

Thanks also to Dave, Topsy and Jim from Branch 26 for their contributions.

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING
Held at EOC on 8th May, 2014 @ 1940 hrs.

Present: 21 members plus 1 guest.

Apologies: Derek Harding

Correspondence:

In: Conference enquiries. **Out:** Replies to conference enquiries.

Reports:

Financial report from Ken Hynds (Treasurer)

There are, to meeting date, 93 paid-up delegates for Conference.

AREC report from Paul Rennie.

A callout for missing trampers on Mt. Riley on 4/5 May.

Another missing person was located (deceased) at Lake Chalice.

Business Arising:

Repeaters:

We have yet to hear from Airways Corporation regarding Kaikoura.

The frame and solar panels for the Ward site are at Casey's Road awaiting suitable weather for access and installation.

Batteries at the various sites are holding up well despite the overcast weather.

Remote HF Site:

A verbal reply to an enquiry to MDC regarding progress on this matter was positive but the expression in writing (email) has yet to arrive.

General Business:

Coming Events:

May 30th – 1st June: NZART Annual Conference

June 12th: Next General Meeting.

SHOW and TELL.

NZART National Conference, 2014:

Kaye gave an update on preparations for this event.

Silver Fern Car Rally (November):

Rob Carter gave an update on this event.

Conference Remits:

Both remits are outlined in the latest Break-In (Mar/Apr) and members voted on these to determine the Branch response.

Remit 1: A unanimous vote against, in that members felt that measures were already in place to deal with the issue raised.

Remit 2: A unanimous vote in favour of the amendment.

Closure:

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1955 hrs.

This was followed by an illustrated talk by Wayne Stronach, an electrical engineer, on the subject of 3-D printers.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
Held at EOC on 22nd May, 2014 @ 19:35hrs

PRESENT: Kaye Hannagan (President), Grant Simpson (Vice-President), Bill Cousins (Sec), Ken Hynds (Treasurer), Rob Carter, Stuart Watchman, Chris Grant, Paul Rennie

APOLOGIES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE:

Inward: Email from ZL1GMB re Chathams video for conference.
Email from Lynn Mullens (MDC) regarding tower.

Outward: Letter of application to Livingston Trust.
Conference publicity information to Express & Sun newspapers.
Request to ZL1GMB for copy of video.

REPORTS:

Brief financial report from Ken Hynds.

Ken sought approval for two outstanding accounts: the wine for conference and the identification swingers.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Inventory of Club Equipment:

Ongoing.

Kaikoura Repeater:

The lack of response from Airways Corporation prompted a suggestion that we abandon attempts to house the repeater in the Airways building and continue with the current Whalewatch box instead. Grant advised that this will require solar panels and probably new batteries.

HF Tower:

An email reply has been received from MDC indicating, in writing, that Resource Consent is not required for the installation. Further considerations have been postponed till after conference.

Repeaters:

The Ward site visit will take place after Conference.

Coming Events:

The next General meeting (12th June) is a "Show and Tell" event, to be piloted by Ken Hynds.

NZART Conference:

Since the last scheduled monthly Committee meeting, a special meeting to discuss conference matters and review the task list was held on the 12th May. To date, 127 persons have registered for the conference. Tonight's meeting focused on the list of tasks tabled by Stuart Watchman.

Chris Grant Overseas:

Chris advised that she will be overseas from 9th June till September.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 26th May, 2014, at 7pm.

CLOSURE: There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2125 hrs.



NZART NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT by Bill Cousins

The National Conference, hosted by Marlborough Branch, was by all accounts that I have heard thus far, a very successful event. Even the large number of loos available at the Conference Centre were favourably remarked on!

The lion's share of the plaudits for this must go to Kaye, Stuart, Caryl and Helen. All events of this magnitude have their moments of anxiety but, in this case, it appears that all such traumas were successfully dealt with and (I think) we came out smiling. There will no doubt be other comments and opinions so, as MARC delegate, I will largely confine my report to the AGM. However, I think mention should be made of the \$1380 raised by the raffles, which helped allay the costs of running the event and much thanks is due to Christine Conway and Chris Grant who stood (literally) by the tables for a number of hours, assisted by Ian with furniture-shifting when required, to ensure this very commendable result. Who could resist Christine's winning smile? Thanks also to Gerard Van Antwerpen who stood in for Wayne Stronach on the 3D Printing forum at quite short notice. We are fortunate to have such talent in the club!

The weather was beautiful, which is fortunate in view of the fact that similar weather smiled on the Nelson conference two years ago.

The AGM began with President Vaughan Henderson presenting a summary of points discussed at the Council meeting, held the previous day. Subs are to remain at \$99 for transmitting members for at least another year. Opinions on whether to have a CD or a mini-callbook this year are evenly divided. If the CD option



wins, it will be issued with the November/December Break-In. \$15000 will be required to send Don Wallace to the ITU WRC-15 conference next year which will mean an \$8000 deficit in the budget for 2015. Points for discussion regarding amateur radio at this conference will include a 5MHz allocation and microsats.

It is expected that AREC will be more involved with emergency management of HF frequencies and monthly checks. Discussion is also taking place on insurance issues and whether these should be local or national. Ken Hynds suggests that there could be a substantial saving for us arising out of this.

John Walker (ZL3IB) has retired as Break-In editor and was granted Life Membership of NZART for his services.

There was some discussion on Remit 1 but in the end it was lost on voices. It was also suggested that, as it seeks to change the constitution, it is actually out of order. Titahi Bay branch raised some issues in support of the remit but they obviously did not carry the confidence of the meeting. The President assured the delegates that the issue of "councillors should not be officers" assumes that there are sufficient volunteers offering for officer positions!



Remit 2 was also considered to be a constitutional remit in that it sought to change the constitution, but an amendment to section 4.5 of the Constitution moved by vice-President Stuart (ZL2TW), changing "audit" to "review" allowed the remit to be approved. Both these remit decisions were in accordance with Branch 22 wishes as determined at the May General Meeting.

Council is working to achieve charitable status for NZART. This would allow donations (but not subs) to be eligible for tax exemption. It is expected that there will be a remit to this effect next year.

The AGM continued, and Rory Deans (ZL3HB) was named "Amateur of the Year". Jumbo Godfrey awards for branch support were also presented to John Walker and Joe Reed (ZL2AH).

As yet, there is no indication as to where the 2015 Conference will be held.

In General Business, Napier Branch raised an issue in the name of David Walker (ZL2DW) seeking that Radio Spectrum Management be encouraged to take a more pro-active stance in tracing interference. Bill (ZL2AYZ) suggested that this will not happen while we pay zero license fees and President Vaughan warned that any increase in compliance issues above present levels may result in an increase in repeater license fees.



The AGM concluded around lunchtime and this allowed the AREC AGM to be brought forward to 1400 hrs.

The forums on Sunday were well received and the forums I attended, anyway, were well attended. Others took the opportunity to catch up with old friends and the comfortable facilities of the old Marlborough Club made this very enjoyable.

The menus for the dinners were well chosen and made for satisfied customers all round. We might have had our difficulties with Scenic Circle but in the end they presented, in my opinion anyway, a very fine table!

Thus concluded a very successful conference, much appreciated by the hierarchy and plebs alike.



Icom reps
Sharon & Theo

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the conference last weekend. There were a number of people who attended the conference and also helped out. It was an easy venue to work in and the feedback from the delegates and attendees was that it was an enjoyable weekend. Through hard work and negotiating we managed to keep the cost to below \$200. I think this magic figure will be more difficult in coming years and we may see the cost of conferences increase.

The good weather helped us along, especially those on the alternate programme who appreciated the sunshine.

Bill Cousins was our Branch 22 delegate, and has written a report which is in this issue of Interface.

Chris Grant and Christine Conway did a stellar job of raffle selling. Four of the raffle prizes went to club members which was a delightful outcome.

Caryl's cupcakes had a queue waiting for distribution and some tried to queue twice but were foiled by her good record keeping.

Grant Simpson presented the quiz with enough difficult questions to keep everyone talking and guessing.

Stuart organised the forum speakers and there was a diverse range of presentations across the radio sector. Three forums were presented by our local members, Gerard van Antwerpen, Stuart Watchman and Wayne Parker. All three were well attended and provided some interesting discussion afterwards.

All in all, a successful weekend, many thanks to those who helped out and gave their time freely especially Ken on the registration desk and those who shifted and heaved equipment during the evening breaks.



SUPPORT TO OFFICIAL BROADCAST

One of the many “behind the scenes” tasks for national conference, is the request for the host branch to provide facilities for UHF transmission of the Official Broadcast. The President of NZART reads the broadcast live from the host Branch.

Following needs to be available:

A noise free signal in to the National System
and a transmitter that is free of “time outs”.

And capable of staying on transmit for half an hour without melting down!

We initially selected Bill ZL2AYZs shack with his large satellite antenna array. This did indeed provide a romping, stomping signal to the National System, and a very impressive shack!

However, on reflection we thought perhaps it would be better if we could do something closer to the venue. The venue itself was ruled out for a number of reasons. We site tested around the area and selected the motorhome parkover at Blenheim School as the location. Testing showed we could work the system from the mobile albeit a little rough.

The next step was to add some forced air cooling to an older kenwood dual band mobile. A trifecta of fans on an aluminium strip ex some old equipment did the trick.

We added a desktop microphone in place of the usual hand held microphone. This gave us a “transmit lock” facility. Thank you to Ken ZL2BJV, Bernie ZL2AZK and Phil ZL2TZE for audio analysis, helping us to set the audio drive level correctly.

Having previously sighted up a netball hoop as being a good spot, we arrived on Sunday afternoon to find some lads practising on the court. After a quick chat they were most amenable and adjourned to the other basket for their practise, thanks chaps :)

Ian ZL2BGL and Ron ZL2BDD provided the antenna lift to put our large colinear array in place. Testing with ZL3NK in Christchurch confirmed a noise free, well modulated signal.

A little before start time Jim ZL2BHF, the facilitator of the Official Broadcast, and Vaughn ZL1TGC the President of NZART took up residence near the microphone.

As Jim's watch, the time lady on 695, and the town clock, simultaneously sounded 8 pm, the Official Broadcast began... Jim introducing Vaughn, using the Branch 22 callsign ZL2KS as the Official Broadcast station. Vaughn then read a comprehensive report that spanned approximately 26 minutes. Well done Vaughn! Didn't even need the glass of water strategically placed nearby.

Thanks also to Jim ZL2BHF for entrusting us with providing a suitable station for this important event.

73s

Rob ZL2IW



ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMES CONFERENCE 2014

Those who chose the alternative programmes, brilliantly planned and executed by Helen and Clare, were offered an interesting and varied two days and we were blessed with glorious weather. Saturday saw us visiting The Honey Collection with their selection of natural manuka honey products and Lothlorian possum and merino knitwear. From here it was on to Pollard Park where we enjoyed a lovely picnic morning tea in the sun and then a wander through part of the gardens.



Award winner

Everyone enjoyed viewing the Peter Doig Art Award entries at the Yealands Gallery and got the opportunity to vote for the People's Choice. Before leaving the gallery car park I helped rescue a guinea pig which was being stalked and pounced on by a cat over the road! My efforts resulted in a cheer from all aboard the bus as we had been concerned for the poor guinea pig's welfare.

A delicious hot lunch was provided at Brayshaw Heritage Park by the ladies of the Vintage Car Club and afterwards everyone enjoyed wandering through the park looking at the displays.



*Lunch at
Brayshaw Park*

After lunch we split into two smaller groups and half went to visit Barry Bridges' art studio while the other half enjoyed a fascinating wander through the antique and collectibles shop, Just Browsing. Several decided this would be worth a second visit on Monday! We then swapped places so all got to see both places without getting squashed in cramped quarters.

The final stop of the day was at Omaka Springs Estate, a boutique winery that produces both wines and olive oils. We were given an interesting, informative talk by their wine maker, Ian Marchant, who also showed us their Arapawa sheep. After some wine tasting and olive oil sampling a lot of questions were asked and answered with many commenting on how good it was to be able to speak with the actual wine maker and get answers to questions they had asked elsewhere before but with no success. It was then back to the convention centre to rest and prepare for the evening dinner, which was also enjoyed by all.



On Sunday we headed to Riverlore Art Gallery and the fascinating art of Joanna Dudson Scott. It was sunny but the wind sharp so Joanna invited us to spread out our morning tea on the large work table in her studio while she showed us the long, time consuming process involved in the production of her artworks. We were all fascinated (and impressed)!

From here it was on to The Sea Chest gift shop where they have an amazing range of local art and craft, souvenirs and gifts. All enjoyed poking about and offering each other suggestions and comments on various items displayed.

Back on the bus and on to The Vines Village, a collection of interesting shops and picnic area. We had a delicious lunch here too, at Shelly's Café. The Fudge Factory and Quilters' Barn were particularly popular, as was being able to sit in the sunshine, before we continued on to the next, long anticipated by some, stop.

The Makana Boutique Chocolate Factory hand makes all products on site and we were disappointed they were not actually doing so at the time of our visit, although this did not stop many from leaving the premises with various sized packages in hand!

Our final stops for the day were to St Clair Family Estate Wines and Pataka "Fine Foods of Aotearoa". We were once more split into two smaller groups so while some did wine tasting at St Clair's the other half sampled various smoked mushrooms, cheeses and other tasty foods at Pataka then we swapped places again. Some of us got a lesson in grape vine pruning from Alan, our bus driver, who had also provided an interesting commentary and answered many questions during both days' outings. We got back to the conference just in time to join the forum-goers for afternoon tea after which some happily sat and chatted by the fire while others went into town, or back to their accommodation, to once again rest or prepare for the evening's entertainment.



Pollard Park



One of the artworks at Riverlore Gallery

I heard, and we received, many compliments from attendees on both days' events, ranging from the excellent organisation, the fact they got to see different parts of the region, learnt about many bits of it (thanks to Alan's commentary), had many questions answered on a wide range of subjects, weren't rushed at all, delicious food, and the variety of venues offered.

Well done to Helen and Clare! A large number commented it was the best alternative programme they had been on for many years! There was something for everyone. I know I thoroughly enjoyed both days and the social interaction was warm and friendly. Most were also pleased when offered a flower bulb each (in Marlborough's colours of blue and gold) at the end of the programme, as something to take home as a reminder of the great weekend they had in Blenheim 2014.



Ken at the Sales Table



proof Caryl was there



Keith Reid, ZL4NZ, receives his prize from Icom owner, Sharon Dawson



Omaka Springs winemaker, Ian Marchant, talking to some of our group

Arapawa sheep

