

June 2016

# INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. P.O. BOX 432 BLENHEIM NZ

## Club Calendar

**General Meeting;** 9 June. EOC, 19.30hrs

**Social Group;** 16 June. 12.00hrs - The Vines

**Committee Meeting;** 23 June 07.30hrs - EOC



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## Branch 22 Notices

1.NZART AGM..... 3-5 June  
Snuggle down into those winter onesies and keep yourselves warm & dry over winter.

**VHF Mondays** 1930 hrs  
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,  
147.225MHz  
**Net Controller;** Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ  
**VHF - USB Net** Wednesdays 1930  
144.150MHz



Grant did comms from the top of the course, with great views, for the Mountain Bike Challenge held above Dumgree Station in the Awatere Valley. Can't believe people do this for fun! ☺

Zoom view of cell site on the top of Weld Pass

North Island in the distance (with cell site in left photo just seen on hill at left below arrow)





**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**26 May 2016 at 19:35 Hours**

**Present:** Grant Simpson, Ken Menzies, Paul Rennie, Don Laing, Chris Grant, Ken Hynds

**Apologies:** Stuart Watchman, Rob Carter

**Matters Arising:** Nil

**Correspondence:**

**Inward:** Cheque from Marlborough Mountain Bike Club      **Outward :** Nil

**Finance:**

- Ken to follow up outstanding subs
- Payment not received for last two Car Rallys & Grapevine events

**Repeater Report:** The Ned repeater remedial works to wait until after Winter

**SAR Report:** Marine SAR exercise planned for 18 June

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Upcoming Events;** None noted

**Brayshaw Hut;** Signing by the Vintage & Farn Machinery Society expected at their June executive meeting.

**Club Meeting Talks;**

- Don L advised that he had been in contact with Paul Dixon, ZL3VY, re the Mini VNA Antenna analyser and Paul advised that he would be happy to do later in the year.
- If nothing else for next General Meeting, Grant will show a presentation on the International Festival of Motoring held in January at Dunedin.

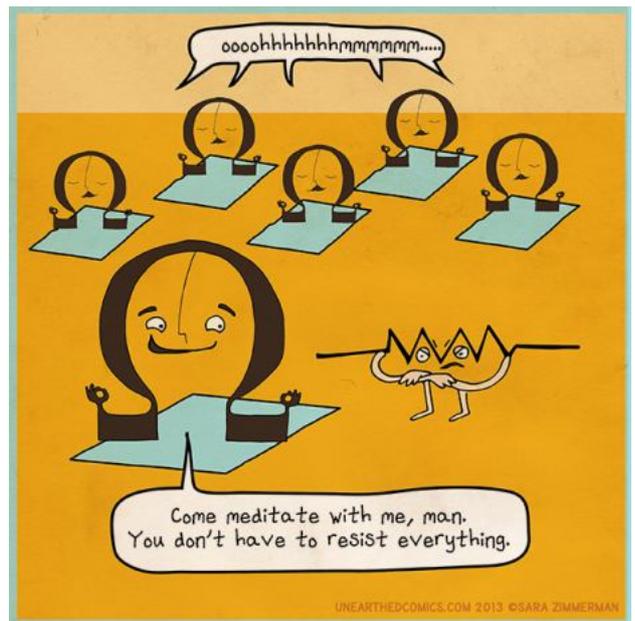
**NZART April Branch Circular;** Reviewed and draft completed by all present.

Don to prepare clean, completed, form for circulation & checking prior to return to NZART.

**Meeting Closed:** 20:15

**ACTION LIST**

Items to Action	Who
Agreement with BPMVFM	Stuart & Chris
BPMVFM internet link	Grant
Antenna Analyser	Grant



But if you are scratching your head, it is a well known line from Star Trek - "Resistance is Futile". Delivered by the alien Borg race, it is usually followed by "You will be assimilated".



The following two articles, from *Vital Spark*, the newsletter of the UK Hastings Electronics & Radio Club, show a good way to generate enthusiasm in a new generation of potential Amateur Radio operators...

### ST. RICHARD'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE RSGB BUILD-A-THON

On Tuesday April 12th, members from the club attended St. Richard's College RSGB supported Build-a-thon, an event which preceded the ARISS Tim Peake contact event on April 18th. Suffice to say, the students attending the AM and PM classes were full of 'space fever' and ready to get hands-on with the Rodway II receiver and find out more about Amateur Radio.

For those unfamiliar with the Rodway II, the RSGB kit is an easy to construct beginner level MW/160m receiver. To the right is a completed Rodway II. I should mention without further ado, that St. Richard's College's lead Science Teacher, Dr. Joolz Durkin was wonderful and generous with HERC members. We were looked after extremely well at the college. Her organisation of college operations and the students was exemplary.

Richard G0ILN, Mike G0JHK, Rodney, Steve 2E0GHX, Phil G3MGQ and Mike M0EDU, arrived at the college bright'n'breezy at 7.30am, and met the college's Principle, Miss Cronin, and supporting members of staff before the briefing in one of the schools well-equipped laboratories where the Build-a-thon took place.



The AM class ran from 8am to 11am, with the students training for their amateur radio licences, using the construction of the Rodway II receiver as part of their Foundation licence training requirement, all of which were constructed and tested successfully. We broke for lunch to restore ourselves before the PM class which started at around 1pm, and this class was a wonderful challenge as it consisted of a wide age-range of students, and more of them, so it was all hands to battle stations and resulted in the successful construction of many receivers despite only 5 HERC members being present in the afternoon. All of the students who attended the Build-a-thon classes showed great enthusiasm and interest in what they were doing. It was quite humbling to watch some of them solder extremely well after only having a few attempts. Mike Senior G4EFO, the RSGB S.E. regional manager was present and provided a useful set of extra hands in the afternoon!

The RSGB Build-a-thon at St. Richard's Catholic College was undoubtedly a successful event and enjoyable for everyone involved. I doubt we will see Rodway II's constructed with such gusto for a while. The students were a delight to work with. We understand through the media's coverage of the recent ARISS contact at St. Richard's, a new Amateur Radio club is in the making at the college, to be known as StAR (St. Richard's Amateur Radio) club which, led by Dr. Joolz Durkin. This new AR club will provide St. Richard's College students with all the resources they need to become active and skilled licenced amateurs of the future.

- Steve (2E0GHX)

### ST RICHARD'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE STEM SPACE CONFERENCE & ISS CONTACT

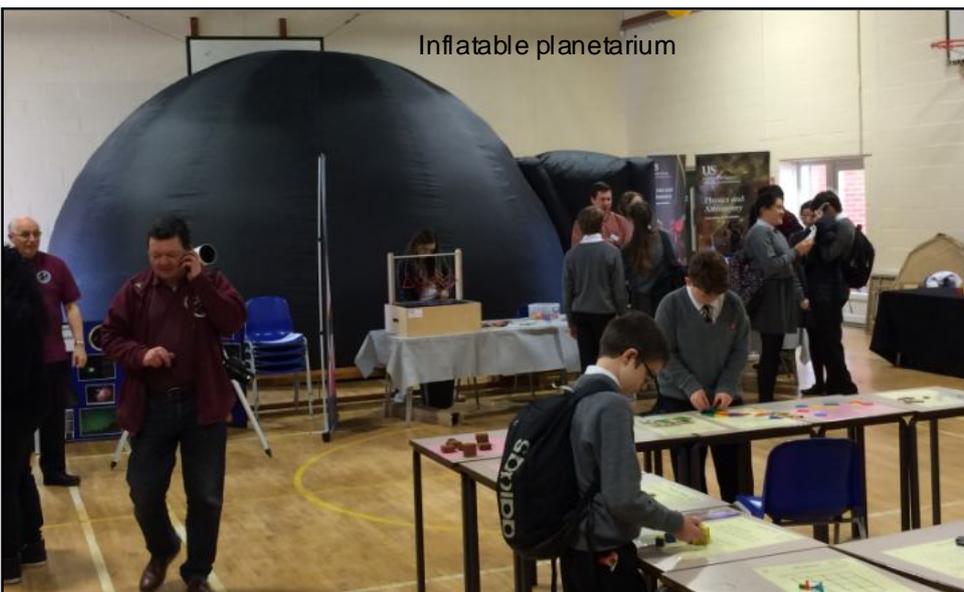
Hastings Electronics & Radio Club was delighted to be asked to participate in St Richard's STEM Space Conference and witness their ARISS contact with Major Tim Peake on the International Space Station on Monday 18th April. Whilst the ARISS team prepared for the ISS contact, HERC participated in the Space Conference alongside exhibits and activities by the Herstonceux Space Centre's astronaut led Destination Earth workshops, East Sussex Astronomical Society, University of Sussex with their inflatable planetarium and University of Brighton with Maths Challenges. The RSGB stand, manned by Youth Committee Secretary James Monahan, included an example of the RSGB Rodway II Receiver which 25 pupils had built at a Build-a-thon a week earlier, supervised by 7 Club members and Region 10 Manager, Mick Senior. The Club's stand included a live HF Station, operating mainly CW on 40 & 20m using the Club callsign G6HH with a full-size G5RV hung high above the school, and a game for pupils to send their name in Morse, which is always popular with children. One laptop showed the 3 latest RSGB videos about amateur radio whilst another showed the current amateur satellite



*St. Richard's Catholic College students pictured with HERC members at the end of the AM Build-a-thon class.*

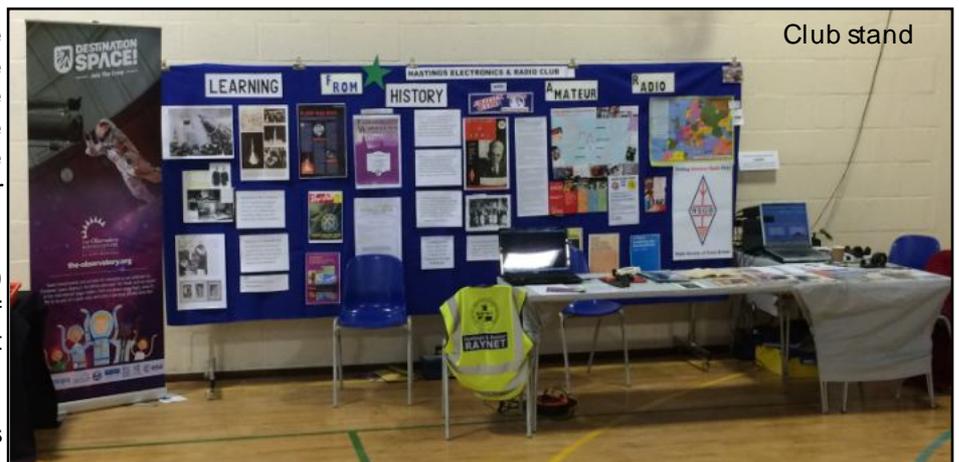
passes, including the Fun Cube and ISS both of which were being used by the ARISS team to set up for the ISS contact. The display board exhibited reprints of news reports of the very first satellites, a history of amateur radio satellites, and the emergency and community support role of amateur radio by the local RAYNET group. It also included information on the Licence training available through the Club, who have now been asked to follow up the Foundation Licence training which was given to 10 pupils by the Herstmonceux QRZ Group in preparation for this ISS contact.

The ARISS team had erected their massive Yagi array on a 50 ft mobile mast that towered over the school, Carlos GOAKI, who had brought the RSGB mobile station GB4FUN to 5 Hastings schools in July 2006, was at the control console [IMG\_1742] with a Kenwood TS2000SAT as the main radio and had the facility to select the best combination of antenna and circular polarisation, and a monitor to view the antenna in case of tracking problems. Unfortunately the video feed from the ISS, which had recently been commissioned, was not available but the team had alternative audio feeds from Goonhilly and the Netherlands so they could select the best audio to play to the audience during the pass. This was important because, as Ciaran the ARISS Operation Lead explained, the amateur radio antenna is on the Columbus module at the front of the ISS but there were currently no less than 6 transport capsules docked below and behind it which might obstruct the signal as the ISS passed overhead and moved away.



Over 300 pupils, mostly from neighbouring schools as part of the College's outreach programme, had assembled in the main hall to witness the ARISS contact by GB4SRC with Major Tim Peake on the International Space Station. After an introduction by a massed choir of St Richard's pupils singing David Bowie's Starman, we were entertained with videos of the College's cross-curricular participation to the College Space project with contributions from all departments including Drama, English and Modern Foreign Languages as well as the science team, before two

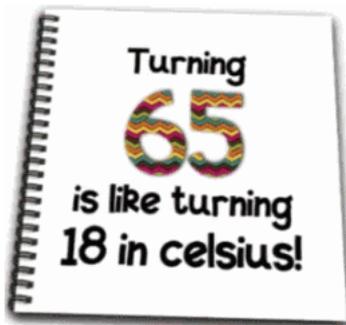
members from the European Space Agency's education outreach program outlined how Tim Peake had been selected and his scientific experiments on the ISS. The ISS Dashboard from the ARISS website, displayed for the audience on a large screen, showed the approach of the space station in real time and, as the AOS counted down, Lucy, one the successful Foundation Licence students, stepped up to the microphone to call GB1SS. At her sixth call, Tim Peake responded "GB4SRC I hear you loud and clear, over". For the next 10 minutes, under the supervision of Ciaran, a succession of 14 St Richard's pupils stepped up to ask a series of very interesting questions before the contact was terminated to a huge cheer and



applause from the audience. The whole of the contact, recorded by BBC South East Today and available via the link on the St Richard's website ([www.strichardscc.com](http://www.strichardscc.com)), is well worth viewing. All in all, a memorable day and one we're all proud to have been involved in. Well done St Richard's and the ARISS team.

- 73 Phil, G3MGQ.

Good News Helen...



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Yagi array on 50ft mobile mast towering over the school



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recently there have been some events where a few members have volunteered to help, when asked. The St Clair marathon through the vineyards attracts many competitors to the region and we did our bit by providing operators for the comms base. This was set up in a shipping container used for storing the signage and other equipment for the event. Not a very comfortable, or practical, operations centre with many people coming and going.

A couple of car dub events have also used some operators for gravel racing. The car dub now has its own communications equipment running satisfactorily so they probably won't need our help in the future but were grateful for our assistance on these, and previous, events.

Is there a subject you would like to be discussed or demonstrated at one of our meetings? Or preferably one on which you could give a presentation? These are *your* meetings so help us give you what you want by offering some suggestions. We have a laptop and a data projector if required. We are always looking for ideas to bring along to a meeting. Maybe you know someone who could talk on something, not necessarily technical but that would be preferred.

As some of us are attending the NZART AGM this weekend, there will be a report, or two, at the next meeting. I will also give a talk on the International Festival of Motoring, held in Dunedin last January, where over 600 cars were registered for the event - entry criteria being they had to be 30 years or older (most of the owners were twice that, or older).

We are now in the quiet time of year, from a helping-at-events point of view, so sit back, relax, and enjoy sitting by the fire, or whatever heat source you have, while you think about ideas for the rest of this year's meetings. Contact any of the committee members with your thoughts. Caryl says articles for the newsletter would also be appreciated!

- Grant Simpson, ZL2BK

You are supposed to have it by the tail!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See what's coming up in **your** dub. Make sure **you** volunteer for something, if able, & mark it on your calendar!

JUNE

3 - 5.....NZART Conference, Christchurch

