

October 2015

INTERFACE

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

Editor : Caryl Simpson
caryl@simtronics.co.nz

Club Calendar

- General Meeting; 8 Oct. EOC, 19.30hrs
- Social Group; 15 Oct. 12.00hrs - The Vines
- Committee Meeting; 22 Oct. 2015 07.30hrs - EOC



Branch 22 Notices

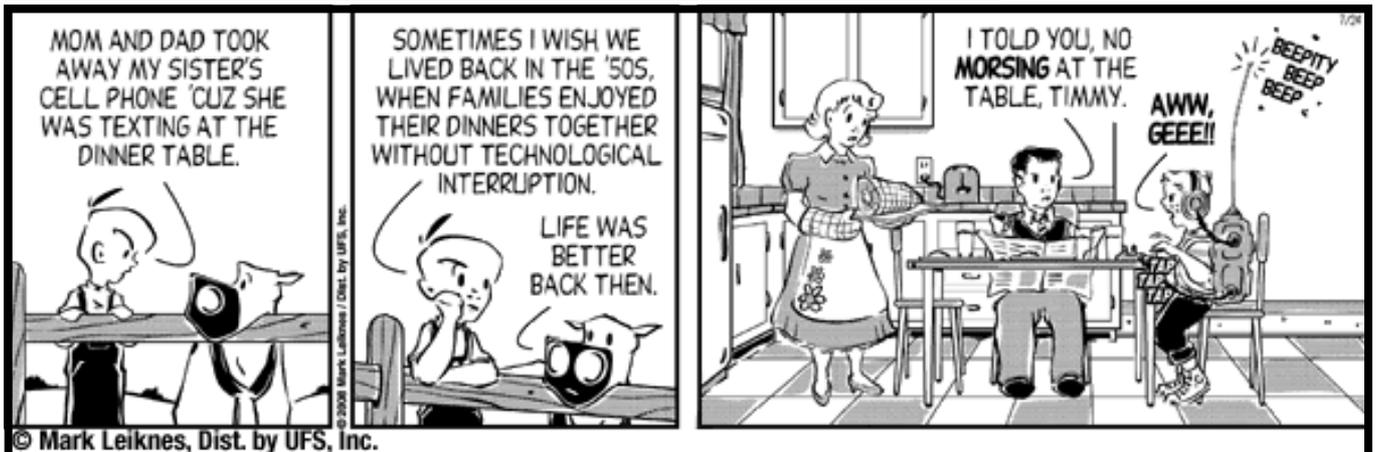
1. The calm before the storm? We are coming up to the busy season so please volunteer where you can, when you can & for as long as you can. Our fundraising events seem to be mostly Nov - Feb.

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



One of the Judges, Rob Carter, presenting Stuart Watchman, ZL2TW, with the Constructors' Award 2015. Congratulations Stuart!

More information and photos on page 5 of this newsletter



© Mark Leiknes, Dist. by UFS, Inc.

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING
Held at EOC on 10th September 2015 @ 1940 hrs.

Present: Grant Simpson (Chair), Kaye Hannagan (Secretary) plus 11 members and one guest

Apologies: Bernie Lankshear, Bill Cousins, Ken Hynds

Correspondence: Invoice for radio hut at Brayshaw park previously circulated.

Reports: No financial report

Repeaters; Kaikoura is moving slowly. Robin has talked to Thad recently regarding placement of equipment. Grant is in the vicinity in next few days.

Other repeaters; no change

Monday Night Nets ; More people coming onto net each week.

Matters Arising:

HF Radio Hut is on site. There are three hut keys, of which Ken Menzies has one, and Grant has another – Ken Hynds for the other ones.

Discussion ensued about next steps. Paul volunteered to work with Ken regarding placement of bearers, purchase of ground pins etc.

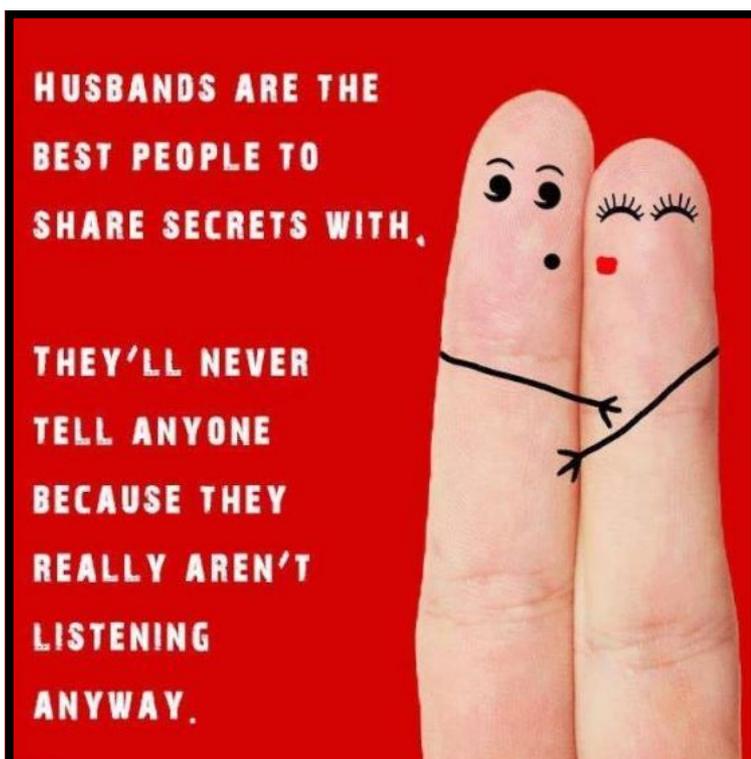
General Business:

H Night; To celebrate return of Ham radio operators after WW2. Since this year is significant there will be a commemoration contest on H night 8 December. AM only. Details in BreakIn.

Constructors Night; two people entered, Stuart and Gerard with multiple exhibits. The judges decision awarded Stuart as the winner by a close margin.

Meeting Closed: 21:00

Next Meeting: 8th October 2015



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
Held at EOC on 24th September, 2015 @ 19:30 hrs

Present: Paul Rennie, Ken Hynds (treasurer), Robin Carter, Chris Grant, Grant Simpson (president), Kaye Hannagan (secretary), Stuart Watchman

Apologies: Ken Menzies

Correspondence:

Licence fee invoice

Letter from Brayshaw Park Marlborough Vintage Farm Machinery Society Inc (BPMVFM)

Licence fees paid electronically which resulted in a saving of 10% (total paid \$506.00):

BPMVFM letter requested repositioning of the linkage for internet link, and also indemnity of any and all damage to tower and shed on site at the Park. Grant to follow up regarding the internet link. Stuart to clarify intent of indemnity request.

Reports:

Repeater Grant went to Kaikoura and looked at the new box externally. Did not bring photo to the meeting. Expected there would be room inside the box for existing MARC equipment. No follow up reported.

Finance:

Still one invoice for lifting the hut to come through – expected to be about \$150.

Ken had a request from members regarding the quantity of donations since the beginning of MARCs financial year. The total amount is \$7520. Thanks to all members who have supported activities to raise these funds.

SAR HF training in the last month. More training coming up as the weather warms up.

Matters Arising:

Chris informed the meeting that one of the recent guest speakers had expanded and was doing more talks on her time with the Morse code “Y” service.

General Business:

- **October Meeting Speaker** - Ken Menzies will present his new circuit board process.
- **Publicity** - The local paper produced on a Wednesday is looking for clubs and societies for human interest stories. Suggestion was mooted to contact the paper to arrange meeting time and raise the profile of MARC. Grant to follow up.
- **Visitor at Last Meeting** - Suggested an email address be obtained so visitor can be added to the Interface distribution list. Grant to follow up.
- **The Ned** - Stuart advised that the galvanised turnbuckles securing the hut need replacing with stainless steel ones. Decided to wait until weather became more settled. Stuart to follow up.
- **Brayshaw Hut** - Hardwood for the hut to sit on is being sourced. Paul to follow up with costings and availability.
- **Meeting Topic Schedule** - Discussion ensued about opportunities for speakers. Someone on the committee needs to be responsible for organising the speakers. There is

currently no speaker scheduled for November.

- **Monday Net** - Robin reported that the net was on every Monday night. Anyone could be the net controller; there were no attendees last week.
- **Silver Fern Car Rally** - Committee members should have received a copy of the press release by now. The organisational side of the rally had been sold to the Targa rally owner. The format of any future SF rally is not yet known. Robin will keep committee in touch with any updates and send on media releases to the SF ham radio distribution list.
- **H Night** - Planning is well underway. ZL6H is approved as a special event call sign. Contest will be 8 December and AM only. Noise may be an issue in cities so there is the possibility of a remote receiver under investigation. Details in Break-in. Robin to follow up.
- **Car Club Events** - two events are coming up – October and November which will require four operational sites at each event. Robin to follow up.

Meeting closed: 20.45



Happy Birthday to Grant, ZL2BK, who officially became a pensioner (and is now about 455 in dog years) at the end of September.

For those wondering what the cake decoration is, and its meaning, Google Flying Spaghetti Monster 😊



PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

Treasurer Ken Hynds gave an interesting talk about how much we had raised since the beginning of this year, thanks to members volunteering to help at various events. From our biggest, the wine festival and Silver Fern rally, to the smallest horse trekking weekend and car club events, these depend on your help and co-operation. Money raised means we have been able to upgrade the repeaters over the last few years. New controllers, batteries and solar power have improved the performance and reliability.

The major project underway at present is the installation of the remote HF station at Brayshaw Park, also funded by the events many members have worked at over the last few years. When the remote HF station is running it will be possible for the club members to have HF operation from their homes over the Internet. This will be especially useful for the growing number of members who can not operate from their homes for many reasons. Many thanks to Bill Cousins and his team for overseeing this project. Didn't they do well?

When the hard working event organisers ask for volunteers to help with events then please volunteer, even if you can't be there for a whole day. Some events allow for part time operation so you *can* help.

It's not long before we will be busy again with two of our major events, the Wine and Food Festival and then the Grape Ride so be prepared! The wine and food especially can be done by people for a couple of hours only if a longer time period can't be managed. It all adds up!

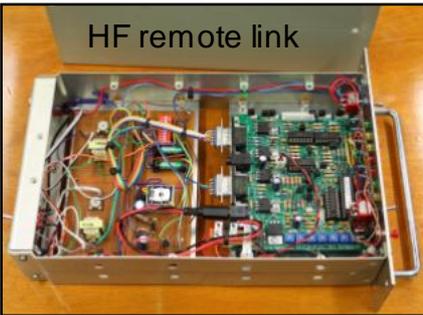
You will see in the Minutes that we finally have a new secretary. Many thanks to Kaye for stepping up and volunteering to fill this position. It is much appreciated.

- Grant Simpson, ZL2BK

CONSTRUCTORS' AWARD

We had two members participate in the Award this year with two entries from Stuart Watchman and four from Gerard Van Antwerpen. Ken Menzies and Robin Carter were roped in as judges and did a good job. Thanks guys.

Stuart showed us a 13.8v power supply 30 amps plus made from recycled equipment. The case was an old HP scope, the transformer rewind from a blood gas analyser and the heatsink assembly from a diathermy machine. The pass transistors were from a PDP-11 computer power supply and the driver transistor from a telephone exchange +50V boost supply.



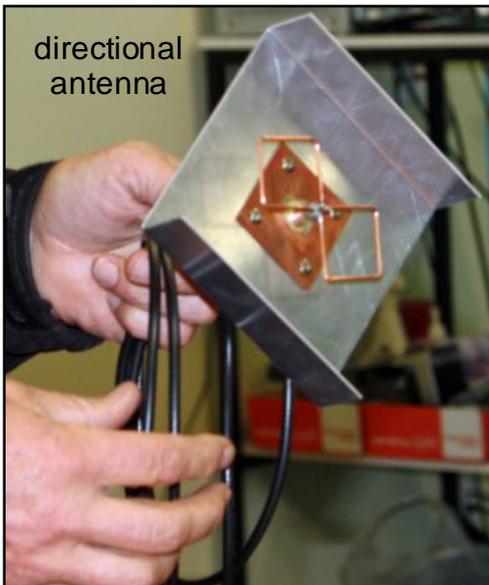
His second offering was an HF remote link interface, a spare unit made for the last Silver Fern rally.

This has the audio isolation and level adjustment, PTT and HF remote memory select via reed relays for earth isolation and contains the DTMF decoder and CTCSS cards for remote control.

Gerard provided four items for the competition. Firstly, an intriguing passive acoustic CW audio filter, made from a computer speaker and some PVC pipe. He also had a WIFI directional antenna, with about 12dBi gain that he built to provide a WIFI signal to a sleepout. His Smart Squelch had been built with a MARC kitset and finally, we got to admire his elegant pair of Morse Keys.



CW audio filter



Do you suppose this could be a 3D printer and a cat scan all in one??

