

January 2019

INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

Club Calendar

- General Meeting; 14 Feb, EOC, 19.30hrs ♥
- Social Group; 17 Jan 12.00hrs - The Vines
- Committee Meeting; 24 Jan 2019 19.30hrs - EOC



Editor: Caryl Simpson
caryl@simtronics.co.nz

Website:
www.zl2ks.org.nz

Branch 22 Notices

1. Club BBQ - Onamalutu (RSVP ASAP).....20 Jan
2. Wine Festival.....09 Feb
3. Jock White Field Day.....23/24 Feb
4. Grape Ride..... 30 Mar

VHF Mondays 1930 hrs
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,
147.225MHz
Net Controller; Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ

VHF- USB Net Wednesdays 1930
144.150MHz

PRESIDENTIAL APOLOGY TO CHRIS GRANT:

Late last year Chris Grant, ZL2CHG, asked to give a brief talk at one of the General Meetings. As 2018 marked the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in NZ, she wanted to speak about her personal experience in relation to women's rights, especially in relation to her overseas observations and travels. First, she was put off as another speaker had asked to give a talk and he was limited to a specific date, the one on which Chris was to speak. She graciously postponed her own talk to allow for this but the speaker didn't turn up! He later apologised and a new date was set. Again, Chris was asked to put her talk off and she agreed to wait again to give it at the Christmas meeting. Yet again, the same speaker was a no show! When he apologised for the second time and asked if he could speak to the Christmas meeting I said it was too late as we already had another speaker lined up. Unfortunately, in the rush to get everything set up on the night and with people speaking to me about other things, I completely forgot she was meant to give her talk! Chris was obviously too polite to put her hand up at the time and say "Excuse me, I was meant to be giving my talk this evening." As it turned out, Stuart gave an impromptu talk on something else and then it was too late for Chris to speak. Understandably, Chris is feeling very put out. I know Caryl is absolutely livid on Chris's behalf that this happened and says it is obvious women's suffrage has meant little to the (majority) male members of the Amateur Radio Club. It wasn't until she was putting the Minutes into this newsletter that she asked what happened to Chris's talk and I had to explain that it was entirely my fault! So, Chris, I would like to make this apology to you and assure you we will make sure you get your chance to give your talk this year, even if it is too late to celebrate the 125th anniversary. I guess the average age, and sex, of our club means the majority give little thought, generally, to what it means to be a woman in a patriarchal society so hopefully Chris's talk, when she finally gets the chance to present it, will educate us and show us the world from another viewpoint. Always a good thing.

Because our work is underpaid or unpaid & what we look like is more important than what we do & if we get raped it is our fault & if we love women it's because we can't get a real man & if we stand up for our rights we are loud & if we don't we're typical weak females & if we want to get married we are out to trap a man & if we don't we're unnatural & if we object to being sex objects we have no sense of humour... & for many many more reasons we are feminists!

WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

This is our biggest club fundraiser. Good fun & easy to do but takes a large number of people to make it happen. If you can help, even for half a day only, please contact Stuart 577 5122 or clareandstuart@xtra.co.nz



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING EOC
13 December 2018 at 19:40 Hours

Present: Grant Simpson (Chair), Don Laing (Secretary), Ken Hynds, Gerard van Antwerpen, Ken Menzies, Bernie Lankshear, Ian Conway, Antony Winter, Don Jamieson, Lara Mcntyre, Paul Rennie, Chris Grant, Tony Whitaker, Bill Cousins, David Rothwell, Stuart Watchman, Graeme McKay

Apologies: Gavin Piercy, Helen & Ron Harris
Visitors: Klaus Lutsch

Correspondence:

Inward - email Paul Ormandy ZL4TT re Durville & Arapawa Islands now included in RSGB IOTA list
Outward - None

Finance: The treasurer presented his reports

REPORTS:

Repeaters:

The Ned - No change

Ward - Ian C will arrange a site visit with farmer.

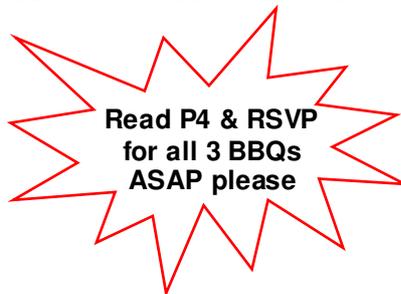
Kaikoura - Grant still having difficulty arranging access key.

Brayshaw - Yacht race people are still monitoring.

Picton - DDMF module fitted to repeater to enable power switch off to reset. Has performed OK on bench

Golden Bay Link - Repeater is with Motueka, Branch 24, not Nelson.

Motueka trying to get Golden Bay repeater working as is.



IC
GS

GS

GS

SAR / AREC

- Visit to Kaikoura to check SAR equipment
- SAR volunteer at Kaikoura will do 'Ham Cram' at Christchurch February 2019

PR

General Business:

- Discussion on possibility of MARC 'Ham Cram'. To ascertain syllabus and hand-outs. Also feedback to Stuart W re his Break-In article on amateur radio license examination incorporation in school NCEA.
- Brayshaw Park – Boat race operators do not have priority over MARC member operation. Send message if you wish to use.
- Reported that 50 MHz beacon can't be heard. Request that any dub equipment apparent defect be reported ASAP. At present often unaware until sometime after defect has occurred.
- No meetings January 2019

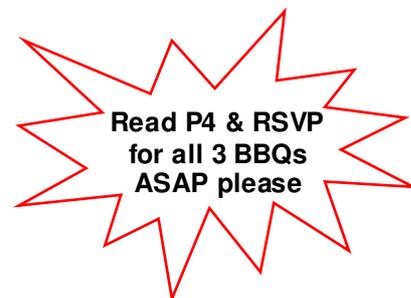
Future Events

Onamalatu BBQ 13 or 20 Jan 2019. TBA

Wine Festival 09 Feb 2019

Jock White Field Day 23 & 24 Feb 19 – more operators needed to regain award

Grapevine 2019



Meeting closed: 20:10

- Bert Smith estate items displayed for MART members' preferential purchase before being listed on Trademe.
- Talk by Stuart on remote control of HF rig via cell phone network using proprietary interface boxes to set up VPN link
Supper was then held as members had been asked to provide a small festive plate of nibbles.

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SUBS 2019

Only \$20.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for Family (Well worth it for the Interface alone ;-)

You can use internet banking to: 38 9002 01 14897 00 Marlborough Amateur Radio Club Inc

Or you can send a cheque to:
Marlborough Amateur Radio Club Inc
PO Box 432
Blenheim 7240

Alternatively you can pay me at our next general meeting.
- Ken Hynds, Treasurer



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
22 November 2018 at 19:50 Hours

Present: Grant Simpson (Chair), Don Laing, Ken Hynds, Ken Menzies, Paul Rennie, David Rothwell

Correspondence: None

Finance: Annual Club NZART sub invoice paid

Matters Arising:

MDC Submission - No further advice

DL

Repeater Report:

Picton (Mt Freeth) - System bench tested for two weeks satisfactorily.

GS

Ned - David R may check up on repeater repairs while taking trip in vicinity

Kaikoura - Access key. Still no response

GS

Weld Cone - Ian C arranging site visit with farmer.

C

Golden Bay Link - Grant S investigating internet link software options

GS

SAR Report:

25 Nov AREC training - meet at EOC at 09:00am

PR

General Business:

- Chorus Repeater Sites (MARC digipeater at Jamies Knob) – still await advice from NZART. SW
- Wayne Parker following up with Marlborough Lines to ascertain possibility of transferring digipeater into their adjacent facility – Don L to follow up with WP. DL
- Presentation by Gary Spence, local Emergency Management Officer, to MARC didn't happen. Maybe later 2019.
- Club Advertising - To start in 2019. DL
- Succession & Contingency Planning - Grant S preparing manual to be stored with Club records, EOC garage. GS

Upcoming Events.

XMAS Parade - 01 December at 3:30pm - School now closed for vehicle parking

MARC GM 13 Dec -Presentation by Chris Grant

Meeting Closed: 20:40

JOCK WHITE FIELD DAY

WHEN: 23/24th February 2019

WHERE: Probably Dillons Point Rd site again.

We missed out on the Midland trophy this year because of insufficient operators to maintain a full roster so hopefully we can do better next year!



Be outstanding
in your fieldday



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ken Menzies (New Year's Eve)

Ron Harris (70) 3rd Jan

Ken Hynds 4th Jan

John Hyndman (96)

Caryl Simpson (60) 29th Jan

If anyone else wants a birthday mentioned, let me know.
I can only mention them in if I am told about them.

IT'S BBQ SEASON! RSVPS ARE REQUIRED FOR CATERING

RSVP to Grant grant@simtronics.co.nz for ours & combined event
or Jim jim.meachen@xtra.co.nz if attending Nelson's.

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BBQ

The Club provides meat, onions, bread, butter and tomato sauce.

When: Sunday 20th January 2019.

Location: Onamalutu Domain.

Marlburians - Travel on SH6 (Blenheim - Nelson highway) then turn left after crossing the Wairau River bridge, onto Northbank Rd. Veer right at the Y onto Onamalutu Rd (left continues up Northbank and you don't want to go that way) then keep going until just before the tar seal ends. The entrance is by seal's end, on the right and over a tree lined bridge.

Nelsonians - Turn right off SH6 on the curve at the Kaituna end of the Wairau River Bridge (the big one just before Renwick. If you cross the bridge you've gone too far) onto Northbank Rd. Veer right at the Y onto Onamalutu Rd (left continues up Northbank and you don't want to go that way) then keep going until just before the tar seal ends. The entrance is by seal's end, on the right and over a tree lined bridge.

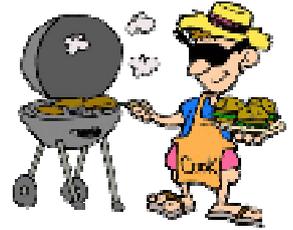
Time: 11 am onwards.

What to Bring: Salad or dessert to share, own drink preference, eating utensils, plates, cup and seating.

If we beat other members of the public to our favourite shady spot, we'll be set up along the left under the trees. We will also have 3 gazebos to use if we can't get enough shade.

If you can't find us, please call on the Blenheim 695 repeater for assistance. See you there!

If the weather is wet a postponement announcement will be sent via email & to Jim ZL2BHF (in case any Nelsonians join us) and he will repeat it on the 7025 2M repeater at 9am..



NELSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BBQ AND FOX HUNT

The Club provides hot spuds, sausages, meat patties, bacon, onions, bread, butter and tomato sauce.

When: Sunday 27th January 2019.

Location: Rabbit Island

Time: 10.30am onwards. Lunch will be ready at 12.30pm

What to Bring: Salad or dessert to share, eating utensils, plates, cup and seating. Remember your Fox Hunting gear! We will be set up in the middle of the island somewhere. If you can't find us, please call on the 7025 repeater for assistance. We look forward to seeing you there for a fun day.

If the weather is wet a postponement announcement will be made on the 7025 2M Repeater at 9am.



MARLBOROUGH/ NELSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS' COMBINED BBQ AND FOX HUNT

When: Saturday March 9th, 2019

Location: Carluke Hall, Carluke Domain, Rai Valley

Time: 11 am onwards

Bring: Salad and/or dessert to share, drink, plates & eating utensils, chair, sun hat, sun screen, handheld to participate in the Fox Hunt (and a spare if you have one to lend to someone who hasn't).

Both clubs will be providing meats, breads, onions, sauce.

Hall kitchen has an oven, hot water plus cups, plates and cutlery if you forget yours.

If the weather is not good we can use the hall, it is huge with plenty of space.

From SH6, turn right (if from Blenheim) or left (if from Nelson) into the French Pass. Turn right into Tennyson Inlet Road. Head over the bridge and the hall is on your right not far after crossing the bridge. Look for Ham vehicles. If lost, call on local 695 Blenheim repeater.

Come and join the fun with other amateurs.

You may take the opportunity to arrive there the night before and/or night after if you wish. The toilets will be open on the Friday night for those who wish to stay overnight. There is plenty of space for campervans and tents also. It will cost \$10 for a powered site.

We let Nelson win the trophy last year (as they were getting depressed losing several years in a row) so we need to win it back as their winning it once is enough for now. We will be having some fun challenges at which to beat them. Come along for the day or stay overnight, it is a fun day out with lots of laughs.



MT FREETH REPAIRS

Over the last few months there have been problems with the Mt Freeth (Picton) repeater shutting down with no response to local use or through the Blenheim repeater. A trip to Mt Freeth once the track dried out enough, we found the controller appeared to have locked up so disabling the link and repeater transmitters. As with all computers, the first thing to try is turn it off and back on. It worked. We could not find a cause so left the site. A couple of weeks later it happened again. Power off restart and it worked. After more investigation it was decided to leave it working while a permanent fix was investigated. Unfortunately it failed again a day or so later.

The repeater was brought back to Blenheim to run on the bench for some time in the hope cause of the fault would be found. Of course, it never failed. As the link receiver is always running even when the controller locks up, then a remote DTMF controlled switch to drop power to the controller could be used to restart the controller if it happened again.

I already had some DTMF decoder boards on hand that could be used. One was connected to the audio out of the link receiver to check it had no effect on levels and that it would decode successfully. A 08M2 Picaxe chip was then programmed to read the code from the DTMF decoder and compare it with an 8 digit code to operate the relay for five seconds. It worked.

Just before Christmas the repeater was reinstalled. However it failed again that evening with the battery voltage dropping below 10 volts. It was fine while we were there with the sun shining.

There's the problem! The batteries had all failed and the site had been running on solar power only. The next day, two batteries from The Ward site were installed at Picton and all is now well.

- Grant Simpson

(photos taken by Gavin Piercy - thanks very much Gavin)

