

Feb 2019

INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

Club Calendar

AGM Meeting; 14 March, EOC, 19.30hrs

Social Group; 21 March 12.00hrs - The Vines

Committee Meeting; 28 March 19.30hrs - EOC



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Website:
www.zl2ks.org.nz

Branch 22 Notices

1. Combined BBQ with Nelson, Carluke9 March
2. **AGM** **14 March**
3. Grape Ride.....30 March

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

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930
144.150MHz

**I am still missing a lot of RSVPs for next weekend's combined BBQ with Nelson.
I need numbers for catering purposes!**

So far, only Chris Grant, Bill Cousins, Ken Hynds, Ken Menzies, Gavin Piercy, Tony Daken and Tony Whitaker have responded. As some of those were apologies the actual number attending from our branch was, at the time this went out, only 10.

There are some who, when responding to the original message asking for RSVPs for all 3 BBQs (2 have now been and gone), were unsure at that time about this one but, now it is closer, need to confirm or send an apology.

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

When: Saturday March 9th, 2019

Location: Carluke Hall, Carluke Domain, Rai Valley

Time: 11am 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, bread, onions, sauce.
Hall kitchen has an oven, hot water plus cups, plates and cutlery if you forget yours.

If the weather is inclement we can use the hall, it is huge with plenty of space.

You might need an umbrella or raincoat if it is raining during the Fox Hunt or Toss the Tait. Weather report from www.yr.no (more accurate than Metservice) says no rain in Rai Valley until 0.8mm on Sunday.

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.

Nelson are now claiming we were simply out classed by their team! This year they say they will retain the cup by continuing their winning ways! This cannot be allowed!

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.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING EOC
14 February 2019 at 19:40 Hours

Present: Grant Simpson ZL2BK, Stuart Watchman ZL2TW, John Errington ZL3TJL, Graeme McKay ZL1BDS, Nelson Bateman ZL3FM, Ian Conway ZL2BGL, Tony Whitaker ZL2RKL, Gerard van Antwerpen ZL2GVA, Ken Menzies ZK2BJV, Paul Rennie ZL2RE, Klaus Lutsch ZL2/DL8SER, Lara McIntyre, Bill Cousins ZL2AYZ, Ken Hynds ZL2KHZ.

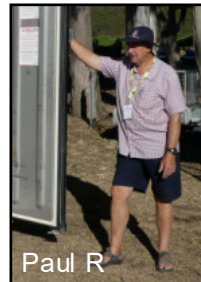
Previous minutes: All ok.

Correspondence:

Inwards: 200Euro (\$NZ330.00) donation from Finnish hams for use of remote HF for communication with Golden Globe Yacht race entrants.

Outward: Nil

Finance: Subscriptions trickling in.
 Marlborough 4 Fun parade donation.
 Finland donation.
 Account sent for Wine and Food.



Paul R



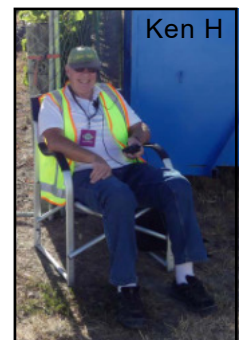
Ken M

Repeaters:

- 6x2volt cells received for use at Picton repeater site.
- Ward - planning visit in about 2 weeks for initial look at site under wind generators beside Weld Cone old site. Will send out message to let interested people know when.
- Kaikoura - Still waiting to get access to the site hut.
- Picton - Behaving well with temporary replacement batteries from the Ward repeater installed.
- Golden Bay Link operating again.

AREC:

- Cold search pending for Karamea in late March.
- SAR shed at Police station has had a revamp .
- SAR/Comm truck to be used at Field Day. It needs to be used or we could lose it.



Ken H

General Business:

- Discussion about HamCram exam and performance in Christchurch. Perhaps a keen person may want to head South for a weekend to observe.
- Wine Festival: Went well, thanks to all the helpers.
- Field Day: 23/24 February at usual site end of Dillons Point Road.
- Combined BBQ at Carluke Park, Rai Valley, 9th of March with Nelson Branch.
- Grape Ride: March 30th. Need to check access track to the STSP site at Havelock

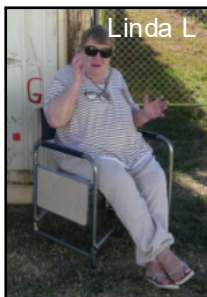


Rob C

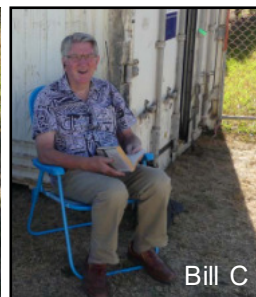
Meeting closed: 2015. Klaus then talked about optical communication.



Don L



Linda L



Bill C



Helen H



Ron H
Ian C
at left

A few pics showing how relaxing it is to help at the Wine & Food Festival

SOME MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SUBS 2019 ARE STILL OVERDUE

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 0114897 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
28 February at 19:35 Hours

Present: Grant Simpson (Chair), Don Laing, Ken Hynds, Paul Rennie, Stewart Watchman
Apologies: None

Correspondence:

Inward: Auditor's Invoice
 Post Box invoice
 NZART Mag

Outward: None



The seafood stall in front of our Base tent kept giving us food

Finance:

Bank Account – Excludes \$40 cheque & there are still outstanding subs
 Meeting approved payment of Auditor & Post Box invoices

Matters Arising:

MDC Submission – No further advice

DL

Repeater Report:

- Picton (Mt Freeth) - OK with replacement batteries. Replacement to wait while access fire risk
- Ned – No issues
- Kaikoura – Access key. Telephoned recently but no answer.
- Weld Cone – Grant arranging site visit ASAP
- Brayshaw Park – No issues
- 6m Beacon – can not access due to fire risk access closure
- Golden Bay Link – Reported to be operational

GS

GS



One of the interesting outfits seen on the day

SAR Report:

Nothing to report

PR

General Business:

- Chorus Repeater Sites (MARC digipeater at Jamies Knob) – still await advice from NZART. **SW**
 Discussed with Wayne Parker who will informally discuss with those responsible at Marlborough Lines. However he warned that Marlborough lines now very sensitive to access and their radio system facilitated by contractor. Discussion to relocating digipeater system into its own weatherproof cabinet outside Chorus building. To contact property owner for authorisation. **GS**
- Club Advertising – Club monthly GM appearing in local newspaper “Whats On” section although notice that they now only seem to advertise weekend events.
- Field Day - “Thank You” acknowledgement to property owner requested by Bill Cousins. Agreed to forward letter and include a \$100 New World voucher. **DL**

Upcoming Events.

09 March – MARC / Nelson combined BBQ & Fox Hunt. Carluke Domain
 14 March – MARC AGM
 30 March – Grape Ride. PM & DL to check repeater access track 01 March & advise.

Meeting Closed : 20:05



Grant at Base - Wine & Food Festival



Setting up Base - Wine & Food Festival

FIELD DAY REPORT 2019

With a southerly storm threatening after weeks of hot weather, the intrepid Branch 22 team nevertheless sprung into action to tackle another Jock White Field Day event. The weather on Saturday was fine and warm and the setting up of dipole aerials and the usual tent accommodation at the Dillons Point road site (as used in previous years) went ahead without a hitch, thanks to a good team of helpers. We opened fire on both 80m and 40m at 1500 hours and chalked up a useful score on both bands in the first three hours. However, at this stage conditions on 40m seemed to take a turn for the worse and activity dropped off markedly and never really recovered until 0900 the following morning. In fact, between 2000 and midnight we were only able to work six stations on 40m which was probably the worst result in some years. We were able to maintain respectability, however, on 80m with some very good scoring throughout the evening. The following morning saw the usual activity on 80m at 0600 with 40m coming back into the picture somewhat later.



Bill works into the night

Initially we gained the impression that there were less branches on this year but log analysis later indicated that the number active on 80m was similar to last year while 40m showed only a small drop. Contacts however were only about 50% of last years total on 40m for reasons mentioned above.

We were able to staff operationally most time periods and only missed one or two CW stints.

The southerly hit us at about 0300 hours on Sunday and the temperature dropped accordingly. Fortunately the "new" tent again proved itself with no leaks and a reasonably warm environment. Despite some severe gusts of wind, the aerials stood up to the battering and only required some attention to the end support of the 80m dipole. However, one got rather wet in the process! The

rain largely cleared by 1300 on Sunday but it was considered prudent to leave the tent up to dry overnight and was dismantled on Monday afternoon.

Quite a number of people paid a social visit and, overall, we probably had the largest number of visitors and operational personnel for some years! Having said that, we still need one or two more operators, especially on CW.

Grateful thanks were expressed to the property owners who are very obliging, and also to all those who turned out either to setup/tear down, operate, or just loan gear. All very necessary and much appreciated.

We had stiff competition from Christchurch, Christchurch West and North Canterbury branches and probably won't win the Midland Trophy, but had a lot of fun trying, despite the rain.



Anthony & Neville enjoy a laugh

- Bill Cousins, ZL2AYZ

Klaus & Bill on the job



David looks worried!





Lara, Klaus, Paul R, Don L & Ian C having a powwow



Klaus noting contacts while Lara listens in

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year already! The AGM seems to suddenly appear with only a few days to go as this is the busiest time of the year, especially for the events at which the club helps. Starting with the annual Christmas Parade, then the January club BBQ, the Wine Festival, Field Day, this weekend's combined BBQ and soon the Grape Ride. Thanks to everyone who has helped with these events. The donations for our expertise have helped the club carry on with the various projects we have underway.

There have been a few problems with our repeaters. With the earthquake damage badly affecting the stability of Weld Cone hill where the Ward repeater was located, it meant we had to abandon the site. The hut was removed by helicopter in May, 2018. It was delivered to my place for temporary storage until a new site could be arranged. Unfortunately, for various reasons, the new site has not been finalised. The most likely site will be very close to the old Weld Cone site on the nearby hill which stands out as it has three wind generators on it.

Once the Ward repeater is re-established, it is hoped the Kaikoura repeater will finally be linked in to our VHF system covering through to Golden Bay. The Kaikoura location is still to be confirmed and so far a meeting with the other users has proved difficult to organise.

The Picton repeater had some strange problems later in the year which took a few visits to its site on Mt. Freeth. It took extra visits to finally realise the batteries had failed, as we only have access in good weather and daylight hours, the solar panels had enough light to run the site. Didn't think of the obvious! Sometimes the repeater controller would not restart when the sun came up but stayed in a locked up state. Replacing the batteries with two from the Ward site solved the problem for now.

The digipeater site at Jamies Knob needs to be removed from the Chorus building so plans are underway for that. The 6 metre beacon has failed but due to access being closed because of the fire risk, it will need to wait a while to investigate what has happened.

The remote HF site has proved its worth too. Some of our members have made good use of it as a quiet receive location and providing a test receiver for checking their own transmissions. Some overseas hams have requested access but in most cases this is denied. They do have full receive access only.

We were contacted by a few hams in Europe who were providing communications to fellow hams competing in the Golden Globe single handed non stop circumnavigation of the world. The rules of the race were based on 1960s operation which meant using Ham Radio for most communications. As the yachtsmen and woman were heading across the Indian Ocean toward West Australia they were having difficulty with propagation. They requested full access to our remote HF site, which they found invaluable. It complemented a couple of excellent Australian operators who were able to provide communications. These sites though were manned without remote access. With storms causing much damage to entrants in the Indian Ocean, having the ability to listen in directly without going through a separate operator proved invaluable.

As the race continued on to the Tasman Sea, passing below Stuart Island and on to the South Pacific, our remote radio proved its worth often providing the only communications to the competitors. This was especially valuable for the Finnish Ham for private conversations in his own dialect with hams from Finland. Those hams sent us a donation for the use of the site. Comments were often made of how well the site worked and that it exceeded their expectations. It was good to get such positive feedback.

With most of their operation during our night, it was also good to see the solar system had no trouble with keeping the batteries well charged.

It has been difficult, as always, to think of good technical topics to discuss at meetings. Hopefully the next committee will have a bit more success! If you have good ideas then let the committee know. You could volunteer for the committee too. New blood is always helpful. I have decided not to stand this year as it's time for someone else to take over. I will stay on the committee if you will have me. I'm sure if you want to volunteer for any position (treasurer, secretary, committee etc.) you will be welcomed! If you do volunteer, please try to be available for the committee meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month.

The important jobs to be completed are the repeaters and beacon.

- Grant Simpson, ZL2BK