February Level 2 2022

INTERFACE

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

CLUB CALENDAR

General Meeting;.....Feb **CANCELLED**
Social Group;.....Feb 17, The Vines, Redwood
Committee Meeting; ..Feb 24, via Zoom

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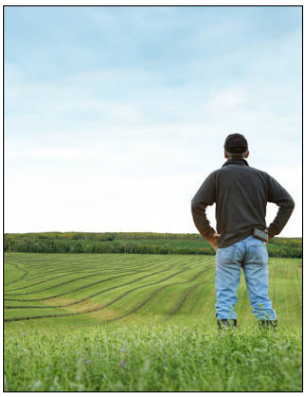
Website:
www.zl2ks.org.nz

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. Jock White Field Day .....26/27 Feb
2. AGM (*may have to be postponed*) .....10 March
3. Combined BBQ **CANCELLED**.....12 March
4. HamCram (*may also be postponed*) .....2-3 April

VHF Mondays 1930 hrs
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,
147.225MHz
Net Controller; Rob Carter, ZL2IW
VHF - USB Net Wednesdays 1930
144.150MHz

JOCK WHITE FIELD DAY 26 - 27 February



Yes, it is that time for Hams to be outstanding in their field!

The annual HF Field Day is coming up at the end of Dillons Point Road but in the paddock a little west of our usual location. Old hands will remember this as the area that we used in the days of the loop antennas. The entrance is via a gate slightly west of the previous entrance - look for the club banner on the fence. When you reach the end of the seal, you are close!

Operators and assistance with the putting-up and taking-down will again be required.
Installation (inc tent erecting) begins at 11.30am Saturday, or a bit earlier, with antenna raising after 1200. Operational kick -off is 1500hrs. All help gratefully received!
A break between midnight and 6am Sunday allows some rest then a Sunday kickoff at 0600, finishing at 1500hrs.

You can offer to operate for as long or as short as you like. Even just half an hour is useful! We run two stations simultaneously (on 80m and 40m respectively) with the time every hour being divided between CW and SSB operation.
Dinner is provided for all present around 1700hrs on Saturday, and cold and hot drinks available throughout. (Thank you Christine Conway and Chris Grant).
As at least two of us remain overnight, there is no need for more operators at 0600hrs, but it gets busy on both bands again after 0800.
The event is an enjoyable time in pleasant surroundings and well worth a visit, even for a short time.

For those not familiar with this event, it involves an exchange of numbers with other field and home stations and the contest atmosphere (fairly relaxed) just adds incentive to the event. Otherwise it is an excellent way to hone operating skills and intended (originally) as an AREC exercise, both in operating and setting up a portable station. Visitors are very welcome and operation optional (although much appreciated, as the old hands need a break). One can sit in with an experienced operator and just listen to what happens and how it is done, if you wish. This is probably essential if you are new to the event.
Although some seating is available, it would be helpful if you could bring your own chair, especially if just visiting.
We have generally been very fortunate with the weather and should be again this year. Covid precautions will be required but most, except operators, sit outside the tent.

Interested?? **Contact Bill** b.cousins@xtra.co.nz 579 3121 if you want more details.

A BBQ tea will be enjoyed around 5.30pm Saturday evening and you would be welcome.

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
via Zoom 27th January 2022 at 19:30 Hours

Present: John Errington (Chair), Grant Simpson, Don Laing, Ken Hynds, Graeme McKay, Bill Cousins, Paul Rennie, Nick Batt

Health & Safety: No items of concern raised.
Masks to be worn at attended meetings to comply with current Covid regulations.
EOC is closed to the public and EOC staff working from home. **Hence next General Meeting is cancelled** and **AGM may need to be postponed**. AGM notice to be issued as applicable. However annual accounts need to be submitted to the Registrar by March 2022.

Correspondence:
Inward:
07/12/21 N Marr Issue with COVID policy
08/12/21 Brian Paton EOV EOC COVID policy
14/12/21 P Rennie GM MOM 9/12/21 correction re EOC HF antenna
03/01/22 C Simpson Taylor restaurant 90th birthday booking
12/01/22 R Harris Purchase of surplus VHF folded dipole
17/01/22 Branch 01 Eastfest confirmation 12~13 February 2022
18/01/22 G Van Antwerpen Reverse beacon proposal document
23/01/22 Branch 01 Eastfest cancellation
26/01822 G Van Antwerpen Copyright re his Interface article
Outward:
07/12/21 Brian Paton EOV Inquiry re EOC COVID policy
10/12/21 C Simpson Pub Charity Logos for Interface acknowledgement
15/12/21 VCC Request to borrow BBQ trailer
14/12/22 Clubs of Marlborough Taylor restaurant booking inquiry

Matters Arising
- Reverse Beacon – No issues with proposal to locate at Brayshaw Park site
- Dipole Purchase – Agreed to permanent loan to R Harris reciprocating his loan of HF transmitter at Brayshaw Park site.
- Interface Copyright – Copyright belongs to author to do as they wish

Finance: Total Membership 50 (paid up) 3 outstanding subs **Total funds** $26,764.13
Accounts submitted to Blenheim Accounting for review
Accounts to be approved; PO Box $107.50 (50% of total as shared with SAR), BBQ meat $237.00 & Gas $25.00
Financial review T&C's. To obtain from Blenheim Accounting **Action KH**
Insurance review T&C's. To obtain at next Insurance renewal **Action KH**

Events
- Pony Club Trial – Only limited number of volunteers to date & base camp risk. To confirm with organisers and advise. **JE**
- 90th Birthday – Make inquiries at Woodburn Tavern (Woody's) & Springlands Tavern **DL**
- AGM – Nomination forms to be published in Interface. **GS**
- J Errington to propose at AGM to add a Vice-President position
- Field Day (26~27 Feb) – Site confirmed, toilet booked and hopefully volunteers will eventuate **BC**
- Ham Cram (2~3 April) – Publicity to be initiated. Suggestion to include RSE workers considering recent Tonga communication collapse. VCC rooms have been booked. **DL**
- Repeater Cram (14 & 21 May) – to be finalised **JE/GS**

Repeaters & Systems:
Ward Repeater gremlins finally sorted. Will arrange installation next week **GS**
Kaikoura waits parts **GS**
DMR Trial Paul R has portable unit and available for others to try out **PR**
Grant S suggested that a spare repeater transmitter could be made up using two Tait radios fitted into a case so that it could be simply plugged in when needed.

Speaker Schedule:
Feb '22 Cancelled - Alan Creswell to be postponed until can confirm date for next meeting
Mar '22 AGM – To be confirmed subject to COVID situation

AREC **PR**
Pub Charity deadlines confirmed
Poles have been manufactured by Cuddons and to be collected next week.

General Business
Fox Hunt – Suggested that Fox also incorporates an UHF frequency. David R is considering

Meeting Closed: 21:10
Next Committee Meeting 24th February 2022 (via Zoom)

Please note it is possible any, or all, events mentioned in this newsletter may end up being postponed depending on Covid spread. We will keep you updated as changes are made according to circumstances.

EASTFEST HAS NOW BEEN CANCELLED

February Meeting; As the February general meeting has been cancelled, we will not be hearing from guest speaker Alan Cresswell, ZL2BX, who has addressed the club before on satellites, being the writer of the Break-In column on that topic. He was to tell us about a rather ingenious method of determining the true radiation pattern of an HF antenna using FT8 signals.
Alan now lives on a fairly remote site at Thorpe, upper Moutere, and has an interesting collection of antennas. He is a member of the Motueka branch and hopefully we be able to hear his talk at a later date.

March AGM; As we are unable to use the EOC building, and some are wary of getting together in groups inside at the moment, the committee are considering postponing the AGM. They have been checking the Constitution to see if this is possible. As noted in the Minutes, the accounts will still be sent to the Registrar as legally required.
I have the financials ready to go in the next Interface and will be calling for other reports, as usual, even if there is a postponement.
THERE IS A NOMINATION FORM attached to this email as both a Word doc and a pdf. Use whichever opens for you. We need nominations for officers and committee. Even if the actual AGM is delayed, nominations need to be in before February 28th.
We are sad to announce **Ken Hynds is stepping down as Treasurer** after many, sterling, years of work on behalf of the club. Thank you for a job well done Ken. Anyone willing to step up to take his place? If you are, ask someone to nominate you, or tell a committee member.

HamCram Suggestion; Perhaps members could think of ways and means to publicise the up-coming HamCram (bearing in mind it, too, may have to be postponed) and preferably initiate that themselves rather than leave it to the Committee. Approaching those who, of their acquaintances, might be suitable candidates could well be fruitful as well. I have finally managed to get my brother to agree to sign up, after suggesting it to him for several years.

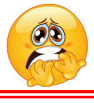
Combined BBQ; Unfortunately we have had to make the decision to cancel for this year. By March the virus should be widespread and all our members are in the vulnerable category.
Branch 26 had their committee meeting this week and, with consultation with us, decided it was safest to leave it for this year. A postponement would drag on for an unknown length of time, then it would be winter and too cold to BBQ, so we decided it was best all round to just cancel for this year.
That gives you another 12 months to strengthen your throwing arm, research fox activity, and brace yourself for whatever else I come up with as a fun competition against Nelson.

Social Group Meeting; This is an important social contact for some. We cannot hide from Omicron forever but some may feel very uncomfortable going out in the peak of the outbreak. If you don't feel comfortable attending, then you are welcome to skip a month or two, that is just fine, but the usual gatherings will go ahead.
Next one is at The Vines restaurant, Redwoodtown, 17th February. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Christine Conway tine.ian@farmside.co.nz phone 577 7114 or Chris Grant chgrant@value.net.nz 577 6981.

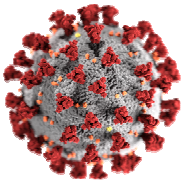
ZL2KS Website; Gerard has added some historical stuff to the ZL2KS website ('History' page), and also some old photos to the Photos page. Make sure you take a look! Thanks to Helen/Ron Harris and Bill Cousins as well.

SUBS; Many thanks for paying your subs. With our main revenue streams non-existent at the moment, subs are more important than usual.

Interface Copyright; I noted it mentioned in the Minutes so thought I would clarify here. Some editors send each other their own club's newsletters and each is allowed to reprint articles found therein, provided they acknowledge where they copied it from, along with the author, if known. The Interface is also put online in the club website so, if someone asked to reprint an original article, I would try and check with the author first as sometimes they may want to add further information to it or clarify something that has arisen since the article was published. As Gerard is the club webmaster, and has written original articles for Interface, he need not ask my permission before allowing someone to reprint one of his own articles. Although he wrote the articles for Interface, I still consider them to be his own to share with whom he likes. The author of any other original articles will be asked for their permission before sharing for publication in other places.

I can't remember if I have posted this link before but, in case I haven't, here's a "must view" video about antenna maintenance; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqKowlsjTE4.
If you're afraid of heights then I suggest you don't copy and paste the link into your browser 

MARC Function Attendance COVID Requirements



In order to comply with current Government and EOC requirements, all persons attending MARC functions are now required to have a valid Vaccine Certificate or a Ministry of Health Exemption certificate. THIS INCLUDES BBQ's!
Any members who have issues with these requirements please advise the Secretary.

Please note, all attendees must be double vaccinated (with a Vaccination Pass). Exception for children too young to be vaccinated.

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

WHEN: Saturday March 12th, 2022 **TIME:** 11am onwards **WHERE:** Carluke Hall, Rai Valley

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 your.

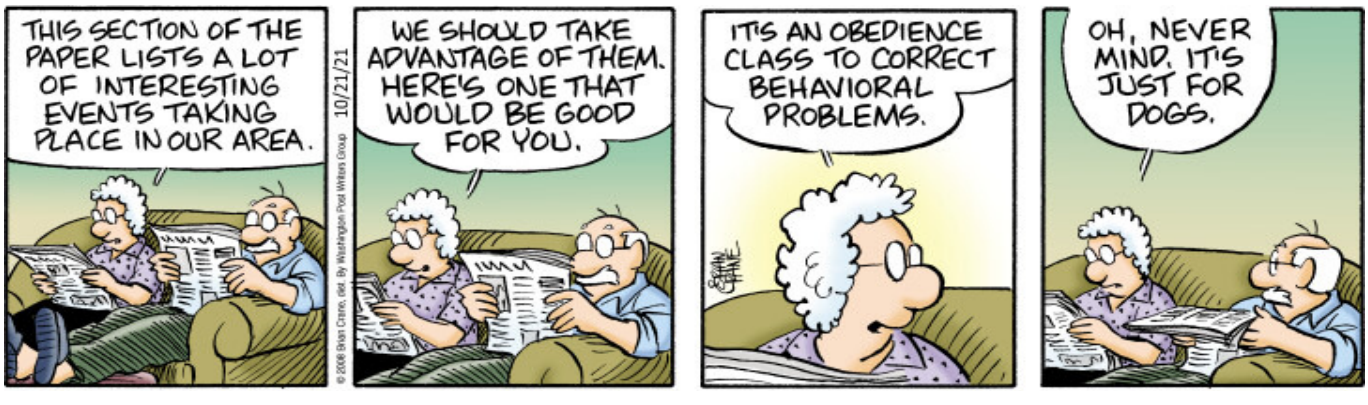
If the weather is inclemen, we can use the hall, it is huge with plenty of space.
You might need an umbrella or raincoat if it is raining during the Fox Hunt or Toss the Tait.

Directions: From SH6, turn right (if from Blenheim) or left (if from Nelson) at the Brown River Reserve into Opouri Rd - the way to French Pass, Okiwi Bay, Tennyson Inlet etc. Turn first right where the road splits (Longa Rd left - don't go that way!) following Opouri Rd. Drive over the bridge and the hall is on the 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.
We need to win the trophy back from Nelson!

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 will be having the usual variety of fun challenges at which to beat Nelson, the Fox Hunt being the only specifically radio related competition, so the whole family can enter. Come along for the day or stay overnight, it is a fun day out with lots of laughs.

RSVP to caryl@simtronics.co.nz **by 7 March** for catering purposes please!



ONAMALUTU BBQ

We had a great turnout for the annual BBQ at Onamalutu on a scorching 30℃ day. We had 31 adults and 2 grandchildren (one of ours and one of Erringtons). Don Laing brought the VCC trailer BBQ and we set up in our usual spot in the shade of the kahikatea trees.
There was plenty of food, with Dave Rothwell having purchased meat on behalf of the club, and everyone bringing the usual wide mix of salads and desserts. We remembered to bring gazebos this time to stop tree bits dropping into the food but I didn't manage to photograph the desserts before they got eaten.
A good time was had by all and John's coffee machine, plugged into his electric car, was much appreciated.
The Fox Hunt was popular and won by Grant, ZL2BK. He then gave lessons to quite a few on how he did it just using a handheld (perhaps this should have been done first for the newbies!) There were some first timers who appreciated the lesson so may give everyone a run for their money on the next Fox Hunt, whenever that will be.
Thanks to all who attended and contributed to a great outing. Photos are on the next pages.

Main group. There were more behind me under another gazebo

I apologise in advance for misidentification or name spelling errors!

L - R: Clare & Neil Shepherd, John & Pam Neal, Graeme & Doreen Dillon

R: Mac McKercher & Chris de Wagt

Nick Batt & Gerard van Antwerpen

Jolande van Antwerpen at a now depleted salad table after the first pass.

Under gazebo L - R: Linda & Don Laing, Dave Rothwell, Paul Rennie, Ron Harris. John & Deborah Errington in background with grandson, Rowan

R: Graeme & Heather McKay, Helen Harris, Dave Rothwell

Far R; Graeme & Heather McKay

Manning the BBQ: Don Laing, Helen & Ron Harris, Paul Rennie

Clare & Neil Shepherd

Ken Menzies & Neil Shepherd

Tony & Fay Daken

There were more attendees but I didn't get a decent (or indecent) photo of them!

Ready to start the Fox Hunt. I hope Clare joins the next HamCram, assuming she isn't already a Ham!

GOING ON A FOX HUNT!

L - R; Gerard van Antwerpen, Nick Batt, Graeme Dillon, Graeme McKay, Ken Menzies, Dave Rothwell, Neil & Clare Shepherd, Grant Simpson (with Wayne & Heather Parker, Mac McKercher in background)

Club baristas extraordinaire!
5 yr old Rowan Errington
7 yr old Theo Simpson

Theo enjoying time in Eeyore's house (built by someone else)