

# INTERFACE

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

## CLUB CALENDAR

General Meeting;..... 14 July, 7.30pm, EOC  
Social Group; ..... 21 July, Dodson St Beer garden  
Committee Meeting; 28 July, 7.30pm, via Zoom



HF Net Tuesdays & Saturdays  
2030 hrs 3876kHz

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays  
1930 hrs 144.150MHz

## BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. Mid Winter Lunch, The Woody..... 24 July
2. Lighthouse Weekend ..... 20/21 Aug
3. Constructors Award ..... 8 Sept
4. Club 90th Birthday (note date correction) 5 Nov

VHF Mondays 1930 hrs  
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,  
147.225MHz

Net Controller; Rob Carter, ZL2IW

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FELICITY MARSHALL  
&  
SHEILA CUNNINGHAM

★ you've  
PASSED

★ with  
flying ★  
colours!

These two passed their Amateur Radio licence, both getting 86%, after the latest HamCram.

MID  
WINTER  
LUNCH  
DETAILS  
PAGE 5!



Christine Conway

*I can only mention a birthday, or anniversary, if I have been told about it*

Latest club members, thanks to HamCram,  
Felicity Marshall, ZL2FRB &  
Sheila Cunningham, ZL3SIGS



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES AT EOC 9th JUNE, 2022 1935 hrs

**Present:** John Errington, Greg Barton, Bill Cousins, Graeme Dillon, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Nick Batt, Paul Rennie, John Crampton, Don Jamieson, Ken Menzies, Ron Harris, Ian Conway, Wayne Parker, David Rothwell, Stuart Watchman

**Health and Safety:** Masks encouraged but not mandatory.

**Apologies:** Matt Kerr ZL4HZ, Helen Harris ZL2HH, Don Laing ZL3DN

**Confirmation of May Meeting Minutes:** John Errington/Gerard Van Antwerpen

### Correspondence:

#### Inward:

09/05/22 John Errington Revised repeater cram dates  
16/05/22 Gerard van Antwerpen CW skimmer software license invoice & registration number  
23/05/22 NZ Companies Office Notification re Incorporated Societies law changes  
26/05/22 NZART 2022 May Branch Circular

#### Outward:

13/05/22 Gary Spence EOC Transfer of EOC door key from Ken Hynds to Don Laing  
13/05/22 Steve Austin, Museum Request for archives access for Helen & Ron Harris  
16/05/22 Bill Cousins Distribution of Hamcram posters  
17/05/22 Hortus Invitation to Hamcram for their RSE workers  
17/05/22 Thornhill Invitation to Hamcram for their RSE workers  
18/05/22 Dr. Ash Corbett Condolence card  
05/06/22 NZART Return completed 2022 May Branch Circular  
05/06/22 NZ Companies Office Subscription to Incorporated Societies law changes

**Finance & Membership:** General Account: \$9,147.00  
Reserve Account: \$11,501.00  
AREC Account: \$3,066.00  
**Total Funds:** \$23,714.00

Payment for 5 antenna bags (\$690) has been made.

Payments totaling \$164.10 are due for Field Day generator fuel and Reverse Beacon project license.

**HamCram:** Only two candidates so far otherwise arrangements in hand.

**RepeaterCram:** 15 have registered for the first meeting on 11th June.

**Social Lunch:** The May lunch, being the first at Dodsons, went well.

**90th Anniversary Dinner:** November 5th

### Repeaters:

- Kaikoura power control mechanism still giving trouble.
- Ward repeater restored and all other repeaters functioning.

**Speaker Schedule:** July - Alan Cresswell: Using FT8 to determine the radiation pattern of an HF antenna.

August - Anthony Winter: Radio Astronomy

September - Constructors Night

**AREC:** One callout to Pelorus to search for two men who had taken the wrong track and used their cellphone to summon help. Party found and assisted as required.

### GENERAL BUSINESS: Nil

**Next meeting:** 14th July

**Meeting closed:** 1955 hrs followed by an interesting talk by David Rothwell describing his large Drone.

## CONSTRUCTORS AWARD September Meeting!

Now's the time to start thinking about, and constructing, your entry for this.



# MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING via Zoom

23rd June 2022 at 19:30 Hours

**Present:** John Errington (Chair), Don Laing, Graeme McKay, Gerard van Antwerpen, Bill Cousins, Nick Batt, Paul Rennie, Greg Barton, Grant Simpson

**Apologies:** None

## Health & Safety:

- No change to Government status
- No items of concern raised



## Confirmation of last Committee meeting minutes

Confirmed as correct Moved JE, Seconded DL, Passed



## Matters Arising

Covered in General Business

## Correspondence: (since GM MOM 09/06/22)

### Inward:

- 13/06/22 NZART HQ Branch 22 Membership list Excel file
- 14/06/22 Companies Office Confirmation that Greg Barton authorised person

### Outward:

- 07/06/22 Paul Rennie Re AREC Deputy Director clarification
- 21/06/22 Sheila & Felicity Welcome to MARC
- 21/06/22 Caryl Simpson Issue of Interface to Sheila & Felicity
- 22/06/22 Sheila & Felicity Invitation to Repeater Cram 25/06/22

**Motion:** The Inwards correspondence be accepted and the Outwards endorsed

**Moved:** D. Laing / **Seconded:** J. Errington / **Passed:** All

## Matters Arising: None

## Finance: Membership remains at 51

Accounts - General Account	\$9,008.42
Reserve Account	\$11,501.28
AREC Account	\$3,066.35
Total funds	\$23,576.05



Income since last meeting Interest \$2.02

Payments totalling \$164.10 were made for;

- reimbursement of generator fuel for Field Day \$ 14.84
- software licence for the reverse beacon project \$149.26

Account signatories finally changed with Kiwibank after a very protracted procedure

**Motion:** That a \$50 donation be made to the VCC for use of their facilities for the Ham Cram

**Moved:** D. Laing / **Seconded:** J. Errington / **Passed:** All

## Events

- Ham Cram - Very successful with the two candidates passing with the same high scores
- Repeater Cram - Enthusiastic response
- Agenda has been issued for next meeting 25/06/22 at 9:00am EOC  
Key Issues are: Define & simplify system  
Determine what function it is to provide
- History Project - To progress with Helen Harris after Repeater Cram.
- Mid-Winter Dinner - Caryl Simpson agreed to organise venue for Sunday 24th July  
Helen Harris to be approached.
- Light House Weekend - At Cape Campbell 20 & 21 August  
To be promoted in Interface



DL

## Repeaters & Systems:

- RBN - Relocated to Brayshaw Park and operating satisfactorily
- Ward - Operating satisfactorily now whip link aerial installed
- Kaikoura - Faulty PA. DTMF to be implemented. Installation date will be determined once fully tested



GS

## Speaker Schedule:

- July Alan Cresswell - Using FT8 to determine the radiation pattern of an HF antenna
- August Antony Winter re astronomy
- September Constructors Award
- October Bill Cousins - Topic TBA
- November John Errington - Topic TBA



## AREC

Attended SAR meeting. SAR AGM scheduled for 16/08/22  
Will do presentation to SAR re AREC



PR

Minutes continued over page

## CONSTRUCTORS AWARD - September!

Now's the time to start thinking about, and constructing, your entry for this award

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- General Meeting refreshments (milk & biscuits)  
Don Laing agreed to bring and thinks he has key from Ken H for kitchen cupboard. DL
- 90th Birthday Contest Award  
Bill C has noticed in NZART Break-In that other Clubs hosting Awards for their anniversaries  
Expressions of interest at next General Meeting JE
- Paul Rennie in discussion with FENZ re possible relocation of NED repeater to FENZ site which has good vehicle access. PR

**Meeting Closed:** 20:25

**Next Committee Meeting:** 20th July 2022 (via Zoom)



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## NZART MEMORIAL CONTEST

This 80m phone/CW (both or either) contest takes place on the weekend of 2/3 July in the evenings between 2000 and 2300 hrs.

It commemorates the hams who were casualties in WW2.

You don't have to operate over the whole 6 hours or take it too seriously if you don't want to, but your contribution on the night(s) helps those who do!

Many thanks in anticipation.



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## INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

This event takes place on the weekend of 20/21st August at, for us, Cape Campbell lighthouse.

It is NOT a contest as such, but the aim is to work as many other lighthouse-based stations around the world as possible. Hence it is quite laid-back and casual.

The station has to be operated from the actual lighthouse being activated, therefore we stay overnight in the old lighthouse keepers quarters, which were upgraded some years ago for the film "Light Over the Ocean", and is very comfortable and warm.

When I say "we", there is a hard-core of seasoned members who have taken up the opportunity over several years now, but anyone is invited to join the party, keeping in mind that participants share the cost of the hire of the lighthouse premises (usually around \$50 each, depending on numbers).

We travel by car, leaving Blenheim around 0800 on Saturday and usually return on Sunday afternoon.

If you have not been to Cape Campbell before, this is an ideal opportunity to see a part of the country otherwise only accessible via the foreshore at Marfell's Beach at low tide, unless you have farmer's permission (and a key) to use the road access.

The weather has usually been very kind to us - only once can I remember arriving and putting up antennas in the teeth of a southerly gale and rain.

If it sounds of interest to you, have a chat to Ian Conway, [tine.ian@farmside.co.nz](mailto:tine.ian@farmside.co.nz), or Bill Cousins, [b.cousins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.cousins@xtra.co.nz) to express interest or get more information.



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## Techoman 1/4 wave whip from Trade Me

This device has the embellished title on Trade Me: TECHOMAN VHF/UHF Complete Mobile Tunable Antenna - RT Radio Telephone Type

After a year I am finally getting my new shack organised and I needed a dedicated antenna for 695. The Ned is a direct line of site from my shack window on the south side of the house so signals are strong. I had been using a mag mount antenna on the desk but its good practice to get the 'RF out of the shack'. Antennas close to power supplies and radios is asking for trouble: hum on transmitted audio is a common result.

The antenna did not need to be dual band for my purpose and the smaller the better. The good old fashioned 1/4 wave whip seemed the way to go. The unit above was bought for \$59.95 plus shared post with other items of \$8.75 shared with a dual band mobile antenna and some multimeter test leads. Delivery took 2 days.

It comes with a 3m length of RG58 terminated in a PL-259 plug. This had to be cut off to get it under the roof tiles and a new plug fitted. Hint, if doing this cut it off with a bit of length, then you can make yourself a coax jumper by fitting a new plug to the off-cut.

The antenna comes with a printed cutting guide for frequencies from 70 to 900 MHz. I discovered this after I had estimated the length from a 300/f and trimmed it a cm at a time with bolt cutters. 1.5 SWR points are about 140 and 148 with a dip of near 1 at 145. I left it like this as it will cover ESB if needed. It has a wide bandwidth, probably a result of being close to the roof on two sides. It came with an allen key for the grub screws and zinc coated self tappers which I used to attach it to the coloursteel spouting. This was what I was after, good value, effective and a short delivery time.

- ZL2TW



# MID WINTER LUNCH

**DATE:** Sunday 24th July

**TIME:** Seated before 12 noon

**WHERE:** Woodbourne Tavern Restaurant  
(at right hand end of building)

**RSVP:** 20th July to...  
[caryl@simtronics.co.nz](mailto:caryl@simtronics.co.nz)

Good food from starters to desserts, plus the bar!

Menu can be found online but toasties are \$6, starters and share options are \$8 - \$27, burgers are \$19 - \$24 and a large selection of mains are \$17 - \$38. Desserts, the most important part, are all \$10.

ZL2RE assures me the food is great and the fruit and veg in tip top condition, as he delivers them :-)



## CONSTRUCTORS AWARD - September!

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**Q:** Where do burgers like to dance?

**A:** At a meat ball

**Q:** Why do the French eat snails?

**A:** They don't like fast food.

**Q:** What do you call sad coffee?

**A:** Depresso

**Q:** What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

**A:** Nacho cheese

**Q:** Where do pickles fight?

**A:** In an onion ring

Scottish bats....their struggle is real..

