

December 2022

INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

CLUB CALENDAR

- General Meeting;.... 8 Dec, 7.30pm, EOC
- Social Group; 15 Dec, Dodson St Beer garden
- Committee Meeting; **28** Dec, 7.30pm, via Zoom



HF Net Tuesdays & Saturdays
2030 hrs 3876kHz

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays
1930 hrs 144.150MHz

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. Xmas drinks & supper (bring a small plate).. 8 Dec
2. Onamalutu BBQ..... 22 Jan
3. Wine & Food Festival..... 11 Feb
4. Antennas Part 1..... Feb

VHF Mondays 1930 hrs
146.950MHz, 145.600MHz,
147.225MHz
Net Controller; Rob Carter, ZL2IW

Website: www.zl2ks.org.nz

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90TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD ACTIVITY

There was a reasonable amount of interest shown in the Award which our branch offered on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of the club. A number of contacts expressed appreciation for encouraging activity as it enlivened operation, particularly on 80m in the evening. 6 stations outside of Marlborough have applied for the award, while 28 others called in during the week.

10 Marlborough club members took part and 2 others (ZL2BH/ZL4AS and ZL1AJC/p) also contributed, which was appreciated. Rueben (ZL1AJC) just happened to be over this way from Nelson for the week. 2 or 3 other stations may have been able to achieve the required 30 points if a couple more members had been active.

Caryl Simpson has produced a very attractive certificate for us to send out to applicants and we are in the process of issuing these.

Many thanks to all members and non-members who took the trouble to come on the air and provide the opportunity for stations to achieve the required number of points to secure the award.

My thanks also to Stuart (ZL2TW) for his support and assistance during a rough patch leading up to the event.

Bill



Anthony Winter & Ken Menzies



**Marlborough Amateur Radio Club General Meeting
at EOC, 10th November 2022 at 19:35 Hours**

Present: John Errington (Chair), Don Laing (Secretary), Greg Barton (Treasurer), Ian Conway, Don Jamieson, Graeme Dillon, Helen & Ron Harris, Paul Rennie, Gary Lodge, Stuart Watchman, Graeme McKay, Sheila Cunningham

Apologies: Gerard Van Antwerpen, Bill Cousins, Grant Simpson, Neil Shepherd

Matters Arising: Covered in General Business

Correspondence: (since Committee Meeting 20/10/22) with distribution of correspondence as applicable.

Inward

- In / Out re 90th Anniversary Lunch
- In / Out re 90th Award
- 10/11/22 ZL2TE & ZL2UJT 90th award logs

Outward

- 28/10/22 B. Cousins Condolence Card
- 09/11/22 EOC Roster Draft Roster Feb~May 2023

Finance & Membership:

Membership 55 (0 change)
Upcoming Payments - Branch 22 NZART subscription due 30/11/22
Disbursements for 90th anniversary celebration
Proposed that inactive funds be transferred to term deposit accounts to earn interest.
Committee to determine details.



G. Barton/J. Errington/Carried

Events:

- 90th MARC Anniversary award - Good interest to date with logs being submitted
- 90th MARC Anniversary lunch – Enjoyed by all
Thanks and applause to the Organisers G. Barton/J. Errington/Carried
- Onamalutu Picnic 22nd January 2023
- Wine & Food Festival 11th February 2023

Repeaters & Systems:

Grant S & Gerard VA absent

Kaikoura Repeater - understand it's ready to go but needs confirmation by Grant to organise installation work party.

Development – Need to be more proactive and make it happen

Speaker Schedule:

Tonight Interesting shorts

- Encrypting DTMF, or how to defeat teenage boys with a tape recorder (John E)
- A high wire act in Tory Channel (Paul R)
- A scary Halloween story (John E)

December - Christmas Drinks – bring small plate

January - Onamalutu picnic 22/01/23

February - Antennas Part 1

March - AGM

April - Marlborough Lines Comms system

May - David Rothwell on waterproof joints (Antennas Part 2)

June - John E – Antenna software (Antennas Part 3)

SAR / AREC: 4 Element Yagi – funding request to AREC National accepted and manufacturing being arranged

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- EOC Roster – Volunteers needed to cover and reduce commitment for all
- Crews to be organised to assist Sheila & Grant with the erection of their HF antennas. Action S. Watchman

Meeting closed 19:55

Next Committee meeting: 28th November 2022 by Zoom, 7:30pm **(NB Date Change)**

Next General meeting: 8th December at EOC, 7:30pm

Presentation: Very interesting and informative mini presentations enjoyed by all.



from your President & Committee



The club has radios available, as well as an antenna analyser, for members to borrow when required. Contact a committee member for more details if you would like to avail yourself of any of these. marcbranch22@gmail.com

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
via Zoom 28th November 2022 at 19:30 Hours

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

Health & Safety: Okiwi Bay presence of live electrical wires.

Correspondence: (since GM MOM 13/10/22)

Inward:

10/11/22	Ngaire Jury ZL2TE & ZL2UJT	90th Anniversary award logs
12/11/22	John Graham ZL4RO	90th Anniversary award logs
13/11/22	Greg Barton	90th Anniversary award logs
14/11/22	Bill Campbell ZL2AIB	90th Anniversary award logs
17/11/22	Kiwibank	Newsletter
20/11/22	Stan	Membership subscription inquiry
21/11/22	David Mclver ZL1DMC	Response to MARC inquiry letter
	Secretary Auckland ARC	
23/11/22	Mike Etheridge ZL2MH	90th Anniversary award logs
23/11/22	DC Hughes ZL2MA	90th Anniversary award logs
26/11/22	Sheila Cunningham	New email address
12, 17 &	Blair ZL3TOY Secretary	Responses & further communication to MARC inquiry letter
27/11/22	Christchurch ARC	

Outward:

12/11/22	Auckland ARC	Inquiry re their VHF repeater system
12/11/22	Christchurch ARC	Inquiry re their VHF repeater system
12/11/22	Wellington ARC	Inquiry re their VHF repeater system
20/11/22	EOC Roster	Roster Feb ~ May 2023
21/11/22	Stan	Subscription advice & membership form

Finance:

Inwards; Subs, Awards entries

Payments; - ZL2KS subscription to NZART 2023

- Reimburse temp license for Lighthouse weekend

- Reimburse MARC 90th Anniversary expenses

Subscription Notices; To distribute subscription notices via email and Interface.

Payment by direct bank credit – no cash

GB

Term Investments;

Proposed that some term investment changes be made to take advantage of better bank interest rates:

Moved: JE / Secoded: PR / Passed: All

Membership List; A centralised list has been set up on the MARC Gmail account but still requires a bit of editing and setting up of email lists etc.

JE/GB

Events:

➤ **Onamalutu picnic - 22 Jan 2023**

DL

- To obtain VCC BBQ trailer

- Request David Rothwell to obtain meat and arrange foxhunt

JE

➤ **Wine & Food Festival - 11 Feb 2023**

- Stuart W has received email notification. Await details

➤ Notice in Interface for Volunteers

Repeaters & Systems:

➤ **Kaikoura** - Bench testing completed OK and just some minor setting setup required

GS/BC

Site visit next weekend to check final requirements with final installation to proceed ASAP prior to Xmas.

➤ **Brayshaw** - No issues

GS

➤ Grant S advised that he will be stepping down due to health issues as from next AGM

Repeater Development

- Letter sent to Auckland, Wellington & Christchurch Clubs inquiring about their standard system policies, specifications and future plans. Responses received from Auckland & Christchurch. Christchurch response very informative. Possible collaboration to be followed up after their AGM in January 2023.

JE/DL

- Gmck has identified from Council records the owner of the potential site as used by FENZ. To forward letter requesting permission to access site.

GMck/DL

Speaker Schedule:

08/12/22	Christmas Drinks - bring a plate
January	Onamalutu picnic
February	Antennas Part 1 – Antony Winter Introduction & demonstrations
March	AGM
April	Marlborough Lines Comms system. Bill C confirmed ML agreement
May	Antenna Part 2 – David Rothwell on waterproof joints
June	Antenna Part 3 – John E on antenna software.



Minutes continued next page

AREC:

PR

- AREC National have agreed to fund Yagi for SAR work. To follow up issue of invoice for payment
- EOC asked for Okiwi Bay to be checked out. PR & Ron Harris carried out site tests and advised EOC.
- At Okiwi Bay live electrical wires noticed at rear of building. To check photos to identify any hazards and to advise EOC accordingly.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 90th Award Certificates
BC advised that total of 18 award participants with 6 outside Marlborough.
DL to check PO Box for any last entries. **Post meeting note: PO Box empty on 29/11/22**
- Brayshaw Park Transmitter Access
GvA inquired as to whether access rules to be published on website. Agreed to leave as present to advise any applications as they arise

Meeting Closed: 20:55hrs

Next Committee Meeting: 26th Jan 2023 (via Zoom)

Post meeting note: This meeting date may change to Tues 24th Jan.



SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2023

\$20.00 Single Member \$25.00 for Family Membership

Internet Payment only please.

Kiwi Bank Acc. N^o: 38 9002 0114897 00

Please Quote Call Sign and Name!



Next Thursday is the final meeting for the year.
Please bring a small plate to share for supper. Bonus points if it has Christmassy food on it!

ANNUAL ONAMALUTU PICNIC

January 22nd is our annual Onamalutu picnic. Always a relaxing day and a good chance to meet up with fellow members over excellent food (and John's popular coffee). The club provides the BBQ, meat, bread and tomato sauce and members bring a salad or dessert to share. We always have an interesting, and tasty, variety of both. There is plenty of shade, or full sun, depending on your preference.

For those new to the area, the Onamalutu Scenic Reserve is administered by DOC. The Ōhinemahuta River (formerly mis-spelled as Onamalutu) flows through the reserve. The reserve was donated by a local sawmiller in 1901, preserving a small element of the natural flora that once filled the valley.

The reserve features a remnant of podocarp forest of the type once common in the region before major deforestation by European settlers. Kahikatea, totara and other species are present in this forest remnant. The eastern part of the reserve also includes some mature exotic trees.

In addition to short walking tracks through this pocket of native forest, a large grassy area suitable for a wide range of sporting activities and a campsite and picnic area make the location popular as a place for family outings less than half an hour's drive from Blenheim (off North Bank Rd). Sandflies can be a nuisance around the river, so insect repellent is a good idea.

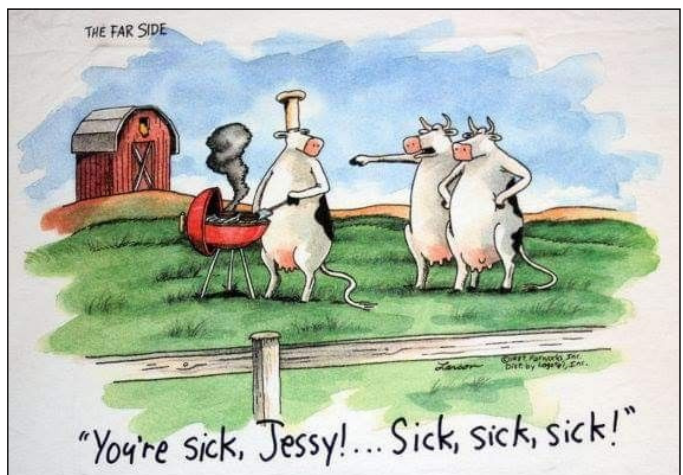
There will be a Fox Hunt and, as Grant will be unable to win it this year, due to lack of mobility, so is happy to sit at the start and show the secrets of his previous successes to those interested.

More details, and an explanation of what a Fox Hunt entails (no foxes are harmed, or actually involved for that matter, in the running of the hunt) will be in the brief January Interface.

**COMBINED BRANCHES 22 & 26 BBQ
CARLUKE, RAI VALLEY**

Just a heads-up reminder this popular BBQ, combined with Nelson, will be 11 March, 2023. We have not met for a while, thanks to Covid, so it will be good to see our next door neighbours again - and beat them for the trophy!

Details will be in the February Interface.



KAIKOURA REPEATER (photos courtesy of Don & Grant)

Bill Cousins, Don Laing and Grant Simpson visited the Kaikoura site to check that the antenna cables needed termination and what DC cabling was required. Unfortunately the antennas on the pole had all been replaced, along with all cabling, but this meant we don't have any antennas on the pole!

We investigated the solar power too only to discover the solar panels are only connected to the marine repeater. No solar panels for us. This seemed a bit odd as there were 21 volts on the solar regulator connected to one 200 A/H gel battery. This battery voltage was sitting at about 13.2 volts and the solar regulator was occasionally giving the battery an increase to 14.2 volts to maintain it.

There is a cable that appears to be coming from some other source that is not dependant on the sun. More investigation is to be done there as we have no idea if it could be disconnected suddenly.

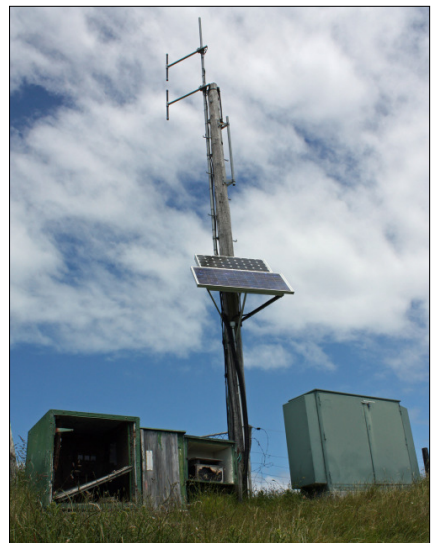
Unfortunately, this will delay the repeater installation.



Grant took his folding ladder to use as a means of helping them get up the steep bank to the site, knowing none of them were particularly agile. The left photo shows how they were able to use it to best effect. Not elegant, but it worked!



Old enclosures which need to be dismantled and removed



View from site



View from site



Other aerials situated a bit along the hill