

January 2023

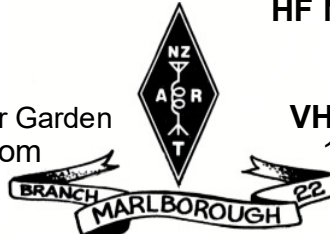
INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

CLUB CALENDAR

General Meeting;.... 9 Feb, 7.30pm, EOC
Social Group; 19 Jan, Dodson St Beer Garden
Committee Meeting; **24** Jan, 7.30pm, via Zoom



HF Net Tuesdays & Saturdays
2030 hrs 3876kHz

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays
1930 hrs 144.150MHz

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

- 1. Onamalutu BBQ..... 22 Jan
- 2. Wine & Food Festival..... 11 Feb
- 3. Antennas Part 1..... Feb
- 4. AGM March

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

Website: www.zl2ks.org.nz

Editor: Caryl Simpson caryl@simtronics.co.nz **MARC Contact:** marcbranch22@gmail.com

ANNUAL ONAMALUTU PICNIC & FOX HUNT - JANUARY 22nd

RSVP to me by 15 January please so we know how much meat to order! caryl@simtronics.co.nz

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.

There will be a Fox Hunt and, as Grant will be unable to win it this year, due to lack of mobility, he is happy to sit at the start and show the secrets of his previous successes to those interested. The next page has an explanation for those unfamiliar with amateur radio fox hunts.

Anyone needing directions please contact me, or try putting Onamalutu Domain into your GPS.



SUBS ARE NOW OVERDUE (JUST)!!

\$30.00 Single Member \$40.00 for Family Membership

Internet Payment only please.

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

Please Quote Call Sign and Name

If you have not paid yet, please do so ASAP

Don't make us send the boys around!



Ron Harris
Ken Hynds
Caryl Simpson

Neville sent the following link to some Ham radio jokes:

<https://m0ktz.katolaz.net/jokes.html>

WHAT IS A FOX HUNT?



A fox hunt is just a name for a competition to locate a signal from a hidden transmitter. The transmitter (the fox) could be up a tree, out in the open (unlikely) or hidden under a bush, in a building, or anywhere the person hiding it can think of. The transmitter is set to send a signal at regular intervals with, and without, modulation. It is usually then turned off completely for 1 or 2 minutes before repeating the sequence.

Your job, should you choose to accept it, is to find the fox before anybody else does. Our fox is on a 2m frequency (you will be told which one on the day) so you will need a receiver. Most people will be using standard 2m handhelds. The antenna can be anything you come up with and you will probably see a number of directional devices, or perhaps just the rubber ducky on the radio. If you don't have a suitable radio, there should be spares you can borrow off someone else. I will have 2 or 3 handhelds available.

If you have a directional antenna, you will probably know how to use it so you don't need to read how I have done fox hunts for some years just using the rubber ducky (and, more often than not, winning).

With the radio turned on, and on frequency, you will hear the signal from the fox. The trick of using the rubber ducky is to make it directional by holding it close in, but not on, your chest with the speaker turned up so you can easily hear it. As you turn around you will hear the signal fade, increasing the background noise as your body blocks it. Keep turning 2 or 3 times and experiment to hear what happens. If the signal is too strong, wrap your hand around the antenna and move your hand up or down to de-tune it, thus reducing the signal to make the null more easily detected. If you still can't reduce it enough, disconnect the antenna and place your finger over the antenna connector.

With a bit of luck, you will hear a weak signal so you will now be able to more easily work out the direction of the fox. Having found the null in the signal, proceed in that direction. If you have enough room to walk at 90° to the null to listen to another null, you can use that to further pinpoint the correct direction. There will be reflections of the signal, off trees and other objects, making it harder to find the null. Practise makes perfect. Don't assume anyone else on the hunt knows what they are doing or where they are going. There is usually a group milling about, especially when the signal stops. When the signal is too strong it is very difficult to determine direction so use your eyes as you may be about to stand on the fox!

One hunt we did, the fox was actually buried with the antenna lying in the undergrowth. When I found it, after not being able to find any direction and the signal was extremely strong, I was actually standing on it and hadn't realised!

More instruction will be offered on the day if it is required.



The following message was emailed to the club. Grant has downloaded it onto his tablet for a cost of \$5.34

<https://www.amazon.com.au/How-High-Frequency-Radio-Station-ebook/dp/B0BQ78F8XD/>

I am a fellow ham and wanted to share with you that I recently published a book to help technical and nontechnical hams build an HF station.

The short book, How to Set Up a High Frequency (HF) Radio Station, consolidates months of research from books and tips from hams. It has helpful diagrams to get people on the air safely and quickly.

If you know any new hams that want a reference for how to set up an HF station from start to finish, including how to crimp, how to prepare wires, weatherproofing, installing connectors, bonding to house ground, etc., please feel free to share with them the link.

I hope it will prove useful to prospective and veteran hams that are interested in getting into HF.

Thank you for your time. I hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season.

73,

Chrissy, WI1N

Grant's review: This book starts at the basics, which it covers quite well, such as using your soldering iron and assembly of a wire antenna. You have to be careful with the dimensions as it is American so uses imperial measurements. The steps it goes through will be helpful to those just starting on HF. For the antenna build, they suggest making a list of the tools you need as well as insulators, wire, coaxial cable etc. A number of places they say you will need a certain item so go to your local ham radio store and buy it. Unfortunately, it is not that easy here. The example in the book is using 3 separate trees to hang this antenna from, not very practical for most of us in town these days. They also suggest you hire someone to climb the trees to attach the antenna. Most of us don't have suitable trees but you should be able to figure something out yourself. They also describe how to get the coaxial cable connected to the antenna and through to the house. A step-by-step guide is given on how to install the connectors, which is probably quite useful for a number of hams to read.

This is probably worth the NZ\$5.34 for a complete beginner but because of the American slant, and background, it's of less use for those of us in NZ. However, for the cost, get a copy anyway and see for yourself.

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.

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