

February 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; ..... 15 Feb, Dodson St Beer Garden  
Committee Meeting; 23 Feb, 7.30pm, via Zoom

## BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. Antennas Part 1 - Intro & demonstrations... 9 Feb
2. Wine & Food Festival..... 11 Feb
3. Jock White Field Day..... 25/26 Feb
4. **AGM - EOC**..... **9 March**
5. Combined Carluke BBQ..... 11 March



HF Net Tuesdays & Saturdays  
2030 hrs 3876kHz

VHF - USB Net Wednesdays  
1930 hrs 144.150MHz

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

Net Controller; Rob Carter, ZL2IW

Website: [www.zl2ks.org.nz](http://www.zl2ks.org.nz)

Editor: Caryl Simpson [caryl@simtronics.co.nz](mailto:caryl@simtronics.co.nz) MARC Contact: [marcbranch22@gmail.com](mailto:marcbranch22@gmail.com)



**THE AGM IS COMING!  
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**9 MARCH!  
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**AGM**  
Annual General Meeting

**A NOMINATION FORM IS ON LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE NOMINATED FOR A POSITION, OR WOULD  
LIKE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE ELSE FOR A POSITION, USE THE FORM  
ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.**

### SUBS ARE NOW OVERDUE!! (FOR 6 OF YOU)

\$30.00 Single Member \$40.00 for Family Membership  
Internet Payment only please.

Kiwi Bank Acc. N<sup>o</sup>: 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!**

If you're unsure if you've paid, ask treasurer Greg [gjbarton@gmail.com](mailto:gjbarton@gmail.com)



**MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING via Zoom**  
**24th January 2023 at 19:30 Hours**

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

**Apologies:** Graeme McKay

**Health & Safety:** - Comment re checking underfoot surroundings after hidden hole fall at BBQ

**Correspondence:** (since CM MOM 27/11/22)

**Inward:**

27/11/22	JE	Updated single consolidated membership list
28/11/22	Manolo Gonzalez VK3DRQ	Membership application
12/12/22	RSM	New website activation
14/12/22	JE	Dodgy emails
15/12/22	Kiwibank	Opening of Investment accounts
19/12/22	Chrissy Rockwell	New book notification re setting up HR radio station
26/12/22	Kiwibank	Statement
12/01/23	Richard Bins RWB	New Icom IC-T10 availability
18/01/23	IRD	Notification Greg Barton Executive Officer appointment
18/01/23	NZART	Break-In Nov / Dec 2022
19/01/23	Ken Hynds	Blenheim Accounting letter re 2022 reviewed accounts
20/01/23	MDC	AREC Invoice remittance advice
23/01/23	David Rothwell	BBQ meat invoice

**Outward:**

29/11/22	Kiwibank	Opening of Investment accounts
12/12/22	MARC Repeater Trustees	RSM new website activation
05/12/22	MARC membership	Annual subscription notice 2023
17/01/23	Branch 05 CARC	Follow up re VHF standards & specs

**Matters Arising**

- Manolo Gonzalez VK3DRQ membership application.  
Discussion regarding present remote station rules requiring NZART membership.  
Constitution allows "Associate Members". Rules amended as follows:  
*Motion: The Users of the remote station to be financial associate members of MARC as approved by the Committee.* *Moved: GvanA / Seconded: BC / Passed: All*  
Manolo Gonzalez to be advised accordingly **DL**
- RSM New Website Activation. To follow action taken by MARC Repeater Trustees **DL**

**Finance:**

See attached Treasurer's Report

**MDC Okiwi Bay remittance**

- net proceeds will be credited to AREC account **GB**
- another MDC invoice to be raised **GB / PR**

**Six un-financial members.** Final notice to be sent **GB**

**2022 accounts** to be finalised this month and forwarded to Blenheim Accounting **GB**

**Events:**

**Onamalutu picnic** - 22 Jan 2023 - Seemed to be enjoyed by all

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

- Stuart W to attend organisers meeting and await advice
- Sufficient members have volunteered.

**Repeaters & Systems:**

- **Kaikoura** - Site visit revealed that antenna missing and cabinet installation issues.  
Correspondence with owner who has referred to their technician. Await their advice.  
Project Manager required.  
PR will check out antenna installation when next going to Kaikoura on SAR business **GS/BC**
- **Brayshaw** - System locked up again when doing Windows update which also affected transceiver setup.  
Has been reset and now operational. **GS**
- **Repeater Development** - Branch 05 CARC advised that their Repeater trustees have been confirmed at their recent AGM and advise to continue discussions with their Richard Smart ZL4FZ. **JE/DL**

**Speaker Schedule:**

February	Antennas Part 1 – Antony Winter Introduction & demonstrations
March	<b>AGM</b>
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.

Speakers for remainder of 2023 to be arranged

**AREC:**

- Final trip next week to Okiwi Bay to finish work. **PR**

- Helicopter call out for missing fisherman around D'Urville Island with no communications. Now required to use certified Observers. When found they confirmed by hand signals that OK. To investigate use of drop bag with radio to enable pilot to talk directly.
- AREC training being planned at Carluke during March / April

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- AGM** - Notice & Nomination form to be issued in Interface. Nomination forms at next General Meeting
- BC advised that he would not be standing
  - To approach SW & DR
  - Proposed that a Deputy Chairperson be appointed at next AGM

DL  
JE  
JE  
JE

**Website Spam**

Members are receiving spam that appears to come from personal email addresses listed on the NZART website. To contact NZART and request that these personal email addresses be removed.

DL

**PR Personal HF Tuner** - PR would like to recover or replace his HF tuner mounted on the EOC HF pole that he temporarily fitted to replace the failed unit several years ago.

**Meeting Closed:** 20:55hrs

**Next Committee Meeting:** 23rd February 2023 (via Zoom)

# JOCK WHITE FIELD DAY

## 25 - 26 February

### Be outstanding in your field!

**Where?** In a paddock at the end of Dillons Point Road. Look for the club banner on the fence. When you reach the end of the seal, you are close!

If you need more information, can help with installation (putting up & taking down) or would like to participate as an operator, contact one of these guys (*guys - a bit of tent humour there from your Ed*)

**Ian Conway** [tine.ian@farmside.co.nz](mailto:tine.ian@farmside.co.nz)  
**Stuart Watchman** [clareandstuart@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clareandstuart@xtra.co.nz)



Operators and assistance with the putting-up and taking-down will, as usual, be required. Tent erecting begins at 11.30am Saturday, or a bit earlier, with antenna raising after 1200. Operational kick -off is 1500hrs. A break between midnight and 6am Sunday allows some rest then Sunday kicks off at 0600, finishing at 1500hrs.

At this stage we are not sure if we have a friendly campervan etc to use as a catering base, contact us if you can help. We are planning dinner options on Saturday at this stage, this might be a BBQ or a pizza purchase.

A break between midnight and 6am Sunday allows some rest then Sunday kicks off 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.

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.

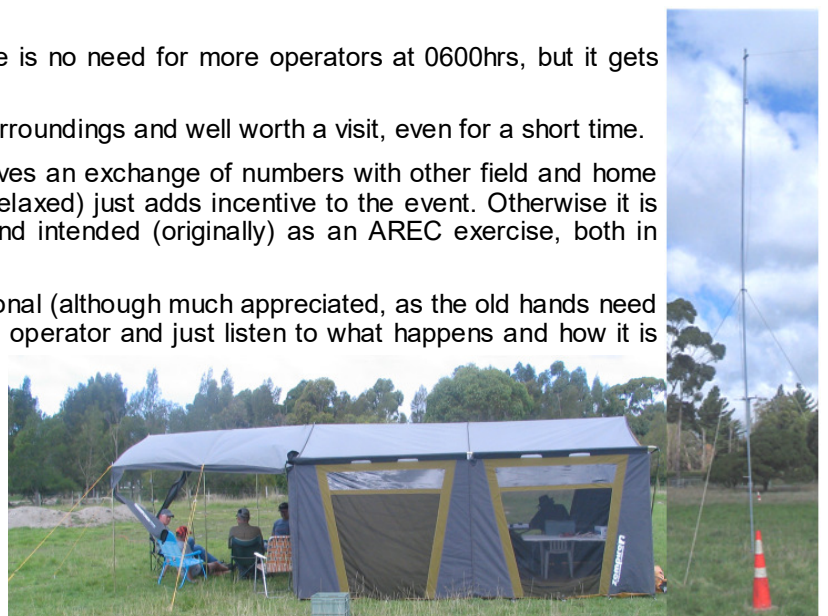
For those not familiar with this event, it involves an exchange of numbers with other field and home stations and the contest atmosphere (fairly relaxed) just adds incentive to the event. Otherwise it is an excellent way to hone operating skills and intended (originally) as an AREC exercise, both in 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.

- **Stuart Watchman 027 687 7764**





## ONAMALUTU BBQ

We had 32 members attend this year's annual BBQ on a gorgeous, sunny, day. We had to fight for space with the combined Nelson & Marlborough Classic Car Clubs but there was room for all. There were more families than we've seen in past years camping down the other end of the domain as well.

Work is being done at the domain and now, as you enter, you are met with a large dirt area and a row of bollards with a gate entry in the middle of them. I guess so the gate can be locked shut to stop idiots hooning on the grass area. They have also planted groups of natives in the middle of the area where we, as kids, used to play softball and other games.

Despite the numbers, we still managed to get our preferred spot under the kahikateas at the far end of the left side so we had plenty of shade. This was needed as the temperature rose! We also had two gazebos to stop leaves and small branches dropping in the food.

Thanks to Don Laing and Paul Rennie for coming to our place the day before and picking up the BBQ, a gazebo and two trestle tables, as we no longer have a vehicle in which to fit them and Grant is unable to lift them - well he can, but shouldn't! Luckily Don recently bought a ute, ideal for this task.

We were just settling in when there was a bit of a "oomph" noise as John E fell backwards. His chair had broken when he sat on it. Deborah, somewhat gleefully, stated that she had told him he was above the weight limit for the chair but he didn't listen! Note to all - unless you are a small, lightweight, person do not buy the super cheapo folding chairs from Briscoes, even if they are on sale, and always listen to your wife!

After chatting a while, the BBQ was fired up and people put their salads, both home-made and store-bought on the tables. We had the usual wide range including, lettuce, beetroot, coleslaw, potato, broccoli and several others with varying ingredients I didn't always know what they were, but all were delicious.

The meat was purchased from Renwick Butchers and included sausages, patties, bacon and steak. These were all delicious too. Thanks to Paul for the onions.

There was plenty for all although the selection of meat available was reduced for those who arrived late.

After everyone had finished the mains, and had seconds, the desserts were set out. I had trouble getting photos of the desserts as everyone crowded around and started serving themselves before I had a chance to immortalise the scene. Indeed, in the past I have tended to forget to photograph the variety of food supplied (to make those who didn't attend jealous) and only photograph the people but this year I remembered to photograph the food but forgot the people, until people were getting ready to go home!

Once everyone was well stuffed, it was time for the Fox Hunt. David Rothwell had hidden the Fox earlier so about 7 or 8 set off with handhelds and, in some cases, extra aerials. The rest of us lounged in the shade, digesting and chatting. After quite a bit of time had passed, with no sign of the hunters, I set off to see if I could find any. It wasn't long before I could hear the dulcet tones of Morse ringing out through the trees but no Hams. I passed a few bemused car club members who were pleased to get an explanation of what was going on! I finally found a sizeable group all walking up and down a particular bit of the path, looking through the undergrowth, or, in one case, checking the river. They were getting extremely frustrated at this point as they were sure they were on top of it but none of them could find it. David finally admitted it was not in the water, not buried underground, and not high up a tree. It still took another 10 minutes or more before Tony W was successful. I had just gone back to get Grant to see if he could get that far to show them how it was done! Photos on the next page show them searching and also Tony with the Fox.

By the time they got back to the main BBQ area, some had started to pack up, probably to head home for their afternoon power nap. With several helping, it did not take long to clear everything up, pack away the leftovers, and fold up the gazebos and tables.

Speaking of leftovers, I have a spare set of tongs and a spoon, pictured right, which do not belong to me. If they are yours, let me know. The spoon looks like it is part of a set.

A good time was had by all and it is nice to get together with fellow club members. If you were unable to make it this time, you have another chance by attending the combined BBQ with Nelson that will be held 11 March at Carluke in the Rai Valley. It is important to get good numbers to this one as we compete with Nelson for a trophy. The competitions are not radio based, except for tossing the Tait but that does not require any radio knowledge, just a good throwing arm, so everyone Ham or not, can participate.

Thank you all for your attendance and we hope to see you at Carluke.



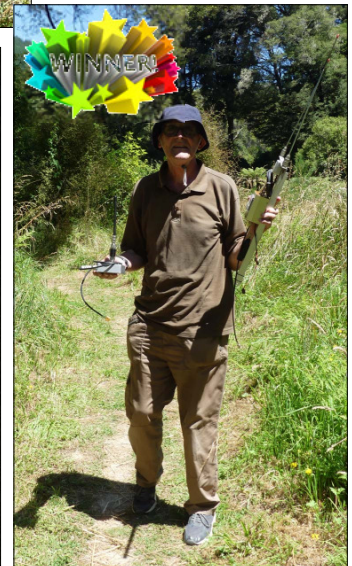




More salads on the left

Desserts included a couple of pavlovas, a delicious rice dish, chocolate brownies, cream puffs, trifle, pumpkin pie, strawberries and cheesecake.

Thanks to Linda Laing for the photo below



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](mailto:marcbranch22@gmail.com)







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

**WHEN:** Saturday March 11th, 2023 **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 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.

**Directions:** From SH6, go through the Rai Valley township then take the first turn on your right (approx. 1km from town) 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 (Ronga Rd left - don't go that way!) following Opouri Rd. Drive over the bridge and the hall is on your right not far after crossing the bridge. Access to grounds is through a gate at the left end of the hall (see below pic). Look for Ham vehicles.

If lost, call on local 147.575 simplex or Grant's mobile 0274 465 137.

Come and join the fun with other amateurs.

We have had the trophy an extra year (thanks to Covid cancelling last year's fun) so we need plenty of members to attend to keep it in our hands!

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.



Toss the Tait was mentioned above as one of our competitions. The idea is to throw an old Tait radio case as far as you can. An equal number of people from each club takes turns and measurements of each distance thrown is noted. Total is added up and most distance wins.

Come along for the day or stay overnight, it is a fun day out with lots of laughs.

Fox Hunt instructions were given in last month's Interface. I hope this one doesn't take as long as the Onamalutu hunt!

If there is anyone who would like to attend but needs transport, let me know and I am sure something can be arranged.

**RSVP to [caryl@simtronics.co.nz](mailto:caryl@simtronics.co.nz) by 6 March** for catering purposes please!



*This is the start of the 2021 Fox Hunt outside the Carluke Hall, showing access gate on left*

**Marlborough Amateur Radio Club Inc  
Nomination Form for Committee**

**2023/2024**

**I Nominate**

.....

a duly paid member of NZART, Call Sign .....

**Position nominated for** .....

(Please list one; Club President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member, AREC Section Leader, Callsign Trustees, Repeater Trustees, Examination Supervisors, Morse Examiners, Social Group Manager, QSL Manager, Training, Librarian, Hon Auditor, Interface Editor, Webmaster.)

Nomination accepted by: .....Signature

Nominator: .....

Call Sign: .....

Seconder: .....

Call Sign: .....

Nominations must be forwarded to the Club Secretary; either to P.O.Box 432 Blenheim or by email ([marcbranch22@gmail.com](mailto:marcbranch22@gmail.com)) no later than the 28th February 2023.