

November 2023

INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

CLUB CALENDAR

General Meeting;.... 9 Nov, 7.30pm, EOC
Social Group; 16 Nov, Dodson St Beer Garden
Committee Meeting; 23 Nov, 7.30pm, via Zoom



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

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. Marl. Lines DMR system construction, Paul R 9 Nov
2. Club BBQ Onamalutu Jan 2024

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

FYI - The committee has confirmed there is no club Christmas dinner but usual nibbles at the last meeting then the BBQ in January and a visit to Weld Cone and picnic, which has gone from November to April next year. Helen Harris will be organising the Weld Cone visit.



Did you all see the article on page 5 of The Sun, Oct 18th? It said Rob Carpenter, ZL3RO, has been recognised by Coastguard Marlborough with the Supreme Award in addition to winning the Outstanding Leadership Award. It went on to say that under Rob's leadership, the Unit has thrived operationally, and financially, raising over \$300,000 for a new rescue vessel.

The Supreme Award is evaluated through the judging of the individual volunteer categories that cover each area of expertise.

Rob started his Coastguard journey in 2011 and has expertise as a Coastguard ISC Master, VHF Radio Operator and Instructor, and has been instrumental in building community connections. He has also fostered a culture shift, promoting gender and age balance among volunteers.

The article finishes by saying, respected in the local community, Rob's leadership has elevated Coastguard Marlborough's standards, making him a silent but impactful achiever. He fully epitomises Coastguard's values and makes an incredible contribution across the board both locally and nationally.

Coastguard NZ CEOP Callum Gillespie says Rob has lead from the front ensuring Marlborough is set up for a successful future.

Can't say better than that can you? Well done and congratulations Rob.



Chris Piercy

Although Piercy's house has not yet sold, they move to Feilding 16th December so Gavin, ZL4IY, can be closer to a dialysis unit rather than travel to and from Nelson. We wish them well in their new home and hope they still stay in touch.

Gavin has packed up his radio gear ready for the move but once he is set up in his new shack, should be able to contact fellow Hams. He could also join Branch 70, the Feilding Amateur Radio Club.

WANTED

Dave, ZL4LDY, is in the market for a **knee key**.

If you can help, please contact Dave dave@blind-sight.com



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 GENERAL MEETING
at EOC, 12th October 2023 at 19.30hrs**

Present: John Errington (Chair), Ron & Helen Harris (Helen acting Secretary), Gary Lodge, Graeme McKay, Anthony Winter, Graeme Dillon, Paul Rennie, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Linc Teale, Wayne Parker.

Apologies: Nick Batt, Stuart Watchman, Greg Barton, Ken Menzies, Grant Simpson

Visitors: Rich Teale

Correspondence: Held over as Secretary was away

Finance & Membership:

Membership	58 paid, 1 unpaid (with 2 transfers out due before year-end, ZL3LI, ZL4IY).
Accounts	(available upon request)
Income	Interest
Payments	Nil
Upcoming payments	RSM licences (October) NZART Branch Sub (November)

Events:

04~05 November - Marlborough 150th A & P Show. No details but we are still needed.

Weld Cone - Helen organising a picnic at Ward followed by a trip to Weld Cone.

To avoid other commitments, Christmas and the fire season, it will be held instead of the April 2024 meeting, either a Saturday or Sunday.

Ward Repeater Field Trip - Request for a Coordinator.

Field & Activities Day - Gerard has had 2 replies for this. Undecided what day, or time, awaiting further results from Interface.

Christmas Meeting & BBQ – looming

Repeaters & Systems:

Kaikoura - David Rothwell not at meeting so nothing to add at this point.

Brayshaw Park - Gerard and Nick know what they want in regard to this and will sort that in next few weeks. Gerard has reverse beacon back working.

Speaker Schedule

October – was Graeme McKay November - Paul R - Marlborough Lines DMR system construction

SAR / AREC

Paul Rennie

The tuner from the States is faulty and to be replaced.

Thursday 28th Sept had a preview of Starlink with Civil Defence and early in the week with AREC.

SAREX held 8km south of Wye Bridge in the Wairau Valley. Paul, Greg and Gary attended. It was extremely cold.

Paul was fully clothed in his sleeping bag with a bottle of Port!

8 new SAR recruits were put through their paces.

Gary, Greg and I attempted to put a repeater up on Thursday prior to SAREX on Northbank but could not pass a gate the logging crew had locked.

AREC has set guidelines for applying for funding. John felt we needed to respond and encourage and find a specific project to apply for.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Ron had coax and a dipole from a long-deceased member whose daughter was cleaning up. Linc put his hand up.
- At the end of this month, Gary, ZL3RIK is activating to add lakes in North Island. Gary has his itinerary and it was suggested he send it to Caryl to get out to members. ZL3RIK is running 2nd in NZ for lakes activated. Gerard added nzonair.nz has SOTA and Lakes with an alert tab.

Next Committee meeting: 26th October by Zoom, 7:30pm

Next General meeting: 9th November 2023 at EOC, 7:30pm

Meeting closed: 19:46

This was followed by a very interesting talk by Graeme McKay on "Meteors". Graeme has mounted a camera on his house that captures the night sky. It was amazing to see the activity of the satellites, planes and huge amount of meteors in our night sky. NZ has huge activity compared to the majority of Australia.

Look out December 12th, 9pm - midnight in the eastern sky at 60° elevation. There should be some activity to see.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
via Zoom 26th October 2023 at 19:30 hours

Present: John Errington (Chair), Don Laing, Greg Barton, Graeme McKay, Gerard van Antwerpen, Paul Rennie, David Rothwell, Stuart Watchman, Kerry Lammas (LANSAR - part time)

Apologies: Nick Batt

Health & Safety: No issues identified

Confirmation of last Committee meeting minutes: Confirmed as correct *Moved JE, Seconded DL, Passed: All*

Matters Arising: None

Correspondence: (since CM MOM 26/09/23)

Inward:

26/09/23	Kiwibank	Statements
29/09/23	NZART	Invoice 2024
14/10/23	CARC	Branch 22 October auction catalogue
23/10/23	Neville Marr	Pony Club building
26/10/23	Branch 62	Letter re inter-club activities
26/10/23	NZART	Invoice 2024
26/10/23	NZART	Break-In magazine

Outward:

21/09/23	MARC	Members A&P show volunteers
25/09/23	SAR	Uncollected mail

Finance: (In Committee) Treasurer presented his report

- Membership 58 paid, 1 unpaid
 ZL3LI & ZL4IY members will be transferring before year end
- Income: Interest
- Payments: Repeater licenses
- Upcoming Payments: NZART Annual Branch subscription \$95
 Replacement batteries
 Kaikoura repeater installation

Events:

Public Activation Day - Only two responded which disappointing. Consequently cancelled

VHF/UHF Field Day 2~3 Dec 23 - To consider further

GvA / SW

Weld Cone - No response to request for Coordinator for Club picnic at Ward Domain Hall and car share to repeater site. Helen & John will progress in meantime however will not happen until April 2024.

Xmas Lunch 16 Dec - JE will not be here. Usually just nibbles at December meeting.

- To refer back to Caryl & Helen

JE

Onamalutu January Picnic

- Arrange to borrow VCC BBQ trailer.
- David R agreed to arrange meat. Requested PO from Treasurer

DL

DR/GB

Branch 62 Inter-Club Activities Letter - Reply experiencing willingness to cooperate and suggest that they participate in routine HF Net on Tuesday & Saturday evenings.

DL

Repeaters & Systems:

6m Beacon - Bill Cousins has expressed an interest in making this operational. JE to contact Bill.

JE

Kaikoura - DR hasn't been able to progress apart from partial setup for testing

DR

Picton Batteries - DR has sent inquiry to commercial supplier. To follow up

DR

Weld Cone - Repeater hut still needs inspection for replacement of corroded steel members.

PR

Brayshaw Park - Grant S advises that working satisfactory on home bench.

- To arrange transfer back to hut.
- To purchase replacement PC for Grant

DL

GvA

MARC Club Building

Kerry Lammas invited to join meeting to discuss possible collaboration for joint building.

Kerry advised that LandSAR are investigating getting their own independent building as the present facilities at the Police Station are not fit for purpose and they only use EOC Comms facilities. The present concept is a barn type structure with storage/training/meeting/ablution facilities typically costing 30~40\$. Several locations are being checked for long term lease suitability.

Subject to their Committee, LandSAR are amiable to considering a 25% funding contribution by MARC in return for 25% shared use in the facility. MARC would be able to display their building signage.

MARC expressed their willingness to cooperate with LandSAR to jointly realise this facility.

Don L suggested considering Brayshaw Park which, although it presently has utility issues, the land has recently been vested to the Council so these issues are being addressed. There are minimal land costs, room for antenna poles and presently the Council insures the Park buildings.

Pony Club Building - The proposal by Neville Marr, to consider using this building which was due for demolition, was discussed at length with the final decision being to decline due to the potential risks, complexity, bureaucracy and costs associated with relocating a very old building.

It was decided to engage with LandSAR to develop a business case for funding applications.

JE to continue liaison with LandSAR.

JE

Speaker Schedule:

November Paul R – Marlborough Lines DMR system construction

Dec / Jan Seasonal Holidays

01/02/24 Suggestion of presentation on SOTA or associated contests – maybe via Zoom

AREC:

PR

EOC Replacement Tuner - Tuner replaced with Paul's original tuner and system working. Do not know why LDG tuner won't work here as works satisfactory on Stuart's system. Stuart will discuss proposals with those involved and may sell LDG tuner on TradeMe and reimburse Paul.

AREC have issued procedure to apply for innovative projects. Positive move for AREC funding but seems very bureaucratic. To circulate with this MOM.

DL

A & P Show - Still await SAR advise re details and funding request.

Clued-Up Kids program - request for volunteers to assist over 9 periods 6 ~ 10 November at Brayshaw Park.

To broadcast email to all Club members.

DL

General Business:

Training Inquiry – Confirmed with Gerard that no further contact.

Activity Day – Only 2 responses to proposed activity day which very disappointing so consequently canceled.

VHF Day – To follow up

Meeting Closed: 20:55

Next General Meeting: 9th November 2023

Next Committee Meeting: (TBC) 23rd November 2023 (via Zoom)



Further information to the recent call out for volunteers to assist at the Clued-Up Kids programme at Brayshaw Park during the week 5 ~ 10 November. This programme teaches children basic practical life skills in the real world. Clued-Up Kids is run by the Marlborough Child Safety Group each year to plan and deliver a local interactive child safety programme that targets Year 5 and Year 6 students in Marlborough and Kaikoura.

The programme has a morning and an afternoon session. The morning session is 9:00am - 11:30am and the afternoon session is 12:00pm - 2:30pm. (they only have a morning session on the Friday). Three volunteers would be needed for each full 2.5 hour session.

They require support with 111 call role plays. Each student at Clued-Up kids will use the set phone to make a 111 call. They are put through to a call taker using the real ambulance operational script. It would be great if there was one person available at each session to help with the 111 calls.



If you can help please contact Paul Rennie ASAP on 027 458 9740 or paul_sharon@xtra.co.nz

Paul needs names please and which time slot, or slots, suit best.

It is assisting Civil Defence as the CD Comms truck will also be in attendance.

Call for applications for funding

Philip Sharp

techinnovator@arec.nz



AREC calls for applications for its Innovation in Technology fund.

A total of \$25,000 of funding is available. Grants of \$2,000 to \$5,000 will be awarded.

Completed application forms must be emailed to techinnovator@arec.nz as a pdf file. The subject line of the email must be "Application for Innovation in Technology funding". The deadline for submission of applications is 4:00pm on Thursday, November 16. Late submissions will not be accepted except until extraordinary circumstances.

The document "Statement of Assessment Criteria" describes the assessment criteria that will be used when assessing grant applications. This document was written for grant applicants and includes the weighting that will be used for each assessment criterion. The document also contains general advice for grant applicants. Specific questions about a grant application can be emailed to techinnovator@arec.nz

Please note the following condition. *All signatories of a grant application must be AREC members.*

Grant and Scott Jennings, WQ8M, met on the air a few years ago when Scott and his mates had been trying to call each other through the time zones across the USA to wish each other a happy New Year. Scott then wondered how many time zones they could cross doing this and where was the furthest? He came across NZ and, once searching, found Grant's details online somewhere so emailed him and asked if he was interested in calling them at midnight our time to wish them New Year's greetings. So it turned out one midnight on the foreshore, while fireworks were going off over Picton, we talked to Scott and other Hams in the USA to say Happy New Year! It happened to be 4am in Scott's time zone and he hadn't thought of that when he came up with the idea but he set his alarm and got up especially. This has since been repeated a few times over the years.

Recently Scott, who lives in Colorado, has been working in Alice Springs and decided it was the ideal chance to get from there to visit NZ as he had heard how beautiful it was and very unlike Alice Springs. Next thing, we get an email saying he and his wife, Wendy (KB7OKL) were heading this way and would like to meet us. We offered them a bed so they arrived in Christchurch then headed to Queenstown and Milford before driving up the west coast, stopping to see the glaciers, to our place. They were only here overnight as they had a ferry to catch but we called Ron & Helen down to join us for afternoon tea so Scott could meet more local Hams.

Next morning, they were off to the ferry as Wendy wanted to see Hobbiton. For breakfast, Scott was introduced to Weetbix - one with butter and Marmite (another first, having tried Vegemite in Aussie) and the other with milk and bran. The night before, they had enjoyed the quintessential kiwi dinner of roast lamb and veg so they tried more firsts, parsnip and kumera. All their new tastes were enjoyed. We had great discussions on the differences in food in both countries along with all sorts of other topics. He also asked what these All Blacks were that he kept hearing about so we explained the difference between the Rugby World Cup, which involved countries around the world and the American World Series which only involved America.

Ron & Helen had recommended a motel in Taihape as a good stopping point so they pre-booked that then borrowed some camping equipment, on the off chance they could camp somewhere during their stay in the North Island.

Their trip across the strait was not too rough (Scott is ex-navy and this was his 4th trip on a ferry but the only sea time he has done!) and he managed to talk to Grant and Ron on the local repeater as he travelled through the new Transmission Gully then onto the Kapiti Expressway. We tracked him on APRS whenever possible.

During their stay in the North Island they thoroughly enjoyed Hobbiton then went to the Waitomo Caves before starting on their way back towards Wellington. They didn't end up camping but did stay in in a B&B, or B&C as Scott called it as the only breakfast offered, much to his surprise and disappointment, was cereal. They did have a nice view of farmland, cows and llamas though.

Having heard bad weather reports, they decided to see if they could get on an earlier ferry as they didn't want to chance getting stuck on the wrong side of the strait and missing their flight back to Aussie. Luckily they managed this so arrived in time for another evening meal - this time for Scott's favourite, corned beef and cabbage! Another evening was spent discussing a wide variety of subjects before we all headed for bed rather late. In the morning, we encouraged them to visit the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre before heading for an overnight stay in Kaikoura on their way back to Christchurch airport. They spent about an hour in the WW1 Exhibit, Scott's favourite being the soldiers taking a souvenir from the Red Baron's crash site. Perhaps one day they will be able to return and see the WW2 section. After settling at Kaikoura, with beach views, they headed off for some seafood chowder at The Pier.

The next day they continued on to arrive in Christchurch ready to fly out in the really early hours back to Aussie. Scott thoroughly enjoyed meeting some "bonafide kiwis" (as we enjoyed meeting, and hosting, him and Wendy) and would love to come back for a more thorough tour of our country. I guess we'll also hear him on the airwaves next New Year's Eve.

For a full bio on Scott and Wendy, have a look here <https://www.qrz.com/db/WQ8M>. There are some great photos of them with their new 5th wheel in which they hope to camp their way around Colorado on their return to the USA (in around 18 months time I think).



Helen, ZL2HH

Ron, ZL2BDD

Scott, WQ8M

Wendy, KB7OKL

Grant, ZL2BK