

July 2024

INTERFACE

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

Club Calendar

General Meeting;.... 11 July, 7.30pm, EOC, 4 Wither Rd
Social Group; 18 July, Dodson St Beer Garden
Committee Meeting; 25 July, 7.30pm, 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. Mid Winter Lunch (**RSVP required**) 14 July
2. Brayshaw Park remote & SDR's 24 July
3. WinLink with Greg 8 Aug
4. CONSTRUCTORS AWARD 12 Sept

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

Congratulations and welcome to our newest members who successfully completed our latest HamCram;

Herrie Ten Oever - ZL2HTO
George Timmermans - ZL2GTI
Jay Haines - ZL4JAY
Adam Kibblewhite - ZL2XK

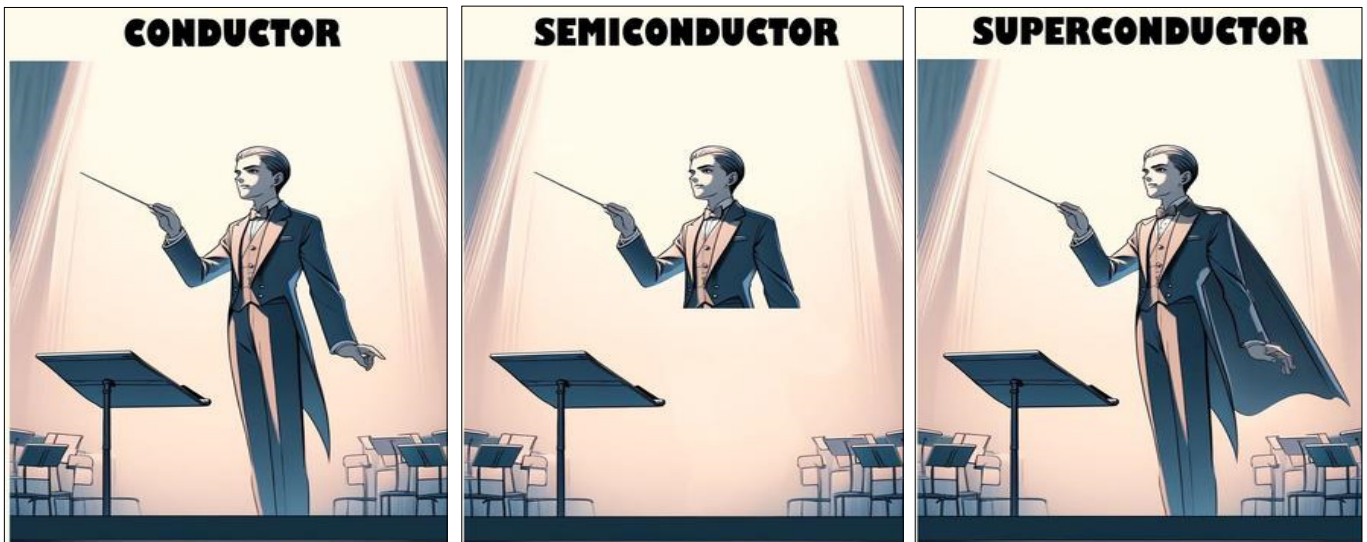


Eight people attended the course, and four passed the exam.

16 year-old Adam Kibblewhite from Rarangi achieved 59/60, a remarkable result. They have now received their call signs. If you hear them on the Ned, please give them a call and help them to build up their initial requirement of 50 contacts.

Much thanks is due to John Errington, Gerard Van Antwerpen, Neville Marr, Bill Cousins, Graeme McKay, Greg Barton and Nick Batt for their contributions to the tutoring, Christine Conway and Marie Cousins for the catering, Don Laing for assistance as custodian and exam checker/supervisor, and Caryl Simpson for the time and effort put into printing the Study Guides and Question Banks.

At the time of writing, one candidate with a near-pass is scheduled to resit and another pending.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING

at EOC, 13th June 2024 at 19.30 Hours

A tour of Deleгат's Winery was held instead of a General Meeting so there are no General Minutes for June. The following article and photo were supplied by Greg ZL2GBX.

Our June club meeting was a little different, being held in a winery. David Rothwell had kindly offered to conduct us on a tour of his workplace at Deleгатs Winery.

So, on 13th June everyone headed out on SH63 to where Paul Rennie directed traffic down the side road to the winery, so no-one finished up in Murchison!

Once we had all assembled, David lead us on a very informative and interesting tour of the winery. As the harvest was well and truly over we were able to walk through the vast grape-handling area and stand alongside (and in some cases under) the equipment: de-stalkers, augurs, presses, filters and fermentation tanks. David explained the process and some of the more technical aspects of the equipment - including the air bladders that inflate inside the presses to extract all the juice from the grapes. We could just imagine the 24/7 operation and activity during the weeks of harvest a couple of months earlier. We were left impressed that not a drop of juice escapes after the processes to extract, refine and filter it. Most of the process is automated with control stations at regular intervals to monitor the operation, and we got to have a look at the multi-bay panel where all of the sensors and controllers are connected.

David then took us through the plant room where all the refrigeration and power systems are located and we finished the tour observing the enormous rows of tanks and finally the impressive barrel storage rooms with row upon row of kegs stacked to the roof. There were lots of questions along the way and we managed to get a partial group photo near the end after some members had already departed.

A very enlightening tour with lots of technical interest, and a bit of temptation knowing just how many glasses of our favourite tippie we had walked past. Thanks to David, Deleгатs, for organising and conducting the evening.



Some of the group who hung around, after others had left, so Greg could take a photo for Interface.
L-R: Anthony ZL1VBX, Don ZL3DN, Gary ZL1GA, Graeme ZL1BDS, Rob ZL2IW, Wayne ZL2AIE, Bill ZL2AYZ and tour organiser David ZL2WDR

The above reminded me of the following joke, altered slightly to mention wine, instead of beer, and changing the names so no disrespect to the Irish could be implied ...

One night, Mrs Smith answers the door to see her husband's best friend, Fred, standing on the doorstep.

"Hello Fred, where is my husband? He went with you to tour the winery."

Fred shakes his head. "Ah, Mrs Smith, there was a terrible accident at the winery, your husband fell into a large barrel of wine and drowned."

Mrs Smith starts crying. "Oh don't tell me that! Did he at least go quickly?"

Fred shakes his head. "Not really - he got out three times to pee!"

The family had him cremated, the funeral home is now suing for damages.



ANNUAL MID WINTER LUNCH

WHERE: Armadillo's, Springlands Tavern, 18 Boyce St. Blenheim

DATE: Sunday 14th July

TIME: 11.30am with orders taken in time to serve just after midday

RSVP: Caryl@simtronics.co.nz by **11th July** (which is General Meeting night)



RSVP NEEDED BEFORE NEXT THURSDAY!!!

If you haven't done so yet, please email me ASAP.

Thank you to those who have confirmed, or sent apologies.



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
via Zoom 27th June 2024 at 19:30 Hours

Present: John Errington (Chair), Greg Barton, Don Laing, David Rothwell, Graeme McKay, Paul Rennie, Nick Batt

Apologies: Gerard van Antwerpen

Health & Safety: No issues

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of meeting of 30/05/24 confirmed. No matters arising.

Moved JE/ Seconded DL, Passed All.

Correspondence: (since CM MOM 30/05/24)

To be included in MOM as follows

Inward:

02/06/24	Papakura Club	Newsletter
04/06/24	David Rothwell	Delegate Winery Visit
08/06/24	Adam Kibblewhite	HamCram inquiry
09/06/24	ZL1TXR	AWA Newsletter
10/06/24	CARC	Stolen Digipeater
12/06/24	Franklin Club	Newsletter
16/06/24	Jonathan VE3OTW	QSL request
19/06/24	Neville Marr	40m SDR construction proposal
24/06/24	Hastings / Napier Club	Magazine
25/06/24	Stewart Robinson	WestFest information
25/06/24	Gippsland Gate Club	Newsletter
26/06/24	Kiwibank	Statement



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Responses & distribution of the above Inwards as applicable

Outward:

06/06/24	Gerard Van Anwerpen & Nick Batt	Revised Brayshaw Manual
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Motion: The Inwards correspondence be accepted and the Outwards endorsed.

Moved: DL/ Seconded: JE/ Passed: All

Matters Arising:

Distribution of other Club Newsletters; Since subscribing to NZART Club Newsletter distribution list, MARC receiving many newsletters monthly. Decided that as MARC members can personally, if they wish, sign up to the NZART distribution list they will not be distributed, or included in incoming correspondence. However NZART InfoLine, which is only sent to Club Secretaries, will be distributed.

Finance: (In Committee)

Treasurer presented his report

- Membership is now 54 paid with new HamCram successful participants
- Income since last meeting \$74.66
- Payments since last meeting \$483.10



**Christine Conway,
Sharon Rennie**

Upcoming payments:

Midwinter lunch incidentals
Ward repeater repairs
Installation Kaikoura repeater
Annual repeater licenses (Oct)

Motion: The Accounts be accepted and the payments approved

Moved: GB / Seconded: JE / Passed: All

NZART Conference

- Stuart Watchman has issued report for Interface
- AREC Restructuring - MARC opinion expressed at Conference and subsequent submission sent to NZART Council to which await response.
- Conference 2025 - Informal approach at Conference for Branch 22 to organise. No commitment made and no formal request received. As MARC have done twice in the past, little enthusiasm to commit again.

Events:

- HamCram Review proceeding and liaising with other Clubs on their methodology to improve pass rate.
- Mid-Winter Dinner confirmed on 14th July 2024
- Neville Marr 40m SDR Receiver Club build proposal.

Motion: MARC enthusiastically endorse and agree to fully support

Moved: JE / Seconded: DR / Passed All

Repeaters & Systems:

Batteries - Four 12V 100Ahr ex Spark batteries (2 each for Picton & Weld Cone) collected from Wellington.
Dave R to do Ahr capacity test to record actual present condition for records.

Weld Cone Rob Carter has forwarded a report and agreed to accept and proceed accordingly

JE/RC

Kaikoura Rack frame & equipment mounting in progress DR
 Duplexer cleaned and to be reassembled for testing. PR
 Stainless Steel alternative being modified to meet needed tuning requirements.
 Paul R visited site but weather conditions prevented taking photos & measurements.
 However noted that original cabinet only about 1.2m high.
 Also access has now been locked and restricted with security notice so will need to contact authority to obtain permission.

WinLink Setup More attention from AREC for emergency communications. Greg B has setup UHF/VHF Gateway with equipment sent by Nigel Goldstone. He & John E have successfully trialed HF. Foss Leech has offered all his HAM equipment to MARC of which his HF transceiver could be used for full Hybrid system.
 To proceed with Proof of Concept for setup at Brayshaw Park JE/GB

Brayshaw Park Operating satisfactory.
 DC system needs to be recorded & schematic/wiring diagram prepared for records and future development DL/GB

LandSAR Building No update from LandSAR

Brayshaw Park User Operation: After review of legislation it has been determined that Users must have a 'ZL' call sign issued by the RSM. MARC will formally implement this as follows.
Motion: Users of Brayshaw Park transceiver must have a ZL call sign Moved: JE / Seconded: NB / Passed All

Speaker Schedule:
 11 July Brayshaw Remote & SDR's, Gerard & Nick
 8 Aug WinLink with Greg
 12 Sept Constructors Awards
 10 Oct (TBC) Lightning characteristics, protection & earthing practices - David
 14 Nov Digital modes and QSO's with Bill Cousins
 Feb 25 ? Alternative Antenna making contest

AREC: No info re AREC LLC restructuring PR
 Helicopter training carried out with LandSAR

GENERAL BUSINESS:
New Constitution - Now NZART constitution ratified at NZART conference to up with NZART the issue of the Branch model/template constitution. DL

Wellington VHF Group - have inquired as to whether MARC wish to set up a DMR repeater. Agreed in principal and to obtain more information. PR

AREC Presentations at Mid-Winter Dinner - agreed to purchase floral bouquets for Award partners

Notices for Interface: None

Meeting Closed: 21:00

Next General Meeting: 11th July at EOC, 4 Wither Rd, Witherlea, Blenheim. 7:30pm

Next Committee Meeting: 25th July 2024, 7:30pm (via Zoom)

WESTFEST

7-8TH SEPTEMBER 2024 MURCHISON

There has been a lot of positive feedback regarding WESTFEST.

This has resulted in a Plan B in the event numbers attending outstrip the hired hall capacity.

If you intend to attend WestFest, please let Stewart know via his email or mobile number below.

Email or text:

Stewart Robinson

strobzn@gmail.com

022 459 0415

Any queries get in touch.

Cheers Stewart ZL2STR

\$20 registration on the day

Only morning/afternoon teas supplied.

Meals and accommodation are attendees' responsibility.

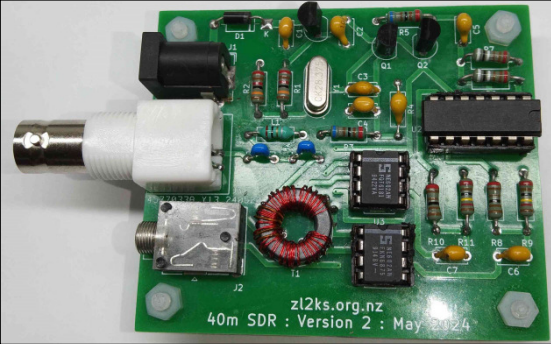
PEOPLE SAY NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE - BUT I DO NOTHING EVERY DAY!

40 METRE SDR KIT BUILD
- Neville ZL2BNE, nev@marrnz.com

Greetings everyone. I'd like to present an opportunity for you, friends, family (children, grandchildren), the opportunity to build a "kit" radio. The radio is a 40M SDR receiver along the lines of my article in *Break-In* May/June 24.

Commercial boards have been manufactured and all the parts have been procured, everything is supplied. Builders need an antenna (wire out the window), a computer with a soundcard & (free) software, and a 9V battery. Probably a desktop computer as most laptops don't provide a suitable soundcard connection.

The kit is very approachable for newcomers and experienced alike.



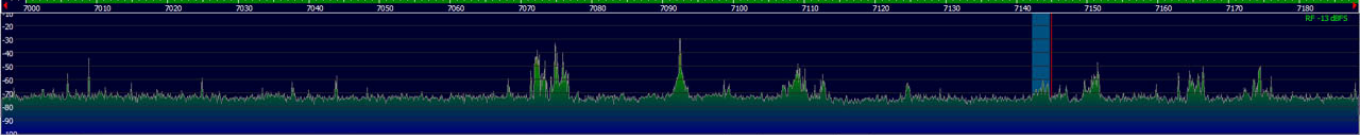
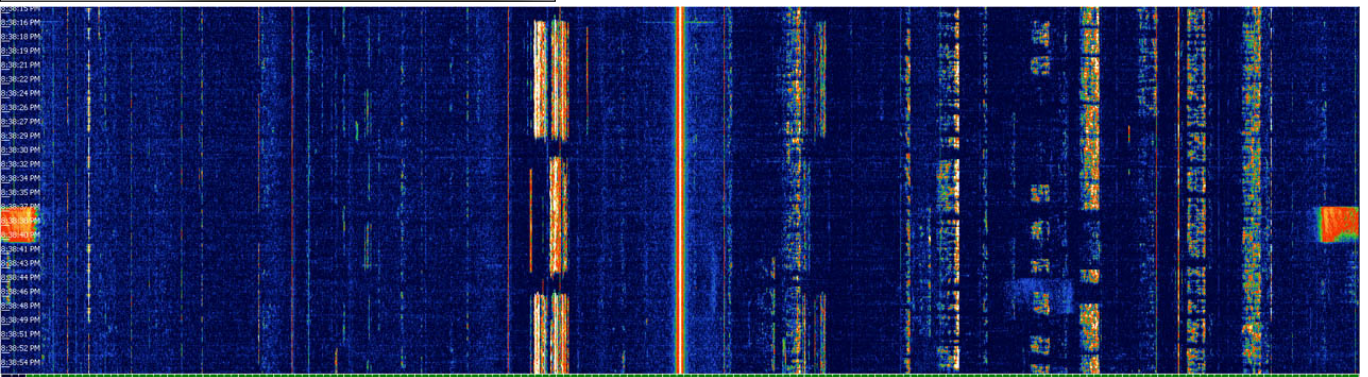
I anticipate a half day workshop at a suitable venue, venue and date to be determined. The workshop will be a step by step how-to.

At this stage I'd appreciate expressions of interest, email or telephone. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sadly there is a cost, to cover the cost of materials. \$26.

The photos are the V2 prototype and a computer screenshot of the band activity, approx. 7.0 - 7.2MHz.

I'm planning on bringing my prototype to the meeting 11 July.



A screenshot of the SDR software interface. The top section shows the LO (Local Oscillator) at 07.092.500 MHz and the Tune at 07.145.000 MHz. Below this are various control buttons for SDR Device, Soundcard, Bandwidth, Options, and SDR settings. The bottom section shows system information: CPU 800MHz, CPU 100%, CPU 100%, CPU 100%.

