

July 2025

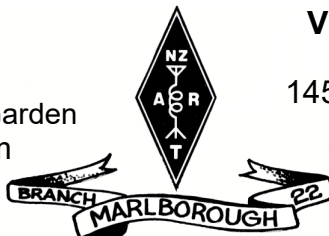
INTERFACE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

CLUB CALENDAR

General Meeting;..... 10 July, 7.30pm, EOC
Social Group;..... 17 July, Dodson St Beer Garden
Committee Meeting; 24 July, 7.30pm, via Zoom



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

BRANCH 22 NOTICES

1. USA Hamvention presentation by Stuart 10 July
2. Work in progress 14 Aug
3. Lighthouse Weekend (info P..9)..... 16/17 Aug
4. Constructors Award Night (Rules on P.4 for newbies) ... 11 Sept
5. Pick-over night 9 Oct

HF Net Tuesdays
2030 hrs 3876kHz

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www.zl2ks.org.nz

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This is for those who kept saying I should have my photo in Interface as well

At the mid winter lunch recently, I was (pleasantly) surprised to be presented with Honorary Life Membership of MARC. It's been an ongoing joke for years that I should be made an honorary member and I always claimed I didn't consider it an honour! Thanks to the committee for the recognition. I took it home, showed it to Grant's picture, burst into tears, then later hung it on the wall beside the Certificate of Appreciation given in 2022. I fluked lining them up evenly too!
I was also made a Life Member of the Marlborough Stroke Club recently. The thing both clubs have in common is that I do their newsletters. MARC, for over 35 years and Stroke Club for 2 only years (so far).

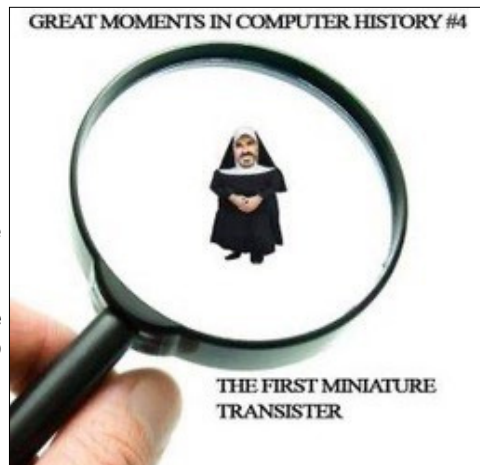
FOR SALE - CHEAP!

HP printer ink cartridge, black 65XL. Bought by mistake. Paid \$73, which is a very good price, but happy to take a donation if someone can use it.

Contact Dianne Menzies on 578 6292 or mobile 027 6565104 if you can't get her on the landline.



Christine Conway, Sharon Rennie & Tony W who is 80th



Blame Neville for this one!

MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB GENERAL MEETING
at EOC, 12th June 2025 at 19:30 Hours

Present: John Errington (Chair), Don Laing (Secretary), Greg Barton (Treasurer)), Paul Rennie (AREC), Nick Batt, Helen & Ron Harris, Rob Carter, John Elvy, Anthony Winter, Ken Menzies, Graeme Dillon, Stuart Watchman, Adam Kibblewhite, Bill Cousins, Graeme McKay, Jed Murzello

Apologies: Gary Lodge, Bernie Lankshear

Visitors: None

Health & Safety: 240V Test & Tagging. Discussed in General Business

Club Nets: 40m band frequency tried instead of 80m but no better so will stay with present 80m.

Raffle: The VNA analyser draw was awarded to Ken Menzies

News & Activities:

Conference Update - Stuart W gave a brief overview

Midwinter Dinner - 28 June, Woodbourne Tavern, RSVP to Helen H by 25 June.

Ward Repeater Upgrade - Proposal & cost estimate being prepared for next Committee meeting

Action: G. Barton

New Icom 7300 Transceiver - Has been delivered

Winlink Grant - Received. Majority of upgrade equipment has been purchased, received and installed.

EOC Upgrade - EOC have purchased new Icom 7300 with a Laptop PC for Winlink data link.

SDR - Installed and available for Club members. Need to use call-sign to track Users.

Presently 2 channels available with another two for testing.

One more channel may be available when testing complete.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Tonight	Winlink Setup - Working meeting to setup Members laptops and demonstrate use.
24 July	Stuart Watchman Hamvention reported
14 Aug	TBA
11 Sep	Constructors night
9 Oct	Pickover night
? Nov	Star Party

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **240V equipment Tag & Testing** - Equipment is being collected, sorted & cataloged to enable efficient Tag & Testing.
- **Truck Shed** - Disorganised mess creating H&S issue. John E to discuss with EOC.
- **David Clode antenna removal** - 4 or 5 volunteers needed. Contact Stuart W.
- **Meeting Zoom Streaming** - Volunteer needed to organise & operate. Contact John E.
- Congratulations to Adam Kibblewhite for his participation in the Rarangi Volunteer Firefighting Brigade recent success in the National firefighting competitions.
- Congratulations and Award to John Elvy for best NZART Break-In magazine technical article.
- Amateur License of SK Edward North returned to Club by his family.

Meeting Closed: 20:55

Next Committee Meeting: (By Zoom) 26th June 2025 7:30pm

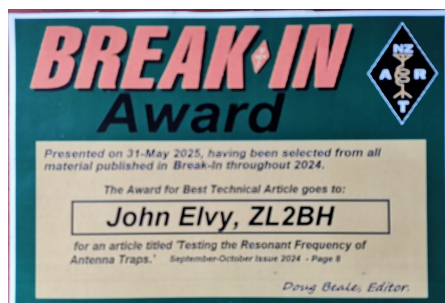
Next General Meeting: (at EOC) 10th July 2025 7:30pm

You will have read, in Stuart's NZART Conference report in last month's Interface, that John Elvy ZL2BH had won a Break In award for the Best Technical Article.

The award was in 3 parts. He was given with a very interesting, customised, block of chocolate (both sides pictured on the right), a certificate, and a \$50 Whitcoulls voucher.

He says the only reason he wrote it, and other Breaking articles, was because editor Doug Beale was out of script and pleading for member contributions.

John is now challenging another Branch 22 member to win this award at next conference.



This is an ongoing problem for all editors. A publication is only as good as the content given to put in it. An editor's job is to edit articles sent in, not to have to write them all as well! Thanks to several contributors last month, I received the most complimentary feedback for an Interface ever. Please keep it up and send in your photos and/or articles. I know our newsletter does not have as much technical information as other branches so more technical articles would be appreciated. Remember, it is YOUR newsletter, so needs YOUR contributions!



MARLBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING
via Zoom 2nd July 2025 at 19:30 Hours

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

Apologies: Gary Lodge, George Timmerman

Health & Safety: 240V equipment Tag & Testing still to proceed.

Declaration of Interests: None declared

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of meeting of 22/5/25 confirmed.

Moved JE/ Seconded DL Passed All

Matters Arising: Covered in General Business

Correspondence: (since CM MOM 30/01/25)

Inward:

Various		Ham Cram correspondence
23/05/25	Jody Aon Insurance	Liability insurance package implemented
23/05/25	J. Errington	Draft notice Constitution change
25/05/25	CARC Branch 05	1975 Break-In magazines
Various		Club magazines
30/05/25	J. Errington	SDR Beta test
30/05/25	J. Errington	Pub Charity grant application successful
Various	RWB	Icom-7300 transceiver order & delivery
04/06/25	K5UA	QSL card
05/06/25	Kiwibank	Depositor Compensation Scheme
09/06/25	NZART	Exam Supervisor approval for S. Watchman & G. McKay
10/06/25	Rita Jackson	HamCram course for Havelock Community Education
11/06/25	Aon Insurance	Insurance invoice
17/06/25	NZART	Receipt of ERN forms
20/06/25	Christine Robinson	Deceased estate Communications receiver
23/06/25	N. Batt	RBN CW skimmer license
24/06/25	N. Marr	Offer of presentation re ZL-10X transceiver project
02/07/25	Citizens Advice	Community directory listing update

Responses & distribution of the above Inwards as applicable

Outward:

20/05/25	Jody Aon Insurance	Invitation to Committee Zoom meeting
23/05/25	Tony Bielby	Thanks for advice re Ward repeater
24/05/25	P Rennie	Test & Tag follow up
27/05/25	Angelique Gallagher Insurance	Declination of Insurance proposal
27/05/25	Darren Moon Rothbury Insurance	Declination of Insurance proposal
28/05/25	Jody Aon Insurance	Confirmation to proceed with Insurance proposal
28/05/25	S. Watchman & G. McKay	Exam Supervisor application form for completion
14/06/25	J. Errington	Pub Charities accountability submission

Motion: The Inwards correspondence be accepted and the Outwards endorsed

Moved: DL/ Seconded: JE Passed: All

Matters Arising: Covered in General Business

Finance: (In Committee)

Treasurer presented his report

Membership is now 63 paid (2 unpaid)

Income since last meeting \$7,602.24

Payments since last meeting \$9,556.09

Upcoming payments: \$1,121.00

Motion: The Accounts be accepted and the payments approved

Moved: GB/ Seconded: JE Passed: All

Compliance: Pub Charity Grant compliance has been confirmed

Participating Pubs to be advertised in Interface for support by members

2025 Constitution: No notifications received regarding Constitution updates as published in Interface. To notify Companies Office and NZART accordingly.

Action DL

Motion: To indemnify Club Officers and effect Insurance

Moved: JE/ Seconded: PR Passed: All

Club Examiners: Confirmed that Stuart Watchman and Graeme McKay have been appointed Club Examiners by NZART and registered on NZART website.

Past Events:

28 June - Mid Winter Dinner – Thanks to Helen & Caryl for an enjoyable time.

Future Events:

16/17 August – Lighthouse Weekend – Cape Campbell accommodation has been booked.

Coordinator volunteer request at next General Meeting.

To arrange special call sign ZL6CC. Inquire as to cost for permanent special call sign allocation

Action JE

Action DL

Repeaters & Systems:

Ward – Recovered hut at Don L place and floor at Brayshaw Park. Greg B presented report with some budget estimates. Greg B is proceeding with DC power system repairs and Rob C's checking out repeater system. Rob C's brother has offered to repair hut with new floor. Accepted in principal however to request budget for agreement before proceeding **Action DL**

WinLink – Grant application spent, upgraded equipment installed and operational. Unistrut & shelving installed with cabling being tidied up in effort to reduce EMI levels.

KiwiSDR – Installed at WinLink site and operational receiving good reports. Fan dipole ropes have broken so to be rectified.

APRS – Located at Jamies Knob and reported not working. To confirm at next General Meeting as to who's using as appears redundant. If membership wish to retain, consider transferring to Ward for better access & consolidating assets. Was under notice from Chorus as located in their building. To clarify with Stuart W & Rob C. **Action JE**

RBN – Nick B has got operational again but need better location. To check out at Brayshaw Park. **Action NB**

Brayshaw Park – Recently lost power and needed to be reset. Solar panels need cleaning. Thought that Ian C was going to do when Farm Machinery were cleaning their roofs. To check with Ian C. **Action DL**

Equipment Disposal: Stuart W has audited and proposed a disposal list.

Motion: Mandate for Stuart W to proceed with sale except for one Icom 718 and the Uniden PRS set.

Charitable donation by David R for PRS set.

Moved: JE / Seconded: NB / Passed: Majority (1 abstention)

Emergency Comms:

AREC assisted at EOC during Emergency Declaration 26~27 June.

New EOC HF Transceiver – To discuss and determine with EOC management operating protocol as transceiver operates on Amateur Radio Spectrum so only licensed operators should use.

Also to clarify regarding Marine Radio operating licenses. **Action JE**

AREC Oversight Sub-Committee – To convene meeting to review Governance. **Action GB**

SAR Building – Advised that SAR are proceeding with own building but no room for MARC.

To investigate with Council have any facilities or incorporate into proposed new Showground facilities. **Action ??**

SAREX Exercise – Did not proceed

Fun Stuff & Meeting Schedule:

10 July - USA Hamvention presentation by Stuart Watchman

14 Aug - ?? Enquire with Peter Mott

11 Sep - Constructors awards

9 Oct - Pickover night 2025 **Action JE**

GENERAL BUSINESS:

➤ **Havelock Community Centre Inquiry** – To advise that preference is that they attend a MARC Blenheim HamCram as previous Havelock residents however can mentor if they wish to proceed with on-line learning from NZART website. **Action DL**

➤ **Fox Hunt** – Other Branches have reported to be popular event. To consider in Summer in addition to present annual Onamalutu picnic event.

➤ **ZL10X Transceiver** - Partially completed project offered but declined.

➤ **Zoom Stream Meeting** – No volunteers to organise and operates

➤ **David Clode Assistance** – To follow up with Stuart W

Action JE

Meeting Closed: 21:05

Next General Meeting: 10th July 2025 at EOC, 7:30pm.

Next Committee Meeting: 24th July 2025, 7:30pm (via Zoom)

CONSTRUCTORS AWARD — 11th September

CONSTRUCTORS AWARD RULES

You must have made your construction yourself. It can be anything you like, either from scratch or from a kit.

Most construct something amateur radio related but we also get a few electronic devices or computer related constructs. We've even had sculptures made from electronic/radio parts!

If you are unsure, contact a committee member and ask.

On the night, everyone brings their entries which are lined up on a table. After the meeting, each entrant is asked to briefly describe their entry. The judges (sucked into it on the night and, as a result, are open to bribery - choccy biscuits might work) then judge the entries while everyone else enjoys a cuppa.

The winner is then announced and presented with the trophy (pictured right), which they get to keep proudly on prominent display in their home, or radio shack, until next year.



MID WINTER LUNCH - HELD AT THE WOODY JUNE 2025

A small, but enthusiastic, group braved the very wet weather, flooding, slips and road closures, to attend the annual mid winter lunch. Rothwells even made it through from Picton although Dakens were unable to get out of the Sounds. The Woodbourne Tavern put on their usual delicious fare and offered a set menu of beef or pork (with crackling), roast potatoes, kumera and pumpkin, a cheesy cauliflower and broccoli dish, peas and carrots. The carrots were even cut into flower shapes. There were also small buns, butter, condiments and gravy.

Dessert consisted of pavlova, fruit salad, apple crumble and whipped cream. There was plenty for all to have seconds if they wanted.

After lunch we had a quiz, matching the correct food to the country with which it belonged. First equal, with 18 out of 20 correct, were Graeme & Heather McKay and Don & Linda Laing. These couples were rewarded with blocks of Whittakers chocolate. Next closest were John & Deborah Errington with 16. All participants were given bite sized Cadbury chocolates.

Log burners kept the place warm and it was a happy gathering who finished off with tea and coffee before braving the atrocious weather again (it still hadn't stopped raining) to head home.



Marie & Bill



Bernie & Brenda



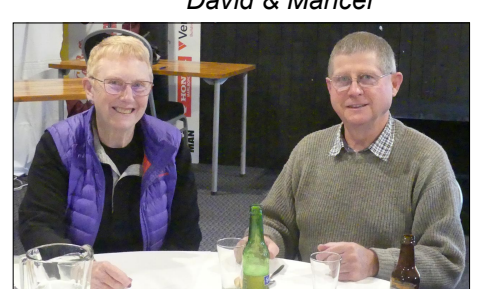
David & Maricel



Graeme & Doreen



Don (kept pulling faces) & Linda



Heather & Graeme



John & Deborah



Marion & John



Stuart
(Jody was working)



Ron & Helen



Sharon & Paul



Me again. Not once but twice in one newsletter! Next to the desserts of course.



Earlier in the month, you received an email from John Errington with a link to a presentation about Bletchley Park: How it shortened WW2 by 2 years and saved millions of lives. It reminded me of the visit Grant and I (and my mum) made to Bletchley Park back in 2009. For those who did not watch the livestream, here is my article from the June 2009 Interface.

BLETCHLEY PARK, HOME OF THE CODEBREAKERS

Bletchley Park was once Britain's best kept secret. Over 8,500 people worked there in total secrecy, so much so that even the neighbours had no idea what was going on next door. And what was going on? - Codebreakers worked to crack Germany's coded communications during WW2, such as those sent by the German Enigma machine. Hitler believed the Enigma was unbreakable, with odds of 150 million million million to one, but he was wrong. Thanks to the intelligence, known as Ultra, the men and women at Bletchley Park saved many lives and the allied convoys from U-Boat wolfpacks.

Bletchley Park was Churchill's secret passion and he called his code breakers his "geese that laid the golden eggs that never cackled." It was here that Ian Fleming (author of the James Bond books) worked and got his ideas for 007, his secret agent. The name, 007, came from one of the rooms at Bletchley Park.

Today the park is open to the public as a heritage site and museum. They have numerous exhibitions and a lot of different events are held there throughout the year. This year, among other things, they will have a classic car and motorbike picnic, an Alan Turing memorial lecture, the Antiques Roadshow, Wireless Waves (a display of vintage and military wireless of WW2 and beyond), A Polish event that celebrates the contribution made by the Polish mathematicians (and they made a BIG contribution) to the code breaking effort, they will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Bedford bus, have an annual Enigma reunion and many Heritage Open Days.

At the time we were there they had a display, in the main house, of WW2 era toys and games. Mum and I watched a lady demonstrate to a couple of young kids how children of those days made toys using half walnut shells, the wire from the top of wine bottles, and scraps of material. They were absolutely fascinated! She also showed them how they made doll's furniture out of matchboxes. At the side of the main house they have a post office from where you can legitimately post mail with the Bletchley Park stamp on it.



In the grounds of the park they also have the National Museum of Computing, which houses the world's first electronic digital machine with programmability. Tommy Flowers spent 11 months designing and building Colossus at the Post Office Research Station, Dollis Hill in north west London. In 1943 it was dismantled and shipped to Bletchley Park where it was put into action on Feb 5th 1944. The use to which Colossus was put was of the highest secrecy and Colossus itself was highly secret - and remained so for many years after the war. Colossus was not included in the history of computing for many years and Flowers and his associates were deprived of the recognition due.

It took nearly 15 years to rebuild the Mark 2 Colossus computer in the same position as Colossus 9 was originally installed in Block H at the park. Using only scraps of diagrams, old pictures and half forgotten memories they have re-created the original Colossus. Information about Colossus did not start to appear until the 1970's and "The General Report" was only released in 2000 and this included a description of a running Colossus computer.

The National Museum of Computing is dedicated to showing the development of computing in its broadest sense from the pioneering war time efforts that resulted in Colossus, to the products and systems we use today.

The Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society is based at Bletchley Park and you can see what activities they have at their club nights by visiting their web site www.mkars.org.uk. Grant spent a lot of time talking to the two Hams on volunteer duty the day we were there (surprise, surprise). This club offers "cyber membership" for people who live 75 miles or more from Bletchley Park. It is a cheaper subscription cost than full membership and gives the member access to the club's members' area of their forum and they can also download the club magazine The Electron.

Amateur radio enthusiasts played a major role in the secret wireless intelligence war between 1939 and 1945, providing Bletchley Park with vital Morse messages that enabled the codebreakers to read German signals. They were known as Voluntary Interceptors or 'VIs' and around 1,200 were recruited. Some of them had powers to enter premises where they thought illicit wireless activity was going on. When WW2 began, all radio amateurs had to hand in their transmitters but were able to keep their receivers, subsequently used by the RSS to listen in to enemy wireless traffic in their own homes.

At its peak the RSS had an establishment of 2,094, plus the 1,200 amateur radio VIs. During the war 268,000 RSS decrypts were issued by Bletchley Park, with a peak of 282 a day in May 1944. Of these 97,000 were in Abwehr hand cipher and 140,000 enciphered on the Enigma machine. The Nazi Security Service, the SD, produced 13,000 decrypts.

The need for a specialist organisation to intercept illicit transmissions from the UK was recognised as early as 1928. It was recommended that the War Office should use voluntary and unpaid "enthusiastic amateurs of

unimpeachable discretion" to develop such an organisation. In 1933 the idea of an organisation that eventually became the RSS began to take hold.

In 1939, many hams were called up into the RAF Civilian Wireless Reserve, later the RAF Volunteer Reserve, the Territorial Army Signals Unit and the Royal Navy Volunteer (Wireless) Reserve. With their proficiency in Morse code, they were especially valuable to the new organisations being set up by British Intelligence which involved secret wireless monitoring. The information they fed to Bletchley Park provided much of the raw material required to break into enemy codes and cyphers.

In addition, radio amateurs, many of whom possessed considerable technical skills, played a key role in technological developments such as counter-measures against enemy air attacks, in the defeat of the magnetic mine, developing ultra-high frequencies and as instructors at the top-secret radio and radar schools. Radio amateurs were particularly adept at reading weak Morse transmissions, caused by interference from background noise or other nearby signals. Frequencies most used were between 3 MHz and 12 MHz, with the concentration from 4 MHz to 9 MHz. Much of this band was occupied by broadcast stations and Morse used by the Services and the press. But with some 5 - 6 million cycles of band, in which a Morse signal only required a 1,000 cycle space, in theory there could be 3,000 stations – excluding that used by broadcasters – which could be operating simultaneously, hence the need for a nationwide team of VIs.

Amateur radio personnel were also used in the important role of Direction Finding or "DF" by which a signal could be picked up from several locations, and where the signal crossed the beam of the various intercept stations listening in, was the spot from which the signal was coming. It was used with particular accuracy to track U-Boats, and also enabled, among other things, to reveal the site of key enemy wireless stations.

- Taken from the Milton Keynes Amateur radio Society's web site (lots more on the site) Thanks to John Jackson 2E0HJJ



'44 Colossus Mk2 computer rebuild



German Enigma machine



Y Station. These were rooms equipped to listen to world wide Morse transmissions. Intercepted messages were then sent to Bletchley Park for decoding.



Part of the old computer collection (looks like my garage, except neater!)



TypeX was a British coding machine modified to work like Enigmas. Unlike Enigma, the TypeX was never 'broken'.

On 10 February 1992, the committee persuaded Milton Keynes Council to declare most of Bletchley Park a conservation area. Three days later the Bletchley Park Trust was formed and in 1994 its Chief Patron, HRH The Duke of Kent, opened the site to the public, as a museum.

Bletchley Park opened to the public in 1993 as a museum and historic visitor attraction. It was formally inaugurated by HRH The Duke of Kent in July 1994.

The work of Bletchley Park – and Turing's role there in cracking the Enigma code – was kept secret until the 1970s, and the full story was not known until the 1990s. It has been estimated that the efforts of Turing and his fellow code-breakers shortened the war by several years.

We have completed our upgrade of the Winlink RMS and acknowledge the support of Pub Charity Ltd and the local operators;

1. Fairweathers Bar & Restaurant
2. Havelock Hotel
3. Mikeys Texas Tea Bar & Grill
4. Pelorus Tavern
5. Springlands Tavern

**Pub
Charity**
Limited



ORKNEY WIRELESS MUSEUM

This place houses a fascinating (that is the word the brochure uses, not one I would have thought of in relation to radios but there you go) collection tracing the history of early domestic radio and wartime communications in Orkney. Also maps, charts, valves, transistors (they would love looking in our roof space as we have all that rubbish too!) rare exhibits and wartime memorabilia.

The museum was founded in 1983 by the late Jim MacDonald, a ~~nurse~~ collector of all things electric. After his death, a charitable trust was formed in 1990. Trustees were Jim's family and radio friends.

Wartime displays;

Orkney's wartime history is strongly represented in the museum when, unbeknown to the general public, an intense communications network involving radio and telephones was operating to protect the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow. A radar station was set up at Netherbutton in Orkney and equipped with top secret equipment. There are transmitters used for short range speech to fighters and long range Morse to bombers, replica radar equipment, original gun operations map from operations headquarters in Kirkwall, bomber transmitter and receiver, army signal equipment, the famous No.19 'tank set' navy communications receivers, pictures, documents, and the original Scapa Flow boom defence chart. Also on display was a Spy Suitcase Radio and a collection of radios used by 'Y' service operators. There was a German section showing wartime equipment including a U-boat radio. An extensive photo archive display covered virtually every aspect of life in "Fortress Orkney" during the years of World War 2.



Domestic radio;

Early radio was also featured, from the early sets with separate speakers and batteries that needed two hands to tune in, to the more grand furniture sets of the 1930's or the compact 'modern' valve sets of the 1950's. Some rare examples of 1920's wireless sets were also displayed. A separate stand traced the history of portable wireless sets from the late 1920's up until the advent of transistor radios, including the Gimmick transistor radios! Another wall stand featured the history of the valve! (riveting stuff).

American
radio
direction
finder
BC 1003-A



The back item is a toy tin
gramophone from the 20s and
30s. In front is a kiddyphone,
another toy tin gramophone

The direction finder was highly accurate and used to trace the source of radio signals. The loop aerials could be rotated and when the strongest point for a signal source was obtained the line of sight, or a direct bearing, could be obtained for that point. The set was then moved and another bearing obtained, thus giving cross bearings, or a second set was used which could pinpoint the transmitter's position accurately.



U-Boat radio receiver
Fully restored and in working order



Spy suitcase radio 1945



Luckily (for me), we were unable to spend much time in here as we found it, by accident, at around 3.50pm and they closed at 4pm.

Even after explaining to the man on volunteer duty that we were from NZ and would not have the opportunity to return, he showed no interest in either a foreign visiting radio Ham, or staying open a wee bit longer.



LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND, 16/17TH AUGUST

For new members, this is well worth attending, for the fun, camaraderie and excellent photographic opportunities, if you are that way inclined. Comfortable accommodation is available in the erst-while lighthouse keepers' quarters and meals (except breakfast) are provided, unless you want to bring your own.

The cost of hire is spread around attendees and therefore depends on how many go but is generally around \$60 depending on how many nights you stay.

Departure from Blenheim is usually at 8am on Saturday and return after lunch on Monday, unless you wish to return on Sunday. There is accommodation for up to 11. Some stay the two nights but others have to return on Sunday due to work commitments. We try to arrange transport accordingly.

More info will be provided in the next Interface.

Countries all over the world have become involved in Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. In Britain, the Association of Lighthouse Keepers conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend on the same weekend as the ILLW in August. Their objective is to encourage lighthouse managers, keepers and owners to open their lighthouse or lightstation and related visitors centres to the public with a view to raising the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, and preserving our maritime heritage.

However, the major event which takes place in August is the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, ILLW, which came into being in 1998 as the Scottish Northern Lights Award run by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group. The history of this event can be found if you Google "International Lighthouse Weekend".

The ILLW usually takes place on the 3rd full weekend in August each year and attracts over 500 lighthouse entries located in over 40 countries. It is one of the most popular international amateur radio events in existence, probably because there are very few rules and it is not the usual contest type event. It is also free and there are no prizes for contacting large numbers of other stations. There is little doubt that the month of August has become "Lighthouse Month" due largely to the popularity and growth of the ILLW.

The activity is not a contest and therefore is an opportunity for relaxed operating as and when one feels like it. It therefore lends itself ideally for an introduction to operating with others around to assist as required. Most contacts are with other lighthouse-based stations around NZ and Australia, with a few further afield.



Calling all Branch 05 Members, Affiliates, Friends and Family Everything on sale!

Enjoy a 10% discount throughout July 2025 on ALL Techoman Store items - UHF PRS Radios, Amateur Radio Transceivers, Radio Bundles, Antennas, Batteries, Cables, Meters, Earpieces, Speaker/Microphones, Scanner Receivers and more absolutely everything at www.techoman.co.nz



To activate your 10% discount simply enter '5JULY10' at the checkout.

