

**Christchurch West Amateur
Radio Club Inc.**

Official Newsletter



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What's on at the next meeting?"

***Mike Barnes ZL3TMB will talk on EchoLink, IRLP
and other computer related topics.***

Visitors and guests most welcome

27th April 2009

Visit the NZART website <http://www.nzart.org.nz>

Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.
NZART Branch 56
Clubrooms; Auburn Park, Upper Riccarton,
P O Box 31 095, Ilam, Christchurch.S

<i>Branch Officers</i>			
<i>President</i>	Baden Melhuish	ZL3VI	384 1584
<i>Vice-President</i>	Keith Stanton	ZL3QH	358 4108
<i>Immediate Past Pres</i>	Mark Carshalton	ZL3BA	322 4518
<i>Secretary*</i>	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	322 9961
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Tyerman	ZL3IA	332 4885
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	Mike Barnes	ZL3TMB	352 2294
	Maurice McNab	ZL3MEM	327 3710
	Bruce Smith	ZL3TFM	343 2432
	John Walker	ZL3IB	348 9084
<i>Trustees</i>	Des Borgfeldt	ZL3ACS	980 9705
	Baden Melhuish	ZL3VI	384 1584
<i>Auditor</i>	Roy Timms	ZL3AIB	358 6347
<i>Branch Officials</i>			
<i>Archivist</i>	Roy Timms	ZL3AIB	358 6347
<i>EMC Officer</i>	vacant		
<i>Free n'Easy Coordinator</i>	Graeme Johnstone	ZL3JO	981 5990
<i>Librarian</i>	Ron Rowlands	ZL3AIV	348 2747
<i>Morse Admin</i>	Des Borgfeldt	ZL3ACS	980 9705
<i>Morse coaching</i>	vacant		
<i>Newsletter editor #</i>	John Walker	ZL3IB	348 9084
<i>QSL cards</i>	Keith Stanton	ZL3QH	358 4108
<i>ZL3VV Station Mgr</i>	Maurice McNab	ZL3MEM	354 1958
<i>850 Repeater Mgr</i>	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	358 5004

*Please note change of Secretarial email address; <zl2bcf@nzart.org.nz>
Newsletter editor <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz>

Annual subscription for 2009 is due NOW;
Individual \$35.00, Family \$40.00, Junior \$17.50
Treasurer's home address; 37A Penrith Ave, Chch 8002
Subs can be direct credited to our Westpac Account No. 030802 0590356 00
NB. Please ensure your name is against the bank payment.
If cheques are made "non transferable" or "account payee only" please ensure they are made
out to "**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**"
The banks will not accept other names (e.g. Branch 56). Thank you

**General Meeting of the Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club
Tuesday 24th March 2009**

Present: Baden ZL3VI (Chairman), Doug ZL2BCF (Secretary), 19 members and guests

Visitors: Blair ZL3TOY, Malcolm and Byron ZR5KH.

Apologies: ZL3QH, ZL3MJS, ZL3QH and ZL3SJ.

Minutes: Confirmation of minutes of Feb 2009 meeting. ZL3VI, ZL3IB.

Matters arising:

Correspondence

Inward: Information on details of the second Buildathon and request for assistance.

Newsletters: From branches 68, 63, 65 & 28.

Outward: Branch 56 remit to NZART HQ.

Financial: 23 Financial members. Payments for relaying carpet, rent and website.

Free and Easy report: March meeting. Terry Carrell gave an interesting presentation on Amateur satellites and the KiwiSat project.

Classes Report: Nil.

General Business:

- 1 The club passed a resolution to support the Buildathon with \$65 as requested by Wayne ZL3DWS. Proposed ZL3IB, ZL3MEM.
- 2 Antennas. The rotator has been measured and Mike is to mill a bracket if one from an existing rotator cannot be found locally.
- 3 Doug reported on the Combined Branches meeting and repeater site issues.
- 4 Peter reported that Field Day was a successful social event but simplification of equipment is required as down time for this year was not good and battery maintenance is required. Commitment of operators is required earlier for next year.
- 5 John reported on the progress and issues surrounding the IARU R3 Conference to be held in Christchurch later this year.
- 6 John advised he is looking for a deputy editor for Break-In.
- 7 Alan Chapman reported on a contact to be held between Cotswold School and the international space station later in the week.
- 8 Bruce offered to clean the kitchen and toilet areas before the monthly meetings.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 2010.

Program

A show and tell session was held with an emphasis on the workshop, tools and tricks. Malcolm ZL3UU gave a talk on tools he found useful in the workshop. John ZL3IB spoke about and displayed some of the test equipment he has build and added some more information on tools. Dave ZL4DRB demonstrated his home brew frequency counter and described some of the issues he faced in its construction. Brent demonstrated some long range phones. Doug ZL2BCF gave a talk on ESD issues and how to minimise the problems of electrostatic discharge.

EO&E

Repeater news; Cass Peak and Tekapo 680 now linked

If you hear any strange southern call signs appearing on the 145.625 repeater, please welcome them; Tekapo 680 has now been linked to our CARDS 2m repeater.

Big thanks to all involved getting the gear in, especially Eion ZL3AG for his work configuring the equipment at both ends and the install at Cass.

73, Mike ZL3TMB

Free and Easy

Our meeting on the 11th of March was well attended to listen to Terry Carrell ZL3QL talk about "KiwiSat". This was described in detail to by the speaker who with the aid of the data projector and an exact replica of the item to be sent into space demonstrated the objectives and capabilities that can be expected after a launch has taken place. The licencing of this very first New Zealand amateur satellite is going to be done through the resources of the MED which is a "first" for this country and will no doubt cause some rewriting of the rules and regulations to cover this aspect of our fraternity. Launching this is going to be expensive and some deep pockets are going to be needed to bring this to fruition. I am confident this will open new avenues to many, and as an organisation we will benefit greatly from its capabilities. Terry will be speaking at a number of venues and I would heartily encourage all to attend one of his demonstrations as they are of great merit

The next meeting on the 8th of April will be Keith ZL3AHL and myself. Keith will take us behind the scenes in constructing the ATV programmes for the Sunday night VHF net. I will be demonstrating a DVDR with particular emphasis on the various connections from RGB to A/V and "S" video. If you are free that afternoon please join us at the clubrooms commencing at 1330hr, all are very welcome

Graeme Johnstone ZL3JO

ZL3 Buildathon ; April 18th , 9 am Kendal Ave School, Burnside

Places are filling fast. Lots of interest coming from local schools. We now need plenty of help from local Radio Amateurs. Come along and help create tomorrow's Radio Amateurs. Bring your enthusiasm, soldering iron and a few tools for kit building to Kendal School Hall, Kendal Ave on Saturday April 18th , before the 9am start.

Do you have any radio / electronics / ham magazines and books we could pass onto anyone expressing an interest in Amateur Radio on April 18th? Please call.

The Branch 05 AREC van will be demonstrating ham radio in action and a mini talk will be given on how to become a ham.

Please let David Searle know today that you will be there to join in the fun,
<ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz> 03 358 9776 or 021 039 1764. Visit
<<http://sites.google.com/site/zl3buildathon/>>

Cotswold Primary School ARISS Contact:

At 12:52pm Friday March 27th a group of 13 students ranging in ages from 5 to 11 asked questions of Astronaut Mike Fincke KE5AIT aboard the International Space Station. The contact was via Telebridge with Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI in Kingston, south east of Adelaide providing radio contact. The contact lasted 9 minutes. Unfortunately the telephone link went down while Mike was answering the last question but all children had had at least one turn. The contact was relayed via IRLP and Echolink. ARISS report that 22 people in 8 countries listened in to the contact on IRLP and Echolink. A fact that I had not appreciated before the event was the extent and importance placed on relaying the contact by telephone link to interested parties.

Moderator Wayne Harasimovitch VE1WPH in Halifax, Nova Scotia introduced the school and VK5ZAI to the Telebridge audience and had the children's teacher Anna Douglas say a few words about the school to the audience commencing 6 minutes before the contact. At the end of the contact, after telephone connections had been restored, VE1WPH formally closed the session but then handed over to Kenneth Grant at the Johnson Space Centre who answered the children's 14 remaining questions! The telephone connection part was handled by Mary Bauer whose husband Frank KA3HDO was until recently the International Chairman of ARISS.

Tracking of the ISS was done during the contact using the satellite tracking software "Orbitron" The application for the contact, involving many pages of documentation, had been made 9 months ago but about 10 days before, Tony VK5ZAI asked if the school could select students and prepare questions within 3 days for the contact. The Christchurch Press and TV3 covered the event attended by 20 parents and 5 other staff and student teachers. The TV3 and Press articles are available at their respective websites. In addition a 9 page questionnaire had to be filled out and sent to NASA.

73 Lorne ZL2AHB

HAMADS

For Sale. ICOM IC10 Scanning Communications Receiver & Wideband Handheld for sale. Additional antenna, charger, user and service manuals. VGC. Email or call for full spec. and brochure. New \$800. Reasonable offers sought. David Searle <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz>, 03 358 9776

Wanted. Straight Morse key and oscillator wanted for 81 year old Buildathon "student" who wants to learn Morse code. Can you help? Please call David Searle <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz> ph 03 358 9776

For Sale. Tektronix type 191 Constant Amplitude RF signal generator 50 kHz-100 MHz, as new condition \$50. 1% 1/4W resistors, complete range, minimum of 50 of each value in 115 small Philips component boxes in 23 trays of 5 each; approximately 5750 resistor \$100. 5 computer keyboards; USB and mini-DIN plug types, Mouse x 4, Mouse pads x 2 @ \$5 the lot. Office chair, gas-operated, adjustable back, great for computer or ham operating desk, as new \$30. 3 x NiCd and NiMH battery chargers \$10 the lot. Video Sender new, transmit a low power TV or DVD signal to watch on a TV in another room \$20. Piano heater, small 15W tubular heater to hang inside the back of your piano to stop moisture or condensation which can cause the keys to stick etc, \$10 (about \$60 dollars to buy new). TH6-DXX antenna, 6-element, tri-band Yagi by HyGain, 24 ft boom, all stainless hardware, excellent condition \$300. Malcolm Gordon ZL3UU, ph 322-4784, email: <Malcolm@darkstar.co.nz>

Freebies. Two 'junked' DVD players. Any use to anyone? Contact John ZL3IB Phone 03-3489 084, email <zl3ib@nzart.org.nz> .

HAMADS in QTC56 are a free service to members.

Send to John ZL3IB at <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz >.

TechTube Valves™; Mullard valves resurrected

Nowadays most people assume that valves are no longer manufactured. Well; if you go to www.techtubevalves.com/ you can read about the rebirth of valve manufacture in the UK.

A Better Valve

Welcome to the start of a new technology in thermionic valves. Here at Blackburn MicroTech Solutions we are using our 40 years of emission technology know-how to bring the first complete new development of the thermionic valve since its initial production back in the 1930's. In September 2008 Blackburn Microtech Solutions launched the TechTube brand of valves.

The Blackburn Legacy Series offer plug and play replacements for the ECC81, ECC82 and ECC83. Made on the original Mullard Radio Valve Company site in Blackburn, UK the E813CC, E812CC and E811CC valves offer extended life times and an unrivalled consistency.

A brief company history

It was in late 1919 that the Z Electric Lamp Company of Southfields run by Captain Stanley R. Mullard collapsed. The very next year Captain Mullard set up the Mullard Radio Valve Company Limited. In 1924 still wanting to expand as the valve demand continued to grow Captain Mullard sold half his shares to NV Philips Gloeilampenfabriken of Eindhoven Netherlands.

In 1938 work commenced on what was to become the largest valve assembly works in the world. At it's peak in 1954 the Blackburn Mullard site was manufacturing 500 000 valves per day. By 1961 gas and electricity generation had been installed to make the site independent of the local town supplies.

In 1938 the workforce was a lowly 28 people, by 1945 around 3000 people in total were employed at the Blackburn Mullard site and by 1962 over 6200 people were employed in Blackburn and the various feeder factories supplying raw materials and sub-components to the valve works.

There were five main feeder factories set-up to support Blackburn. In 1949 and 51 two factories were set-up in Fleetwood, 1953 saw a factory in Rawtenstall and in 1954 a factory in Lytham and a final factory in Southport were opened.

Sadly with the demise of the valve at the hands of the transistor by 1984 all these factories had closed or moved to other activities.

But now with renewed interest in analogue devices, the former Mullard site at Blackburn, now belonging to Blackburn MicroTech Solutions, will once again include thermionic valves for radio amplification as one of its key product lines. Even though the Mullard brand can no longer be applied to the product as it is owned by outside parties, the TechTube brand will enforce the quality and reliability standards that the Mullard brand stood for and is now revered for in the market place.

Current valve types available

E813CC (ECC83 equivalent)

The E813CC has the same performance as the world renowned ECC83. Unlike the ECC83 however the variability in performance between two valves is reduced from an industry standard $\pm 20\%$ down to $\pm 10\%$. Obvious benefits in application set-up are obtained by this new performance; 10 year life, Planar valve design, CRT cathode proven technology, Supersedes ECC83, 6.3V filament voltage, B9A pin base

E812CC (ECC82 equivalent)

E811CC (ECC81 equivalent)



Calendar for 2009

ZL3VV on air; Tuesday evenings, contact Maurice ZL3MEM.

Theory and CW classes, Workshop activities, etc. Wednesdays at 1930 hr when required.

CARDS meeting. 3rd Wednesday; All welcome.

Free & Easy - Second Wednesday at 1330 (1.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	11	11	8	13	10	8	12	9	14	11	9

Committee Meeting - Third Tuesday at 1930 (7.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	17	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	

General Meeting - Fourth Tuesday at 1930 (7.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
26	23	23	27	26	23	28	25	22	27	24	

Free & Easy:

8th April ZL3AHL will take us behind the scenes in constructing the ATV programme for the Sunday night VHF net. Graeme ZL3JO will demonstrate a DVDR with emphasis on the various connections from RGB to A/V and "S" video

Special event

April 18th A second ZL3 Buildathon, 9 am Kendal Ave School, Burnside.

General Meetings

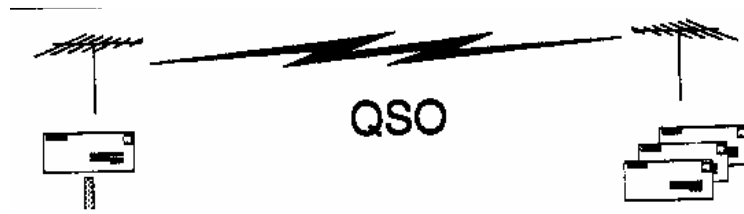
27th April Mike Barnes ZL3TMB will present a talk on EchoLink, IRLP and computer related topics..

Your committee welcomes suggestions for topics and/or offers of talks for Branch meetings.

Interested in Old Radios?

The Christchurch section of the NZ Vintage Radio Society now meet in our club rooms. Meetings are normally held on alternate months on the first Tuesday of the month. If you are interested please contact Jim Lovell ZL3AGS (ph 342 7760) or David Chapple, email <canda@netaccess.co.nz> for more information.

QTC56



Monthly Newsletter

Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.

NZART Branch 56