

**Christchurch West Amateur  
Radio Club Inc.**

**Official Newsletter**



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***What's on at the next meeting?"***

**Voting on NZART AGM Remits**

**Followed by**

**"Life and Times of a Dolby Labs Design Engineer –  
A whimsical look at an adventure in London  
and San Francisco"**

**A talk by Mark Atherton ZL3JVX**

***Visitors and guests most welcome***

***27<sup>th</sup> April 2010***

**Visit the Br 56 web page; <[www.radioamateurs.org.nz](http://www.radioamateurs.org.nz)**

**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

**NZART Branch 56**

**Clubrooms; Auburn Park, Upper Riccarton,**

**P O Box 31 095, Ilam, Christchurch 8444.**

**Br 56 web page; <www.radioamateurs.org.nz**

<b><i>Branch Officers</i></b>			
<i>President</i>	Keith Stanton	ZL3QH	358 4108
<i>Vice-President</i>	Maurice McNab	ZL3MEM	327 3710
<i>Immediate Past Pres</i>	Baden Melhuish	ZL3VI	384 1584
<i>Secretary*</i>	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	322 9961
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Tyerman	ZL3IA	332 4885
<i>Committee</i>	Brent Officer	ZL3TUI	385 2742
	Denis Coulter	ZL3DEN	342 9013
	Mark Carshalton	ZL3BA	322 4518
	Ken Duffey	ZL4KD	351 8115
	John Walker	ZL3IB	348 9084
<i>Trustees</i>	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	322 9961
	Baden Melhuish	ZL3VI	384 1584
<i>Auditor</i>	Marinel McNab		327 3710
<b><i>Branch Officials</i></b>			
<i>Archivist</i>	Position vacant		
<i>EMC Officer</i>	Position vacant		
<i>Free n'Easy Coordinator</i>	Position vacant		
<i>Librarian</i>	Ron Rowlands	ZL3AIV	348 2747
<i>Morse Admin</i>	Des Borgfeldt	ZL3ACS	980 9705
<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 2010 is due NOW;**

Individual \$40.00, Family \$45.00, Junior \$20.00

*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 23rd March 2010

**Present:** Maurice ZL3MEM (Acting Chairman), Doug (Secretary), 17 members and guests.

**Visitors:** David ZL3AI and Ann ZL3TNT.

**Apologies:** Keith ZL3QH, Grahame ZL3SJ.

**Minutes:** Confirmation of minutes of February 2010 meeting. Mark, John.

**Matters arising:**

**Correspondence**

Inward: A letter from Roy ZL3AIB thanking the club for his life membership.

Outward: A letter to Roy ZL3AIB advising that the club had awarded him life membership.  
(Brent, Peter.)

**Financial:** Lease, Power, Newsletters, stamps and Web fee.

**Free and Easy report:** There was a meeting to revitalize the group and that a coordinator is being sought.

**Classes Report:** Grahame ZL3SJ has advised that he has 3 student and that they are conducting lessons via email.

**General Business:**

- 1 Ann gave a brief update on NZART council business.
- 2 A request was made for members who attend the Free and Easy to assist with running the program.
- 3 A successful working bee has been held with covering to the kitchen waste pipe, installation of a stub mast for the HF dipole and installation of the new rotator clamps.

*The formal part of the meeting closed at 2130.*

### Program

The club was given a interesting presentation by Maurice ZL3MEM on the club shack the computer interface used to connect to the rig and program used for logging contacts.

The next meeting will include a short remit session so be there to have your say.

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### What's on at the next meeting ?

. NZART AGM; voting on remits.

**NB. Only financial members of NZART may vote on remits.**

**Followed by:**

**"Life and Times of a Dolby Labs Design Engineer –**

**A whimsical look at an adventure in London and San Francisco"**

**A talk by Mark Atherton ZL3JVX**

### **From the pen of your President**

I am very honoured at being elected as your President for the coming year and I pledge to do my very best to lead you to enjoy our club and our hobby to the full.

Amateur Radio is at the cross roads with many competing hobbies available to people. Its up to us to promote our hobby as vibrant and an exciting one.

To do this questions need to be asked. Do you have an operational station? How long has it been since you had an overseas or local contact? Do you invite your friends into your shack while you are operating? Do you send out QSL cards? Are you chasing any awards or participating in any contests? How long since you constructed an antenna or built a project? To have our hobby grow we need to have activity – this is the challenge I put to you.

Our club operates station ZL3VV at the club rooms every Tuesday night from 6.30pm; come and join in, have fun and in doing so get some operational experience

Do come along to our next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April and tell us about an interesting on air contact you have recently had or if you prefer bring along some project you have built and tell us about it

We have an exciting hobby; lets share this excitement with others

73                      Keith ZL3QH

### **Free & Easy 2010**

#### **Wanted**

An administrator to organize the “Free & Easy” monthly meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Tasks include arranging programme, speakers, etc. These talks need not relate to radio but should be of general interest.

This matter is *URGENT* if this worthwhile activity is to continue.

Please contact the Secretary, Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc. Doug Pratt ZL2BCF, phone 03-322 9961 or email <dougpratt@orcon.net.nz>



## NZART Membership

One of the decisions from the recent Face to Face Council Meeting in Wellington was to ask our Treasurer to seriously look at the budget and identify any areas where NZART can cut back on expenditure. This decision was required because membership to NZART has dropped to the level where services provided by NZART cannot be maintained at their present level due to the dropping income level through falling membership numbers.

The majority of services provided by NZART benefit all Amateurs in New Zealand. Some services are costly to the Association and some are provided at no financial cost to the Association; the only cost being the time that our Officers and others put in to the job voluntarily.

Identifying some of the services that come at a cost to the Association, one finds that with the exception of the provision of *Break-In* and *Call-Book*, the remainder of services benefit all Amateurs.

One of the services NZART provides is that of Headquarters, and in the future there will probably be some cost cutting changes made regarding this. The services provided by our General Secretary affect the Amateur Radio Service as a whole, not only membership.

NZART provides many services that come at no or little financial cost to the members, yet services such as FMTAG, are vital to the privileges that we as Amateurs share. The services FMTAG provide has saved Branches many thousands of dollars, and let's face it, the vast majority of Amateurs use repeaters to some extent.

Where would the Amateur Service be without the service provided by the Local Government Liaison Officer? How many of our local bodies would legislate antennas to the point that the ones allowed under District and City Plans would be the next best thing to useless? Can your Branch provide the people who have anywhere near the knowledge and experience of dealing with planners and their processes that NZART provide through the Local Government Liaison Officer? This service comes at a financial cost to the Association and this cost is being picked up by members through their subscriptions.

IARU Representation is the "forum" through which many of the privileges that we have as Amateurs gained their acceptance. This is also costly, yet once again, members are funding our membership and representation to IARU, yet all Amateurs gain the benefit.

The relationship between Amateur Radio and NZART in New Zealand is symbiotic – that is, one cannot survive with the privileges that we now have without the other. Amateur Radio will [probably] always be here, but in what form and with what privileges for the users?

The choice NZART is faced with is one of increasing income or reducing expenditure. As shown, reducing expenditure will result in a reduction of services, and a reduction of privileges that we now enjoy. This leaves us with increasing income; this can only be done through an increase in membership.

Who has the task of increasing membership? Every member and Branch! We need to take responsibility and set ourselves and our Branches goals on promoting membership to NZART. If we continue to leave this to responsibility to someone else, our Association and our hobby will not survive.

Ways to increase Association membership include:

1. Branches and Members actively promoting membership of the Association to Prospective Members. If each member managed to get one Prospective Member to join, this would double our membership.
2. Branches and Members actively recruiting more radio amateurs, hence increasing the number of radio amateurs in New Zealand, thereby increasing the size of the pool from which we gain more members for the Association.

**The time is now!**

We, as members and Branches need to get off our backsides and gain members for the Association. If we do not do this, there will not be much of an Amateur Radio left for our descendants.

What are your plans for proceeding and when do you start?

NZART Council

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### **ZL3 Buildathon dates for 2010**

As discussed at the Christchurch Combined Branches meeting September 28<sup>th</sup> 2009, dates have been set for a series of ZL3 Buildathons to be held in 2010.

These events are possible because of the tremendous support received from Branch 56, which in turn has helped secure a worthwhile grant from the Christchurch City Council.

- Saturday April 18th, 2010 - 9am-12pm
- Weeks commencing 6th July and 12th July, 2010 - 9am-12pm - dates to be advised (School holidays).
- Saturday August 28th, 2010 - 9am -12pm

Some exciting and challenging kit sets have been created that most amateurs will have a lot of fun building. A small donation will be requested to offset the cost of a kit plus the legendary morning tea.

If you bring along someone who is not a ham aged 8 through 80, their kit set will be free. Here's your chance to help grow a new ham!

For regular progress reports on the ZL3 Buildathon Project please visit:

<<http://sites.google.com/site/zl3buildathon/>> .David W Searle ZL3DWS

<[ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz](mailto:ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz)>. Ph 03 358 9776 or 021 039 1764

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### **HAMADS**

**For Sale.** Genius™ model SP-G06S computer audio system comprising two speakers with built-in amplifier; plugs into the "line-out" jack. Any offers? Contact John ZL3IB ph 3489 084 or <[john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz](mailto:john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz)>.

**For Sale** Home-brew linear amplifier; a part-built project. Includes steel case, meters, variable caps, coils, ceramic switches, computer grade electrolytics, 6 x PL519 (NOS) sweep tubes, etc. No reasonable offer refused. Contact John ZL3IB ph 3489 084 or <[john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz](mailto:john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz)> for full details and pix.

**Wanted.** Cross-needle SWR meter/tuner. Ken Duffy ZL4KD, Ph 03 351 8115 or text 027 462 0610

**HAMADs** in QTC56 are a free service to members.  
Send to John ZL3IB at <[john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz](mailto:john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz)>.

## Calendar for 2010

**ZL3VV on air;** Tuesday evenings, contact Maurice ZL3MEM.

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

**CARDS meeting.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday; All welcome.

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

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

**Committee Meeting - Third Tuesday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

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

**General Meeting - Fourth Tuesday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

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

### Free & Easy:

14<sup>th</sup> April      Programme to be announced.

### General Meetings

27<sup>th</sup> April      Voting on Remits for NZART AGM.      Followed by:-

"Life and Times of a Dolby Labs Design Engineer – A whimsical look at an adventure in London and San Francisco". A talk by Mark Atherton ZL3JVX

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

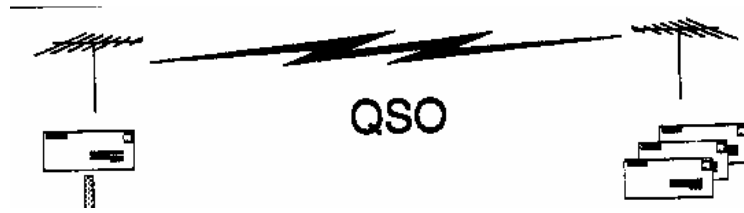
**A reminder ; 2010 subs are due NOW**

### 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.

**Next NZVRS meeting;**      4<sup>th</sup> May

# QTC56



**Monthly Newsletter**

**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

**NZART Branch 56**