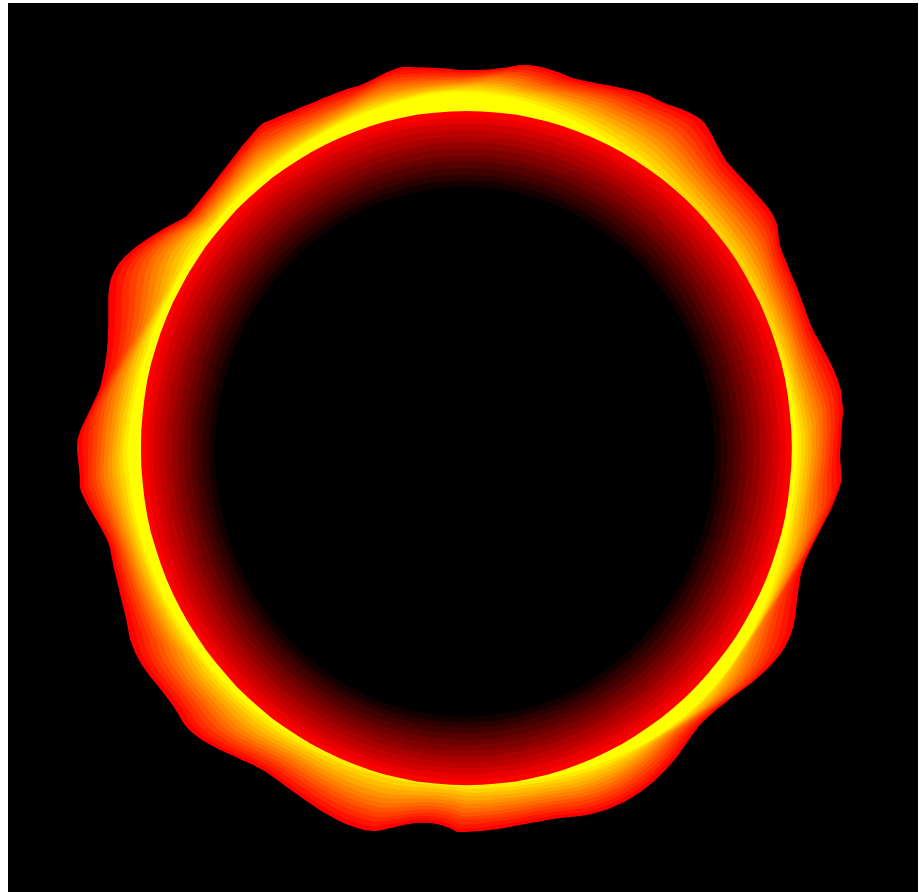


**Christchurch West Amateur
Radio Club Inc.**

Official Newsletter



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What's on at the next meeting?"

A film "*The Sun*".

This National Geographic film explains all aspects of the sun's activities including sunspots, solar wind, radio emissions, etc

Visitors and guests most welcome

27th July 2010

Visit the Br 56 web page; <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

Branch Officers			
<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
Branch Officials			
<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 22nd June 2010

Present: Keith (President), Doug (Secretary), 22 members and guests.

Visitors: Gilbert ZL3UJZ and Kelvin ZL3KB.

Apologies: Nil.

Minutes: Confirmation of minutes of March 2010 meeting.

Matters arising: Mark commented on the lease and advised that an account for the quote amount for documenting the new lease would be sent shortly.

Correspondence; Inward; CC Lease account (incorrect one), *Ham Larks*, *Rag Chew*, resignations from Eion Gibson, Malcolm McNicoll and Tom Seed.

Outward; Annual update to Incorporated Societies..

Financial: 44/57 financial.

Free and Easy report: NIL.

Classes Report: Graham advised that classes continue via email with 4 having shown interest.

General Business:

- 1 David updated us on the coming Buildathons and requested assistance from members.
- 2 John briefed the members on conference, noting the interesting aspects and advised that it will be held in Upper Hutt next year.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 2010.

Program

The branch was treated to a very interesting talk by Kelvin ZL3KB on Colossus, the code breaking machine designed by Tommy Flowers an English engineer and used at Bletchley Park to help decipher teleprinter messages which had been encrypted using the German Lorenz SZ40/42 machine.

What's on at the next meeting ?

27th July A film "*The Sun*".

This National Geographic film explains all aspects of the sun's activities including sunspots, solar wind, radio emissions, etc. Well worth viewing

From the pen of your President

As I write this I am about to depart for Hawaii on a 6 week vacation with my wife Margaret, and so I will not be able to be part of the meeting on Tuesday 27th July. Vice-President Maurice ZL3MEM will be holding the fort while I am out of the country.

David Searle ZL3DWS and his team, who have organised more ZL3 Buildathon project days at Kendal School during the present school holidays, are to be commended for the effort they are putting into introducing the exciting hobby of radio to the younger generation. Many of these children have learnt, for the first time, the mystery of radio. It is the efforts of hams, like David and his team, that are ensuring our hobby continues into the 21st century.

Some hams are finding a lot of activity is being experienced on the bands lately as they open up. This really indicates we are moving out of the period of low sunspot activity. Things are really getting quite exciting; if you haven't been on the air lately, now may be a good opportunity to fire up your rig once more.

NZART has announced that council has appointed Topsy Scott ZL2LS Nelson Branch as Midland Councillor to replace John Hirtzel ZL3ADF who has had to resign for personal reasons. We are sure Topsy will be a great councillor.

Once again your committee has come up with an excellent programme. 'Understanding the Sun' will show us what effect the sun has on our daily lives and especially our hobby amateur radio. Come and enjoy this and the fellowship of our meeting.

We have an exciting hobby let's share it with others. Remember visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

73 Keith ZL3QH

The things kids do not learn at school

Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1 : Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2 : The world doesn't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something *BEFORE* you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3 : You will *NOT* make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4 : If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss

Rule 5 : Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: they called it opportunity.

Rule 6 : If you mess up, *It's Not Your Parents' Fault*, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7 : Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before

you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8 : Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life *HAS NOT*. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as *MANY TIMES* as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to *ANYTHING* in real life.

Rule 9 : Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you *FIND YOURSELF*. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10 : Television is *NOT* real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11 : Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

ZL3 Buildathons; July 2010

School kids in Christchurch, Selwyn, Waimakariri and Banks Peninsula Districts were invited by the Christchurch City Council to join in the fun at three ZL3 Buildathons to be held during the July school holidays.

The aim was to spark an interest in electronics and amateur radio by guiding a youngster to build an electronic kitset. There was a strong demand for places with over three requests for each place.

The event was sponsored by the Christchurch City Council. NZART Radioscience Education Trust Inc, NZ Vintage Radio Society Christchurch, Christchurch Branches of NZART and CARDS for support of these events.

The morning of Saturday July 3rd started very frosty yet sunny but inside Kendal School Hall there was a warm buzz of activity as parents and Christchurch kids together began building their AM Radio Kitsets.

They were assisted by radio amateurs from local branches and 17 radio kitsets were completed, and with one exception, all worked first time. Our Chief Test Engineer Rory ZL3HB was quickly without a job; all he had to do was add a battery and switch on each finished radio to discover they all worked first time.

Jim ZL3AGS gave a mini-talk about his Pixie Man Transceiver (80m crystal controlled 250mW transceiver, a la Pixie II) and explained how he was brought into the world. Pixie Man really does transmit Morse code on the 80m amateur radio band with a Morse key built from Meccano set items. This was followed by an introduction to amateur radio and the main parts to an amateur radio transceiver by John Walker ZL3IB. Terry Carrell ZL3QL organised a display of the NZ built KiwiSat which many children found inspiring. A total of 43 people enjoyed the morning of friendly fun, community and learning.

An equally successful repeat of this event was held on Thursday 8th July and we were honoured by visit from local MP Mrs Nicky Wagner who showed a keen interest in the activities.

Special thanks are extended to all the radio amateurs from around Christchurch who gave up their mornings to help spark an interest in electronic construction and amateur radio. A global hobby that lasts a lifetime.

David W Searle ZL3DWS. <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz> and
<<http://sites.google.com/site/zl3buildathon/>>

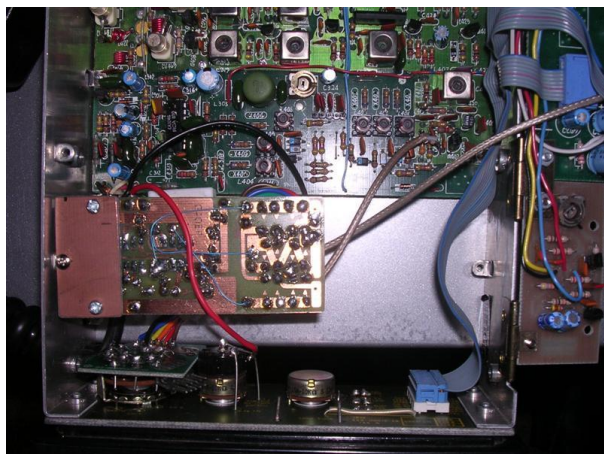
Tait 196 Transceiver Conversion

By Dave Bowie ZL4DRB

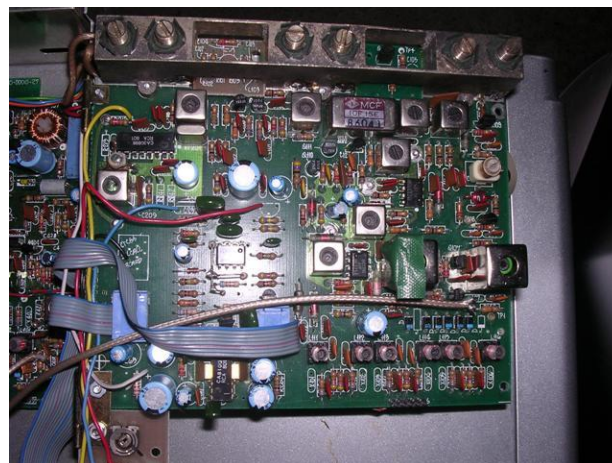
As discussed at the last club meeting a method of converting the Tait T196 UHF crystal-controlled transceiver to a programmable full coverage 70cm rig has been developed by Brian (ZL3BCO). This was documented in *Break In* Jan / Feb 2010 and Brian has now produced a kit. He will program an 8 pin PIC chip with 6 channels of your choice (More if you have more than a 6 way channel selector in your model.)

I obtained a kit from Brian and it worked with minimal fuss. Unfortunately my T196 was an old, undocumented model with a different circuit and board layout. However, with a bit of perseverance I unravelled both the Tx and Rx board and connected the ZL3BCO board and now have a 20 Watt rig back on the National System with good signal reports. If anyone wants to get their rig back on the air I would be happy to help. Brian has ordered more bits for kits as several other clubs have created projects for their members as well. (the kit can also convert T198 to 2 metre operation; the Otago branch has converted a number)

Cheers. Dave Bowie ZL4DRB



ZL3BCO board Tx Interface



ZL3BCO Rx Interface

HAMADS

Wanted. Audio Oscillators: currently seeking several audio oscillators. Valved, transistor, or integrated circuit; home-brew or factory made. Do not need to be working. Everything considered. David Searle <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz> 03 358 2424

HAMADs in QTC56 are a free service to members.

Send to John ZL3IB at < 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. 3rd 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:

14th July Programme to be announced.

General Meetings

27th July A film "*The Sun*". This National Geographic film explains all aspects of the sun's activities including sunspots, solar wind, radio emissions, etc. Well worth viewing.

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

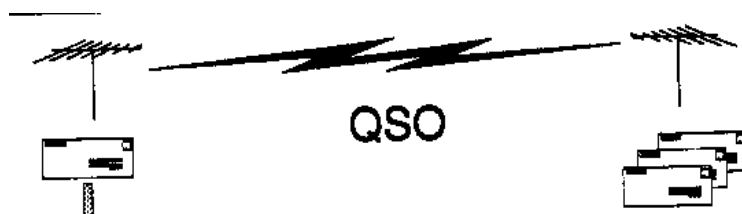
A reminder ; 2010 subs are due NOW

Interested in Old Radios?

The Christchurch section of the NZ Vintage Radio Society now meets 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