

**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**



**Official Newsletter**



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

**Simon Lewis ZL4PLM will talk on Beacons and a demonstration of the Icom IC9100 linked to an Icom IC9600**

***Visitors and guests most welcome***

***Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011***

**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,**

**PO Box 31 095, Ilam, Christchurch 8444.**

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

<b>Branch Officers</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>	Mark Carshalton	ZL3BA	322 4518
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Tyerman	ZL3IA	332 4885
<i>Committee</i>	Brent Officer	ZL3TUI	385 2742
	Denis Coulter	ZL3DEN	342 9013
	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	322 9961
	Blair Kendon	ZL3TOY	339 2967
	Mike Stubberfield	ZL3MJS	355 4501
	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>Branch Officials</b>			
<i>Free n'Easy Coordinator</i>	Baden Melhuish	ZL3VI	384 1584
<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; <carsh@xtra.co.nz >**

**# Newsletter editor <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz>**

**Annual subscription for 2011 is due NOW;**

**Individual \$50.00, Family \$55.00, Junior \$25.00**

**Treasurer's home address; 37A Penrith Ave, Chch 8002**

Subs can be direct credited to our Westpac Account No. 03 0802 0590356.

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

**Minutes of General Meeting of the Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club  
Tuesday 24th May, 2011.**

**Present:** Maurice McNab ZL3MEM, (Chairman), Mark Carshalton ZL3BA (Secretary) & 16 Members.

**Visitors:** Nil

**Apologies:** John Walker ZL3IB, Vee Stubberfield Z3TVS Ian Milne ZL3OF, Keith Stanton ZL3QH, Allan Chapman ZL3GX

**Matters Arising:** Nil

**Correspondence:** Inward; Various club newsletters were circulated to the Membership.  
Outward; Nil.

**Financial report:** PETER reported that the membership is currently 32 Financial and 25 non-Financial members giving us a total membership of 57 members.

Outgoings for the month \$23.39 for Supper supplies, \$72.98 for Paper Towels.

Received for the month: \$209.00 from the junk sale.

The Earthquake Insurance Excess fund is now standing at \$1300.00. Proposed and seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

**Classes Report:** Nil.

**General Business**

1) Brent opened general business by stating a group of 3 school children had lit a fire near the front door of the club rooms. Brent undertook to report this matter to the police. Police report No. 8188086-25/5/2011

2) The 2011 Remits.

12 NZART members attending the meeting. Mike Stubberfield tabled a proxy notice from Vee Stubberfield that entitled him to vote on her behalf. This gave a total of 13 paid up NZART members present.

**Remits 2011\*; Voting results**

No.		Remit	For	Against	Abstain	AGM; final voting
1	T	Constitutional	13	0	0	Carried
2	T	Constitutional	13	0	0	Lost
3	T	Constitutional	13	0	0	Lost
4	T	Constitutional	13	0	0	Lost
5	T	Constitutional	0	13	0	Lost
6	T	Constitutional	0	13	0	Lost
7	T	Constitutional	10	3	0	Lost
8	NT	Constitutional	0	13	0	Lost
9	NT	ARTANZ	0	13	0	Lost
10	NT	ARTANZ	0	13	0	Lost
11	T	Use of ZK prefix	11	1	1	Lost
12	T	Use of ZK prefix	12	1	0	Withdrawn
13	T	Use of ZK prefix	1	11	1	Withdrawn

\*Refer March/April *Break-In* 2011 for full details.

Delegate: Mike Stubberfield was confirmed as the club's delegate to the 2011 NZART AGM.

There was no further club business the floor was given over to Ian Forsyth.

20.34 hr

Signed:

President Christchurch West Radio Club Br56.

**Summary of Ian Forsyth's Lecture.**

Ian Forsyth was welcomed Secretary Mark ZL3BA as a fellow South African and had asked him to speak to the club when he heard Ian express an opinion that the Modius Operandi of the Pike River Mine Tragedy was correct. When asked why he knew this Ian started that he had spent several years as a Civil Defence Trainer with emphasis on Nuclear/Radiation emergencies

Ian introduced himself by stating that he started out his adult life as a chemical engineer and went on to explain that his entry into Civil Emergencies was in South Africa (RSA) where he was working at the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, Cape Town. It would appear that the RSA Gold mines had been exporting irradiated stainless steel to Europe. Unbeknown to mining engineers when you run uranium and gold slurry through stainless steel piping the conductor gets hot! One member asked why this had not been in the media. Ian explained that the demise of apartheid had a higher priority at the time. This episode took 18 months to resolve.

The question and answer session then went on to nuclear emergencies in general. Ian explained that Chernobyl disaster involved a design flaw in that the SCRAM rods were horizontally operated and when there was no electricity they don't work! The western-designed reactors' rods are positioned vertically and held in position by electro-magnets. When something goes wrong they just drop and shut down the reactor. Ian showed a deep understanding of the nuclear industry in general and was able to answer many questions concerning the world industry.

Ian also went through nuclear general safety these being Time, Shielding and Distance. Finally Ian was asked if NZ would be a candidate for nuclear power. He emphatically stated that NZ is at this stage is too small to have a nuclear power plant. The Three Mile Island power plant enjoys huge economies of scale in that it feeds electrical power to millions of consumers.

Ian was thanked in the traditional manner.

E&OE Mark.

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

At NZART Queen's Birthday Conference in Upper Hutt two of our branch members received commendations of note. Vice-president Maurice McNab ZL3MEM became a recipient of NZART Jumbo Award 2011 for his outstanding contribution to Branch 56 activities since becoming a member of the club. David Searle ZI3DWS/VK2DWS became the recipient of the Amateur of the Year Award for the tremendous results he achieved in his Buildathon projects. We convey our congratulations to both these members. The citations for these awards will be appearing in the August issue of *Break In*.

We have had some excellent news that KORDIA will not be charging NZART for the rental on their repeater sites, for the next 5 years. Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC and Otago Branch 30 are to be heartily congratulated for their by no means small involvement in bringing this about.

I am happy to report to members that it looks like we have in hand/or pledged the \$2000 we need to cover the insurance excess for repair of our earthquake damaged building. Bert ZL3ADL has kindly donated \$200 of the monies he received from the recent club sale of his equipment to the project. Many thanks to all the contributors. It's now going to be a month or two before the contractors for State Insurance do the repairs.

Don't forget to come to our next meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June when our Conference delegate will report on the voting on remits and other interesting conference happenings.

If you have any projects you have been working on please bring them along to our next meeting and show and tell. Likewise if you have had in great contacts on the air come along and tell us about them

Looking forward to meeting you all when I return from my extended overseas vacation in my absence Vice President Maurice ZL3MEM will be at the helm; – see you all in August

73

Keith ZL3QH Branch President

**Postscript**

David was contacted later that evening of Conference by Terry Carrell ZL3QL. Terry reported David was overwhelmed at the recognition of his work and has asked that this message of his thanks be sent to you all.

*Warm fraternal greetings from North Bondi, Sydney.*

*I was greatly surprised, yet proud, to learn that I had become NZART Amateur of the Year. Proud, because it acknowledges the success achieved by so many Canterbury radio amateurs and beyond, with the ZL3 Radio Buildathon project. Hundreds of Canterbury kids now know what amateur radio is, and which end of a hot soldering iron to grab to build a simple radio! So does mum and dad, school friends and all the others who would listen to a kid so proud that his or her first radio really works!*

*If we each share our enthusiasm for a great hobby with just one young person, their interest in radio, communicating and electronics could last a life time. When you return to your branch, wouldn't it be great to hold just one event each year when you invite the local kids, parents, anybody; to build something with your members. It's fun, it builds community and it could spark an interest that lasts a life time.*

*73's - have a great evening and a most successful conference.*

*David ZL3DWS / VK2DWS"*

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

Simon Lewis ZL4PLM will talk on Beacons and a demonstration of the Icom IC9100 linked to an Icom IC9600.

### **Free n'Easy**

The program this month is a DVD "Getting Steamed Up" with Fred Dibnah. If you have not seen Fred before, he is well worth watching. See you all there. Cheers de Baden ZL3VI.

### **HAMADS**

**For Sale.** Kenwood TS-530S 100W, 1.8 – 30 MHz, plus 2 (new) spare pairs of 6146 finals & 12BY7 drivers, Instruction Manual & Service Manual.

Home-brew Linear amplifier 300+ W, 2 x 813s in grounded-grid, plus 2 spare 813's (new) performance has been vetted by MED. Power supply 2500V.

Antenna tuning Unit,

HeathKit 50 Ohm, oil-filled dummy load, RF current metered.

Kenwood TR-7950, 2m FM transceiver 45W, 144 – 148.995 MHz

**For Sale** Brother AX-250 daisy-wheel typewriter; very useful for addressing envelopes and filling in forms. Any offers to John ZL3IB ph 3489 084 or <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz>.

**Wanted,** Ceramic coil formers suitable for winding valve tank coils. Denis ZL3DEN Ph. 342 9013.

**For Sale.** The Club has been given several sets of parts for Tait 186 PSUs (13.8 V, 7.5A cont). These include a hefty transformer, rectifier bridge, regulator PCB complete with mounted components etc. The PCB circuit info is available from Doug Pratt. To help club funds these are offered at \$25 each. Suitable cases are also available.

Matching pairs of brand new, 70mm square 25V and 25A meters (RS #313-558) \$25 per pair, also new SEW MR-56 square 1mA meters; (new cost \$22 ea) \$10 each. Offers invited. Contact John ZL3IB ph 3489 084 or <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz>.

**HAMADS** in QTC56 are a free service to members.

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

### **The Doctor is in: Pacemakers and RF**

*(Reprinted from "The Doctor Is IN", QST)*

Schley Cox W4AMW, of Owensboro, Kentucky, told the Doctor that he's headed to see the cardiologist next week about a pacemaker. He's already started researching their use around RF and says he is happy to go all low power (QRP), if that's what's called for. Schley mentioned that he might also be able to operate his rig remotely; perhaps 20 ft away, but he needs to know how to measure stray RF in the shack itself. Here's what the Doctor had to say:

‘I haven't received actual reports of any pacemaker problems and that seems to go along with the info on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/pacemaker>.>

Note that there are no power levels (or field strength) limits noted there, nor have I found any on manufacturers' Web sites. Thus knowing the actual field strength level in the station may not help. If it were me, I would start by talking to my physician. She won't be able to give you power limits, but perhaps could indicate symptoms to watch for while on the air so you could take appropriate action quickly if called for.

I would start with a careful RF safety evaluation, as required by the FCC anyway. While the FCC guidelines were not based on pacemaker interference, they should result in a reasonably safe environment. If your station is properly set up; without common mode feed line current, for example, most radiation should surround the antenna and there should not be much RF within the shack.

Calibrated RF field strength meters are available, but are quite expensive. Relative measurement is pretty easy; look at any recent *ARRL Handbook*. If you had a simple field strength meter running at all times in the station (I'm thinking of the diode and microammeter type that doesn't require power), you could see if anything changed, and diagnose and repair as needed.’

Thanks Doctor!

### **Soldering iron cleaner**

A honey pottle, a cable tie and bit of rag make this simple device to clean the tip of a hot soldering iron .Put an inch of water in the pottle, and the rag over the rim will always be wet and ready to wipe the iron on .Works a treat; I have been using one of these for a long time .

73, Brian ZL4PN

## Calendar for 2011

**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
	9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12	9	14

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

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

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
26	22	22	26	24	28	26	30	27	25	22	

### **Free & Easy:**

8<sup>th</sup> June Usual meeting. Program; DVD "Getting Steamed Up" with Fred Dibnah.  
73 de Baden, ZL3VI.

### **General Meetings**

28<sup>th</sup> June Simon Lewis ZL4PLM will talk on Beacons.

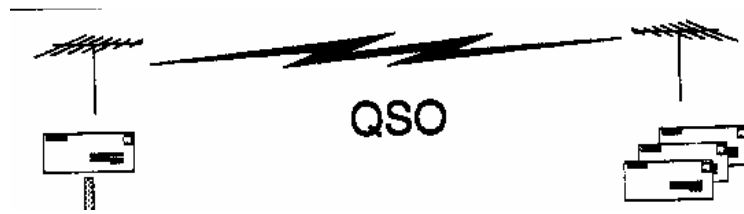
*Your committee welcomes suggestions for topics and/or offers of talks for Branch meetings.*

### **Interested in Old Radios?**

The Christchurch section of the NZ Vintage Radio Society now 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 John Dodgshun <dodgshun@ihug.co.nz> for more information.

**Next meeting;** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July. 0930hr at the clubrooms.

# QTC56



**Monthly Newsletter**

**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

**NZART Branch 56**