

**Christchurch West Amateur
Radio Club Inc.**



Official Newsletter

**Q
T
C

5
6**



What's on at the next meeting?"

**Mike Head, Systems Manager,
Tait Communications Solutions will talk to us
about the new Tait APCO Project 25**

Visitors and guests most welcome

Tuesday 23rd June 2009

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

<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
<i>Committee</i>	Brent Officer	ZL3TUI	385 2742
	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 26th May 2009**

Present: Baden ZL3VI (Chairman), Doug ZL2BCF (Secretary), 18 members and guests.

Visitors:

Apologies: Peter ZL3IA.

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

Matters arising: John has obtained the aluminium for the Rotator bracket repair when weather permits the mast will be lowered so measurements can be made.

Correspondence

Inward: Meridian re installation of SMART meter.

Newsletters: From branches 68 & 05. WIA magazine thanks to Keith ZL3QH.

Outward: Nil.

Financial: 32 Financial members. Payments; Insurance excess for window repair \$250, Super Combined Branches \$34.30, Cleaning Supplies \$64.80.

Free and Easy report: May meeting David ZL3DWS gave a presentation on Buildathon.

June will be a talk by Bert ZL3ADL and John ZL3IB on radio astronomy.

Classes Report: Nil.

General Business:

- 1 More windows were broken during the month. John advised the police, the cost of replacement with polycarbonate is \$537, some of which should be covered by insurance.
- 2 A proposal was put to the meeting that "Branch 56 of NZART requests a grant of \$2550 from the Eureka Trust to replace the glass windows in our clubrooms with polycarbonate". John offered to prepare the grant application.
- 3 The club supported David's request for the club on behalf ZL3 Buildathon to apply to the Christchurch City Council for funding not exceeding \$5000 to run a number of Buildathons over the next 12 months. (John, / Maurice).
- 4 Maurice has proposed that in about 6 months he open club once a month to encourage youth into amateur radio, the committee will discuss this idea further and report back to the membership.
- 5 Mike ZL3TMB reported on issues with the 5625 repeater.
- 6 Ross Weir handed the club a 28 metre power cable donated by Jim ZL3QI. The club is thankful to Jim for the extension and to Ross for testing and certifying the cable.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 1950.

Program

Anna Douglas, supported by Lorne ZL3AHB, gave the club a very interesting presentation on the recent ARISS contact at Cotswold school. The presentation included audio from the contact and PowerPoint showing the contact and other activities of the schools electronics club including construction activities and their radio station.

EO&E

Free and Easy

At our meeting on the 13th of May our guest speaker was David ZL3DWS who gave us a Power Point presentation of the Buildathon Group; its progress to date and future projections. This was a very interesting talk and was well received by the members of the audience, a great number of questions were fielded in response. I thanked David and stated it was incumbent on us all to give full support to this project. It is heartening that as a result more volunteers have come forward to assist.

Our next meeting on the 10th of June is a shared presentation between John ZL3IB and Bert ZL3ADL celebrating the International Year of Astronomy and coinciding with the 40th year of Man On The Moon. There will be static displays in support of the afternoon presentation.

If you are free that afternoon please come and join us for a very worthwhile meeting. Commencing at 1330 hr at our clubrooms in Auburn Reserve, everybody most welcome.

73s Graeme ZL3JO

Whats on at the next meeting ?

Mike Head, Systems Manager, Tait Communications Solutions will talk to us about the new APCO Project 25.

The topics he will cover include:-

- Who is Tait ?
- Development roadmap
- APCO Project 25
- (Long live) analogue radio
- Base station reciter architecture

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

For Sale. Hedge trimmer attachment to fit Black & Decker drill; \$5. Contact John ZL3IB phone 3489 084 or <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz >

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

HAMADS in QTC56 are a free service to members.
Send to John ZL3IB at < john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz >.

Wanted; Assistant/Deputy Editor for *Break-In*

Are you interested in assisting with the publication of *Break-In* ? We are seeking someone to assist the editor with the pre-printing stages of editing and preparation of copy. Some understanding of word processing is desirable.

If anyone is interested and/or willing to assist would they please contact me, phone 348 9084 or email <john.zl3ib@ihug.co.nz>. A small honorarium is payable.

Computers; masculine or feminine?

A language instructor was explaining to her class that in French, nouns unlike their English counterparts, are grammatically designated as masculine or feminine for example; "house," in French, is feminine-"la maison." "pencil," in French, is masculine-"le crayon."

One puzzled student asked, "What gender is computer?" The teacher did not know, and the word wasn't in her French dictionary. So for fun she split the class into two groups appropriately enough, by gender and asked them to decide whether "computer" should be a masculine or feminine noun.

Both groups were required to give four reasons for their recommendation.

The men's group decided that computers should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computer"), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible later retrieval
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine ("le computer"), because:

1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but they are still clueless
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they *ARE* the problem
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you'd waited a little longer, you could have got a better model.

Handy Hint; Determining the Impedance of Coaxial Cable

What is the impedance of that spare length of coax lying around the shack;50 or 75 ohm? Recently this question of coax identity caused problems for Branch 56's antenna system.

An easy way of distinguishing the two types is by measuring their capacitance per unit length since this is significantly different for each type of cable. Typically, the capacitance of 50 ohm cable is usually between 90-100 pF/m whereas that of 75 ohm cable is around 65-72 pF/m. So, all you need to do is measure the capacitance and length of your unknown cable, do some simple arithmetic and 'Hey Presto' there you are. You can use a dip oscillator to measure capacitance but a simple analogue or digital capacitance meter is easier and circuits for these have appeared in past issues of '*Break-In*'.

The following table summarises the properties of the main types of coaxial cables.

Cable type	Outside diameter (mm)	Capacitance (pF/metre)	Impedance (nominal)	Velocity factor (%)	Power rating (kW@10MHz)
RG8, UR67	10.3	97 -99	50 - 52	66 - 67	3.5
RG58, UR43	5.0	94 -100	52	66 - 77	1.0
RG174	2.8	101	50	66	
RG11, UR57	10.3	67 - 68	75	66	2.5
RG59, UR90	5.0	65 - 70	75	66	1.2

by John Walker ZL3IB

Handy Hint; Hot-melt glue in the ham shack.

A hot-melt glue gun is very useful in the ham shack. I have found a drop of hot-melt glue ideal for holding coil windings in place and recently used this trick when winding some toroidal coils. Its rapid-setting properties saves a lot of time. If you make a mistake you can melt the glue with a hot-air blower (eg a paint stripper gun).

John Walker ZL3IB

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:

10th June International Year of Astronomy. "Man on the Moon; 40th Anniversary".
A presentation by Bert Wise ZL3ADL and John Walker ZL3IB

General Meetings

23rd June Mike Head, Systems Manager, Tait Communications Solutions will talk to us
about the new Tait APCO Project 25

28th July Tony ZL3HAM "Kit Building and Home-brewing"

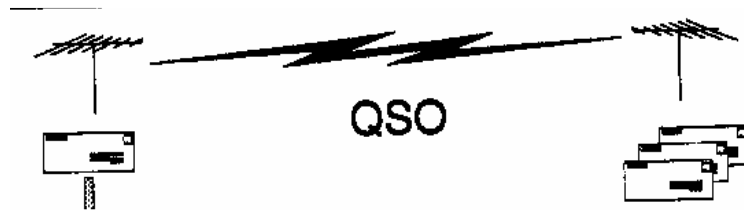
25th Aug David Holland talking about Syft; the company he works for and the
technology they develop.

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