

**Christchurch West Amateur
Radio Club Inc.**

Official Newsletter



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What's on at the next meeting?"

Anna and Lorne Douglas (ZL2AHB) will give a presentation on the ARISS Telebridge Contact with Cotswold Primary School.

Visitors and guests most welcome

26th May 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 28th April 2009**

Present: Baden ZL3VI (Chairman), John ZL3IB (Acting-Secretary), 15 members and guests

Visitors:

Apologies: ZL2BCF, ZL3QH, ZL3MJS, and ZL3SJ.

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

Matters arising: Nil

Correspondence

Inward: NZART Branch circular. Horace Longson; resignation. Meridian re installation of SMART meter.

Newsletters: From branches 68 & 05. *Break-In* .

Outward: Nil.

Financial: 30 Financial members. Payments; Birchfield glass \$82, Stamps \$50, Meridian 150, QTC56 \$14, spouting \$56.

Free and Easy report: April meeting. Graeme ZL3JO demonstrated and explained range of DVD, TV connectors. Keith Lyon ZL3AIH gave PPT presentation on production of Sunday 2m Net ATV program.

Classes Report: Nil.

General Business:

- 1 Antennas. The rotator has been measured and Mike is to mill a bracket if one from an existing rotator cannot be found locally. John reported acquisition of suitable aluminium stock.
- 2 Outside lighting for rear of club rooms; flood light purchased and installed.
- 3 Spouting on NW corner of building; modified and re-installed.
- 4 Certificates of Appreciation awarded to David Searle ZL3DWS for organising Buildathons and to Ron Rowlands ZL3AIV for general services to Branch56.
- 5 Life membership; President Baden ZL3VI presented Life Membership badge to John ZL3IB.

Remits Remit 1 Transmitting; , Branch 05. *That the National System ceases nightly forwarding of BBS data.*

Remit 2 Transmitting; Branch 05. *That 144.65 be recognised as the National APRS and data frequency.*

Remit 3. Transmitting; *That in NZART Constitution Clause 7.3c the words" but not admit to membership any person who holds a NZ Amateur Station Licence unless those persons are members of the Association", be removed.*

Voting

Remit	For	Against	Abstain
1	11	Nil	Nil
2	11	Nil	Nil
2	10	Nil	1

The formal part of the meeting closed at 2015.

Program

Mike Barnes ZL3TMB gave a talk and demonstration of several computer programs of potential interest to radio amateurs. These included VOIP, Skype and various forms of the Linux operating system. The many questions showed the members' interest in, and Mike's thorough knowledge, of those topics.

EO&E

Free and Easy

Our last meeting's topics were shared between Keith ZL3AHL and myself. Keith gave us a behind scenes look at the equipment used for the presentation of the Christchurch VHF Sunday night Net for ATV. This proved to be most interesting and Keith has gone to considerable time and effort to ensure continuity as each region makes their contribution to the broadcast. This was enjoyed by the meeting and gave us all an insight as to what transpires behind the scenes.

I spoke briefly on DVD recorders, types of discs used, and on the various methods of connecting these units to a TV or other devices. Variations discussed were A/V, S, and SCART which until recently was the European standard and used in many parts of the World. I thanked Keith for his presentation and the meeting responded warmly to him.

At our next meeting the guest will be David Searle ZL3DWS who will be talking about "Buildathon" and its future projections. With falling numbers of members in our fraternity it is incumbent on us all to get behind this project. If you are free on the afternoon of the 13th commencing 1330 hr please come along and join us, everybody most welcome

73. Graeme Johnstone ZL3JO

What's on at the next meeting?

Anna and Lorne Douglas (ZL2AHB) will give a presentation on the ARISS Telebridge Contact with Cotswold Primary School including the application and notification process, what happened on the day, the follow-up requirements, media coverage and the difficulties of arranging ARISS contacts here and Australia given that the ISS works to UTC time.

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

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.

Mike's Computer Corner.

Linux Alternatives

Puppy Linux :- For those of you with an older PC, that you may have retired because it's not fast enough, you might want to try Puppy Linux. This is a 100Mb download that can be found at <http://www.puppylinux.org/>; this will give that old PC a new lease on life. You can try it out with your current computer, as it runs totally from the CD. This could allow you to reply to an email, via web mail if your Computer has crashed. It also can be good to recover important files so you can get you windows operating again.

Ubuntu:- This is an alternative to your current windows operating system, like Puppy Linux above it will run totally from the CD. So you can have a play without installing anything. For those of you that do install it, it runs very fast and includes word processor, spreadsheet management, graphics programs. Applications that you may pay hundreds of dollars to buy from Microsoft, an alternative option is available free with Ununtu. Go to <http://www.ubuntu.com/> for the latest version; it's a 700Mb download. So be careful you don't use up your broadband limit just downloading this, Dial up uses forget it, it may take days to download.

I'm happy to burn a CD for you, \$2.00 for club funds.

Keep your Windows clean

Anti-virus programs:- Everyone who has a PC connected to the internet *MUST* have an antivirus & anti-malware program(s), some programs combine both these. There are a number of free antivirus programs on the net, But be careful there are some that do more harm than good. I generally stick with the main stream brands. My current favourite anti-virus program is Avast <http://www.avast.com/eng/home-registration.php>; you'll need to register, but it's free!

AVG is another good free version <http://free.avg.com/download-avg-anti-virus-free-edition>. The pro version is worth the money too.

Anti-Malware:- Malware is slightly newer type of bug that invests your machine, some of these will send the hackers your passwords via key loggers, or allow the hackers to takeover your PC, allowing them to use *YOUR* machine to do the naughty stuff. Hence the police tack down you not them! Download this program to check your PC at <http://www.malwarebytes.org/>.

Firewall:- Check your windows firewall is enabled minimum! [Start-Control Panel-Windows Fire wall, ensure there is a dot next to "on (Recommended)" if you want to keep your machine really secure the go to <http://www.zonealarm.com/> These guys sell a great product; at \$US59.95 it's expensive but it works, it locks down your whole PC. But it's not for internet newbie's as it asks some hard questions during setup & while it runs but I think it works very well.

Have some fun

Google maps:- This site has a relatively new function called 'Street view'. Go to <http://maps.google.co.nz/>. Type in your address in the search box. Then click "Street view" on the pop up box. You'll be amazed at the pictures of your street and property. Now take a virtual tour to Paris!

Wises maps:- Not quite the same graphic functions as Google but still a great site for mapping and getting directions from your house to another place (same as Google-maps above), best of all it tells you how far it is by road. Try out <http://www.wises.co.nz/>. It's almost time to burn those old paper maps, just print the one you need.

Keep safe on the net.

73. Mike ZL3TMB

ZL3 Buildathon celebrates World Amateur Radio Day

April 18th was World Amateur Radio Day and it was celebrated in Christchurch with the 2nd ZL3 Buildathon held at Kendal School. The Radio Science Trust and contributions from each NZART Branch made it all possible, to whom grateful thanks is extended.

This event differed from the first in that the general public as well as hams were encouraged to join in the fun. You might have heard the community noticeboard announcements on Radio Ferrymead for example.

More than 20 hams from Branches 05, 56 and 68 willingly gave up their Saturday morning to ensure that 30 mums, dads and children (most aged 8-11 years) got their Broadcast AM radio kits working first time. 17 or so radios were built and Rory Deans ZL3HB was in much demand toward the end of the morning.

It was an honour to welcome Ivan who at 81 was our oldest builder. The youngest was eight. Although not a ham, nor interested in obtaining a ticket, Ivan is currently working hard to learn Morse code, thanks to the support of Lorne ZL3AHB. What an inspiration!

Suprisingly the Buildathon brought together two old radio friends who last met some 51 years ago in Invercargill when they were just starting out with young families. I'm referring to Keith ZL3QH and the Rev. Frank Glen who co-ordinates the NZ Radio DX League meetings in Christchurch and is a most experienced DX'er. Later this year Frank hopes to sit his amateur ticket.

To read more about the April 2009 Buildathon project please visit <<http://sites.google.com/site/zl3buildathon/>> There you will find photos of the latest event, plus at the foot of the home page you can download a recent BBC London interview about World Amateur Day and Amateur Radio generally (mp3 file format 3MB).

Ideas and suggestions for the next ZL3 Buildathon project are most welcome. Please contact David W Searle <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz>. 03 358 9776



"Bert ZL3ADL shows Frank Glen how to put together his first AM radio kit"

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:

13th May David Searle ZL3DWS will be talking about "Buildathon" and its future projections.

General Meetings

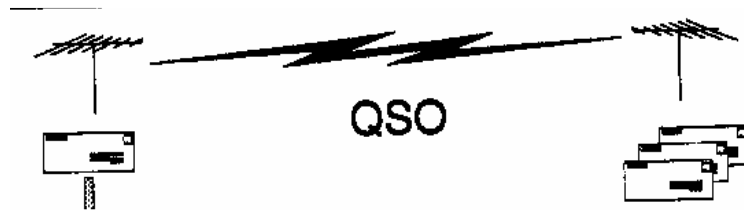
26th May Anna and Lorne Douglas (ZL2AHB) will give a presentation on the ARISS Telebridge Contact with Cotswold Primary School.

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