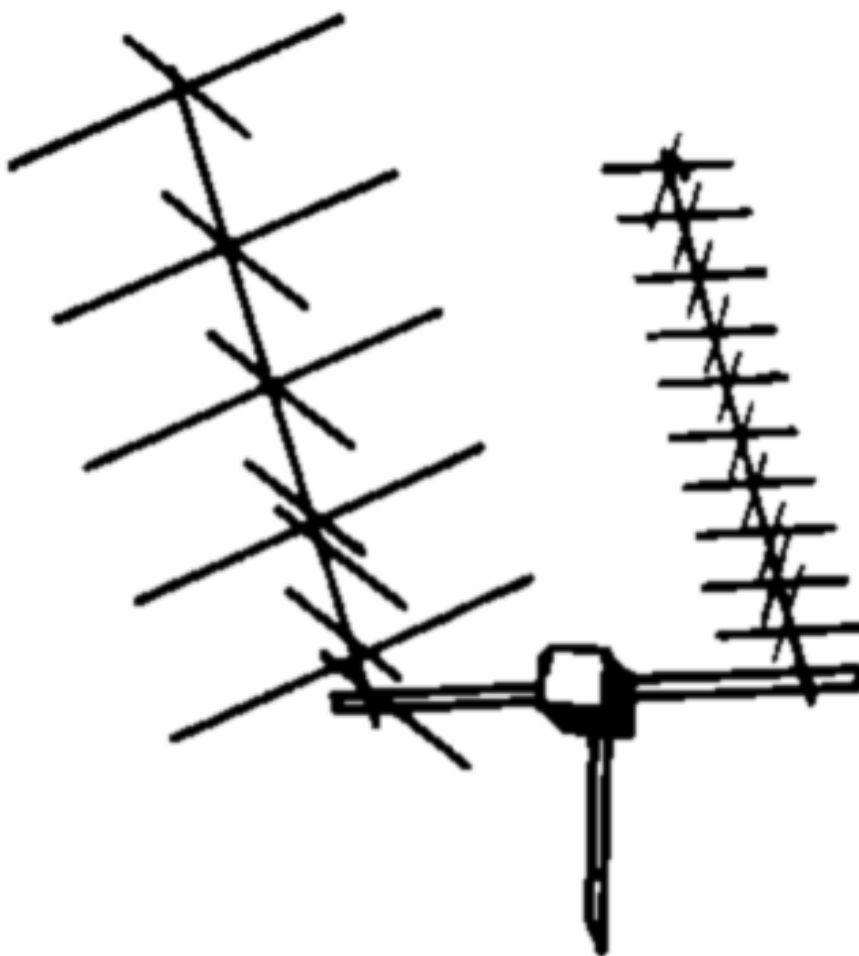


Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.
NZART Branch 56
Official Newsletter



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What's on at the next meeting?

Simon Lewis ZL4PLM will talk to us on

"Building Hi-Performance VHF & UHF Yagi antennas."

Visitors and guests most welcome

Tuesday 22nd Nov 2011

Visit the Br 56 web page; <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

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>	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
Branch Officials			
<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	322 9961

***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 Monthly General Meeting of the Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club.
General Meeting of the Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club.
Tuesday 25th Oct, 2011.**

The Chairman opened the proceedings with a welcoming address.

Present: Keith Stanton ZL3QH, (In the Chair), Mark Carshalton ZL3BA (Secretary) & 16 members.

Visitors: Nil

Apologies: Eion Gibson ZL3AG, John Walker ZI3IB, Allen Chapman ZI3GX, Mike Duncan

Minutes: The minutes having been published in QTC it was proposed that the minutes be confirmed for the Monthly General Meeting dated 27th Sept, 2011. Maurice McNab: Proposed Malcolm Gordon 2nded.

Matters Arising: The contracted builder is to undertake repairs of the shortly. We are still waiting for EQC to make a decisions concerning our Club Rooms.
The pathway has been cleared and graffiti removed.

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

Financial report: Peter reported that the club membership is currently at 48 Financial and 2 non-Financial members. The Treasurer will be contacting these members to see if they wish to remain members..

Out going Expenses \$400.00 Meridian Power Bill. \$250.00 Building Insurance Excess.

The excessive power bill was discussed.

Brett Officer proposed Mike Stubberfield 2nded that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Classes Report:

Nil.

General Business:

1) Maurice McNabb stated that there will be a Buildathon in November at Merris School. He called for volunteer helpers.

2) Maurice gave some stats for the Tuesday radio Shack activities. These have been 261 contacts and eQSL cards. 52 countries have been worked.

3) The Chairman asked how many members would like a Christmas gathering. By a show hands a half the members expressed their interest in attending an Xmas gathering.

Next Meeting; The Chairman stated that the next meeting will be Simon Lewis talking to us on High performance VHF/UHF Yagi antennas.

There was no further club business.

Meeting closed at 20.00 hr

Summary of Mark Sullivan's Lecture "The (not so) Black art of DXing".

This was another interesting lecture about a different activity with in our hobby; DXing as espoused by Mark Sullivan ZL3AB.

Mark opened the lecture by describing a DXer. This apparently is a human normally male living in the dark with dull glowing lights smelling of BO and scaring children!! So saying this aspect of the art can be further broken down into few more categories-Namely CW mode in the HF bands trying to achieve long distance signals. One can so strive for new countries or have conversations with like minded operators around the world.

The biggest element in this art is the antenna. Wet string will not work and very efficient antennas is what is required. The way to go is a Yagi but there are a whole host of other aerials. Every thing from wire to verticals.

Mark stated that a very dedicated DXer will have two VFOs attached to his radio unit for split working and this needs to be a very good rig. This is not the latest and most expensive but a unit that has a reputation of getting signals out of the ether. The DXers

Location will help tremendously especially if you are an island in the Red Zone with no plasma TVs and noisy computers or on a farm miles from a city.

Mark then went to explain the various modes bands and Powers. There are those who feel that very low power unit is best i.e. QRP radio and other units with huge amplifiers.

Finally Mark spoke of the various techniques that allow for successful DXing. These include Grayline, HF Beacons listening and learning what the sun is up to as the Solar Flux.

This I found a very informative talk. As Mark said you can DX if you wish or stay out of and listen to the traffic.

Keith thanked Mark and we gave Mark a big round of applause. Mark's final word- "Do something you never have done before in Amateur Radio this coming year!"

E&OE. Mark

What's on at the next meeting ?

Simon Lewis ZL4PLM talking on High performance

VHF/UHF Yagi antennas.

From the pen of your President

With the repairs to the fire damage completed our clubrooms building is looking really good and tidy just in time for us to celebrate Christmas.

Planning is underway for our end of year function for club members and their spouses to be held at the clubrooms at 7.30pm on Tuesday 22nd December. Juice, tea and coffee will be provided anything else BYO. We invite you to come along and enjoy a bit of fellowship together. A board will circulate at the next club meeting to ascertain numbers attending – If you are not able attend our club meeting on Tuesday 22nd November please RSVP by phoning Margaret or myself on 358 4108. This will be an opportunity for us all to relax and put the woes of 2011 behind us.

It's great to hear that Vice-President Maurice ZL3MEM is underway with planning another Buildathon to be held at Merrin School on 20th November commencing at 12.45pm. Maurice is looking for a few helpers on the day if you can assist please contact him on phone 327 3710.

Last month's speaker Mark Sullivan's ZL3AB gave us a great talk on the 'The not so black art of DXing'. This will no doubt have aroused interest in the most important aid to good DXing – the Antenna. On 22nd November our speaker at the club meeting will be NZART Councillor Simon Lewis ZL4PLM talking on 'Hy Gain Antennas'. Don't miss out on this exciting talk

Our first factory visit is being planned for sometime in February; dates and place still to be firmed up. The club's AGM comes up at our branch meeting on 28th February 2012; we will be shortly being calling for nominations for committee etc. Your committee also have some very interesting speakers coming up on our programme. Watch this space.

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

73

Keith ZL3QH Branch President

Silent Key

Eion Gibson ZL3AG; 1951-2011

It is with great sadness I report that a long time and very good friend Eion Gibson ZL3AG became a silent key on Tuesday 26th October 2011.

First Licenced September 1966 at age of 15. Previous call-signs included ZL3TDI, ZL3HU, ZL4AR, ZL2SL, ZL3MN lastly ZL3AG. ast call-signs, ZL3TDI, ZL3HU, ZL4AR, ZL2SL, ZL3MN, now ZL3AG. He was active from the following locations: Timaru 1967-1977, Dunedin 1977-1979, Wellington 1979-1986 (Makara Radio, a government HF receiving station, now closed.), Timaru 1986-1998, Christchurch 1998 to date. Member of NXZART since 1967 and OTC No.1052

I first met Eion at the South Canterbury Amateur Radio Club which I joined around the time I received my amateur radio call-sign. Eion was a talented person who was a very helpful and active amateur radio operator. Over the years Eion tested and “peaked up” many local hams’ receivers including my FT200 and installed a “hot” front end receiving valve in my Trio 9R 59 communications receiver; also various local 2m repeaters

Eion enjoyed HF. He never had an HF beam; but successfully used homemade wire antennas, which were of a special interest to him and he was particularly proud of his G5RV complete with baluns. The G5RV was first set up and trimmed in Timaru, but he set it up again when he shifted to Christchurch, altered, tested and then put it back to the same configuration as it was in Timaru. A box where the ribbon section terminated contained relays that were controlled from the shack which controlled tuning coils etc. This enabled the antenna to be more versatile and could be used on 160m etc. Eion also constructed appropriate antenna baluns for himself and others and would help other hams to erect their pole and towers etc His own shack was neat, very ordered and uncluttered.

Not only did Eion help individual amateur radio operators, he was also responsible for the design/development of the Newton low pass filter. He also wound and identified the coils which were then used by club members at the club rooms for assembling the filters. Many were sold and an article in the *Electronics Australia* magazine featured the filter and how to build it. During the last 13 years or so Eion became very active in establishing/upgrading amateur radio repeaters.

Eion often attended the NZART conferences. On the trip there and back Eion was to the fore with his comments about what was happening, or not happening, much to the entertainment of the fellow ham travellers. During the conference he was often with the Canterbury group who usually were the last to leave the venue.

Eion was involved with radio at his place of work which included BCNZ, Post Office radio department, Tait Radio Commutations and lately he was employed by the NZ Police for the installation of their new radio system.

We extend our sympathy to Eion’s family and partner.

Starr Moffatt ZL3CU

_ *The Merrin School Fair and Family Fun Day 11am to 3:00pm* _

Venue: Merrin School Science/Technology room for the ZL3 Buildathon
Date : 20th November 2011
Time: 12:45pm – 3 pm ./ZL3 Radio Buildathon

73

Maurice ZL3MEM

HAMADS

For Sale Pentax K1000 camera, Soligor zoom lens 30 -200mm. Olympus C375 digital camera. 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 >.

Membership

*Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented your name is on the list?
Do you attend meetings and mingle with the flock
Or do you stay at home and criticise and knock?
Do you take an active part to help the work along
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?
Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick
Or leave the work to just a few, and moan about the clique?
Don't just be a member, but take an active part,
Come to every meeting and help with hand and heart.
Think this over, member, you know right from wrong
Are you an active member; or do you just belong?*

Anon

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. 3rd 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	9	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	23	27	25	22	

Free & Easy:

9th Nov Usual meeting. Program ??
73 de Baden, ZL3VI.

General Meetings

22nd Nov Simon Lewis ZL4PLM will talk to us on building Hi-Performance VHF & UHF Yagi antennas.

13th December End of year function for club members and their spouses at the clubrooms at 7.30pm.

Jan 31st 2012. This meeting is on the *LAST* Tuesday of the month. To date nothing has been planned; any offers?

Feb, 28th 2012. **AGM** followed by John Walker ZL3IB will show a PowerPoint presentation on Build It Yourself test gear".

20th Nov Merrin School Fair and Family Fun Day; 11am to 3:00pm.
ZL3 Buildathon 12:45pm – 3 pm

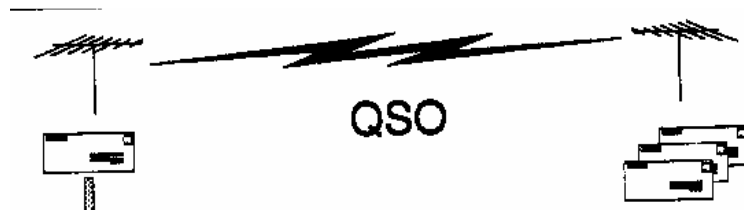
Your committee welcomes suggestions for topics and/or offers of talks for Branch meetings.

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 second Saturday of the month. If you are interested please contact John Dodgshun <dodgshun@ihug.co.nz> for more information.

Next meeting: Sat 20th Nov at Br56 clubrooms.

QTC56



Monthly Newsletter

Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.

NZART Branch 56