

# **Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**



## **Official Newsletter**



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

*. 'The not so black art of DXing'; presented by*

*Mark Sullivan ZL3AB*

***Visitors and guests most welcome***

***Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 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
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	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
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<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. Tuesday 27th Sept, 2011.

The Chairman opened the proceedings with a welcoming address and a special welcome for the Fellows Family.

**Present:** Keith Stanton ZL3QH, (Chair), Mark Carshalton ZL3BA (Secretary) & 23 Members.

**Visitors:** Toney Kaswell of Aus., Mrs Loraine Fellows and Thomas ZL3PSG, Richard Smart ZL3FZ

**Apologies:** Maurice McNabb ZL3MEM,

**Minutes:** The minutes having been published in QTC it was proposed that the minutes be confirmed for the Monthly General Meeting dated 23rd Aug., 2011. John Walker Proposed Brent Officer 2nded.

**Matters Arising:** Nil

Correspondence: Inward; Various club newsletters were circulated to the membership these being Rag Chew, Hamlarks and others.

**Outward:** Nil.

**Financial report:** Peter reported that the club membership is currently at 46 Financial and a very few non-Financial members giving us a total membership of around 51 members. Peter stated some resignations had been received and these need to be reconciled.

Out going Expenses \$51.90 Newsletter distribution, \$17.50 Supper supplies.

Brett Officer Proposed John Walker 2nded that the Treasures report be accepted.

**Classes Report:** Nil.

**General Business:** The Chairman then referred briefly to issues concerning the Club:

- 1) Building Repairs. With the incident of a motor cycle theft and the fire damage it caused to the Club Rooms, on going negotiations are being undertaken with our Insurers. Earth quake damage is also being sorted out.
- 2) The collapsed tree outside our rooms has been removed.

**Presentation;** The Chairman then called meeting to order and announced that the Club has the Honour of presenting Thomas Fellows ZL3PSG with the NZART Youth Achievement Award 2011. Thomas attained very close to 100% for his Amateur exam. Thomas has also been granted year's Honorary Membership to the Club.

There was no further club business the Meeting closed at 20.05 hrs



### Summary of Richard Smart's Lecture.

Mark Carshalton ZL3BA was given the honour of introducing Richard Smart ZL3FZ to the membership of the Club. Richard has taken on the leadership role of Christchurch's Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) that operates out of Branch 05.

I had asked Richard if he could present to the Club a lecture of the AREC's involvement with the February 2011 Earthquake Event. This lecture turned out to be extremely interesting Power Point presentation.

Richard opened the talk with a collage of very peaceful scenes from the wrecked Christchurch CBD. He then asked our opinion of the video clips then he showed a clip of the actual event; a very striking video clip. It was at this scene that AREC became involved. Through good fortune the AREC communication vehicles were very quickly deployed and the first deployment was a stand-by affair. It was the second deployment that the AREC started to work. This was the Daihatsu Communication vehicle at the Ellesley flower show venue. The Daihatsu was used to establish and maintain communications with the Earthquake Event control (Civil Defence at the Christchurch Art Centre) and two refugee centres helping sort out sleeping arrangements that first night.

Richard stated that there were 600 displaced persons in the CBD. These were people, who did not live in Christchurch, had no Hotel to go to, no Documentation as these were abandoned in the various City Hotels.

The crews at the Daihatsu undertook to do little things for various people. For example charging a Foreign government's representative's cell phone. Several times text messaging relatives world wide advising them that they were OK.

As the emergency moved through the various phases so the tasking became more comprehensive until finally they were tasked to provide radio coverage for the Land Search and Rescue (LandSARS) teams that covered what is now the green zone. This task was to check on as many people as possible, to assure them that they were not forgotten and to assist if required and see that they were OK.

This operation lasted 10 days and certainly broke all the records. It was New Zealand's largest deployment of the military, civil defence, Urban SARS & Land SARS and AREC! Richard explained that a lot of lessons were learned and these were being reviewed and brought into use for future deployments and exercises.

Richard has given this lecture to most of the Canterbury Radio clubs and further field. At our last Combined Branches Meeting every Chairman stated that Richard's lecture had been the most interesting. I can only concur. To date this has been the most interesting lecture.

Thank-you Richard. Keith thanked Richard and we gave Richard a big round of applause.

E&OE. Mark

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

**'The not so black art of DXing'; presented by Mark Sullivan ZL3AB**

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

We have done it again. Yes this time it's our website <[www.radioamateurs.org.nz](http://www.radioamateurs.org.nz)>. 82 454 people have visited our website in the last 12 months, 484 in the last 5 days. One of the things that make a website successful is by continuously updating of the information on it. If you haven't visited the site recently then take time out to do so. There are some interesting new items on the 'news and events page'. If you have some news to tell us and the world do send me an email <[keith@webstyle.co.nz](mailto:keith@webstyle.co.nz)> and I will see the site gets updated.

If you are interesting of learning all about the art of DXing then don't miss Mark Sullivan ZL3AB's talk '*The not so black art of DXing*' coming up at this month's club meeting on Tues 25<sup>th</sup> October. Making an overseas contact on say 20 metres can be a bit daunting if you haven't done it before. Mark will tell you how to go about it and what will make those DX contacts real exciting. Be sure to be present; visitors always welcome.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> October Bates Building, the State Insurance repairer, will be making good the fire

damage done by the arsonist about a month ago. I am hopeful that the glass in 3 windows at the back corner will be replaced with polycarbonate. As your committee had doing this on their long term agenda it will be a big saving for us if the insurance does it at their cost now. The total cost of these repairs to the Insurance Company is \$2850.

You will notice the path into the clubrooms is now free from leaves thus making it a lot safer to walk on in the dark. The building also is looking pretty smart now that the graffiti has been removed. We will have to wait until the strong earthquake aftershocks abate before the insurance company does the repairs to the building.

Your committee is organising some factory visits in the months ahead to supplement our monthly club meetings. We 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

#### **Handy hints; Soldering taps onto a coil**

[This Hint from Bob Kavanagh, VE30SZ is reprinted from the May/ June 2006 issue of *The Canadian Amateur. Ed.*]

If you have ever tried to solder taps onto a close wound coil such as those manufactured by B & W, you will probably have experienced the challenge of trying to solder the tap onto the desired coil turn without also getting solder onto adjacent turns. It is quite easy to end up with two or more coil turns soldered together.

I recently had the task of soldering eight taps onto a B & W coil with a 10 turns-to-the-inch winding. Initially, I was successful in soldering some adjacent turns together, which wasn't really my objective.

I solved my problem in the following way. I cut a piece of ordinary kitchen aluminium foil to about 3 cm by 3 cm; the size is not critical. I folded it in half and then inserted it, from inside the coil, so that the halves of the foil protruded on each side of the turn in question. I then folded back the two halves of the foil so as to cover the coil turns on each side of the one to which I wished to solder a tap.

Now, it became much easier to solder the taps onto the coil since solder will not adhere to the aluminium foil. The foil protects the adjacent coil turns and can be easily removed once the tap has been successfully soldered in place.

This technique is equally useful for the removal of taps and for removing solder from turns using some kind of solder wick.

## 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 >.

## Homebrew 500kHz RF current meter.

Writing the June 2007 *RadCom* David Pick G3YXM gives the following description a simple RF current meter for 500 kHz but his idea should be adaptable to higher HF frequencies.

If you are not the proud owner of an old thermocouple meter then it's easy enough to make an RF current meter (see Figure 1). The ferrite core I used is a small "clip-on" type of EMC suppressor core, about 1.5cm long. The aerial wire passes straight through the middle and the 15 or 16 turn secondary is wound through the core. A low value resistor across the secondary ensures that the current sensor doesn't affect the aerial tuning too much. The values aren't definitive and the meter must be calibrated (as would an ancient thermocouple job!). For this you will need a dummy load of known value, your 500 kHz Tx and an RF voltage measuring device. If you have a 'scope or an RF voltmeter you're OK, but if not you'll need to make a simple voltage probe. To do this connect a signal diode from the "hot" end of the dummy-load to a 100nF capacitor whose other end goes to the earthy side of the dummy-load. The voltage across this capacitor will be the peak RF voltage across the load. To convert the peak reading to RMS, multiply it by 0.707. This assumes that you have a good high-impedance multi-meter (any digital one should be fine) and that your Tx output is a nice clean sine-wave. To radiate 100mW, most aerials will need an RF current of less than half an Amp so it's probably a good idea to go for a full-scale deflection of 500mA. Using the formula  $V = IR$  you can see that for  $50\Omega$  and  $0.5A$  we need 25 volts across the dummy load, that would be a power of 12.5W. The multi-meter would be reading 35.35V (the peak voltage) at this power. Adjust the pot and/or the series resistor in the meter circuit to read full-scale and seal it up. It should then be placed in the aerial down-lead where the wire meets the ATU.

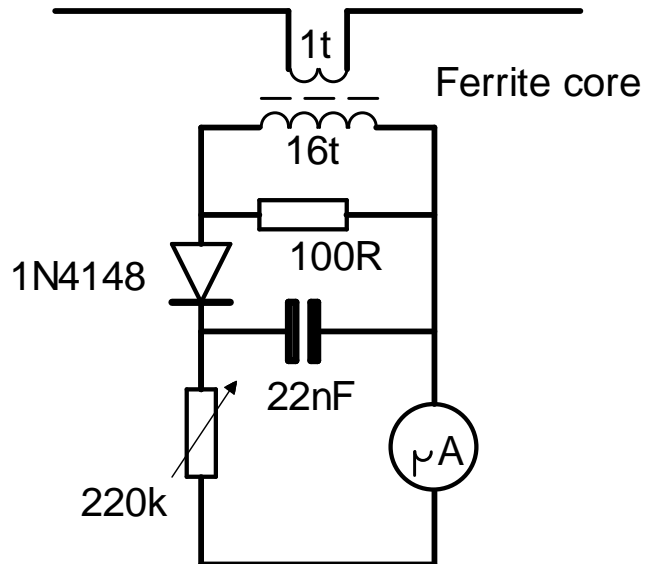


Figure 1: The circuit of the RF current

meter

## 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	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:**

12<sup>th</sup> October Usual meeting. Program ?? 73 de Baden, ZL3VI.

**General Meetings**

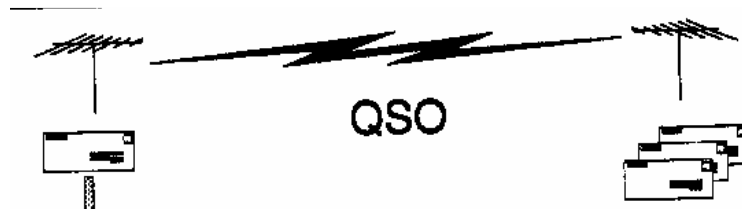
25<sup>th</sup> October 'The not so black art of DXing'; presented by Mark Sullivan ZL3AB

*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.

# QTC56



**Monthly Newsletter**

**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

**NZART Branch 56**