

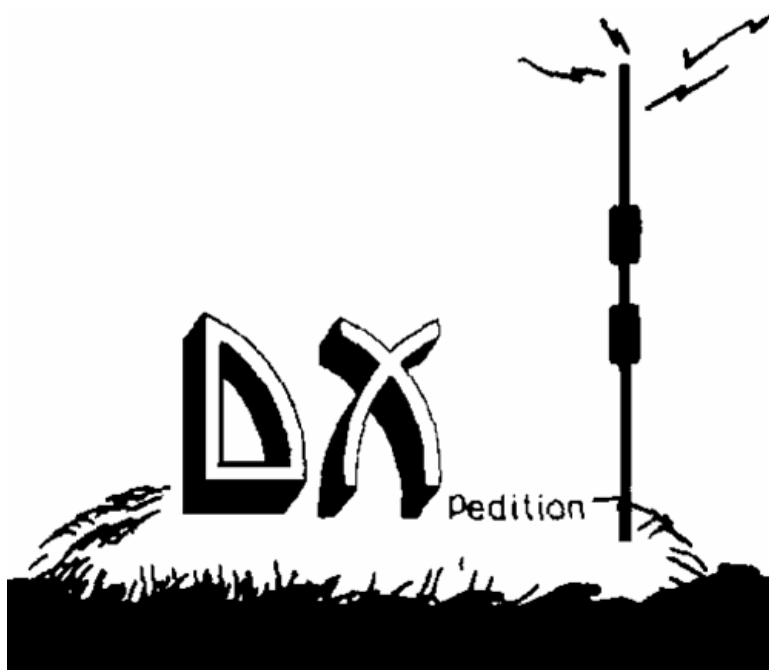
**Christchurch West Amateur
Radio Club Inc.**



Official Newsletter

Branch 56 website; www.radioamateurs.org.nz

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What's on at the next meeting?"

**"DXing" Well-known local DXer Duncan McMahon
ZL3JT will share his knowledge with us.
*Visitors and guests most welcome***

22nd July 2008

Visit the NZART website <http://www.nzart.org.nz>

Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.

NZART Branch 56

Clubrooms; Auburn Park, Upper Riccarton,

P O Box 31 095, Ilam, Christchurch.

Branch 56 web page; <www.radioamateurs.org.nz>

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------|----------|
| <i>Branch Officers</i> | | | |
| <i>President</i> | Mark Carshalton | ZL3BA | 322 4518 |
| <i>Vice-President</i> | Baden Melhuish | ZL3VI | 384 1584 |
| <i>Immediate Past Pres</i> | Doug Pratt | ZL2BCF | 322 9961 |
| <i>Secretary*</i> | John Walker | ZL3IB | 348 9084 |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Peter Tyerman | ZL3IA | 332 4885 |
| <i>Committee</i> | Mike Barnes | ZL3TMB | 352 2294 |
| | Maurice McNab | ZL3MEM | 354 1958 |
| | Brent Officer | ZL3TUI | 385 2742 |
| | Bruce Smith | ZL3TFM | 343 2432 |
| | Keith Stanton | ZL3QH | 358 4108 |
| <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>Webmaster</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 |
| | | | |

***Email address; <zl3ib@nzart.org.nz>**

Annual subscriptions;

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
June 24th 2008**

Present: Mark ZL3BA (Chairman), John ZL3IB (Secretary), 20 members.

Visitors: Nil

Apologies: Keith ZL3QH, Baden ZL3VI, Maurice ZL3MEM, Mike ZL3MJS

Minutes: Confirmation of minutes of May 2008 meeting.

Matters arising: Nil

Correspondence

Inward: *Break-In*, Rag Chew,

Outward:

Financial: 37 financial members. Stamps \$50, QTC56 Printing \$13. Flat-bed trolley \$31.

Free and Easy report: June meeting; Talk and demonstration of Free to Air TV.

Classes report; 2 students at present.

General Business:

- 1 The Chairman congratulated Bert ZL3ADL on his receipt of the “Jumbo” ZL1HV Award for meritorious service to the Branch and amateur radio. Carried by acclimation.
- 2 IARU Region 3 meeting in 2008; progress report from John ZL3IB
- 3 Replacement of flooring and wall panelling in radio room; discussion.
- 4 Control of heaters; installation of a timer approved. Doug ZL2BCF to investigate and action.
- 5 Club’s radio station ZL3VV will be open every Tuesday from 1700hr. All welcome. Contact Maurice ZL3MEM for more info.

Meeting closed at 2008hr.

Program

Report on NZART Conference 2008 by Mike ZL3TMB and John ZL3IB.

Screening of two short films on home-brew manufacture of a triode valve. See <<http://paillard.claude.free.fr/>> to download.

EO&E excepted

The Chairman’s Column Inch.

Doug, our past Chairman, pointed out to me that one of the more dubious privileges of being chairman is that I make a contribution to QTH and take up some column inches.

Please may I report on the last month’s club activities. Our June Monthly meeting was well attended and Mike Barns gave us a report back on the NZART Conference. Mike was our designated delegate. By most accounts he carried this off well. As is with all conferences there was controversy. But I feel the major concern is the potential double bill that we face for our repeaters. This is a Council issue but we as a club we need to keep this issue in front of us.

Of more concern to us is the Graffiti that the clubrooms suffer. A new product is about to become available that would allow the graffiti to be washed off with water. I will be tabling the marketing blurb on this at the next committee meeting.

The clubrooms need some TLC. The curtains are looking really bright and do make a difference to the main hall. Again my thanks to Doug and his wife for producing these curtains. However the radio room needs work to be done. The floor needs to be lifted and repaired. The committee is also looking to improve the insulation.

Free n'Easy Group

Our June meeting was a demonstration of Freeview TV. Tim ZL3SK and I set up a dish outside the clubrooms and showed the various channels on the data projector. A group of 25 enjoyed this and included a discussion on dishes, LNBS, coaxial cable and connectors. A great number of questions about the future options of viewing to the general public followed.

Our meeting for July was to be a trip to the RNZAF museum at Wigram but this may have to be postponed due to restoration work being carried out at the present, I shall update the situation on the VHF net to ensure that everybody is fully informed

73s Graeme ZL3JO

Changing your details within the SMART Database.

It should be emphasised that it is the legal responsibility of each radio amateur to ensure that their details held by RSM are current. I have been asked to provide a procedure to describe how to have your details changed within the SMART database.

Those who are computer literate will be able to follow the procedure shown on page 27 of the November – December 2007 *Break-In*, and make changes there. Remember, you will require your client key, client password and client ID to be able to do this.

For those who are “not computer literate”, you may phone RSM on 0508 776 4636 and ask them to change your information or write to them at PO Box 2847, Wellington 6140. Please ask for verification that changes have been made.

Tony Case ZL1UD for NZART Council.

HAMADS

For Sale; Brother AX-250 daisy-wheel typewriter. Offers wanted; John ZL3IB, ph 03-3489 084, email <zl3ib@nzart.org.nz >.

Wanted; SATO Vernier Dial or similar; 6:1 ratio, either 36mm or 50mm diameter,. David ZL3DWS, 03-358 9776, <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz>

HAMADs in QTC56 are a free service to members.

Send to John ZL3IB at <zl3ib@nzart.org.nz >.

Radio Memories; Police Radio, Cell Phones & National Field Day

By David W Searle ZL3DWS

All this talk recently about making it illegal to use your cell phone whilst driving, brought to mind an article from RAOTA *OT News* (UK) for Autumn 2006.

In *The Life Story of Bill Wigg (G5OW)* he describes building in 1932 the first crystal controlled radios for six police cars in Nottingham. The transmitters had a range of 80 miles and morse code was used then!

Here's the interesting bit. Officers were trained and examined to drive those radio cars at 30 miles per hour, sending morse at 12 words a minute!! I bet you that took skill and concentration. Do you know when the first police radio car arrived in New Zealand?

Now when this cell phone law does come in, who wants to be the first New Zealand radio amateur to use his handheld or microphone whilst driving past a police car?

I remember one UK ham, a bit of a "smart alec" who was stopped by the police and had his rig confiscated for some reason. As his amateur license was issued under the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1949 or some such, only a person authorised by that Act could remove a transmitter he argued to no avail on the day. A police officer was not an authorised person under the Act. He pursued his case for quite some time and won. But only after much to'ing and fro'ing by all the parties concerned. The final cost, and we don't just mean money here, was tremendous.

Perhaps someone could clarify where radio amateurs currently stand in all this. The layman or police officer, may not quite see the difference between using a cell phone and a mobile rig whilst driving?

Shortly, planning for National Field Day participation will begin. No? Well it's never too early to consider what, where, who and why? In 2008 28 field stations braved the elements, down from 41 in 2007. I wondered if Canterbury Branches were more active, say 40 years ago. *Break In* for May 1968 showed 05 and 56 were on 80m Phone, but only Branch 56 on 80m CW. Neither branches 05 or 56 were on 40m. Branch 01 or 68 were not mentioned. Guess what? ZL3ACS was First in the ZL3 QRP Section with 13 535 points. Wow! ZL3ACS comes from Branch 56 and is none other than Des Borgfeldt. Well done Des. On QRP too! Who said QRP was a new phenomena?

It was miserable and raining last Friday, so rather than complete my GST Return (boring) I flicked through the last six years of *Break In's* and extracted the table shown below. It shows which Canterbury branches have participated in Field Day over the last six years on 80m/40m Phone and CW.

| <i>Participation past 6 years</i> | <i>Bands</i> | <i>Br 01</i> | | <i>Br 05</i> | | <i>Br 56</i> | | <i>Br 68</i> | | <i>Total stations in field</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | | <i>Ph</i> | <i>CW</i> | <i>Ph</i> | <i>CW</i> | <i>Ph</i> | <i>CW</i> | <i>Ph</i> | <i>CW</i> | |
| 2003 | 80m | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | 43 stations |
| | 40m | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | |
| 2004 | 80m | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | 32 stations |
| | 40m | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | |
| 2005 | 80m | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | 42 stations |
| | 40m | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | |
| 2006 | 80m | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | 41 stations |
| | 40m | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y | N | N | |
| 2007 | 80m | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | 41 stations |
| | 40m | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| 2008 | 80m | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | 28 stations |
| | 40m | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | |

In summary, Canterbury Branches were very involved until recently and there is now potential for a great crew from North Canterbury to combine into a Super Team for Field Day 2009. Should we consider holding a barbeque on the Saturday and encourage potential recruits plus family to join in? Invite the community newspaper photographer too? Isn't it about time we put Canterbury back on the map and reminded those North Islander's we are still here!

Are you up for it?

© David W Searle 2008. <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz>

X Beam; 20m antenna construction project

In the next few weeks, possibly on Tuesday nights, we are getting together a group of club members who are interested getting onto 20 metres with very practical mini X-Beams.

Interested? Please contact Keith ZL3QH as soon as possible since we need to do some shopping for components. Estimated basic cost is less than \$200.

73, Keith ZL3QH, 358 4108, <keith.stanton@clear.net.nz>