

**Christchurch West Amateur  
Radio Club Inc.**

**Official Newsletter**



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

*Visitors and guests most welcome*

*QRP Radio Project. Come and learn from David ZL3DWS,  
Keith ZL4NZ and Baden ZL3VI how to build a well-priced,  
quality, modern 80m QRP Mini SSB rig*

*27<sup>th</sup> May 2008*

**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**  
**NZART Branch 56**  
**Clubrooms; Auburn Park, Upper Riccarton,**  
**P O Box 31 095, Ilam, Christchurch.**

<b><i>Branch Officers</i></b>			
<i>President</i>	Mark Carshalton	ZL3BA	
<i>Vice-President</i>	Baden Melhuish	ZL3VI	
<i>Immediate Past Pres</i>	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	
<i>Secretary*</i>	John Walker	ZL3IB	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Tyerman	ZL3IA	
<i>Committee</i>	Mike Barnes	ZL3TMB	
	Maurice McNab	ZL3MEM	
	Brent Officer	ZL3TUI	
	Bruce Smith	ZL3TFM	
	Keith Stanton	ZL3QH	
<i>Trustees</i>	Des Borgfeldt	ZL3ACS	
	Baden Melhuish	ZL3VI	
<i>Auditor</i>	Roy Timms	ZL3AIB	
<b><i>Branch Officials</i></b>			
<i>Archivist</i>	Roy Timms	ZL3AIB	
<i>EMC Officer</i>	vacant		
<i>Free n'Easy Coordinator</i>	Graeme Johnstone	ZL3JO	
<i>Librarian</i>	Ron Rowlands	ZL3AIV	
<i>Morse Admin</i>	Des Borgfeldt	ZL3ACS	
<i>Morse coaching</i>	vacant		
<i>Morse testing</i>	vacant		
<i>Newsletter editor*</i>	John Walker	ZL3IB	
<i>QSL cards</i>	Keith Stanton	ZL3QH	
<i>ZL3VV Station Mgr</i>	Maurice McNab	ZL3MEM	
<i>850 Repeater Mgr</i>	Doug Pratt	ZL2BCF	

**\*Please note change of 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  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008**

**Present:** Mark ZL3BA (Chairman), Doug ZL2BCF (Acting Secretary), 19 members and guests.

**Visitors:** Robin Hamilton.

**Apologies:** John ZL3IB.

**Minutes:** Confirmation of minutes of March 2008 meeting.

**Matters arising:** Antennas and working bees.

**Correspondence**

Inward: Nil.

Outward: Nil.

**Financial:** 24 financial members.

\$18.50 CCTV cabling, \$534 Pink Bats and QTC56 Printing \$18.

\$365.82 approved for new curtains for the meeting room, shack and kitchen.

**Free and Easy report:** March meeting; Geoff ZL3PX gave an interesting talk on working in the Antarctic.

**Classes Report;** 2 students at present.

**General Business:**

- 1 Installation of the ceiling insulation has started.
- 2 The floor in the radio room will require replacement in the near future due to rotten floor boards.
- 3 Branch web page; Keith requested more material for the new club web site <[www.radioamateurs.org.nz](http://www.radioamateurs.org.nz)>.
- 4 The new VHF / UHF vertical has been installed, installation of a longer pole (loaned by CARDS) for the HF dipole and repair of the HF vertical are still required.
- 5 Club's radio station ZL3VV will be open every Tuesday from 1700hr. All welcome. Contact Maurice ZL3MEM for more info.
- 6 Keith ZL3QH ran this year's remit session for the club. The 11 remits for this year's NZART conference to be held in Dunedin were debated the results are displayed in the table below for details of the remits refer to March/April 2008 *Break-In*.

<i>Remit No.</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
1	19	0	0
2	19	0	0
3	16	0	4
4	17	3	0
5	0	15	4
6	0	19	1
7	1	16	2
8	7	7	6
9	19	0	1
10	19	0	1
11	0	15	4

**Program**

Due to the time required for the discussion of remits David ZL3DWS graciously agreed to give his presentation at the May general meeting.

**Future programs**

May 27<sup>th</sup>; A presentation and talk by David ZL3DWS on the Milton Keynes ARS (UK) produced MKARS 80 QRP transceiver kitset.

EO&E

### **2008 Subs due now**

The subscriptions for 2008 are now due. They have remained the same as last year - \$35 single and \$40 for a family sub.

If you haven't already paid, then YES it's owing!! Details of payment options are elsewhere in the newsletter. We would appreciate your prompt payment.

73's. Peter ZL3IA Treasurer

### **Free n'Easy Group**

Our meeting on the 9th of April enjoyed the company of Geoff ZL3PX who gave us a very comprehensive and illuminating talk on a recent working visit to Antarctica.. All facets of the base and environs was shown by pictures on the data projector. The clothing worn in this harsh climate was also demonstrated and the method in which it protected the individual from the adverse effects of temperatures which are beyond belief to those who have not experienced a visit to this inhospitable part of the planet. Geoff enjoyed amateur radio during his off duty hours using the call-sign prefix ZM5. It was nostalgic to see a picture of Mt Erebus in the distance and where tragically many souls perished.. The crowd enjoyed this presentation and were totally absorbed in the way it was presented. I considered we were very fortunate to have a speaker of this calibre and my closing remarks reflected that we were very privileged to have had him as our speaker.

Our guest on the afternoon of the 14th of May will be Tony ZL3HAM who will be talking about the QRP projects which he has been involved in building and operating for a considerable period of time. An on-air demonstration will be part of the presentation. There has been considerable interest from Branch members in this avenue of our activities. If you are free on that afternoon commencing at 1330hr please come and join us, everybody most welcome.

73s Graeme ZL3JO

### **Changing your details within the SMART Database.**

It should be emphasised that 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.

### **ARISS Program in Christchurch**

Lorne Douglas ZL2AHB 's daughter Anna is a Year 6 teacher at Cotswold Primary School. Cotswold are in the process of filling out the forms for the School - ARISS programme. The waiting time is apparently very long but when the time draws near Anna and Lorne will be wanting to draw on any Branch member's satellite expertise and perhaps borrow some gear. Thank you"

**Wanted for the Br56 website**  
**<www.radioamateurs.org.nz>**

I am looking for a copy of Adobe writer so that I can put its on our branch website - Can anyone help?.

Can anyone help with actual pictures, digital camera files or old slides of Field Days and other club projects, buildings or any other Branch 56 ham/radio related items? Needed for Gallery on website.

Can anyone help me with writing Branch 56 club history? I have much material gathered together but just need someone to collate it all together into a history/story for our website.

If you can help with any of these items please ring Keith ZL3QH, phone 358-4108

**HAMCALC version 98 released 26 March 2008 !**

HAMCALC is free "Painless Math" Radio Frequency Engineering software (over 350 programs) by George Murphy, VE3ERP, used worldwide as a design, reference and teaching tool by radio amateurs, professionals and educators since its introduction in 1993.

To download version 98 (1.5 Mb) free, go to <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>, scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on HAMCALC.

**HAMADS**

**For Sale.** Stereo headphones Pioneer model SE-4 as new still in box ideal for rig use or HiFi listening \$20. Power supply universal AC adaptor model PA2444U for Toshiba Lap Top computer DC output 15V @4A. Can also be used as a general purpose 15v 4A power supply \$20. Telephone answer machine Code-A-Phone model 1620 with 2 x mini tapes and AC adaptor, as new condition \$20. 5 Computer keyboards USB and Mini Din plug types, Mouse x 4, Mouse Pads x 2. \$10 the lot. CD walkman, Sony portable CD player has earphones with remote control in lead, AC adaptor, operating manual and carry bag \$20. Office chair, good quality, gas operated, adjustable back, grayish colour diagonal stripe pattern material, ideal for operating desk or computer desk, as new \$40. Sub-woofer "Solid Brand" made by B&W; this is a passive sub-woofer with 2 x speakers and inbuilt filters for low frequency boost, \$40. Goldair Mini-Donut maker model DD1, makes 6 donuts at once as new condition \$20. Overhead Projector, Beseler 'Century' brand, model VU-Graph excellent condition \$40. Piano heater, tubular 230V, 15W, hang it inside your piano to stop any moisture or condensation which can cause the keys to stick etc, \$20 (about \$60 to buy new). Phone Malcolm ZL3UU on 322-4784 or email: <Malcolm@darkstar.co.nz>

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

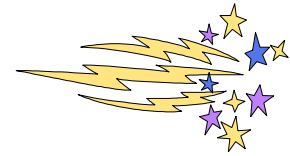
**Wanted;** SATO Vernier Dial or similar; 6:1 ratio, either 36mm or 50mm diameter,. David ZL3DWS, 03-358 9776, <ZL3DWS@nzart.org.nz>

**Dunedin bound?:** In the next six weeks are you planning on travelling by car to Dunedin? I have some radio books that need uplifting. They can be delivered to any address in Dunedin. If you can possibly help please call David Searle 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 >.

**Safety In and Out of the Shack**  
By Richard Gambler ZL1BNQ  
(Reprinted from *Break-In* )



The bi-yearly electrical safety refresher course I have to attend reminded me of some safety issues I have seen lately. I acquired a piece of gear a year or so ago to run one of our AREC HF links and used it for a time without any problems. The mains switch had an internal neon fitted but did not work, also there was an LED fitted to the panel to show that the unit was running. When I fitted a car battery across the unit the LED lit which meant I did not know if the mains was on or not. I decided that I would connect the neon back up so that I knew that there was mains present. Pulling the unit apart I found that the phase wire had been connected directly to the power transformer and the neutral went through the panel fuse to the mains switch on the front panel. This is a no-no! The neutral can only be switched and fused IF the phase is switched and fused as well. A commercial 40A power supply I saw not too long ago was housed in a metal cabinet and had only a two core mains cable fitted to it. It was not double insulated so was a hazard.

When purchasing home-built or second hand gear use a multimeter and check the mains cable; it should have less than 0.5 ohms between the earth pin on the plug and the metal cabinet. Check that the three-pin plug is correctly phased to the cable, check the termination inside the unit and make sure the cable is correctly phased and is correctly fused and switched\*. Places where this gear is used, such as SAR and field-days operating out of cars, woolsheds, tents etc, makes this type of gear a large hazard, since at times the earth would be via the aerial pole and coaxial cable that is attached to the rig you are operating. With the advent of mapping programs APRS and other programs operating on Laptops power packs are being used that are double-insulated, but there is always a small amount of leakage back to the earth system. A good test is to rub the back of one's hand across the metal cabinet, if you get a prickly feeling, there is leakage current present. When operating gear outside the house I use a short extension cable which has a built in RCD.

Remember; - minimize your risks.

**\*Potential hazards with American equipment.**

Be aware that some equipment designed for the US market may use a different mains cable colour coding with black ("hot" or phase), white (neutral) and green (ground) wires. My advice is to replace the mains cable with the NZ standard colour combination.

Another potential hazard lurks when equipment designed solely for 110V, 60Hz operation is used here with a 220/110V step-down transformer. In some cases the 60Hz transformers and fan motors may not contain enough iron in their laminations and overheat when run on our 50Hz mains. Another complication compounds the problem further since the 60Hz cooling fan motors run slower on 50Hz mains so there is less efficient forced air cooling enhancing the risk of overheating!

## *Calendar for 2008*

**ZL3VV on air;** Tuesdays 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
	13	13	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	11	10

**Committee Meeting - Third Tuesday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
22 ?	19	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	

**General Meeting - Fourth Tuesday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
29	26	25	22	27	24	22	26	23	28	25	

### **Free & Easy:**

14<sup>th</sup> May; Tony ZL3HAM will be talking about QRP projects. An on-air demonstration will be part of the presentation.

### **General Meetings**

27<sup>th</sup> May QRP Radio Project. Come and learn from David ZL3DWS, Keith ZL4NZ and Baden ZL3VI how to build a well-priced, quality, modern 80m QRP Mini SSB rig. Some are calling it a modern Heathkit. A great winter project you can build too! Plenty of help and advice on offer.

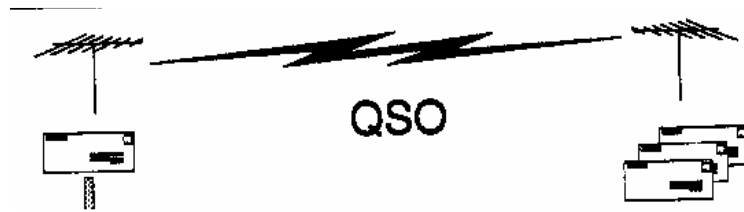
*Your committee welcomes suggestions for topics and/or offers of talks for Branch meetings.*

### **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.

Next meeting;

# QTC56



**Monthly Newsletter**

**Christchurch West Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

**NZART Branch 56**