

# 2KO TIMES

Next Meeting: Wednesday September 7, 7.30 PM

Brian Purdie, the National AREC Training Officer, will talk to us about AREC in general, and will tell us a little about his own experiences as an AREC operator with Search and Rescue.

## From the laptop of the Secretary

### Clubrooms

Stu ZL2SGA is looking for a filing cabinet to file our paperwork kept in the clubrooms. Bad weather and Len's job commitments have slowed progress on the clubrooms extension.

The issue of getting a grant to pay for the extension was discussed by the committee. It was agreed that for any future building project after the current extension we would attempt to obtain a grant so that our funds are not further depleted. This would probably require our obtaining charitable status, and there was some discussion about starting this process.

Barry ZL2BJA has been testing the radios at the clubrooms. Stu distributed a form to record that the radios have been checked and to list any faults. He has also produced an instruction sheet for using the generator to provide power to the clubrooms during outages, along with a maintenance check sheet for the generator.

### Repeater maintenance

The coax at the repeater site needs to be replaced. Cost will be required for hiring a cherry picker.

Batteries in the repeater hut also need replacing and the building needs repainting.

### AREC

Len ZL2LI has talked to Andy Brooke (SAR Sergeant) regarding the checking of the VHF and HF SAR field radios. Andy agrees there is a need for this and that the job should be done by AREC.

### Table Sale

Because Maurie is currently unable to drive he needs somebody to help him with transport on the day, so that he can obtain what he needs for the catering. He can provide the vehicle. Would somebody please volunteer for this essential job?

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- President - Richie ZL2KP
- Secretary - Cheryl ZL2VCC
- AREC Section Leader - Len ZL2LI
- Editor - Hugh ZL2BFB

## Editorial

Greetings to you all.

I was putting the last touches to my 2BMT double sideband QRP rig on Wednesday of last week and listening to 7125. (I'm having a few problems troubleshooting a small amplifier for an electret microphone – it's getting RF feedback into it I think and causing distortion, although the carbon mic works OK as it doesn't need the one-transistor amplifier). Now I don't listen to 2m much, but this morning I did, and mostly the channel was silent. Then about 10 AM – kerchunk! And again, kerchunk. And again. Then several expletives with what sounded like an invitation for somebody – anybody in fact – to come onto the channel to be abused. You guessed it. The intruder was at it again. The kerchunking and expletives went on until about 12 PM when I went off and did something else.

Thinking about it at the time, I began to actually feel sorry for the guy at what he's missing. Yes, I actually felt sorry for him because it sounded like the signal was coming from Ward 21 MCH. One sick puppy – he sounded quite unhappy from what I could hear in his short overs, and well he might. Think of all the different aspects of ham radio that he could participate in by rejoining the human race and getting a ham licence: DX, CW, digital modes, ATV, satellites, VLF, LF, V/UHF, just ragchewing on 80, QRP, construction, portable operation, mobile operation, APRS etc. There should be something in the list to satisfy anybody even remotely interested in radio. Or interested enough to obtain a VHF rig. Instead, this person engages in a form of electronic vandalism or tagging. Thinking also about Richie's page in last month's Newsletter, about the hobby and the Amateur's code: It's not easy to break the six tenets of the Amateur's Code in one go, but this guy does.

One more thing: There has been reference to the intruder as "Bob". I would like to propose an alternative code-name, seeing that we already have at least two 'Bobs' in the club as well as ZL2BOB. May I suggest using 'Basil' or 'Cedric' as a codename, unless somebody has a better suggestion.

Suffice to say, we need to put the problem to rest, so follow the Sheriff's instruction on p.6 of this issue. Read also about Russell Blair on p.3. A remarkable fellow to climb onto roofs to install aerials in his 90s. A true practitioner of radio as a hobby as well as a vocation.

73

Hugh ZL2BFB

## Don't forget

### **Kiwi Digital Modes Net Thursday Nights at 8:30 pm - 9:15 pm**

This event is held each week.

**Location:** 3.635.00 LSB +/- QRM

This net is for the purpose of helping those who want to experiment and get in to using digital modes. The net is run on SSB phone and switches over to various digital modes as required by those who check in.

Russell died on July 29, 2010 at Arohanui Hospice Palmerston North after a short illness. This obituary was intended for 'Break-In' but was considered too late for full publication.

Russell was born on November 9, 1916 in Perth, Western Australia. He attended primary school in Sydney and Newcastle, and high school in Melbourne. Later, the family returned to New Zealand where Russell obtained his Amateur Radio Operator's Certificate in 1935. He had attended monthly meetings of the Takapuna Amateur Radio Club, practising morse code and building his own amateur transmitting equipment. This started his lifelong interest in Amateur Radio with his first call sign, ZL1IB.

Russell returned to Australia and trained to be a teacher at Avondale College in New South Wales during 1938–1939. Here, he conducted classes in amateur radio, and built and installed radio and sound systems for his business, 'Rexel Radio Service'. His call sign was now VK2AJE.

On September 9, 1939, Russell received a telegram from the Senior Radio Inspector's Office in Sydney ordering him to close down his radio station immediately, owing to WWII.

Returning to NZ in 1940, Russell taught secondary school science and maths at Papanui High School, Christchurch, and completed a Bachelor of Science degree at Canterbury University. He worked with William McCracken of 'Radio Corporation of NZ', building and servicing radio receivers and transmitters. His call sign in Christchurch was ZL3BL and he also obtained a 20 metre phone permit – a then extension of the amateur transmitting licence. Russell was also the honorary Editor of 'Break In' during 1948, and he also ran his part-time business in Christchurch, Rexel Radio Lab, designing and building tape recorders.

Russell married Ruth in 1954 and taught high school science in Balmoral, Auckland. In 1956 the family moved to Palmerston North where Russell taught science at Longburn College and in his spare time re-establishing his radio business.

Rexels Ltd at 365 Main Street was the first shop in Palmerston North specialising in installing and maintaining high fidelity sound systems, as well as providing tape recording services. Jim Bullock, his apprentice, took over the television and sound side of the business, establishing Manawatu TV & Sound in 1964.

Russell went on to teach science at Palmerston North Boys High School for another 20 years. He became a member of the NZ Electronics Institute in 1973 and a senior member in 1991.

During his retirement Russell kept very busy importing, distributing and installing satellite equipment for 'Free to Air' viewers of foreign language and Christian TV stations, as well as rebroadcasting 3ABN radio from his home in central Palmerston North. At the age of 80 Russell and Kingsley Berkahn successfully transported a 15m pole for his radio mast on two bicycles across Palmerston North as a low tech, environmentally friendly method of transport.

Very fit and agile for his age, Russell climbed ladders and onto roofs installing satellite dishes until he was 93. He was always keen to learn and to help others and would construct anything he turned his hand to. Ruth died in 1988 and he is survived by two daughters and two sons.

Meryl Strawbridge (daughter) and with thanks to Bryan ZL2AFT

## President's Column - - From Richie ZL2KP



### **August 2011 - the year that was.**

This past year saw the introduction of a number of social initiatives additional to the monthly meetings. The idea was to have between four to six social gatherings a year, the first being the Shack Raid. The idea of the Shack Raid is to visit the home (and shack) of someone in the area to allow our families to meet. Radio activities or a car rally could be included but it is primarily a family event. Inter-club activities are also being discussed, as are trips to other points of interest.

Part of my vision for the club is to give it direction and make it a place that people want to come to and be involved in. To make this happen we now make our activities known to non-members so they also can participate. This is helped by our website that now enables non-members to subscribe to the Newsletter and receive reminders and notices of branch activities. This has resulted in many people who have not been involved with the club for some years coming along to our activities. The branch meeting in July with the New Zealand Defence Force signalers was a good example of this process.

A question resulting from this inclusion of non-members may be heard by you and is: What advantage is there being a club member?

In my mind there will be no improvement in the club's health by creating a members-only approach. From my perspective, anyone can be involved in what we do and this could mean seating at club nights may sometimes be at a premium, and we might also need more bikkies for supper. I ask you, the members: do you feel that including non-members is a problem? In my mind more non-members attending our activities will result in growth of our membership. One may think that joining the club gives no benefits except on AGM night, where members only can vote; and members only can speak as of right at committee meetings. So why join, you might ask? Well, joining the club is not about what you get, it is about supporting your club – it is about each other. Can I also ask you to consider NZART membership with the same attitude: it is not what you can get from your national membership: it is actually about supporting an organisation that represents you.

Another initiative has been the inclusion of CB into the club. Historically, CB has been a pool from which many prospective new hams have been drawn. While our club does not financially support the activities of CB, it does allocate MARS CB call signs if desired and collects funds for the licensing and upkeep of the Channel 8 UHF repeater on behalf of the repeater trustee. This flows into the recruitment process now known within the club as the 'ZL2SGA Training Scheme'. The detail of the scheme is available to members and has already been described in previous Newsletters.

This year saw the initial approval for improvements to the Clubrooms. The first task is to extend the storage area alongside the main hall – this has recently started. The Audio Visual Suite, including the sound system, has been refined by mounting the speakers and relocating the projection screen. Further refinements and improvements are planned for the clubrooms.

***contd.***

*Continued from p.5*

Remember events such as field days, contests and open days? Your attendance at these will show others what a great club we have and how much fun Ham Radio is. Thanks to you, the members. You make my role a delight and the attitude with which you conduct yourselves on the air is positively noticeable to those who travel through the district.

Thank you for a great year.

Cheers

Richie ZL2KP / VK2IAX

**Richard Prior**

## Websites of interest

Copy and paste these into your web browser and be very afraid.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTXlLxV\\_Xwk&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTXlLxV_Xwk&feature=related)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Imz9vgAo9Wc&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWr-ZwyCFW8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8Rsas38trU&feature=related>

Contributed by Paul ZL2BEO

## Last meeting

Last meeting, you will remember, was the AGM. For those who weren't there, or who were there but have poor memories, there was one major change to the Committee: Peter ZL2AUB has stepped down as Treasurer and our new Treasurer is John de Burgh, ZL2TG. Pete has agreed to be Clubrooms Custodian, ably assisted by Barrie ZL2BJA. All other positions stay the same. Congratulations (or commiserations) to all office holders.

## Don't forget

Don't forget to use callsigns on the repeater, or on any other band for that matter. Particularly if you are 'just testing'. Callsigns should be repeated every 15 minutes at least, and certainly at the start and finish of a sked, should it be less than 15 minutes duration. Correct use of callsigns in particular, and of radio procedure in general, sets us apart from the intruders we hear from time to time on our bands. One more thing: Leave a break between transmissions on the repeater in case another user wishes to use the channel. Please note that if you are having a long ragchew on 7125 seriously consider moving to a simplex channel once you have established communications.

## Message from the Sheriff



Hi all,

Although I have some information about intruders on 7125 it's not enough, so can you please help? We can only stop them after we have identified them.

Firstly, if you know of anyone selling amateur equipment to a non amateur, please let the Committee know. Stopping these sales can help to eliminate intruders on our bands.

Secondly, help locate intruders. If you hear them on the repeater please put your radio on repeater reverse (i.e. set to the repeater input of 147.725 MHz) and then record:

- Signal strength
- Date
- Time
- Your location (home, portable or mobile). If you know the direction of their signals then record that as well.

When you have this information please send the details to me.

Regards,

The Sheriff

**Next afternoon meeting: Wednesday September 28 at 2 PM**  
Doors open 1.30 PM

Chester, ZL2AFJ, will talk about his work experiences in the Outer Cook Islands during the 1990s.

### ZL2KO Roster

SEPT	4	ZL2BEQ	SEPT	11	ZL2RMH
SEPT	18	ZL2BJA	SEPT	25	ZL2IAN
OCT	2	ZL2BPX	OCT	9	ZL2LI
OCT	16	ZL2AUB	OCT	23	ZL2ADN
OCT	30	ZL2FE			

de Pete ZL2AUB

## M.A.R.S

Manawatu Amateur Radio  
Society  
P.O. Box 1718  
Palmerston North

E-mail: [info@z12ko.org.nz](mailto:info@z12ko.org.nz)  
Website: [www.z12ko.org.nz](http://www.z12ko.org.nz)

## Upcoming Meetings

7th September 2011 - General Meeting  
21st September 2011 - Committee Meeting  
28th September 2011 - Afternoon Meeting

Sunday morning net is at 9am on 3.570 kHz LSB

### Netmasters

September 4<sup>th</sup>: Paul ZL2BEO. See page 3 of this issue for the latest roster.

## Branch 20 Contact Information

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