

# BRANCH 37 NZART



**BRANCH MEETING WILL BE HELD AT  
249 ETRICK STREET INVERCARGILL  
ON TUESDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2011.  
CLUBROOMS PHONE 218 8686**

**www.zl4gq.com**



VOLUME 33 ISSUE 10

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## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SOUTHLAND

ACKNOWLEDGES THE NEED  
FOR EFFECTIVE OVERALL  
COMMUNICATION AND THE  
SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM  
MEMBERS

WE ARE PLEASED TO BE ASSOCIATED  
WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THE CLUB  
NEWSLETTER

### **Branch Meeting: 08 November 2011**

November meeting will be Branch 37 NZART Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Tom ZL4HD on working satellites, AO51 SO50.

### **LAST MONTHS MEETING**

was a about Freeview TV. It was a very interesting talk

### **BRANCH 37 NET**

Every Sunday night at 20:00hrs on 145.775/146.800Khz is the branch 37 weekly net. All hams are welcome to come on to the net, even if its just to say hi.

### **NZART BROADCAST**

Last Sunday of the month 20:00 repeated 21:00 3900Khz

### **AREC:**

Training Night on first Tuesday of the month at the club rooms.

### **BRANCH MEETINGS:**

Remember our meeting night on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7.30 pm.

### **HAM RADIO CLASSES**

The classes have finished for the year with good results. Please contact Neville ZL4OX to enter names for next years Classes."

### **COMMITTEE MEETING:**

Committee Members remember that your meeting will be held at 7.00 pm, on the second Tuesday of the month, before the Branch Meeting.

**Please have all copy for the  
Newsletter to Tom ZL4HD**

**by 5pm Monday,**

**29 November 2011.**

**126 Barrow street Bluff**

**Phone: 2128390 or 0226221863**

**Email: tomrh@xtra.co.nz**

### **The bands are alive with the sound of cw**

The propagation numbers have been flying high and the bands are open and hopping!! The above shot is 20 meters viewed on PowerSDR. It has not been this busy in some time, even at 14.060 the QRP calling frequency I was able to pick up with out with any trouble KG1AFO, W4LVP K4YKI all in a QRP QSO's. In the other segments of 20 meters there both local (North America) and DX. In the above picture where the yellow cross hairs are is the interference my Plasma TV is giving me.

Even in that area I was able to copy VA2DW and K4JJW who came in over the Plasma garbage!!

Action on 20m



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## BRANCH COMMITTEE

<b>President</b> Phone	Bill Obers <b>ZL3TPE</b> <b>215 9765</b>
<b>Secretary</b> Phone	Mike Bailey <b>ZL4OM</b> 0273 446 851
<b>Treasurer</b> Phone	Amy Hamilton c/- <b>ZL4OM</b>
<b>AREC</b> Phone	Neville Checketts <b>ZL4OX</b> <b>2166599</b>
<b>Committee</b>	
Owen Baird	<b>ZL4OB</b> Phone <b>2166055</b>
Tom Hardwick	<b>ZL4HD</b> Phone <b>2128390</b>
Neville Checketts	<b>ZL4OX</b> Phone <b>2166599</b>
Paul Aronsen	<b>ZL4PA</b> Phone <b>2358436</b>

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## BRANCH SUBS

Single	\$40.00
Family	\$45.00
Junior	\$15.00
Associate	\$20.00



Subs remain the same for this year.

## Fund raiser

One way to raise funds for the club is to hire out the clubrooms. If you know of any club/group that might be interested let someone on the committee know.

## SUB PAYMENTS

For those people that will pay their subs online please make sure that they put the call sign as ID. If there is no ID it is impossible to know who has paid the sub.

## **Branch 37 Sunday net roster**

September 04	Owen Baird	ZL4OB
September 11	Neville Checketts	ZL4OX
September 18	Tom Hardwick	ZL4HD
September 25	Owen Baird	ZL4OB
October 02	Neville Checketts	ZL4OX
October 09	Tom Hardwick	ZL4HD
October 16	Owen Baird	ZL4OB
October 23	Neville Checketts	ZL4OX
October 30	Tom Hardwick	ZL4HD
November 06	Owen Baird	ZL4OB
November 13	Neville Checketts	ZL4OX
November 20	Tom Hardwick	ZL4HD
November 27	Owen Baird	ZL4OB
December 04	Neville Checketts	ZL4OX
December 11	Tom Hardwick	ZL4HD

If anyone feels as if they would like to have a go at being a net controller please let Tom ZL4HD or know. It would only be about once very 4 or 5 weeks.

## CALLSIGNS ON THIS MONTHS NETS

Is your call sign here? Hope to see you on the net. Every Sunday night 20:00 hrs

ZL4HD ZL4OX ZL4OB ZL4DE ZL4KJ

## ***Branch 37 Presidents Report 2011***

Hi all. The time for the Branch Annual General Meeting has once again come. This year it will be held on Tuesday 8 November. The year has just flown by, and it is with pleasure that I present this Annual Report.

Firstly, it is with sadness that I note that some members or past members have passed away during the year. Our condolences are extended to their families.

On a happier note, the Radio Classes were once again run this year, with a number of people passing their exams and joining the Club. Well Done to them, and to Neville Checketts, their tutor. The committee is still looking at some ways to help promote the classes and hopefully next year will see more people wanting to attend the classes.

I would like to extend another vote of thanks to the guest speakers we have had through the year. Without them the meetings would be much less interesting and informative.

I would like to thank all members and others who have contributed in any way to the successful year the Branch has had. Whether you attended a Field Day, participated in a competition, attended meetings, or just used your radio on the airways, thank you. You are the main means of promoting the activities of amateur radio as a hobby, and as a community service in the event of an emergency, such as was provided in Christchurch earlier this year.

And finally, to the members of the Committee who have done more sterling work this past year. Amy - who stepped into the breach when John resigned. Michael - for his on-going work, but due to other commitments is not in a position to stand for the secretary position. Neville - for his never-ending support and guidance. Tom - for his efforts with the newsletter. Owen and Paul - for their support as committee members. **THANK YOU.**

*Winters*

Bill Obers  
ZL3TPE  
President Branch 37

## **REMINDER**

**AGM BEING HELD AT THIS MEETING**

**Please come along and support *Your Branch!***

**Don't leave it to someone else - get involved**

New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters  
Southland Branch ( Inc )

**Statement of Financial Performance Year Ending 30th September 2011**

Expense	2011	2010	Income	2011	2010.00
Bank Fees	0.00	0.00	Donations	10.00	60.00
Insurance	816.78	831.88	Hire of Clubrooms	300.00	0.00
Maintenance	0.00	0.00	Newsletter	373.00	373.00
Newsletter Expenses	53.38	304.84	Sale of Goods	43.85	344.00
P.O.Box Rental	145.00	135.00	Subscriptions	1140.00	925.00
Power	797.08	876.95	Telephone Reimburse	850.00	532.00
Site Rental	390.00	375.00	Interest SBS	351.78	279.00
Stationery	23.87	0.00			
Telephone	872.98	841.48			
	2899.06	2964.96		2868.63	2513.00
Depreciation On Assets	908.37	964.31			
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>-938.80</b>	<b>-1416.27</b>			
	2868.63	2513.00		2868.63	2513.00

**Statement of Financial Position as at 30th September 2011**

Opening Equity	32195.12	Westpac	983.00
		Term Deposit SBS	7351.78
		Petty Cash	10.00
		Fixed Assets	22910.64
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>-938.8</b>		
<b>Closing Equity</b>	<b>31256.32</b>		<b>31256.32</b>

Feel like doing something more for **YOUR CLUB.**

How about taking on a position on the Committee?

The positions are not too much work, it needs someone  
*just like you*  
to step up and accept the challenge.

This is your chance to 'have a go'.  
The committee is: the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter  
Editor, and Committee members.

Many of the current committee are willing to stand again, but some  
are not able or available.

Will you fill the gap?

## **VK HAMS ASSIST IN HUNT FOR AIRCRAFT MISSING 30 YEARS**

A group of amateur radio operators from Sydney, Australia, recently took part in a multi-agency search and rescue exercise in a remote area of New South Wales. This, to help in the continuing search for a small plane that is believed to have crashed some 30 years ago with its pilot and four passengers on board.

The single engine Cessna aircraft had the tail identification of VH-MDX. It had had taken off from Queensland for a flight to Sydney's Bankstown airport when its pilot identified as Michael Hutchins radioed that he was experiencing severe turbulence. Also that the plane had been hit by lightning and he could no longer determine its orientation. To make matters worse, the wings were icing up and despite his best efforts, the Cessna was losing altitude. The aircraft then disappeared from radar and all communications ceased a few minutes later.

For thirty years since the accident, teams of volunteers have returned to the area to walk and climb their way through every piece of unsearched landscape in the hope that somebody will discover a piece of wreckage or spot something that helps to end the riddle of VH-MDX. The regions that have been searched are marked off on a large map, so further unsearched areas can be checked the following year.

For the safety of the volunteer searchers, each of the six teams carried one vhf or uhf handheld radio and a portable 2way High Frequency transceiver. Packed in a rainproof canvas box, the H-F sets included a short wire antenna that would work using skywave or N-V-I-S propagation. This, to contact any of several radio command posts set up and manned by WICEN of New South Wales. WICEN is a volunteer organization of licensed Australian amateur radio operators who donate some of their time and expertise to emergency communications to benefit the community much the same way that ARES members do here in the United States. Other groups helping with the search this year included the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad, the New South Wales Police Rescue Squad, the New South Wales Volunteer Rescue Association and several others.

At the time of its disappearance the Cessna's four passengers were New South Wales Police Inspector Ken Price, who was traveling with Noel Wildash, Phillip Pembroke and Rhett Bosler. Search aircraft sent to the general area could find no sign of wreckage, and there was no smoke or fire to guide them. Several intensive land searches were also launched but to date, no wreckage of the plane and the remains of its five occupants have been found. At airtime, the search is expected to resume sometime next year. (Adapted from walkietalkietwowayradios.com)

standing wave sensor controller, but I was wrong. This thing actually is a receiver which when one uses the transponder (similar to the lock/unlock remotes for your car) will allow you to remotely, tune the antenna up or down by pushing the appropriate button.

This controller is manufactured by Carlos Aguirre, KD7WJZ. It consists of a little black plastic box and a pair of transponder key packs all for under \$60.00. I filled out the eBay purchase and several days later this little package shows up on my doorstep. A video is available on You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5kVF5hdQHw>

For over 3 months now I have operated this way and have a great time being able to move from 20 to 80 meters with out having to head out the door. The box lies on the front seat of the truck on top of the Icom 706 which I leave in the vehicle.

The attached pictures show the unit and how the output wires (green) can be connected to the screwdriver motor and in my case I used a pair of two pin connectors.

One additional feature is I can adjust the antenna from the front seat of the truck and do not have to remove the controller. It is fairly easy to hold the controller in my hand and listen for the high pitched whine generated by the controller when the unit is keyed indicating the power is applied to the antenna.

I have been operating this way for over three months now and the unit has performed more than satisfactorily. Give this unit a try and I do not think you will be disappointed.

Dick, WA6MDI

## **Wireless Screwdriver Antenna Controller HF Operation in a Re- stricted Home Owners Association.**

Several years ago we sold our home and downsized. Part of that decision meant giving up trees and a non-restricted area where I had a tower, beam, dipole and a large closed loop antenna mounted on trees in a little over ½ of an acre.

We have now moved into a gated community and while I appreciate the lack of maintenance, there is a longing for getting back on HF. How can I get back on the air? Having the good fortune of having a friend on the West Coast, I can operate his Internet based HF remote. That is OK but part of the problem is others, including the owner use this system. So I try to limit my operations to early in the morning and for a short time in the evening.

Another option is a UHF repeater with an HF remote base. I have done that in the past, still have the repeater and HF gear, but again the problem is finding a site that will allow HF radio.

My third option is to use the screwdriver antenna on the back of my truck and operate from the third front bedroom which over looks the driveway. I chose this option, ran some coax from the radio room, down the hallway, across the living room floor, through the laundry room and into the garage.

OK..... I was on the air, but it was still a pain to run all the way into the garage and have the tail end of the truck sitting in the driveway while I tried to tune the antenna with the controller in the car while watching the field strength meter. Several ideas were tried, including running a pair of number 14 wires taped to the coax, but the voltage drop was too great and the antenna did not tune from inside the radio room.

Cruising across eBay one afternoon I came across a neat description of a "Wireless Screwdriver Antenna Controller". My first thought was it was just another

## ULTRASONIC BATTERY CHARGING

The day when we don't have to plug in our consumer electronics is getting close. This according to a claim from a new startup firm named uBeam that has developed what it terms as a safe way of beaming power to charge your battery operated devices.

Rather than using inductive charging, which has a very short effective range and usually requires that the charger and device be in close proximity to each other, uBeam uses an ultrasonic transducer to convert power from your wall socket into inaudible sound energy. On the device side, there's a battery adapter that converts the sound energy back into power to charge your batteries.

The ultrasonic frequency used is well above the range that can be heard by humans or dogs. More is on-line at [www.ubeam.com](http://www.ubeam.com) (VK7WI news)

### **Branch 37 in cyberspace**

The club website is back up and running again. You can find it at [www.zl4gq.com](http://www.zl4gq.com)

If any member would like to add to the website, they can do so by email [Ken@webfactor.co.nz](mailto:Ken@webfactor.co.nz)



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