



Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

September 2015

The North Canterbury Amateur Radio Club Inc.
PO Box 14, Woodend 7641



www.ncarcinc.weebly.com

Meetings are held at the Woodend Youth Centre, unless otherwise advised.



QTH

CLUB CALENDAR

Meetings start at 1930hrs, unless otherwise stated.

Host for September – ZL3RCK

September 10 General Meeting - Not yet finalised.

Branch 01 Ashburton

September 12/13 *EastFest 2015*
14 General Meeting - **George ZL3NQ is host**

Branch 05 Christchurch

September 2 **Combined Branches** & General Meeting - “Update on KiwiSAT” by Terry ZL3QL

Branch 56 Christchurch West

September 9 Free & Easy (1330hrs)
22 General Meeting

CARDS

September 16 General Meeting

Nets and Frequencies

Club HF 3.665MHz, 1930hrs 1st Thursday of the month

Canterbury 2M SSB Net 144.200MHz every Tuesday from 2000hrs (vertical polarisation)

Canterbury 6M Net 3850 6M Repeater Thursdays from 2000hrs (vertical polarisation)

Canterbury Area Net 5625 Repeater, 2000hrs on Sundays

National Broadcast last Sunday of the month at 2000hrs on 3.900MHz, National System, 6975 and 705 Repeaters

*Secretary: Colin Rowe ZL3COL Phone 03 313 2303 Email: colingr@xtra.co.nz
Editor: Tony Buckland ZL3HAM Phone 03 312 5352 Email: zl3ham@scorch.co.nz*

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President's Report

Good news is that the 90th NZART Conference is going to be held in Christchurch hosted by Branch 05. It will give a lot of local amateurs the chance to go along to a national conference.

On a slightly different note I'm looking forward to attending the biannual EastFest event being held as usual in Ashburton on the 12th & 13th September. This is a great event, wall to wall ham radio topics and a good get together at the Ashburton MSA Club on the Saturday night.

I have been busy over the last couple of weeks helping with identifying summits for the SOTA programme which will go live later in the year. We have about 5000 summits to identify both by height and location and also the location of each saddle or col. Quite a large job, but thanks to some clever software written by Andrew Ryan VK3ARR the job has been made much easier. Along with Andrew and myself we have Richard ZL4FZ and Warren ZL2AJ (who is the SOTA association manager for NZ) all working to get through the summits as quick as possible. No doubt this will be a topic to have a talk on at a future Branch meeting.

Stay warm and dry.

73 Don ZL3DMC

AREC Report

Geoff ZL3QR and myself will be going to a meeting in September of the Waimakariri Civil Defence where they will be looking at their plans for the coming year.

No further activities.

**Don ZL3DMC, S/L
Geoff ZL3QR, Dep S/L**

Repeater Reports



Mt. Noble 6975

The repeater is working well with no known issues.

Mike ZL3AKZ

Mt. Grey 675

The repeater is working well with no known issues.

Geoff ZL3QR



EastFest 2015



Saturday 12 September 1000-1730hrs

Sunday 13 September 0900-1230hrs

***** Note: New Venue *****

Venue: Ashburton Masonic Lodge, 111 Havelock Street, Ashburton

Following on from our successful EastFest of 2013 we have decided to hold another similar event this year with many talks and demonstrations of "hands on" ham radio.

Sunday afternoon will be a visit to the Lynn Woodwork Museum, "The Plains", Tinwald Domain.

We will provide morning and afternoon refreshments but not lunch or evening meals. However, Saturday evening meal has been booked at the Ashburton Club and MSA, 231 Burnett Street, Ashburton at 1830 hr. Reasonable prices to be paid on the night.

Cost for the weekend will be \$10 plus a donation to the Lynn Woodwork Museum.

There will be a raffle. Jaycar Gift Cards as prizes.



Further information from:

Tony Buckland ZL3HAM <zl3ham@scorch.co.nz> or Jim Nelson ZL3ND <jim.nelson@xtra.co.nz>

September Meeting

Last month we had a DVD of "VK0IR Heard Island - Outpost at the Edge". This was enjoyed by all but strangely enough no one wanted to go there as it's the most inhospitable island on the planet!

However, there is another DXpedition group scheduled to go there next year. Good luck to them.

This months speaker had not been finalised at this time.



****September Happy Birthday's****

Roy ZL3ARJ
Mark ZL3AIC
Carleen ZL3ADO
Jim ZL3ND



Improved SP7IDX Hex Beam

Following on from my report of snow damage to the hex beam I'm pleased to report it's now back up and working extremely well.

The six black "snow cords" are kevlar/dacron and three cords fix to each of the two larger "S" hooks, no room for all twelve hooks in the top ring so had to fit two larger ones. These cords then fix at about the half way point on each spreader. I also put an additional support cord between spreader one and six (front of beam) for further stability. All the hooks are now closed enough not to come unhooked again!

The centre post fixing between the square and round section is now pop riveted, the strong rivets kindly supplied by Duncan ZL3JT, instead of the original small self tappers. I also fitted a well engineered stainless steel tube over the bottom alu tube on the base where it fits into the stub mast, again thanks to Duncan.



I put a stainless steel tube, supplied by Morry ZL3RP, inside the round alu tube at the bottom of the centre post so the large grub screws have something to tighten against without it being compressed.



Thanks to John ZL3TRR, who kindly gave me three spare end rods and some useful fixings, I was able to replace the broken end rods etc.



Liz & I are very pleased we've got it back up the tower again, with Morry's ZL3RP kind assistance with the cherry picker, and hopefully it will now last a lot longer and survive another snow storm and our gusty Nor'westers.

Tony ZL3HAM



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CLUB COMMITTEE

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| | Geoff Gillman | ZL3QR | 03 313 7137 |
| | Rob Carpenter | ZL3RO | |
| | Tony Buckland | ZL3HAM | 03 312 5352 |
| | Ron Kautz | ZL3RCK | 03 312 8615 |

SPECIAL INTEREST CONTACTS

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| AREC | Don MacDonald | ZL3DMC/ZK9EG | 03 327 7415 |
| Web Master | Ron Kautz | ZL3RCK | 03 312 8615 |
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| 6975 | Mike Kennedy | ZL3AKZ | 03 313 3646 |
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| | Richard Smart | ZL4FZ | 03 385 8355 |
| ZL3RR | Geoff Gillman | ZL3QR | 03 313 7137 |

CALENDAR for 2015

General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| - | | | | | | | | 10 | 8 | 12 | 10 |

Committee Meeting - Fourth Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | 24 | 22 | 26 | - |

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Enquiries to Denise ZL3HI, phone (03) 313 4907

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