



Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

April 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 1930 hrs, unless otherwise stated.

Host for April – ZL3OV

April 9 General Meeting - “EMC/RFI Issues with VFD’s” by Mark ZL3TKI

Branch 01 Ashburton

April 13 General Meeting - “AGM”. Jim ZL3ND is host

Branch 05 Christchurch

April 1 General Meeting - “eVelocity, an electric car for High Schools” by Aidan ZL3APB

Branch 56 Christchurch West

April 8 Free & Easy (1330 hrs)
28 General Meeting

CARDS

April 15 General Meeting

Nets and Frequencies

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

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

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

Canterbury Area Net 5625 Repeater, 2000 hrs on Sundays

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

****Congratulations to Don MacDonald ZL3DMC, our President, for taking on the role of NZART Councillar (Midlands District).****

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

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President's Report

Well another month touring around the country for work. I'm looking forward to the NZART conference this year in Hamilton when I will start as a councillor for the Midland region, I can only hope I'm up to the job.

Last year when I was at ZL3X for the ARRL CW contest (Antenna technician only) I decided to have a go at learning CW. I thought this would be a couple of months effort (how hard can it be)? I can now report it isn't quite as easy as you may think, but by sticking at it approx 15min per day I am progressing quite well and have passed the halfway point. I am using what is called the Koch method whereby one learns the letters one at a time at a fast speed (20wpm). This means that when you reach the end of the course of 43 lessons you are a proficient operator. It has started to get a bit easier as I get familiar with the bulk of the alphabet and I should be finished in the next couple of months. I am looking forward to that day.

I recently tidied up my antenna connections both inside and out and found that by doing the engineering correctly and taking your time you will get a good results from your antenna, as I found out.

73 Don ZL3DMC

AREC Report

Forest/Rural Firecomms: (AREC Supplied Comms/Logistics to Forestry Fire Teams)

Tue 24/3/15 Early morning garage fire in the Ashley Forest Village. (3 minutes travel time from Fire Station!) Two Forestry units called to assist NZFS appliances. Shed totally destroyed.

**Geoff ZL3QR
Dep S/L**

Repeater Reports



Mt. Noble 6975

Running OK. Voltage down at times due to excess input to the dummy load.

Mike ZL3AKZ

Mt. Grey 675

Mt. Grey repeater is working well with no known issues.

Geoff ZL3QR



Branch 68 National Field Day 2015.

Our Branch again fielded a team for the Jock White Memorial National Field Days contest, based from Rob ZL3RO's QTH at North Loburn. This time, however, our usual team was one person short as Don ZL3DMC had work commitments and would not be available. Apart from being one man down it also meant that our previous arrangement of Don's van as 80 metre base and Rob's caravan for 40 metre ops (to give better separation) would instead be contained in the caravan (80m) and awning (40m). This actually worked quite well as the band filters we first used last year proved very satisfactory in eliminating the cross-band interference which had plagued us for many years.



Jim ZL3ND very kindly offered to fill in for Don and so retain a four man team (Ron ZL3RCK, Rob, Jim and myself) that is necessary to safely erect the antennas. First move then was to get one end of the 80m antenna high up in a pine tree, which takes a little, or perhaps a bit more than a little, dexterity with a bow and arrow.

That sets the position of the 11m main-mast. In the past a hefty ground peg acts as a hinge-pint and Rob's tractor and front end loader used to raise the mast into position and stabilise it.

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April Meeting

At our March meeting Geoff ZL3GA gave us a splendid illustrated talk on the "YJØX DXpedition to Vanuatu" by the ZL3X Quake Contesters Group. Fortunately their partners accompanied them for a very enjoyable family type DXpedition. They are in the process of organising another one, with the expert help of ladies. The main criteria is the location must be on the top "100 DXCC wanted list" and I believe decent shopping is another important criteria. Thanks Geoff most enjoyable.

NB: In the aftermath of the Vanuatu storms, cyclone Pam, the "ZL3X" team have donated \$1,000 to the Red Cross Appeal, which is about the amount they got as voluntary donations by amateurs requesting QSL cards via OQRS. Well done team a kind and thoughtful gesture.

This month we have Mark Empson ZL3TKI who will be giving us a talk on "EMC/RFI issues with Variable Frequency Drives", sounds interesting.



****April Happy Birthday's****

Dennis ZL3WDB



cont'd from page 3

This time however, welding on the pivot gave way, so Rob headed off to his workshop to effect repairs. Meanwhile Jim eyed-up the tall deer-fence post and determined that it would be suitable to “heel” the mast against simply by using the tractor and suitable long ropes from the paddock next door to do the lifting, so with Mandy (Rob’s XYL) on the tractor, Ron and myself on the guy ropes and Jim doing the “eye-ball spirit level” bit, we had it up and secured by the time Rob returned with a repaired, but no longer needed, ground spike. With the 80m dipole up, the 40m then run out and the second, lighter, mast raised. A slight repositioning of the caravan, awning fitted, coaxes and power cable from the generator connected and all was ready to go in time for the 3.00pm start of the contest.



All went pretty well, the weather was kind to us for the whole weekend, and the bands were open as well as could be expected. Scores were reasonable overall considering that there were a few gaps in the 80m operations because we were an operator down. 40m on the other hand was the best it has been for some time.

Operators: Rob ZL3RO, Ron ZL3RCK, Denise ZL3HI, Bev ZL3OV and myself. Jim ZL3ND assisted setting up on the Saturday and on the Sunday Ron brought his teenage son to try logging and who also made the final couple of contacts on 80m. (Hopefully a budding new “ham”).

Denise ZL3HI



Rob ZL3RO and Ron ZL3RCK

This, unfortunately, may be the last time at this location as the property is on the market, and so the hunt is on for a possible new site for next year.

Geoff ZL3QR



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	Rob Carpenter	ZL3RO	03 312 8621
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CALENDAR for 2015**General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-			9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10

Committee Meeting - Fourth Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

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

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