

Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

August 2017

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 August - ZL3HI

Branch 68

August 10 General Meeting

Branch 01 Ashburton

August 14 General Meeting

Branch 05 Christchurch

August 2 General Meeting - topic by Historian Gerard Morris
Day Meeting @ 1300hrs

CARDS

August 16 AGM followed by Regular Meeting

Nets and Frequencies

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: Ron Kautz ZL3RCK **Phone** 021 036 7315 **Email:** zl3rck@gmx.com

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Presidents Report August 2017

Monday, 31 July 2017

07:01

First of all I would like to thanks Ron ZL3RCK for taking over the duties of Ragchew editor, I'm sure Ron will do a sterling job in this role.

As you may be aware we have had notification of the start of the planning process for the Waimakariri District council district plan. We will be keeping a close eye on this and have notified the NZART LGLO so he can render assistance as required. It is hoped we can get a decision similar to Christchurch which was favourable to amateurs. Our committee are striving to bring you interesting speakers and topics for the general meetings, but if anyone has hidden radio talents we didn't know about ,or have any ideas for topics please see myself or another committee member.

73

AREC Report

Sun. 23/6/17 Missing Person, female Waikuku Beach, vehicle located in carpark.
Female as yet not located, search on hold, pending police enquiries.



Don ZL3DMC/ZK9EG
Section Leader

Repeater Reports



Mount Noble 6975 (146.975Mhz) Repeater

Probably been snowed on at least 3 times by the time you read this. Still performing well at my place.

Mike ZL3AKZ

Mount Grey 675 (146.750Mhz) Repeater

The repeater is working well with no known issues.

Geoff ZL3QR



Solar Minimum is Coming

by Staff Writers

Huntsville AL (SPX) Jul 26, 2017

High up in the clear blue noontime sky, the sun appears to be much the same day-in, day-out, year after year. But astronomers have long known that this is not true.

The sun does change. Properly-filtered telescopes reveal a fiery disk often speckled with dark sunspots. Sunspots are strongly magnetized, and they crackle with solar flares-magnetic explosions that illuminate Earth with flashes of X-rays and extreme ultraviolet radiation. The sun is a seething mass of activity.

Until it's not. Every 11 years or so, sunspots fade away, bringing a period of relative calm.

"This is called solar minimum," says Dean Pesnell of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. "And it's a regular part of the sunspot cycle."

The sun is heading toward solar minimum now. Sunspot counts were relatively high in 2014, and now they are sliding toward a low point expected in 2019-2020.

While intense activity such as sunspots and solar flares subside during solar minimum, that doesn't mean the sun becomes dull. Solar activity simply changes form.

For instance, says Pesnell, "during solar minimum we can see the development of long-lived coronal holes."

Coronal holes are vast regions in the sun's atmosphere where the sun's magnetic field opens up and allows streams of solar particles to escape the sun as the fast solar wind.

Pesnell says "We see these holes throughout the solar cycle, but during solar minimum, they can last for a long time - six months or more." Streams of solar wind flowing from coronal holes can cause space weather effects near Earth when they hit Earth's magnetic field. These effects can include temporary disturbances of the Earth's magnetosphere, called geomagnetic storms, auroras, and disruptions to communications and navigation systems.

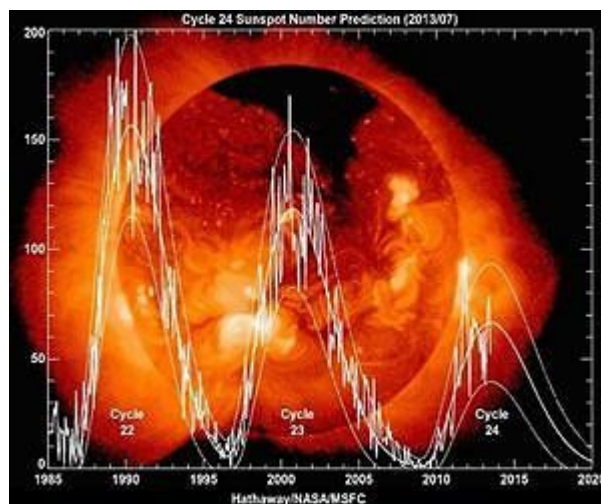
During solar minimum, the effects of Earth's upper atmosphere on satellites in low Earth orbit changes too. Normally Earth's upper atmosphere is heated and puffed up by ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Satellites in low Earth orbit experience friction as they skim through the outskirts of our atmosphere. This friction creates drag, causing satellites to lose speed over time and eventually fall back to Earth. Drag is a good thing, for space junk; natural and man-made particles floating in orbit around Earth. Drag helps keep low Earth orbit clear of debris.

But during solar minimum, this natural heating mechanism subsides. Earth's upper atmosphere cools and, to some degree, can collapse. Without a normal amount of drag, space junk tends to hang around.

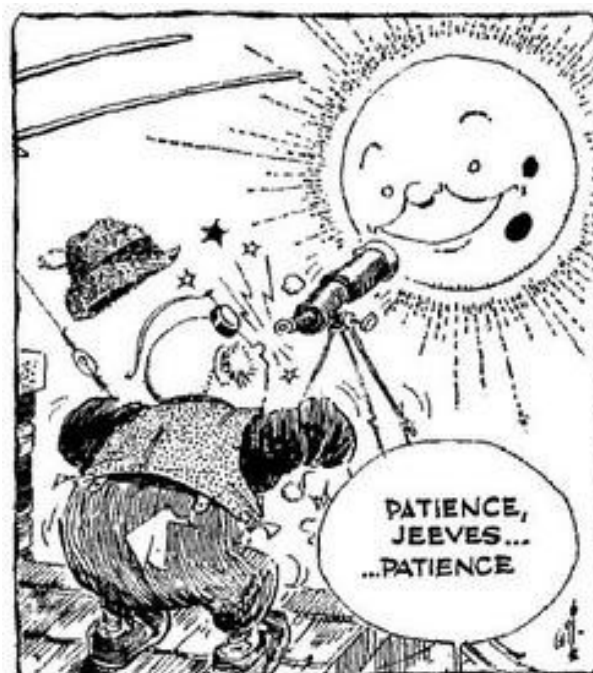
There are unique space weather effects that get stronger during solar minimum. For example, the number of galactic cosmic rays that reach Earth's upper atmosphere increases during solar minimum. Galactic cosmic rays are high energy particles accelerated toward the solar system by distant supernova explosions and other violent events in the galaxy.

Pesnell says that "During solar minimum, the sun's magnetic field weakens and provides less shielding from these cosmic rays. This can pose an increased threat to astronauts traveling through space."

Solar minimum brings about many changes to our sun, but less solar activity doesn't make the sun and our space environment any less interesting.



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Mid Winter Dinner

To be held at the Gardens Restaurant, 110 Marshlands Road, Shirley
Sunday 6th August 2017 12.00pm

Numbers going to:
Don ZL3DMC, scanner379@gmail.com



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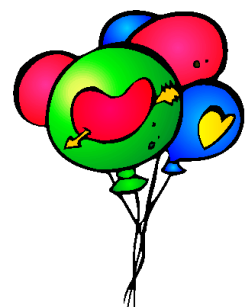
August Meeting

Come and see
all welcome

****August Happy Birthday's****



Mike ZL3TMB
Geoff ZL3QR
Mary ZL3AHY
Anne ZL3VR
Ron ZL3RCK



CLUB COMMITTEE

President	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC	03 327 7415
Vice President	Ron Kautz	ZL3RCK	03 312 8615
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	Tony Buckland	ZL3HAM	03 312 5352
	Ron Kautz	ZL3RCK	03 312 8615
	Geoff Gooch	ZL3AL	03 920 2800
	Owen Pimm	ZL3GM	03 310 6070
	Simon Hill	ZL3SI	021 210 1786

SPECIAL INTEREST CONTACTS

AREC	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC/ZK9EG	03 327 7415
Web Master	Ron Kautz	ZL3RCK	03 312 8615
Repeater Trustees			
6975	Mike Kennedy	ZL3AKZ	03 313 3646
	Brian Holland	ZL4WX	03 312 3344
675	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137
	Richard Smart	ZL4FZ	03 385 8355
ZL3RR	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137

CALENDAR for 2017**General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-							10	14	12	9	7

Committee Meeting - Fourth Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

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

Branch 68 Marketplace**FROM BRANCH 68**

Coax RG58 (per metre) \$1.60

Enquiries to Geoff ZL3QR, phone (03) 313 7137

Club Monograms (cloth) \$9.00 - Club Badges (metal) \$6.50

Enquiries to Denise ZL3HI, phone (03) 313 4907****SUBS DUE BY 30 APRIL******Annual Subscriptions****\$40 Single, \$50 Family**

Payment by instalments can be arranged with the Treasurer.

Bank details for Internet payment. Please include your Callsign / Name.**ANZ Bank: 01 0877 0105044 00****PLEASE HELP THE CLUB and PAY PROMPTLY**