



Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

December 2016

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

Seasons Greetings

CLUB CALENDAR

Meetings start at 1930hrs, unless otherwise stated.

Host for December- ZL3QR

December 8 General Meeting - “ZL9NZ DXpedition” by Don ZL3DMC
10 Xmas BBQ (1200 hrs) at the Club Rooms

Branch 01 Ashburton

December 12 Xmas Dinner - “Taj of India (1800 hrs)”

Branch 05 Christchurch

December 7 Annual General Meeting & Christmas nibbles

Branch 56 Christchurch West

December 27 General Meeting

CARDS

December 21 General 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: Tony Buckland ZL3HAM Phone 03 312 5352 Email: zl3ham@scorch.co.nz

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President's Report

How things have changed in a month! With the advent of the "Kaikoura Earthquake" many memories of a few years ago have once again come to the surface. Our thoughts must be with the people of Kaikoura and surrounding areas - we certainly know how they feel and the long road to recovery ahead.

A few AREC personnel including myself, have been involved in a small way with the Hurunui District Council Civil Defence, firstly in their IMT and then in the "comms" caravan at the rear of the Amberley library.

As they say "hasn't this year gone fast" our next meeting will be the last for the year and I will be giving a talk on my participation in the "VK9NZ" Dxpediton to Norfolk Island in October this year, don't miss it.

It won't be long till the Jock White Field days and we hope to put in a team this year, we managed a credible second last year, so let's see if we can improve on that score.

Merry Christmas.

73 Don ZL3DMC

AREC Report

Following the Earthquake on Nov14 Richard Smart ZL4FZ and myself were asked to assist in the Hurunui CD EOC for Saturday 19th Nov to give the council staff a break.

On arrival we saw some familiar SAR faces in ops and were directed into Logistics to help with the computer logging. Richard set up a couple of spreadsheets to record all the movement of supplies etc. that were heading up to Waiau and Mt Lyford, while I headed out and purchased supplies from Countdown for the SAR teams to take into the Waiau area to affected rural families. A busy but enjoyable day finishing at 7.30 (12.5hr shift)

On Tuesday 22nd were asked to supply radio operators for the comms caravan at the rear of the Amberley Library, which we duly did. AREC operators will also be required for Saturday 26th Nov as well.

**Don MacDonald, ZL3DMC/ZK9EG
Section Leader**

Forest Rural Fire (AREC supplied Comms/Logistics to Forestry Fire Teams)

Fri 4/11/16 Two Forestry units to deal with an unattended small rural fire near Balcairn as it could not be accessed by normal NZFS units. A second small fire, almost out, was also discovered nearby.

CDEM

Sat 19/11/16 We had been asked by Waimak Civil Defence for help at a CDEM exercise at the Rangiora A&P Showgrounds, however the severe earthquakes in North Canterbury and Marlborough in the early hours of Monday 14th caused this event to be cancelled. We had 2 or 3 volunteers who would have taken part.

Wed 23/11/16 Richard ZL3SED and myself had been tasked to assist with radio comms at Amberley for the Hurunui Civil Defence. However, on arrival, found there had been a misunderstanding and we were not needed after all. SAR were doing this task for the remainder of the week.

Geoff ZL3QR, Dep. S/L.

Repeater Reports



Mt. Noble 6975

Trip planned in December to install new software to help control the depletion of the batteries due to the dump load fan operating continuously. Batteries are ageing so it's harder for them to recover voltage easily.

Mike ZL3AKZ

Mt. Grey 675

The repeater is working well with no known issues.

Geoff ZL3QR



Learn Morse Code in 4 hours from ‘taps on your head’

Posted by Jason Maderer-Georgia Tech November 1st, 2016

A new system can teach people Morse Code within four hours using a series of vibrations felt near the ear. Participants wearing Google Glass learned it without paying attention to the signals—they played games while feeling the taps and hearing the corresponding letters. After those few hours, they were 94 percent accurate keying a sentence that included every letter of the alphabet and 98 percent accurate writing codes for every letter.

“This study was different and surprising. People were tapped on their heads, but the skill they learned was using their finger.”

The system uses passive haptic learning (PHL), a method that has previously taught people to read braille and to play the piano. It also improved hand sensation for those with partial spinal cord injury.

Researchers decided to use Glass for this study because it has both a built-in speaker and tapper.

Participants played a game while feeling vibration taps between their temple and ear. The taps represented the dots and dashes of Morse Code and passively “taught” users through their tactile senses—even while they were distracted by the game.



“Common devices with an actuator could be used for passive haptic learning,” says Thad Starner. (Credit: Georgia Tech) The taps were created when researchers sent a very low-frequency signal to Glass’s speaker system. At less than 15 Hz, the signal was below hearing range but, because it was played very slowly, the sound was felt as a vibration.

Half of the participants in the study felt the vibration taps and heard a voice prompt for each corresponding letter. The other half—the control group—felt no taps to help them learn.

Participants were tested throughout the study on their knowledge of Morse Code and their ability to type it. After less than four hours of feeling every letter, everyone was challenged to type the alphabet in Morse Code in a final test.

cont’d

The control group was accurate only half the time. Those who felt the passive cues were nearly perfect.

“Does this new study mean that people will rush out to learn Morse Code? Probably not,” says Thad Starner, professor at Georgia Tech. “It shows that PHL lowers the barrier to learn text-entry methods—something we need for smartwatches and any text-entry that doesn’t require you to look at your device or keyboard.”

Previous research on PHL used custom hardware to provide the tactile stimuli, but here researchers use an existing wearable device.

“This research also shows that other common devices with an actuator could be used for passive haptic learning,” Starner says. “Your smartwatch, Bluetooth headset, fitness tracker, or phone.”

“In our Braille and piano PHL studies, people felt vibrations on their fingers, then used their fingers for the task,” says Caitlyn Seim. “This study was different and surprising. People were tapped on their heads, but the skill they learned was using their finger.”

Seim’s next study will go a step further, investigating whether PHL can teach people how to type on the trusted QWERTY keyboard. That would mean several letters assigned to the same finger, rather than using only one finger like Morse Code.

Researchers presented the results in Germany at the 20th International Symposium on Wearable Computers. The National Science Foundation supported the project.

Source: <http://www.news.gatech.edu/2016/10/27/learning-morse-code-without-trying>

Based on the above article here is a Haptic Morse Code reader on Instructables.

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Feel-The-Code-A-Haptic-Morse-Code-Reader-Part-/>

Article copied from the Gateway (GGREC) Newsletter.

<p><i>Man Up & Get Checked!</i></p>	 <p>Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand</p>	<p>PHONE 0800 477 678 EMAIL info@prostate.org.nz WEB www.prostate.org.nz</p>
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December Meeting

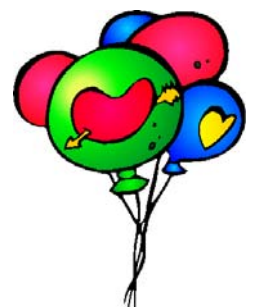
Last month Andrew ZL3CC gave us an excellent informative presentation of the outline of SOTA working and bought along the equipment he takes up the various summits. Thanks Andrew.

This month Don ZL3DMC will tell us all about his recent DXpedition to ZL9NZ, Norfolk Island followed by some Christmas fare.



****December Happy Birthday's****

No known members Birthday's this month





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	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137
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CALENDAR for 2016

General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Committee Meeting - Fourth Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Enquiries to Denise ZL3HI, phone (03) 313 4907

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