



Ragchew

"The Voice of Branch 68"

January - February 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

CLUB CALENDAR

Meetings start at 1930hrs, unless otherwise stated.

Host for February – Committee

February 11 Annual General Meeting - "K1N Navassa Island DXpedition DVD"

Branch 01 Ashburton

February 8 General Meeting - Stu Holdaway is host

Branch 05 Christchurch

February 3 General Meeting - "IT & Telecomms in a Disaster" by Steve ZL2UCX
18 Day meeting (1300hrs)

Branch 56 Christchurch West

February 10 Free & Easy (1330hrs)
23 General Meeting

CARDS

February 17 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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the photocopying of the newsletter.

Annual President's Report

We have had another interesting year with a variety of speakers on some very good topics along with some DVDs that were of interest. I am always impressed with the ideas that come up and the excellent quality of them all.

Through the year the club has been involved with various public service activities such as equestrian endurance events, various SAR searches and some civil defence exercises.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your committee members for the work that they do through the year, because of their efforts the club is in a good state going forwards into the future.

Various initiatives are being suggested on both a national and local level to increase awareness of Amateur Radio in the community and to increase membership in clubs around New Zealand.

Remember we have Field days coming up at the end of February and the SOTA activation that has started in the North Island should be kicking off here in the South in the next couple of months. I will talk more about this as we get closer to the date.

President's Report

I hope you have had a good holiday season. I spent a couple of weeks in the North Island and had a great time catching up with friends and family.

Late last year I purchased a second-hand BHI noise eliminating speaker. I had heard from people that had these how wonderful they were. I was a bit sceptical at first, but the speaker has exceeded all my expectations. The noise reduction on 80M is amazing, and can now listen to this band with ease, where as before I didn't bother because of all the noise. Certainly a worthwhile purchase.

Coming up we have the Jock White Field Day on the 27/28 February.

73 Don ZL3DMC

AREC Report

January 2/3 2016 Equine Endurance event, Mayfield. Geoff ZL3QR assisted Christchurch AREC with this event, which went ahead smoothly.

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

Repeater Reports



Mt. Noble 6975

Running well as usual. Connection to West Coast still on. Battery voltage down a little at times but seems to make up for that in sunny weather. Two years since last visit I think.

Mike ZL3AKZ

Mt. Grey 675

The repeater is working well with no known issues.

Geoff ZL3QR



Repeater Trustees Reports - 2015

Mount Grey 675 Trustee's Report

As mentioned in our 2014 Report that the investigation into the P25 interference problems would take place in 2015 by the Police Communications and the matter was resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

There was one failure during the year, caused in April by the back-up battery's demise which had then overloaded the power supply fuse. The battery was replaced with a brand new one and the Repeater has worked well ever since.

At the same time the "Time Out" was reset for 3 minutes.

**Geoff ZL3QR
Richard ZL4FZ
(Trustees)**

ZL3RR Trustee's Report – 2015

Club Nets:

HF

In the 2014 Annual Report I commented that the continuing decline of support for the Club Nets would inevitably see the Monthly HF Net follow the closure of the weekly VHF Net as happened in early 2014.

Regrettably, after almost equal to that of the Club itself, that time has now come, with the final net being called in December 2015. I wish to thank those who participated over the years and note that a number of previous Net Controllers are sadly no longer with us.

Thanks also to the Repeater Trustees and the "Technical Teams".

**Geoff ZL3QR
Trustee, ZL3RR**

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**For further details contact Geoff ZL3QR
(03) 313 7317 or zl3qr@kinect.co.nz**

February Meeting

At the December meeting we had a few Christmas Ham Radio YouTube clips presented by Don ZL3DMC and following there was some Christmas fare along with the Branch 68 Christmas cake.

The meeting this month is the AGM and following the official part there will be a DVD shown "K1N Navassa Island DXpedition".

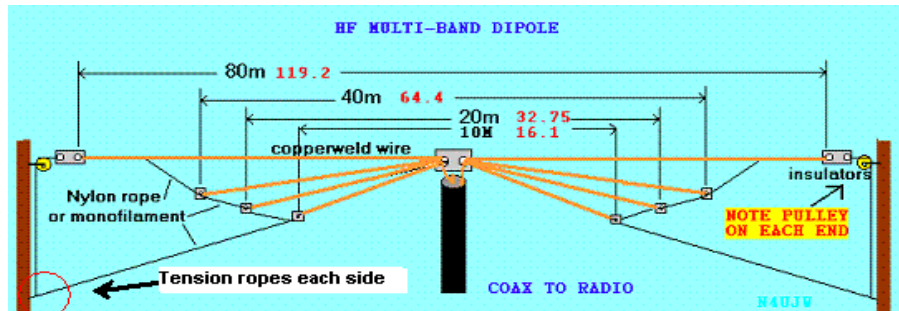


****Jan - Feb Happy Birthday's****

**Irene ZL3VQR
Bev ZL3TIW
Bev ZL3OV
Tony ZL3HAM**



BUILD THIS MULTIBAND FAN DIPOLE FOR HF ANTENNA EXCITEMENT



Tension rope is not tied to pulley rope in picture. It is tied near location of pulley rope down on supports within easy reach. It is tied last after final SWR adjustment and the antenna is in it's final position.

Suggested total lengths:

80 meters - 120 feet

40 meters - 65 to 66 feet

20 meters - 34 feet

10 meters - 17 feet

These lengths are not exact. Some tuning may be required. Use the standard formula $468 / \text{freq(mhz)}$ for total feet for each band (freq) of interest. Adjust each length longer or shorter as needed.

Based on research done by the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) to construct a three-frequency multi-band dipole that would work without any need for cut and try techniques, we pass on this information in the hope that it will help you more easily get this type of antenna on the air quicker.

What they came up with was much improved method over the old cut and prune technique seen at the bottom of this page.

They found that the wires at the center feed point had to be separated by at least 5 1/2 inches vertically and the ends separated by 38 inches in the 2 to 18 MHz range. As in any fan dipole construction, all of the dipoles are connected in parallel but in the SRI method, the separation between them at the feed point must be maintained.

By this simple change they found that you could accurately cut the antenna element lengths for given frequencies and eliminate the need for pruning.

In the drawing above, the lowest frequency antenna is on top and is cut 4% short of the standard 1/2 wave length. (Length in feet= 0.96×468 divided by the operating frequency in MHz).

The middle frequency antenna (lower in frequency), is cut for an exact 1/2 wave length. (length in feet= 468 divided by the frequency in MHz)

The highest frequency antenna is at the bottom and cut for 1% longer than the 1/2 wavelength (length in feet= 1.01×468 divided by the frequency in MHz)

Compared to the construction effort of a standard multi-band dipole the only difference is the fabrication of a feed block or center insulator that is about 12 inches vertically by 3 inches wide, so make sure this is made of a good insulating material such as Lucite, Bakelite, fibreglass, or PVC.

The end 38 inches of separation can be maintained by separate halyards on each element or a spreader bar with a common halyard.

The bandwidth will be at least plus or minus 2% for a 1.5 to 1 SWR according to Stanford Research Institute.

Editors note: It is assumed that this method will only work as described if you are working with a "3 band" multi-band dipole. We do not have information for use with over 3 bands using the SRI method.

If you arrive at a better method, let us know!

You can chose whichever method of constructing the multiband dipole using either the method above or use the old cut and try method below.....your choice.

We would appreciate any feedback if you use the newer method ABOVE!

Email n4ujw@hamuniverse.com with your comments to be added to feedback.



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	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137
	Rob Carpenter	ZL3RO	
	Tony Buckland	ZL3HAM	03 312 5352
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675	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137
	Richard Smart	ZL4FZ	03 385 8355
ZL3RR	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137

CALENDAR for 2016

General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

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

Committee Meeting - Fourth Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

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

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Enquiries to Denise ZL3HI, phone (03) 313 4907

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