



# Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

Jan - Feb 2015

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



[www.ncarcinc.weebly.com](http://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 February – Committee*

February 12 Annual General Meeting - “Silver Fern Rally Comms.” by Don ZL3DMC

### **Branch 01 Ashburton**

February 9 General Meeting - Host is Robin ZL3REW

### **Branch 05 Christchurch**

February 4 General Meeting “EMC/RFI with Variable Frequency Drives” by Mark Empson ZL3TKI

### **Branch 56 Christchurch West**

February 11 Free & Easy (1330 hrs)  
24 General Meeting

### **CARDS**

February 18 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

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

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Thanks to **BAYLEYS** for sponsoring the photocopying of the newsletter.

## Annual President's Report

This past year has been full of interesting speakers and activities at our club meetings. The fact that we bring these speakers to you is due to the tireless efforts by your committee members to approach and "convince" our guests to come to our meetings.

Highlights have included Dave Hadler ZL3TRX talking on digital radio and a very interesting talk by Kelvin Barnsdale ZL3KB on "Unmanned Aerial vehicles".

We also had several DVD's and a film to round off the year.

Coming up this year we have the Jock White Field Day being held on February 28th/March 1st 2015. More on this later.

If you have any suggestions for speakers or activities for our meetings please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee members.

**73 Don ZL3DMC**

## AREC Report

**December 14th: Kayak Race, Waimak Gorge.** Team members assisted br. 05 with the running of this race.

Upcoming Events: There will be no AREC involvement in the Coast to Coast this year as a commercial operator has secured the contract.

**Don ZL3DMC/ZK9EG**

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

**Thu. 4/12/14.** Eyrewell Forest. Escape of controlled burn into area of gorse and broom. One Forestry unit called to assist with mopping up operations. As part of the process of logging out this area for change of land use there is a continuous series of slash burns which accounts for the many call-outs to this area.

**Wed. 31/12/14.** Eyrewell Forest area. Paddock fire having escaped from burning pit in gusty N-W conditions, which also caught a couple of shelter belts. Major turn-out including one Forestry unit.

**Thu. 1/1/15.** Waimak riverbed, Eyrewell Forest area. The Forestry unit was on patrol next morning at the scene of the previous night's event and were first on the scene. An area of scrub burned and evidence of a still warm campfire and burnt fireworks found. Just over an hour after their return there was an alert to hotspots at the site of the previous night's fire. However, as they proved to be only a small, NZFS units in attendance were sufficient and the Forestry unit was not required.

**Wed. 20/1/15.** Smoke in Eyrewell Forest area. Found to be dust mistaken for smoke and coming from bulldozers working in the area. Forestry unit stood down while en route.

**Geoff ZL3QR  
Dep. S/L.**

## Repeater Trustees Reports - 2014

### Mt. Noble 6975

Functioning well for another year with very little maintenance.

**Mike ZL3AKZ**

### Mt. Grey 675

This repeater was returned to service, following a major rebuild, on Waitangi Day in February, well in time to get significant use during the annual Coast-to-Coast event. In mid-April the weekly Club VHF Net moved to it and it was also used during the Lees Valley stages of the Silverfern Rally in November as part of the IRLP link back to Rally HQ. in Blenheim. (For this event IRLP was linked to various repeaters around the rally course as it progressed throughout the South Island). It has worked well throughout the year, the only real problem being the P25 interference, the level of which varies from day to day. We have, however, received an indication that this problem is to be seriously investigated early in 2015. We can only hope that some relief may be near.

**Geoff ZL3QR  
Richard ZL4FZ**

## ZL3RR Trustee's Report – 2014

### Club Nets:

#### VHF.

Following on from my last Annual Report regarding the year by year continual decline of our weekly Sunday evening Net, it was decided at the April General Meeting that this formal Net would change to a non-structured "general gathering" and, in an effort to enable more people to join in, it would shift from Mt. Noble 6975 to the more easily accessed Mt. Grey 675. Unfortunately, the promised improved support following this move, has not eventuated, in fact quite the reverse. Therefore, having supported the VHF Net myself since its inception more than 25 years ago, I see no sense in continuing and have reluctantly closed it as of December 14<sup>th</sup>, the same night as the Regional Net finished for the year.

#### HF.

This Net is supported principally only by a couple of "die-hards" with an occasional extra or two each month so there is a definite question mark over its future also, but it will continue for 2015 at least.

Thanks to those who have participated during the year and also to the Repeater Trustees and the "Technical Teams".

**Geoff ZL3QR  
(ZL3RR Trustee)**

## February Meeting

At our December meeting we had Kelvin ZL3KB who kindly gave us an uplifting talk on "**The Real Future of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**". This was enjoyed by all especially having a close look at the quadcopter Kelvin brought along. Thanks Kelvin.

This month it's our AGM followed by Don ZL3DMC who will give us a detailed report on the comms at the recent **Silver Ferns Rally** and maybe a few stories on the happenings on the rally.



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

Irene ZL3VQR  
Bev ZL3TIW  
Bev ZL3OV  
Tony ZL3HAM



## Antenna Installation Guide

This useful advice was taken from the SteppIR web page:-  
<http://www.steppir.com/stainless-steel-galling>

### Stainless Steel Galling (cold-welding)

From time to time, we get complaints from customers regarding galling of stainless steel fasteners. Here is an excerpt from the Industrial Fastener Institute's Standards Book:

*Thread galling seems to be the most prevalent with fasteners made of stainless steel, aluminium, titanium and other alloys which self-generate an oxide surface film for corrosion protection. During fastener tightening, as pressure builds between the contacting and sliding thread surfaces, protective oxides are broken, possibly wiped off and interface metal high points shear or lock together. This cumulative clogging-shearing-locking action causes increasing adhesion. In the extreme, galling leads to seizing – the actual freezing together of the threads. If tightening is continued, the fastener can be twisted off or its threads ripped out.*

During minor galling, the fastener can still be removed, but in severe cases of galling, a strong bond between the bolt and nut can prevent removal of fasteners. Unfortunately, little is known on how to control it, but here are two ways to minimize this effect:

*Decreasing installation RPM speed will cause less friction and decrease heat generation. Lubrication used prior to assembly can dramatically reduce or eliminate galling. Recommended lubricants should contain higher amounts of molybdenum disulfide, such as graphite which is very commonly used as a solid lubricant or special anti-galling lubricants sold by chemical companies.*

We provide anti-seize compound with all of our antennas and **strongly encourage** you to use it to reduce the aggravation of galling. Contrary to popular belief, galling of stainless steel is not a symptom of a “cheap” fastener – it is prevalent in all types of stainless steel, aluminium and titanium fasteners. You can be assured that the stainless steel fasteners we provide with our products are manufactured of high quality.

**Save yourself a lot of grief and always use a thread lubricant when working with stainless steel fasteners.**

**\*\*Tip:** Use CRC Nickel Anti-Seize & Lubricating Compound for stainless steel. Great stuff.

### Tube VS Pipe

In the manufacturing industry one often hear terms such as pipes or tubing. To those working in this industry it is often not clear what the difference is between a pipe and a tube. After all they're both just hollow cylinders, so many people think that the word has the exact same meaning. That is however wrong. There are a couple of key differences between tubes and pipes:

1. A pipe is a vessel - a tube is structural
2. A pipe is measured ID - a tube is measured OD

A hollow cylinder has 3 important dimensions which are:

The outside diameter (OD)

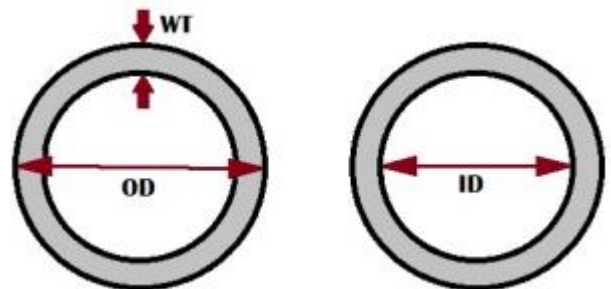
The inside diameter (ID)

The wall thickness (WT)

These three are related by a very simple equation:

$$OD = ID + 2 * WT$$

3. One can completely specify a piece of pipe/tube by supplying any two of these numbers.





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**CLUB COMMITTEE**

|                |               |              |             |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| President      | Don MacDonald | ZL3DMC       | 03 327 7415 |
| Vice President | Owen Pimm     | ZL3GM        | 03 310 6070 |
| Secretary      | Colin Rowe    | ZL3COL       | 03 313 2303 |
| Treasurer      | Denise Hider  | ZL3HI        | 03 313 4907 |
| AREC S/Leader  | Don MacDonald | ZL3DMC/ZK9EG | 03 327 7415 |
| Ragchew Editor | Tony Buckland | ZL3HAM       | 03 312 5352 |
| Committee      | Bev Gillman   | ZL3OV        | 03 313 7137 |
|                | Geoff Gillman | ZL3QR        | 03 313 7137 |
|                | Rob Carpenter | ZL3RO        | 03 312 8621 |
|                | Tony Buckland | ZL3HAM       | 03 312 5352 |
|                | (Co-opt)      | Ron Kautz    | ZL3RCK      |

**SPECIAL INTEREST CONTACTS**

|                           |                 |              |             |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| AREC                      | Don MacDonald   | ZL3DMC/ZK9EG | 03 327 7415 |
| Digital                   | Position Vacant |              |             |
| Repeater Trustees<br>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 2015****General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)**

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| -   | 12  | 12  | 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | 26  | 26  | 23  | 28  | 25  | 23  | 27  | 24  | 22  | 26  | -   |

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