



Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

July 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 July – ZL3OV

July 9 General Meeting - “VK0IR Heard Island” DVD by Tony ZL3HAM

Branch 01 Ashburton

July 13 General Meeting - Dick ZL3ADP is host

Branch 05 Christchurch

July 1 General Meeting - “RFI found on the HV Network” by Bill ZL3AFW

Branch 56 Christchurch West

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

CARDS

July 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

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

President's Report

Well I hope everyone is managing in this unusual cold spell we are in the grip of. I was very pleased to see 2 new amateurs joining our club this month with another couple in the pipeline, it bodes well for the future. I am tutoring 2 high school lads, who with any luck may become members as well.

A couple of local amateurs and myself are testing a piece of software that allows CW to be sent over the internet using a key plugged into the serial port, more on this later it may be the subject of a talk at club night. Which brings me to our last clubnight were we had another great talk from Dave Hadler ZL3TX talking about the ups and downs of installing radio systems on oil rigs, he also brought along his tool kit he travels with, and we all had a good look inside the case.

Join us next month for a great DVD from Tony ZL3HAM.

Our mid winter dinner will be on Sunday 9th August 12.00pm at the Gardens Restaurant. Please let me know if you are interested so I can book the right numbers.

73 Don ZL3DMC

Mid-Winter Dinner - Sunday 9th August @ 1200hrs
Garden Restaurant, Marshland Road, Shirley

AREC Report

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

Sun. 14/6/15. 2 Forestry units called to assist at an early morning rural fire near Amberley Beach.

CDEM:

Fri. 12/6/15. CDeX "Pandora". Assisted with comms during this exercise which consisted of testing the tsunami sirens and evacuating residents from the three local beach settlements to two evacuation centres: Woodend Community Centre and Kaiapoi Rugby Football Clubrooms.

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

Repeater Reports



Mt. Noble 6975

We are hoping to get up there for maintenance on 25th or 26th June, dependant on the recent snow and weather conditions.

Mike ZL3AKZ

Mt. Grey 675

The repeater is working well with no known issues.

Geoff ZL3QR



Snow Damage to my HEX Beam

My superbly designed and engineered HEX beam failed to stand up to a recent wet snow storm we had in June in North Canterbury.

As can be seen in the second photo two of the fibreglass rods broke at the end and it's now, consequently, out of commission!

The next job is to try and get spare parts for it and then hopefully it can be restored to its former glory.



This is before the storm with it looking and performing superbly.



And this is what I'm presently left with ...

Tony ZL3HAM

July Meeting

At our last meeting Dave Hadler ZL3TRX gave us an interesting talk on his recent trip to an oil drilling platform on behalf of Tait Electronics. Also some of the ways he handles international travel such as customs and airport congestion. Dave also brought along his "travelling workshop", which contains most of the tools and equipment required in his work. Thanks Dave.

This month we have a DVD of "VK0IR Heard Island - Outpost at the Edge" to watch.



****July Happy Birthday's****

Jim ZL3AGS
Owen ZL3GM
Denise ZL3HI





Anderson Powerpole® Connectors A Brief Overview



Overview

Powerpole connectors are physically and electrically hermaphroditic, thus avoiding the need to worry about which end is the plug and which the socket, or which end has the correct polarity. This is in contrast to the physically but not electrically hermaphroditic 2-wire trailer plug.

Powerpole connectors are available with current ratings up to 180 Amp. The size most commonly used is the 15 / 30 / 45 ampere variety. These sizes all use the same plastic housing in multiple colours, differing only in the metal contact inserted into the housing (selected based on the ampacity and wire size).

Amateur radio

The Powerpole connector has been adopted by some segments of the Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) community as their standard 12-volt DC power connector for everything from radios to accessories. It is more expensive than the older de facto standards of the 2-wire trailer plug and the Molex connector, but provides a more reliable electrical connection (both mechanically and electrically), and is easier to adapt to a wider range of wire gauges.

Amateur radio equipment is based on 12-volt DC automotive voltage, which is also called 13.8 volt DC because of the following reason. A typical 12 volt automotive battery without a load can vary from 11.7 to 12.7 volts, but the system voltage will be higher when the vehicle is running because the alternator may increase the voltage to 13.8 to 14.4 volts DC. The voltage will vary depending on various electrical loads in a vehicle.

For use in amateur radio, the community has adopted a standard polarity for assembling the Powerpole connectors, using one red and one black housing, as well as a mnemonic for remembering the arrangement for the positive connector: "Red Right — Tongue Top". The standard is red positive and black negative.

EastFest 2015



Saturday 12 September 1000-1730 hr
Sunday 13 September 0900-1230 hr

*** Note: New Venue ***

Venue: Ashburton Masonic Lodge, 111 Havelock Street, Ashburton

Following on from our successful EastFest of 2013 we have decided to hold another similar event this year with many talks and demonstrations of "hands on" ham radio.

Sunday afternoon will be a visit to the Lynn Woodwork Museum, "The Plains", Tinwald Domain.

We will provide morning and afternoon refreshments but not lunch or evening meals. However, Saturday evening meal has been booked at the Ashburton Club and MSA, 231 Burnett Street, Ashburton at 1830 hr. Reasonable prices to be paid on the night.

Cost for the weekend will be \$10 plus a donation to the Lynn Woodwork Museum.

There will be a raffle.



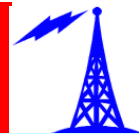
Further information from:

Tony Buckland ZL3HAM <zl3ham@scorch.co.nz> or Jim Nelson ZL3ND <jim.nelson@xtra.co.nz>



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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	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	27	24	22	26	-

Branch 68 Marketplace

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Enquiries to Denise ZL3HI, phone (03) 313 4907

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