



Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

June 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 June – ZL3GM

June 11 General Meeting - “Tait Radio on an oil drilling rig” by Dave Hadler ZL3TRX

Branch 01 Ashburton

June 8 General Meeting - “Tony ZL3HAM” is host

Branch 05 Christchurch

June 3 General Meeting - “Surviving a Typhoon in the Philippines” by Lester ZL4PO

Branch 56 Christchurch West

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

CARDS

June 17 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

>>> **Reminder: Subs are now due** <<<

*Secretary: Colin Rowe ZL3COL Phone 03 313 2303 Email: colingr@xtra.co.nz
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Thanks to **BAYLEYS** for sponsoring the photocopying of the newsletter.

President's Report

After a week of laryngitis I made it up to Hamilton for the annual NZART conference, and my first as a councilor. I believe the association is in good health, but going forward we need to look to encourage potential amateurs into the hobby. This will give us the life blood needed to sustain a good future for the hobby.

The 2 remits and the amendment to the constitution were all passed as you have probably seen in the Info-line that went out on Sunday night.

The Hamilton branch did a superb job putting on a well run conference.

Another interesting development is the introduction of the Summits on the Air (SOTA) award scheme. This is a UK based scheme, and is popular in many countries including Australia. A team of amateurs led by Warren Harris ZL2AJ is currently mapping the country to allow this exciting new aspect of the hobby to start in ZL. I will talk more about this in the coming months, as it is hoped to be in place for the end of the year.

If you have any ideas for council to consider please don't hesitate to let me know.

73 Don ZL3DMC

Congratulations to Colin Rowe ZL3COL, Secretary, for being awarded the "Jumbo Godfrey Award" at the NZART Conference for outstanding services to the club. Thanks Colin, a well earned award.

AREC Report

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

During May there were 3 brief call-outs to Rural Fires and in each case the assistance call was cancelled by the first NZFS appliance to arrive because it was either a permitted burn or was only minor.

CD Exercise "PANDORA 2015". Friday 12th June. (1700 - 2130 hrs)

The following are assisting,

Don ZL3DMC, Denise ZL3HI, Bev ZL3OV, Ron ZL3RCK, Simon ZL/VK4FSIH, Clive ZL2ID & Geoff ZL3QR

Thanks everyone for volunteering to help. For those new to this exercise, it is a (local) part of the annual Regional CD Exercise (known as "Pandora").

The scenario for the Waimak District this time is the evacuation of the three local beaches (Waikuku, Woodend and Pines) to two evacuation points: Woodend Community Centre and Kaiapoi Rugby Football Clubrooms. We have been asked to provide radio comms between the two evac bases and EOC as a minimum, there may be other requirements as well.

If anyone else wants to assist please let me know.

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

Repeater Reports



Mt. Noble 6975

Still operating OK. Tim is currently rewriting some of the software that is to help deliver the NZART monthly broadcast.

Mike ZL3AKZ

Mt. Grey 675

The repeater is working well.

Geoff ZL3QR



Have you ever wondered why we Radio Amateurs are called "HAMS"?

Well, according to the Northern Ohio Radio Society, it goes like this: the word ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first Amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the HARVARD RADIO CLUB. There were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first, they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murry. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision and they changed it to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from Amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM.

In the early pioneer unregulated days of radio, Amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some Amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and they gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit Amateur activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed, he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee. He was put on the stand and described how the little Amateur station was built. He almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements that were set up in the bill.

The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little Amateur stations in the country crying out to be saved from menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. Finally, the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station "HAM."

That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with Amateurs. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time, in radio, an Amateur is a HAM.

GL and 73's de Gerry WD4BIS

May Meeting

Last month Paul Dixon ZL3VY gave us an excellent demo and insight into the workings of the superb range of miniVNA Network Analysers. Thanks Paul.

This month we have Dave Hadler ZL3TRX giving us a talk on his recent trip to an oil drilling platform on behalf of Tait Electronics.



****June Happy Birthday's****

Don ZL3DMC



History of Morse

.... . - - - - . - - - - . - - - - . - - - - .



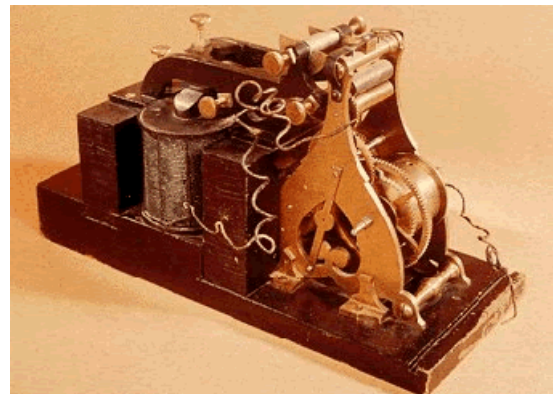
Morse code was invented by an American called Samuel Finley Breese Morse, (1791-1872). He was not only an inventor but also a famous painter.

Before the invention of the telegraph, most messages that had to be sent over long distances were carried by messengers who memorized them or carried them in writing. These messages could be delivered no faster than the fastest horse. Messages could also be sent visually, using flags and later, mechanical systems called semaphore telegraphs, but these systems required the receiver to be close enough to see the sender, and could not be used at night.

The telegraph allowed messages to be sent very fast over long distances using electricity. The first commercial telegraph was developed by William Forthergill Cooke and Charles Wheatstone in 1837. They developed a device which could send messages using electrical signals to line up compass needles on a grid containing letters of the alphabet. Then, in 1838, Samuel Morse and his assistant, Alfred Vail, demonstrated an even more successful telegraph device which sent messages using a special code - Morse code.

Telegraph messages were sent by tapping out the code for each letter in the form of long and short signals. Short signals are referred to as dits (represented as dots). Long signals are referred to as dahs (represented as dashes). The code was converted into electrical impulses and sent over telegraph wires. A telegraph receiver on the other end of the wire converted the impulses back into dots and dashes, and decoded the message.

In 1844, Morse demonstrated the telegraph to the United States Congress using a now famous message "What hath God wrought"...



Samuel Morse Telegraph Receiver
Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Morse's original code was not quite the same as the one in use today as it included pauses as well as dahs and dits. However, a conference in Berlin in 1851 established an international version.

The most well-known signal sent using Morse Code is:

...- - - - .

and is the distress signal SOS.

Morse code requires the time between dits and dahs, between letters, and between words to be as accurate as possible.

A Dit takes - 1 unit of time

A Dah takes - 3 units of time

The pause between letters - 3 units of time

The pause between words - 7 units of time

The speed at which a message is sent in Morse code is normally given in words per minute (WPM).

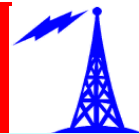
One of Morse's aims was to keep the code as short as possible, which meant the commonest letters should have the shortest codes. Morse came up with a marvellous idea. He went to his local newspaper. In those days printers made their papers by putting together individual letters (type) into a block, then covering the block with ink and pressing paper on the top. The printers kept the letters (type) in cases with each letter kept in a separate compartment. Of course, they had many more of some letters than others because they knew they needed more when they created a page of print. Morse simply counted the number of pieces of type for each letter. He found that there were more e's than any other letter and so he gave 'e' the shortest code, 'dit'. This explains why there appears to be no obvious relationship between alphabetical order and the symbols used.

<http://rich.maths.org/2198>



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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
-					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
					25	23	27	24	22	26	-

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