



# Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

June 2016

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 1930hrs, unless otherwise stated.

### *Host for June - ZL3COL*

June 9 General Meeting - “Conference De-brief and a DXpedition DVD”

### **Branch 01 Ashburton**

June 13 General Meeting - Phil ZL3TIK is host

### **Branch 05 Christchurch**

June 1 General Meeting - Remits & “All Hands on Deck” (Conference Preparation)  
16 Day meeting (1300hrs)

### **Branch 56 Christchurch West**

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

### **CARDS**

June 15 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](mailto:colingr@xtra.co.nz)  
Editor: Tony Buckland ZL3HAM Phone 03 312 5352 Email: [zl3ham@scorch.co.nz](mailto:zl3ham@scorch.co.nz)*

# BAYLEYS

WHALAN AND PARTNERS LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008.

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

**Tel: 03 311-8020**

## President's Report

Well since my last report I have had a holiday in Samoa, a great little country, but boy was it hot 32 most days dropping to around 28 at night. Not very much was achieved in the 9 days we had over there, but it was a great relaxing time.

As I write this I am in the middle of assisting a high School with the bi annual stage production, great fun and this year my 2 assistants have passed their amateur license, so watch out for them on the bands shortly. Their callsigns are ZL3NIC (Chris) and ZL3NSM (Niko). Neither of them have radios yet, but that will be solved in the near future.

The winter weather is truly upon us now so keep warm over the next months.

**73 Don ZL3DMC**

## Club Meetings

**What do YOU want to see at our meetings?**

**What would bring you out on a cold evening to visit the club?**

**Would an occasional day meeting (maybe a Saturday) be of interest?**

**How about a meeting where YOU tell us your ham activities?**

**Maybe a "Show & Tell"?**

**PLEASE let us know!**

## AREC Report

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

Thu. 12/5/16. Out of control fire within fire boundary of Eyrewell Forest. One Forestry unit called to assist but then stood down before getting under way.

**Geoff ZL3QR  
D/Section Leader**

## Repeater Reports

### Mt. Noble 6975

The repeater is working well with no known issues.

**Mike ZL3AKZ**



### Mt. Grey 675

The repeater is working well with no known issues.

**Geoff ZL3QR**



# What the Digital Age Owes to the Inventor of Morse Code

Samuel Morse was born on April 27, 1791, but his influence extends to this day

The telegraph has become the epitome of an obsolete technology. The last telegram was sent two years ago, and Morse code blinked out a few years before that. But in terms of influence, Samuel Finley Breese Morse—born on this day, April 27, in 1791—is anything but obsolete.

Described by biographer Carleton Mabee as “the American Leonardo,” Morse was a man of varied talents and diverse interests. Trained as a visual artist, Morse became one of the early republic’s finest painters and an early adopter of daguerreotype photography. Morse was also influential in 19th-century American politics—though his impact in this area was less salutary. A three-time candidate for public office, Morse lent his influence to anti-Catholic and proslavery political movements.

Even if Morse’s reputation were limited to his famous invention, however, he would still deserve more attention than he receives. Antiquated though it seems, the telegraph represented a revolution in communications rivalling both the printing press and Internet. Indeed, thanks to Morse’s invention, communication was, for the first time in history, no longer limited to the speed at which a physical message could pass between locations. So long as they were linked by telegraphic wires, humans were liberated from the tyranny of distance; Samuel F. B. Morse had, in the saying of contemporaries, “obliterated time and space.”

The path to this legacy was an unlikely one. Born shortly after George Washington’s inauguration as president, Morse was the eldest son of Josiah Morse: early America’s leading geographer and the minister of a venerable Congregationalist church in Massachusetts.

Though given the best education possible, Morse initially showed little promise as a student. He did, however, show promise as an artist. To develop this promise, Morse embarked on a costly, multi-year course of artistic study in Europe. Here, he not only blossomed into a promising painter. He also developed a fierce anti-Catholic fervour—which, according to Morse biographer Kenneth Silverman, partly stemmed from a violent run-in with an Italian soldier at a religious event in 1830. Impressive even by the standards of the 19th century American Protestants, Morse’s anti-Catholicism informed his two unsuccessful bids for New York City’s mayor, as the candidate of a short-lived anti-immigrant party, as well as his failed 1854 run for Congress.

Anti-Catholicism was not the only idea Morse acquired as a result of his European excursions. He also developed the idea for the telegraph while returning from the continent. Travelling aboard the ship *Sully* in 1832, Morse struck up a conversation with fellow passengers regarding the possibility of using electromagnetism as a means of communication. Confident that such a device was theoretically possible, Morse began building a prototype upon arrival in the U.S.

It would be years before this device reached maturity. In the meantime, Morse tended to his career as artist, winning a number of distinctions, including opportunities to paint famous contemporaries like James Monroe and the Marquis de Lafayette. He also helped introduce Americans to daguerreotype photography and trained the first generation of American photographers—including Matthew Brady, whose photographs of the Civil War continue to define that conflict.

Despite these distinctions, however, Morse was constantly short on cash and thought of himself as an artistic failure. He therefore jumped at the chance to remake himself as a professional inventor. This opportunity arrived in April of 1837, when French tinkers named Gonon and Serval arrived in the U.S., promoting a new method of long-distance communication. Fearful of being scooped, Morse overcame fears about the crude state of his prototype and submitted the device to public inspection.



Painted portrait of American artist and inventor Samuel Morse (1791 - 1872), who invented the Morse code system used in sending messages by telegraph, circa 1850. He poses beside a telegraph device. (Hulton Archive/Getty Images)



The original Morse telegraph receiver on which “What Hath God Wrought?” was received on May 24, 1844 in Washington DC.; photographed in 1936. (Underwood Archives / Getty Images)

The device Morse brought before the public was a far cry from later-day telegraphs. For example, it lacked the iconic single key that telegraph operators would later use to enter the code that bore his name. But, in other respects, the device approximated the defining features of subsequent telegraphs.

Morse was not the first person to devise the notion of telegraphy—the idea of using electricity to communicate over distances had been circulating in scientific circles since the 18th century and others had already built working devices of less practical design—but he was ultimately the *sine qua non* of telegraphy. He did more than any

other figure, not only to enhance the device technically, but to secure funding for the technology's early adoption, most notably from Congress. A writer for the *New York Times*, put it best when he noted the following in 1852:

Grant that MORSE was ... indebted to the suggestions of others. ... Morse was *the man* who was publically experimenting, in our midst, on this subject ... who besieged the doors of Congress for an appropriation to enable him to demonstrate the practicability of his invention ... who, in 1844, laid down the first line of Electric telegraph in this country, from Washington to Baltimore, and sped the first aerial message on its electric path. ... If others knew that electricity could be used for recording language at a distance, and kept the knowledge from the public ... we think they are too late to claim the credit, after another, by labor and devotion, has accomplished the work.

The *Times*' reference to "claiming credit" was not a mere rhetorical flourish. From the time Morse secured Congressional funding for his first telegraphic highway—which carried as its first message in 1844 the Biblical exclamation "What hath God wrought!"—Morse's life became a three-decade carousel of litigation.

The details of these challenges are too complicated to summarize quickly. Nor are they interesting. Suffice it to say, Morse's status as inventor of the telegraph was hard won.

By the time Morse died in 1872, he was a wealthy, celebrated man. His invention, quite literally, reached around the world – with telegraphic cables stretching across Eurasia, the Bering Strait, North America, and the Atlantic Ocean. And Western Union, the largest telegraph operator in the United States, was on its way to becoming one of the greatest corporate behemoths in an age of monopoly. The effects of this telegraphic infrastructure were far reaching. Military leaders flashed orders to distant battlefields. Businesspeople set commodity prices on opposite sides of the globe. And journalists responded to growing demand for timely news updates by forming the Associated Press.

Not all of the telegraph's impacts were quite so obvious, however. In recent years, scholar Trish Loughran has argued that the telegraph pushed America toward Civil War by forcing readers in the North and South to grapple with profound differences in how they viewed the nation and its future. And historian Garry Wills has argued that the telegraph's forced brevity revolutionized Abraham Lincoln's rhetorical style, leading the 16th president toward the famous terseness of the Gettysburg Address.

The brainchild of one of the world's last great polymath thinkers, telegraphy helped inaugurate the instantaneous, intensively-networked world we inhabit today. As the words of this article are beamed, simultaneously, to the four corners of the world, it seems only fitting to celebrate the life of the telegraph's brilliant, and brilliantly flawed, inventor.

Lifted from the Web (Time Magazine)

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><i>Man Up &amp;<br/>Get Checked!</i></p> |  <p>Prostate Cancer<br/>Foundation<br/>of New Zealand</p> | <p>PHONE 0800 477 678<br/>EMAIL <a href="mailto:info@prostate.org.nz">info@prostate.org.nz</a><br/><a href="http://www.prostate.org.nz">www.prostate.org.nz</a></p> |
|---|---|---|

## June Meeting

At the last meeting John Thompson and Daniel Craig gave us an excellent presentation on the "Waimakariri-Ashley Coast-guard Service".

This month we will have a Conference de-brief from Don then we will show a DXpedition DVD.



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

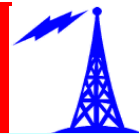
Don ZL3DMC  
Jeanette ZL3IC





# COM-CENTRE (CE) Ltd

## For All Your Amateur Radio Equipment



**NZ's LARGEST DISTRIBUTOR of AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT for over 20 YEARS**

**Yaesu's Latest Prestige HF Stations FT2000, > H/V/UHF Transceivers FT897 FT857 FT817 NEW DEDICATED HF Base Stns FT950 & FT450**



**FT857**  
H/V/UHF  
100W  
Mobile  
Portable



**Mobile - Base V/UHF FM Transceivers**

**FT1802** Latest VHF FM Deluxe Mobile  
**FT7800** Extended Cov V/UHF Mob/Base  
**FT8800** Deluxe V/UHF True Twin Bander  
**FT8900** Deluxe Quad-Bander 10M-70cm



**FT450**  
DSP-100W  
HF + 6M  
Base/Port



**Wide Band Hand-Helds & Scanners**

**VX6 & VX7** Deluxe WideBand Handies  
**VX2R** Deluxe Wide-Band Micro H'held  
**FT60R** Mil-Spec Ext cov V/UHF  
**VX170** Extended coverage VHF Hand-Held  
**VX177** Extended coverage UHF Hand-Held  
**VR500** Multi-Mode Wideband Receiver  
**VR120D** Economical V/UHF Scanner



**Accessories & Options**



Power Supplies, Antenna Rotators + stocks of options, spare batteries, accessories and full service support for all Yaesu/Vertex Std Equipment



**DIAMOND'S PROVEN, POPULAR and PREFERRED ANTENNAS & ACCESSORIES**

- X50, X300, X510M** Fibre-glass encapsulated co-linear arrays for V/UHF Base Station antennas c/w mounting hardware **from \$175**
- SGM 911 Tri-Band mobile** Deluxe Slim-line mobile for 6,2 & 70 transceivers (also perfect on 75MHz for Scanners) **only \$195**
- NR-770/790** - Ground independent  $\frac{1}{2}\lambda$  on VHF, multiple  $\frac{5}{8}\lambda$  on 70cm with SO239 base for optimum mobile performance **from \$65**
- NR22L** Optimum 2M DX Mobile Co-linear 2 x  $\frac{5}{8}\lambda$ , 2.46M long, 6.5dB gain \$ 95. **NR2C** Std  $\frac{3}{4}\lambda$  Centre-loaded 2M Mobile **only \$80**
- SRH 701/771 SMA FLEXI-Whips** specifically for Broad-band freq coverage and gain on Hand-Helds or Scanners **from \$45**
- RH205 / RH799 Telescopic Whips** for DX coverage with Scanners or wide coverage Hand-Helds, BNC mounts **from \$45**
- DP-CP22L VHF Base Vertical** Omni-Directional for VHF Dxing, 2 x  $\frac{5}{8}\lambda$  co-linear, 2.7M long, over 6.5dB gain on 2M **only \$120**
- DP-CP6 6 Band HF Vertical** 4.6M long, preferred limited space array including radials (1.8ML) 80 - 6M coverage **only \$1195**
- W735 Wire Dipole Kit** 80/40M trapped dipole, 26M long includes all traps, balun, wire elements, insulators and ties **only \$250**
- W80-10 Dipole Kit** covers 80,40,20,15,10M under 20M long includes all traps, balun, wire elements, insulators and ties **only \$395**
- D130 Discone** covers 25-1300MHz 1.7M long includes all mounting hardware and 15M low loss coax cabling **only \$295**
- KV5** The Latest HF-6M DX Vertical-Top performance in limited space - **only 5.8M long, <3kg for simple installation only \$875**
- BB6W** Wire Dipole equivalent of BB7V complete coverage 2-30MHz only 7M long incl all wire, balun, insulators **only \$575**
- WD330S** 10M Long BroadBand T2FD for full 2-30MHz coverage, icomplete kit incl Balun, Spreaders, insulators etc **only \$569**
- WD330** Full 25M Terminated Folded Dipole kit (as above) **\$625 PLUS OTHER HF ANTENNA OPTIONS for all situations**



**DIAMOND HIGH QUALITY MOBILE EXTENSION SPEAKERS**

**P810A** 77mm speaker with built in Amp, volume control and noise filter  
Supplied with Cig Lighter DC input. Perfect for HH or Scanners **ONLY \$90**  
**P810** as above, but excludes built in amp, Has noise filter **ONLY \$59**  
**P610** 55mm extrn speaker with magnetic mounting base **ONLY \$45**

**NEW MK3 MODEL Bhi DSP Speaker**  
**\$395**



**Diamond Professional SWR Meters**

**SX200 HF/VHF \$240 SX20 HF/VHF \$245**  
**SX400 VHF/UHF \$295 SX40 V/UHF \$250**



**MFJ's ANTENNA TUNERS & STATION ACCESSORIES**

**MFJ993B** Fully Auto, Totally versatile **\$749**  
**MFJ 971** New, deluxe 200W Tuner **\$350**  
**MFJ 948** Versatile tuner with ant sw **\$459**  
**MFJ901b** Fully featured Mini-tuner **\$ 289**

**Plus other models to suit specific needs**

**AoR Professional Receivers & Scanning Monitors**



**AR8200** Top of the range handheld scanner **\$1695**  
**AR5000** Ultimate all-mode 140k-2.6GHz **\$5535**  
**AR8600** Economical full coverage desktop **\$2285**  
**SR2000** NEW Rx with Spectrum Analyser **\$6770**

**+ so much more:** As ZL's largest supplier of Amateur radio equipment we maintain good stock levels of all those extra items that enable you to enjoy operating your Amateur station. **Antennas** all bands, base, mobile, portable or Hheld whips **Batteries** Spare Yaesu Nicads, NiMH or LiIon cells **Coax & Cabling** Low-loss 50Ω coax cable RG8 and RG58 **Duplexers** from Diamond & MFJ for H/V/UHF operation **Filters** Narrow CW and SSB opt filters for Yaesu rigs **Flexi-whips** Large range of wide-band ants for H'helds **Headsets** Comfortable headphones c/w boom mics **Mounts** Magnetic, mobile and pole mounts **Pre-Owned** Great selection of pre-loved equipment **TET-Emtron YAGIS & BEAMS** for HF Dxing

**COM-CENTRE 400 Hillsborough Road AUCKLAND**

Ph (09)627-0084 Skype:comcentre-nz POBox 163-086 Lynfield  
Email: comcent@radioinfo.co.nz Website: www.radioinfo.co.nz

**South Island Distributor - Seekers Radio Comms 337 Lincoln Rd Ch'ch**  
Ph (03) 379-1919 Email: Seekers@radioinfo.co.nz

### CLUB COMMITTEE

|                         |               |              |             |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| President               | Don MacDonald | ZL3DMC       | 03 327 7415 |
| (Co-opt) Vice President | Mike Kennedy  | ZL3AKZ       | 03 313 3646 |
| 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 |
|                         | Tony Buckland | ZL3HAM       | 03 312 5352 |
|                         | Ron Kautz     | ZL3RCK       | 03 312 8615 |
|                         | Geoff Gooch   | ZL3AL        | 03 920 2800 |
| (Co-opt)                | Owen Pimm     | ZL3GM        | 03 310 6070 |

### SPECIAL INTEREST CONTACTS

|                   |               |              |             |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| AREC              | Don MacDonald | ZL3DMC/ZK9EG | 03 327 7415 |
| Web Master        | Ron Kautz     | ZL3RCK       | 03 312 8615 |
| Repeater Trustees |               |              |             |
| 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 2016

#### General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

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

### Branch 68 Marketplace

#### FROM BRANCH 68

Coax RG58 (per metre) \$1.60

Enquiries to Geoff ZL3QR, phone (03) 313 7137

Club Monograms (cloth) \$9.00 - Club Badges (metal) \$6.50

Enquiries to Denise ZL3HI, phone (03) 313 4907

**\*\*SUBS DUE BY 30 APRIL\*\***

### Annual Subscriptions

\$40 Single, \$50 Family

Payment by instalments can be arranged with the Treasurer.

**Bank details for Internet payment. Please include your Callsign / Name.**

**ANZ Bank: 01 0877 0105044 00**

**PLEASE HELP THE CLUB and PAY PROMPTLY**