



Ragchew

“The Voice of Branch 68”

October 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 1930hrs, unless otherwise stated.

Host for October – ZL3GM

October 8 General Meeting - “Baluns” by Richard ZL4FZ

Branch 01 Ashburton

October 12 General Meeting - Jim ZL3ND is host and will demonstrate “SARTrack”

Branch 05 Christchurch

October 7 General Meeting - “DigiliteZL (ARISS)” by Mark ZL3JVX
15 Day meeting (1300hrs) - “DXCC Awards” by Duncan ZL3JT

Branch 56 Christchurch West

October 14 Free & Easy (1330hrs)
27 General Meeting

CARDS

October 21 General Meeting

Nets and Frequencies

Club HF 3.665MHz, 1930hrs 1st Thursday of the month

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
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President's Report

As I write this I have just returned from Motueka, where our contest group, ZL3X, has just completed the CQ WW RTTY contest. A great weekend and some new records set.

It has been a busy month in September with the fantastic EastFest held a couple of weeks ago, another great weekend.

The RTTY contest heralds the start of the contest season and I'm looking forward to a busy couple of months, with the first task to improve my home antenna system to something a bit higher.

73 Don ZL3DMC

"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat." - Albert Einstein, explaining radio

AREC Report

Geoff (ZL3QR) and Myself, attended a meeting held by Waimak Council, hosted by one of their CDMO's, Karen Wolbers.

The meeting was attended by many other agencies and various responses to disaster preparedness was discussed. It was also a good opportunity to meet other personnel involved and extend our network.

Don ZL3DMC, S/L

Repeater Reports

Mt. Noble 6975



All seems well. Battery voltage is good most of the time.

The next visit seems to revolve around non ham exploits and is a waiting game. It's a good thing it operates as well as it does.

Mike ZL3AKZ

Mt. Grey 675

The repeater is working well with no known issues.



Geoff ZL3QR

EastFest 2015

Over the weekend of 12/13th September we held EastFest in Ashburton, this is a bi-annual event and attracts many hams from around the South Island with an excellent compliment of speakers covering a wide field of our splendid hobby.

This year around 50 hams attended and most came to the meal at the MSA Club on Saturday evening and apparently no one went away hungry.

There was a Raffle for Jaycar Gift Cards and three lucky hams will be happily spending their winnings in the near future.

It was an enjoyable weekend and an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends face to face and we thank all those that attended for supporting the event and appreciating our wonderful and knowledgeable speakers whom did a great job and I for one went away contented and having learnt a thing or two.

The program started with Rod ZL3NW explaining in detail how 6M EME can be achieved on a single Yagi, well done Rod.



Simon ZL4PLM gave us two talks, the first one was on the excellent Flex 6500 SDR transceiver and software, most impressive. I need to save up for one of these.

The second talk was about the LDMOS HF Linear Amp “kits” produced by Jim W6PQL, www.W6PQL.com. Simon has made several of Jim’s amps, excellent work Simon.



Duncan ZL3JT spoke about the “ARRL DXCC awards” and how to apply for them, these are the most prestigious awards amongst DXers. Duncan is a good authority on these as he is not only the official NZ card checker for the ARRL but he also holds the top award “DXCC #1 Honor Roll”, an outstanding achievement Duncan.

cont'd on page 4

October Meeting

Last month Blair ZL3TOY gave us an enthusiastic talk and demo on the intricacies of DMR radio and detailed some suitable radios. Blair also offered help to get up and running on DMR eg registering and radio set up.

Many thanks Blair for an informative presentation.

This month Richard ZL4FZ has kindly agreed to give us a talk and demo on Baluns, similar to the one given at EastFest, a splendid talk and one not to miss.



****October Happy Birthday's****

Colin ZL3COL
Nelson ZL3FM
Ian ZL3CE



cont'd from page 3

Mark ZL3AB gave us a talk on “DX Potpourri” and an in-depth report of the District Plan and how this could affect our legal right to erect towers and/or antennas. Mark is doing an extensive amount of work on this, and being a lawyer certainly helps, so we all need to thank Mark for acting on our behalf. Thanks Mark.



“Vanuatu Radio Activities” by Geoff ZL3GA was a comprehensive insight in not only his radio activities, both individually and as part of the ZL3X team (YJØX) in Vanuatu but also the help both he and his XYL Francie gives to the local community over there. Excellent stuff Geoff.

Murray ZL3MH explained the intricacies of “Hamfests in Australia” and some of the local attractions. It was interesting to hear of the good train services in Australia and the relative low cost involved travelling to events. I think Murray will be going back for some more.



“miniVNA Analyser” was the talk that Paul ZL3VY gave us explaining the vastly useful analyser and the software along with a practical demonstration of it’s capabilities. What a great piece of kit.

“Baluns” was Richard’s ZL4FZ talk and he explained very well and clearly the need and technicalities of designing, building and using baluns. A good understanding and use of baluns is very beneficial for our stations and should not be overlooked. Very informative Richard.



Ken ZL4KD briefly told us about the WWFF (World Wide Flora and Fauna) program in New Zealand. Ham radio operators set up and operate from designated nature parks and protected nature areas - generating attention for these areas.

Have a look at www.wwff.co/p/about-wwff.html

A good reason to get out and about Ken.

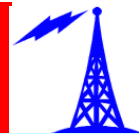
Many thanks to all our Speakers.

73 Tony ZL3HAM



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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
-									8	12	10

Committee Meeting - Fourth Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
									22	26	-

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