



Ragchew

"The Voice of Branch 68"
November 2021



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

www.ncarcinc.weebly.com

E Mail: branch68radioclub@gmail.com



Meetings are held at the Woodend Youth Centre, unless otherwise advised.

QTH

CLUB CALENDAR

Meetings start at 1930hrs, unless otherwise stated.

Host for November – John ZL3MR

November 11th – General meeting – Don will show one of Chris's ZL4RA Sota videos, which involves mountains and dogs.

Under level 2 we can hold a club meeting. Exert below from Ministry of Health.

Private social gatherings at Alert Level 2

At Alert Level 2, you can host or attend a gathering of up to 100 people in any defined indoor or outdoor space.

[Defined spaces](#)

The 100 person limit does not include workers providing services to a gathering.

You do not have to wear a face covering when going to a party or private social gathering, but we encourage you to wear one.

Hosting a social gathering

- Remind your guests to stay home if they are sick.
- Your guests do not need to physically distance.
- Provide hand sanitizer or soap so guests can wash their hands.
- Serve food and drinks individually rather than having shared platters.
- Try to avoid shared utensils. If possible, limit the number of people handling or serving food.

General Meeting Minutes

The North Canterbury Amateur Radio Club

Held in the Clubrooms – 14 October 2021 at 1930hrs.

Present:

Don ZL3DMC (Chair) and 11 members and visitors as per the attendance book.

Apologies:

Were received and sustained from Tony ZL3HAM, Liz ZL3LIZ, Brian ZL4WX, Denise ZL3HI and Bev ZL3OV

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Held on 12 August 2021 as circulated to members were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record. (ZL3QR/ZL3VI) – Note: There was no September meeting due to Covid restrictions.

Matter Arising: Nil

Correspondence:

Inward - Break-In Magazine, an invoice from NZART – re Kordia power and a new member application from Tony ZL3LAL

Accounts for Payment: Nil

Council Report: Don ZL3DMC mentioned that the Break-In editor was resigning, fortunately there are several candidates who have applied for the position - TBA

Member News: Nil

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

Mon. 16/8/21 - (1) Assistance call, one Forestry unit to a previous bonfire rekindled in strong winds near the Okuku River. First arrival (Rangiora) found a small fire only and stood down other responding units while on route.

(2) Later that night, assistance call for two Forestry units to a different wind rekindled fire, this time near Loburn. This one needed 4WD units for access and took some time to extinguish.

Mon. 23/8/21 - Assistance call, two Forestry units to a supposed large paddock fire near Okuku. Turned out to be only minor which first arrival (Rangiora) dealt with and stood down all other responding units either on arrival or on route.

Sat. 4/9/21 - (1) Assistance call, major turn-out, to a supposed house fire near Whiterock. First arrival (Rangiora) found it to be a woodshed on fire and stood down all responding units, other than their own, while on route.

(2) Assistance call to a vegetation fire near Broomfield. First arrival (Amberley) found only a small rubbish fire and stood all other units down while on route.

Fri. 10/9/21 - Assistance call, three Forestry units to a large scrub and tree fire near Glentui, caused by ferocious N/W winds. Major turn-out of fire crews, took approx 12 hours to extinguish.

Sat. 25/9/21- Assistance call (make tankers 4) to a pine plantation fire near McDonald Downs, Waipara Gorge in gale force N-W winds. Major turn-out got it quickly under control.

Fri. 1/10/21- Assistance call, one Forestry unit to a vegetation fire near Loburn. First arrival (Rangiora) found only a small fire and stood the Forestry unit down.

Geoff ZL3QR
Dep. S/L

AREC Report: Nil

Repeater report:

- Both repeaters going well. Don mentioned that he would like to see the West Coast link (Mt Noble to Sewell Peak – UHF) up and running again.

General Business:

- Don ZL3DMC spoke about the forthcoming Jock White Field Days – Br 05 was not going to field a team for the next contest due to lack of interest which was a shame. However, he has invited any interested 05 members to join us at View Hill Domain if they wished.
- Owen ZL3GM raised the matter of the Waimak District Council's draft plan. After some discussion Geoff ZL3QR moved: "That a subcommittee be formed to review and respond with submissions on behalf of members and the Club"
Don ZL3DMC, Geoff ZL3AL and Owen ZL3GM volunteered – others are welcome to join/provide input – contact Owen please.
- Our guest speaker for the evening was Richard ZL4FZ who gave an excellent presentation on Coax, Connectors and how to terminate them properly

Meeting declared closed at 1945hrs.

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

Repeater Reports



Mount Grey 675 Repeater

On 19th September 2020, the existing FM repeater was replaced by a Yaesu Fusion FM/Digital repeater.

For FM operation now, a ctcss subtone of 123.0 is required on both the tx and rx of radios to be able to work it.

Mount Noble 6975 Repeater

I have reviewed the solar panel concept and decided rather than send it to the summit in kitset form it would be more expedient to have it eased onto the summit in one unit. To this end the panels have been put together around a treated 4 x 2 frame. I need some metal brackets to reinforce each corner of the main frame and some very small stainless-steel brackets to finish off the attachments of the solar units to the main frame.



Rather than build a frame to attach the unit to the posts, we have decided to attach the main frame directly to the galvanised posts which are already on site. These will be attached to the middle pivot point either side of the upright panels. A length of 4 x 2 at each side will hold the bottom of the panel unit against the galvanised at 45 degrees. This could enable a change of angle for winter and summer sun. These galvanised posts will be concreted in either side of the solar unit. Holes have been predrilled into the two galvanised posts.

If we had stuck to the original plan it would have been quite difficult to assemble the unit on site. It took about three hours to assemble it last Saturday under workshop conditions, using glue on the mainframe. Thanks to my son, Sam Holland, a building tutor (ZL4WY) for his assistance. Thank you for the recent offer of assistance, and I can say that no hammer was used in the construction.

It is planned to transport the unit via road to the landowner's homestead and leave it there ready for a co-ordinated lift by helicopter to the top, a short flight. To this end we need to have Tim (ZL3TIM) and helpers on the mountain (Geoff ZL3GA has offered to help as he is a keen SOTA activist) to either secure the panels or have them erected on site. I will need to protect the face of the panels with a sheet(s) of plywood.

I will discuss the whole operation with the pilot of "Way to Go" Helicopters as much will depend on him when he is in the area and given some notice so we can have personnel on site to secure or erect the panels at possibly short notice, likewise I will liaise with the Landowner.

It is also planned to have the panels sited on the north facing side of the hut near the hut to have it less exposed to the wind. The galvanised posts are two metres long and will need to be at least 600mm into the ground with 500mm clearance for the panels. It may be difficult to make the post holes as there is sure to be rocks or even some bedrock by the hut. There is a large crowbar on site.

The posts, concrete, water, bolts and washers are already on site. Mark (ZL3AIC) has suggested double nuts to lock the nut from being vibrated loose.

[Update Note: It will be interesting to see how the wooden frame concept and construction works out as since it was decided I have had some opinions that it would have been better to have a well made frame of bolted metal than one made of wood This idea came about so that we would be less likely to have RF noise. Monetary considerations also have come into this]

Brief Report on Mt Noble Repeater: Mark ZL3AIC: "I have not monitored much, but what I have heard 13.6v for the high and 12.2v for the low, obviously less NW and sunshine. No other changes since last month's report."

Brian Holland, Repeater Trustee, ZL4WX.

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

Branch 68 Officers

President	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC	027 551 6683
Vice President	Tony Buckland	ZL3HAM	03 312 5352
Secretary	Grant Daniel	ZL2GD	027 439 4234
Treasurer	Denise Hider	ZL3HI	03 313 4907
AREC S/Leader	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC/ZK9EG	027 551 6683
Ragchew Editor	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC	027 551 6683
Committee	Tony Buckland	ZL3HAM	03 312 5352
	Grant Daniel	ZL2GD	027 439 4234
	John Van Dijk	ZL3MR	0274879057
	Geoff Gooch	ZL3AL	027 477 0274.
	Simon Hill	ZL3SI	021 210 1786
	Brian Holland	ZL4WX	021 793 871
	Geoff Clark	ZL3GA	021 363 044
Webmaster	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC/ZK9EG	027 551 6683

Repeater Trustees

6975	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137
	Brian Holland	ZL4WX	021 793 871
675	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137
	Richard Smart	ZL4FZ	03 385 8355
ZL3RR	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	03 313 7137

CALENDAR for 2021

General Meeting - Second Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-										11	9

Committee Meeting - Fourth Thursday at 1930 (7.30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
										25	-

Branch 68 Marketplace

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

Enquiries to Denise ZL3HI, phone (03) 313 4907