

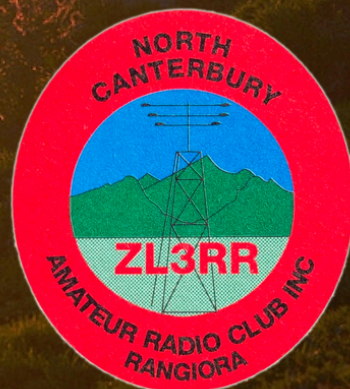
VOL. 5 · MAY 2024

RAGCHEW

Official Newsletter of the The North Canterbury
Amateur Radio Club Inc.

www.ncarcinc.weebly.com

Email: branch68radioclub@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



CLUB MEETING

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

Thursday, May 9th @ 1930hrs

Host: Geoff ZL3QR

Program for the Evening.

Go over the Remits

Bring along any new project and share with the members.

If you have some radio gear come and share it.



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President's Report

Hello Members,

As we roll through autumn heading for winter it is good to see our keen SOTA contingent still activating summits in our area.

Keep an eye on SOTA watch

[<https://sotawatch.sota.org.uk/en/>] for updates and alerts.

This month at the general meeting we will be going over the remits being presented to the AGM at the NZART conference in June, remember this is in Christchurch so get your registrations in, it is going to be a conference that will not be forgotten.

73

Don MacDonald



"It's OK if you don't like HAM RADIO. It's Kind Of A Smart People Hobby"





From the Editor



Since next year is the centenary of the IARU i.e. amateur radio is 100 years old let's start planning some events to celebrate!

I am busy talking to various government departments to see who would support a DXpedition (probably to an island somewhere) there are typically a lot of logistics to sort out other than the radios, power supplies, antennas, masts, coax, tents, tables and chairs, but also how do we get there? What about power (generators, fuel, batteries, solar panels)? Accommodation, food, water, etc.? I have done this all before on my previous DX and overland expeditions and so since we have a year we should be fine.

Then of course it is the cost and therefore depending on the response from authorities I am thinking of one dxpedition somewhere around South Island and then an exotic location as a 2nd option.

Let me know if you would be interested in joining:

South Island - 5 day commitment April 2025

Exotic - 30 day commitment October 2025 (weather window) for this one I have two friends from Europe who would join in as well.

Of course we can also arrange opportunities to show the locals what our hobby is all about. Possibly setting up stations between schools.

As usual that is my 5 cents worth.

Greg
ZL1GUD
0221 229 240
Wildjourneys@proton.me



Abseiling down a sinkhole to look for a legendary serpent that lured the young men of the village into the river and drowned them.



Members in Detail - Grant ZL2GD

I first got interested in radio when I was 10 years old. My Grandparents gave me a Philips Electronics set for my birthday and the first thing I built was the BC Radio receiver.... wow that was exciting stuff... I had my very own radio which I used to listen to with an ear plug at night.

My friend from next door and I progressed this interest in batteries and wires to making an intercom which was connected between our houses.

Later on, another school friend, Baden (ZL3VI) introduced me to CB radio. His father had just acquired a new Tait CB1 and this opened up a whole new interest. It wasn't long before I had convinced my father to see if he could get one for me..... some weeks later a new Autocrat CB2 arrived....with the call sign CH66. We were both too young to have a license but that did not deter us.

I think I was about 15 yo when Baden and I became interested in ham radio. His father employed a number of technicians who were hams and we both got interested in VHF from conversations with them.

I got my license in 1970, as soon as I turned 16 yo - my callsign was ZL3TAD. Some time prior to that I had built up a circuit for a 2m AM transmitter which Brian Cattermole ZL2BFC had scribbled on the back of an envelope. He gave me some valves which were a bit hard to get at the time - a QQE03/12 for the final amplifier I seem to remember.

So, I was all set to get on the air when my license arrived. My gear consisted of an old Eddystone 740 with a Galbraith 2m converter, a modulator with a pair of EL84's and a crystal locked AM transmitter with an output of about 10watts if I was lucky all this was fed into a homemade 2m yagi of questionable dimensions. We had no test gear available, so the next job was to make our own SWR Bridge and Field Strength meter. It was all very exciting and great fun was had working all over Christchurch and further afield.

There were lots of young guys getting on the air at the same time, namely Roger (now ZL3RC), Brent ZL3TAC, Baden (now ZL3VI), Ross (now ZL3RJ) and many more I have forgotten.

My parents shifted up to Wellington when I was 18 yo and I had to sell off all my radio gear.

It wasn't until some years later when I was married and working that I got interested in radio again. I purchased an Icom 211 and built up a new antenna at my QTH in Lower Hutt. My callsign this time was ZL2TBB. To my surprise I was able to work Baden from his place from time to time when conditions were good.

From there I moved up to Morrinsville in 1980 with my job and joined Branch 77. It was all go up there. I built a transverter for 6m, a 3 element beam for 10m, yagis for 2m and 70cm, got my Novice call - ZL1NBC, then later, my Grade 2 call - ZL1BFQ. I was very active everywhere on all bands.

Those were great times.....excellent HF propagation coupled with a huge interest in Amateur Radio worldwide and the introduction of commercially available gear in NZ. The bands were all very busy.

Numerous moves followed to New Plymouth, Christchurch, Wellington and back home to Prebbleton then to Oxford, along the way I picked up my current callsign - ZL2GD. I have managed to stay active for most of the time...my current interest is CW, but that's another story.

The idea of signals travelling through the atmosphere and being able to communicate with others still fascinates me to this day.

Greg: You can edit whatever and anytime after lunch is a good time for a visit.

73
Grant



World Amateur Radio Day April 18, 2024

Feb 19, 2024 · Spectrum · Joel Harrison

World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU Member Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide.

For 2024, the IARU is very pleased to adopt the theme of: “A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community, and Advocacy”.

IARU celebrates its centenary in 2025. Since its founding in Paris, France, IARU has worked tirelessly to promote innovation in amateur radio and to encourage the growth of the service in communities throughout the world.

IARU has represented the Amateur Services at international and regional regulatory bodies by relying on our volunteers who come from many countries and communities. IARU has been a sector member of the ITU since 1932 and the work of our volunteers has continued since that date with unmatched success; as was highlighted with the accomplishments at WRC-23. Leading up to our centenary year, we should take time to reflect on the remarkable achievements of radio amateurs over the last 100 years. While the Amateur Services have been in operation for over a century, 1924 was the first year that intercontinental amateur communication became more or less commonplace. Since that time radio amateurs have made unparalleled advances in technology related to the Amateur Services that play a critical role today in sustaining world-wide communications and allow us to respond to global emergencies.

World Amateur Radio Day is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements since 1924. We should celebrate our diverse community and the advances and innovations we have made as we look forward to celebrating the IARU centenary next year.





General Meeting Minutes

THE NORTH CANTERBURY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
HELD IN THE CLUBROOMS 11 APRIL 2024 AT 1930HRS

PRESENT:

Don ZL3DMC (Chairman) plus 18 members and visitors as per attendance book.

APOLOGIES:

–Simon ZL3SI, Colin ZL3COL, Ian ZL3GIG, Mark ZL3AB, Michael ZL3BSJ M / ZL3DMC

Carried.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Held on 14/3/2024 as circulated to members, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.
(ZL3RIK / ZL1GUD)
Carried.

MATTERS ARISING:

Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Break-In was received and given to Colin ZL3COL to pass on to the Rangiora Public Library.

MEMBER NEWS:

Nil.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

Nil.

AREC/CDEM:

(ZL3DMC) Monthly training continuing.

REPEATER REPORT: 675 MT. GREY:

6975 MT. NOBLE: (ZL3QR) - OK.

GENERAL BUSINESS :

(ZL3DMC) – Thanks to Greg ZL1GUD for taking over the publication of Ragchew.

(ZL3TAO) – Ian spoke about the upcoming NZART Conference being held in Christchurch this year.

A motion that our Club explore the possibility of making a suitable donation to Br. 05 with respect to the rebuild project of the 705 and National System repeaters on Marleys Hill following the devastating fire.
(ZL3QR / ZL3MR)

Carried.

MEETING DECLARED CLOSED AT 1942 HRS.

Following the meeting, a most informative presentation was given by Kelvin ZL3KB and Bryan ZL3BHS on GROTA (Green Machines On the Air) about the fun and games of working with military radios of WW2 vintage and how this is now spreading throughout ZL.

NZART CONFERENCE 2024

RAFFLE #4

200 tickets @ \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20

Tickets will be available at Branch 05 and Branch 68 meetings, otherwise email treasurer@chchhamradio.org.nz for alternative arrangements

Winner to be drawn prior to the Auction at Branch 05, on 21st May 2024

1st Prize : Kydera 300VU dual band Transceiver



DC power extension cord
(2.5/5.5mm jack, 1ms, 20A)



GPS antenna



Full-keypad microphone



Braket



Screws

1. 200,000+contacts (complete worldwide database from DMR-MARC)
2. 20,000 call groups
3. 250 text messages
4. 4000-channel (250CH/Zone, 16 zones)
5. Built-in GPS
6. True 2-time slot which allows for 2 talk paths one a frequency.
7. Dual band, dual display and dual standby.
8. AMBE vocoder, Crystal sound quality
9. Super small size, power up to 20W, be convenient for installation on any devices
10. Definable keys to ensure shortcut operation.



L*W*H=123.*65.5*44MM



Optional

2nd Prize : Choice of 2 books

3rd Prize : Choice of 1 book





Branch Meeting Hosts/Hostess

Month	Host/ess	Callsign
April	Geoff Clark	ZL3GA
May	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR
June	John	ZL3MR
July	Geoff Gooch	ZL3AL
August	Don	ZL3DMC
September	Ross	ZL3RJ
October	Grant	ZL2GD
November	Mark	3BA
December	Denise	ZL3HI
January	No Meeting	
February	All committee	



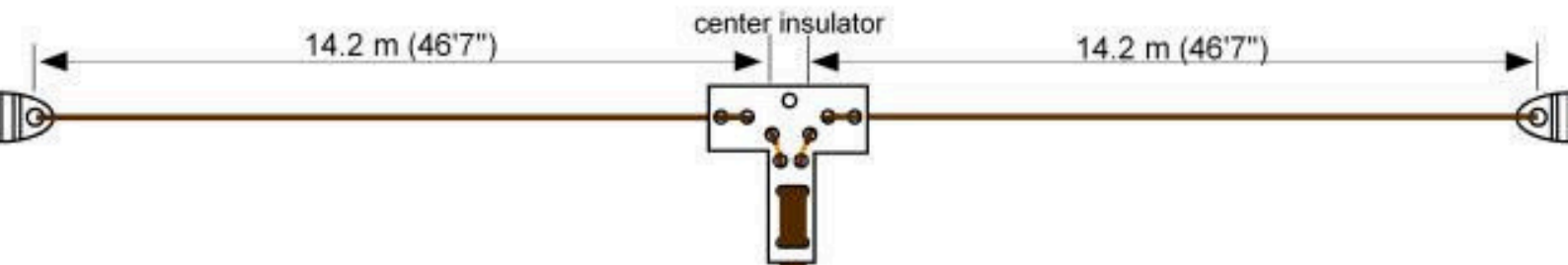
Conference Award

The 2024 Conference Award is running until 31 May 2024. The aim is to promote the conference to NZ amateurs so operation on 80m, 40m and National System is encouraged. There are bonus points for contacting the three local branch callsigns (ZL3AC, ZL3AF, ZL3RR), members of those branches, GROTA stations and ZL6WG. Details are [here](#)

Branch members are encouraged to publicise the award while on air and therefore help people achieve the award. E.g. "CQ from ZL3XYZ for the Conference Award"

If you are keen to do a stint as ZL3RR (Branch 68 members only) or ZL6WG (must be a member of Br 01 or 05 or 68 AND NZART) please contact me for more information.

73
Geoff ZL3GA



Nets and Contests

ZL Sprints - each Tuesday night in April, 8pm to 9pm NZT on 80m. First 30 minutes CW, second SSB. A really relaxed and fun event with results out a couple of days later. Great for learners and old hands alike! Rules at nzart.org.nz/activities/contests/sprints/

NZART Sangster Shield, 18 and 19th May on 80m, CW, 5W maximum. Another very easy-going contest on Saturday and Sunday nights. See what you can do with 5W on 80m! Rules at nzart.org.nz/activities/contests/sangster-shield/

Cheers,
Geoff ZL3GA

Alpine Fault Net

Held on the first Sunday of every month
7115KHz LSB at 9.30am NZT
3605KHz LSB AT 8.30pm NZT

[LINK CLICK HERE](#)

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





On This Date In Amateur Radio History



April 15, 1912

A Welsh ham radio operator named Artie Moore picked up the distress signals from the Titanic on his homemade radio. "CQD CQD SOS de MGY Position 41.44N 50.24W.

Require immediate assistance. Come at once. We have struck an iceberg. Sinking....We are putting the women off in the boats..." Then came the final signal: "Come as quickly as possible old man; our engine-room is filling up to the boilers".

KD2RKA



HISTORY

The beginning of **Icom**

Mr. Tokuzo Inoue, founder and Chairman of Icom, became interested in radio when he was a junior high school student, and often visited radio shops in Koriyama, Nara prefecture. As he grew up, he remained interested in wireless communications. He looks back on those days as "When I decided my lifework would be in wireless communications."

After graduating from high school, he started a shop for electronic equipment at his parent's house. But he soon joined a medical equipment manufacturer after that. At the manufacturer, his technical knowledge was highly valued, and he had responsibility for designing RF medical equipment. However, it was so far from his house to the office, taking 2 hours one way. The president of the manufacturer advised Mr. Inoue to establish a subcontracting company and continue designing for the medical manufacturer. Mr. Inoue made a small shack in the yard, then started the business as "Inoue Electric Seisakusho" in 1954.

This is the beginning of ICOM

[TO READ MORE](#) [CLICK HERE](#)



DX PEDITIONS & NEWS

2024 Apr18	2024 May06	Easter I	3G0YA <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	DXWNet 20240411	By DL6FBL DK9IP DM6EE; HF; SSB CW FT8; QSL via Club Log OQRS	NCAR	NCAR
2024 Apr18	2024 May08	Bhutan	A5Z	Club Log OQRS	TDX 20240109	By SP9FIH as A52P and SP6CIK as A52CI fm Dochula; 40-6m; SSB CW + digital	NCAR	NCAR
2024 Apr22	2024 May04	Ogasawara	JD1BQP	LoTW	425DXN 20240405	By JP1IHD fm Chichijima I (IOTA AS-031); 15-6m; SSB; QSL vim JD1BQP Buro or JP1IHD direct	NCAR	
2024 Apr23	2024 Apr30	Honduras	HR9	LoTW	TDX 20240330	By K6VHF as K6VHF/HR9 fm Roatan I; 160-6m, incl 60m; 100w; QSL via Club Log OQRS	NCAR	NCAR
2024 Apr25	2024 Apr30	Mariana I	KH0	LoTW	DXWNet 20240314	By JA6REX as KH0/JA6REX, W6HZH as KH0/W6HZH, JA6VQA as WH0B fm Saipan (IOTA OC-086); 160-6m; FT8 FT4; QSL via hc		
2024 Apr22	2024 May04	Ogasawara	JD1BMH	JD1BMH Buro	DXWNet 20240405	By JG7PSJ fm Chichijima I (IOTAAS-031); 40-10m; CW SSB RTTY; QSL via JG7PSJ direct	NCAR	
2024 Apr27	2024 May04	Market Reef	QJ0T	LoTW	TDX 20240320	By LA1UW LA3WAA LB5SH LB0VG; 160-6m; SSB CW FT8; QSL via EA5GL	NCAR	
2024 Apr30	2024 May13	Botswana	A25SHD	LoTW	DXWNet 20240320	By HB9SHD; HF; holiday style operation	NCAR	NCAR
May								
2024 May02	2024 May17	Rwanda	9X2AW	M0OXO OQRS	TDX 20240408	By DF2WO fm Kigali; HF; CW SSB FT8 FT4; 100w	NCAR	NCAR
2024 May11	2024 May19	Bolivia	CP7DX	LoTW	TDX 20240314	By LU1FM LU6FOV LU7HN LU7MT LU8YD LU9FHF LU5DF; 160-6m; SSB FM CW FT8 FT4; QSL via Club Log OQRS	NCAR	
2024 May14	2024 May26	Barbados	8P9CB	WA7RAR	TDX 20240403	By WA7RAR; 20-10m; SSB CW	NCAR	NCAR
2024 May19	2024 May31	Maldives	8Q7KR	DO4RKR (B/d)	TDX 20240306	By DO4RKR fm Joy I; 10m; SSB	NCAR	NCAR
2024 May24	2024 Jun19	Glorioso Is	FT4GL	LoTW	DXWNet 20240315	By FH4VVK fm Grande Glorioso I (IOTA AF-011); HF; QSL via F4FTV	NCAR	NCAR
2024 May22	2024 Jun03	Br Virgin Is	VP2V	LoTW	TDX 20240313	By W5GI as VP2V/W5GI fm Anegada I; 20-10m; SSB	NCAR	NCAR

EASTER ISLAND

Updated2024-04-14 08:26:11

3G0YA Team will be active from Easter Island, IOTA SA - 001, 18 April - 6 May 2024. (earlier they announced as CD0Y).

Team - DL6FBL, DK9IP, DM6EE.
Recent DX Spots 3G0YA
3G0YA Log search

They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, Digital modes.
QSL via DJ4MX, ClubLog OQRS.

3G0YA Easter Island News 13 April 2024

3G0YA Team will use 3G0YA call instead of announced earlier CD0Y call sign.
CD0Y Easter Island News 12 April 2024

Breaking News: Due to some local incompatibilities in Chile we probably have to change our callsign. Stay tuned here for more news. Sorry for any inconveniences.
CD0Y Team.



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DX NEWS](#)



CALENDER 2024

GENERAL MEETING								
April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
11	9	13	11	8	12	10	14	12

COMMITTEE MEETING								
April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
25	23	27	25	22	26	24	22	-

REPEATER TRUSTEES

6975			
	Brian Holland	ZL4WX	021 793 871
675	Simon Hill	ZL3SI	021 210 1786
	Richard Smart	ZL4FZ	03 385 8355
ZL3RR	Geoff Clark	ZL3GA	03 363 044



THE NEW KENWOOD TS99900 CONTESTING TRANSCEIVER

1500 WATTS (MICROWAVE)
2.3 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
10 CUP COFFEE POT
200 WATT PEP SSB*

*ACTUAL OUTPUT MAY VARY DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF APPLIANCES CONCURRENTLY RUNNING



BRANCH OFFICERS

Patron Geoff Gillman ZL3QR

President	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC	027 551 6683
Vice President	Geoff Gooch	ZL3AL	027 477 0274
Secretary	Simon Hill	ZL3SI	021 210 1786
Treasurer	Denise Hider	ZL3HI	03 313 4907
AREC S/Leader	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC/ZK9EGA	027 551 6683
Ragchew Editor	Greg Van Der Reis	ZL1GUD	0221 229 240
Committee	Ross Johnson	ZL3RJ	03 313 5575
	John Van Dijk	ZL3MR	027 487 9057
	Geoff Clark	ZL3GA	021 363 044
	Mark Carshalton	ZL3BA	027 960 2741
Webmaster	Don MacDonald	ZL3DMC/ZK9EG	027 551 6683
Patron	Geoff Gillman	ZL3QR	027 647 5490

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$40 Single or \$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



NZART CONFERENCE - NEEDS YOU

Volunteers are required for the following positions during the 2024 NZART Conference.

Room Managers

A manager is required for each forum to ensure it runs smoothly and finishes on time.

Amateur Radio Display Attendants

A display of several aspects of Amateur Radio is being set up at the Conference. Attendants are required to interact with the Public, who are viewing the displays.

Registration Officers

As well as handing out registration packs, the Registration Desk will sell raffle tickets and manage tour bookings. It could be busy, especially at meal times, so a clear head is required.

Applications to info@hamradio.co.nz by 30th April.



MARKETPLACE

CLUB MONOGRAMS (CLOTH) \$9.00 - CLUB BADGES (METAL) \$6.50

ENQUIRIES TO DENISE ZL3HI, PHONE (03) 313 4907





MFJ Closing Down its Manufacturing Facilities

April 25, 2024

Dear Fellow hams and Friends,

It is with a sad heart as I write this letter.

As many of you have heard by now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024. This is also the same for our sister companies: Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vectronics.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything in businesses including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement but life is so short and my time with my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our employees who have helped build this company with me over the years. We have many employees who have made MFJ their career for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a worldwide name and a profitable business for so many years.

You all are so much appreciated.

Sincerely Yours, 73s
Martin F. Jue, K5flu