



THE OTAGO BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS INC.

WINTER EDITION - 2009

Visitors Always Welcome - Club Nights Wednesdays 7.30pm
109 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin / PO Box 5485 Dunedin

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the winter edition of the newsletter, albeit a bit late. I do think the wait has been worth it. If anyone has anything they would like me to put into the next issue, please drop me an email.

alan@navcom.co.nz

Alan - ZL4FM

BRANCH 30 - HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

H.G Hedge (ZL4FD), P.W Johnson (ZL4LV), A.J.H Gilchrist (ZL4PZ), D.W Carr,
A. Watson (ZL4WAH), D.K Watson (ZL4GR), D.J Stevenson (ZL4SB)

BRANCH 30 – COMMITTEE:

- (Pres) Arthur Curline (ZL4TIK) 488-4032 / 027-488-2802
- (Vice President) Alan Wilden (ZL4FM) 453-4420 / 021-145-2682 / alan@navcom.co.nz
- (Sec) Ross Chapman (ZL4RC) 487-6825 / 027-481-6260 / zl4rc@slingshot.co.nz
- (Treasurer) Bob Smith (ZL4OC) 477-0969 / bob_smith@clear.net.nz
- Ken McVie (ZL4NR) 476-3464 / 027-381-8763 / kenmc@xtra.co.nz
- Mike Beattie (ZL4DM) 476-6120
- Brady (ZL4PDX)
- Maurice Howell (ZL4MH) effsec@paradise.net.nz

BRANCH 30 - OFFICERS OF THE CLUB:

• AREC Section Leader	Lindsey Ross	ZL4KS	487-8946
• Contact Officer	Ross Chapman	ZL4RC	487-6825
• Awards Manager	Mark Lambert	ZL4US	489-1900
• Contest Manager	Ken McVie	ZL4NR	476-3464
• EMC Officer	Peter Johnson	ZL4LV	489-5884
• Club Librarian	Anne Watson	ZL4WAH	467-5620
• Branch Newsletter	Alan Wilden	ZL4FM	453-4420
• QSL Manager (ZL4)	Dave Adams	ZL4OZ	453-3274
• Repeater Trustees	Martin Balch	ZL4JH	454-3262
	Don Watson	ZL4GR	467-5620
• ZL4AA Webmaster	Paul Hayton	ZL4PH	456-4246
• BBS Sysop	Mike Beattie	ZL4DM	476-6120

FAST FACTS:

- Annual Subscription: Full \$25.00 / Family \$30.00 / Junior-Associate \$11.00
- Meetings each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm (except holiday period)
- Postal Address: **ZL4AA, Otago Branch 30, New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, P O Box 5485, Moray Place, Dunedin.**
- Branch 30 - WWW Site <http://www.zl4aa.org.nz>
- Branch 30 - Packet BBS / DUD Digipeater/APRS (144.650 MHz)
- Branch 30 - 2 Meter Club Net 7.30pm every Sunday (146.900 MHz) repeater
- Branch 30 - 80 Meter Club Net around 8pm every Sunday (3.613MHz)
- National Repeater System Local Node (439.925 MHz)
- Mosgiel Link to 146.900 (438.200 MHz simplex)
- Queenstown Link to 146.850 (438.300 MHz simplex).
- Dunedin 915 Repeater (439.150 MHz) (Still off the air for relocation).
- Dunedin 665 Repeater (146.650 MHz) (Also connected to IRLP)
- The Dunedin Linear Transponder (144350 MHz with a +600 Split) at (Don's Place. Status unknown.)

SUNDAY NIGHT (690) NET CONTROLLERS – WHO'S ON & WHEN?

August		September		October	
2	ZL4RC	6	ZL4LDS	4	ZL4US
9	ZL4LDS	13	ZL4TIK	11	ZL4PH
16	ZL4US	20	ZL4RC	18	ZL4WAH
23	ZL4PH	27	ZL4LDS	25	ZL4LDS
30	ZL4WAH				

The Branch 30 weekly net runs most Sunday evenings of the year from 7.30pm for approximately 30 minutes. Logins are a mixture of local and out of town operators who want to take part. Balclutha 675 is being linked to 690 using 2 IRLP Nodes. Monthly the NZART national broadcast is linked in to the 690 repeater from 2000 hrs at the end of weekly net.

If you are scheduled as a net controller and are unable to host the net on your allocated night please arrange cover prior to your allotted net.

Anybody who wishes to be added to the net roster please contact Alan ZL4FM On the 690 Repeater or by Email

alan@navcom.co.nz

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES – Winter 2009:

I have put together an interesting programme for the next quarter. I hope to see many of at the branch for the up and coming events.

July 29th Junk Sale. (Contact a committee member for more details.)

August 5th APRS, Packet, The ZL4AA BBS and their future in Dunedin. A discussion lead by Mike ZL4DM and Arthur ZL4TIK.

August 12th Open Night and a committee meeting.

August 19th Equipment testing and calibration with Bede ZL4KX. (Bring along anything you want tested and checked with Bede's collection of test equipment.

August 26th Open Night (Bring along the gear you want fixed after last weeks testing)

September 2nd A very educational and down to Earth talk on Earthing and Grounding your station by Dave Howell ZL4TAQ.

September 9th Open Night and Committee meeting

September 16th Open Night

September 23rd Surprise guest speaker. (More Details to follow on the Sunday net.)

September 30th Open Night

October 7th Fault finding and test equipment on a budget with Arthur ZL4TIK and Alan ZL4FM (back due to popular demand after the last one they did years ago that people still talk about.)

October 14th Open Night

♣ Visit www.zl4aa.org.nz for an updated list of events at any time.

Vice-PRESIDENTS REPORT; WINTER 2009

The days are finally getting longer and the depression of a long drawn out winter is starting to abate somewhat

Silent Keys: It is with great sadness that I wish to record the passing of two of our members. Bill Bailey ZL4RW, who was one of our life members, and Bill Gearing ZL4KB, who was one of our real old Oldtimers. On behalf of the Branch, I wish to offer our most sincere condolences to the families of the two Bills.

The last quarter was lacking a program and some regular members have stopped coming on a weekly basis. To those members I would like to say, I too have thought twice about venturing out open night after open night when the beckoning warmth of the Yunca, draws me to it like a magnet. I even contemplated taking my knitting along to relieve the boredom a little. (I have been knitting a scarf for two and a half years now). I hope you all find the programme for the next three months more stimulating than the last three.

73 de Alan ZL4FM

Repeater update by Martin ZL4JH (Repeater Trustee)

What's changed recently, and what is planned or being thought about.

The background to recent changes was the advent of potential greatly increased site rental charges for the use of the Kordia Mt Cargill site. Branch 30m has more services on a Kordia site than any other district so our charges were significantly higher than any other branch.

Perhaps I should first explain why we want to remain on Mt Cargill if at all possible.

- For 690, it is clearly the best possible site despite the de-sensing of the repeater by the local QRM. This is a well known phenomenon on TV and FM transmission sites that has become much worse with the proliferation of new services on the site, especially the FM services. Other communication services on the site also have problems and in some cases have been able to change channels or frequencies to resolve partially or fully the problem. The problem is much worse out to the side of the mast and near nonexistent below the mast or on the mast. If we had the ability to shift the 690 aerials onto the main mast, the problem would largely go away. However, that is not on the horizon for financial reasons.
- For the National System, it is one of the very few sites with good paths to the Mt Studholme Telecom site where the next node is located. Swampy summit also has good paths but is difficult to get access to and could cost even more.

The rental charges came in two sections, a significant increase in the power charge, previously paid globally by NZART, and a rental based on the amount of "mast" aperture used by each service. Our charges were based on outdated information which had been, and has been since, clearly notified to both parties.

As we were running scared of the possible charges and the disastrous effect they would have on club finances, we took initial steps. These involved reducing all transmitters to 10 watts, which mean each service is on the lowest power charge level, and then we removed 915. 915 is still licensed while we look at possible alternative sites but as a new site will mean a new licence, it will almost certainly be relinquished at the next licensing renewal.

Where to from here – we intend keeping 690 on the site if at all possible – this may mean some fund-raising to help pay the potential bills. Hopefully, one of the trusts will realise the "public good" aspect of retaining 690 with the best possible coverage.

National System. Any changes are on hold pending the outcome of national deliberations at the recent conference. To date I have heard nothing official although there are some rumours floating around. If the proposed charges do come though, and we need to apply them locally, we will have no option but to remove the National System. Should, this happen, we have tested the most obvious option, our Karatai Road site. We do have a precarious path to Mt Studholme – tests to date indicate that with high gain aerials at the top of the existing pole, we have a signal just on the usable side of marginal but with no fade margin. The path to Mt Stewart to the south will be good while coverage over the city will be similar to 665, much reduced from the current coverage.

This is Mt Studholme a few days ago – with this amount of ice on the aerials, we would lose all signal from the north if we transfer to Karetia Road!!

We are already planning some upgrade of the Karetai Road site to extract the full potential from 665. Any changes done will be made with the possibility of the National System coming on site.

DUD – a meeting is coming up shortly – see elsewhere for the date – to discuss options. Packet is reported to be reducing in usage while APRS is on the increase. Some districts are running both on the one repeater but moves are afoot to move all APRS to 144.575 so that amateurs can travel the length of the country without changing frequency. We are under some pressure to install a new digi-peater on 144.575 or to change the existing digi from 144.65 to 144.575. Currently, we are running both APRS and packet on 144.650, albeit with some limitations to the APRS system. Come along to the meeting to hear all the views on the respective systems and decide which way we should move.

Martin ZL4JH



Mount Cargill Working Bee by Alan ZL4FM

Over the Easter weekend Martin ZL4JH, Don ZL4GR, Don's son Neville ZL4TIM, Mike ZL4DM, Myself and Daniel went up the hill to remove the 915 repeater, the 915 antenna, and to reduce all the transmit outputs on the national system and 690 to 10 Watts to reduce the power charges from Kordia.

Martin and Mike went up on the roof while I went into the cold, dark, damp basement to remove 915. After removing the Repeater and the aerials Don gave me a hand to remove the feeder cable. Then Martin hooked up the National System and 690 to his test set and wowned the power level down. We also performed a receive level test from the north port receive antenna. All the levels were good.



915



Antenna array on roof



Don and Neville

Techies Corner

With the current AREC offer of a magmount antenna for 2M, I had a thought, "Why don't we make some of those dual band whips that Paul ZL4FX use to make" Lindsey ZL4KS thought it was a great idea and sent me the following article to put in this issues techies corner.

Twoband-Antenna for VHF/UHF Portable or Mobile Transceiver.

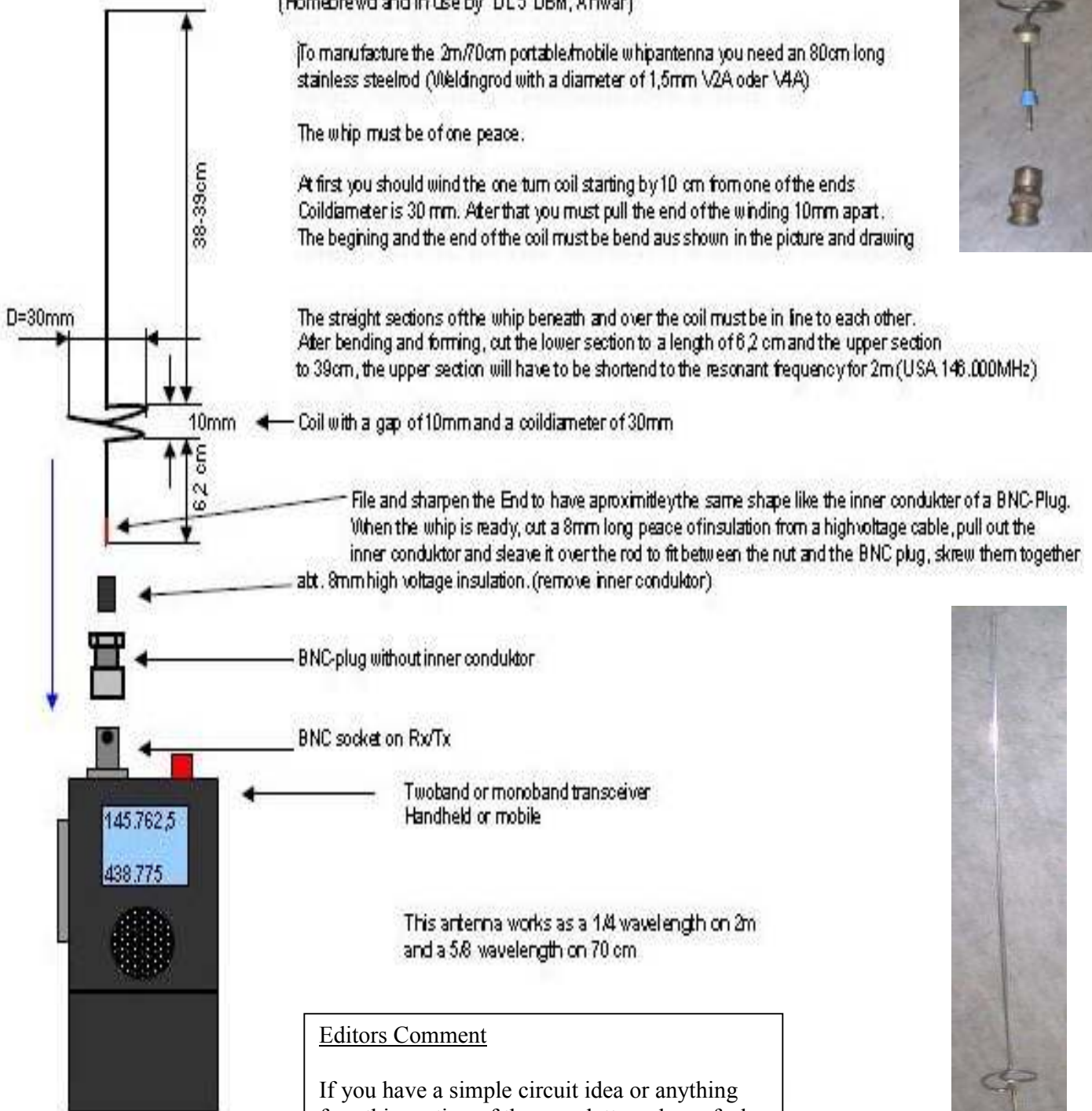
(Homebrewd and in use by DL5 DBM, Anwar)

[To manufacture the 2m/70cm portable/mobile whipantenna you need an 80cm long stainless steelrod (Weldingrod with a diameter of 1,5mm V2A oder V4A)

The whip must be of one peace.

At first you should wind the one turn coil starting by 10 cm from one of the ends
Coildiameter is 30 mm. After that you must pull the end of the winding 10mm apart.
The begining and the end of the coil must be bend aus shown in the picture and drawing

The straight sections of the whip beneath and over the coil must be in line to each other.
After bending and forming, cut the lower section to a length of 6,2 cm and the upper section
to 39cm, the upper section will have to be shortend to the resonant frequency for 2m (USA 146.000MHz)



Editors Comment

If you have a simple circuit idea or anything for this section of the newsletter, please feel free to contact me.

Alan ZL4FM

alan@navcom.co.nz



Recipes to fill in a gap:

Cheese Rolls

500g grated cheese
400 g tin evaporated milk
1 packet onion soup mix

Put soup in milk in saucepan and heat slowly. Add grated cheese and stir till thick and smooth. Cool before storing in refrigerator or spreading on sandwich-sliced bread.



A thin slice of white bread sprinkled with grated cheese and a little onion, rolled up and grilled - that's the classic Kiwi snack that has been found in cafés from Southland to Marlborough for decades.

Savoury Scones

Ingredients:

2 cups self-raising flour
1 cup grated onion
1 cup grated carrot
1/2 cup grated cheese
1/4 cup chopped parsley
1/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup milk
1 oz butter



Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 190 degrees C, make sure the rack is in the middle of the oven.
2. In a large bowl, mix flour and butter together with fingertips (forming coarse crumbs) then add everything else and mix quickly together. (You can mix the butter and flour together in the blender).
3. Turn out on to a floured board, knead 3 or 4 times, press out to form a 2cm high square and cut into squares.
4. Place baking paper on tray and place scones on to tray. Place in oven for approximately 10 minutes or until golden brown.

If undelivered - please return to:



**ZL4AA, Otago Branch 30
New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters
P O Box 5485, Moray Place, Dunedin**

Place
Stamp
Here