



AUGUST 2007

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President's Report

Hi every one... yes I am still in the land of the living, even though perhaps you haven't seen much of me at the clubrooms on Friday nights, what with a bout or two of sickness, family dinners, daughters hockey fund raisers, most Friday nights seemed to have slipped my one way or another! Not mention work getting in the way as well.

So on to business... on Friday 27 July I had a phone call from Tom ZL2HGR from Pitcairn Island. He was just catching up on some radio issues, namely the upcoming Lighthouse Weekend in August and other going's on. We were using a satellite phone (from his end) but you wouldn't have known it as the quality was very good. A bit of delay on the line but still very good. He has worked a few ZL's recently, Julian ZL2CV and Todd ZL2SP, to name some locals. He is still looking out for club members. He said that working ZL3 and ZL4's seemed quite easy, and ZL1's not difficult either; but ZL2's especially around Wellington was proving very difficult if not almost impossible. He has about six weeks to go, and should be leaving the island in September for the trip home. He sounded good and probably looking forward to returning to New Zealand. I think he will find the temperatures here a little cooler than he is used too!

I have also carried out some maintenance on the IRLP Node PC, so hopefully some of the issues reported to me over poor audio, or disconnects will be fixed. A check of the logs seem to be OK, with the average number of connects/disconnects about the usual 180 odd a month. This does show that not only is the node being used, but the repeater as well.

Over recent times, you all will have no doubt considered the value or not of having repeaters and the like populating the amateur bands above 30 MHz. One of the current issues before NZART at present is how to rectify the issue of the ongoing licensing fee issue – currently set at \$50.00 per annum (discounted to \$45.00 per annum if paid on-line). As we are in a fee's review year we as a club need to consider how we intend to pay for our repeaters and beacons, especially if the fee goes up. I note the great fund raising efforts that Morrie ZL2ADP and others are doing on behalf of the club to ensure that we as club pay our way, and are not a burden on NZART for these fees. Therefore I encourage all members of the club to firstly ensure that your subscriptions are up to date (subs are \$25.00 for the 2007/2008 year – are now due), and secondly if possible support Morrie during one of the events he has organised.

So hopefully I am over the worst of the winter blues as far as health is concerned, and you should see me back at the Friday night evenings soon.

73's and good DX...

Mark ZL2UFI

President

Club HF Net 3.645 MHz every Tuesday at 0800 UTC

AREC

The Kapi-Mana Motorcycle club day meet was held on the 15th July at their Bulls Run Road track in cool and frosty weather.

On the Tuesday prior to the event Malcolm ZL2UDF and myself erected a 2 metre 3 element beam on the clubhouse to provide better communications for traffic management along Bulls Run Road.

On the day, using a repaired FT227 (purchased at the last EXPO) as a base station, it was found that 1 watt was sufficient for all communications using the Simplex frequency of 146.500. Audio quality was excellent and battery discharge very economical.

The operators who participated in Traffic Management and Flag Marshalling were ZL2SET (Base) ZL2UX ZL2MEP ZL2BMG ZL2UDF and ZL2ADP

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK2EL

Footnote: This event is held every 3rd Sunday in the month and at the present time we can just scrape through with operators being rostered every second month. We would like a few more names on the list as backups.

Not only is this an official AREC sports and training exercise, it is also a useful fund raiser for the ongoing maintenance and annual costs of running the three repeaters and two beacons presently in service on Mt Climie.

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