



QST63

WWW.ZL2VH.ORG.NZ

Newsletter of The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Upper Hutt Branch 63, Inc.

Branch 63 Clubrooms
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Presidents Report

Hi everyone...

In recent times, emergency preparedness has come to the fore with the recent earthquake in Christchurch. How is your emergency kit at home looking? How is your radio preparedness looking? Something to think about perhaps?

As always ensure you and your family are safe and well first, then your neighbours then your street. Once all is well then consider what if any assistance you can offer the community - it may as simple as turning up at the nearest sector post (normally the local school) and offering your services. They may or may not be required at the time, but with after shocks and the like you never know.

My family reside down at Christchurch and for the most part survived the quake with some minor damage to my sister's properties in the Central CBD, and my other sisters address out near Sumner. Nothing that cannot be repaired.

As the weather continued to be wet through last month I will delay the clubrooms clean up until later in November as we really need a day of good weather to get everything out and looked at - so mark November down. Probably just a few hours one Saturday morning will suffice.

Mt Climie maintenance is being planned - replacement of the 860 antenna and a refurbishment of the 730 antenna stack will be required over the summer period.

When visiting Mt Climie to replace the 860 antenna, the 730 stack will be inspected, and a discussion will be required on site to review what is required - for example if we drop the antenna stack, or replace connectors on site, or we remove the stack for complete refurbishment and replace with a temporary solution and swap 5425 and 730 antennas around.

We have been asked to support JOTA this year, but due to zero interest from the membership I have advised the local scout leader that we are unable to assist this year. Maybe we should consider a list of events that we should always attend/assist such as JOTA and make the effort to demonstrate amateur radio to all and hopefully gather a new member or two from those present.

Well that's the news from me... 73's and good DX....

Mark ZL2UFI

AREC Report

We supported KMMC on Sunday 19th September 2010 with three operators, Jens ZL2TJTT, John ZL2UX and Malcolm ZL2UDF. Refer photo of John and Jens about to move to the event.

The next AREC event with KMMC is Sunday 17th October 2010, requiring three operators. Please advise if available or not, thanks.

We will probably be required for events in November and December 2010 by KMMC.

Check out KMMC web page at <http://www.kmmc.co.nz/>

Thank you for your support.

73 Malcolm ZL2UDF



**Club HF Net 3.715 MHz
Every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

Listen for ZL2VH and join in.

Branch 63 Repeater Report

1292 23cm

RF Deck

Still to find a suitable duplexer. John ZL2TWS made a prototype 5 stage narrow bandwidth inter-digital filter, but the measured performance is poor. So back to the drawing board. We found an Australian user who has purchased one of the designs from.

http://www.duplexers.eu/catalog/23cm/Duplexers/mdi1_6_23cm

It works but he has no suitable test gear to measure its performance. At this stage this looks like the best option.

860 70cm

The 860 Antenna is going to be replaced with a single coaxial collinear mounted inside a fibreglass tube to give it some environmental protection. John ZL2TWS has kindly offered to build it up.

730 / 5425 2m Repeater

There are plans afoot to upgrade the power supply system for the 730/5425 and 860 repeaters. We are looking at purchasing at least one 250W SR250C switch mode no-break DC psu from [Innovative Energies](#) in Auckland. Utilising a second set of 12v standby batteries.



The PSU has low voltage disconnect, mains fail output and can be optionally temperature compensated and rack mounted.

Simon ZL2BRG

Napier ARC Digimode Project Kit Offer

A kitset to receive and transmit PSK31, RTTY, SSTV and most other modes using the free FLdigi or Digipan software. The kit includes circuit and board layout, blank board, case, all parts and hardware.

All proceeds to go to the Napier Amateur Radio Club Incorporated.

There are a number of kits left over after the club members constructed theirs. This would make a good project for other NZ AR clubs. Seven kitsets are available. Branch 63 has been offered all seven kits for \$200.00, much less than the Trademe price of \$40.00 each.

[Link to TradeMe ad](#)

Are there seven members of the club wanting one of these kits?

If we can get all kits sold, then the club can purchase these on behalf of members, who can then reimburse the club.

Mark ZL2UFI



A couple of links for newsletter

Maybe we should book 10 or more seats for a discount from Wellington Airport !

<http://amateurradio.com.au/node/865/>

Centre Victoria RadioFest No.4

<http://www.ccarc-hamfest.org.au/>

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest

(Previously known as the CCARC Field Day or Wyong Field Day)

73

Malcolm ZL2UDF

These events are on Sunday 13th and 27th February 2011.

Malcolm appears to be offering to arrange bulk bookings. Please contact him sooner rather than later if you are interested in either of these events.

Comment

Keen to save money? I recently started looking at prices from over seas and here in New Zealand, Some of our suppliers are doing well in the mark up department, I understand they have certain overheads and risks etc. Compare these price and you could be tempted to import you own new toys....it is not that hard....set up an account, a few clicks and your away. Have a look at these two sites,

<http://www.radioshop888.com/> or <http://www.radiogearpro.com/main/>

For example this WOUXON model KG-UVD1P radio is priced at \$106.00 usd includes shipping (\$143.26 nzd approx) can be viewed here

http://www.radioshop888.com/radioshop_product.php?id=103863

the same product....different picture, is currently on trade me

<http://www.trademe.co.nz/Electronics-photography/Radio-equipment/Amateur-radio/auction-321246964.htm>

at a starting price of \$235nzd or buy now \$265 nzd, PLUS shipping of \$10.00

All up that radio purchased via trademe could cost you somewhere between \$245 to \$275 . If you are willing to wait, you could have it delivered for \$143.26 plus any gst, if your unlucky enough to get tagged.

Doing it yourself, you could be saving your self some serious coin, anything from \$102.00 up to \$132.00 on this example.....that's the price of another toy!!

I recently purchased a couple of programming cables from radioshop88, all up it cost me a total of \$36.05, this included shipping! The arrival of the parcel took just 2 weeks

The prices are some what cheaper then else where and I have no doubt that they are knock off's.

I have not brought anything from the radiogearpro outlet.

There is of course risks when importing or purchasing anything from overseas.....warranty claims and worse case....no show of the product.

Tom
zl2hgr
