



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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April 2013

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Presidents Report

Looks like summer continues to roll on after a brief rain that probably only kept the dust down for many, still we will soon be into the colder months, so best to start preparing now as it won't long to have the fires going again!

Field Day has come and gone for another year, so thanks to all of those involved.

Recent installation of a new antenna system on UHF 860 D-Star Repeater has resulted in improved signals in most areas with good reports coming in. We hope the refurbished VHF dipoles, and soon to be new purchased dipoles, for 730 and 5425 will also show such improvements.

We have some maintenance to complete at Mt Climie before winter arrives so watch your email in boxes for the timetable and assist where possible, many hands make light work.

On the national front, the NZART Presidential and Councilor elections have been completed with all of the incumbents returned to office for another two years. No doubt we'll all be watching with interest how the new council operates over the next two years, especially around the area of membership retention so that the organisation can continue to operate for years to come.

The AGM for the club will be on Friday 26 April 2013, starting at 8.00 pm.

The usual AGM agenda will cover most items, including a discussion on the NZART Remits. If you are on the committee please remember to start preparing your reports for presentation at the AGM.

Additional dates to mark on the calendar:

NZART Conference 2012 - Masterton - 31 May - 3 June 2013

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend 17-18 August 2013

Well that's the news from me...

73's and good DX....

Mark ZL2UFI
President

Webmaster Report

Nothing much to report on the website apart from some new PDFs on the website submitted by John ZL2TWS relating to the new antenna for the 860 D-STAR Repeater:

<http://www.zl2vh.org.nz/pdf/other/Mt%20Climie%20S-M4%20Repeater%20Antenna.pdf>

<http://www.zl2vh.org.nz/pdf/other/S-M4.pdf>

Both of these can be found on the repeaters page on the club website

<http://www.zl2vh.org.nz/repeaters.php>

David ZL2DBP

Interesting Web Links

DX Makes 'Sport Illustrated' Magazine

<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1002473/index.htm>

Malcolm ZL2UDF

Celebrate Wellington Video on YOUTUBE

See the other end of the conversation with Mayor Guppy talking to the Mayor of Wellington Florida.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzn5OBo0n_M

More Raspberry Pi

A TNC to plug directly onto your Raspberry Pi to make a very compact Winlink or APRS server.

<http://www.tnc-x.com/TNCPI.htm>

Branch 63 Repeater Update – March 2013

Beacons

3cm

Antenna

Two versions of the waveguide Antenna are being manufactured and should be ready towards the end of March.

Electronics

The only outstanding major components yet to be sourced are the beacon transmit module, power amplifier and Arudino PCB. Construction continues and I'm looking at a spring/summer install at Mount Climie.

10m

Nothing to report.

Repeaters

1292 23cm FM Repeater

As reported in the previous issue 1292 is back on air with an antenna design called a "Hentenna" and a pair connected in parallel. The Hentenna is a loop antenna predominantly made for 6 metres and looks a bit like the driven element of a skeleton slot. The Antenna is predominantly Horizontal in polarization so remote users may possibly need to reconfigure their 1292 antenna systems to access the repeater.

860 & 5425 D-Star Repeaters

On Thursday 28 February 2013, John ZL2TWS and Gerry ZL2TDN installed a new four dipole stack on Climie 860 D-Star. The previous antenna was working well until water got into the connector and feed line causing a loss of performance. The new antenna, from recent reports has made a huge improvement for most users of D-Star and is evident by the good signal reports received to date.

730 2m FM Repeater

At a recent Club meeting it was decided to purchase a new four dipole stack from the same source as the 860 antenna array. This new dipole stack will be installed for use on 730 with the refurbished 4 dipole stack used on the 5425 repeater.

6m FM Repeater

Nothing to report.

Special IRLP Event: Sunday 17 March 8.30 am – on IRLP Node 6931

In 2003, the Mayor of Upper Hutt Wayne Guppy, and then current President of NZART Peter Norden ZL2SJ and members of Upper Hutt Branch 63 NZART celebrated with Wellington Florida's city councilor Bob Margolis the anniversary of the founding of Wellington Florida's Emergency Communications Management Centre. This link up was done via IRLP a VOIP linking system. The two men exchanged greetings and best wishes to each other over a period of some thirty minutes. Both were amazed at the technology involved the various matters in common they both had.



This year 2013, Wellington Florida's Amateur Radio Club again made contact with Upper Hutt Branch 63 to again renew this communication, but this time with the mayors of Wellington Florida and Wellington New Zealand. Bob Margolis now mayor of Wellington Florida and Wellington's mayor Celica Wade-Brown were due to have a similar link up to the one described above. However due to a scheduling conflict Mayor Wade-Brown had to decline the request with a week to go.

Larry Lazar KS4NB President of the Wellington Radio Club (Florida) made contact with President of Upper Hutt

Branch 63 to request assistance to arrange an alternative for Mayor Wade-Brown. It was thought that ten years after their first contact the two Mayors from Wellington Florida and Upper Hutt would like to renew their friendship.

Upper Hutt Branch 63 readily offered to step in and make this QSO happen.

The event went ahead on Sunday 17 March 8.30 am – via IRLP Node 6931 on the Mt Climie 730 VHF Repeater.

Both mayors again exchanging greetings and Mayor Guppy relived his time in America where he studied for his PhD, at the University of Nebraska commenting on the recent poor performance of his beloved American Football team from the university. The team is known by its nickname the Corn-huskers has fallen on hard times but he is hoping that it will return and perform better in the future. Comments were also given about the status of the drought here in New Zealand, which Mayor Margolis stated that they too had similar events; wishing all Wellingtonians good luck for rain in the near future. Oddly enough the rain started just after the QSO finished so perhaps the 'rain Gods' were listening.

Within fifteen minutes it was all over and the node and repeater were returned to normal operation.

I'd like to thank Larry, and both mayors for making the effort to be involved in the event, and making it such a success, and to also thank Wellington Branch 50 NZART and current NZART President Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC for their assistance in the early planning stages.

We all hope to be around in another ten years to perhaps repeat the link up and who knows via what technology amateur radio will have explored at that time.

Mark Gooding ZL2UFI
President
Upper Hutt Branch 63 NZART

Runners, Racing, Radio and Ruddy Flies!

..... or a *few* words about this year's Southern Crossing race.

This year's race, also known as the Tararua Mountain Race (or TMR), took place on Saturday 09 March, the runners starting at the YMCA Camp Kaitoke (ex - Kiwi Ranch). The details for the race can be found at <http://www.tararua-race.org.nz/> however the basic idea is that these deranged super fit people run from Kaitoke over the Tararua range to Otaki Forks, taking anywhere between 5½ and 10 hours (-ish) to complete the course. It is treated as a Search and Rescue (SAR) exercise unless it becomes 'real'.

Gavin ZL2ACT and Eric ZL2SET attended the SAR briefing at Wellington Central Police Station on Monday 04 March. Fortunately it was 'briefer' (excuse the pun) than the previous time Branch 63 was involved. Our instructions were to operate the communications site at the start (Kaitoke), ensuring that all runners left OK and to remain until the organisers were certain that everyone had passed Alpha Hut and were not going to turn back.

As things turned out, the start (callsign 'TMR Start') was a single operator station, ZL2SET using the supplied SAR radio, working through the SAR repeater (channel ESB7) on Climie. The station was set up and running from Eric's car by 0545 hrs and continued until stand-down at 1245 hrs (or was it 1345 hrs? – forgot to put it into the informal log). The weather was good for running, although the wind 'up top' was a little brisk.

Basically, there were no issues, the 90 runners starting every 30 minutes from 0630 hrs until 0930 hrs. No lost runners, no broken limbs, no reasons to call the rescue chopper. All went smoothly. This meant that the last few hours involved very little radio traffic and was really fairly boring!

The only thing that kept the operator's interest in the last half of the time was trying to work out ways to get away from the myriads of sand flies that frequented the grass outside the gymnasium (operating position) at Kaitoke camp. They attacked outside the car and invaded the vehicle every time a window or door was opened. The fly repellent must be remembered in future – it was forgotten this time.

Here endeth the *few* words.

73.

Eric ZL2SET

**The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters,
Upper Hutt Branch 63, Inc
Official Notice of Annual General Meeting 2013**

**This AGM will be held on Friday 26 April 2013,
starting at 8.00 pm at the Branch 63 Clubrooms,
Park Street, Upper Hutt**

Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes.
3. Matters Arising from Minutes.
4. Correspondence Inwards and Outwards.
5. Presidents Report.
6. Treasurers Report.
7. Subscriptions.
8. AREC Report.
9. Repeater Trustees Report.
10. Other Written Reports (QSL Manager)
11. Notices of Motion
12. Remits of NZART AGM (select delegates)
13. General Business
14. Elections of Officers

Current Office and Committee Holders 2012-13

President:	Mark Gooding	ZL2UFI
Immediate Past:	(no longer recorded)	
Vice President:	Mark Wolstenholme	ZL2WOL
Secretary:	Peter Moore	ZL2HM
Treasurer:	Gavin Smith	ZL2ACT
AREC Leader:	Gavin Smith	ZL2ACT
AREC Deputy:	Oliver Ewert	ZL2OLY
Repeater Trustee 1:	Peter Moore	ZL2HM
Repeater Trustee 2:	Simon Eatough	ZL2BRG
Repeater Administrator:	Mark Gooding	ZL2UFI
Callsign Trustee:	Tom Dixon	ZL2HGR
Exam Administrator:	Gavin Smith	ZL2HM
Exam Assistant:	Eric Wilby	ZL2SET
Equipment Manager:	Eric Wilby	ZL2SET
Webmaster:	David Phillips	ZL2DBP
Editor of QST63:	Mark Wolstenholme	ZL2WOL
Editor Assistant:	Oliver Ewert	ZL2OLY
Committee:	All members	