ZL2VH Newsletter - May 2014

President's Report

First off, thanks must go to the outgoing president Mark ZL2UFI. Mark's work has left the club in very good health and he is a deserving recipient of life membership. The AGM was very well attended.

A decision made at the AGM to replacing the two FT-857D's as they are now nine years old. Decision was made to wait for the term deposit to roll over in four months' time and then seek approval from the club membership to sell the two FT-857D's and replace them with ICOM IC-7100's.

The Club Station's HF Yagi is now fully rotatable again. Thanks go to Paul ZL2BPS for refurbishing the rotator and Brain ZL2CHV. Don't forget the NZART AGM/Conference is on Queens Birthday Weekend in Blenheim 30 May to 2 June 2014. See the latest Break-In for registration information.

And finally Welcome to new member Juno Houia ZL2KEA.

73's and good DX

Simon ZL2BRG

Mid-Winter Christmas Dinner

The Club has decided to hold a mid-winter 'Christmas' dinner at the end of June.

The Dinner will be at the Graze Restaurant in Trentham. The cost of the meal will be $35 for a 3 course meal plus 'extras' with all the usual seasonal specialities available.

The meal will be held on a Friday club Night on either the 20th or 27th of June.

All Club members are invited plus guest(s). Let the club know by the 31st of May if you are attending plus the number of guests and preferred date.

Graze restaurant: *http://www.menumania.co.nz/restaurants/graze-restaurant*

Thanks

Simon ZL2BRG

ZL2UFI Life Membership

A few years ago Branch 63's newest member started making his presence felt by arranging some fund-raising activities for the Branch, namely getting members to help out with stocktaking at various Dick Smith stores and enthusiastically helping out at our traditional fund raisers, AREC exercises and the like.

He quickly rose to the position of Branch President, a position he has held ever since. During this time he promoted IRLP to the Branch which led to Branch 63's pre-eminent position in the greater Wellington area. Wayne Guppy, then Upper Hutt's Mayor, was given the opportunity to speak to the Mayor of Wellington, Florida via IRLP. This raised the profile of Branch 63 within the Upper Hutt community, and probably led to the Branch receiving its telephone connection and associated internet connection at no cost. Much of the expense of getting the IRLP connection working was met by him personally, along with the acquisition of cheap (or free) computers.

Always with an eye to bargain — or maybe even a profit — he actively traded donated items on Trade Me to the benefit of the Branch. Similarly, scrap metal, much of which he donated personally, were traded at the scrap merchant. This leadership from the front resulted in many members making the proceeds of their own scrap sales available to the Branch.

NZART's 2011 Conference, held at the Silverstream Retreat was also a great benefit to the Branch. He almost single handedly organised the whole event. Amongst other things, he personally donated a hand-held transceiver as a prize to encourage early registrations. The boost to the Branch coffers resulting from that conference has allowed it to confidently embark on the current maintenance program on Mt. Climie. This has greatly enhanced the reliability and performance of our repeaters.

He led the 6 Metre Project. Personally donating the repeater & power supply, and ensuring that the funding was in place to purchase other capital equipment.
Following an approach from a nearby branch, and the donation of some of the equipment, he committed Branch 63 to taking on UHF D-Star, and subsequently VHF D-Star, and its installation on Mt. Climie. The promotion of D-Star to adjoining Branches has been done at his own expense. He also negotiated a number of "special deals" with ICOM NZ, which passed on the benefit of bulk purchase to Branch 63 members.

During the last year, the Branch received an invoice for the rental of its clubrooms at the Park St. Depot. This rental, had it not been challenged, would have quickly crippled the Branch. He took it upon himself to mount a challenge, spending many hours of research, and pulling in information from as many sources as he could. A verbal assurance was received from UHCC, that the proposed rental would be reduced. At the time of writing, no reviewed invoice has been received.

While it is acknowledged that maintenance never stops, Mt. Climie's capital items are all paid for, and the Branch is financially comfortable. The Beacons, 1296, UHF D-Star, VHF D-Star, 730, and 6 metre repeaters are all proving to be reliable, and a great resource for the Amateurs of the Greater Wellington Region. Branch 63's ability to provide and maintain these services can be directly attributed to the leadership and guidance of Mark Gooding ZL2UFI, our retiring President.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I therefore nominate Mark Gooding, ZL2UFI, to be a Life Member of NZART, Upper Hutt Branch 63.

Gavin ZL2ACT

Repeater Report

Following the Club's AGM, John ZL2TWS was appointed a repeater trustee.

3 cm Beacon

On the 6th of May the NZART Council approved the ZL2VHX Climie 3 cm Beacon Licence. Waiting for replacement OCXO crystals to arrive. Testing will commence within the next month with Installation planned spring early summer.

1292 23 cm Repeater

The 1296.275 Hawkins Hill beacon which was causing interference to 1292 has been temporarily taken off air to be repaired.

860 D-Star Repeater

On air. The ZL2VH Gateway has been running for a month with no reported issues. APRS and IRCDDB will be re-enabled in the next week,

5425 D-Star Repeater

On air.

730 2 m FM Repeater

Inclement weather at Climie prevented the planned antenna replacement.

53.950 6m FM Repeater

On air.

Simon ZL2BRG

Repeater Trustee

NZART Branch 63 Incorporated

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Upper Hutt

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