



QST 63

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

Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt

204 Plateau Road
Te Marua
Upper Hutt 5018

ZL2VH Newsletter – April 2017

President's Report

Daylight saving has ended and winter will be with us soon enough. Time to check all your external equipment, guy lines, feeder lines etc.

Our AGM is this month and everyone is encouraged to join us in the clubrooms for this meeting. An agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Also this month we have Richard ZL2FY coming to talk about the Yaesu Fusion system.

Thanks to Mark ZL2UFI we now have a total of 6 keys for the clubrooms, these keys will be held by members who are local to the club. We also now have a second set of keys for Mt Climie so we won't need to play key tag when we go up there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Friday: Regular Club meeting 7.30 pm, come along and find out Who's doing What and What is doing Who.

Friday 7 April 2017, at 8:00 pm to hear Richard ZL2FY talk about Yaesu System Fusion.

I do not intend to hold a club meeting on Good Friday.

AGM: Friday 21 April 2017, 8:00 pm

**73's and good DX
Mike ZL2NSA**

Branch 63 Repeater Update

Repeater Trustee's 2017 Annual Report

The past year been relatively quiet. We are still awaiting the results of MED's radio licensing review, this could impact the number of repeaters that the Club can afford to run.

For the first time in a while, more equipment has been removed than Installed at Climie. The temporary mesh network installation and weather station being victims. Hopefully both these will be replaced at some point.

One of club's old spare 2 meter Tait repeater was reconfigured for 147.150Mhz and donated to Wairapa - Branch 82 to replace their existing repeater. (See *emails from Br 82 later in the newsletter – Ed.*). Also a new 'portable' STSP repeater was built using another of the Club's spare 70cm Tait repeaters.

Outstanding work includes weatherproofing the South Hut again and Installing Earthing. Also Climie's standby batteries are about due for replacement.

Projects looking for a volunteer include remote Control / Monitoring of the repeater installation.

Status Reports

WebSDR

Was put on the back burner after the loss of mesh and other projects. Will complete over the winter and find a permanent home.

3cm Beacon

On Air and performing excellently. Can be routinely received as far away as Christchurch and Auckland, and has resulted in a host of stations in the Canterbury region getting on air on 3cm.

1292 23cm

On Air. Awaiting controller replacement.

860 DStar

The ZL2VH Dstar Gateway is current running a mix of Icom G2 and ircddb software. The DStar Gateway G2 software is obsolete with its 32bit host centos5 ending security updates. Icom has released G3 which is 64 bit running on centos 7. We are waiting for things to stabilize before we think about doing a upgrade.

5425 DStar

On Air

Simon ZL2BRG, John ZL2TWS - Repeater Trustees Branch 63

Treasurer's Report

Gavin ZL2ACT has prepared his annual fudged figures balance sheet. Copies will be available at the AGM for perusal and discussion. (Ed.)

We are always looking for articles to fill the pages of newsletter. Please forward anything no matter how large or small to the editor - Eric ZL2SET - ericwilby@gmail.com.

Yaesu System Fusion: Richard ZL2FY (Reminder)

Come along to the clubrooms on Friday 7 April 2017, at 8:00 pm to hear Richard ZL2FY talk about Yaesu System Fusion.

Richard as been a keen amateur for longer than he can remember and with the advent of digital radio he has explored this area of amateur radio. He is active on DSTAR, P25, DMR and Yaesu System Fusion.

Come along and hear Richard's presentation of what he is has archived when using Yaesu System Fusion.

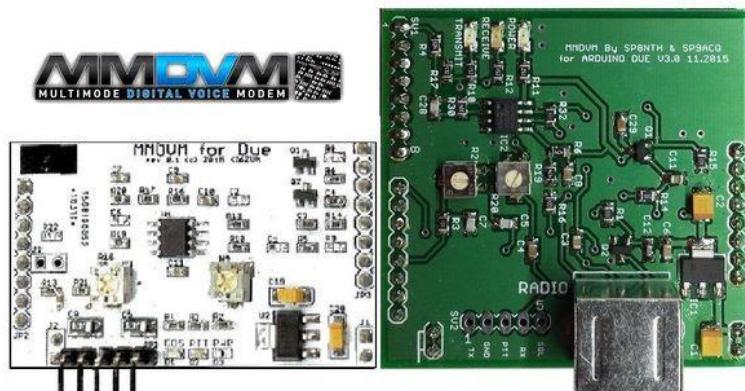
For those interest in some pre-reading here is the web site of the hardware and software he is using:

<https://systemfusion.yaesu.com/what-is-system-fusion/>

The clubrooms will be open from 7:30 pm.

Mark Gooding ZL2UFI

STSP Repeater and MMDVM Talk - 20 May 2017



Looking for a club event to attend? Complaining that the club doesn't do anything? Well here is the first of the winter series of events to attend.

John ZL2TWS has suggested that we need to test the new STSP UHF Repeater, to not only test its capability but to also test club members' ability and their equipment.

Location date and time: Branch 63 Clubrooms - Saturday 20 May 2017 starting at 10:00.

You need to bring a handheld and/or mobile radio capable of transmitting on UHF FM. This test will initially involve setting up your handheld or mobile radio on the STSP frequency in one of your memories on the transceiver (not using the VFO!). Then you will be tasked to go to certain points around Upper Hutt to test coverage of the repeater that will be running from the clubrooms. Years ago, this very test was done by Morrie ZL2ADP to demonstrate and test the ability to operate on VHF simplex from the clubrooms. This proved a very successful test and knowledge gained was very worthwhile.

So please ensure you are at the clubrooms ready to start at 10:00 am - the clubrooms will open at 9:30 am.

John will also give a brief talk and demonstration on the MMDVM : Open Source Multi-Mode Digital Voice Modem. This will be an opportunity to see the latest developments using this product, especially if you have never seen one, or just interested in hearing what's going on. It is expected that this talk will start between 12:00 pm and 12:30 pm and conclude 45 minutes later.

Lunch will be held after this talk in the Cossie Club in Upper Hutt where most meals start at \$10.00. This is a self-catering event, there is no cost to the club at all and if you wish to partake in lunch then the cost is on you.

Mark ZL2UFI

Repeater Administrator/IRLP Sysop

Mt Climie: New protocol on access and keys

As a result of recent discussions an additional key to access Mt Climie gates has been obtained.

When uplifting this additional key from the Wellington Regional Council offices in Upper Hutt, the Park Ranger stated that he now requires all key holders to text him when they are accessing the Mt Climie track. So please note that is new requirement must be adhered to so we can keep our access to the repeater huts.

His details are:

Thane Walls, Park Ranger
Akatarawa/Pakuratahi Forest Parks
M: 027 248 1658



The picture above shows the current key chain (left) and the new keys (right). The new key ring has a key to the track, a key to the small hut (large long key), a key to the big hut and a key to the battery box. Please sign on the whiteboard when you take a set of keys so we know who has them.

Clubrooms: access and keys

Last week club has soured two additional keys for the clubrooms (we now have six keys). The following persons have a key to the clubrooms should you want borrow one, or access the clubrooms.

Mike Cox ZL2NSA - President
Brian Cathcart ZL2CHV - AREC Leader
Simon Eatough ZL2BRG - Repeater Trustee
John Wysocki ZL2TWS - Repeater Trustee
Mark Gooding ZL2UFI - Repeater Administrator/IRLP Sysop
Eric Wilby ZL2SET - Equipment Manager

On Behalf of
Mike ZL2NSA
President
Branch 63

Branch 82 Repeater News

Hi Mark,

Could you please thank Branch 63 members for the repeater donated to Branch 82. The connectors finally arrived and we were able to install it last Thursday before our branch net, and it was absolutely fantastic to have a repeater that didn't cut-out after 15mins, we had 5 members on the net and were able to run very clearly for 45 mins. Branch 82 members are extremely grateful for all the work that Simon, Eric and others put into setting it up for us. Please don't forget when you are coming through the Southern Wairarapa to tune into 147.150 and put out a call.

Many thanks and cheers

Elaine Byrne ZL2 ELA - President Branch 82

John ZL2TWS was mobile on Sunday 19th March and able to work 715 From Masterton to the Rimutaka Hill road summit on a 15 watt mobile while travelling south. Very impressive coverage.

This means users can change over from 730 to 715 at the summit and have reliable coverage on the Wairarapa side of the hill road often difficult coverage on 730.

This is useful information in-case of emergency's where amateur operators may be able to assist in the event cell phone coverage is poor.

South Wairarapa 147.150 MHz FM repeater is easy to work from Central Hutt Valley.

John ZL2TWS reports he has S-5 contacts into the new 715 repeater donated by Branch 63 using a rig output of 30 Watts into low loss coax and a 3dB gain whip antenna.

The 715 repeater installation is going to be a reliable alternative for mobile use and home stations in the Wellington region.

Some mobiles, including David ZL2DRM, have already worked 715 from hill tops around Wellington including Mt. Victoria.

Finally, a couple of items of possible interest to members from Malcolm ZL2UDF:

<http://www.sdr-kits.net/>

<http://www.sdr-kits.net/Webshop/products.php?110&cPath=11>

<http://www.banggood.com/3.5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html>

NZART Branch 63 Incorporated
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Park Street
Upper Hutt

President: Mike ZL2NSA
Secretary: Justin: ZL2UGL
Treasurer: Gavin: ZL2ACT