



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

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Te Marua
Upper Hutt 5018

ZL2VH Newsletter – July 2017

President's Report

Not really much to report this month.

Usual faces show up at the clubrooms every Friday. No new members yet but time will tell.

Mark ZL2UFI has organised an improvement to our internet connection which looks good.

John ZL2TWS and Simon ZL2BRG continue to chip away at the problems we are having with our gear at Mt Climie repeater site with a good deal of progress being made.

More on that in the Repeater Trustees' report.

Possible fundraiser event in October coming up. The Hill Climb people are running an event on the Wainui Coast Road and have asked if we are interested. Good chance for us to use the new STSP repeater.

73's and good DX

Mike ZL2NSA

Repeater Update

Saturday 1st July - Mike ZL2NSA and John ZL2TWS continued with maintenance at Climie.

395 - 6M repeater has a failed transmitter section. Replaced with the spare repeater and now back to service.

730 - 6 cavity DPRE4-6V was put back to service but intermittent QRM still exists.

- T800/II 45W has a receiver fault. 15dB deaf compared with the in service T800 Slimline 20W spare repeater.

ES150 - Faulty whip antenna removed from GNS pole. This may help with inter-modulation issues.

5425 - Suffering QRM with 730. REMO contractors on site soon to change their duplexers or fit notch filters.

- To be removed once QRM testing is completed for mains outage low power reduction modification.

860 - Working very well and the only DV repeater on the D-Star network.

1292 - Worked very well and beacons every 15 minutes.

10GHz 3cm Beacon - Working very well as expected.

Inventory and Loan Book

Now that I have joined the ranks of the leisurely (?) retired and have more time on my hands, I intend to complete a comprehensive inventory of the assets (and a bit of a makeover perhaps) that are physically available to us in various locations. This may not agree with the Treasurer's frig asset sheet for reasons known to Gavin.

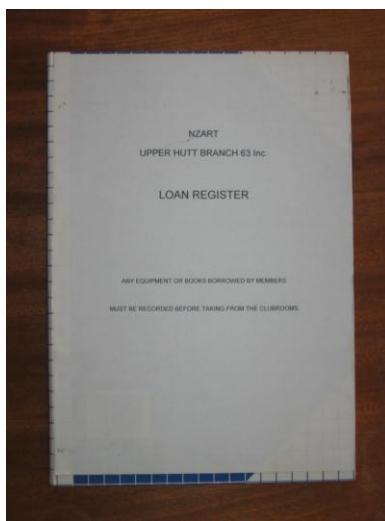
I would be grateful therefore, if anyone has assets that they are 'looking after' and that belong to Br. 63, to let me know by emailing me at ericwilby@gmail.com.

In addition the unused 'Loan Book' that we already have, is going to replace the existing 'tatty' exercise book that we have been using for ages. I'm not sure why the alternative book has not been put into use earlier, but that's one of life's great mysteries!

I intend to format the pages into columns, so *please* make entries *neat* and readable. The assets will have a structured identification label that should be included in the book and, again *please* return the borrowed item within two weeks.

I will endeavour to check periodically and chase up folks. Naturally, if something is required to be away for longer from the Clubroom for BR63 operations it will be noted in the book.

The latest book will be kept in an obvious location and, as many will know, looks like the following. David and myself will get our heads together to decide on a suitable asset labelling system.



I will also be compiling an EXCEL spreadsheet of the assets and their locations.

This process will take some time and we appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Many thanks.

Eric ZL2SET Maintenance Manager
David ZL2DRM Assistant Maintenance Manager

(*–if they are the correct titles Justin?*)

Follow-up from last month (high fliers)

From hamradiodaily.com (page last updated on: Saturday, July 1, 2017)

Historic flight in Australia

The around the world solo flight by Brian Lloyd WB6RQN has finally made it to Darwin after reporting seeing it on Friday night and landing.

He began on June 1 in Miami Florida using a single-engine 1979 Mooney 231 aircraft, fitted with Amateur Radio, to mark the 1937 flight of Amelia Earhart.

The plane was delayed in Singapore waiting a replacement magneto, then a permit to fly to Indonesia, while a further hold-up was caused by a thunderstorm.

This was before his plane had the magneto fixed, engine timing set and the oil changed ready for the rest of the trip.

Then he took off planning to spend a night in Bandung Indonesia. There he reports being overwhelmed greeted by the local aero club, radio hams, commemorative t-shirts and had to face a press conference.

He was again greeted in Darwin and given some hospitality on the overnight stay. After leaving Darwin he has advised that he will make mostly 'whistle stops' at Ayers Rock, Coober Pedy, Birdsville, Longreach, Whitsunday Island, Bundaberg, Gunnedah, Warnergale, and then Sydney.

Brian said he has picked places that are 'good to fly into and have real local charm and exhibit the true flavor of Oz.'

Then it's off to Auckland, Suva, a fly-over of Howland Island which has no runway, then to Hawaii, California, ending in the two month flight.

Brian WB6RQN has had contacts (14.210, 14.346, 18.117 or 7.130) using a 125 watt transmitter on SSB.

Jim Linton VK3PC

From Malcolm ZL2UDF

Some members could be interested in TX Factor if they are new. John ZL2TWS has mentioned it before.

This is episode 15 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUBcHmS9MIA>

I see there is a 16 available.

Regards

Malcolm

Also from Malcolm, the following may be of interest (if you have deep pockets!).

See the thermal camera engineered specifically for lab electronics testing.....

New FLIR ETS320 Thermal Imaging Camera

The FLIR ETS320 thermal imaging camera is the first solution specifically engineered for thermal imaging of electronic components and assemblies, such as as PCB boards and electronic devices in the lab.

The FLIR ETS320 takes the guesswork out of thermal testing in service & calibration labs as well as electronic manufacturing and testing facilities, and it is battery powered and offers hands free operation.

(The product can be found in RS on-line).

From John ZL2TWS

D-Star SDR transceiver "DummyRepeater" for loan.

Branch 63 has a complete D-Star SDR transceiver for loan to members.

Comes complete with everything you need to get on D-Star via the internet.

Connects to Mt Climie D-Star repeaters, gateways and hotspots around the world.

The package includes headphones, microphone, HDMI cable, Ethernet cable, Raspberry Pi3, DV3000 dongle and power supply.

What you need to have ready is the following:

- 1) TV or computer monitor with HDMI input.
- 2) Internet router Ethernet port for connection to supplied Ethernet cable.
- 3) 230VAC outlet for the supplied plug pack.

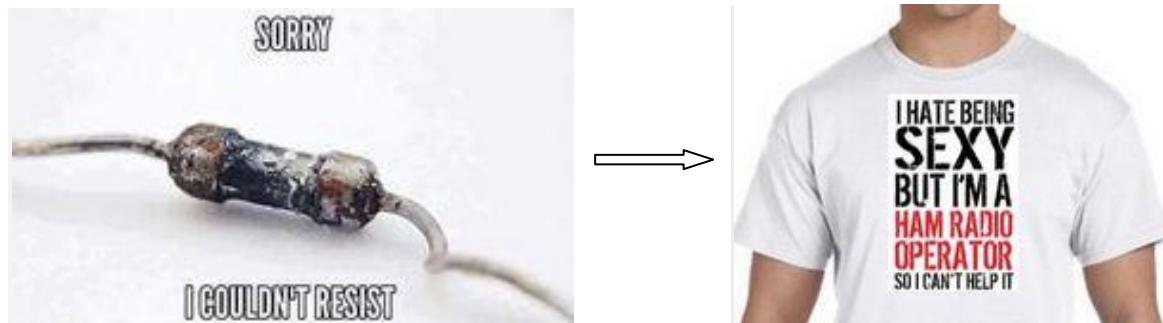
4) Read the following article on what "DummyRepeater" is here:

<http://zl2vh.org.nz/assets/pdf/d-star-newsletter/d-star-newsletter-2016-09.pdf>

Your call sign must be entered into the transceiver before using and D-Star registration confirmed via Mark ZL2UFI.

Contact John ZL2TWS zl2tws@clear.net.nz or Mark ZL2UFI mark@foxtrot.co.nz if you want to borrow the transceiver.

73 and good DV, John ZL2TWS



(Which Branch 63 member would you nominate for wearing this garment?)

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.

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