



QST 63

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

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ZL2VH Newsletter – October 2017

President's Report

Time flies, the weather is allegedly improving and we have managed to make a couple of visits to the repeater site.

Hopefully you would have noticed an improvement to 730, nearly anything that could be changed out has been - from the duplexers to the coax, in an effort to find where the crackling was coming from. If you do get the crackling just increase your tx power and keep transmitting, it seems to disappear quiet soon.

The wifi link to the D-Star system has been re-established but more work is needed before this is 100%.

Fundraising, see below for possible event. We do need to spend money for replacement batteries, coax, Ethernet cables and server computers so we need to build the budget for this as well as pay for the repeater licences (approx \$300) in November.

Upcoming events:

Oct 15 Possible fundraising event: British Car club (the Wallaceville Hillclimb people) may be running an event on the Wainui Coast Road and have sort of asked for us to be marshalls. They are very slow in providing any details so I'm reluctant to commit. If we get some firm details they would require the same level of support that the get the Hillclimb event, around 8 marshalls and possibly the caravan for most of the day.

Oct 20-21 JOTA/JOTI <http://www.scouts.org.nz/Events/JOTA-JOTI> Branch 18 will be operating from the Belmont Scout Hall and no doubt Br 42 Titahi Bay will be on air as well.

73 Mike ZL2NSA.

Repeater Update

Status Updates

3cm Beacon

On Air.

Recently a bug was discovered in the VK4GHZ Trimble monitor display that was triggered when the date info sent by the thunderbolt GPSDO rolled over from July 29 to 00:00:00 July 30 2017. This has no effect on the beacon operation, just incorrect time/date on the GPSDO date display. VK4GHZ has new picaxe firmware fix available and will be installed during the upcoming summer.

1292 23cm

On Air

860 DStar

On Air.

Progress is being made on reinstating the wifi link to Climie. We are looking at fully reinstating the link in the coming week. The Dstar gateway server is back online although without connection to the repeaters. The server will continue to run our custom G2 / IRCDDB installation for the foreseeable future. There are no plans to migrate to G3

5425 DStar

On Air

730 2m FM Repeater

In the past week John ZL2TWS and Mike ZL2NSA reinstalled the high power repeater. We continue to monitor 730's performance

53.950 6m FM Repeater

On Air

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.

From Malcolm ZL2UDF

FYI if you think of interest to members please pass on

-----Original Message-----

From: sales@westmountainradio.com
[mailto:sales@westmountainradio.com]
Sent: Saturday, 23 September 2017 3:22 PM

View the Quarter 3, 2017 PDF Newsletter at:

<http://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/Quarter-3-2017.pdf>

This issue includes:

- * Introducing FT8 New Digital Mode
- * Five Reasons Why I Love Ham Radio So Much!
- * Product Spotlight: Epic PWRgate
- * Amateur Radio in the News: Hurricane Harvey Edition
- * Upcoming Events

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U.K. National Hamfest

So, here I am, sitting in a rather palatial hotel suite at Hong Kong airport with 12 hours to kill before my next flight to Sydney is due to leave. (I only asked for a day room!). A good time to put the newsletter together, and to say a little about the U.K. National Hamfest, which I was able to attend.

It took place on Friday/Saturday 29/30 September at Newark Showground (Lincolnshire). The weather was the usual British rubbish, grey and overcast with frequent heavy showers. This gave a few problems to the exhibitors outside, who had to constantly cover and uncover their goods.

On arrival, the first impression was “where did all these cars come from?”. I arrived early to avoid the crowds but, as can be seen, there were already zillions of cars bristling with antennas. It only got worse later on. I, for one, am not used to that scale of event in N.Z.



The main event was held in a large hall. This also rapidly filled with folks keen to get their hands on something of interest. The first signs that some had been successful were the apparitions of middle-aged men (in raincoats !!) staggering under the weight of pieces of vintage test equipment etc. and trying to get back to their cars without dropping it.

There were lots and lots of very expensive equipment offered for sale, and some bits and pieces for the junk box, although the amount of this has diminished, the same as it has back home.

I was looking for a few bits and pieces for equipment renovation, but only ended up with some Eddystone knobs for me, and a couple of bags of assorted resistors for Bob G8CQR.

However, as the 'Rally Price' was very favourable, I did lash out on a Sark 110 Antenna / Vector Analyser, which is also a TDR, signal generator, and has many other functions, including a Smith Chart display. My kitset analyser from India worked well for a time but has now given up the ghost.

Anyway, a few more photos to set the scene. (The crowds got so thick after I took these, that it was difficult to move in the hall, let alone to be able to see what was on offer).



See you all on Friday, assuming that Mr Boeing has got his sums right once again.

Eric ZL2SET.

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Treasurer: Gavin: ZL2ACT