QST63
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NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS - BRANCH 63 UPPER HUTT
Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt

ZL2VH Newsletter – March 2026

President's Report

Next trip to Mt Climie is on for Tuesday 17 or Wednesday 18 March 2026 – weather will depend on which day is chosen. Tuesday will be the short on time as having to be off site no later than 1:00 pm as I have other commitments on that day. Meeting time is 9:00 am outside my address on Plateau Road. John ZL2TWS, Justin ZL2UGL and myself at this stage. We will have one more seat available unless you have your own 4WD.

1292 Repeater: new equipment

The new ICOM RP1200VD repeater has arrived, has been programmed and is ready for installing. We expect to do this on the next Climie visit.

Climie 730: new repeater

The Tait TB-7300 repeater has finally had a fix supplied by Tait to stop the quick keying of the repeater, and the fix has been installed. The repeater is now working as it should. We would like one more fix from Tait, that is to have the repeater beacon with a CW ident (on lower power), when mains power fails at Climie, but this may not be ready. We expect install the repeater on the next Climie visit.

Repeater Report

Repeater: Status

Climie KiwiSDR	On Air
10 m Beacon (28.229 MHz)	On Air
3 cm Beacon (10368.275 MHz)	Off Air – antenna/beacon removed for maintenance.
1292 (23 cm)	On Air.
D-Star 5425, 860	On Air
730	On Air
395 (6 m)	On Air

For some reason the SDR stopped working recently and while everything that could be checked indicated no faults it has suddenly returned to service. A check on this will occur at the next Climie visit.

Jock White Field 2026

Jock White Field 2026 was on Saturday 28 February 2026 and Sunday 1 March 2026. We activated the club call sign for the Saturday only as those attending had other things booked for the Sunday. Those taking part were ZL2BRG, ZL2BDG, ZL2UX, ZL2DAT, ZL2UGL and ZL2UFI.

ZL2BDG's vertical setup with a 40 metre vertical worked well again this year. Making for easy setup and dismantle on the day. This is the third year that has been used.

Weather on the day was again excellent, as can be seen in the pictures below. So, with all the rain and wind this summer it was great to have such good weather.

Total of 92 SSB and 9 CW contacts.

Ben ZL2BDG (left) and Simon ZL2BRG doing CW on 40 meters.

Ben ZL2BDG (left), Simon ZL2BRG (centre) and with Steven ZL2DAT doing voice on doing on 40 meters.

EME Newsletter

https://eme.radio/432-and-above-newsletter/432-and-above-2026-02

EME Conference 2026

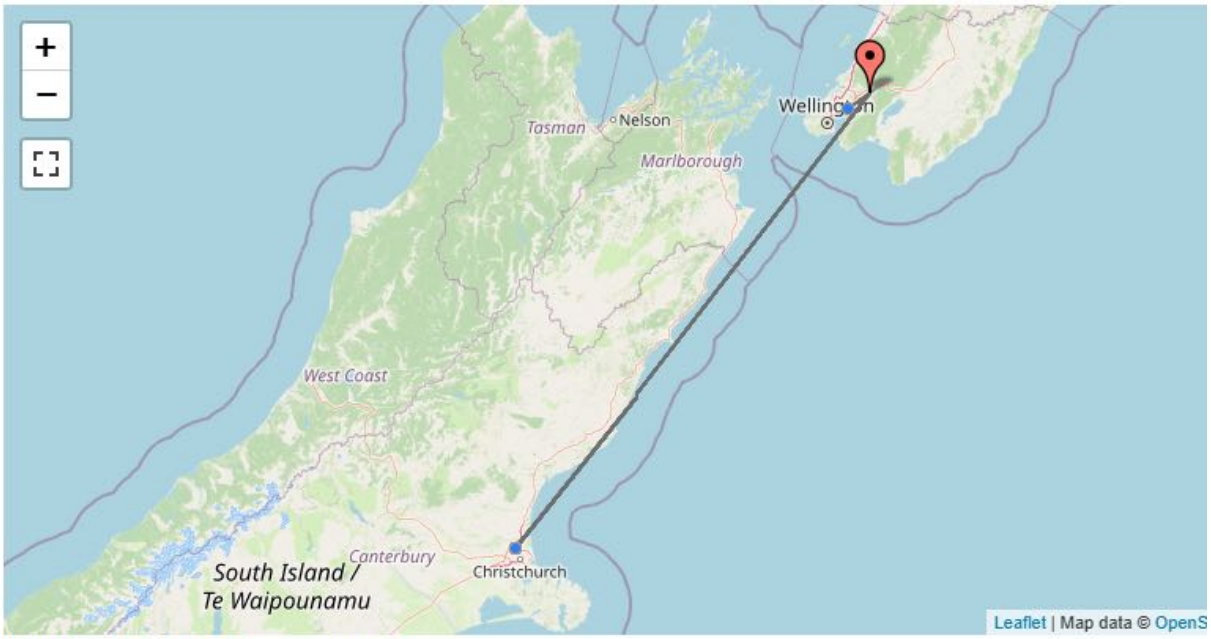
The 2026 EME Conference will be held in Tenerife, Canary Islands (Spain) hosted by Rainer EA8DMF.

EME 2026 Conference Web
Site: http://eme2026.moonbounce.info/eme2026.html
You can pre-register by emailing him at EA8DMF@MOON-NET.EU

Please let Rainer know ASAP of your interest in attending as it helps with his negotiation and planning of the conference accommodations and activities.

10 m Beacon

The 10 metre beacon is working well after the recent repair and has been reported as seen in the picture below.



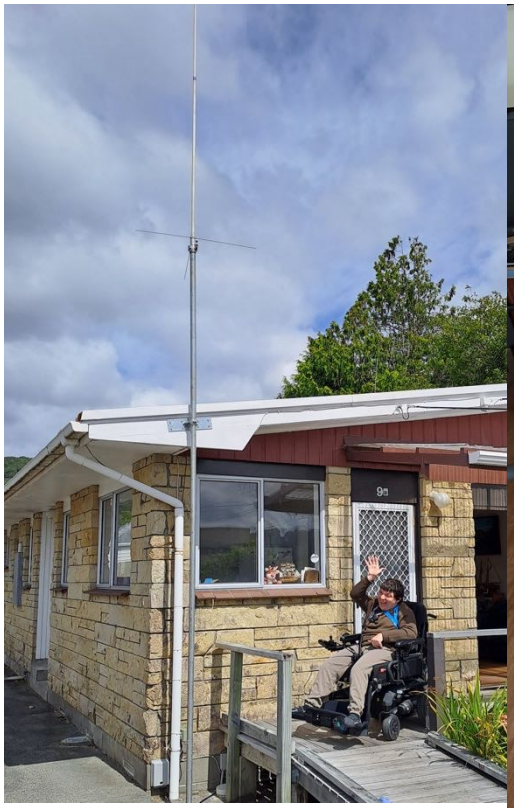
ZL2MHF is 15.7 Km @ 54 deg from ZL2TWS

Latest spots (max 10) for ZL2MHF (Total spots = 383)

UTC	Reporter	Grid	Distance	Reported Freq
15 Feb 2026 03:51	ZL3ADC	RE66HM25	331.5 Km	28.229000
8 Feb 2026 02:10	ZL3ADC	RE66HM25	331.5 Km	28.229000

Getting ZL2DAT back on the air

Steven ZL2DAT has been living in Upper Hutt for some years now but hasn't been too active. This has been resolved since he has joined the club in 2025 and requested assistance to get him on the air again. Paul ZL2TQA took on the role to build a mast and attachments for the VHF/UHF dual band vertical that Steven had at this previous location in New Plymouth. To move things along John ZL2TWS and Mark ZL2UFI completed the project, with Steven now on the air with a ICOM ID-5100, so you will hear him on the DSTAR and FM repeaters.



RP-1200VD Settings update

ZL2TWS has completed the following checks and updates for the RP-1200VD.

Measurements and settings:

1) Output power at 1297 MHz = 10.5W
2) Output power at 1292 MHz = 10.3W
3) Output power at 1250 MHz = 9.5W
4) FM Time out Timer (TOT) = 10 mins (same as 5425 and 860)
5) Call sign = ZL2VH A (Shows on a DV rig return DV tail when triggered)
6) CW ID = ZL2VH MOUNT CLIMIE FM OR DV
7) CW ID sent every 15 mins when repeater is on standby (as advertised and expected by regular users)
8) CW ID Modulation set at 1% deviation. SSB and CW rigs can RX clean carrier with 600 Hz tone shift.
9) DXers looking for a beacon can use SSB or CW to detect band opening and tropospheric ducting.
10) Time Out Timer penalty = 5 secs (same as 5425 and 860)

11) Tail time = 4.0 sec. (long tail due to rapid QSB and fading experienced on 23cm band)
12) TX TOT sends CD ID if TOT is triggered after 10 mins. (lets users in FM know they timed out)
13) There is no TOT in DV mode.
14) Repeater ID=3 (5425 = 1 and 860 = 2)
15) Firmware updated from V1.21 to V1.25
16) CTCSS tone on TX FM carrier is not enabled for reasons in 8) and 9)
17) CTCSS tone is not used on repeater input as older rigs, members use, do not have this option.
18) FM input open gate delay = 0.5 secs (gives protection from radar QRM)
19) While the repeater beacons FM can override the CW and a QSO is possible without waiting for the beacon to finish.
20) While the repeater beacons DV cannot pass and users must wait for the beacon to finish.
21) If a DV or FM QSO is in progress the beacon waits for the 15 min timer period before resuming beacon mode.
22) DV has priority except as in 18)
23) Repeater offset set at -40 MHz (1297 / 1257 MHz and it works as expected.
24) Repeater offset set at -50 MHz (1297 / 1247 MHz and it works as expected.
25) Voltage measured on the RP-1200VD rear connector on RX is 13.85V and drops to 13.65V on Hi power TX.
26) TX current on Low power (1W) = 2.3 amps. TX current on Hi power (10W) = 4.6 Amps.
27) RX current = 1.3 Amps.

FO-29 Approaches Full Sunlight

Fuji-OSCAR 29 (JAS 2) will soon enter a season of orbits in full sunlight, making it once again available for worldwide use.

JAS-2 was successfully launched on August 17, 1996. It orbits the Earth in a polar orbit at 1300 km altitude in a time of 112 minutes. The inclination is 98°. The transmission power of the beacon is 100 mW, the transponder 1 watt. The linear transponder downlink is from 435.800 MHz – 435.900 MHz (USB, CW), with uplink from 145.900 MHz – 146.00 MHz (LSB, CW). CW beacon frequency is 435.795 MHz.

Fuji-OSCAR 29 (JAS 2) Credit: JAMSAT

Designated as Fuji-OSCAR 29 after achieving orbit, JAS 2 has long been one of the most popular and most useful linear satellites available to amateurs. However, as the satellite approaches 30 years of age, its batteries have long-since failed. It only continues to operate while the sun is illuminating its solar panels.

On March 9, FO-29 will begin orbiting in full sunlight, without periodic eclipses.

In mid-February, the duration of the shadow decreases from about 20 minutes to about 1 minute per day. Therefore, FO-29's transmitter may suddenly come to life unexpectedly. Amateurs are encouraged to monitor the satellite and to update its activity on the AMSAT OSCAR Satellite Status page, https://www.amsat.org/status/.

Please enjoy using FO-29 while it remains available!