



## ZL2VH Newsletter – May 2026

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### President's Report

Last trip to Mt Climie was on Monday 6 April 2026 – 10 GHz Beacon, SDR Receiver were re-installed and track maintenance especially from the Emergency Services hut to ours were completed. The hut painting was deferred due to the weather.

### AGM: Friday 24 April 2026

The clubs AGM was held on Friday 24 April 2026, at 7:30 pm, but due to the roof leaking in the clubrooms again, was transferred to the conference room next door. None of our equipment has been damaged this time. Not much to report this year, with the Officer Holders being carried over from last year (<https://zl2vh.nz/contacts.html>). The Remits for NZART Conference were voted on. Our Financial position is good, thanks to the two recent Silent Key sales, donated equipment sales, and sales of older repeater equipment. The Treasurer is well pleased! We have lost Alan ZL3LAB to Hamilton, but we wish him well on his transfer and new job.

Apparently, I have made a callsign mistake in recent times with Ben ZL4BDG, by reporting him as a ZL2. Sorry, will endeavour to correct this in the future.

Project 5 (Climie) PRS Repeater Fund Raising has started: <https://prs4climie.nz/>

## Repeater Report

### Repeater: Status

Climie KiwiSDR	On Air
10 m Beacon (28.229 MHz)	On Air
3 cm Beacon (10368.275 MHz)	On Air
D-Star 5425, 860, 1292	On Air – 1292 has desense issues.
730	On Air
395 (6 m)	On Air

### 1292 Antennas

This web site has announced new antenna for VHF/UHF/SHF bands and worth a look at for 1292 use.

<https://antennas-amplifiers.com/23cm-backpack-dish-feed-antenna-23cm5ra/>

The short 5 element is the wider band model more suitable for 20 MHz split.

<https://antennas-amplifiers.com/product-category/23cm-antenna/>

I am working on an equivalent antenna and have the same elements and mounts.

Just need to build a suitable dipole feed like the ones on these pages.

<https://antennas-amplifiers.com/70cm-driven-element-dipole/>  
<https://antennas-amplifiers.com/product-category/antenna-parts/>

73, John ZL2TWS

## World's first 76 GHz EME QSO

The world's first 76 GHz EME QSO took place on April 22, 2026, between RW3BP (KO85) and DL7YC (JO62).

Sergei utilized a 2.4m offset dish paired with an 8.2-watt SSPA and a 2.4 dB NF LNA.

Manfred (DL7YC) employed a 2.4m prime-focus dish with a 5-watt SSPA and a 2.5 dB NF LNA.

The transmission mode used was Q65-60E, during which "single decode" reports of -14/-15 and -17, respectively, were exchanged.

A unique feature of this operation was that, due to the high losses at 76,003.210 MHz, no antenna relays were utilized; instead, the receivers and transmitters each employed separate feedhorns that were "slid" into the focal point with an accuracy of 0.05 mm.

Best regards

Sergei, RW3BP  
Manfred, DL7YC

## 430-440 MHz possible QRM

Note that anyone using frequencies of 430.5 MHz, 432.3 MHz, 434.1 MHz, 435.9 MHz, and 439.5 MHz, each with 50 kHz bandwidth) (Space-to-Earth and Earth-to-Space) (outside the U.S. only) should be aware of possible QRM.

This only affects the WSPR beacon from Manawatu on 432.3 MHz (ZL National WSPR frequency on 432.3 MHz). Anyone receiving weak signal beacons from 432.275 MHz to 432.3 MHz might experience QRM.

Any repeater using 434.1 MHz RX input and a 5 MHz TX offset shift can also experience QRM. The only repeater licensed with RSM on 439.1 MHz is in WAIMATE. Two repeaters using 439.5 MHz TX are listed as TE KAPUA and MT VICTORIA so only the RX home station might experience QRM.

73, John ZL2TWS

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The FCC have just licenced AST SpaceMobile to further pollute the 432MHz amateur band.

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-391A1.pdf>

430-440 MHz (centre frequencies of 430.5 MHz, 432.3 MHz, 434.1 MHz, 435.9 MHz, and 439.5 MHz, each with 50 kHz bandwidth) (space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space) (outside the U.S. only)

*This also comes in the context that the ARRL appear to have done nothing to protect amateur radio on 430MHz outside the US.*

*This is despite warnings issued to IARU member societies from IARU after the last mass protest to the FCC concerning AST Space Mobile.*

<https://www.iaru.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/IARU-Calendar-207.pdf>

*I certainly will not conform to this. I represent UK radio amateurs and will not kowtow to others who consider themselves suitable to permit RF pollution in my country!*

*ARRL is unfit to claim any representation of the hobby of amateur radio and certainly outside the US!*

*John G4SWX*

## **FCC Approves AST Space Mobile's License for Emergency TT&C Operations in the 430–440 MHz Amateur Radio Band Outside the US**

Amazingly, the FCC has approved this use outside of the USA! Not sure how countries feel about this approach, the IARU are not impressed at all:

<https://www.iaru.org/fcc-approves-ast-space-mobiles-license-for-emergency-ttc-operations-in-the-430-440-mhz-amateur-radio-band-outside-the-us/>

## ICOM IC-F11 VHF Radios

The club has been donated several ICOM IC-F11 VHF commercial handhelds from Rural Fire as no longer required. Batteries, desktop chargers, speaker microphones have also been supplied.

They are Windows PC programmable using an ICOM OPC-478 cable USB or serial versions. The software has been located and allows for programming up to 16 channels within the 2 metre band. No programming cables were supplied but the handhelds can be programmed easily to get you going on 730 (or any other repeater) or any simplex frequency for example.

If you would like to purchase one of these handhelds (or more) then they will be available. I will work through them all to ensure that they work and the batteries hold a charge.

Each radio will be supplied with a battery.

If there are sufficient desktop chargers and power supplies, and speaker microphones these will also be supplied with each radio. There some belt clips available depending on the battaery.

If you separately purchase an OPC-478 cable yourself (not club supplied), then the Windows software to programme the radios will also be supplied.

The manuals and service manual have also been located if you require them as well. The operating manual is reasonably basic but at least there is one. I can only assume that these are at least 15 years or more old, having been well used. This is based on the Windows programming software copyright date. I used a Windows 11 laptop to use this software without any issues. Some of the programming options are a best guess, as there are no help files and the operating manual doesn't cover the programming software.

These are robust, well used radios but should give good service.

Two examples will be at the clubrooms for testing and viewing.

Mark ZL2UFI



50  
MHz

# 6 METERS — THE MAGIC BAND

Where VHF Meets HF Behavior



**YOU - 50 MHz**

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HamRadio 24-7  
**W2RE**