



ZL2VH Newsletter – October 2026

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President's Report

Unfortunately, I have had to cancel this weekend's event at the **Kaitoke Gliding Club** due to access issues, as shown in the photograph below. While this is disappointing, safety must always come first, and at this stage the site is not suitable for the activities we had planned. Thank you to everyone who had intended to attend, and we will look at rescheduling when conditions improve.

Longburn Junk Sale This Weekend

A reminder that the **Longburn Junk Sale** is being held this Saturday. If you enjoy browsing for radio equipment, electronic components, bargains, or simply catching up with fellow enthusiasts, it is well worth the trip.

More information is available here:

<https://zl2vh.nz/assets/pdf/other/Longburn Table Sale Saturday 3rd October 2026 v1.pdf>

I hope those who attend have an enjoyable day and perhaps come home with a few treasures.

PRS Project Update

The **PRS Project** continues to make good progress. The single dipole antenna arrived in Wellington this week, which is another important milestone for the project.

John will now carry out a series of tests to make sure the antenna performs as expected and meets our requirements. He will also be working on the design and fabrication of the mounting brackets needed for the installation. There is still a bit of work to complete, but everything is moving in the right direction.

Once testing has been successfully completed, we will look for a suitable weather window and arrange a trip to **Mt Climie** to complete the installation. As many of you know, access and weather always play a significant role in projects of this nature, so we will keep everyone updated as plans develop.

Volunteers Welcome

If you are available and would like to help with the installation, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. At this stage, the work is most likely to take place on a weekday rather than a weekend, as both John and I have greater flexibility during the week.

These projects are only possible because of the support and enthusiasm of our members, and it is always great to see people getting involved. Whether you can assist on the day, help with equipment, or simply take an interest in the project, your contribution is valued.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of the club. I hope everyone has a great weekend, stays safe, and enjoys whatever radio-related activities they have planned.



Club Event: CANCELLED

Due to the access gate be repaired by the Regional Council this event/location has been cancelled as we have no access.

<https://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/>

Operating times: contest begins on Saturday 7:00 pm (0600 UTC) and continues for 24 hours, concluding on Sunday 7:00 pm (0600 UTC).

EME Newsletter:

September 2026 Edition: <https://eme.radio/432-and-above-newsletter>

Repeater Report

Repeater: Status

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

The difference between repeaters and reflectors: D-Star

The main difference is that a repeater is physical hardware on the ground, while a reflector is a virtual server in the cloud.

Think of a repeater as a local radio tower and a reflector as an internet chatroom that connects multiple towers together.

Quick Comparison

Feature	D-STAR Repeater	D-STAR Reflector
What it is	A physical radio station (antenna, tower, transceiver).	A virtual software server hosted on the internet.
Range	Local (typically 30 to 80 kilometres depending on terrain).	Worldwide (accessible anywhere with an internet connection).
How you connect	You transmit directly to it via RF (radio frequencies) .	You link your local repeater or hotspot to it using gateway commands .

Purpose	Extends the range of local handheld and mobile radios.	Bridges hundreds of repeaters and hotspots into one giant conversation.
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How They Work Together

1. You key up your handheld radio and talk to a local **Repeater**.
2. You send a command to that repeater to link to a specific **D-Star Reflector** (for example, *REF001CL*, which is a popular international channel).
3. The reflector takes your audio from the internet and blasts it out to *every other repeater* currently linked to that same reflector worldwide.

Report: The Top of the South Amateur Radio Gathering



Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 September 2026: Brayshaw Park, Blenheim

Event Information

-  **19–20 September 2026**
-  **Brayshaw Park, Blenheim**
-  **\$20 for the weekend — pay at registration**
-  **Registration opens Saturday at 8:30 am**

Below is a copy of the timetable, speakers and topics. It was a well-run event with close timings, no overruns into the next topic. Then next event is

scheduled for two years' time, location unknown. They used to alternate between Murchison and Ashburton. If you are looking for a weekend away with some radio, and an opportunity to see any part of New Zealand then it is well worth it.

Saturday 19 September

TIME	PRESENTER	TOPIC
8:30 am		Registration opens
9:00 am	Stuart Watchman	Welcome & Introduction
9:25 am	Roger Corbett	Jock White Field Day log processing, the easy way
10:00 am		 Morning Tea
10:15 am	Warren Judkins	Amateur Broadcast Radio
10:45 am	Jay Haines	Tailscale
11:15 am	Nick Batt	Remote Station Control
11:45 am		 Lunch*
12:15 pm		Antenna Racing — World Champs 2026**
1:00 pm	John Y	AREC FM LPFM network in Wellington
2:00 pm	Rick	POTA Problems

TIME	PRESENTER	TOPIC
3:00 pm		☕ Afternoon Break
3:25 pm	Roger Corbett	Things never change, or do they
4:00 pm	John E	SDR / RBN / Winlink
5:00 pm		Finish

Sunday 20 September

TIME	PRESENTER	TOPIC
9:00 am	Neville Marr	the WSPRnator
10:00 am		☕ Morning Tea
10:15 am	Nick Batt	Life as a Radio Activist & Giveaways
11:00 am	George Timmermans	Rapid Prototyping
12:00 pm		🍴 Lunch*
1:00 pm	Stuart Watchman	Remote HF Station & Wrap-up