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	www.qsl.net/zl2vh/ NEWSLETTER of <i>The New Zealand Association</i> <i>of Radio Transmitters UPPER HUTT Branch 63 Inc.</i>	

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President's Report

Hi everyone....as spring is now well under way, how are you all bearing up under the weather conditions, rain, strong winds and the general unpleasantness of the weather at this time of the year? I know it is certainly testing out the strength of the antenna system at home!

This brings two matters to the fore front of your minds - namely the two recent visits to the Hutt Valley Emergency Management offices in Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt. Thank you to all those attended one, or both of the events. It is good to re-establish these contacts and find out where we fit in the new structure. I will be taking up the Hutt Valley Emergency Management offer of a demonstration of capability - probably combine it with Field Day next year. It would be good to see and use their equipment at Field Day and see it operation.

Secondly, over the weekend of 20/21 October we provided the JOTA Station for the Upper Hutt/Wairarapa Scout Zone Camp at Gladstone in the Wairarapa. (See a separate report.)

As part of this weekend, the group involved used two main antennas - a commercially made G5RV and the club supplied 20M Dipole. It appeared to the operators of JOTA that we have very good transceivers, with the new purchases of the auto tuners - the ability to match to antennas that we are receiving well but that our transmitted signals are not as strong or being heard.

So a day of testing antennas has been suggested. The idea is that we should have an antenna testing day at either the clubrooms or at another location. This could be combined into a one day club outgoing, followed by a BBQ and maybe a Christmas get together as well? So if you have any antenna ideas or some lying around home bring them along for this day. If you have never made or tested an HF Antenna come along and give it a go.

Please discuss this idea at the Friday night meetings so that a suitable Sunday can be selected prior to Christmas.

So that's it from the top....
73's and good DX.

Mark ZL2UFI
President

JOTA Report - 20/21 October 2007

The club operated a JOTA Station over the weekend of 20/21 October 2007, at the Gladstone Sports Complex, Gladstone in the Wairarapa. The station was part of the combined Upper Hutt/Wairarapa Zone Scout Camp. The reason we as a club were involved is that Branch 46 Wairarapa was also involved in another JOTA Station Activity in the Wairarapa.

The station was set up at mid day on Saturday by Tom ZL2HGR, Mark ZL2WOL and I. Tom and I overnighted, with Mark returning back on Sunday. Visitors to the station on Sunday were Morrie ZL2ADP and Neil ZL2TNG. Morrie assisted the tied operators by taking a group through a series of contacts.

Station consisted of the caravan, antenna pole, a commercial G5RV and a club 20M dipole. Both Yaesu FT-857D's and LDG Z11Pro Auto Tuners were taken and used. We set-up next to the Sports Complex and were able to use mains power without the need to use or take our generator.

All operating was done on the G5RV with the 20M Dipole used for PSK31 mode. This G5RV was the same as used by Tom while on Pitcairn Island so it was well travelled, and tested.

Most of the contacts on HF were on 40 metres, with some on 80 and 20 metres when the bands were up. Best DX was when Tom contacted Costa Rica on Saturday evening.

VHF on Climie 730, IRLP, Clime 860 and the Wairarapa VHF Repeaters. Working around New Zealand was band dependant on conditions, with both 80 and 40 metres at time going from being very good to being very poor. Some very good conditions on 40 metres in particular made for contacts into Alexandra and further south to Riverton (near Invercargill to a mobile station).

IRLP to Australia was used extensively by our station where possible, but we had competition from other stations in using the IRLP Link - Lower Hutt (ZL2HV) and Wellington (ZL2WA) was also using the link. To take the pressure off 730 we were at one point able to have an extended QSO with Lower Hutt ZL2HV via Climie 860.

Some thought should be given to moving the IRLP off Climie 730 over the weekend to perhaps Climie 860, leaving 730 clear for local JOTA inter-connects. Unfortunately, from Gladstone the National System was not accessible.

One of the issues we had over the weekend, which was discussed at length was the performance or lack there of our antennas. Although this has been covered off in the Presidents report, it seemed to the team that while we could hear many stations when the bands were up, being heard is a problem - all things being equal. The team felt the location was fine, with low noise from any man made sources - apart from the helicopters attacking the frost conditions early on Sunday morning! So thought was given to a day of antenna testing. It was thought we had to do better.

Some testing was done over the weekend with other stations that had the ability to be frequency or band agile. The Wellington station ZL2WA assisted here - very good on 80, just heard on 40 and nothing on 20 metres.

Over the weekend we had 70 scouts, both boys and girls through the station.

Mark ZL2UF1
(see photos on next page)

Don't forget: Club Net every Tuesday evening on 3.645MHz at 0800UTC

