



QST63

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



December 2010



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Presidents Report

Hi everyone...

Last newsletter for 2010, for many of us it seems where did the year go? For others I suppose they saying is it Christmas already!

For the AREC side of the club a busy November with an event every weekend - with three motorcycle events and one national AREC Event. It was good to see everyone stepping up to the plate and offering their time. All the effort is appreciated as on my two recent motorcycle events, I had a number of riders come up and personally thank us for being there, making the event safe and putting the event on (not that we organise it of course!).

Mt Climie maintenance has taken place, with recent visits for antenna work on the Climie 860 UHF Repeater, and preparation work for the 23CM repeater. Again thanks to those members who are able to assist sometimes at short notice in visits up the hill.

Some expense has been made over the last month as its repeater licensing time again; some \$270.00 has been paid to MED for the current repeaters, as well as an additional \$100.00 odd for the engineering via NZART and licence fee for the new 23CM Repeater. This will mean that next years payment will be over \$300.00. Only increase in licensing costs has been the GST rise, with all licensing held at present levels as a result of the financial crisis a year or two back.

NZART elections are being held in the New Year, with all nominations due in to NZART Head Office by years end. Any one interested in standing for council or president of NZART?

Dates to mark on the calendar:

National Field Day (26 - 27 February 2011*),

Big Coast Event (19 - 20 March 2011*)

NZART Conference 2011 (4-6 June 2011)

Well that's the news from me... 73's and good DX....

Mark ZL2UFI

*Dates to be confirmed.

**Club HF Net 3.715 MHz
Every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

Listen for ZL2VH and *join in.*

Branch 63 Repeater Update

1292 23cm RF Deck

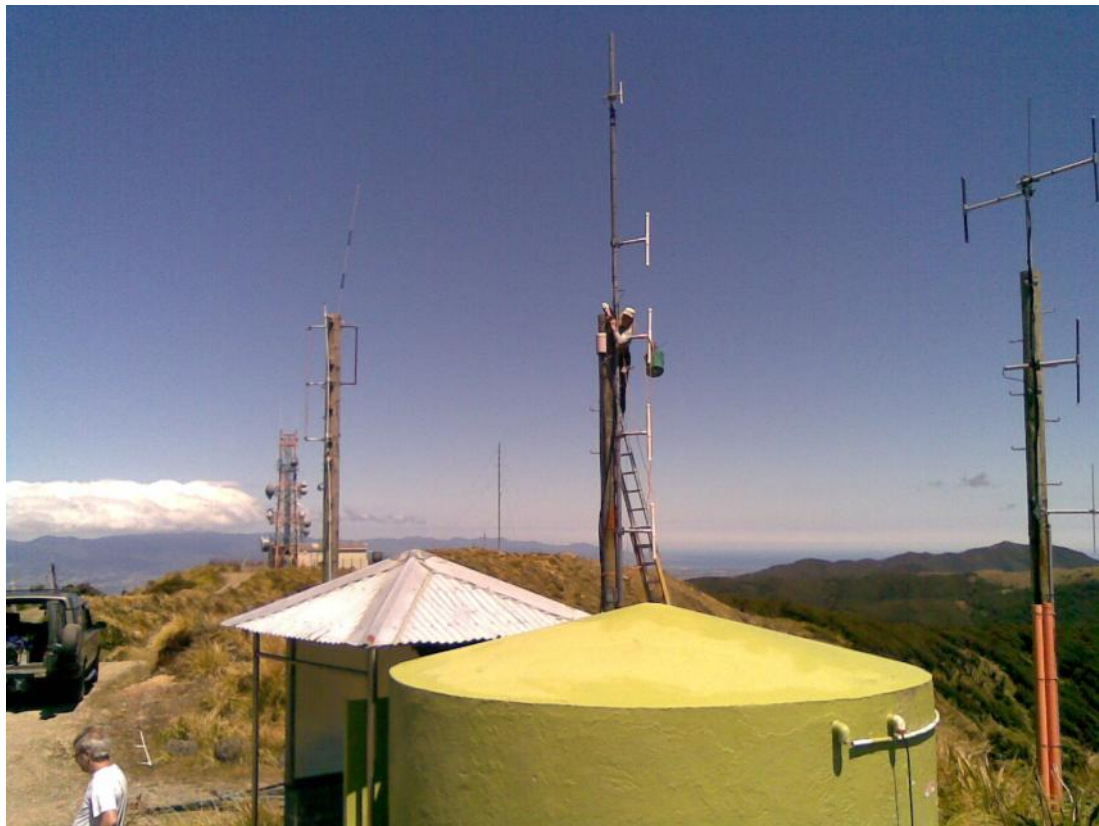
The repeater has been running on soak with the new duplexer and antenna for the past month and is performing acceptably. Chris ZL2DX confirmed the frequency stability (He can hear it over the hill in Martinborough). And is getting close to being ready for installation. The licence has been applied for. A few things needs to be done on site but we are looking at installation up at Climie sometime early in the new year.

860 70cm

The 'crackling' issues discovered after installation last month of the new collinear antenna are either generated by the feeder or by the antenna itself. The Repeater and duplexer was swapped with the spares and the problem remained. A working bee is planned for the Nov 27 to find the root cause of the crackling issue. Until the repeater is fixed the 860 IRLP node is off.

730 / 5425 2m Repeater

No news.



Sunburn day at Mount Climie (27th November)

Single Dipole returned to service on 860. Jens (ZL2JT) replacing pole top bolts.

AREC Report

Busy month for AREC with an event on every weekend.

Starting on the **Sunday 7th November**

Following report from Mark ZL2UFI who was the lead on the day in the forest for Kapi Mana Motorcycle Club (KMMC).

All went well on Sunday - no issues, no injuries, just some broken bikes!

On site at 8.00 am - off site at 5.00 pm - great weather, no rain!

Not much for us to do on the day, but many people thanked us for being there anyway.

730 was used for initial contact for operators while on the road.

Simplex 146.500 was used all day without any issues.

About 175 riders on the day.

Operators were Jens ZL2TJT, John ZL2UX and Mark ZL2UFI.

AREC National Exercise

Saturday evening 13th November 1900 to 2100 hours NZ day light saving time.

Four operators at the Upper Hutt section station being Eric ZL2SET, Peter ZL2HM, Mark ZL2UP and Malcolm ZL2UDF

We had 15 contacts and relay some data from another station to ZL headquarters station in Auckland using HF.



Peter ZL2HM on the left at the HF position and Eric ZL2SET on 730

Sunday 21st November saw Gavin ZL2ACT leading a team at the KMMC track. Duke ZL2BMG with a friend and Jens ZL2TJT support the operation. All went well on the day.

Sunday 28th November eight operators involved in the AREC exercise supporting the Enduro and Trial ride in the Akatarawa Forest. This was two separate rides or events run at the same time by KMMC. There were 47 Enduro Riders in the competition. At the start and check points an LCD unit was deployed.

Three of the operators were from Hutt Valley Branch 18 which we appreciate the support. The list of operators being Ted ZL2TED with an assistant (Br18), Gavin ZL2TVM(Br18), Paul ZL2UGR(Br18), Tom ZL2HGR, Eric ZL2SET, Gavin ZL2ACT, Arnold ZL2ASD and Malcolm ZL2UDF. A long day, good weather and some noticed the afternoon earthquake. Morrie ZL2ADP assisted with information and switching the IRLP on 730.



A special thanks to operators supporting two or more events this month. Usually we can spread duties once every three months, as stated earlier four weekends and four events for November showed commitment.

Malcolm ZL2UDF
Upper Hutt Section Leader.
