



QST63

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Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt

190 Plateau Road
TeMarua
Upper Hutt 5018

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

July 2011

President:	Mark	ZL2UFI	Ph. (H) 526 8446 PH (W) 238 3401
	Mobile 021 100 3378		Email: mark@foxtrot.co.nz
Vice President:	Mark	ZL2WOL	
Secretary:	Peter	ZL2HM	Email: pikam@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer:	Gavin	ZL2ACT	
AREC:	Malcolm	ZL2UDF	
Editor:	Mark	ZL2WOL	Email: zl2wol@linuxnet.co.nz
Deputy Editor:	Oliver		

Presidents Report

Hi everyone...

Well NZART Conference has come and gone... a huge effort from the Branch, and I must thank all those that were able to help out over the weekend. After some initial accommodation issues on the Thursday evening, and during Friday, the Conference ran very well with nothing but excellent comments being made by those attending. I won't single out people for praise as you know who you are, but I must say again thank you for helping out, it was appreciated. We ran within budget.

All the invoices are in, and have all been paid, with no outstanding payments left.

I was disappointed by numbers attending this year, as I had based my conference registration numbers on Auckland (from last year) allowing for perhaps a lesser attendance in numbers due to the financial crisis - I was not prepared for 35% numbers drop. (In fact with about a week to go we finally cracked the one hundredth person to register.)

These low numbers also affected the Alternative Programme where the drop was 55%. Karen was able to run the Alternative programme within budget and on the Sunday also accommodate some extra people who paid the additional cost to attend. I must admit to never seeing so many women coming off a bus with smiles on their faces on the Saturday. It must have been the shopping visit to Kirkcaldies store on Lambton Quay! The venue I think proved to be a winner, with great meeting rooms on offer, excellent food, and the evening entertainment on both nights proved to be outstanding.

The only downside to the whole event looking back now, was the lack of support from the ham community of Wellington. It seems such a pity to me that there is no better opportunity to see and experience NZART in action, yet so many decided not to come? The conference was last in Wellington on the year 2000, some eleven years go, so it's not like it's here very often. I now look forward to 2012, where Nelson has taken on the job to host the next conference. Both Karen and I are going, having booked our accommodation already! I hope others take the opportunity to support Nelson as they supported us this year.

Recently it was decided that the branch would support the installation of a new UHF D-Star Repeater, on the Climie 860 frequency. At the same meeting the branch has also decided to replace the VHF Repeater on Climie 5425 Data/Voice Repeater, with a VHF D-Star Repeater. It was decided to do this based on the fact that many amateurs will purchase dual band D-Star transceivers - by add-

(Continued on page 2)

ing the D-Star VHF Repeater this would give the best possible boost to the new mode. I look forward to this repeater being on the air, as soon as the licensing is confirmed and the repeater purchased. Some additional work will happen in the background to get the Internet Gateway linked in to Mt Climie, so initially the repeaters will operate in standalone mode.

A big thank you must go to ICOM New Zealand for the donation of the D-Star Repeater, Repeater Controller and two D-Star ready transceivers. It is amazing that a company such as ICOM New Zealand can and is willing to make such an investment in amateur radio. Upper Hutt Branch 63 extends its thanks to Sharon Dawson and her team for this donation, and ongoing support.

The Wellington EXPO committee has also met over the last month. In 2005 when the first EXPO was run each Wellington club was asked to seed some money to assist with getting the EXPO going. This seeding money was used to pay for the airfares to bring Lee Andrews across from Sydney. This money has now been re-paid to all clubs this year, returning their investment. It is nice to be in a position for this to occur. At this time the committee has decided not to run EXPO next year, after seven events without a break.

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

Mark ZL2UFI, President

AREC Report

For those who have been following the Newsletters and other communications we have only had one event this year.

I have been advised Kapiti Mana Motorcycle Club (KMMC) attendance numbers have been lower than desired at club days so have scheduled their own members to assist. Our support has been requested for the forest and other off track events.

The next planned events are 3rd July and 10th July. I will contact members for support.

Other future KMMC events where our assistance could be required are

25th September 2011

19th November

26th November

27th November

13th January 2012

14th January 2012

I will discuss with Mark I ZL2UFI and Gavin ZL2ACT the need for those involved in AREC events providing contact information, next of kin, vehicle type (4x4) to assist in AREC support.

At the AREC AGM during the NZART Conference 2011 in Upper Hutt it was stated National AREC training is being planned. When we receive information on this I will past it on.

Malcolm ZL2UDF, Br63 AREC Section Leader.

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

If you can't hear anyone give a call.

From The Treasurer

Now that Conference is over, we can settle back into the normal running of the club.

Members are reminded that subscriptions of \$25 for the 2011/12 Financial Year are now due.

If you could make a deposit to 03-0774-0897536-00 and make sure that your name or callsign, and the Code SUBS is recorded, it would be very much appreciated. Otherwise, I am usually at the club-rooms on Friday nights, or you may post a cheque to my home address

73

Gavin ZL2ACT
Club Treasurer

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend 2011

Hi All,

Can you please send out to all club members that we will again be doing the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend 2011 over the weekend 20-21 August 2011- Duration 48 hours.

It is out intention to return to the same place we did last year. Once we get the nod I shall register it on the events web page.

The fees for using the batch have not changed, \$10.00 a night per person (payable by each member attending) sleeping 8 comfortably and any amount if some are prepared to rough it, mattress on the floor, couch or where they lay their head.

Access is 4x4 only and weather dependent, if it rains and we don't get out quick enough we could be there for a couple of days extra while the river drops.

I will be going in a couple of days early and returning a couple days after the event ends.

I am prepared to make a couple of trips out to the gate to collect people. Cars can be left behind a locked gate and to date no vehicles have been tampered with.

Those interested could they please let me know ASAP as I want to start to get things under way.

Tom
045266244
zl2hgr@farmside.co.nz

Web Links

This month all about D-Star.

Pictures from various D-Star presentations at "Pacificon D-Star Panel".
<http://www.bay-net.org/docs/dstarpanel2010.pdf>

Australian D-Star site. Still worth a look.
<http://www.dstar.org.au/guidelines.htm>

Here is a 101 Guide to programming your new D-Star transceiver, at least to get you going.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-MK_TKMfg&feature=related
This second part to the above video talks about the hand-held and the older ID-800H transceiver.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2S83K7LaWw8&NR=1>

John's (ZL2TWS) Coaxial Antenna as now used on 860 D-Star repeater.
[Mt Climie 70cm Band Repeater Antenna](#)

190 Plateau Road
Te Marua
Upper Hutt 5018

NZART
PO Box 40-525
Upper Hutt

11 April 2011

General Secretary of NZART,

Dear Debby,

Arthur (Jumbo) Godfrey Award – Maurice (Morrie) Vile ZL2ADP

At a recent meeting of Upper Hutt Branch 63 and having reviewed the criteria for the above award, the branch wishes to nominate Maurice (Morrie) Vile ZL2ADP.

Services rendered:

1. Morrie took over the role of AREC Section Leader in 2005, and commenced to re-organise the AREC Section within the club. He quickly established himself in the role, and showed great planning and leadership immediately after taking the role on.
2. As part of his new role, Morrie also took on the position of Equipment Manager, to ensure that all the emergency equipment held within the club was accounted for, up to operating condition and if not have it repaired and returned to service. He then commenced bi-monthly checks of the equipment that were presented to the Committee of the club so than any areas of concern would be addressed immediately, and corrected where required.
3. Morrie was involved in planning many events from 2005 until he resigned from his position in May 2010 (his resignation was that he was moving to the Wairarapa and was not physically located in Upper Hutt any more). These included the Big Coast events of 2006 and 2007, in-house training of branch members from 2005-2010, and the running of the Jock White Field Station also from 2005-2010.
4. Morrie was also a keen participant in the Lighthouse and Lightship Weekends, supporting the club and its membership to prepare and take part in this annual exercise/contest. This provided a great training exercise for members to hone their skills in antenna building and field operation of the branches equipment. A great AREC training opportunity.
5. Morrie also as part of his AREC position was always looking for various means to assist the branch and members to get on the "air", and to this end he developed what was later to become the Branch 63 Black Stick Dual Band Antenna. Easily made and re-produced by members with little cost and effort. This antenna was construction published in Break-In.
6. Morrie was able to also seek out new training opportunities for club members to practice their AREC skills, as various community based events came and went over the years. In particular he was able to secure the Kapi-Mana Motor Cycle Club events, which have since proven invaluable to the members of the branch as the events take place in many areas where people go missing in search and rescue operations. This proven that local knowledge gained in this area has probably saved not only time and materials when searching but probably lives as well.
7. Morrie has also been a strong supporter of the Wellington Radio EXPO, now into its seventh straight year. He has been the "voice" of the Talk-In Station on 730 for those amateurs calling in for assistance or directions on how to get to the venue. Although he is now "out of district" he has again taken this role this year, 2011 to continue in this role. In fact he has offered to do the same Talk-In Station for this year's Conference that is based in Silverstream in June of 2011.

Finally although Morrie has moved away he continues his involvement in the club and it's activities where possible, and is still heard on the local repeaters especially the new 23CM Repeater, continuing to show his interest in amateur radio.

Morrie is a current member of NZART, and continues to be a current member of Upper Hutt Branch 63.

Therefore Upper Hutt Branch 63 supports this nomination of Morrie for the award.

Peter Moore
Secretary
Upper Hutt Branch 63, NZART

Mark Gooding
President
Upper Hutt Branch 63, NZART

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11 April 2011

General Secretary of NZART,

Dear Debby,

Arthur (Jumbo) Godfrey Award – Neil Gibbons ZL2TNG

At a recent meeting of Upper Hutt Branch 63 and having reviewed the criteria for the above award, the branch wishes to nominate Neil Gibbons ZL2TNG.

Services rendered:

1. Neil has been a member of the Upper Hutt Branch for a number of years (more than thirty years), and has held many positions within the club over this period, from President to Repeater Trustee.
2. Neil's major activity in the last ten or so years was that of Repeater Trustee. He together with other trustee's over the years have provided many hours of effort to keep the branches repeaters, operating at Mt Climie up to the required high standard that has become expected.
3. Neil although not physically located in Upper Hutt, but at Raumati South, never the less spent a great deal of time to keep the repeaters in good working order. He was continually a source of encouragement to new members to come on board on his many trips up the hill, so show them the way, and involve them in the maintenance of the repeaters. Neil is also a great constructor of antennas, and may a time would turn up at the club with a 'new set of dipoles' for one of the repeaters for Mt Climie.
4. Neil also provided great technical assistance to the club on all matters to do with radio, and to outside organisations as well, especially when it came to historical knowledge of the site, and who had done and tried what over the years. This knowledge proved itself when the club entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Greater Wellington Regional Council over site access and ownership issues.
5. Neil has also been a strong supporter of the Wellington Radio EXPO, now into its seventh straight year. He ran the clubs sale table at this event providing a great service as a way to gather funds for various projects the club was looking to be involved with, especially as much of funding went towards the repeaters based at Mt Climie.
6. Neil fully supported AREC activities within the branch and greatly assisted the club when involved in the Kapi-Mana Motor Cycle events, as being based in Raumatai South he was able to save many an hour's travel for club members as he took the position on his side of the hill, in the big Enduro Events.
7. Neil resigned his position of Repeater Trustee in April 2010, due to travel costs and wishing to pursue his other activities, beside amateur radio. He still provides assistance, support and where possible physical support of the new repeater trustees as they take on the role he held for more than ten years. The fact that Climie 730 has become the defacto channel for amateurs to use in and around the greater Wellington area and lower North Island as well, are a testament to his work and effort to maintain and support amateur radio.

Finally although Neil resides away from Upper Hutt he continues his involvement in the club and its activities where possible, and is still heard on the local repeaters continuing to show his interest in amateur radio.

Neil is a current member of NZART, and continues to be a current member (and a life member) of Upper Hutt Branch 63.

Therefore Upper Hutt Branch 63 supports this nomination of Neil for the award.

Peter Moore
Secretary
Upper Hutt Branch 63, NZART

Mark Gooding
President
Upper Hutt Branch 63, NZART



What is D-STAR

D-Star is the next generation technology for Amateur Radio Communications. It is a Digital technology developed over the last few years by the Japanese Government and JARL, the Japanese Amateur Radio League. Icom provided the equipment support during the development phase, and is now a major supplier of Digital Radio Equipment for Amateur radio Operators.

What does it do

D-Star provides DV (Digital Voice) communications on the 2m and 70cm Amateur Radio Frequency Allocations and, DD (Digital Data) communications on the 23cm Amateur Radio Frequency Allocations.

The Digital Voice (DV) stream used on 2m and 70cm contains both digitized voice (3600 bps including error correction) and digital data (1200 bps). Using a DV radio is like having both a packet link and FM voice operating simultaneously. The Digital Data (DD) stream, used only on 23cm, is entirely data with a bit rate of 128k bps.

The data connection to a radio that uses DV is via an RS232 interface or USB 1.0. An ethernet connection is used for high speed DD D-Star data.

What can we use it for

For voice conversations, D-Star repeaters act just like familiar analogue repeaters - everyone listening on your repeater can hear your transmissions. Because your call sign is incorporated into every transmission, the D-STAR repeater "registers" your call sign and shares it around the D-STAR system. If you travel into a new D-STAR repeater's coverage area, register with a short transmission and your location will be quickly updated around the D-STAR network. This allows you to call someone registered with any other D-STAR repeater, no matter where that may be. If you call someone elsewhere, your voice will be routed to the appropriate repeater in digital form, where it is then heard just as you would expect if you were both using the same repeater.

Many data communication needs do not require high speeds, particularly for emergency communications (AREC). Status reports, damage assessment, shift changes, resource requests – all they take are a few keystrokes. D-STAR combines voice and low speed data into a single channel simultaneously. There's no need for a separate TNC and radio. Just connect your laptop, PC, or PDA and go.

Now the high-speed DD is something different !! A high speed D-STAR connection looks just like an Ethernet connection to your laptop or other network device. Why run cables for a temporary or portable installation when mobile rigs will do the job?? Connect across miles instead of meters!! If a D-STAR offers a broadband internet connection, you have worldwide connectivity through your radio.

The low-speed data ports of D-STAR handheld radios are compatible with the GPS NMEA data interface. With GPS data intergrated into the D-STAR digital data stream, you location data is forwarded to the D-PRS server where gateway software connects you to the APRS reporting system. The interface is built-in to D-STAR radios – no separate TNC and transceiver required. !!

It is only natural that D-STAR digital voice capabilities will be linked up with the most popular repeater sharing applications, EchoLink and IRLP. Since your voice is already digitized within the D-STAR system, third party bridges and converters to and from other digital voice systems is an obvious and expected future for this Service.

Full details of this very brief summary, and further technical information can be found at:-
<http://www.icomcanada.com/dstar/dstar2.htm>

Gordon Stewart
ZL2ARN

23cm Repeater Users

Reports from 29/12-2010 to 18/6-2011

ZL2DX	Chris	Q5
ZL2TWS	John	Q5
ZL2BRG	Simon	Q5
ZL2ADP	Maurice	Q5
ZL2HI	Jim	Q5
ZL2UFI	Mark	Q5
ZL2NN	Jamie	Q5
ZL2TJT	Jens	Q5
ZL2UGL	Justin	Q4
ZL2BPL	Michael	Q1 - Q5
ZL2UGR	Paul	Q5
ZL2AMI	Bob	Q5
ZL2TNG	Neil	Q? - Q5
ZL2TGQ	Dick	Q5
ZL2UP	Mark	Q5
ZL2BK	Grant	Q5 - S0 RX
ZL2MM	Mike	R2S1 RX

Not entirely chronologically.

Might try doing the same for "860" second generation.

73 Jens
ZL2TJT

 ICOM



IC-2820H



ID-880H



IC-2200H



IC-92AD



IC-80AD

Click on the pictures to go to the Icom New Zealand page

Icom New Zealand are offering Branch 63 members discounts on these radios

To arrange purchase of these items please contact the club

This offer only open until July 31 2011
