



ZL2VH Newsletter — March 2015

President's Report

Branch 63 AGM April 17th

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on April 17th at the clubrooms at 8 pm

D-STAR 201 – Feb 7 @ BR63 clubrooms

Despite Mark ZL2UFI's severe back issues the D-Star 201 was very successful.

Many thanks to Mark ZL2UFI and John ZL2TWS for organising.

Jock White Field Day 2015

We only got offers from two members there appeared to be little interest in running a club station this year.

Climie Maintenance Working Bee – Part 2

Recently members of the club helped our contractor Phil ZL2HF to replace the North Hut's Door. Work was started to prepare the South Hut for painting. Inspection of both huts revealed that the paintwork is in substantially worse condition than previously thought. As a result the team are planning to be back on site on the 7th armed with a water blaster to prepare both huts for a new coat of paint. Phil is planning to finish work on the door at a later date.

Website

Over the past month the club's web master David ZL2DBP moved the [club website](#) to a new provider. This gives us added functionality and stability in the long term. If you find any issues with the site please let David know.

And finally congratulations to Elane ZL2ELA for gaining her licence—Well Done!

73's and good DX

Simon ZL2BRG

Repeater Update – March 2015

ZL2TWS DStar Hot Spot @ BR63 Clubrooms

John ZL2TWS D-Star simplex hotspot is up and running at the clubrooms. The hotspot is connected to the IRCDDDB network and gives access to a wide range of gateways and reflectors. The hotspot's callsign is ZL2TWT and is running on 431.250 MHz—Give it a try

3 cm Beacon

Installation pending other more urgent Climie work completion

1292 23 cm Repeater

Off air pending completion of the north hut door replacement.

860 D-Star Repeater

On air.

5425 D-Star Repeater

On air.

730 2 m FM Repeater

On air.

53.950 6 m FM Repeater

John ZL2TWS repaired the 6 m Repeater and is on air.

73's and good DX

Simon ZL2BRG

VHF Convention Easter 2015 Update

Hosted by The Wellington VHF Group and Kapiti Amateur Radio Society. Saturday 4th April and Sunday 5th April at Waikanae.

Themes:

- Digital Voice: DMR, P-25, D-Star.
- Digital Image: DVB-S, DVB-T, HF digital image modes.
- Digital DX: JT65, WSPR, JT4 and Beacons.
- Digital Broadcasting: DAB, DAB+ and shared spectrum with Amateurs.
- Digital Location services: AIS, ARDS, APRS, Advanced Wander System.
- KiwiSAT.
- Mobile rally, Hidden transmitter hunt, Antenna test range.
- Repeater Trustees meeting, VHF Forum.

An exciting array of speakers and demonstrations, covering recent developments, future directions and new areas for experimentation. Progress at Colonial Knob, the new digital-only

site, and future plans, will also be outlined.

This is Convention Light. There will be a small fee to cover venue hire. No meals will be catered. They will be taken at local venues on a pay-as-you-go basis, to be coordinated during the day. Morning and afternoon teas will be provided by the host clubs.

Waikanae is an easy drive from Wellington, Horowhenua, Wairarapa and Manawatu.

Saturday

Time	Event
09:00	Registration and morning tea.
10:00	Opening, followed by keynote speaker.
12:00	Depart for lunch.
13:30	Subject 1.
14:30	Afternoon tea.
15:00	Subject 2.
16:00–18:00	Mobile Rally.
19:30	Meet for dinner at restaurant.

Sunday

Time	Event
09:00	Special interest groups: ZL-DMR User Group, WanderTrak users. Others as requested.
10:00	Subject 3.
11:00	Morning Tea.
11:30	Subject 4.
12:30	Depart for lunch.
14:00	VHF Forum.
15:00	Afternoon tea.
16:00	Subject 5 – practical session.
17:00	Close.
18:00	Casual dinner.

Website: www.vhf.org.nz Email: zl2wa@clear.net.nz

395 Back On air

ZL2HGR and ZL2TWS installed the replacement half wave end feed 6 m antenna.

Unfortunately the angle of radiation is higher than before. This is possibly due to the addition 5 meters of coax added to the circuit to speed up installation and have the connection test point at the bottom of the pole.

This design has problems with the exact length of coax used to feed the antenna. 10x ferrite choke rings were added to the coax feeder to help this situation but it has not worked when side mounted on the Climie pole.

A new folded dipole type standard antenna needs to be built during 2015 to replace this antenna eventually.

The 395 6 m repeater is back on air but at a reduced power of 50 Watts.

The new antenna has gone off tune since testing on the ground or does not like the odd length of coax cable that is now in series with the radiating element. At home base the SWR was 1.3:1.

The SWR is now 5:1 so the repeater will have to function at reduced power until a new robust folded dipole is made.

Some stations close in under Climie, including Hutt Valley stations will suffer reduced signals levels until the correct antenna is made. Other stations further away from Climie might actually have increased signals.

An invitation goes out to any members to build a robust 160 km/h wind loading half wave antenna in stainless steel, galvanized steel angle iron or copper are welcome to discuss this with the repeaters trustees. The feed point needs to be at the center and have a 4:1 balun.



MK2 Antenna

73, John ZL2TWS



John ZL2TWS Installing Antenna

British Car Day

At the British car day on the 8th of February spotted were Ted and Elaine (ZL2??? [sic]) with their Vauxhall Velox car. Also seen at the show Simon ZL2BRG in his MG. Good luck to Ted and Elaine with the next Amateur radio exam. Hope to talk on 730 soon.

73, John ZL2TWS



Ted and Elaine



The Velox