

	Clubrooms: UHCC Park Street UPPER HUTT P.O. Box 40 525 UPPER HUTT 6415	
	www.qsl.net/zl2vh/ NEWSLETTER of <i>The New Zealand Association</i> <i>of Radio Transmitters UPPER HUTT Branch 63 Inc.</i>	

MAY 2007

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President's Report

Well, no doubt you are all feeling the cold and winter is on its way.

So on to business, thanks to all of those that turned up for the club's AGM held on Friday 20 April 2007. It was pleasing to see such a large turnout of members, and the willingness of some to take on new roles in the club. I would like to welcome the following into their new roles, Malcolm ZL2UDF as Secretary, Peter ZL2HM as a Repeater Trustee and Bob ZL2MUI as Assistant Theory Examiner. Also thanks to all those returning officers for offering to carry on in their current roles. And finally, thanks to all those officers standing aside from their roles this year, for their work over the last twelve months.

The AGM has set the subscription for the club at \$25.00 for the next twelve months, 2007-2008.

The details of the officers and their positions have been forwarded to the clubs webmaster Fred ZL2AMJ for updating on to the website.

Tom ZL2HGR is on his way to Pitcairn Island, and no doubt he'll be looking for us on the bands, under his island call of VP6TD. So who will be the first to work him once he is on the island from about the 7 May 2007?

Well, that's about it from me for this month, having said read my report out at the AGM.

Hope to see you all at a Friday meeting sometime soon.

Mark ZL2UFI
President

Club HF Net 3.630 MHz every Tuesday at 2100 NZST

Branch Officers

The list of Branch Officers appears on the Branch 63 Website at:

<http://www.gsl.net/zl2vh/officers.html>

Please check your entry and report any errors, and also please provide the missing contact details to the webmaster so the table can be completed. Thank you!

73,

Fred ZL2AMJ

Repeater Report 2006/07

The last 12 months has been fairly trouble free and apart from a major power outage due to power line damage as a result of a storm. The 730 repeater continues to give good to average service and like the other repeaters 5425 and 860 will give better coverage and service once the new feed-lines are in place.

The old original alkaline batteries have been removed and replaced with 2 deep cycle lead acid units. The change was made just before the power outage and it was pleasing to note that the new batteries kept the 730 repeater fully operational for over 5 days.

After several working bees the ducting was laid between the old and the new hut. The ducting is for the cabling that will be used to operate the repeater monitoring and control equipment as well as to protect the new antenna cables yet to be laid out to the existing antennas that are on the pole adjacent to the old hut.

The IRLP (on 730) surprisingly is not as frequently used as I thought it would be however it is still worth keeping as a gateway to many DX stations as well as other nodes NZ wide.

5425 the digital repeater is kept busy with APRS as well as the usual packet traffic.

860 repeater although now operating reliably but will show a big improvement to the signal strength once the gain antennas and the new heliax cabling are connected.

Every now and then we get some feedback on the beacons (some may wonder at the usefulness of them). We as a branch are one of the few that offer this service as an aid to other distant amateurs who are then able to gauge the propagation conditions.

Because of cost some consideration was given to relinquishing several of our repeater/beacon licences. This of course would mean the closing down of some of our repeaters and the beacons. At this stage we have retained most of the licences. We are still waiting to hear from our parent body NZART about the results of their deliberations with the MED.

Future developments and any additional repeaters will no doubt be dependent on what comes out from the deliberations with the MED. and the associated licensing costs.

Finally we thank all those that donated their time, money and efforts in keeping the repeaters, nodes and beacons operational. They are a huge asset to the branch but with that they also require regular maintenance and so without all your help it would be almost impossible for just the two trustees to manage and maintain them.

Neil, ZL2TNG Peter, ZL2PDJ



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The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Incorporated
P. O. Box 40 525 UPPER HUTT NZ

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/NZART/trustweb.html>

The advertisement features a CD-ROM titled '100 Basic Electronic Projects' and a book cover with the same title. The background is yellow with black and red text.

ZL2VH—Recent Activities

The Branch Station has been active on the past two Boat Anchor Sprint evenings conducted by the Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation SPAM (NZ).

On Saturday 10th February seven ZL's were worked between Auckland and Timaru on 80m AM with mostly S9 signal reports both ways. The noise level was very low and band conditions were very good.

On Saturday 14th April eight ZL's were worked between Hamilton and Timaru, once again on 80m AM. All signals suffered from excessive QSB and local stations were very weak making copy difficult at times.

As the rules state that only valve finals may be used we resurrected an old FT200 which had blown its original final tubes many years ago and had been fitted with a pair of EL86's running in Class A which gave an output of about 10 watts on AM. The output was fed into a Tokyo HyPower linear amplifier which has a pair of 4X150 tubes which ran very cool at 100 watts.

A fair bit of juggling was needed to operate the gear. The left hand held the Mic and tuned the receiver while the right hand operated the TX/RX switch, peaked the drive to the Amplifier and wrote up the log.

The Amplifier has a home brew foot operated switch which kept my left foot busy. Will be finding a job for the right foot to do next time.

This is a very enjoyable event and the next Boat Anchor Sprint (1 hour duration) is scheduled for the second Saturday in June between 2000 and 2100hrs NZST.

Morrie
ZL2ADP

