

# QST X T Y H R E E

Clubrooms: UHCC  
Park Street UPPER HUTT  
P.O. Box 40 525  
UPPER HUTT 6415

[www.qsl.net/zl2vh/](http://www.qsl.net/zl2vh/)

**NEWSLETTER** of *The New Zealand Association  
of Radio Transmitters UPPER HUTT Branch 63 Inc.*



## JULY 2007

<b>President:</b>	Mark ZL2UFI Mobile 021 100 3378	PH (H) 526 8446 PH (W) 238 3401 <a href="mailto:mark@foxtrot.co.nz">mark@foxtrot.co.nz</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mark ZL2WOL	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Malcolm ZL2UDF	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Gavin ZL2ACT	
<b>AREC:</b>	Morrie ZL2ADP	Ph. 976 9022 <a href="mailto:mdvile@paradise.net.nz">mdvile@paradise.net.nz</a>
<b>Editor:</b>	Sean ZL2SC	Ph. 021 869007 <a href="mailto:zl2sc@tfp.org.nz">zl2sc@tfp.org.nz</a>
<b>Deputy Editor:</b>	John ZL2FRG	Ph. 972 7131 <a href="mailto:zl2frg@paradise.net.nz">zl2frg@paradise.net.nz</a>

### President's Report

Hi Everyone,

Having returned from the NZART Conference in Palmerston North earlier this month it was a great event to catch up with various people from around the country, many of which you tend only to see at this event.

As you are probably all aware of the GURL (General User Radio Licence) for Repeaters was the "hot topic" on the Saturday at the AGM. A good discussion was held on this issue (see the HQ InfoLine No 139 at this [LINK](#) for a more detailed report).

I was able to find time to attend the AREC AGM, and note that AREC is offering training to AREC Sections later this year. This training should be taken up by members of the branch and I encourage you to attend with the dates/venue are known.

The next NZART Conference in 2008 will be in Dunedin over Queens Birthday Weekend. At the time of writing the venue for 2009 is unknown.

Having now passed the shortest day of the year, hopefully the days will get brighter and hopefully a summer much warmer than last years one!

No doubt we will have a full load of work at Mt Climie once the weather improves, so watch the newsletter, or Friday's meetings for opportunities to get up the hill. The feed lines and the antenna's, as well as the main pole will need looking at, as it will be time to update, replace or in the case of the metal pole paint on some "rust kill". So watch out as spring approaches!

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**Club HF Net 3.645 MHz every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

## **President's Report (cont.)**

Tom ZL2HGR (VP6TD) is not doubt well into his posting on Pitcairn Island. One or two emails have come through (see Morrie's report for an update on his radio operating times and frequencies).

Correction to last months report: I wasn't voted in as ZL2 Councillor, an appointment was made as there were insufficient nominations for a vote to held, but sufficient nominations to fill the three vacancies open. Thanks to Fred ZL2AMJ for pointing this out.

Well that's if from the top... 73's and good DX'ing...

Mark ZL2UFI  
President

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## **Pitcairn Island: Update**

Tom VP6TD has been seen by Mark ZL2WOL and Morrie ZL2ADP working some great DX from Pitcairn Island on 20M and using PSK31.

Unfortunately his signal has been barely readable but we will keep monitoring and try to work him.

Look for Tom on 14.070.150 from 0400 UTC for PSK31 contacts.

Also note that he was spotted on the NZDXR (New Zealand DX Reflector) on about 14.285 in early June as well on voice, trying to work the pile-ups into North America and Europe.

73

Morrie ZL2ADP

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## **Peking to Paris Motor Challenge**

The Peking to Paris Motor Challenge is now under way. The only NZ entry of Neville Jordan and Bruce McIlroy are driving car number 15, a 1922 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost.

Have a look at their website at [www.pekingparis.co.nz](http://www.pekingparis.co.nz) for the full story, map and daily progress results of all 124 contestants.



73

Morrie ZL2ADP

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings All.

Subs are now due, and we set at the AGM to remain at \$25.00.

If you would like to pay by direct debit, the branch account is Westpac Upper Hutt 030774-0897536-00.

Please leave a means of identifying your transaction if you choose to pay by this method. Otherwise I am at the clubrooms on most Friday nights. I'll even take cheques in the post.

73, Gavin ZL2ACT  
Branch Treasurer

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### The Easy Way to Ground a Radio

Most radios only provide a cheap screw to ground the body which makes grounding very uncomfortable. And with some radios like the FT 897 you even can't replace the screw with a wing screw because of the nearby CAT plug. So I replaced all the grounding screws of my radios and tuners with screw jacks like they are mounted on power supplies. I soldered a plug to each grounding wire and now I can connect and disconnect the ground in a second - very comfortable when I want to use my radio outdoor on my garden table. And I can always use the screw of the jack to connect a simple wire to the ground terminal. Best thing: The diameter of my Kenwood's and Yaesu's grounding screws is the same as the diameter of the screw that fixes the jacks. I didn't even have to open the radios to mount the new terminals. Caution: If the original grounding screw is shorter than the jack's one you should take a look into your radio to make sure that the new screw isn't touching anything but ground.



73 de DG3YCC

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### BRANCH HF NET—change of time and frequency

**The Branch HF Net is now on 3.645 MHz every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

This means 8pm NZT in the winter and 9pm NZT in the summer during daylight saving.

Morrie, ZL2ADP

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### Newsletter for July

As I am away on the wedding/honeymoon Mark has stepped into the role of Editor this month. I should be back on track for next months edition, but just keep an eye on your email box incase I need a bit longer to recover from all the travelling and stress!!!

Sean ZL2SC, Editor

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## Pitcairn Island: Update from Tom VP6TD

I am now working a lot of PSK, will try and get some RTTY in. Any one in the club RTTY operators? Or can point me in the direction of someone who is, I may need to pick some brains.

Still not worked many ZL's, if any one is keen to give me a crack then drop me an email to my yahoo account [zI2hgr@yahoo.com](mailto:zI2hgr@yahoo.com) (Paradise Net sucks in this part of the world) we can arrange a sked around my shifts.

I am getting QSL cards via eQSL, from people I have not worked! The best one so far is from a Brit claiming he worked VP6TD.

That would have been hard.....I had not even made it to the Pitcairn, let alone activated the call. Be good see some of your guys in print....PSK works when the bands appear dead.



Attached is a couple of pics, one is of me....check out the nifty little head lamp needed....I had enough power to run my radio etc....but not enough for a light...until I got the generator, the other is me standing under the tri-bander, NZ is on the other side of the hill. As you can see the beam is pointing directly at the hill, no wonder I have trouble working home. I wanted to put the beam up to about 6 metres off the ground, I was advised not to due to the winds that pass the area.....glad I did not... the last three weeks we have been hammered by strong winds....these winds made the sea that rough that the French navy decided to postpone a visit. I also and to re-erect the G5RV I am using here. That antenna is doing a great job, 15 metres in the air, up a piece of bamboo (grows tall here).

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Tom VP6TD (dated 17 June 2007)