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	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/zl2vh/">www.qsl.net/zl2vh/</a> <b>NEWSLETTER</b> of <i>The New Zealand Association</i> <i>of Radio Transmitters UPPER HUTT Branch 63 Inc.</i>	

## FEBRUARY 2008

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### President's Report

Hi Everyone,

Welcome back to those who have been away on holiday, and for everyone else, hopefully a good Christmas and New Year was had.

For me, it's that time again to paint the house, which was fully done by me about 8-9 years ago. So the sanding of windows, and preparation of weatherboards is in full swing. So all my spare time at present is involved in doing this.

Morrie ZL2ADP has advised of the motorcycle events with the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club (see Morrie's report later in the newsletter). As we'll need operators on the various days, can you advise Morrie of your availability or not.

As stated in previous newsletters we have there still some work to complete at Mt Climie. I am sure in the weeks over February/March we should be able to get up there and complete jobs we started in December. Watch your Inboxes for dates/times.

And finally a reminder of Wellington Radio EXPO 08, 15 March 2008 at Knox Church Hall, High Street, Lower Hutt—volunteers required for call in station (730) and for helping out on the day.

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

Mark ZL2UFI

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**Don't forget: Club Net every Tuesday evening on 3.645MHz at 0800UTC**

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## Rally Wairarapa 2008—Help Wanted

Hi all,

Just a reminder that we have been asked to provide communications for the upcoming Rally Wairarapa 2008 to be held on the 12 & 13th April. Last year we were unable to assist as it was on the same weekend as NZART Conference and apparently coms were not too great due to relying on fleetlink which doesn't work too well in rural areas.

We have also been asked to provide mid point operators if we can get sufficient numbers which seems to be the norm for the last few rallies I have been involved with.

At this stage I am looking for those who might be available to help either for the 2 days or just one. [...] On day one we will need at least 20 radio operators with one stage (stage 1 and 5) done twice with the same crew. On day two we will need 17 radio operators with again one stage (stage 10 & 13) done twice with the same crew.

There is still plenty of time to go but I'm sure April will come around quick enough. Thank you to those to expressed an interest so far.

If you could let me know your preference as to where you would like to be either at the base or in the field, please let me know.

Thank you  
David Bray ZL2BA  
AREC Section Leader  
Branch 46 Wairarapa.

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### Branch 63 Events Calendar for 2008

January	Working party Mt Climie
February	Kapi-Mana Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Field Day Weekend 23-24 <sup>th</sup>
March	Kapi-Mana 2 days 8-9 <sup>th</sup> EXPO Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> Easter Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>
April	Branch 63 AGM Rally Wairarapa Weekend 12-13 <sup>th</sup> Kapi-Mana Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>
May	Kapi-Mana Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>
June	NZART Convention 1-2 <sup>nd</sup> Kapi-Mana Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>
July	Kapi-Mana Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>
August	Kapi-Mana Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> International Lighthouse Weekend 16-17 <sup>th</sup> Rally New Zealand Weekend 29-31 <sup>st</sup>
September	Kapi-Mana Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>

This programme is at present displayed on the whiteboard at the clubrooms for comments. Note the Lighthouse weekend clash with Kapi-Mana. Also Karapoti on March 1st would mean 3 weekends of activities in a row - a big ask.

If you can assist with any of these events please contact me.

Morrie, ZL2ADP

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## Jock White Field Day 23rd and 24th February 2008

It is time to get your team together for Field day. This is a great event with something for everyone; your team can be as competitive or social as you like, a great way to bring everyone together.

Operating commences 1500 local on Saturday through to 2400 and resumes at 0600 on Sunday concluding at 1500. Shelters for field stations can be moved on to the site on the weekend of the event, antenna erection can only take place after 1200 on the Saturday.

Operation is on 40m and 80m, see the rules for the sections that can be entered. Please note that only one section can be entered, have a look through past years results on the NZART contest web page to get a feel for what has been done before if your team is new to the event.

The full rules are available on the NZART web page:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/contests/rules.html>

Please make sure a member of the team has checked through the rules and brings a copy along for the event.

If you have any queries about the rules it is best to sort things prior to the event, please contact me at: [zl2tw@nzart.org.nz](mailto:zl2tw@nzart.org.nz)

Don't forget to send in your logs and summary sheets if you enter a team, it makes scoring a lot easier. Please use the sheets printable off the rules page. Have a great Field Day weekend!

Stuart Watchman, ZL2TW

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### What is this?

This photo was submitted by a branch member wanting to find out what it does, what it is called, or for readers to submit a caption... Submitted answers will be reported next month...



## Repeater Report

Three club oldies ZL2ADP, ZL2ARN and ZL2TNG squeezed into the Suzuki with all their gear for a trip up to the repeater site on Climie with the intention of replacing the 860 70cm stacked dipole antennas.

The weather forecast was not favourable so a slight change of plan meant only some testing was done. Morrie however was able to apply a coat of paint to the ducting recently fitted this tidied up that area nicely. Gordon and myself did some checking of the antennas. The testing resulted in some minor changes to the feed-lines to the repeaters. We tested the 5425 J-pole and to our disappointment found it had a very high SWR at that frequency. One possible reason could be the effect that the steel mast is having on it, further testing and adjustment will be required before we will be able to use it.

We also tested the 70cm antenna, our testing indicated what we had suspected in that the 70cm stacked dipole array on the main mast is faulty or at least shows a very high SWR, this array will need to be removed and the new unit fitted. The new array has now been trial mounted on a steel pole and tested and I am pleased to say came through the test with flying colours, with 12watts input it had less than ½ watt return.

There will need to be a further major working bee up at Climie, we are not too sure when we can fit it in as February is already stacked full of other events so it may not happen until March. If we can get all the outside weather dependent jobs done before the end of March then I feel that many of the small jobs, mainly inside, can be cleared up before the winter sets in.

Once a date is set we will put a list on the notice board outlining the jobs to be done and call on the volunteers to do the them. Most of the work outside involves lowering and painting the masts, fitting the 70cm collinear and replacing the 70cm array. We also need to run the new coax cables.

Repeater Trustees

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## A cautionary tale

A heckling radio ham known as the Filipino Monkey, who has spent years pestering ships in the Persian Gulf, is being blamed today for sparking a major diplomatic row after American warships almost attacked Iranian patrol boats.

The US navy came within seconds of firing at the Iranian speedboats in the Strait of Hormuz on January 6 after hearing threats that the boats were attacking and were about to explode. Senior navy officials have admitted that the source of the threats, picked up in international waters, was a mystery.

And now the US navy's journal, Navy Times, has claimed that the threats, which were broadcast last week by the Pentagon, are thought to have come from an infamous radio prankster. It said the Filipino Monkey, who could be more than one person, listens to ship-to-ship radio traffic and then interrupts, usually with abusive insults.

Rick Hoffman, a retired captain, told the paper: "For 25 years, there's been this mythical guy out there who, hour after hour, shouts obscenities and threats. He used to go all night long. The guy is crazy.

"Could it have been a spurious transmission? Absolutely."

An unnamed civilian mariner told the Navy Times: "They come on and say Filipino Monkey in a strange voice. You're standing watch on bridge and all of a sudden it comes over the radio. It's been a joke out there for years."

Last week, the Iranians and the US issued different video versions of what took place.

On [the Pentagon's version](http://www.defenselink.mil/dodcmsshare/briefingslide/320/080107-D-6570C-001.wmv) (<http://www.defenselink.mil/dodcmsshare/briefingslide/320/080107-D-6570C-001.wmv>), a strange voice, in English, can be heard saying "I am coming to you. You will explode in a few minutes." The voice sounds different from one heard earlier in the recording and there is no background noise that would usually be picked up from a speedboat radio.

In [the Iranian version](http://www.presstv.com/detail.aspx?id=38190&sectionid=351020101) (<http://www.presstv.com/detail.aspx?id=38190&sectionid=351020101>) there is no hint of aggressive behaviour.

The Pentagon said it recorded the film and the sound separately and then edited them together to give a "better idea of what is happening".

But Commander Lydia Robertson, a navy spokeswoman, admitted: "We don't know for sure where they [the threats] came from. It could have been a shore station."

The US lodged a formal complaint with Iran over the incident, and the president, George Bush, warned Tehran of "serious consequences" unless it stopped such aggression.

During the 20-minute incident, five Iranian patrol boats swarmed around three US warships and came within 200 metres, putting the ships on alert.