

	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>	

APRIL 2008

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President's Report

Hi Everyone... with the month of March now behind us, I suppose it's time to turn our heads towards the coming winter months. Hopefully you have the wood in and stacked ready for the colder time ahead.

February and March are always busy radio months, Field Day, AREC with the Kapi Mana, EXPO and Climie visits, so probably we are now all looking for a break. Thank you to all those who have given up their weekends over the last two months to assist on these days, as it takes you away from family and other activities which perhaps need your attention. I know that many of you enjoy the club events, so I encourage everyone to try to make the time to attend, and partake in what's on offer.

By the time you read this, hopefully the UHF Repeater 860 is back on site, and working as designed. One or two issues have arisen with it, but these will be resolved, and Branch 63 will again have a UHF voice repeater on the air.

The AGM will be held in on Friday 18 April 2008 commencing at 8.00 pm.

Remember all officer positions are up for election, so please consider giving this some thought to this, as some members have been carrying out the tasks for a number of years, and may wish to pass the baton on to the next person. The jobs are not onerous in nature, but do from time to time require some effort, again please consider taking one on.

So until next month, good DX and 73's.

Mark ZL2UFI

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

Repeater Report

Just to let everyone know that the 860 repeater is back up and running this is after some modifications and repairs. It seems part of the problem was that two resistors forming a voltage divider circuit in the amplifier output power control circuit had been from factory fitted swapped causing the RF power amp to operate at full output, many thanks to Gordon ZL2ARN for sorting out all the bugs, tuning and putting right the amplifier.

Repeater Trustees

AREC Report

The Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club's Enduro event was held on Saturday 8th March with 87 riders competing in fine but dusty conditions. Six operators assisted by Rod Evans and his son Daniel provided communications around the 50km Akatarawa forest circuit. The Medical Team attended to one rider who suffered fractures to his toes and was packed off to the Hutt Hospital. Another required some stitchwork to a severe skin graze below the elbow. Other minor grazes were also reported. The event finished at 4.30pm after all the riders had been accounted for.

Thanks to Malcolm ZL2UDF, Mark ZL2UFI, Tom ZL2HGR, John ZL2UX and Sean ZL2SC for putting in the long hours. Morrie ZL2ADP operated the Base Station at the Bulls Run Road motorcross track with all communications being conducted via the Mt Climie 730 repeater.

The Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club also held a club day the following day, Sunday 9th March, with 175 riders turning out to face the starter in fine but dusty conditions again. Two courses were open for the day, a 6km circuit for all riders and a 47km circuit for the Seniors. There were no serious casualties reported on the day although one rider somehow managed to get his bike stuck up a tree.

Once again Morrie ZL2ADP operated the Base Station from the motorcross track in Bulls Run Road with Neil ZL2TNG and Chris ZL4CDM doing traffic management duties in the vicinity of Cooks Road turnoff. The Duplex Channel 146.500MHz was used for all communications. A special thanks to Chris for putting in an extra long day finishing at 6pm.

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK8EL

Old Lead-acid Batteries

Old lead-acid batteries for club funds. The Branch is accepting and will dispose of any dead/used lead acid batteries including the sealed variety.

Please drop them off at the clubrooms in Park Street Upper Hutt any Friday night.

Morrie ZL2ADP

WANTED

Wanted: Circuit diagram for a Sanwa BX505 Multimeter. Most of these units usually have a circuit diagram as part of the little handbook that comes with the meter. If you can help please contact Arthur ZL2VP Ph 04 528 4867.

Dayton Hamvention: 2010?

In 2006 (yes, some two years ago!) I traveled to the USA to attend the three day Dayton Hamvention. Planning for that trip started about eighteen months out in January 2005, so here is an early heads up for those that would like to consider such a trip, I am planning to attend again in 2010.

Why the early notice?

As reported after the 2006 trip, this event takes some planning especially around travel and accommodation. The Hamvention is normally held on the third weekend in May, commencing on Friday and running through to the Sunday afternoon. Entrance cost is USD20.00 for the whole weekend - includes entry in the prize draws as well!

Accommodation

Perhaps the most difficult is the accommodation part, although if you book far enough ahead you should be OK. Last time, due to the restrictions on the way Internet motel booking was done, you could only book some 350 days ahead. Most regular attendee's book after attending each year, so have the jump on the rest of us, but in 2006 I was able to get good accommodation at a motel chain called Motel 6. This was within easy driving distance of the Hara Arena (location of the Hamvention site). This accommodation was close to the main north-south freeway, and across the road from the Dayton Mall - so plenty of shopping for the XYL should you not be allowed to go without her!

So where is Dayton?

Dayton is in the state of Ohio, approximately 300 miles due south-east of Chicago. It is the famous home of the Wright Brothers, the US Air Force Museum and within easy driving distance of many major USA cities.

Getting to Dayton and getting around

In 2006, I traveled by flying into Chicago and then hired a car for the drive to Dayton. You could by-pass this drive and fly directly into Dayton. Some form of transport is required to really get around to places in the USA, so a rental car is a must. The rental car affords more freedom and independent travel especially as many of the places are not always readily able to be reached by public transport. If hireage is shared the cost is very reasonable.

Length of time in the USA

As any travel to the USA is a long trip (twelve hours from Auckland to Los Angeles alone), a minimum of eight to ten days is recommended. In 2006, I was away about 25 days, traveling to various parts of the USA and into Canada. Of course you could just fly in, do Dayton and leave again depending on what time you have available, and to keep your costs down.

Costs (in New Zealand Dollars)

The most expensive part of any trip to the USA is normally flights and accommodation. Food and general expenses are normally cheaper than New Zealand, but based on the current exchange rate at the time, can either be on a par or very expensive. For budget purposes you need to set aside about \$2,500.00 for airfares, about \$300.00 for Dayton accommodation, and \$200.00 for shared rental car use. As at the time of writing a return airfare from Air New Zealand - Wellington to Chicago was \$2510.10 including all taxes departing Monday 12 May 2008 and returning Wednesday 21 May (arrives back Friday NZ time). Qantas was \$2472.12 including all taxes.

Additional monies would be required for the above time frame, plus the all important spending money to buy all those goodies you see at the Hamvention of course. So the all up cost would be approximately \$3,500.00 - \$5,000.00 per person.

Are you interested? Contact me if you are....

Mark ZL2UFI
