



QST63

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Newsletter of The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Upper Hutt Branch 63, Inc.

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President's Report

Hi Everyone,

Hopefully you are all making it through this very wet winter, with various reports of damage from the rain and high winds. At home I have had two trees blown over with some disastrous results - a 2 metre piece of fencing was destroyed plus my HF wire antenna was taken out - snapping in two when the trees came down. So I am currently off HF until either repaired or replaced. The two trees also took out another two as well, so there will be some firewood whenever the rain stops!

Recently I was able to attend the Hamilton Market Day, and talk to various amateurs from around the country who attended this event. Many seemed happy with the current amateur world, and generally most were up beat about life as well - good to see really. On the travel down from Auckland to Hamilton it was clear that they had also suffered from the rain with many paddocks still under water. In fact it was difficult to work out where the flooding stopped and the Waikato River started! The numbers and vendors attending seemed down from previous visits. A debrief of the event should by the organisers should resolve this by fixing a few minor issues and re-invigorating the event perhaps at a new venue? If you are looking for an event to travel to this is a good one to consider.

While on junk sales, I see that the Palmerston North sale has moved from an auction style to a table space sale format - it's on Saturday 4 October 2008 at the usual site of Longburn Hall - see the last Break-In for information.

Debby at NZART HQ is still on the mend and should be back at work soon as her progress is a lot less than expected. If passing her QTH no doubt a visit would perk her up.

Hope to see you all the Friday night meetings, so until then...

73's and good DX...

Mark ZL2UFI
President

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AREC Report

ALE On The Air Week AOTAW 03-13 October 2008.

HFLINK sponsors this annual International Amateur Radio ALE event. All ham radio operators worldwide are invited to participate in 10 days of HF Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) activity on the air. AOTAW is an open operating event for hams to explore ALE communications and equipment. The experience gained by operator participation in this readiness exercise is useful for HF Emergency/Disaster Relief communications. Thousands of amateur radio operators worldwide have ALE-capable stations, and many were active last year. This year, the ALE Channel ZERO site keeps an activity log database of ALE signals received on the pilot channels during the event. After you participate in AOTW, please send a short list of 5 callsigns you linked with on ALE. Send via email by 31 December. You will receive an ALE Operator Certificate.

The primary Global High Frequency Net frequency is 14109.0kHz USB.

For more information go to www.hflink.com

Morrie ZL2ADP

Repco Rally NZ 2008

This year, a number of teams represented Branch 12 providing communications for the Repco Rally of NZ in all Start/Finish, Safety Points and Park Ferme positions.

My team, myself (ZL1UD) and Robin (ZL1IC) were there on 5 K Safety Points for five Stages in three positions. We used the callsign ZK1ECT on the control channel and the stage position on the H.F. Net on 3.830MHz USB.

The organisers provided GPS positions in Degrees and decimal, which needed to be converted to Degrees Minutes and Seconds before being loaded into the GPS.

Friday 29th of August was the longest day with Robin and I leaving my home at 0600 Hrs. We were headed for the Waitomo area and the middle of nowhere. Our point was a roadside driveway into an old disused stockyard and nowhere fantastic to place a dipole, so after some discussion, we placed it with one leg headed South down the road and the other heading East towards the stockyard. We arrived home about 1800 – very tired, after doing two stages (2 and 4).

Stage 2/4 was a long stage and needed to be split in two following a massive slip a few weeks prior to the rally.

Saturday 30th of August was a short day with only one stage (10) and the survivors from day one competing to be the best that they could be. We left home at 1130Hrs and were back home around 1700. We were located between Ragland and Te Akau on a long straight piece of road, parked beside a farm shed. The dipole was easy to set up. The competitors were added to on this stage by another 54 cars; their stage being called Possum. It made for a long stage, but a short day.

Sunday 31st of August had us leaving my home at 0600 again to a stage run just south of Raglan. Our set up position here could have been beautiful; in a paddock above the road, but the farmer had thrown a hissy fit following the antics of spectators last year. We were in a spectator area which was also a shooting gallery for rocks, some the size of Ayres Rock in Australia. The two stages were 12 and 14, which were followed immediately by 13 and 15. This also allowed for a short day and we arrived home to unpack the car at around 1500 Hours. (continued on Page 3)

Don't forget: Club Net every Tuesday evening on 3.715MHz at 0800UTC

Repco Rally NZ 2008 (cont...)

Two hours before the start of all stages, there is an entourage of Safety, FIA and Zero cars that proceed through the stage at differing speeds and with differing purposes. Following this the stage goes green and it is all on. 57 (at the start of Stage 1) cars hell bent on doing it faster and better than any other car has or will ever do the stage. These guys reach speeds that Captain Kirk would be proud of and it has an amazing effect on the surface of the road.

Following the stage the Sweep Car goes through, and as soon as this has happened, the position can apply for permission to pack up and go home.

Our team only missed one car number for the whole rally. The number was not there, nor was the window that it was supposed to be in. Cars came through in various stages of repair; cars that were perfect prior to Stage 1 were sometimes up to twice as long on Stage 14, as they were towing different parts of their body behind them.

Communications held up well with 80M being very active and alive during the whole rally. VHF Control was 6625 and we had access to this for the whole rally too.

So ... Rally NZ is all over for 2008. No one knows the format for Rally NZ 2009 yet, as it is still being discussed at a high level. No doubt, when the time is right, we will all hear, and do what we do best all over again.

Tony Case – ZL1UD/ZK1EC/ZK1ECT