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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... while thinking about what to say this month, I turned to look back over 2008 and remember through what has occurred this year club wise.

No doubt you will be aware of the work of Morrie ZL2ADP has done throughout the year with the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club and AREC in general to not only raise funds for the club but to ensure that "we" as a club are ready should the call come for help.

Again we have carried out trips to Mt Climie this year, trenching, re-placing antennas and feed lines. So thanks to all for the time you have given up to help the club out. Again as we come into summer several more visits will be required as we continue to fit out the old Climie hut for new equipment such as the new 23CM Repeater when it is completed next year.

So as we near the end of the year, enjoy the Christmas/New Year period with your families, and I hope to see you all back at the clubrooms in 2009.

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

Mark ZL2UFI
President

Christmas Function

Christmas function—will be a BBQ tea on Friday 19 December 2008, commencing at 6.00 pm at the clubrooms. The normal Friday night meeting will follow no doubt as the BBQ continues until you have all had enough and can eat no more!

Mark ZL2UFI

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AREC Report

2 November

The weather turned out fine for the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Trail Riding Event held at Totara Park on Sunday 2nd November. Inclement weather on the Saturday created wet and muddy conditions for the 247 riders who turned out.

A communications link was set up between the Totara Park Darts Club premises and a position in the Akatarawa Forest beyond Cannons Point using the Mt Climie 860 Repeater.

John ZL2UX set up the outpost station using an FT817 and solar screen charger while Morrie ZL2ADP, also using an FT817 on battery power, set himself up on a table inside the Dart Club's Hall. Communications were excellent even using power as low as 1 watt.

At 12.55pm John advised that an injured rider with a suspected fractured forearm was being transported on a quad bike back to Totara Park. Upon arrival an Ambulance was called and the patient was transferred to Hutt Hospital at 1.30pm.

No further injuries were reported on the day and the link was closed at 4.45pm.

16 November

The track was dry and very dusty for the eighty riders who took part on the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club Day held at their Moonshine Track on Sunday 16th November.

Gavin ZL2ACT, Eric ZL2SET and Morrie ZL2ADP provided the communications on Simplex 146.500 for Traffic Management on Bulls Run Road and also at the track.

Several spills were observed on the day with no serious injuries to report.

A rabbit appeared on the course during one race and after doing a couple of circles disappeared back into the scrub unharmed by a group of three bikes who somehow managed to avoid it.

It was a longer day than usual with the racing finishing at 5pm.

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK8EL



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

A short version of my visit to Haiti with the IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

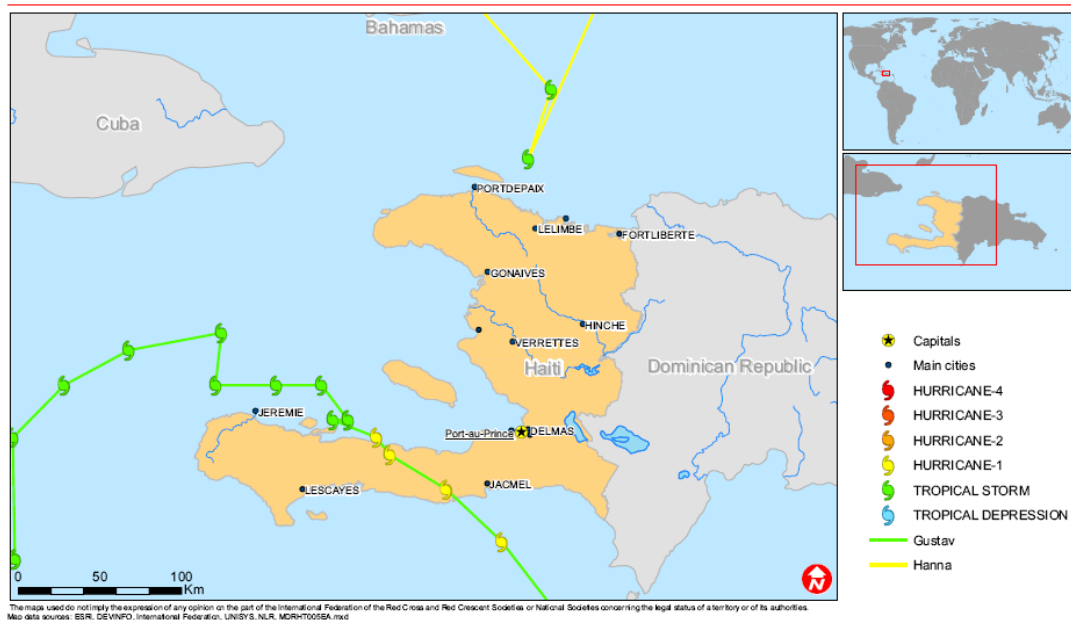
The call for participation in the ITT ERU came on 5 Sept and was confirmed on 6 Sept. After a briefing in Wellington Pat Maunsell and I departed on 8 September, via Los Angeles and Miami arriving in Port au Prince on 9 September. We travelled with the ERU kit comprising 250 Kg of excess baggage.

Our participation was with the Austrian sponsored IT&T ERU. The team consisted of Werner and Bernhard from Austria, Pat and I, and the ERU team leader Norbert from the Danish Red Cross



MDRHT005
5 September 2008
TC-2008-000147-HTI

Haiti: Hurricane season 2008



Hurricane **Gustav** brought strong winds and heavy flooding to Haiti on 26 August 2008, affecting thousands of people. On 1 September, only days after **Gustav** hit Haiti, tropical storm **Hanna** surprised the country, worsening the effects of **Gustav** and leaving more people affected, especially in the city of Gonaives. The country was still reeling from the passage of **Hanna** when hurricane **Ike** left even more people affected as it passed north of the island.

Details about Haiti

Area: 27,750 sq. km. (10,714 sq. mi.);

Ile de la Gonave, Ile de la Tortue, and Ile a Vaches comprise Haiti's principal offshore territories.

Cities: *Capital*--Port-au-Prince (pop. 2 million). *Other cities*--Cap Haitien (pop. 240,000).

Terrain: Rugged mountains with small coastal plains and river valleys, and a large east-central elevated plateau.

Climate: Warm, semiarid, high humidity in many coastal areas. (10,714 sq. mi.);

Area: 27,750 sq. km. (10,714 sq. mi.);

Population: (2006 census): 8.5 million.

Annual population growth rate: 1975-2001, 1.9%; 2.5% per year.

Ethnic groups: African descent 95%, African and European descent 5%.

Religions: (2003 data): Roman Catholic 55%, Protestant 28%, voodoo (voodoo) practices pervasive.

Languages: French (official), Creole (official).



This image shows the devastation caused by the rains brought by Gustav first and then Hanna in one of the affected neighbourhoods in Haiti. Source: International Federation.

What we did.

Our brief is to ensure the Red Cross delegation has sufficient communications channels for their security and to allow for efficient operations.

This meant re-establishing the VHF network that was installed after the 2004 disaster. HF was not used by any of the agencies, in fact the UN said that HF was 'useless' in Haiti. My own opinion is that it would work well but lacked operators with experience. It cannot ever be as quick and clear as mobile phones.

The network of 5 repeater sites, which provided coverage in most of the inhabited areas, had only 2 repeaters working. One repeater required new equipment and power supply. A second worked after replacement of the antenna. The third after more fuel was supplied for the generator.

The major delay to getting these repairs was access due to damage to the roads.



This is the main road from Port au Prince to the north

The IFRC office used a wireless LAN and had Internet contact via satellite.

The VHF equipment was exclusively Motorola. The normal IFRC kit is GM360 mobiles and GP360 handhelds. A major task is to ensure that they are programmed to suit the local assignments.



Obleon repeater and mast. Elevation 1930m



Another repeater at Fort Delpeche. This one used Kenwood equipment. The Hustler aeriels are IFRC standard



The horizon behind the hut is a fort built in 1790 something still complete with cannon. Elevation 1570 m



Much of our effort in the first weeks was ensuring the continued supply of power. Local supply is 110 volts for a few hours a day, or night, but not both. IFRC equipment is generally 230 volt. Thankfully a 3kW 230 volt generator was part of the kit supplied from Austrian Red Cross. 110 volts was from a 5 Kw Robin diesel generator. We found it in the Red Cross warehouse where we think it had been sitting since 2004. It had never been used.

We were replaced by two other kiwis in early October. They had the opportunity to visit the 13 Red Cross area offices to get them back on air and to train the local operators.

The temperatures were in the mid 30's every day so a visit to the hilltops was welcome. There the temperature dropped to mid 20's, much more pleasant. Security was very tight. We stayed in hotels approved by the Red Cross where armed guards were usually employed. These were generally very comfortable and often air-conditioned.

We were not allowed to walk in the streets, always had the car doors locked, and there was one suburb in the capital that was out of bounds completely. Even the fully armed UN police only went there if it was absolutely necessary, and never at night. Shopping at the supermarket, the hardware store, the computer shop, Radio Shack, the bank and even some restaurants required walking past the armed guard at the door.

Peter Moore
ZL2HM

Repeater Report November 08

The working bee went ahead on the Sunday 9th and may I say many thanks to the other 7 helpers for their support and the effort they put in. We were able to remove the 2 coax cables that had been laying for the last several years out in the open.

We had great success in pulling 4 runs of coax into the ducting ready for terminating I must say a big thanks to Warren ZL2AJ for his knowledge and expertise in making this part of the operation run smoothly.

The old hut had some rust removed from around the doorway and a new steel sill, kindly supplied by Phil ZL2HF fitted which should stop any little 4 legged furry beasties from getting in. Most of the cabinets are now bolted down and should be secure enough for all but a really extreme earthquake. The sump at the main mast had a clean out. The sump requires the water drainage pipe to be improved and some minor concreting around the upper edges. It also needs a short piece of ducting fitted to protect the coaxial cables.

There are still quite a number of other little jobs requiring to be done. I can't see us having another working bee until after the holiday season.

Again many thanks to Warren ZL2AJ, Mark 1 ZL2UFI, Mark 2 ZL2WOL, Mark 3 ZL4WT, Morrie ZL2ADP, Peter ZL2PDJ and Sean ZL2SC.

Repeater trustees Neil ZL2TNG, Peter ZL2HM.