



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...

First just a reminder of upcoming events of note.

Kapi-Mana M/C events will be coming up throughout the year, please try to assist Morrie with these events, if we all do at least one then the burden is well spread around the club, as this is the only fund raising we do. The funds are used for various projects, so in the end the more you put in the more can do.

Field Day is on the last weekend of February - Saturday 28th and Sunday 1 March 2009. Morrie ZL2ADP is leading the team on behalf of the club this year. If interested contact Morrie. Those attending on the Saturday are to meet at the clubrooms at 10.00 am to pack up the caravan prior to heading out to Kaitoke Regional Park the location for this years field station (same as last year).

Wellington Radio EXPO 09, Knox Hall Church, High Street, Lower Hutt - Saturday 28 March 2009. Doors for vendors open at 7.00 am - public 10.00 am. Still looking people to have tables at the event - prices are only \$20.00 a table prior to 1 March and \$25.00 after so get together with others and have a table to support the event. See NZART website for the registration form.

The VHF Technology Convention is on this year over Easter (10-13 April 2009) in Hamilton for those interested - details are on the NZART web site.

NZART Conference in on from 29 May - 1 June 2009, located in Hastings this year, no news on the 2010 location yet. Watch Break-In for the advertisement (next issue).

Index

| | |
|--|----------|
| President's Report | Page 1-2 |
| Repeater Report | Page 2 |
| AREC Report | Page 2 |
| Dayton 2010: Update | Page 3 |
| NZART Conference 2009: initial information | Page 3 |

Club HF Net 3.715 MHz every Tuesday at 0800 UTC Listen for ZL2VH and join

President's Report (cont'd)

As always February/March are always busy months radio wise with Field Day/Radio EXPO, so plenty to get involved with and help out where you can is appreciated.

Club AGM will be on Friday 24 April 2009, at 8.00 pm.

Well that's the news from me... 73's and good DX....

Mark ZL2UFI
President

Repeater Report

Just a short report this month. Yes, 860 is down due to a fault in the receiver module causing it to lock on transmit. Whilst we (John ZL2TWS and Neil ZL2TNG) were attending to the 860 repeater we investigated the spurious noises on the 730 repeater.

Several possible causes were found, a T connector touching the cavity filters as well as a slightly loose antenna connector. All the plugs and sockets were given a cursory wiggle and the final cabinet vibration test proved the success of the operation.

It was also apparent that in windy weather we had some bearing on other interference, a search of the site turned up a fault with an unused 2-meter ¼ wave ground-plane antenna, the quick removal of the coax seemed to cure this problem.

Thanks John for your help.

Repeater trustee Neil ZL2TNG

AREC Report

The rain stopped as the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club's Enduro event got under way from their Moonshine Track through the Akatarawa Forest on Saturday 21st February. About 90 riders took part with no serious injuries reported on the day.

Our radio operators were engaged at road intersections and holding points around the 100k circuit. Those taking part were Gavin ZL2ACT, Mark ZL2UFI, Duke ZL2BMG, Paul ZL2UGR, Alex Smith and Morrie ZL2ADP.

On Sunday 22nd February the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club held a Trail Ride with 125 riders taking part in fine but windy conditions. The course was similar to the previous day's event with the riders taking about one hour to complete the circuit with some of them doing it three times. Apart from mechanical, fuel and overdue riders there were no major problems or injuries to report. Operators taking part were Gavin ZL2ACT, Peter ZL2HM, Malcolm ZL2UDF and Morrie ZL2ADP

The next AREC event is programmed for Sunday 15th March for the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club's first of three Championship meetings at the Moonshine Track.

Thanks to all those operators who took part

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK8EL

Dayton 2010: Update

As reported in previous newsletters, I am planning a return trip to the worlds biggest ham radio convention, namely the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio, USA. (Dates to be confirmed by organising committee but are expected to 14-16 May 2010)



As you will all know with the world financial crisis going on at present, the costs of petrol, and other costs, exchange rates, a review of this trip has occurred. First the good news, is that I have been monitoring the cost of airfares, and it would appear that with some careful planning the cost of airfares have come down and maybe cheaper cost that first stated. The bad news is the slide of the New Zealand dollar against the US Dollar, as of writing around the 51 cent mark.

About this time of the year it is time to start thinking of whether it is worth going or not, and time to consider booking or looking for accommodation in Dayton. On the previous trip the New Zealand dollar was around the 61-63 mark so it wasn't too bad, but the position it is in now isn't good.

So after some thinking and discussions unless the New Zealand in the next three months or so goes back to around this mark, I must say that the Dayton 2010 is off. The main reasoning is not getting there, or accommodation costs, it's the day to day living costs that just mount up, and then you little left for those must have purchases while at the Hamvention.



Any comments welcomed.....

Mark ZL2UFI

2009 NZART Annual Conference: Hawkes Bay Conference 2009

The Hawkes Bay Amateur Radio Club Inc and the Napier Radio Club Inc invite you to join us for what promises to be an exciting weekend on the amateur radio calendar. The venue is the Hastings Racecourse in Hastings city.

Queen's Birthday Weekend 29 May - 1 June 2009

The last time a Conference was held in Hawkes Bay was 1982. The members of both radio clubs looking forward to meeting and hosting old friends again in 2009. Hawkes Bay is Wine Country. With our 37 wineries and unique Art Deco architecture, Hawkes Bay has become a fun place to travel for a holiday. Napier and Hastings were rebuilt in 1931 after the famous but deadly earthquake of that time. Boutique art galleries, great restaurants and bistros are numerous and Hawkes Bay hospitality is legend.

