



# QST63

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

## October 2009

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### Presidents Report: October 2009

Hi everyone...

I hope that you are all well and with the current fine weather now here and the rain gone from almost every forecast we are all looking forward to a good summer.

In this months newsletter you will see an article of a proposed co-siting request for Mount Clime. Please read and bring your thoughts and concerns to the next minuted meeting on Friday 2 October 2009 at 8.00 pm. This matter will be discussed at length at this meeting.

As many of will now know the UHF 860 Repeater has had an 88.5 Hz CTCSS tone access applied to it. The initial and on going reports suggest that has quieten down the almost continuous false triggering of the repeater. Neil ZL2TNG and John ZL2TWS, along with other club members have spent several long hours working on the repeater to improve its capabilities, so thanks to them. Many issues have been resolved and it is almost at 100% again. Please read the separate article on a special offer to upgrade older non-CTCSS hand helds with the purchase of a new handheld.

Finally a comment on club membership responsibilities. To many the Club experience is a means of escaping the rigors of work life and the various related stresses of living, and enjoying the fellowship of others. As you know the Club operates on a friendly, relaxed and informal approach with weekly Friday night meetings. Jokingly at times, we even talk "radio" but seriously there is a tone of unhappiness in the Club at present. So why is this unhappiness tone here? Well, we have made commitments to do various services which revolve around radio - namely the provision of radio equipment (i.e. the Mount Clime repeaters) and AREC Field Exercises (e.g. Kapi-Mana M/C Events). In order to remove this feeling I am appealing to you all to get involved and help out where you can. This can of course at times, mean that you have to give up a day on the weekend to help out, and may mean you miss out on a personal activity to help the club out; but to be a member of the club and not to provide this support makes it more difficult on the rest of us. I am not comparing one person against another, or personal circumstances against each other, what I am saying is we as a club need to lift our game and lighten the load a little. So the next time you see events coming up, can you please consider volunteering to help out, rather than waiting to be asked to take part.

To this end there will be a working bee at the club rooms on Saturday 10 October 2009 - start time is 9.00 am for at the latest a 12.00 pm finish.

Purpose to stock take the equipment, run up the generators, caravan clean up and the like in preparation for the summer operating schedules.

So finally remember the two dates Friday 2 October 2009, 8.00 pm minuted meeting; and Saturday 10 October 2009, 9.00 am club house day.

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

Mark ZL2UFI  
President

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## **AREC**

### **Kapi-Mana Exercise**

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club held the final day of the Spectro series at the Moonshine Track in fine weather. Over 150 riders took part on a fast and firm track.

Two serious leg injuries were reported and treated by St Johns first aid members. There were several other mishaps on the day but none of them of a serious nature.

Our operators were required to do Traffic Management and Track Marshalling duties using the Simplex Channel 146.500MHz.

Branch 63 members on the day were ZL2UFI, ZL2ACT, ZL2HM, ZL2TNG and ZL2ADP.

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK8EL



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### **Special Offer: VHF/UHF Hand Held**

One of the outcomes of the tone access applied to the 860 Repeater (which is set at 88.5 Hz) is that many among you may have older transceivers that do not or cannot do CTCSS. Many older transceiver CTCSS tone boards are no longer available and those that are can be expensive. Third party products are available, but at \$100.00 each are perhaps not worth the expense as the transceiver itself maybe worth this or less. The good news is that the CTCSS tone is only used to access the repeater, and is not applied to receive it - older non-CTCSS enabled transceivers can continue to hear the output as they did before the tone was applied.

To support the club and offer a way to still access 860, I am prepared to offer to club members the ability to purchase a new handheld at a greatly reduced cost. (Note this offer is only for financial club members of Branch 63.) The handheld is the Chinese made Wouxun KG-UVD1P model, has a RX/ TX range of 136-174 and 400-480 MHz. As you will see it covers the 2M and 70CM ham bands, as well as the UHF CB/PRS band at 477 MHz, plus of course many other features such as CTCSS. Additional accessories such as USB Programming cables (the programming software is free) and Speaker/Microphone are also available for these transceivers.

See me if interested on pricing and availability.

Mark ZL2UFI

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### **Co-siting Request: Four Wheel Drive Club**

I have been approached by a local (Wellington based) Four Wheel Drive Club who wants to establish a repeater on Mount Climie. This club has its own frequencies in the 150 MHz or E Band, and is looking for a site.

As one of the only groups that are "non-profit" on Mount Climie the request has come informally to us. As the Four Wheel Drive Club they are similar to us, and have complementary aims to assist the community in times of need they are requesting access to our facilities on Mount Climie.

Currently our club has two repeater huts, the main hut with all our gear and the old 730 smaller hut. The 730 hut is being prepared to house the 23CM Project (repeater) when complete.

We have a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the UHCC (Upper Hutt City Council) via HVEMO (Hutt Valley Emergency Management Office), and the Wellington Regional Council not to host any further equipment in the main hut, and to keep to current equipment levels. This leaves us with the old hut for new developments such as the 23CM Project and other club projects, and therefore is the only site for the Four Wheel Drive Club proposal.

**So the proposal is:** to allow the Four Wheel Drive Club to co-site their Repeater along with the 23CM Project in the 730 hut, and to use antenna space on the wooden pole outside this hut.

**What does this mean?** If approved I suggest that an agreement will be required at a club to club level, not an individual to individual level as people can come and go over time. Some conditions will need to be applied to this agreement, that there is no access to the 730 hut as of right, and access is only at dates and times suitable to Branch 63 and its membership. That Branch 63 retains "first on site" rights, and all interference, and similar issues must be resolved by the Four Wheel Drive Club. They must not impair, interfere, or cause interference to any Branch 63 installation at the 730 hut or the main hut. There maybe other suggestions but these are just a few thoughts.

**What's in it for us?** When thinking this through, I suppose it is helping a similar club. Can they help us (e.g. by use of their four wheel drive vehicles) for access to Mount Climie, or for AREC Events? Should we charge a site rental, power rental, site access cost, the list goes on.

Finally can you all consider this request as the matter will be discussed at a minuted meeting on Friday 2 October 2009, at 8.00 pm.

Mark ZL2UFI

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### **Branch 63 Events Calendar**

2<sup>nd</sup> October Branch 63 Minuted Meeting commencing at 8pm.  
4<sup>th</sup> October. Kapi Mana North Island Mini Champs at Moonshine Track.  
10<sup>th</sup> October Clubhouse Day commencing at 9am.  
25<sup>th</sup> October Kapi-Mana Trail Ride from Moonshine Track.

8<sup>th</sup> November. Kapi-Mana Trail Ride from Totara Park.  
22<sup>nd</sup> November Kapi-Mana Club Day at Moonshine Track.

20<sup>th</sup> December Kapi-Mana Club Day at Moonshine Track.

9/10<sup>th</sup> January. Kapi-Mana 2 Days of Trail Riding from Moonshine Track.  
17<sup>th</sup> January Kapi-Mana Club Day at Moonshine Track.

February. Field Day Weekend at Kaitoke.

13/14<sup>th</sup> March. Raboplus Big Coast Event.  
27<sup>th</sup> March. EXPO at Lower Hutt.

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## **Light House weekend 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

Contrary to rumours, we had more than 2 operators, made more than 3 contacts and no beer was consumed....that I saw.

This weekend we operated from Cape Palliser (After a break of 2 years), Managing to beat off an assault from those up north, in an attempt to hijack our spot, However by some masterful and tactful diplomacy by yours truly and the Chairman of the Iwi who owns the land, They said "we are coming!" I said "See you" and chairman of the Iwi said "No they are not!"

I went over Friday to set up house, erected an 80 meter dipole, made a few contacts under my call and generally laze around till the rest of the team arrived on Saturday.  
I went for a walk down to the beach; it was noticeably how the seal population had increased. I could smell them from the house! Not at all a pleasant smell.

The team was made up of Peter ZL2HM, Eric ZL2SET, Malcolm ZL1UDF, and Me Tom ZL2HGR.

The club call ZL2LHW was used during the weekend. The station was made up of the following, FT-857d, manual tuner, Voice keyer (assembled and tested by Eric ZL2set) 80 meter dipole and G5RV, Heil Headset pro, lap top computer for running DXLab (logging) Ham Radio Deluxe (For radio control) these two programs were linked using bridging software. We had some extra kick (amp) kindly supplied by Arnold ZLASD, however I was not overly confident in setting it up.....so it was not used.

Once we had enough hands, the clubs portable pole was erected and the G5RV was put into service.

All up we made a total 63 contacts....ZL's, VK's and a few state side stations.  
We had an enjoyable two days with some operating thrown in with a fair bit of socialising.

We had an unexpected but very pleasant visit from Arne Mitdgard and his wife Cissy and two of there friends. Arne was visiting Cape Palliser Light house as part of his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. He was one of the keepers from 1959 thru to 1962.

They were invited inside and offered a cup of tea.  
He told us stories of the light, how the house was still the same from all those years ago.  
While standing in the lounge looking out to sea he told me the first thing he did when he arrived was to set his pot (Cray), when he retrieved it a few hours later it was full!!

During our long (Arne talking and us listening) talk it become apparent that Arne and Cissy where two amazing people.  
Arne was from Norway, Cissy is Ngati Porou (East Cape)

Cissy has an amazing memory recall for a Lady of her age, if Arne was to mention a wrong date or name she would correct him instantly.

Arnie and Cissy had a 30 year record with the Marinetine Light house service, before working the lights Arne was a school teacher in Hawera.

He arrived home one day to tell Cissy that he wanted to work as a light house keeper.  
Her reply was not till we have a child, which is another story, but shows how strong the old boys network was and how rules can be bent and manipulated....it would have had to been New Zealand's fastest adoption!!....completed in a matter of hours.

He began his career as an assistant light house Keeper at Preservation Inlet in 1957 followed by, Puysegur Point 1957 -1958, Dog Island 1958 – 1960, Cape Palliser 1960 – 1963, Farewell Spit 1963 -1964, Stephens Island 1964 -1965, East Cape 1965 – 1970 and then his last posting was to Cape Reanga 1970 – 1987.



Cissy was asked what she did to beat the boredom.....her reply was boredom? I was never bored....I had a house to keep and a child to bring up and home school....never had the chance to get bored....so the life of a wife and mother is the same no matter where you are.

Sadly it was starting to get late and cold, Arne and Cissy needed to get on the road while it was still day light, so headed off.

It was a pleasure to meet these two and listen to the stories they had to tell about life as a keeper and wife of a keeper.

Below are a couple of pictures.

Tom Z12hgr



**Tom Pete Malcolm and Eric**





**Malcolm, operated into the early morning....  
I think 03:30 hours was the last log entry before he pulled the pin.**



**Eric, utilizing the outdoors bath.....claims a clean operator has a clean signal?**





The clubs portable pole on the left had the g5rv hanging of it and the clubs portable crank up pole on the right with an 80mtr dipole.

**Club HF Net 3.715 MHz  
Every Tuesday at 0800 UTC**

**Listen for ZL2VH and *join in.***