



QST63

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

November 2009

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Presidents Report: November 2009

Hi everyone...

Thanks to those members who recently took the time to turn up at our Club morning on Saturday 10 October 2009. We have managed to tidy up a few areas, and finally complete the installation of the lighting in the garage, for example. All work was completed by 12.00 pm.

The opportunity was also taken to get the caravan out, and with the expert eye of Phil ZL2HF, we went over the caravan, from end to end to work up a list of items that needed either looking at or repair.

After some discussion, the decision was made for Phil to take the caravan to his workshop to effect the repairs, and carry out the work. I am happy to report that Phil has really done a fantastic job and really thought through what was required. He also unearthed some issues with the caravan which we had not discovered on the Saturday and has repaired these as well. The outcome of all of this work is that the caravan is now in much better shape than before, a quick list of repairs are: repair the towing hook, repair of the jockey wheel attached to the draw bar, repairs to the roof (it had parted company with the caravan on a few places!!!), repairs to the awning tracks (now both sides of the caravan).

Probably the most outstanding piece of work was on the generator - Phil has reduced the frame width, and fitted wheels and a ramp so that the generator can now fit inside the caravan, secured with tie downs.

The generator and caravan can now be all towed as one. I look forward to using the new and improved version of the caravan over the coming summer months as the various events we have planned, such as Field Day and the Big Coast. This "all-in-one" approach should make towing and setting up easier, as the trailer will not be needed for the generator.

For those early risers amongst us (6.00 am -7.00 am), have you noted the openings on the 2M Band recently, with Australia and the other New Zealand based 730 Repeater coming in on Mt Climie? On the morning of 2 November 2009, while traveling to work, I heard VK's and then about ten minutes later ZL1's. So for those VHF DX'ers out there, this is looking good for summer, as I recall last year openings on 10M's into Australia, especially the 10M Repeaters based in Melbourne and Brisbane. In fact I worked some VK's direct better than the repeater; I think I also got into Adelaide on one day as well. So keep an eye out for these "openings".

As at 31 October 2009, all of the Branch Repeater, Beacon and Fixed Link Licenses are now in the name of the Branch. You will recall that a motion was passed recently to have all the licenses returned to the branches' name from being under NZART's name. One outcome of this is we need to monitor when payments are required so that the licenses don't lapse through non-payment, and become cancelled.

Later this month, on the Friday 20 November 2009, at 8.00 pm there will another minuted meeting. Purpose of this meeting is a follow up to last months meeting, where the discussion centred around the Four-wheel Drive Club proposal. As agreed at the last meeting it was decided we would re-visit this in November. A summary of the discussion will be given on the 20th, from the previous meeting held on the 2 October 2009.

A discussion will also be had about a proposed remit for NZART Conference next year - your thoughts on this matter will be required.

Also don't forget to volunteer some time to the AREC Events, as we need the funds raised to off set the recent expenditure on the caravan repairs and the up coming licence fee renewals.

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

Mark ZL2UFI

AREC

AREC National Exercise 2009

This exercise is to send to the Command Station ZK6R (Papakura) a message informing us of how many AREC stations could your section have operational, if required, for a period of one day.

All Branch 63 members are invited to take part by sending in a report stating whether you are a
1 – Home Station HF
2 – Portable Station HF
or both.

Please call on the 860 or 730 Repeaters with your details using your own callsign from 1900 – 2100 hours NZDST on Saturday 14th November.

A short briefing will be held at Branch 63 on Friday evening prior to this event.

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK8EL

Kapi-Mana

The 25km course was described as slippery by most of the 250 riders who took part in the Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club's Trail Ride on Sunday 27th September from Totara Park. Foot, leg and shoulder injuries were reported during the day..

All messages were sent via the recently upgraded Mt Climie 860 Repeater by the two operators Mark ZL2WOL (Mobile) and Morrie ZL2ADP (Base).

Check-Ins were also received on 860 from Peter ZL2SJ in Featherston and Mark ZL2UFI who was initially Rail-Road Mobile at Silverstream and later on from the Westpac Stadium in Wellington.

The North Island Junior Motorcross Championships were held at the Moonshine Track in cold miserable conditions. The junior track was heavy and slippery in places for the 101 riders taking part. Our role was strictly traffic management on Bulls Run Road for the day ensuring that the road was kept clear for emergency services at all times and generally assisting with parking and pedestrians.

This was a combined exercise with Phil ZL2HF from Branch 18, Malcolm ZL2UDF and Morrie ZL2ADP from Branch 63 all using handhelds on 146.500 Simplex.

Morrie ZL2ADP/ZK8EL



Branch 63 Events Calendar

8 th 22 nd	November. Kapi-Mana Trail Ride from Totara Park. November Kapi-Mana Club Day at Moonshine Track.
20 th	December Kapi-Mana Club Day at Moonshine Track.
9/10 th 17 th	January. Kapi-Mana 2 Days of Trail Riding from Moonshine Track. January Kapi-Mana Club Day at Moonshine Track.
27/28th	February. Field Day Weekend at Kaitoke.
13/14 th 27 th	March. Raboplus Big Coast Event. March. EXPO at Lower Hutt.

Wellington Radio EXPO '10

Date: Saturday 27 March 2010
Location: Knox Church Hall, High Street, Lower Hutt

Vendors: doors open at 7.00 am

Public: doors open at 10.00 am

Proudly supported by the Combined Amateur Radio Clubs of Wellington.

Interesting web links

This is a web site with kiwi input and also talks about how GPS works.

<http://www.tracmap.co.nz/>

Supplied by Malcolm ZL2UDF

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

Listen for ZL2VH and *join in.*