



QST63

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Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt

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Upper Hutt 5018

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

September 2010

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Presidents Report

Hi everyone...

Almost with spring almost upon us, I guess its time to commence thinking of the summer months, especially work at the clubrooms or up at Mt Climie.

Daylight saving is due to start on Sunday 26 September, so not too far way now!

Simon has a produced a good report on the current state of the game with the repeaters at Mt Climie. Any suggestions on the 23CM duplexer issue or the battery power supply issue should be directed to Simon ZL2BRG and Peter ZL2HM. Please not only offer the problem, but a solution as well, as I am sure that with the many brains out there, from many solutions, a fix will come.

Later this year I would like to have a Saturday morning at the clubrooms where we clean out the garage and get rid of the junk in the cupboards and in the roof above the clubrooms. I realise that there is some good stuff here but much of it has never been touched in the years I have been at the clubrooms and it should be looked at, as to whether it should be kept or not. A general tidy up will allow a stock take of what we have and don't have there. Same will apply to the interior of the clubrooms as well. During this time, we should also take the opportunity to review the antennas at the clubrooms and check for perform and whether any preventative maintenance is required or not.

Malcolm ZL2UDF has been doing a great job on the AREC front and I wish to thank him for stepping up to the task after Morrie ZL2ADP left for the sunny Wairarapa. Sometimes the request for operators is at short notice, especially around the motor cycle events and I know this can place a bit of stress on people to help out, but if we all pitch in then the load can be spread amongst all of us.

Planning on the Conference for next year is proceeding well, with several people from around the country pre-registering for the event. Promote this event as much as you can when speaking on the repeaters or HF. The more we talk about it the more people will get reminded and the more likelihood we have of having people attend.

Finally, just a reminder when amateurs go silent key, please get the family to sign over the callsign to another family member (if they are an amateur) or have the form completed to release the callsign. Details on how to do this, plus the form are on the NZART web site.

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

Mark ZL2UFI

Branch 63 Repeater Update

Quite a lot to report this month.

1292 23cm

RF Deck

The Diplexer that was reported as sick last month is unsuitable for the job. In standard form it is a 1400MHz 5-10W max device. Retuning it to 1292 reduces its output capability further so cannot be used.

We've been looking at alternatives. One is to modify 70cm 1/4wave diplexers. The mod is relatively straightforward, however we have to source suitable cavities. For those interested there is a web post detailing the mods (fourth post down).

<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/support/forums/tm.asp?m=4656&mpage=1&key=ቀ>.

Another option is manufacture two sets of interdigital filters (5 or 6 stage) and use a combiner. There are a number of articles and a basic program to design a suitable unit.

A third option is to purchase a ready made unit. There is a unit available from Europe but the design looks suspiciously like a modified Deltec design that a few people have doubts about.

Here is the link http://www.duplexers.eu/catalog/23cm/Duplexers/mdf1_6_23cm/

We really need to find a solution. Spring is here and I'd like the repeater up on the hill for summer.

Tait IF

We now have 3 sets of receivers with reasonable sensitivity (-118 to -123dbm sensitivity) And two transmitters .

VK5DJ Repeater Controller

Still to apply the Firmware update.

860 70cm

A decision needs to be made on a replacement of the antenna. John ZL2TWS colinear looks to be a good option but would need to be well secured to survive.

730 / 5425 2m Repeater.

There was a power outage in Upper Hutt On August the 3rd. The Beacons, 5425 and 860 went off air for the duration of mains failure. 730 continued to run on battery back up

However its Power supply did not restart when the ac mains was restored.

There was no indication that there was a problem until week or so later when 730 went off air as the batteries discharged. Myself and Mark ZL2UFI went up on Thursday. The tait repeater had lost its programming due to the slow dc voltage decay. With that reprogrammed and the PSU restarted 730 came back to life. Due to the weather conditions we decided not to swap to the slimline repeater and instead leave the 730 as-is to allow the batteries to recover.

Issue 1: The Tait PSU should be able to restart in the event of mains failure. We are either running the PSU in a non standard mode or there is a fault.

Issue 2: There needs to be an indication of Supply Failure on the Repeater, a simple beep or cw indication with possible switch to low power TX mode.

Issue 3: There needs to be a low voltage disconnection of the repeater when the Battery volts drop below 10.2v.

Simon ZL2BRG



The 53rd Jamboree On The Air will take place on 16 and 17 October 2010.

We have been asked to provide a station on the Sunday.
(HF, National System and IRLP)

Location is the Totara Park Scout Hall.

I am looking for volunteers for this event -
please confirm your interest or not by Friday 10 September 2010.

Mark ZL2UFI

Privacy Issue

After reading the below....first thing I did was log on and opt out!!!!

As of 1 November, third parties can access your personal details via your registration plate.
You can opt-out of this law by going to the link and filling out the required fields.
Send this link to everyone you know with a motor vehicle.

You can revoke this access here.

You will need:

- your New Zealand driver licence
- a note of your vehicle's registration plate number(s)

Please note: Your request to Opt-Out will not become effective until 1 April 2011 when the new law comes into effect

<https://transact.nzta.govt.nz/transactions/PersonalInfoAccess/entry.aspx>

Supplied by Tom ZL2HGR and confirmed by our tame Police officer.

AREC

The last event scheduled for Sunday 15th August 2010 which Lower Hutt Branch 18 offered to assist was cancelled on the Saturday due to the weather conditions.

The next AREC event is possibly on Sunday 19th September 2010 at the Bull Run Road track. Request for support will be advised once we have confirmation assistance is required.

Malcolm ZL2UDF AREC Section Leader

International Light house and lightship weekend 21-22 August 2010.

The Branch 63 Upper Hutt club put a station together for the 2010 International Light house and Light ship weekend on the 21st and 22nd August 2010.

This year we managed to gain access to the south Wellington coast, close to the now non-operational Karori Rock Light house. It has been replaced by a land based beacon operating on the top of a plateau above Tongue Point.

Thanks to Malcolm for arranging accommodation.

The team this year was made up of the follow keen operators.

Arnold Darby z12asd
Tom Dixon z12hgr
John MacDonald z12ux
Peter Moore z12hm
Mark Plewinski z14wt
Malcolm Wheeler z12udf

The station operated using the clubs call z12lhw. The lhw translating to Light House Weekend.

Advance party made up of Arnold, Malcolm and Tom headed to the bach mid Friday afternoon.

We arrived at the bach at about 4 pm and went about erecting antennas and making the place good for those arriving Saturday morning.

The accommodation and location far exceeded our expectations. All we needed to bring was radio equipment, sleeping bags or blankets, food and petrol for the on site generator.

The station was set up in the main lounge area, this consisted of a Kenwood TS-120s, 2 manual Daiwa tuners and an Denton GLA-1000B linear amplifier, then at a later stage the museum pieces were replaced with an up dated computer operated station.

This station was made up of a Yaesu FT-857d, LDG Z11-pro auto tuner, Heil head-set pro. At one stage we pressed into service a Daiwa CNW418 manual tuner. We connected in the Denton GLA-1000B linear amplifier for some more power during the later part of the evening, then back to bare foot.

The software package used for radio control, spotting and logging was DX-lab suite. An excellent and free software package that meets all the basic needs of the ham radio operator.

Internet connection via a Telecom T stick (thanks Arnold).

On the sky end we had an 80 meter dipole, 20 meter dipole, ZC-1 vertical whip, mobile Trident vertical, Windom, G5RV and uhf/vhf for supporting local communications and access to 730 was via the Blenheim (IRLP) repeater, thanks Blenheim branch.

The team worked well together, Arnold being the antenna director and Tom arranging the meals, the remainder taking turns to operate.

Marks carpentry skills were needed to repair part of the entrance decking after an unforeseen incident.

This location was excellent, with easy 4x4 access, even if some of the river crossings did test the water tightness of doors and tailgates.

The views from the operating station were excellent, looking out the lounge window at the bay, South Makara Beach, with shipping going by. The Karori Rock Lighthouse is just to the right of the bay. In the distance we could see the Kaikoura ranges with snow on the peaks. Cook Strait was calm as a millpond!! It is evident that this is not always the case.

View attached photos.....



Mark ZL4WT operating.



Malcolm ZL2UDF receiving lessons on operating an amp from Arnold ZL2ASD



The shack



Antenna at front is a WW2 vertical - ZC-1 I think!
Main antennas on pole erected at the back of shack

Report by Tom ZL2HGR and Malcolm ZL2UDF

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

Listen for ZL2VH and *join in.*