



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 2010

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Presidents Report

Hi everyone...

So what has happened over the last month, apart from the poor weather and reported poor health of some of the members of the branch, hopefully a brighter outlook as we approach summer (if it ever arrives this year!). If you are out and about call in and see the various members, catching them up with the goings on at the club and the like.

Earthquakes continue in Christchurch, so not much fun down there either.

The next few months will be busy for us as a club as we go towards the end of the year, with a small break over the New Year as we really commence to wind up towards the National Field Day (26 - 27 February 2011*), Big Coast Event (19 - 20 March 2011*) and later in the year the NZART Conference 2011 (4-6 June 2011) is looking to be a very busy year for the club.

Don't forget to support the AREC side of the club over November (at least four events)/December (at least one event planned) and again over February/March time as the events stack up - remember these events require all our support.

Mt Climie maintenance has taken place, with recent visits locating the interference to 730 and replacement power supplies are being ordered. Thanks to those members who are able to assist sometimes at short notice in visits up the hill.

By now the replacement of the 860 antenna should have been completed and an installation later this month or early next for the 23CM Project.

As Christmas is not too far away is there any interest in a Christmas Function for members and partners this year - we could go to the Cossie Club? Need to know soon so I can organise this - contact me via email by Monday, 8 November please, positive replies only required.

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

Mark ZL2UFI

* These dates are yet to be confirmed.

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

Listen for ZL2VH and *join in.*

Branch 63 Repeater Update - November

1292 23cm

RF Deck

Progress !

A 23cm duplexer was purchased from duplexers.eu by John ZL2TWS.



This type of duplexer uses a notch type filtering arrangement and exposed a design flaw with the rf deck of the repeater. The Problem is that the transmit side of the RF deck is wideband Amplifying everything over a 300 MHz band. The new duplexer passes all frequencies that are outside its notch frequency so All the rf noise was being coupled from the tx port to the receiver causing de sensing. The solution was to fit a narrow band-pass filter in between the pre-driver and final PA module. This cured the problem.

A Mount for the Antenna has been fabricated and the antenna glued in place.

The repeater was temporary installed up at Climie to check the antenna and rack. Coverage was good.



23 cm Antenna ready to be installed

860 70cm

The 860 single dipole antenna was replaced over the weekend with the new colinear made by John ZL2TWS, performance is excellent 3 to 4 S points up over the dipole, however as we were about to leave we discovered a problem with the Tait receiver and a suspect coax connector meaning another site visit is planned to investigate. 860 may be off the air for a while as problems are sorted out.



730 / 5425 2m Repeater

The Tait repeater has been swapped out with the spare 'slimline' unit pending an upgrade of the PSU

Simon ZL2BRG

AREC Report

The club supported one AREC event this month on the Sunday 17th October for the KMMC. Operators were Mark ZL2UFI, Eric ZL2SET and Malcolm ZL2UDF. It was a wet, mainly cold day. As one gumboot leaked, new boots on the replacement list. On days like this you need winter gear. Radio communications worked well.

Request for AREC Operators in November

(this has been raised by the club President in earlier despatches)

Sunday 7th November

KMMC Trail Ride 3 operators required (maybe repeater work and vehicle radios)

Sunday 21st November

KMMC Club Champs at track, looks like 3 operators required (handhelds only required)

Sunday 28th November

KMMC Trail Ride 6 or 7 operators required. Four on Cooks Road, two further in the forest, one at base. May be repeater work and vehicle (4WD's) radios.

More updates on November events later this week.

Saturday 13th November

AREC National Exercise 1900 to 2100 hours NZ day light saving time

Please listen to your radio in the early part of the exercise and provide some traffic.

More information at http://arec.cjb.net/exercise/AREC_National_Exercise_2010.pdf

Malcolm ZL2UDF
AREC Section Leader
