



QST63

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

June 2011

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Presidents Report

Hi everyone...

This last month has been one of full on organisation for the up coming NZART Conference. This has been my focus especially in May as the date comes closer and closer. We are in the final days so it's all hands to the pump in the final few days. Remember if you are available over the weekend to assist or not, please consider just attending the AGM to show your support all the hard work put in.

The Wellington EXPO has come and gone with no news on the next meeting, so I am unable to report whether it was a success or not. I will say that as a branch we did well selling most of the junk that had culminated in the clubrooms for some time. After seven years I think that the EXPO has run its course, as the numbers of those attending and the vendors were down dramatically this year. I'm sure we will know more after the EXPO meeting as to its future.

After a few visits were postponed due to adverse weather there has been some work up at Mt Climie recently. Climie 860 is back up to the required standard with the new collinear antenna that was repaired after failing shortly after installation. Some additional work on the 23cm repeater was required after the usual winter rodent infestation. We also suffered an extended mains power outage, before power was restored. This fault was one we had not experienced before and it took some time to locate and diagnose.

One hopes that this was a one off and will not see a repeat anytime soon.

Recently it was decided that the branch would support the installation of a new UHF D-Star Repeater, on the Climie 860 frequency. The process to archive this has been longer than expected and is almost at the point where after licence approval the repeater could be installed. Although the approval for the repeater will go through at the next Council Face-to Face meeting on Friday 3 June 2011, unless the licence fee is paid nothing will change at Mt Climie.

There has over this period been some robust discussion over the frequency choice, repeater choice, and whether we should even bother doing this at all. As with all decisions they can be reversed at a meeting of the club at anytime. So rather than continue with the installation, I am proposing to stop the project and refer it back to the club for a discussion on its merits and for a final decision. To date the only cost to the club has been \$75.00 for FMTAG licensing and engineering processing. I have selected a date after the NZART Conference, giving sufficient time for people to plan their attendance at this meeting.

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860 D-Star will **NOT** be on air at Climie for the NZART Conference.

I suggest all members who have an interest in this matter attend this meeting. That you take the opportunity to express your concerns, points of view and be prepared to vote for a final decision one way or another on the viability of this digital repeater at Mt Climie. This will also be a good opportunity to discuss what other projects the club could/should be doing over the next 12-24 months. Also, bear in mind the ability to service and maintain the equipment we have and that there maybe a possible increase in licensing fees which may force some rationalisation of the number of licenses we as a club can afford to retain.

A vote for full life time operation of D-Star will be taken. This then gives people the opportunity to purchase equipment to use for many years to come. Still available in the Wellington Region are 950, 955 and 8425 unused UHF Voice Repeaters.

Therefore there will a meeting to discuss the Digital (D-Star) Repeater:

Friday 10 June 2011, at 8.00 pm

Finally, thanks for all those that have helped to date on the NZART Conference and recent Mt Climie visits.

There will be a report in the next newsletter on the outcomes (remits) of the NZART Conference, as well as how it all went.

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

Mark ZL2UFI, President

AREC Report

No planned operations at present.

For those registered for the NZART Conference 2011, AREC meeting is Saturday afternoon.

Lighthouse Weekend

This is a couple of months away, good time to start planning and advising if interested. More news on Lighthouse Weekend next newsletter.

Malcolm, AREC Leader.
ZL2UDF

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

**If you can't hear anyone give a call.
See who comes back to you.**

Programming Software: Updates

Recently I have come across some additional software that is free to use for programming various radios. All you need is the programming cable and you'll be away laughing so to speak.

CHIRP - Software for programming amateur radios: <http://chirp.danplanet.com>

CHIRP is a FREE cross-platform, cross-radio programming tool. It works on Windows and Linux (and Mac OSX with a little work). It supports a growing list of radios across several manufacturers and allows transferring of memory contents between them.

The current lists of supported makes are: Alinco, ICPM, Jetstream, Kenwood, PUXIN, Yaesu and Wouxun. Check out the web site for various models. I have used the Wouxun version and it works well.

The other is one many of you will know: Radio Programming Software by Jim Mitchell, KC8UNJ <http://www.kc8unj.com>

Jim has added programming software for the Wouxun as well.

All worth a look.

Mark ZLUF1

Some possibly interesting interweb links

[Home Built D-Star Radio](#)

<http://mattt.github.com/Morse.js/>

Tom
ZL2HGR

<http://www.perite.com>

Use of Squid Poles.

Ted
ZL2TED

<http://www.aprs-alert.net/>

From the website description:

"APRS-Alert is a notification system that ties the RF world of APRS to real-time notification via SMS messaging and email.

APRS-Alert works by constantly monitoring the real-time stream of position updates from APRS-IS and compares each station heard to a list of stations that users are interested in. If an "interesting" station sends a position update, the system scans through a list of rules and sends notifications via email to the addresses of people interested in the movement of those stations."



Climie on a good day

Repeater Antennas

Attached are the pictures taken by John ZL2AQE.

VHF dipoles are running 5425.

860 single dipole replaced with side mounted coax collinear with single point RF connection.

5425 can only be compared to 860 as both radiate from the same pole position.

730 antenna is at higher elevation and more north at the north hut site.

These pictures are from the shared south hut site.

10M beacon pole on the left of the 5425/860 pole.

Right side of 5425/860 is Regional council VHF CD repeaters.

UHF antenna 4.5dBd with 90 degree +2dB lobe from 1/4 side mounting in the north direction.

Null is at Lake Wairarapa otherwise most places get around 4dBd.

This is a lower gain version of the traditional 4 dipole stack with out the loss of phasing (usually -1dB) and the water ingress problems.

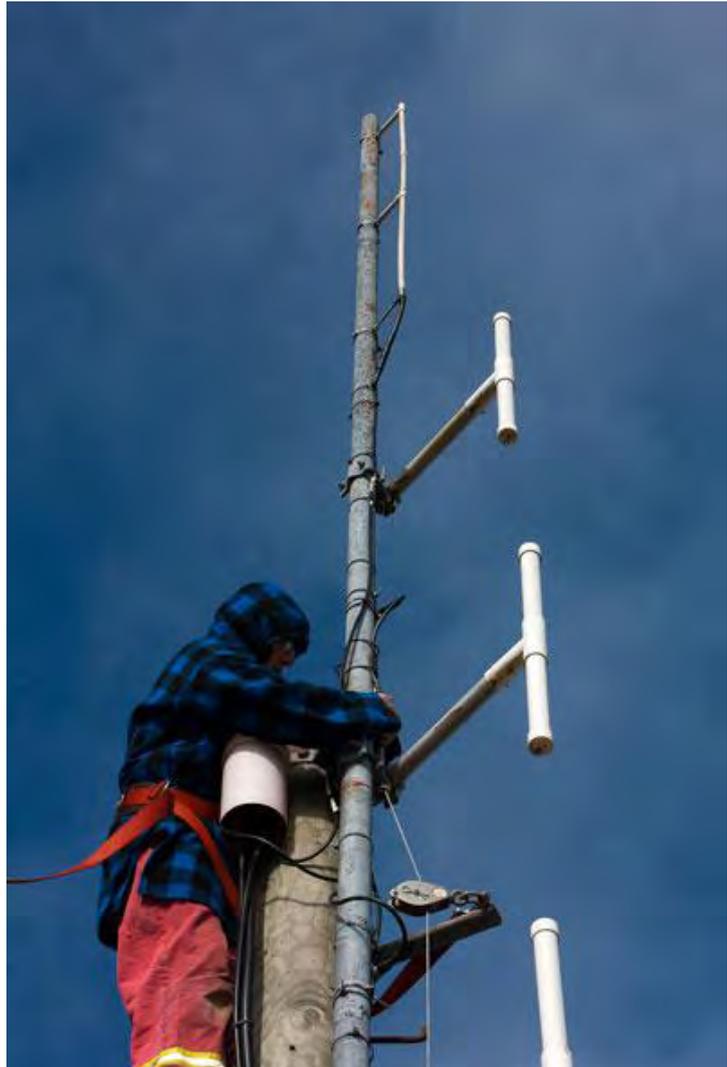
The antenna has 2 degree down tilt with shorter cut elements. Actual resonant frequency is somewhat higher but we achieve down tilt and only 1.5:1 SWR results from shorter than calculated length coax sections.

Pictured ZL2TJT, ZL2BRG, ZL2TWS and ZL2AQE

We are going to this type of antenna for Climie now.

1292 uses a similar but free standing antenna.

73 John ZL2TWS



NZART Conference: Information



Main Programme Saturday

Time	Main Hall
8.30AM	NZART AGM Opens – Welcome by NZART President Roy Symon ZL2KH followed by roll call
9.00AM	Opening Speech - Rt.Hon Chris Hipkins MP Welcoming Speech—Conference Chairman Mark Gooding ZL2UFI
9.30AM	Morning Tea
9.45AM	Alternate Programme leaves
10.0AM	NZART AGM continues
12.30PM	Lunch
1.30PM	NZART AGM continues
3.00PM	Afternoon Tea
3.30PM	AREC AGM
5.00PM	Alternate Programme returns
5.00PM	Main Session ends

Forum Programme: Sunday — Recreation Hall

Time	Room 1	Room 2
8.30 AM	WARO AGM	
9.00 AM	OTC AGM	AMSAT -ZL AGM
9.30 AM	Morning Tea	
10.00 AM	SPAM AGM	KiwiSat Update
10.30 AM	Practical Uses of the Electro Magnetic Spectrum - ZL2AQE	D-Star Eddie Ross (ICOM)
11.30 AM	Narrow Band TV ZL2AFP	APRS ZL2MAX
12.30 PM	Lunch	
1.30 PM	Police Digital Radio ZL2FY	VHF / UHF ZL4PLM
2.30 PM	STSP Repeater Build ZL2TW	
3.00 PM	Afternoon Tea	
3.30 PM	VOIP: A History ZL2UDF	PIXIE II – JOTA Construction Project ZL1TGC