October 2011

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Presidents Report

Hi everyone... spring is now with us, as is the various changes in the weather!

Hardware for the WiFi link to Mt Climie has been purchased and the process of testing it down on the valley floor has commenced. After testing is completed we expect to have the link on site, subject to weather soon.

Since installing the D-Star VHF Repeater on 5425 we had hoped for coverage to be on average better than that of 860 and of near equal to that of 730. It appears that those members who live out near the fringe areas are not getting 5425 as well as expected, which is disappointing (in my opinion). So I am looking for reports from members with D-Star radios in the fringe areas and those with mobiles to report their experiences - this way we'll not only find out the coverage area but also see if "we" have a problem or not.

On this note, I recently travelled back from Palmerston North via the Wairarapa. I found that I could only get into 5425 in about the same location as I have previously lost 860 coverage on the heavy vehicle by-pass road just to the north of Masterton. I had tried 5425 and 730 some 10-15 km's north of this location - whereas I could although noisy get a 'cher chuck' from 730 I couldn't get anything from 5425, even on high power of 50 watts. Of course this 'lack of access' could be explained away as being off the cliff in digital radio terms, so I am still open to comments and reports to verify whether this is the case or not.

As we go through the Rugby World Cup its time to turn our heads to supporting the AREC Events this summer. So watch for emails about these events, and try to support Malcolm and the club by volunteering for one or more as the dates are confirmed.

Well that's it from me....   good DX and 73's.

Mark ZL2UFI

A New Call Sign

Congratulations to Oliver on passing the Amateur radio Examination.

He is now the holder of call sign ZL2OLY

Branch 63 Repeater Update

1292 23cm FM

1292 continues to perform acceptably. Work is progressing on the IRLP interface.

860 DStar 70cm

Nothing to report.

5425 Dstar 2m

Following on from last months report. It was decided to try a notch filter 147.300 in the 5425 receive path to see if this would improve the de-sense issues. As it happens there were a number of 2m cavities found at the club rooms. A suitable one was chosen and then Jens ZL2TJT and John ZL2TWS refurbished and retuned it to the required frequency.

The following weekend 5425 was re-installed with the new notch filter and lo-and-behold the receive performance improved. - no more 730 de-sense.

The club has purchased 5GHz wireless networking equipment to enable the club to connect the Dstar repeaters to the internet. These will be installed in the coming months.

730 2m FM Repeater

730 continues to suffer from a malfunctioning Telecom pager transmitter at Climie. Telecom is aware of the issue and is supposedly having it repaired.

73 Simon ZL2BRG

AREC Report

Three operators, Gavin ZL2ACT, Bjorn ZL2KT and Malcolm ZL2UDF supported the KMMC event on the Sunday 25th September 2011.

KMMC have requested support on the Saturday 19th November 2011 and Sunday 20th November 2011, with 4 operators one day and 6 operators the other day. Details which day will be the Enduro and the other day the trail ride are being decided by KMMC. When I more details I will advise. Please check your diary or calendar NOW, then advise which day you are available. For most of the operators the hours will be 9:30am to 3:00pm providing there is no major problems or accidents. On the 6 operator day I envisage some 4x4 will be required. Both events are in the forest.

An email has been sent prior to this newsletter about an invite to a LandSAR event on the 5th November.

AREC meeting is planned for Friday 8:00pm 14th October 2011. If you have an interest in AREC please attend. Items to be talked about include where Upper Hutt is going in the future with AREC, involvement in LandSAR, training, apparel.

I look forward to seeing you at the 14th October meeting.
Malcolm ZL2UDF
AREC Section Leader

Club HF Net 3.715 MHz
Every Tuesday at 0800 UTC

If you can't hear anyone give a call.

ICOM IC-2820H DV Priority Mode "Never miss a call or QSO"

Author: John M Wysocki September 2011

This radio uses a common UT-123 DV module shared between the left and right sides of the radio, therefore simultaneous dual band Digital Voice (DV) operation is not possible. When the left side is monitoring VHF DV and the right side is monitoring UHF DV then only the selected **[MAIN•BAND]** will be heard as the opposite side is muted from DV reception. Analogue mode is not affected in this way and dual mode operation is fully functional allowing for dual reception of signals.

The solution to monitor both sides was to use the priority **[LOW•PRIO]** function.
I have my ICOM IC-2820H memories with all left side as VHF and right side as UHF. (DV channels starting as 00 and analogue above these.) Then I setup the left side VFO with UHF DV and right side VFO with VHF DV.
When using Mt. Climie 145.425 MHz (VHF DV) and Mt. Climie 438.600 MHz (UHF DV) my left side memory channel 00 is (145.425) and my right side memory channel 00 is (438.600)

How to Monitor 145.425 and priority check 438.600:
Choose **[MAIN•BAND]** on the right with VFO selected - 145.425 will be displayed.
Previously setting the right side memory channel as 00 (438.600) now push and hold **[LOW•PRIO]** for more than 1 second. 438.600 will be checked for activity every 5 seconds. If a DV signal is detected the IC-2820H will stay on 438.600 and then check 145.425 every 5 seconds. If you want to listen full time to 438.600 then simply push the **[MR/CALL]** on the microphone and the priority function will be cancelled. Memory 00 will be monitored continuously. If activity was first detected on 145.425 then push **[PTT-M / PRIO 3]** on the microphone and the VHF DV 145.425 will be monitored continuously.
[LOW•PRIO] could also be used to cancel priority function.

How to Monitor 438.600 and priority check 145.425:
Choose **[MAIN•BAND]** on the left with VFO selected - 438.600 will be displayed.
Previously setting the left side memory channel as 00 (145.425) now push and hold **[LOW•PRIO]** for more than 1 second. 145.425 will be checked for activity every 5 seconds. If a DV signal is detected the IC-2820H will stay on 145.425 and then check 438.600 every 5 seconds. If you want to listen full time to 145.425 then simply push the **[MR/CALL]** on the microphone and the priority function will be cancelled. Memory 00 will be monitored continuously. If activity was first detected on 438.600 then push **[PTT-M / PRIO 3]** on the microphone and the UHF DV 438.600 will be monitored continuously.
[LOW•PRIO] could also be used to cancel priority function.

NOTE: For the above to function the **[F•]** Key has to be toggled so that the sub menus are not displayed. i.e. the base button menu only is available.
Now you will never miss a call or QSO. You can also have one side of the IC-2820H, not in use by priority check DV mode, for monitoring your favourite analogue frequency.
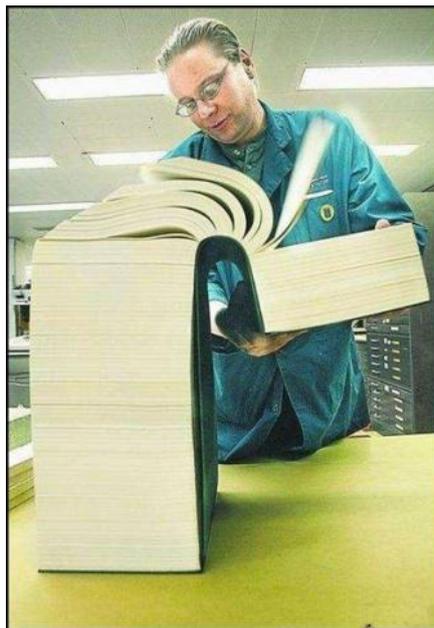
Looking forward to a QSO with you soon on Mt. Climie DV.

73 John ZL2TWS.

The attention to detail on this is incredible.
If you are even a bit into science fiction you should recognize one or two.

The book "Understanding Women" has finally arrived in book stores........