



QST63

WWW.ZL2VH.ORG.NZ

Branch 63 Clubrooms
Park Street, Upper Hutt

190 Plateau Road
TeMarua
Upper Hutt 5018

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

July 2012

President:	Mark	ZL2UFI Ph. (H) 526 8446 PH (W) 238 3401 (M) 021 100 3378	Email: mark@foxtrot.co.nz
Vice President:	Mark	ZL2WOL	
Secretary:	Peter	ZL2HM	Email: pikam@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer:	Gavin	ZL2ACT	
AREC:	Gavin	ZL2ACT	Email: gavin.smith@paradise.net.nz
Editor:	Mark	ZL2WOL	Email: zl2wol@linuxnet.co.nz
Web Master:	David	ZL2DBP	Email: zl2dbp@gmail.com

Presidents Report

Hi everyone...

As the shortest day has come and gone, we can now look towards the days getting longer and hopefully a summer for us all this year!

This report is being written prior to the meeting on the 29th of this month so some additional things many change as a result depending on the outcome from that meeting.

Included in this newsletter are articles on my trip to Hamvention at Dayton and a report on the NZART Conference. I hope you enjoy the read. Remember that if you are doing anything of interest, then write an article and share it with the rest of us.

As you will all be aware of the incident involving Tom ZL2HGR, I have yet to confirm his involvement in the Lighthouse Weekend in August. I have taken on board to be the point of contact for this event so he is under no pressure. To date I have not had any interest in this year's event –if you are interested then please say so and we can work from there. I will be seeing Tom over the next few weeks so will see how he is placed, but assume at this stage he is a non-starter. If there is either no interest or insufficient interest shown by Monday 16 July 2012 then any club involvement this year will be cancelled.

D-Star 101 Training session previously programmed in and then cancelled will be run on Saturday 4 August 2012, 10.00 am at the clubrooms. The session will be two hours long. It will cover off the basics of D-Star, how to set up a D-Star transceiver, demonstrations of DV Dongles and DVAP's (DV Access Points). At Dayton, there was such a huge demand for the new D-Star enabled ICOM ID-31A UHF Transceiver, that all of the vendors sold out! Therefore don't be put off by everything you have heard about D-Star, come along and hear the truth!

Following the session there will be a social get together at the clubrooms with a BBQ or if the weather intercedes then a local establishment will be used instead. This initial session is for financial club members only. (check with Gavin if you are unsure of your status) If there is sufficient demand and interest, a 201 Session for advanced users may be considered.

This session will probably be offered to other clubs as a talk/session to suit, so supporters of Branch 63 who are not financial will not miss out. Dates/times for these sessions will be negotiated with other greater Wellington clubs, based upon their interest. Contact your club and have them express an interest.

Finally don't forget subs of \$25.00 are now due.

Dates to mark on the calendar:

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (18-19 August 2012) – contact Mark ZL2UFI

D-Star 101 Training Session Saturday 4 August 2012, 10.00 am start - contact Mark ZL2UFI

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

Mark ZL2UFI

Branch 63 Repeater Update

6m Beacon

A correction to last month's 6m beacon reinstallation, There was an omission from the list of helpers. Michael ZL2BPL was there and it was he that went up and fitted the new antenna up the mast.



Michael ZL2BPL braving the cold

1292 23cm

Below is a list of the 1292 users. Not included in the list is silent key Jamie ZL2NN and somebody that sold their rig! (yes I'm looking at you Mark !).

ZL2DX	Chris
ZL2TWS	John
ZL2BRG	Simon
ZL2ADP	Maurice
ZL2HI	Jim
ZL2TJT	Jens
ZL2UGL	Justin
ZL2BPL	Michael
ZL2UGR	Paul
ZL2AMI	Bob
ZL2TNG	Neil
ZL2TGQ	Dick
ZL2UP	Mark2
ZL2TDN	Gerry
ZL2ABN	Graham

As a note to anybody interested in trying 1292 FM if you ask nicely John ZL2TWS has a FT104 23cm handie available for short term loan to club members.

860 DStar 70cm

A update on last months report the de-sensing that was evident initially has disappeared. The most likely suspect was a close in carrier on the repeater's input frequency.

Below is a list of the ZL2VH Dstar Repeater users over the last 14 days

ZL2UFI M	06/21/12 18:47:50 UTC	ZL2VH C 2 Meters
ZL2TWS D	06/21/12 09:46:29 UTC	ZL2VH B 440 MHz DVD
ZL2TJT	06/21/12 09:45:49 UTC	ZL2VH B 440 MHz
ZL2UFI	06/21/12 07:57:06 UTC	ZL2VH B 440 MHz DVD
ZL2DX	06/21/12 05:15:50 UTC	ZL2VH B 440 MHz
ZL2ABN	06/21/12 04:46:22 UTC	ZL2VH B 440 MHz
ZL2ARN	06/21/12 04:27:06 UTC	GB7PI B 440 MHz DVD
ZL2TKY	06/20/12 04:16:15 UTC	ZL2VH C 2 Meters
ZL2BPL D	06/20/12 03:53:29 UTC	ZL2VH Dongle User DVD
ZL2FAE	06/19/12 07:30:24 UTC	ZL2VH B 440 MHz DVD
ZL2BRG	06/17/12 05:02:17 UTC	ZL2VH B 440 MHz
ZL2ACT	06/15/12 04:45:09 UTC	ZL2VH B 440 MHz
ZL2CWA	06/15/12 03:11:23 UTC	ZL2VH C 2 Meters
ZL2UKT	06/14/12 11:32:58 UTC	ZL2VH C 2 Meters
ZL2ADP	06/11/12 05:13:05 UTC	ZL2VH C 2 Meters

5425 2m Repeater

Nothing to report.

Loan Dstar Radios.

The Club has two IC2820's Dstar Dual Band Mobile radio's and at least one of these is available to loan to club members who want to try out Dstar. Contact Mark ZL2UFI for details.

730 2m FM Repeater

At the end of May John ZL2TWS and Gerry ZL2TDN performed some antenna tests on the 730 system at Climie to attempt to get to the bottom of the interference issue. They ran 730 on (as) new Deltec Single dipole antenna. When running on the Deltec Antenna QRM was observed from Alternate sources and was drowning the pager interference.

John writes

"A single dipole from the stack was then connected to the 730 LDF-450 Feeder cable. Pager QRM was no longer obvious due to new QRM being heard. A pulsing type carrier, RT voice traffic mixed with signals with data and tones. The weak signal source and weak remote stations were chopped up most of the time. This only affects weak signals and is no different to the pager QRM we experience now".

And adds a comment.

"The QRM signals heard on the single dipoles in (1) and (2) are not heard on the 4 dipole stack. The pager QRM is very evident on the 4 dipole stack and is around +15dB of de sense. It appears (I have no knowledge to base this on) that the phasing harness filters other signals as the 4 dipole stack is "tuned" with calculated interconnection cables at 147 MHz".

From this the 730 Dipole stack appears to be not at fault. However a site visit is planned in the next week or two to run an antenna analyser over the 730 5425 antenna systems to confirm correct performance.

Simon ZL2BRG
Repeater Trustee

NZART Conference 2012 Report

Conference this year was held in Nelson over Queens Birthday Weekend 1-4 June 2012 having been held here in Upper Hutt last year (where has that year gone?).

The venue for this year's conference was Tahunanui Motor Camp near the Nelson Airport and probably well known to many of you as a holiday destination being close to the beach, Richmond, Stoke and of course the CBD of Nelson.

The AGM was the usual fare with a roll call of numbers to ensure there was a quorum for the meeting to go ahead, welcoming speeches and the like, before the AGM itself got going. This year the remits were not too contentious I believe, and as such discussion wasn't too drawn out on them. Of note was the resignation of Simon Lewis ZL4PLM, the councillor from Midland Region (ZL3 country) prior to the weekend. Simon was also the VHF/UHF Records Officer so this has also presented an issue as well as a re-refresh of the rules was underway for over two years and has not been completed. It has been decided that the current and existing rules will be used, and that the new rules will not be implemented at this time. One hopes that this unfortunate turn of events will sort itself out. This follows on from the resignation of the NZART President Roy Symon ZL2KH in February this year. I know that their reasons will be many, but I think we are starting to see a trend here where members get elected and fail to see out their terms, most disturbing. There are elections again next year (2013) so hopefully those putting their names forward will consider that at least they need to tough out the two year term.

Don Wallace ZL2TLL gave a presentation on WRC 2012 and the next WRC in a few years time, plus the processes involved to get items onto these WRC agenda's. The future looks good for amateurs but we need to be watchful as ever on the RF spectrum to protect our interests. The cost of the trip was well within budget which was good to hear in these tough financial times.

So here are the results (please refer to the March/April Break-In for a detailed description of the Remits):

Remit 1 Hawkes Bay Amateur Radio Club Branch 13 - Lost on Voices

Remit 2 Hawkes Bay Amateur Radio Club Branch 13 - Withdrawn

Remit 3 Hawkes Bay Amateur Radio Club Branch 13 - Lost on Voices

Remit 4 Hawkes Bay Amateur Radio Club Branch 13 - Lost on Voices

Remit 5 Christchurch Branch 05 - Carried on Voices (after an amendment)

Remit 6 Christchurch Branch 05 - Carried on Voices

Remit 7 Christchurch Branch 05 - Withdrawn

The Saturday evening meal and entertainment were all good, with none of the food issues that past conferences have had.

Sunday is mainly a chance for amateurs to attend various AGM's and Forums on subjects that interest them, or are offered by the organising committee. This year I found nothing of interest to me in the morning sessions. The afternoon had three sessions of interest but all were on at the same time, so I had to choose. This is not a reflection on the organising committee it's just how things worked out. So as my wife was off visiting her uncle in Motueka I took her place on the Alternative Programme. This included a visit to the WOW (World of Wearable art) Museum and Car Museum – well worth the visit if you in Nelson.

The three afternoon sessions I wished to attend were Linking Repeaters in Marlborough, Digital Radio and APRS. I choose the Linking of Repeaters as this may be of use to our club in the future, and indeed it was a very useful session (I have the PowerPoint if anyone is interested in it). This covered off the linked repeater system of Blenheim 695, Picton 7225, Ward 560 and Golden Bay 7375 (also of note is that they have an IRLP node linked into this setup as well). The session was run by Stuart Watchman ZL2TW, with a good number of attendees.

As I said it was a pity to miss the other two as they both held interest for me but there you go.

The Sunday evening meal was great good and entertainment was a quiz from Jim ZL2BHF, the drawing of various raffles and spot prizes.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment was that no club or branch put forward to host next year's conference. There was just a uncomfortable silence. Various options has since been explored, and it is hoped that this will be resolved soon but I think that it's not a good sign if we cannot at least have one branch accept the task and put on a conference. Nelson Branch even offered to do a one day conference around the AGM only as a stop gap measure for 2013.



Figure 1: Linked repeater rack – starting from the top are the reverse linking radios, logic controller (all the switches), repeater controller (single switch) and finally the Yaesu VXR9000 VHF Repeater.

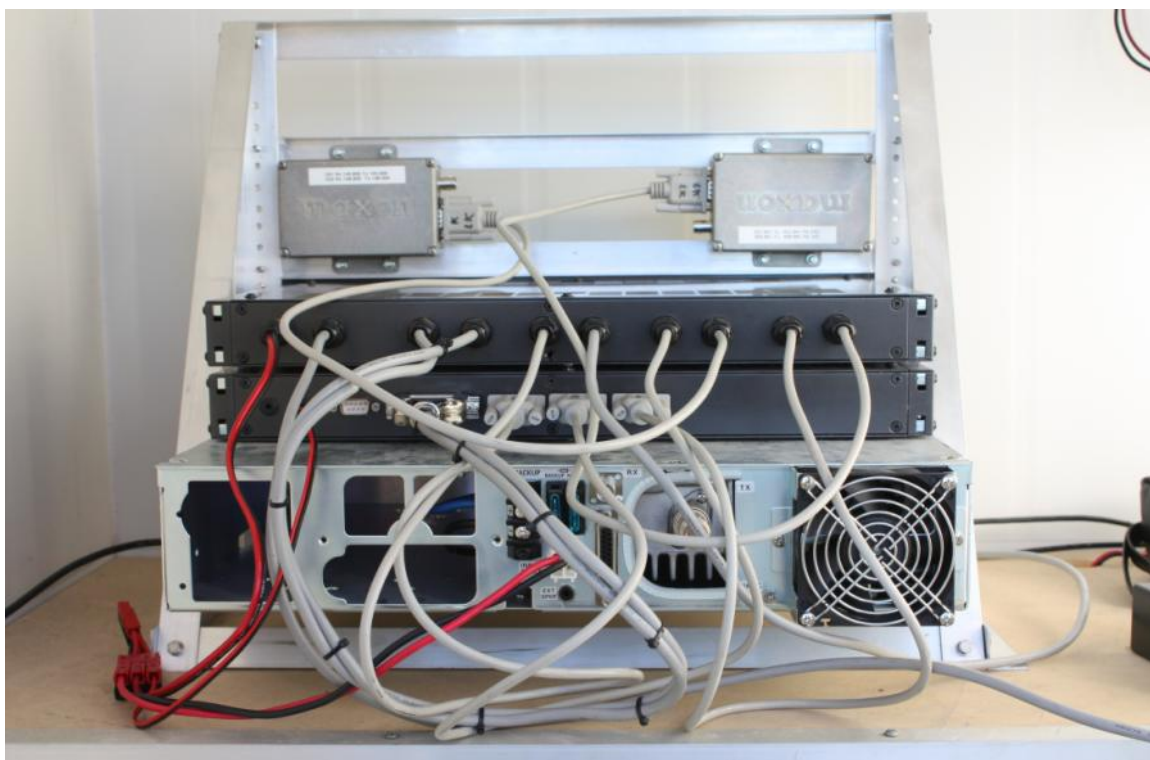


Figure 2: Linked repeater rack (back view) – starting from the top are the reverse linking radios, logic controller (all the cabling – nine in total), repeater controller (DB 9 serial connectors) and finally the Yaesu VXR9000 VHF Repeater.



Figure 3: Blenheim 695 Repeater – a 100% solar powered site.

Another outcome from the Conference was the numbers of members of the association - as at the AGM there were 1594 members, a far cry from the required 2000 odd required to keep the association viable. So it's incumbent on us all to try to increase the numbers to that magic 2000 members, so that the association is alive and well.

Finally it was good to catch up with everyone from previous conferences. They all seemed in good heart.

Hopefully we'll know soon the venue for next year's Conference.

Mark ZL2UFI

Do you know what RPT1 or RPT2 are?

Do you know what Urcall or Mycall mean??

D-Star 101 Training session

Saturday 4 August 2012, 10.00 am at the clubrooms.

This session will be two hours long.

It will cover the basics of D-Star.

Find out how to set up a D-Star transceiver.

Find out what a DV-Dongle is.

Find out what you do with a DVAP.

Open to current Branch 63 members only.

BBQ after.

Dayton 2012: A Report

As you are all aware I again travelled to Dayton for the Hamvention (<http://www.hamvention.org>) this in May year. This was my second visit to the Hamvention, my first being in 2006 (see previous report from June 2006: http://www.zl2vh.org.nz/pdf/newsletter/2_Q63-Jul-2006.pdf). I was intending to return to Dayton in 2010 as mentioned in the June 2006 report but due various circumstances didn't get there, and of course last year there was the NZART Conference in Upper Hutt to organise.

For this trip my Dad said he was a starter, and I convinced my wife to go as well (it didn't take much convincing!). Her statement was 'well last time it started out as a radio trip and turned into full blown odyssey across North America so I'm going this time.' I again asked Jim ZL2BHF if he would like to attend again but he was unavailable.

In October 2011, Air New Zealand had a two week promotion with 30% off all airfares to North America. This was too good an opportunity to miss, so the trip in and out dates were booked around the Hamvention dates, and the rest of the trip would be worked out later. The only other proviso was that we couldn't be away longer than four weeks. We left New Zealand on Monday 30 April 2012 and returned on Thursday 24 May 2012 – all but three and a half weeks in total. We travelled via Los Angeles direct to Chicago in both directions – we saved on average about NZD\$700 each as a result of the promotion.

Later in the planning I spoke to Richard ZL2FY and as he was planning a trip to the UK he managed to include Dayton on his trip, so he together with his wife met up with us in Dayton for dinner on Thursday 17 May, the day before the Hamvention opened. We stayed at the same Motel 6 (now a Studio 6) as last time, and Richard was just around the corner. Not much had changed over the six years apart from the Dayton Mall across the road seemed to have grown bigger. Like last time we travelled into and out of Dayton by rental car, which makes it much more interesting as you can get off the beaten track and see the 'real America'. We did part of Route 66 from Chicago but that is a story for another day.

Well the weather in Dayton turned out to be very good, almost too good really and by lunch time was cracking over 30C, and maxing out at about 33-35C by mid afternoon. This occurred on all three days, so it was hard work around the flea markets by mid-morning onwards.



Figure 1: Richard ZL2FY

My Dad and my wife both came to day one of Dayton and had a good time looking at all the various indoor and outdoor vendors, they missed days two and three and did other things.

Richard and I did about two rows of the flea market on the Friday morning before heading inside for a couple of forums we had identified of interest. We did the APRS forum which then lead onto the D-Star forum. After these we hit the inside vendors – this year there were approximately 500 inside vendors and about 3000 odd outside or flea market vendors.

One of the items of interest each year at Hamvention is what new products are announced and pushed as the latest or the 'next big thing'. From ICOM there wasn't anything new. Kenwood was displaying their new HF/6M transceiver the TS-990S (estimated street price is between USD\$5000 - \$10000). Yaesu had two major new items – the FTDX 3000 HF/6M transceiver (no pricing offered) – placed between the FT2000 and the FTDX5000 and their new offering in the Digital Mode space the FT-1D Digital handhelds (two were on display – no pricing offered). As both new HF transceivers garnered most of the interest I was able to get a good look at these new handhelds and more importantly speak to the USA Yaesu rep guarding them. Believe it or not this is what he said: 'One of the Yaesu people from Japan dropped both handhelds off here at the stand along with the posters and brochures. He then left as quickly as he arrived. I have no idea about them apart from what you see and can read. There are no mobiles, no repeaters or other infrastructure. Yaesu intends to use the Wires II (an IRLP styled product that uses Windows instead of Linux for the node PC's) as its Internet linking carrier. I'm not even sure which of the four major digital

standards Yaesu have settled on, and if we have settled is that the protocol we will be going to production with.' The poster talks about C4FM FDMA as the preferred mode, so time will time I suppose? Richard best summed up Yaesu with this statement as 'all this will do is muddy the waters in the digital world for amateurs, and we will all suffer as they compete amongst themselves for dominance.' So we spent the rest of the day doing the inside vendors.



Figure 4: Poster FT-1DR/E



Figure 5: Two new re-production handhelds

On Saturday Richard and I split up to do our own thing and met again at lunch. Richard headed outside for the flea market while I did the inside vendors. With temperatures again well over 30C by lunch time going outside for any length of time in the afternoon was ruled out so we stayed inside and spent the remaining hours getting around as many vendors we could. This was also our major purchasing day. On this trip I decided not to take any ham radio gear and purchase new gear at Hamvention. Therefore my limited operating was from Hamvention onwards, after purchasing a new ICOM ID-92AD handheld. I worked back to New Zealand on via RF on IRLP (into both Climie nodes 6931 and 6962) and D-Star into ZL2VH-B and ZL2VH-C. Throughout the trip I took a DV Dongle (http://dvdongle.com/DV_Dongle/Home.html) and operated back into New Zealand. As long as you have a Wi-Fi connection such as free Wi-Fi from McDonalds you will be in business. Almost all hotels, restaurants, eateries and the like in the USA have free Wi-Fi so this isn't a problem. I only struck one or two places where I could not get a free Wi-Fi connection (pity New Zealand isn't so well off!).

Richard and I spent quite some time seeking out and speaking to various vendors about VOIP Linking, and the like. What was a notably missing were the IRLP boys, but other vendors made up for them. Of interest were the IRLP Micro Node (<http://micro-node.com>) vendors with their AllStar Radio Thin Client and AllStar Network (<https://allstarlink.org>) plus other newer vendors with soon to be released digital offerings.



Figure 2: Inside Hara Arena



Figure 3: Ameritron and Mirage Booths

Both of us managed to catch up with Janet from HRO, who many of you will have remembered from our Wellington EXPO, and if you have bought anything from her as Manager of the HRO Store in Anaheim. We later found her husband Chip who now works for the magazine CQ Communications.

A visit to Hamvention would not be complete without a visit to the ARRL Expo – this year they were running a membership promotion, which both Richard and I already knew about so we signed up again. The promotion was sign on for another three years, pay USD\$111.00 and receive your choice of either a hard or soft cover copy of their ARRL 2012 Handbook! As my membership expired in October 2012 this was an easy upgrade for me. I think Richards now expires way out in 2016 or 2017! Anyway it was such a good deal who wouldn't take it! The only issue was the weight of the book in the luggage!

Richard and I agreed that after two full days we were 'hammed out' so decided not to return on the Sunday. Overnight I decided there were a couple of items I needed so I returned for a quick thirty minutes on the Sunday and brought some additional small items. This was the first time I had been to the Sunday part of the Hamvention and must admit that it had a more relaxed feeling with the crowds missing. It was very easy to get around but of interest was the many inside vendor's booths being empty, obviously either having had enough or sold all their wares?

I must admit that going a second time to Hamvention was a lot easier as I knew the layout, how things worked and where to go. I only needed the inside vendor map to be directed to specific vendors in the shortest possible (walking) time.

Finally, to sum up I cannot recommend this trip to Dayton and Hamvention enough. I suppose if you have a bucket list, then put it on it. Get there before you are either too old or not in a position to travel anymore. Hamvention is on every year and they publish their dates well in advance. If you need any help with ideas for travel, what to do locally when there and the like just ask. There is plenty for other members of your family to do in Dayton and around the places without even going near the Hamvention.

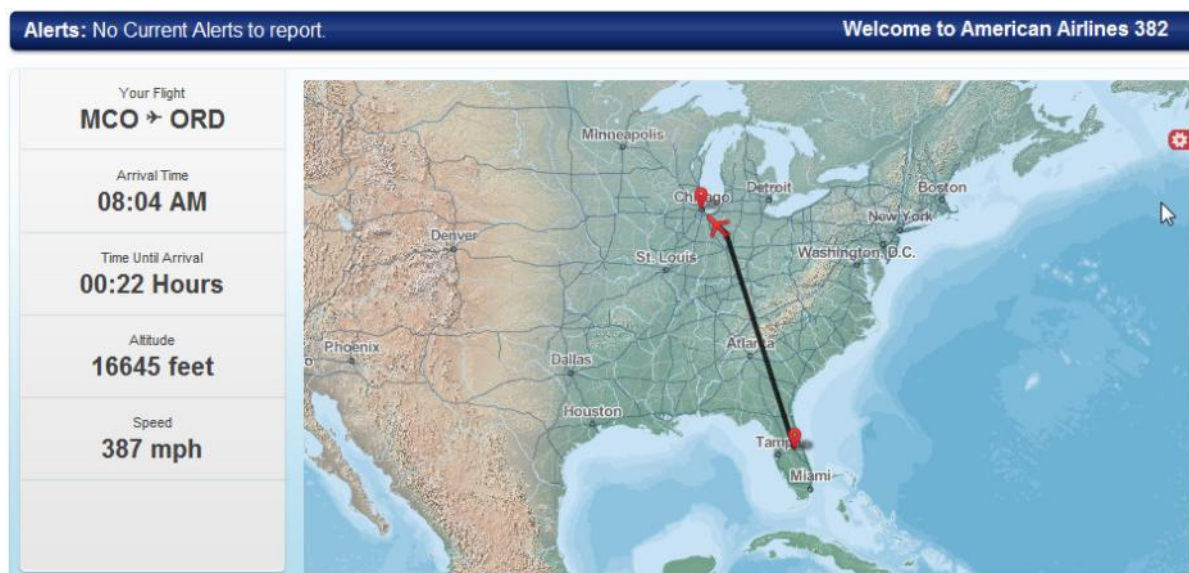


Figure 6: Amazing what you can get – free Wi-Fi on American Airlines Flight 382 (at 16,645 feet over Dayton on the way to Chicago from Orlando).

I intend to revisit Hamvention again someday, and hopefully sooner than the six years between that these ones.

If you are interested in going with me next time just let me know and start saving now.

Mark ZL2UFI