



QST63

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

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Presidents Report

Presidents Report

Hi everyone... well no doubt the weather is getting us all down, especially the fact that it seems to be raining almost every weekend. This time last year we were all discussing the snow that arrived mid-August, this winter its rain. Anyway I'm sure that if like me you time your efforts outside you can try at least to get a few jobs done around the house.

Since the announcement the interest in the Climie 6M Repeater has been very good, with quite a few donations coming in from many interested amateurs in the Hutt Valley and Greater Wellington areas. It's very pleasing to see all the interest from a single idea of let's do this! As an update the newly purchased 6M Duplexers have arrived in country and are currently tuned for the proposed new frequency of 53.950 MHz TX and 52.950 MHz RX. The repeater will be crystallized for this frequency pair once the OK is received via the approval progress from FMTAG and NZART. Recently Simon ZL2BRG and I visited Climie to run various checks on the repeaters and while there transmitted on the two frequencies using the 6M Beacon antenna (previously made by Neil ZL2TNG). The antenna has a good SWR and is fit for purpose for the repeater to use. Some discussion at a later time on a higher gain antenna can be had, once the repeater is on site and bedded in. We are still on track for a November/December 2012 installation at Mt Climie subject to soak testing of the hardware once ready and approval of the licensing. One more thing to mention might be the need to have a CTCSS tone on the input until the Channel One TV transmitters around the country are turned off – time will tell on this point. The reason I mention this, is that some care needs to be exercised if you are intending to purchase second hand transceivers as many older ones may not have CTCSS boards available or were never built with any. Third party tone generators are available. There is no guarantee you'll be able to interface them to any new purchase.

I wish to thank all of the members that turned out for the first ever D-STAR 101 Training – from the many comments it appears those that attended all got something out of it or learned something new. I have a similar talk (although slimmed down to about a 40 minute presentation) for Branch 18 (Hutt Valley) on Monday 3 September 2012 at 7.30 pm and also next month for Branch 42 (Titahi Bay) on Tuesday 16 October 2012 at 7.30 pm. You are welcome to attend these. The talk will also have a short 15 minute presentation of my visit to Dayton 2012.

Finally on a DV (Digital Voice) note, it was good to see ICOM NZ again coming to the party in offering Branch 63 members a great deal on the new D-STAR ID-31A's UHF Transceivers. Many club members took up this offer, which made them cheaper than any import from either Australia or the USA. I hope to hear the new D-STAR users on the repeaters as they 'learn' to drive their new rigs. Well that's about it from me....good DV and 73's.

Mark ZL2UFI

Repeater Update

Not a great deal to report this month,

Beacons

3cm, 6m, 10m

Nothing to report, both beacons operational. The 3cm unit is under construction...

1292 23cm

Nothing to report.

860, 5425 D-Star

Nothing to report

730 2m FM Repeater

At recent site visit by Mark ZL2UFI and Simon ZL2BRG a new notch filter cavity was tested to check if it improved 5425 noise issues. The filter made no difference so it was removed.

6m FM Repeater

The duplexer cavity's have arrived and have been tuned onto (the probable) frequencies by John ZL2TWS. We await NZART council licence approval and the repeater. Installation towards the end of 2012.

Simon ZL2BRG
Repeater Trustee

Treasurers 6 Metre Project Report

The 6 Metre Repeater Project bank account is looking good. A couple of the more generous contributions have covered the cost of freight to bring the duplexers into the country.

The actual cost of the duplexers were met by the club.

Thanks to all who have donated to the project so far, as we will all benefit when this new resource goes on air.

More equipment will no doubt be required. If you feel this project is one where you can help out then consider a donation. An offer to help in any other way will also be gratefully accepted.

73
Gavin ZL2ACT

AREC

KMMC have agreed to run the Mini Nationals this year in Wellington. This is for young riders some under 6 years old. This is planned for two days being [Saturday 6 October](#) and [Sunday 7 October](#) at the Mini track Bulls Run Road. The request is for the Upper Hutt Radio Club to provide support with radios for four (4) radio operators each day. KMMC intends to apply for a road closure notice to control the vehicle traffic on Bulls Run Road. For those who have driven along the road will know about the one way section, the plan is to have a radio operator at each end to control the flow. Another radio operator is required at the road crossing for bike and pedestrians moving between the track and parking area. Then another operator with Race Control, plus relief for the other three radio operators. Please check and mark your calendars now.

73 Gavin ZL2ACT
Sent from my iPad

Advertising Amateur Radio: Cheap option

After my two trips to the Dayton Hamvention (<http://www.hamvention.org>) in 2006 and 2012, I am always surprised at how the Americans promote the hobby in their country.

As we know New Zealanders are a conservative lot (all too ready to cut down the tall poppy doing something outstanding in their fields) but why do we not promote the hobby of amateur radio on a daily basis?

One item that almost all of us have is a motor vehicle, and as they are licensed with a number plate, what a great place advertise our hobby to the world!

The cars are always out there being seen, so why not take advantage of this 'free space' to not only advertise amateur radio but also Branch 63?

Some people have personalised plates or message plates advertising this or that. Now these are not cheap but here is a cheap solution for the rest of us!

Go to Supercheap (or Repco) and purchase for about \$15-\$18.00 a set of number plate surrounds - many colours are available from the usual black and white, to silver and pink!

Using a simple label maker, and the right tape you can produce some thing like this:



Equipment used as a Brother P-Touch (PT 1800) Labeller, using 12mm (top) and 18mm (bottom) white on black laminate tape. There is a limit to the number of letters/numbers you can fit on both top and bottom areas of the plate surround, but with a bit of creative flair you can accommodate most ideas.

I have some tape left, so anyone wants to promote the hobby I can print out the text (or other suitable words).

You just need to purchase the number plate surrounds and position the text. (NOTE: I only have the white on black laminate tape, so black surrounds are best for this tape.)

Perhaps go halves with another member so you have one each on the back number plate of your cars?

I have tried one on the front plate (even reversing the text so it's readable from some one looking in their rear vision mirror) but the text is really too small and hard to read, plus when you are close to the car ahead your number plate will not be seen, even if you some distance back.

I believe the rear plate is the best solution.

Go promote amateur radio!

Mark ZL2UFI

D-STAR News: Hot off the press from the Tokyo Ham Fair

Just when you thought nothing new was on the horizon from the various radio manufacturers here is the latest from the Tokyo Ham Fair held over the weekend 25/26 August 2012. Images from Jim Tittsler ZL2IA/AI8A/7J1AJH.

The new ICOM ID-51 VHF/UHF Handheld – from the same family as the ID-31A



Link of the news item: http://www.icomuk.co.uk/News_Article/3508/17674/

Link to the PDF: <http://www.icomuk.co.uk/getFile.asp?categoryID=3508&cCID=17674&fID=244>

ICOM "concept model" of a black box D-STAR radio with tablet/smartphone user interface:



Hard to tell whether a concept model such as this will go to market or not, but it appears to using a iPad device connected to what appears to be a ID-1 1.2GHz transceiver or something new? Anyway looks like ICOM are really getting into the D-STAR devices. Some of this type of development was spoken about at Dayton this year by third party developers so this is great news that a company such as ICOM is also developing such new devices and technology. See over the page for an enlarged photo of the iPad device screen.



The new ICOM IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver – next version on from the IC-7000?



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Mark ZL2UFI

Interesting D-Star Link

<http://www.icom.co.jp/world/d-starparty2012/>

Sent in by
John ZL2TWS
