



QST63

WWW.ZL2VH.ORG.NZ

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

President's Report

Hi everyone... the biggest item to report on for this month has been the submission to the UHCC (Upper Hutt City Council). The outcome was by no means certain at the beginning of July, but the future looks bright, and our tenure secure. At the time of writing I am still waiting the on the final document but we should be OK at the Park Street Depot for another 42 years!

No doubt the recent seismic activity has all focused our attention as to our preparedness for a major emergency. Remember to keep your equipment up to date with charged batteries, and the like. Should the call come to assist the community then we must be ready to do so, and not looking around for a fresh battery, radio part or some other piece of equipment. So Get Ready!

Apart from what I have stated, other work continues for the club with various projects underway. Here is list of the some of them:

New 6M repeater build is underway by John ZL2TWS. John and I sourced another (unmodified) GE Mastr II transceiver from the USA for this project.

Design of a new 6M repeater antenna.

New web site redesign of the club site by David ZL2DBP.

New repeater antennas for 5425.

Another new project that has been underway by Simon ZL2BRG is the use of social

media, with the use of Twitter using Branch 63 Upper Hutt @ZL2VH as the Twitter name. Some of the club members have been using this method of communication, so you are all welcome to sign on and enjoy the Tweets. I know perhaps many of you may not be interested or up with the play on this medium but it is worth a trail period to see how it goes and whether it is of any use to us.

For one thing it is a very quick way to get the word out about something, so I encourage you all to have a go and see if its for you or not. Think of it as just another communications medium.

While on the same subject many of you will be aware that Yahoo! Groups hosts many newsgroups on amateur radio and its activities. One that hasn't been too active has been the KiwiD-Star Yahoo! Group. John ZL2TWS and I have taken it upon ourselves to promote the use of this group and to promote D-Star in New Zealand. So if you are interested in D-Star and what is going on with it in New Zealand then have a look (you don't need to register to read the messages) and don't forget to contribute to the discussions if you can (registration required to post messages).

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

Mark ZL2UFI

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Upcoming Events

VHF Field Day

7th -8th December - Contact
John ZL2TWS

Repeater Report

Following power restoration at Mt Climie it's almost all back to normal.

3cm, 10m Beacons

10m is on air. 3cm beacon transmit module ordered. Getting pricing for the 10W PA.

1292 23cm Repeater

1292 on air

860 D-Star Repeater

On air

5425 D-Star Repeater

Off air pending new antenna installation.

730 2m FM Repeater

On Air

6m FM Repeater

On Air with improved TX audio

quality thanks to work by John ZL2TWS. Work is ongoing on a new antenna design.

Simon ZL2BRG
Repeater Trustee

VHF Field Day Contest 2013

It is time to put ZL2VH on air this VHF Field Day Contest.

Field Day Contest operates all bands 50 MHz and up. First Saturday in December, and the following day. That is the 7th and 8th in 2013.

For all contests, the operating periods are 1700 to 2300 on the Saturday, and 0700 to 1300 on the Sunday, NZ local time.

Branch 63 in previously years was very active operating VHF / UHF and the Microwave bands.

I am calling for expressions of interest. Please reply to me at zl2tws@clear.net.nz if you want to attend this contest.

I especially encourage new members and any members who would like to learn about long distant VHF/UHF and Microwave communication.

If you have a 50MHz, 144MHz, 432MHz portable Yagi, portable VHF/UHF and

Microwave transceivers please list what you have available or to loan to the contest group. Tents or other mobile accommodation will be required for those staying over night on site.

A log keeper is required to complete scoring and submit the log within two weeks of the contest close. People are also required for meals and refreshments to keep those operators fueled up.

Once a number of operators and equipment is known an update meeting can be held at the club rooms. At this meeting a decision can be made into which section of the contest to operate in and demonstrate log keeping, rules and how a contact is made and numbers exchanged.

See this web site for more details and the rules:

<http://www.vhf.org.nz/VHF-UHF-SHF-ContestRules>

Note: That D-Star can also be used and multiplier points are earned when using 'machine' type modes and operating as a field day self powered station.

You might have one of these modes available such as ATV or SSTV.

50MHz should be the 'magic band' this year with the CH-1 TV shut down. Perhaps the first time many Wellington stations have ever worked 6M.

A contest group is needed due to my work commitments so if you can organize operators and an equipment list I would also like to hear from you.

Thanks for your support. 73 and good DX, John ZL2TWS

D-Star QSO Party

This September, there is a D-Star QSO Party - be in to win one of 10 prizes:

<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/d-starparty2013.aspx>

Trademe Amateur Radio Sales: A word to the wise perhaps?

The following text has been provided to me by a third party, and is well worth a read so you don't round fowl of RSM. The response below is from a query or abuse of the Q & A section on the Amateur Radio Sales category on Trademe. I leave it to you all to draw your own conclusions.

"Hi (name withheld),
I note you have taken exception to RSM's use of the Question and Answer facility of Trademe.

Our use of this facility is a reasonable first approach to any trader selling devices that are of concern to RSM. I have attached below for your information extracts from a warning letter sent to a trader last week and Trademe have kindly agreed to forward this to you.

If you have any questions or require further clarification don't hesitate to contact the Business Centre on 0508776463 or me via e-mail paul.robinson@mbie.govt.nz or telephone 03 9552513.

The sale of radio transmitters is covered in the Radio Regulations 1989, Regulation 37 (1)(a)(i) states

"Every person commits an infringement offence against the Act who - installs, uses, sells, distributes or manufactures interfering equipment - without a declaration of conformity or an exemption from the requirement to make a declaration of conformity."

This means every radio transmitter must be labeled with a supplier code number or RCM mark before they can be offered for sale. The only exception to this is the sale of Amateur radio transmitters. The sale of Amateur transmitters is limited in that they can legally only be sold to an Amateur. If they are

sold to any other person the seller commits an offence as shown above.

Traders wishing to sell Amateur radio equipment can continue to do so providing the following conditions are met:

1. Your listings for such equipment must include wording advising purchasers of the need for an Amateur radio licence and that you can legally only sell to Amateurs, so the wording should read like this example

"This equipment is only able to be sold to and used by a licensed radio amateur operator. Purchasers will need to provide proof of such a qualification."

The obligation is on you to ensure the sale is to an Amateur.

2. If you are actively trading in radio transmitters you require a Licence to Supply Radio Transmitters. Radio Regulation 2001 Rr16 Prohibition on supply of radio transmitters "The supply of radio transmitters is prohibited except under a licence to supply radio transmitters".

The licence is free and can be obtained by completing the attached form.

http://www.rsm.govt.nz/cms/pdf-library/resource-library/forms/radio_3.pdf

3. The sale of other radio transmitters (e.g. Citizen band equipment, PRS and land mobile) is only permitted if they are correctly labeled with either a SCN or RCM. The transmitters must also be configured as originally approved.

4. Electrical and electronic products must in many cases be labeled with

either a 'C' tick or RCM mark before they can be sold in the

NZ market..

More info can be found on our web site and a simple explanation is available in the Compliance Guide available at:

<http://www.rsm.govt.nz/cms/pdf-library/resource-library/publications/Compliance-guide>

5. The possession of radio transmitters; the Ministry has the ability to prosecute using the Radiocommunications Act 1989. The use of radio transmitters is covered under Section 113 of the Radiocommunications Act 1989:

"Offences - Every person commits an offence against this Act who transmits radio waves, otherwise than - under, or in conformity with, the terms and conditions of a radio licence issued under section 111.

Section 114 of the Act states "Presumptions - For the purpose of section 113, any person who erects constructs, establishes, maintains or is in possession of any radio transmitter is presumed to have used the radio transmitter unless the contrary is proven.

Penalties upon conviction shall not exceed \$30000 for an individual and \$200000 for a body corporate.

Sincerely

Paul Robinson

RADIO INSPECTOR,
RADIO SPECTRUM
MANAGEMENT"

Website Redesign

If it weren't for the club website, I would've never found out about the club and probably wouldn't have become a ham.

A significant part of our website's purpose is to expand the range of media by which our club is made known. Although it's functioning nicely, I am floating the idea of redesigning it. Updating our website from time to time is important as web standards and design trends shift slowly over time.

The new design is online now and if you wish, you can opt-in to use this 'beta' version of the website. Just visit the club website, scroll to the bottom of any page and click the 'opt in'

link just above the blue footer. From then on, you will be seeing the new website unless you opt out by clicking on the link in the footer of the new design.

Until the new design is approved and finalised, any visitors who haven't opted in for the new design will see the current website.

The new website will work (at least to a basic, but usable extent) on all web browsers, old and new, however some advanced features may not work on outdated browsers. The use of HTML5 and CSS3 features may cause problems except on new web browsers.

Should old or outdated

browsers experience problems with the website, they should be updated. I understand the ideology, "It worked fine before so why should I change it?" But if everyone took this attitude, we'd still be using green on black, 80x25 text screens to view websites.

As a summary, the the new design mainly boasts a fresh and modern look, news events which delete themselves automatically, a ZL2VH Twitter Feed which integrates nicely with the homepage.

73s
David ZL2DBP



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