

	<h1 style="margin: 0;">QST63</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">WWW.ZL2VH.ORG.NZ</p>	<p>Branch 63 Clubrooms Park Street, Upper Hutt</p> <p>204 Plateau Road Te Marua Upper Hutt 5018</p>
<p>Newsletter of The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Upper Hutt Branch 63, Inc.</p>		

ZL2VH Newsletter - March 2014

President's Report

Hi Everyone,

As we end the month we say goodbye to Jens ZL2TJT and to summer (what summer you say perhaps?).

As all of you will now know, Jens ZL2TJT passed away in February after a long illness which he fought to the end. He could always be relied on to give good engineering advice and to question many of the plans we had for Mt Climie. He was always available to give out signal reports, and was a real ?night owl? on the repeaters. He no doubt will be a sad loss to many of us who will miss him on all of the local Branch 63 repeaters, as an active member right to the last. A memorial service is planned for Jens. (See article later in newsletter)

We had a good turn out to the recent Jock White Field Day activities over the weekend 22/23 February 2104. I would like to thank those who took the effort to assist with the setting up and taking down of the station, plus those that operated through the weekend. A special thanks to Brian ZL2CHV for "over-nighting" with the caravan to secure our equipment. I understand the lack of sleep he had due the high winds experienced overnight, so thank you.

The next major club event is the Lighthouse Weekend 16/17 August 2014 for those interested.

The clubs AGM will be held on Friday 2 May 2014, starting at 8:00 pm. This date is mainly due to the Easter and ANZAC Day falling on sequential Fridays towards the end of April. For officer holders please start preparing your reports. For members of the club please consider that some positions are up for nomination as the incumbents are either seeking to step down or are moving on. Perhaps two of the bigger roles are those of President and Repeater Trustee. I have previously advised that I am standing down from the role this year, and Gerry ZL2TDN is also doing the same for Repeater Trustee. So please consider stepping up to a role for the next twelve months and not expecting others to do the role. I look forward to the AGM. (See agenda later in newsletter)

73's...

Mark ZL2UFI
President

Silent key - Jens Schmidt ZL2TJT

On the 20th February 2014 I was advised by the Police of the passing of Jens Schmidt ZL2TJT.

Over the last six months it had become normal not to have radio contact with Jens every day and only to speak with him on irregular occasions with sometimes a two week period in-between such contacts. This irregular contact was caused due to his irregular sleeping habits caused by the heavy medication he was prescribed.

Jens last known contact as recorded by the D-Star server was the 29th of January at 07:29 NZDT on the 860 repeater. He may have been on the analogue repeaters a few days after this but these are not recorded by our systems.

The exact date of his death is unknown but can be recorded as on or about early February 2014. I visited Jens last on Christmas Day as I have done so for many years and took him a meal. I wished him the best of seasons greetings, shook his hand and left to fly out to Australia the next day for an extended work period.

Many members will remember Jens spending hours building hardware for Mt Climie and as an active user of all the Mt Climie repeaters. Jens could be heard any time of the day or night and always relied upon for a check signal through any of the repeaters. His points of view and valuable engineering knowledge often expressed at club meetings will be a sad loss.



From <http://www.qrz.com>:

*Born 17 March 1946 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
Engineering trade cert -67. National service -68,
Navy, Greenland.*

*Marine engineering school and merchant marine
engineering, foreign going, till -73.*

*Since -73 resident in Wellington, New Zealand.
Various engineering positions, land based. Retired
2011.*

*Collected some electrical, electronic, automation
knowledge along the way.*

*Amateur radio license since September 1984. First
set was a Kenwood TR-2600, 2m FM hand-held -
counting the strands to lay the rope.*

Advanced to an IC-211 2m multi-mode, also a

Joined local radio club early, Branch 63 NZART. Participated in some emergency communication exercises, field day activities.

Introduced to repeaters, maintenance & service, operating principles. Involved in constructing duplexers.

Minor kit set construction, TNC, pre-amp, amp. General station set up.

R.I.P.

John ZL2TWS

Repeater Report

A busy month with two visits to Climie to work on 730. Many thanks to John ZL2TWS, Phil ZL2HF and Gavin ZL2ACT over the past month.

3 cm Beacon

The Form 10 licence application is being prepared.

1292 23 cm Repeater

On air

860 D-Star Repeater

On air. The ICOM G2 software stack is being installed on a replacement PC.

5425 D-Star Repeater

On air

730 2 metre FM Repeater

In early Feb, John ZL2TWS and Phil ZL2HF installed the brand new high performance duplexers to the 730 repeater stack.

In an effort to track down the source of the intermittent noise that has plagued 730, John and Gavin made another trip to Climie and installed the slimline repeater and spare duplexer in the north hut, thereby eliminating the LDF feeder as a potential source of noise. Listening tests are being done to check for any improvement. Dependent on these results, the next step is to replace 730's dipole stack.

53.950 6m FM Repeater

On air

Simon ZL2BRG
Repeater Trustee

Jock White Field Day 2014

Another great weekend was held over the 22/23 February 2014, with the branch taking part in the annual Jock White Field Day. This year, as in previous years we were situated at the Kaitoke Regional Park.

The weather was a bit up-and-down this year, with strong winds, rain and sunshine all being part of the weekend.

Operators - ZL2CHV, ZL2BRG, ZL2UGL, ZL2SET, ZL2YSL, ZL2UFI and ZL2ACT.

A big thank you to Brian ZL2CHV for doing the overnighter, apparently not a lot of sleep due to the strong winds overnight!

We operated only on 80 metres this year, which seemed good for us. Some listening was done on 40 metres but it appeared that 80 metres worked the best for all the weekend. A quick look at the log shows that we did about 240 contacts over the weekend, which was a little down of previous years – but we are not there to win just to take part, test the equipment and ourselves. A great weekend was had I believe.

See you all next year perhaps?
Mark ZL2UFI



AREC Report

On Sunday the 26th of January, the Triumph Car Club held it's Hill Climb on the Wallaceville Hill. The organisers deemed the event a success and most of the competitors were pleased with their day out.

One unfortunate competitor spun 180° (or was it 540°?) and ended reversing into a bank at speed. His MG was towed out, and was quite a bit shorter than it had been a few minutes earlier. Can't help feeling sorry for the guy, it was his first practice run and he had only completed a third of the course. Then his poor co-driver, he didn't get a chance to attempt a practice run.

Because the organisers didn't want vehicles near the course, we were restricted to using hand-helds. The gnarly nature of the terrain made end to end comms difficult, and access



to Climie 730 was limited from many sites. Some form of temporary repeater was a must. Despite Eric's efforts, the gremlins in the 2 metre STSP repeater refused to be exorcised. Early site testing was inconclusive so I started looking at alternatives. Justin made his 70 cm repeater available, and then I found that my ICOM 2820-H was easily configurable as a cross-band repeater. A quick test with the 2820 at the hill summit convinced me that cross-band was the way to go. Although I was 99% convinced, I asked Justin if he could still make his 70 cm repeater available as a back-up, which he

readily agreed to do. If Murphy's Law kicks in, best to be prepared.

On the day everything worked wonderfully. My hand-held probably got the biggest workout of them all. It saw the day out, and even though I was carrying a spare, I didn't need it. The 2820 handled the day OK. Thanks to all those who assisted, and special thanks to Eric, Justin and Brian, who, when asked, made that extra effort, even though as things turned out it wasn't needed.



The Branch received a cash donation for the day's effort.

Those taking part were ZL2UFI, ZL2SET, ZL2UGL, ZL2CHV, ZL2BPS, ZL2BRG, ZL2SFM, and ZL2ACT.

Regards
Gavin ZL2ACT/ZK4EL
Branch 63 AREC Section Leader

NZART Upper Hutt Branch 63 Inc Meeting Agenda

Date: 2 May 2014

Time: 8:00 pm

Venue: Clubrooms, Park Street, Upper Hutt.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Matters Arising from Minutes
4. Correspondence Inwards and Outwards
5. Presidents Report
6. Treasurers Report
7. Subscriptions
8. AREC Report
9. Repeater Trustees Report
10. Other Written Reports (QSL Manager)
11. Notices of Motion
12. Remits of NZART AGM (select delegates)
13. General Business
14. Elections of Officers

TBARC Branch 42 Titahi Bay Amateur Radio Club (Inc)

Pre-loved Equipment Sale

Saturday 29 March 2013 1000 to 1300

On Sale (headline items)

TBA – Details to follow

How to get there

From Porirua, go north taking Titahi Bay road

Titahi Bay road to Te Pene Ave

Te Pene Ave to the NW end we are 5 Te Pene Ave (by the fire station).

(41°6'29.65"S, 174°50'12.04"E)

Lost?

The club repeater is on 675. The repeater will be monitored in the period leading up to the sale.

James Smith

Chairperson Branch 42

Pin-out Link

Unsure if this link maybe of use to some of you or not?

<http://pinouts.ru/>

Regards,

Tom ZL2HGR

NZART Branch 63 Incorporated

Council Depot
Park Street
Upper Hutt

Website: <http://zl2vh.org.nz/>

President	Mark	ZL2UFI	(04) 526 8446	mark@foxtrot.co.nz
Secretary	Justin	ZL2UGL	(04) 478 1965	zl2ugl@nzart.org.nz
Treasurer	Gavin	ZL2ACT	(04) 970 8533	gavin.smith@paradise.net.nz
AREC	Gavin	ZL2ACT	(04) 970 8533	gavin.smith@paradise.net.nz
Deputy AREC	Oliver	ZL2OLY	027 203 6012	zl2oly@nzart.org.nz
Newsletter Editor	David	ZL2DBP		zl2dbp@gmail.com
Webmaster	David	ZL2DBP		zl2dbp@gmail.com