



## ZL2VH Newsletter — February 2015

### President's Report

#### D-STAR 201—Feb 7 @ BR63 Clubrooms

Following on from the D-STAR 101 Session and the feedback from it, John and Mark ZL2UFI have been requested to do a follow up session called D-STAR 201. This session will focus on programming your radio from a PC, linking and unlinking from repeaters/reflectors, and a hands-on practical session.

The session is being held at the clubrooms; morning tea at 9:30 am for a 10 am start. Session Times: 10:00 am—12:00 pm (with 15 minute break 10:45 am to 11:00 am).

This time there is no cost, no lunch or free DVD full of content. Nine members have signed up so far so spaces are limited. So if you are interested in attending this session, then please contact Mark ZL2UFI [mark@foxtrot.co.nz](mailto:mark@foxtrot.co.nz)

#### Bike the Trail – Not Required

The organisers have advised that Branch 63 is **not** required to provide communications for this event.

Thank you to those members that have provided their early support for this event.

#### Jock White Field Day 2015

As the club's participation in the Bike The Trail is not required for this year, freeing up the weekend for the Jock White Field Day - Saturday 28 February (1500 to 2400 NZDT) to Sunday 1 March 2015 (0600 to 1500 NZDT).

The Club needs volunteers to set up and operate the station over the weekend. We also need a volunteer to be a 'night watchman' i.e. to stay with the caravan to ensure it and the associated equipment is secure overnight.

Details can be discussed at upcoming club meetings over the next two Friday nights to gauge the interest and assign tasks--basically we need someone to tow the caravan to the site and back (not necessarily the same person), someone to be responsible for the log and to submit it

at the end of the contest, and members to operate it over the weekend. This is all quite simple just needs a commitment from you, the membership.

### **Triumph Car Club Hill Climb**

And finally the club provided marshals for the Triumph's Car Club Hill Climb on Sunday the 25th in beautiful sunny weather. Thanks to Gavin ZL2ACT and Mark ZL2UFI for the organization and the following members: ZL2SY, ZL2ABN, ZL2TWS, ZL2DBP, ZL2OLY, ZL2UGL, ZL2SFM and ZL2BRG

### **Climie Maintenance Working Bee**

The South Hut Annex has been rebuilt by our contractor. Work on replacing the south hut's floor is ongoing and should be finished in a week. The next task for the contractor is to replace the north hut door. Whilst this work is being done we will be having a working bee to repaint the both huts. Dates for this work are either 14/15 or 21/22 Feb and will be discussed at the upcoming meetings.

73's and good DX

Simon ZL2BRG

## **Repeater Update – February 2015**

Work is ongoing as mentioned elsewhere on Climie maintenance.

### **ZL2TWS D-Star Hot Spot**

John ZL2TWS is experimenting with a high-power D-Star hotspot up and running. Currently based at his QTH, the hotspot is connected to the IRCDDDB network and gives access to a wide range of gateways and reflectors. Occasionally he connects it to 860 giving Climie users access. Other times its running on its own simplex frequency. It's well worth checking out.

Contact John ZL2TWS for more details.

### **3 cm Beacon**

Improvements are being made to the beacon's PA cooling. Will be installed when Climie maintenance work is completed

### **1292 23 cm Repeater**

Off air pending completion of the north hut door replacement.

### **860 D-Star Repeater**

On air.

### **5425 D-Star Repeater**

On air.

### **730 2 m FM Repeater**

On air.

### **53.950 6 m FM Repeater**

The 6 m repeater is proving troublesome. First there was a connector issue. Then the audio died on the new replacement repeater and finally the spare repeater developed a serious crackle. John ZL2TWS is planning a site visit to investigate.

73's and good DX

Simon ZL2BRG

### **Triumph Car Club Hill Climb**

The 2015 running of this event took place on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January in brilliant Upper Hutt sunshine. This was the third time that we have covered this event, and we are starting to get good at it. Because the organisers can not allow vehicles on the course, we are required to abandon our cars and use handhelds. This brings up other problems because parts of the course are "shaded" from Mt. Climie, especially if using low power. We solved the problem last year by setting up a temporary crossband repeater to provide better localised coverage. Fortunately, dual band handhelds are fairly common now, so finding enough suitable radios to access the repeater was not a problem. We did the same thing this year and it worked well. (I have to admit here that I personally had some radio problems, but they were not associated with crossband operations.)

Early in the day, one competitor "failed to proceed" on a part of the course which could not be seen by the adjacent marshals. This could have had dire safety consequences, but was dealt with by David and Justin auditing that section of track and declaring when a car was "in" and then "out" of that area. Later, that competitor was mobile again. Apparently, the electric fuel pump is adjacent to the differential on that particular Triumph Dolomite. The car had that much axle tramp on leaving the start, that the feed wire was pulled (or shook), off the pump.

Overall, the Car Club was pleased with the day. No prangs, no injuries. We can claim part of the credit for the successful day.

Thanks to ZL2DBP, ZL2ABN, ZL2TWS, ZL2UGL, ZL2OLY, ZL2BPS, ZL2SY, ZL2BRG, ZL2SFM & ZLACT

Regards

Gavin ZL2ACT

AREC Leader

# Christmas at Sea & Oil Rig Shift

*Sent in by John ZL2TWS in December 2014*

Christmas at sea this year towing the oil rig "Ocean America" to a new location off the Western Australian north west shelf to drill for more liquid gold.

## Facts

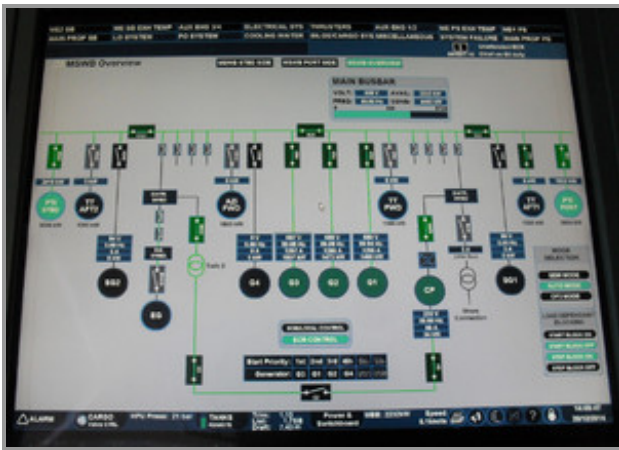
- Anchor Handling Tug Supply (AHTS) vessel Far Shogun  
<https://www.farstad.com/fleet/ahts-vessels/ahts-fleet-list/far-shogun>
- Towing sea speed of 6 knots
- 120 tonne wire rope pull on the rig
- Two 9-cylinder Rolls Royce Bergen diesel main engines
- 4000 kW to each propeller
- Three V16 3516 caterpillar auxiliary diesel engines. 1500 kW each on the electrical switchboard. That is a total of 12,500 kW to do this tow job.
- Fuel consumption Main engines 1000 L/hour
- Fuel consumption caterpillars 400 L/hour.
- Time of the tow is 18 hours.

Why is the price of oil so high you say? It costs a lot to explore and find new oil fields so we can have energy to burn and make plastics. Can you imagine a world without plastic?

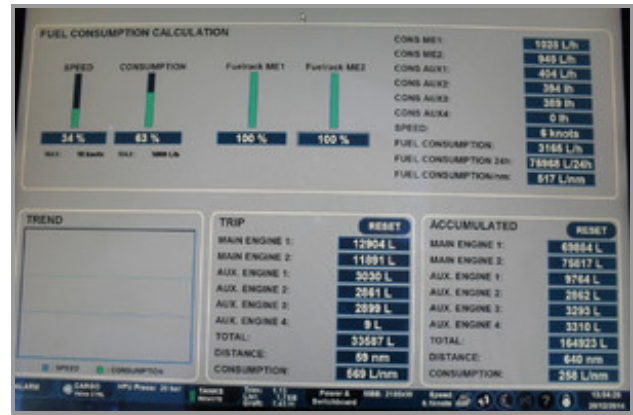
73 from ZL2TWS Maritime Mobile VK6



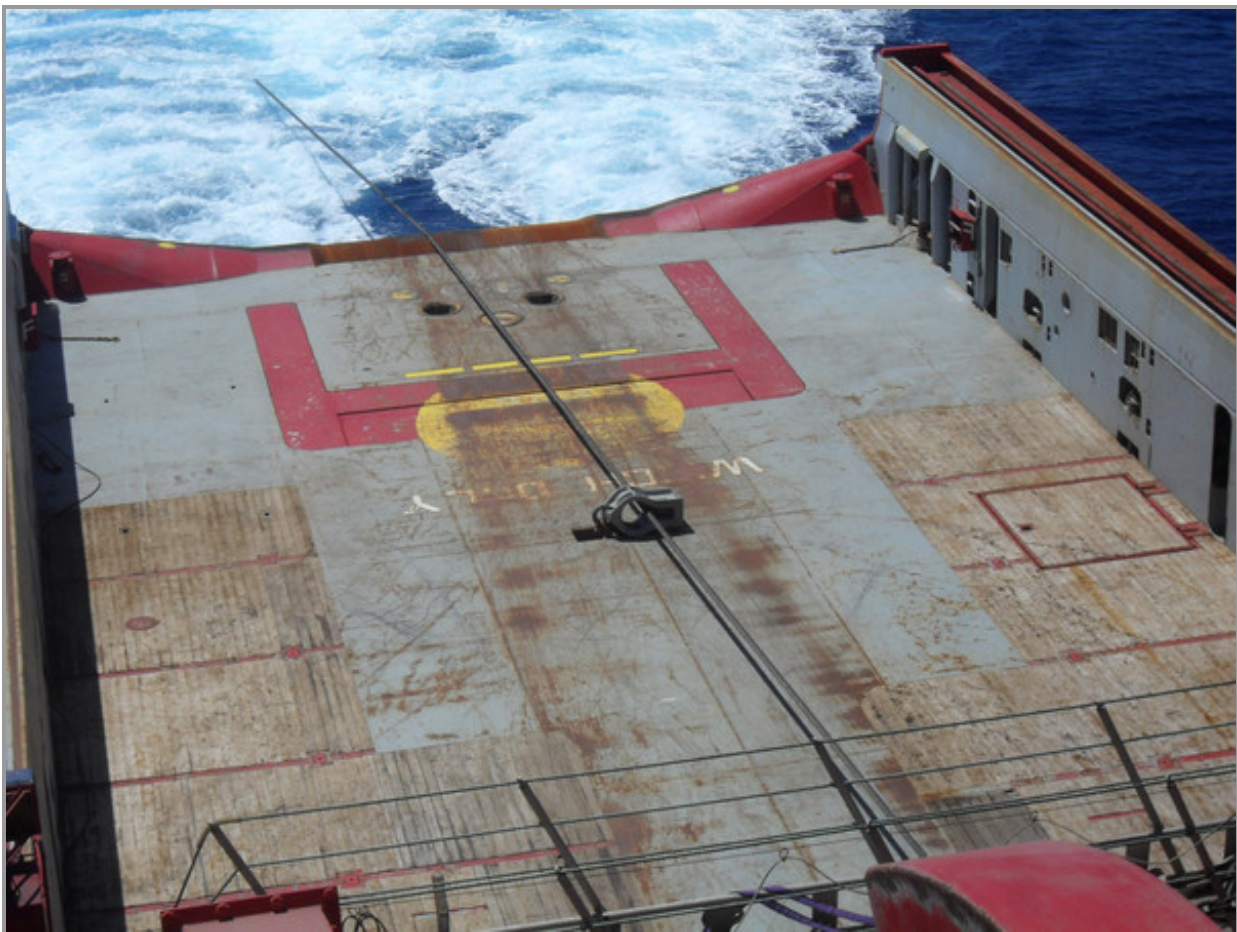
Ocean America



Power Panel



Fuel Panel



The Towing Cable

## DV On HF

Hi Guys

Have a look at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxqdGL8QfIA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxqdGL8QfIA). This is a presentation given by David Rowe VK5DGR at Dural NSW last Sunday (30.11.2014) on Codec2 and the SM1000 (Smart Mic). It takes 44 minutes and includes questions and answers.

Regards from Morrie ZL2ADP



## D-Star QSO Party Winners

ZL4DE won an ID-51 radio, so ZL is on the winners map. Why not someone from Branch 63 next year? <http://www.icom.co.jp/d-starparty2014/global/> 73 John ZL2TWS

## Updated Website Documents

John has submitted updated versions of a few documents hosted on the club website. He has also submitted a few extra links that D-Star users in particular may find of interest:

- [Guide to setting up a DV repeater](#)
- [Kiwi D-Star Yahoo! Group](#)

David ZL2DBP, webmaster

## British Car Day

*John ZL2TWS spotted this as being of potential interest to a number of club members*

**Thanks' to**  
**Ray Hartley**  
**Motors**  
18 Haining Street,  
Wellington.  
Telephone 04 384 4459

**Barry's Garage**  
www.barrysgarage.co.nz  
AUTO GLYM POLISH

Thanks to  
**FUJI XEROX**

**Repco**  
New Zealand  
Wellington

**autoclassics**  
386 Kapiti Rd  
Paraparaumu Beach  
ross@autoclassics.co.nz

Roy McGuinness  
classics cars  
Ph: (04) 297 1500

Thanks' to  
**NW**  
New World  
Tawa

**British Car Day**  
8th February 2015

**V8 Brits Day**  
and many many more British cars

**Trentham Memorial Park**  
10am to 3pm  
**ENTRY only \$5 per display vehicle**  
Use Barton Road, off Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt  
Contacts: Lyn/Keith Shackleton. Phone: 04 973 2904 Email: [thesacks@paradise.net.nz](mailto:thesacks@paradise.net.nz)

NZART Branch 63 Incorporated  
Council Depot  
Park Street  
Upper Hutt

President: Simon ZL2BRG  
Secretary: Justin ZL2UGL  
Treasurer: Gavin ZL2ACT