



ZL2VH Newsletter – February 2016

As this is the first issue of 2016 (there was no newsletter produced for January), a belated wish to all for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

President's Report

First off, I hope everybody had a great Christmas and New Year. Certainly the weather around Wellington was brilliant over the break. 2016 promises to be an exciting year for the Club.

By the time you read this, the Wallaceville hill climb AREC event will be done and dusted. Without income from AREC events like this Branch 63 could not possibly maintain the repeaters at Climie. For this, we need members to volunteer a few hours of their time. However, I sense a general apathy creeping in and I'm tempted to rework a President Kennedy quote: "Ask not what the Club can do for you, but what you can do for your club".

Jock White Field Day: Saturday 27th – Sunday 28th February

The next event on the calendar is the Jock White Field Day on the last weekend of February, at our usual site in Kaitoke Regional Park.

The contest runs on 80m and 40m, ssb/cw. In the past the Club has run an 80m ssb station only, and it would be great to expand to include cw and, potentially, 40m. (*Thought we have used 40m – Ed.*)

We need volunteers to assemble and run the station over the weekend, plus – we will be having a BBQ on the Sunday afternoon. Here's a link to the Jock White rules:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities/contest-rules/rules-jock-white-field-day>

Club Activities

It has been suggested that we should hold a brainstorming session as to what activities / sessions members would like Branch 63 to organise. Possibly the best place for this is the AGM but I'm open to suggestions. E-mails appreciated.

We are always looking for articles to fill the pages of the newsletter. Please forward anything, no matter how large or small, to the editor – Eric ZL2SET – ericwilby@gmail.com.

73s and good DX
Simon ZL2BRG
President.

Branch 63 Repeater Update – January 2016

Yesterday John ZL2TWS, Mike ZL2NA and Simon ZL2BRG completed installation of a new folded dipole antenna for Br63's Climie 6m repeater.

This is the completion of months of work by John and Phil ZL2HF. The new installation includes a new bracket and pole assembly to mount the dipole, along with the hardware to raise and lower the mast. As can be seen from the photo, this new antenna should last many years. Special thanks to John ZL2TWS and Phil ZL2HF for all the work.

Coverage reports so far have been encouraging and we'd like more reports, from both near and far. Please chip in and use this resource.



John's Report:

Work still to be done:

1. ~~Add Earth wire from bare copper stranded running up the mast to the lower collar.~~
(Completed by Mike ZL2NSA).
2. Bottom pipe plate 2 x 10 mm x 40 mm galv bolts to be replaced by 2 x 12 mm x 40 mm 316 SS.
3. Collar flat plates to have spacers fitted so as not to deform the plates, which they currently are.
4. Dipole rubber sealing was supposed to be on the top side of the heat shrink only, and not both sides. Rubber tape should be around the aluminium to cast clap centre section. (Not that important at the moment).

Results of Electrical Testing (for the folded dipole design).

Forward Power from duplexer to antenna is 60 W. (Increased from 40 W).

SWR at 53.950 MHz is 1.5 : 1.

SWR at 52.950 MHz is 1.3 : 1.

Squelch control turned to full. This causes breaking on weaker stations who over-deviate, but should stop false triggering from QRM experienced over the last few months.

Repeater receiver is very narrow at only 5 kHz. NBFM is best to use for now, i.e. +/- 2.5 kHz deviation. Drop deviation of use compressor with low mic. gain only. Stronger stations are not affected by this but may get reports of distorted signals if running high deviation.

The new replacement repeater is being repaired and will be put back into service eventually.

A good result all round with portable VX5, VX7 and FT-817 users in the Hutt Valley now able to work the repeater where they were previously not able to.

This proved that end fed antennas are not suitable at Mt. Climie. The folded dipole design gives the lower even angles of radiation into the lower valley.

Status Updates:

- Climie Mesh Tests:** Tests are still ongoing.
- WebSDR:** The chassis-mount USB sockets have arrived and construction continues.
- 3 cm Beacon:** On Air.
- 1292 23cm:** On Air
- 860 DSTAR:** On Air. CCS7 is now enabled on the ZL2VH gateway.
- 5425 DSTAR:** On Air.
- 730 2m FM Repeater:** On Air.
- 53.950 6m FM Repeater:** Installation of new folded dipole complete. Reception reports appreciated.

AREC Exercise

Today, Sunday 31st of January, seven of us provided comms for the Triumph Car Club's annual hill climb on Wallaceville Hill Rd.



Unfortunately, we had two people withdraw from the event, but with a little creativity, and stretching of resources, we coped OK.

This year, for the first time, we were able to deploy a conventional two metre STSP repeater to the event. This proved to be a good choice, and excellent coverage was reported at all sites. It was a reasonably simple job to re-program the Tait Slimline repeater, and re-tune the duplexers to 146.675 MHz, the nationally recognised STSP two metre frequency. Although we have not had any problems with our usual cross-band operation, two metres only is simpler for our operators.

Our official duties included being flag marshals to stop the event for safety reasons if required. Fortunately there was no need to do this. A secondary task was to liaise with

residents who needed to use the road while the event was on. I found the residents to be most understanding, and were prepared to wait for us to release them onto the course. We also audited vehicles going into, and out of, a section of track which had previously caused problems.

In all, a nice day out. Tomorrow may result in a few sunburnt faces, arms and legs. As well as ensuring that we were watered and fed, the Car Club made a very welcome cash donation to the Branch which was gratefully received.

Thank you to those who participated, being: Eric ZL2SET, Malcolm ZL2UDF, Steve ZL2YD, Mike ZL2NSA, Justin ZL2UGL, Mark ZL2UFI and Gavin ZL2ACT.

73

Gavin Smith ZL2ACT

The following items have been passed on by Mark ZL2UFI:

We have developed free screen savers that help you study for your ham radio exam. There are 3 different versions, one for each class of license. You may download these for free.

The screen savers will randomly flash a question, then the correct answer.

You may download these at
www.randl.com/shop/catalog/screen.php
<<http://www.randl.com/shop/catalog/screen.php>>

Thank You!
Sales Department @ R&L Electronics
800-221-7735
www.randl.com <<http://www.randl.com>>

From: Radio Spectrum Management <info@rsm.govt.nz>
Date: Thursday, 21 January 2016 at 4:54 PM
Subject: **Important changes - Product labelling February 2016** [UNCLASSIFIED]

To users of the C-Tick (below) and Supplier Code Numbers (SCN),

You are receiving this e-mail as a registered user of the C-Tick and Supplier Code Numbering (SCN) system for electrical, electronic and radio products supplied in the New Zealand market.

From 1 March 2016 the labelling requirements change. The RCM replaces the C-Tick and the R-NZ replaces the SCN.
The C-Tick and SCN labelling will only be acceptable for stock labelled prior to 1 March 2016.

All suppliers in the New Zealand market must register on the Responsible Supplier and Equipment Registration Database before using the new labelling regime.

The following link will provide further information on labelling requirements and help on registering:
<http://www.rsm.govt.nz/compliance/supplier-requirements/product-labelling>

If you need assistance in any aspect of these changes, please contact the Business Service Centre on 0508 RSM INFO (0508 776 463) or info@rsm.govt.nz

Regards,

Radio Spectrum Management,
Infrastructure & Resource Markets Group
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Please find attached a Starter Document for the 'Newcomers section' of the February VHF Contest. The intention is to generate excitement, and offer support to those who would build an antenna and climb a hill, and then get on the air with it - a principle and fundamental activity of our beloved hobby that those who have done remember fondly, and those who haven't can see the magic in it!

I wonder if you would please hand this Document on to you those in your Custodianship who might engage? And perhaps to others who might enjoy a read also.

Thank you for your creativity and leadership with your own people at the grassroots level! Keep working hard to improve Amateur Radio!

Vy 73,
Steve Wright ZL1BHD
Volunteer/Assistant

(Attachment referred to follows on pages 7 – 10)

NZART Branch 63 Incorporated
Council Depot
Park Street
Upper Hutt

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

VHF Contest Newcomers Section Cheatsheet

Feb 6,7 2016

Greetings!

You are eligible to enter this section if you have not done VHF contesting in the last ten years.

A wide range of options are available to you. You may ;

1. Join an existing nearby group - please see attached contact sheet below, and see if there is a party near you. Do contact them and volunteer to do a task.
2. Form a local newcomers group or get some quality hilltop alone-time. Grab a little yagi, a radio, a few mates, a tent, and a bag of nuts and raisins and take over a hilltop nearby. It's camping and ham radio - you'll have fun!
3. Fire up the home station and have a spin or even take the mobile hilltopping. At your leisure, get on the air and and put out some CQs - you'll get a personal best, we'll make sure!
4. Go the whole hog and enter as a full-on contest station - maximum kudos available here, but some experience and equipment required.

The National System Check-in operator will be active most of the time and can handle queries - their callsign is ZL6VHF.

Contesting frequencies in use :

FM - 50.220 144.500 432.500

SSB - 50.200 144.200 432.200 (approximately)

Hours of operation - 1pm Saturday until 11pm Saturday, and 7am Sunday until 1pm.

Note: The full contest runs from 5pm-11pm Saturday, and 7am to 1am Sunday, so operate any time you choose. The newcomers section is more a 'Saturday afternoon' activity, but others will stay until late or camp overnight - it's quite up to you. If you would like to go into Sunday and keep giving out numbers to the high-altitude lads, then just go for it. If you are this dedicated - consider entering the full contest and skip the newcomers section.

The high-altitude stations will be looking for newcomers ON FM at the top of the hour for ten minutes or so. If you can hear them but not work them, let the NatSys Operator know and we'll try and help get a newcomer a long-distance contact - that's their job.

Other suggestions ;

a. WLAN 2.4 and 5.8 GHz distance records are there to be broken. The "VHF Contest WLAN Record" hasn't been set at all, so if you enter then likely you'll be the record holder! You can run full-power inside the ham bands with this gear - that's nearly 200 watts EIRP, and 100km range on the microwave bands with off-the-shelf hardware! If you make a contact on these bands, let ZL6VHF know!

b. UHF and HF CB non-amateur - suit Scout groups. This is the perfect opportunity for a Scout leader or enthusiastic person to grab a handful of UHF and HF CB radio gear and set up camp on a hilltop with some kids. Three element 27MHz HF yagi with 15 watts SSB? Ten element UHF yagi and 5 watts? Two scout groups 20-100km apart? If you know people who would be thrilled to do this, please get them the right information, and pitch in and make it happen - you are the change that we need!

List of Stations

<u>Group Callsign</u>	<u>Locator</u>	<u>Location (name)</u>	<u>altitude(M)</u>	<u># people onsite</u>	<u>bands</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Comment s</u>
leave blank							
ZL2WH O	RE79U063	North Range Road	461	1	6,2,70,23	Palm. Nth	Southward s obstructed . North, West good.
							Site may change if better one found.
ZL1BHD	RF82DO	Paeroas	954.5	1	6,2,70	Rotorua	
ZL1TPH							

ZL1SW W/ ZL1AA	RF73IR	Rodney Road	375	2 ?	6 m, 2 m , 70 , 23, 13, 9, 6, 3 cm	70 km LOS north of AKL
ZL2BRG	RE78NU	Mt Climie	850	1	2,70,23,3cm	Upper Hutt
ZL3RC						
ZL4OL	RE54gg	Waitati	20	1	6,2,70,23	Dunedin
ZL2OK	RE89KV	Takapau	333		6,2,70	Central Hawkes Bay
ZL3NW	RE55HO	Kaiapoi - home stn		1	6, 2, 70, 23	Canterbur y
ZL4AA	RE54gl	Mt Cargill	640	2+?	6,2,70,23,6cm	Dunedin

Rules? There aren't many.

1. One point per contact - to any station
2. Any simplex contact 6m/2m/70cm and up is valid
3. Repeater contacts are valid, but you or they must be greater than 100km from that repeater
4. No National System Contesting please - administration only on the system.
5. Normal contest elbowing is fine, but no poor behaviour, please. Show acceptance, of ourselves and of others.

For simplicity, there's only a single frequency per band for FM. Do feel free to chat on a quiet contesting frequency, but leave gaps and/or move if you're interrupted by contest traffic. Lots of chatter actually helps others find you, but QSY up 25KHz if there is contest traffic. It's been a long time since we've seen a 'full' band of VHF testers.

If the NatSys Check-in station is overwhelmed, please do some or all of you own logging. ZL6VHF is there primarily there to assist mobiles and other itinerant operators without pencil and paper, and to help people to just have a go. If you can be organised with pen and paper, or even some electronic means, then that would help a lot.

The "newcomers section" is not part of "The Contest" - it is an informal publicity campaign run by a few testers to try show people how easy and fun it is. The intent is for results to published with or around the same time as the 'Full' Contest results.

Content and input from many people. Summarised, distilled, and presented in a great hurry by SteveWrightNZ@gmail.com

Please email any questions, or join the ZLVHFContest Yahoo Group.