



ZL2VH Newsletter – June 2017

President's Report

Winter is about to arrive and the British Lions have done so as well.

John ZL2TWS and Malcolm ZL2 UDF have been up to the repeater site and Malcolm has commenced the long awaited Site Survey. This will allow us to benchmark the state of our installation and help us compile the asset register and a workplan for the future.

A decision will need to be made in the future regarding to 730 repeater, it is coming to the end of its useful life and we will need to plan for a replacement.

Other projects can be looked at in due course but the repeater will be the priority.

NZART Conference - Rotorua this weekend.

Not much else on the horizon so.....

73's and good DX
Mike ZL2NSA

Branch 63 Repeater Update

395 working well with intermittent DX signals occasionally triggering the repeater. Mute gate adjusted up at Climie and is still adequate to be used with low power home stations.

395 beacons every 30 minutes.

730 has on-going de-sense and QRN problems. The following steps have been taken to diagnose the problem.

- 1) 730 T800/II used a loan PA borrowed from Brian ZL1HN. Set at 50 watts output for two weeks test period. The PA was not the problem.
- 2) A spare duplexer is in service to diagnose the intermittent and temperature related de-sense and noisy signal performance of the Tait T800/II. The duplexer was not the problem.
- 3) The LDF-450 coax cable feeder to the 730 antenna was found to have leakage to station ground via the coax copper jacket. The cable duct is full of water. Removed from service and marked for replacement.
- 4) A spare cable also run in the same conduit has tested good and is currently connected to the 730 repeater. This cable is not the cause of the QRN.
- 5) The 730 antenna is 12 months old. The problem is not changing with weather conditions. The antenna is not expected to be the problem and very difficult to replace to prove this.
- 6) Tait Slimline 25 Watt repeater was put into service on Monday 29th May for a week evaluation. Tait T800/II exciter fault?

Brian ZL1HN has advised the T800/II series of repeaters suffered with ageing from unstable Exciter VCO capacitors. These should be replaced with quality gold plated ceramic Johanson type capacitors. Some work is involved for the right person with suitable workshop facilities.

Once work is completed it is hoped that this will allow 730 to function for many years to come but not guaranteed due to the age of other components such as SMD electrolytic capacitors that have limited life expectancy. The 730 repeater is 18 years old.

730 "Talk Fest" is required.

Get on air and see if the 730 can be endurance tested.

Who wants to start a 730 "Talk Fest" and get the region on air?

1292 23cm repeater beacon has been repaired by Paul ZL2UGR remotely. Thank you Paul. 1292 beacons every 15 minutes with ZL2VH - 5 beeps - ZL2VH

5425 and 860 DV operating very well with recent coverage checks done by David ZL2DRM in the Masterton and Castle Point area.

3cm beacon is working as expected.

D-Star WiFi link is still down with a temporary D-Star connection to ZL2VH B provided via a Raspberry Pi3 and UDRC modem by ZL2NSA.

Also from John:

We went to Climie this morning (29 May) with Malcolm ZL2UDF. Earthing, drainage, coax cables and painting are the current jobs. 730 is running on the slimline yet again.

Still evaluating the problems. Will know soon if it's the Tait repeater that is going bad on us.

Then we can buy a new one. Yeah! *(Had to put that comment in John – Ed.).*

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

DV News

Gents *BE WARNED* G3 registration issues.

On the PAPA net those who have registered on US Trust using G3 are not able to use the system due to being also registered on ircDDB.

Robin AA4RC has released a statement (somewhere) that there is a G3 problem with this. Seems if already registered we could have a problem changing over.

Brian ZL1HN, Mark ZL2UFI and John ZL2TWS have all had a go at registering correctly on G3 using Brian's new server.

PAPA net had many talking about problems.

By the time we get a new server built I would expect the problems to be resolved.

We should have the G2 kept as an emergency standby box in case of needing a roll back.

This web site is a place to go to check your registration functionality of both systems.

(D-Star Query only reports a registration and not current functionality status)

<https://wb1gof.dstargateway.org/cgi-bin/dstar-regcheck>

It lists ircDDB and US Trust separately. i.e. one can be working and the other not.

ZL2TWS and ZL2TWT register correctly.

ZL2LV is OK but ZL2UFI does not due to dual registration.

ZL2VH, ZL1IBD and ZL2KB is an example of how a valid registration should look for both systems.

Check your own call sign for status.

John ZL2TWS

From the Treasurer

As Treasurer, I've just completed an exercise in having a look at the coffers (excluding assets) for the past five years.

To view my file, click this link:

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AoGvMjQez2ZmjUH2G5WU0XW881ce>

For the High Flyers

Anyone interested in communicating with aircraft may be interested in this, as advertised in the RSGB GB2RS weekly news broadcast. The frequency schedule is in the URL given.

[Aeronautical Mobile circumnavigation begins](#)

RS211953 | June 2, 2017

On the 1st of June Brian Lloyd, WB6RQN left from Miami to recreate Amelia Earhart's around-the-world flight on its 80th anniversary. He will be using HF SSB and automatic link establishment, ALE, from his single-engine plane named Spirit. He is communicating /AM while flying. The two month flight will follow Earhart's historic route to circumnavigate the world at the equator. Using the callsign WB6RQN/AM while aeronautical mobile, he will operate on 14210.0kHz USB, 14346.0kHz USB, 18117.5kHz USB, or 7130.0 Hz LSB. His HF radio is a Mobat Micom-3 transceiver, with a maximum power of 125 watts. The antenna is under the fuselage. Brian Lloyd's radio schedule is posted on the project's website

<http://projectameliaearhart.org/ham-radio>

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