

	<h1>QST63</h1> <p>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 – December 2018



President's Report

The End (of the year) is nigh.....Time Flies, Tempus Fugit.

The last meeting of the year will be Friday 14th and will be a BBQ at the clubrooms.

First meeting of the New Year will be 11 Jan.

As we did last year we will venture up to Mt Climie for a Friday night meeting at some stage...(weather and vehicle dependant).

Recent events:

In Oct we provided marshals and the caravan to the car club race day on the Wainui Coast Road. Strangely both vehicle incidents happened in the vicinity of Gavin.....

This event gathered \$300 into our spending accounts, so we spent it by taking advantage of the ARRL Thanksgiving Day book sale. There will be 8 of the most recent ARRL publications available for members to read.

Recently Brian (ZL2CHV) and myself went up to the Mt Climie repeater site for the spring inspection, we fared quite well over the winter with no indications of leaking or rodent infestation.

We attached "Buried Cables" signs to the poles to warn contractors to be careful with their machinery.

The main reason for our visit was to see what we need to do in order to relocate the 730 equipment to the North Hut, one possible plan would be to install a second 19 inch rack and shift the 1292 gear into it, allowing all the 730 gear (repeater, filters, batteries etc) to go into its own rack..

Prior to this we need to make sure that the earthing set-up is all in order with new earth stakes and cables.

Our repeater trustees are considering a change to the 1292 set-up which will make the repeater more useable in the DX world.

Brian – ZL2CHV continues to host radio and stargazing sessions at the Glider Club at Kaitoke , and David ZL2DRM is carrying out testing of a number of HF antennas over at Kaitoke Regional Park – watch the club's Facebook page for notification of times.

Simon – ZL2BRG was involved in the VHF contest and I believe that Mark – ZL2UFI has been doing some SOTA activities.

Both David and Mark were involved with the Makers Faire that is shown on the cover of the latest Break-In. They were busy talking to the public when the photo was taken.

Upcoming Events:

Last weekend in Feb – JWFD

There is probably more to add but its late and I need my diet sleep..

Mike ZL2NSA
President Br63.

Branch 63 Repeater Update

Sometime on Monday the ZL2VH DSTAR gateway stopped working. Probably related to the storms we've been having. The PC fails to boot with absolutely no life, its a dead parrot etc.

Hopefully the hard disk is still intact, so it may be possible to put the disk in another spare Lenovo pc that I have. That may take some time because the device mappings are different when the hard disk is swapped.

So, in the meantime, I'll look at putting a Qnet Gateway up at least temporarily, thanks to a donation from David ZL2DRM. Updates will be posted on the Upper Hutt Facebook page.

Status Updates

3cm Beacon Pretty much complete. Waiting for a waterproof connector to arrive then it can go back up the mast.

1292 / 23cm There is a proposal to modify the 1292 repeater to swap polarization to horizontal, shift frequency and add a separate beacon output. Comments / feedback to the Club please

On Air

DSTAR Local Mode only. See Above
860 / 5425 On Air

730 On Air

395 / 6M On Air

From Tecsun Radios, Australia

Have a look at the following link:

<https://mailchi.mp/b78747461327/spacex-have-launched-a-satellite-amateur-radio-operators-can-use?e=0fe6f2c3b7>

And, as it's that time of year.....

T'was the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HTs to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Re-soldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

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Seasons Greetings to All

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.

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