



ZL2VH Newsletter – December 2021

President's Report

Summer is nearly upon us again, the Bands are out there somewhere, and Covid still tries to make life difficult for us. There is QR code located by the door at the clubrooms for members and visitors to use. We have not been able to work out what the traffic light system means for us yet. At the end of the day you are all able to work out what is needed to keep yourself and others safe.

It is Br63 75th anniversary this month, we will have a small get together at a local venue (pay your own way) hopefully before Christmas. No doubt the traffic lights will add to the confusion.

Wellington Beacons update. (From John ZL2TWS)

Hawkins Hill VHF/UHF/SHF Beacons may not be on air until 2022. Under ground conduit that passes coax cables between the beacon TX building and antenna pole has been blocked. Cables will not move and cannot be used to draw through new cables. A winch is required to pull through old cables attached to a new draw rope.

Weather, mainly high winds, has prevented outside work. Once equinox winds have eased the WVHFG hopes to be able to continue work.

Pole ladder was delivered to site two weeks ago.

National system is still not working south due to pine forest blockage at Belmont and new DMR repeaters including 710 Belmont are a higher priority than the beacons. 710 gain north/south arrays still need to be connected. 20dB of de-sense is currently measured on 710 so not that usable.

We wish WVFHG the best conditions and resources to get Hawkins Hill back to historical service. It is one of the best sites in Wellington like Climie.

Bay of Islands 6m Beacon on 50.011 MHz is back on air.

Call Sign ZL1SIX located at Manginangina RF64VT.

25W, Vertical, 3el Yagi Beaming West, CW modulation.

The ZL1SIX beacon was spotted yesterday 26th Nov in VK2 and VK5.

ZL2VH 28.229 MHz beacon was also spotted in VK5 the same day.

A short Sporadic-E opening.

73 and good DX. John ZL2TWS

I expect Friday 17th Dec will be the last meeting for the year with Friday meetings resuming either 7th or 14th of Jan.

Upcoming events etc. (From Brian ZL2CHV)

Hey all.

For any interested hams, I will be going to the Upper Valley Glider Club for New Years. Anyone who wants to come up is welcome...from the 29th till the 3rd ish...nothing set yet.

Come up to play portable radio and large telescopes !!
BBQ and bacon on site !! BYO on the beer. Brian.

Jock White at end of Feb.

73

Mike ZL2NSA

Branch 63 Repeater Update

With Summer here we need to organise a working bee (or three) to complete these tasks along with general Climie site maintenance.

Status Updates

Climie KiwiDR: We are ready to install the long wire antenna for the Climie Kiwisdr. Pending a suitable working bee date.

10m Beacon: On air. Reception reports appreciated. !

3cm Beacon: Repaired waiting to be re-installed

1292 23cm: On Air

DSTAR: On Air. Waiting for suitable working bee to install the second controller allowing IRCDDDB to be run on 860.

730: On Air

395 6M: On Air

From Malcolm ZL2UDF.....

(Apologies for missing the shed meet date – Ed.)

Branch 50 (Wellington) NZART

December 2021

Postal address: 51 Tilbury St, Fairfield, Lower Hutt 5011.

Bank: ANZ 06-0541-0859045-00

E-mail: secretary@zl2wb.com

Website: <http://zl2wb.com/wp/>

Social Group: George's QTH, 14 Vasanta Avenue, Ngaio.

(Contact: Mike Hoult ZL2VMH, 04-478-5437)

Club Net: Sunday 9.30am local time, **7055 kHz LSB**.

Chair: Mike Woods ZL1AXG. Secretary-treasurer: Malcolm Wheeler ZL2UDF



Shed Meeting

Sunday 5 December, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

John ZL2JPM QTH

9 Ramphal Terrace

Khandallah

Tea or coffee will be provided after the meeting.

Christmas Lunch

This has been booked for the Monday 6 December 2021 at noon, at the Petone Club, 47 Udy street, Petone. Attached is a Menu to review. As those attending need to book in to the club, if we meet outside at 11:55am.

Please bring proof of double vaccination plus a driver's license or some form of identification, this is required to enter the club.

Social Group Meeting

Tuesday 21 December 2021

1:30 pm George ZL2AG QTH - 14 Vasanta Avenue, Ngaio

(Contact: Mike Hoult ZL2VMH, 04-478-5437)

Wrights Hill Fortress

Boxing Day 26 December 2021.

Opens 10:00am. Check if open due to Covid conditions and social distancing.

Interesting radio equipment and communications room.

Refer: [Wrights Hill Fortress - Wrights Hill Fortress](#)

November Branch Meeting

Held Tuesday 16 November, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Collective Community Hub, 1/33 Johnsonville Road, Johnsonville

KiwiSDR project update (A RemoteDX project)

“H” Night Contest, 8 December 2021

H Night commemorates the return of some Amateur Radio privileges after World War 2.

On the evening of 8 December 1945 Amateurs were permitted once more to operate on the 80 metre band (and other allocated spectrum just below today's 6 metre band).

And those wanting more information download this PDF: [H Night Preamble](#)

SOTA Net

There is a SOTA on the National System, most Monday's 8:45pm for about thirty minutes with Ian ZL3GIG as the Net Controller.

AREC

At the September Committee meeting, John ZL2XJ provided an update on AREC. The AREC rules have been updated. John has forwarded a copy to the committee for review. Each Branch Committee is responsible for the branch's AREC Group. In the case with the Branch 50 AREC Group, we have combined with Branch 74 (VHF Group) and Branch 42 (Titahi Bay) to form a single AREC Wellington Group under the stewardship of Branch 74.

An MOU is required to be agreed by the three branches to formalise the existing arrangement in having a combined AREC Wellington Group. John as the Branch AREC Group leader remains responsible for Branch 50.

Please refer to attached AREC Rules.

ILLW (Lighthouse weekend)

21 Aug 2022. The Committee is investigating an operation on Somes/Matai Island. The Committee intends to visit Somes/Matai Island 1Q2022 during the day to scope out the opportunity to operate from island. If others wish to visit with us, please advise a committee member. The plan is to catch the 10:00am East West Ferry from Queens Wharf.

Trading Table

Please refer to http://zl2wb.com/wp/?page_id=4341

To order any of Wellington Branch 50 NZART kits , books or other items, please email us at tradingtable@zl2wb.com

Payments options include Internet banking and visiting an ANZ Bank branch.

Make payments to bank account 06 – 0541 – 0859045 – 01

Please include your Name and Callsign in the details fields with your payment.

Note: You do not need to be a member of the branch to make a purchase.

Mag Loop Capacitor Starter Kit



This is a very easy to build variable capacitor with widely spaced plates. The configuration is a butterfly design, so that there are no sliding contacts to either side of the capacitor electrodes.

The capacitor stator plates are suspended on four M6 brass threaded rods. This makes direct connection to the ends of a robust loop conductor very practical. This very direct connection will keep the mag loop resistive losses to a minimum which is very important if building a transmitting loop.

The value of the capacitor in pico Farads (pF) can be adapted to a wide range of mag loop arrangements by adding or removing stator and rotor plates that are held on the threaded rods with M6 brass nuts. The starter kit with 9 rotor plates and 20 stator plates will give a capacitance of about 12pF to 65pF and a voltage rating of 3.5kV.

ONLY NZ\$90 INCLUDING PARCEL POST SHIPPING ANYWHERE IN NZ.

Random Thoughts on Vintage Radio.

A book by R G Newlands ZL2AG, cost \$25.00 including packing and post.

This book is a collection of previously published magazine articles contributed by George Newlands ZL2AG for the NZ Vintage Radio Society. Some of his writing has also been published worldwide and in the NZART Break In magazine.

Random Thoughts on Vintage Radio reflects his life-long fascination with servicing and restoring vintage radio receivers.

The book consists of 38 chapters (240 pages). It includes a diverse range of thoughts such as "Collecting –the disease we all share", "Valve life and reliability", "Servicing a Valve Chassis", and "Disposal of a collection", to name but a few.



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.

NZART Branch 63 Incorporated
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