



QST63
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Branch 63 Clubrooms
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Newsletter of The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters, Upper Hutt Branch 63, Inc.

December 2011

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Presidents Report

Hi everyone... well it's almost Christmas/New Year time, or as some say the silly season! Anyway, I hope you all the opportunity for a well earned rest over this time with a chance to catch up with loved ones and friends.

Thanks to those members who have helped out at the recent AREC Events it is appreciated not only from a club point of view but also from the people we provide the coverage for.

Neil ZL2TNG has agreed to make a new 6M Beacon antenna, so the beacon can be returned to being "on air". A great deal of work was done many years ago to get the beacon on the air, and it seems the right thing to do to keep it going, so thanks to Neil for stepping up to do this on behalf of the club. No doubt we'll all be soon on this band after the turning off of the TV One transmitter in September 2013 in Wellington.

ICOM NZ has offered another incentive for Upper Hutt Branch 63 members to get onto D-Star. This deal is open from 1 December 2011 and closes on 12 December 2011 (the 12 days of Christmas!). Check your email inboxes for the ICOM deal details.

Time is now to start looking to National Field Day in February next year. The branch has managed through a few members to get this activity going each year, so would be good for a few more members to be involved in this one.

Also don't forget that the NZART Conference for next year is being held in Nelson - in years gone by it has been one of the best locations to go to as you'll all know. So if considering going then get in early on the accommodation and travel arrangements to avoid as they say any disappointment.

Well that's the news from me... 73's and good DX....

Mark ZL2UFI, President

Repeater Report

Sorry guys not much to report this month.

A working bee is coming to install the Climie end of the DStar gateway link.

Apart from that all the repeaters appear to be operating 'nominally'.

Hopefully more next month.

Simon ZL2BRG, Repeater Trustee

AREC Report

A number of events were supported during the month of November.

3rd November, a LandSAR evening briefing along with the organisers of the Tararua Mountain Race. We were also shown the LandSAR operation at Wellington Central Police Station.

5th November, Peter ZL2HM and Eric ZL2SET starting soon after 05:30 hrs for the LandSAR event. Read Eric ZL2SET report in the newsletter for more information.

19th November, Enduro event day in the Akatarawa forest for KMMC, refer <http://www.kmmc.co.nz> for information about this club.

5 sets of operators, at positions of KMMC clubrooms, Cookes Road, Puketiro Pit Stop, Puketiro road and position off Flights Road, being John ZL2UX, Gavin ZL2ACT, Colin ZL2COL & Chris ZL1CDM, Neil ZL2TNG, Malcolm ZL2UDF. Thanks to Colin & Chris of Wellington branch 50 for supporting an AREC position at late notice. Besides wireless traffic, other duties included road traffic, punching tickets by Gavin to confirm the competitors had passed the way point, locating missing officials.

20th November, trail event day in the Akatarawa forest for KMMC.

4 operators at similar or same positions as previous day. The team was lead by Arnold ZL2ASD and supported by Gavin ZL2ACT, Ted ZL2TED and Eric ZL2SET. Thanks to Ted of Hutt Valley branch 18 for supporting the AREC event. Arnold reported similar operations to the previous day.

26th November, KMMC MX Club Competition first day. Ian ZL2TTA led the team supported by Colin ZL2COL and Chris ZL2CDM of Wellington branch 50. Thanks to Colin and Chris for their support. The duties were mainly acting as Flag Marshals. The KMMC is now deploying RFID on the bikes to track circuit lap speed and race position, there were some technical challenges initially on race day with the mounting on the handle bar padding rotating, with the result of a poor read. In another case a metal film was found under the padding. The system was checked out on a few bikes successfully several weeks before, except some bikes on the race day dropped a spanner in the works! This put the program behind. Our team finished soon after 17:30 hrs.

27th November, KMMC MX Club Competition second day. The team was Colin ZL2COL, Frank ZL2TTS, both of Wellington branch 50 and Malcolm ZL2UDF. The duties were mainly acting as Flag Marshals. Generally the event went well except for a few accidents which being reported as minor. The body armour the riders wear give reasonable protection.

Colin ZL2COL is the Wellington branch AREC Section Leader.

Have a pleasant Christmas and New Year.

Malcolm ZL2UDF
Section Leader, Upper Hutt branch 63.

SAR Exercise 04 - 06 November 2011

A Wellington Search and Rescue Organisation exercise took place during the above dates in support of the Tararua Mountain Race and organised by the Police SAR - Wellington. Other organisations involved were LandSAR Wellington, Tararua Mountain Race Trust and AREC, which was represented by Peter ZL2HM, Eric ZL2SET, Lynn ZL2LKW and Don ZL2TLL with John ZL4JY organising things. The following background to the race is copied from the supplied race documentation.

Race background

The Tararua Mountain Race is an event where participants (average 90 per event) race across the Southern Crossing route of the Tararua Forest Park. It is a one day event that has previously been held on the second weekend in March. This year's event was postponed to November due to the February earthquake in Christchurch.

Participants take from five to ten hours to complete. The event has been going since 1990. Unique to the Southern Crossing route is the challenge of the very difficult, above the bush line, section between Alpha and Field Huts. Participants and marshals may be exposed to extreme weather conditions and very rough terrain while in this section.

The Tararua Mountain Race has a Trust (the concessionaire), Organising Committee, Race Director, participants (runners) and volunteers. The participants and volunteers are involved only on the weekend of the event. The volunteers consist of three groups: SAR personnel; event marshals deployed along the route; and helpers at the start and finish areas.

The SAR personnel are from the Wellington Search and Rescue Organisation and marshals are people from Wellington tramping and running clubs. SAR teams and Marshals are based at Alpha Hut, Atkinson Peak and Kime Hut, and SAR Team members also act as Tail End Charlie. The helpers at the start and finish are made up from people from Wellington tramping clubs, previous participants, relatives and friends of the director, radio experts from AREC and qualified first aid personnel.

The event starts at the Marchant Road carpark (Kaitoke), then traverses the Southern Crossing route to finish at Otaki Forks. The track is 35.4 km long with total ascent of 2250 metres and descent of 2475 metres. The highest point on the course is Mt Hector (1529 metres).

AREC involvement

As the various support teams were setting up before the event, Peter and Eric visited the start position (Kaitoke) at about 17.30 hrs on Friday for a recce. The weather was absolutely foul, howling a gale and very wet. The car park was a sea of mud and it seemed touch-and-go as to whether the event would take place. A go/no go decision was to be made at 0600 hrs the following morning, having received weather reports from the support teams on the course.

Peter and Eric were back at Kaitoke shortly after 05.30 hrs on Saturday. The weather had improved, but still somewhat chilly. As the morning progressed things improved, with sunshine drying up the mud to a large extent.

Peter's car was used as the base station, the LandSAR ICOM radio being temporarily plumbed in to the car battery and the whip antenna being installed on the roof with a mag. mount base.



Spot the Op

AREC operators were deployed at the start (Peter and Eric at Tararua SAR Base) and control (John at Kapiti SAR Base). John initially had trouble gaining access to the radio shack at Kapiti, but eventually managed to fight the swipe card issue successfully. Later in the event Don and Lynn became active from the finish (Otaki Forks).

Access to the Civil Defence repeater on Mt. Climie was established and radio contact with other stations made.

The Atkinson team reported sub-zero temperatures and some covering of ice on the rocks. The wind was 20 km/h gusting to 40 km/h.

The Alpha team reported light winds about 15 to 20 km/h with cloud at about 1300 m covering the tops of the hills. There was a light snow covering with a temperature of 0°C. However, although they could receive well, a trek a little way away from the Alpha Hut was necessary in order to successfully access Climie on transmit.

Other reports were that it was generally "cold".

An executive decision was made to "go" by the event organiser, despite the adverse conditions.

Following registration the runners were started in groups at intervals, the first group getting away at 07.00 hrs. Following groups were started at 07.45 hrs, 08.00 hrs, 08.30 hrs and 09.00 hrs, each group diminishing in numbers but increasing in ability, ending with the really mad keen and fit athletes.



Registration in the mud!



The first group departing Kaitoke

There were 84 starters in total, with 6 withdrawals from the original 90 entrants. Communications were sporadic throughout the morning and believed to be so throughout the day. There were a total of about 90 contacts overall but early communications between Kapiti and Kaitoke were by cellphone. Later in the morning an improved antenna at Kapiti improved matters. There were no major incidents with the exception of one team late arriving at Alpha Hut. The Kaitoke station was closed down at about 12.45 hrs when there was no possibility of any runners returning to the start. Peter and Eric were not present after this time, but the remainder of the event progressed well. Thanks were expressed by the organisers for the AREC involvement – as well as to all other support volunteers.

Footnote

Both Branch 63 participants are known to snore, but only one demonstrated his skill during the event. Guess who!

Eric, ZL2SET

[From Southgate Amateur Radio News](#)

Thursday, November 24, 2011

New Zealand's radio hams get 1 KW

Radio Amateurs in New Zealand received an early Christmas present from their regulator the MED, permitted power levels will be doubled to 1000 watts PEP output

The change takes effect on November 30, 2011.

Read from the New Zealand Gazette at

[The New Zealand Gazette](#)
[issue No. 176](#)

The above information has not been confirmed by NZART or any of it's officers.

The original Southgate link is now dead.

This new link takes you to a document on The Department of Internal Affairs website.

The part of the document of interest starts on page 92.

 ICOM



IC-2820H



ID-880H



IC-2200H



IC-92AD



IC-80AD

Click on the pictures to go to the Icom New Zealand page

Icom New Zealand are again offering Branch 63 members discounts on radios

To arrange purchase of these items please contact the club

This offer only open 1-12 December 2011

Date: 3 December 2011

Time: 0900—1200 hrs



ESTATE SALE

LOCATION OF SALE:

**Upper Hutt Branch 63 Clubrooms'
Council Yard
Park Street Upper Hutt
(www.zl2vh.org.nz)**

- Various Heathkit products consisting of grid dip meter, Q meter, Oscilloscope. Etc..
- Philips, HP, Trio VTVM's
- Signal Generators
- Spool to spool tape recorders and audio equipment
- Several boxes of meters

Lots of home built test equipment, mounted meters, components and much more not all of it is Amateur Radio related.

*Sale of amateur radio and other
non-radio equipment from the estate of
Arthur Cheshire ZL2VP*