



NZ Association of Radio Transmitters Inc  
**HUTT VALLEY BRANCH 18**

PO Box 30519  
Lower Hutt

ZL2HV

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**March 2006 Newsletter**

**Editor: Dave. ZL2DSW**  
**E-mail: [davewill@clear.net.nz](mailto:davewill@clear.net.nz)**

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**Disclaimer:** *Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of NZART or Branch 18.*

**Comment Alley**

I am happy to report that further to a letter from the Council asking us to "Clean up" around the property – that thanks in main to Gavin ZL2TVM and Chris ZL2POS a good deal of tidying up was done.... The vandalised downpipes and guttering have been replaced, rust proofing metal bits and pieces around the Club house structure – excepting the Tower – have been undertaken.... And speaking generally all the action requested has been taken, or is under action.... I should point out that the 40 gallon rusty rubbish tin between the Transformer building and the Scout Building was not our responsibility, but steps are being taken for it to be removed. Rubbish in the slot between the Transformer block and our building has similarly been removed although there is still a bit of timber to be removed – which it will be ..... The council gave us till the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb to clean it all up...I feel that the target will be met....

We will also pursue the Council promises about doing up the footpath on our side of the Service street. When first mentioned they were very quick to come out and paint yellow lines and othe cryptic commendt on the footpath – but since then....Nothing. however, rest assured – it will be followed up...

\Thanks again to thiose that got involved and did the tidying up... appreciation from all concerned.

Further to the above "tidy Up we plan to hold a working bee internally – cable tidy up, culling of old, obsolete magazines and newsletter, general scrub up, etc and also some touching up to the base supports of the tower. This will take place on the week end of the 11<sup>th</sup> /12 March... All hands available will be useful – if we have too many folk – so what – a cup of tea and and in formal get together..... It is also hoped during this time to do a bit of Equake security internally.... Lets hope we don't get a severe shake while we get ready!!!!

### **Past Events**

Some very complimentary comments have been passed on to the folk concerned with the communications side of things in the Big Coast 2006. Our participation with other clubs – notably Branch 63 went very well.... My thanks to Bob ZL2ASO, Gavin ZL2TVM, Phil ZL2HF, Ted ZL2TED and Mark ZL2WEL for their unstinting assistance. From a PR point of view I was surprised how many people asked me at Burdan's Gate – what was it all about and did I have any when info on the event... I did have something – but not to give away.... Next time.... Comments have been called for by way of suggestions for future events.... Will keep you advised....

### **Last Meeting....**

A great Success this night... Jim, ZL4CV gave us a straight from the shoulder talk on the making of fruit wine, its problems laughs, and frustrations.... Equipment was demonstrated and handed around and after the questions and answer session at the end attending members were treated to "sample sips" of some of Jim's fine products.. Delightful...Once Again Jim – thanks again..

### **Next meeting.....**

The next Branch meeting will take place on March 4<sup>th</sup> when the Branch will be addressed by Don ZL2LDX and the topic will be again associated with the laboratory side of non invasive treatments. Don gave a very well received lecture once before on a similar topic and I am sure this too will be an interesting night and will be supported by all..

### **Coming events 2 – Branch night – next meeting**

This will be our first Branch night for 2006 and it will be the meeting to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February... "Why the 13<sup>th</sup>?" I hear the cry.... Simple really 13 is my lucky number, and as the normal night would have been the 6<sup>th</sup> which is of course Waitangi Day, we could miss out on attendance due to people taking a long week-end...

This meeting will be addressed by ZL4CV – Jim who will give us a talk on wine making with no doubt a few samples of his undoubted skills..! So look forward to seeing you there. Bring a “safe driver” with you... just in case....!

### **Coming Events 3. Field Day....**

The next Field day is on the week-end of the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of the Month (February). However our perennially used site had been rented out to a Motor Cycle club so we are going to set up camp in a nearby location – Still at Brookfield, but at the far end. Just drive through and past our old site and keep going to the Chapel site area, past the demo area and the swimming pool and you will see some activity. There is bound to be someone around to guide you. See you there...

### **FEEDBACK**

I raised the matter of planning in the December Newsletter and little or nothing has come of it, nor to date, has anything come to me, not one written or telephoned suggestion...it was raised in the January Committee meeting but nothing conclusive arose....So the question is asked again.... Namely: “Where would **YOU** like to see the Club go?” How do **YOU** see its future? Any ideas....??

Similarly I asked for volunteers to assist at the Registration/Entry desk of the Radio Expo in April..... Not one response..... I can't do it by myself .....

However to reiterate the original question on the future planning topic and method of thinking regarding future planning here are the thoughts that struck.....

... Remember to have any **PLAN** you need **OBJECTIVES**, and the stated objectives must be attainable, and measurable. So to that end. How about **YOUR** ideas... A few Questions to think about...

What would you hope to see the club set as an objective (s) ? (Define what you want achieved).

How long do you think any such objective or objectives take to be established? (Is 5 years too far away?)

How could/should such objectives be financed?.....

Sum that all up, and then a plan can be developed.... – Think about it...No PLAN can be imposed without the Branch member's co-operation and support. So let's hear from you....

## **COMING EVENTS – APRIL 2006.**

Members will remember the success of the 2005 Junk Sale – which has since evolved into the **Wellington Radio Expo 2006**. There was a meeting of the organising committee at our Branch rooms to discuss some of the management details... During this meeting various functional responsibilities were discussed and it was agreed that as far as Branch 18 was concerned, we would undertake the function of Registration and Entry ..... So volunteers would be sought.

It was also decided that as the Expo is developing into the “Event of the year” (someone actually dared to compare it to Dayton!), a truly professional presentation would be necessary – to achieve this and to meet costs involved, a cost would have to be imposed to come to the show.... Currently there is a **proposed** price of \$2.00 per person and the ticket will get the purchaser a raffle ticket for a piece of desirable equipment, and a drink, Coffee Tea, or something.

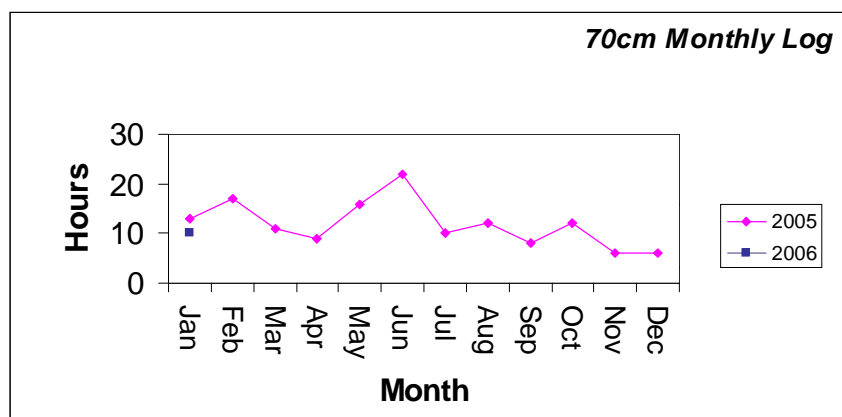
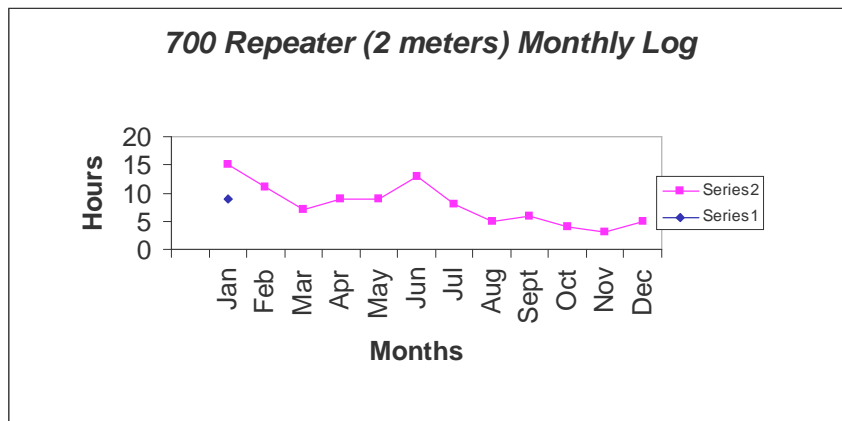
One piece of entertainment being planned is a “Fox Hunt” type of competition and the winner will get the very latest of dual band hand held radios..... Bob ZL2ASO and Phil ZL2HF are involved in the exercise.... Consideration is also being given to the Branch getting a kit set unit together so as to open the field up a bit.....

## **Branch Contact List 2006**

The Branch 18 “Contact List” as at Jan 2006 is available for those that want it... An original set was issued to all, but of course changes occur... So if you are interested enough and want an update please contact me.....

## **Repeater Performance and utilisation @ 19 January 2006**

	<b><u>Total Cumulative hours</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Totals</u></b>
<b>2 meters...</b>	<b>Cumulative hours :2005: 95</b>	<b>Monthly hours for Jan : 9</b>
<b>70 Cm</b>	<b>Cumulative hours :2005: 142</b>	<b>Monthly hours for Jan :10</b>



**Comment :** It should be pointed out that just before Christmas till sometime in January the national link at Belmont failed us in our locations, but this was fixed by the usual dedicated teams.... Well done – I did imagine that the Br 18 UHF repeater got a bit of extra use over the period though....

A casual look at the graphs above will show the steadily declining utilisation of both repeaters. Over to you!

### Humour (1)

A man enters a bar and orders a drink. The bar has a robot bartender.

The robot serves him a perfectly prepared cocktail, and then asks him, "What's your IQ?"

The man replies "150" and the robot proceeds to make conversation about global warming factors, quantum physics and spirituality, biomimicry, environmental interconnectedness, string theory, nano-technology, and sexual proclivities

The customer is very impressed and thinks, "This is really cool." He decides to test the robot. He walks out of the bar, turns around, and comes back in for another drink.

Again, the robot serves him the perfectly prepared drink and asks him, "What's your IQ?"

The man responds, "About a 100."

Immediately the robot starts talking, but this time, about football, NASCAR, baseball, supermodels, favourite fast foods, guns, and women.

Really impressed, the man leaves the bar and decides to give the robot one more test. He heads out and returns; the robot serves him and asks, "What's your IQ?"

The man replies, "Er, 50, I think."

And the robot says... real slowly... "So..... ya gonna vote for Bush again?"

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## **Humour 2**

If you have ever called for support from a computer Help Desk this will explain a lot.

Mujibar was trying to get a job in his homeland, India.

The Personnel Manager said, "Mujibar, you have passed all the tests, except one. Unless you pass it you cannot qualify for this job."

Mujibar said, "I am ready."

The manager said, "Make a sentence using the words Yellow, Pink and Green."

Mujibar thought for a few minutes and said, "Mister manager, I am ready."

The manager said, "Go ahead."

Mujibar said, "The telephone goes green, green, green, and I pink it up, and say, 'Yellow, this is Mujibar.'"

Mujibar now works as a technician at a call centre for computer problems.

No doubt you have spoken to him.

**AGAIN PLEASE NOTE:**

**FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING.....**

**PLEASE REMEMBER** As the first Monday in February (6<sup>th</sup>) is a PUBLIC Holiday, (Waitangi Day) the Monthly “:Monday” meeting will take place on the **13<sup>th</sup> February**.... The topic will be a talk on the arts, frustrations and delights of making Fruit Wine...

Till then or whenever....

A very happy New year to you all, together with all the complaints of the season..



Dave

**ZL2DSW** - President Br. 18....

