

THE WORLD BELOW 400 GHz

The Periodical Newsletter of the
WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc.,
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NZART
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www.zl1is.info

OCTOBER 2013 ISSUE

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October General Meeting 2013

A General Meeting of the Waikato VHF Group will be held on
Sunday, 13th October, 2013 at 1:30pm,
at the

Tauranga Volunteer Coastguard Headquarters, 72 Keith Allen Drive, Tauranga.

See website - <http://www.zl1is.info/meetings.html> - for location map.

The guest speaker will be Murray Greenman, (ZL1BPU) who will talk on
the use of "Cheap Dongles as SD Receivers".

Non members and visitors welcome.

News Items from the August 2013 Committee Meeting

D-Star: Our committee has considered the deployment of a D-Star repeater, and resolved not to proceed with this technology immediately. Our current plan of works includes completing the WaiPlenty Network, repairing National System antennas at Kaimai, relocating our beacons and an upgrade of the '540 data repeater. The provision of D-Star will be reviewed when these tasks have been completed. Meanwhile we note that a number of local D-Star repeaters are being set up in the area, which allows members to experiment, and we watch the usage with interest.

Waihi North: FMTAG have advised that the NZART Council have approved the frequencies for this site and the licences have been issued. The 2m frequency will be - **145.475 MHz**.

Announcement on WaiPlenty Network: The voice message previously used regarding the areas each repeater covers, plus encouraging non-members to support the Group, is to be run again.

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WaiPlenty Repeater Network – '695 "outage"

'695 was locked out of service over-night on Wednesday 24 July 2013, and didn't return again until Friday morning 26 July, denying all use of that repeater. This was **not due to a network fault**, but somebody leaving their rig transmitting for over 24 hours! Both '5675 and '5575 continued operating along with IRLP access during that period.

All repeaters and links in the WaiPlenty network have Time-Out-Timers to protect against exactly this sort of issue. Should any of these repeaters be held up for more than ten minutes continuously, it shuts down until the signal holding it up ceases.

This raises a couple of points:

1. Virtually all rigs these days have **transmit timers** to limit the length of any single transmission, generally to about three minutes (often labelled 180 seconds in the set-up), and
2. What was an **unattended amateur transceiver** doing on the air for an extended period (can't comply with their licence conditions).

As a responsible amateur, every operator is asked to check:

- Does your rig have a transmit timer, and is it enabled? It should be.
- While you're away from the rig for any extended period (eg; over-night, or away from home), you should switch your rig off.

Had this offending operator implemented either of these simple actions, '695 would have remained available, plus it would have avoided wasting trustee's and other people's time tracking down what caused this 'outage'. **Please, go check your rig now.**

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Repeater and Beacon Sponsorship

There are still repeaters and beacons available for sponsorship this financial year. See - <http://www.zl1is.info/sites.html> for those still available. We welcome assistance from individual amateurs or clubs with sponsorship, as the licencing of repeaters and beacons is the largest ongoing drain on our funds. We now have to fund annually the cost of 19 licences and in the near future this will rise to 22. If you can assist with sponsorship, at \$50.00 per licence, please make contact with us at:- branch.81@nzart.org.nz

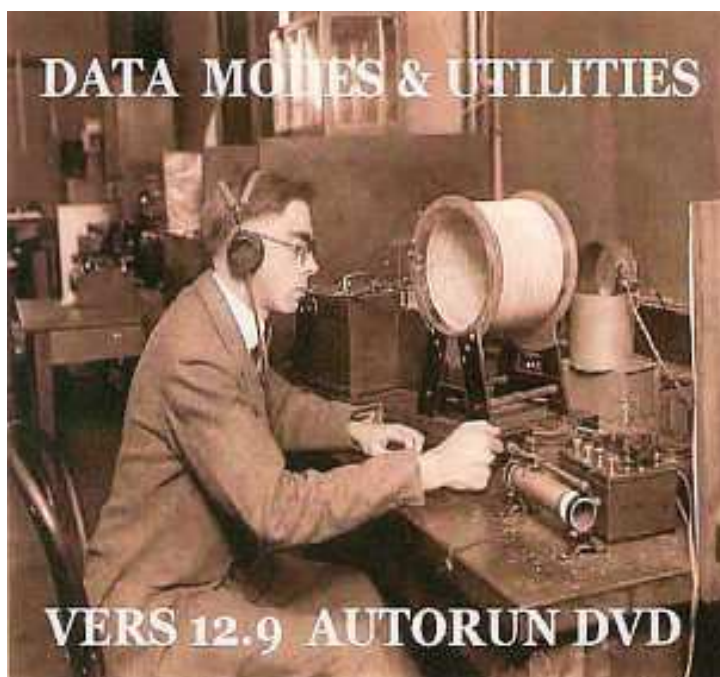
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Data Modes & Utilities CD

Version 12.9 has even more updates and new programmes on this latest release. This is an excellent selection of software, notes, links to web sites compiled by Doug ZL1AVY and this latest edition has over 300 applications, references and notes. These cover all digital modes, useful software applications for your pc, contest logging and e-qso programmes, radio interfaces, software defined radio information, slow scan tv software, test equipment utilities, satellite tracking software, and much, much more.

Still only \$10.00

From Auckland VHF Group
PO Box 10138, Dominion Rd., Auckland
1446



Some Ham Humour

Two old time hams made a pact that whichever one died first would contact the surviving ham on 75 meters late at night. Well, old Ray was the first to go, so every night after he was buried his buddy Pete would listen every night on 75. Sure enough, after about a week he heard Ray giving him a call. Elated, he asked Ray what Heaven is like. "It's wonderful Pete. Every ham here has a complete "dream" shack and antenna farm just the way they want it. Why when I got here, old Art Collins himself came over and brought me a complete, brand new S line and all of us up here have a ragchew net every night!" Pete keyed up and said "Ray, that's fantastic!" Pete replied "Well....you might have a different opinion. We got you scheduled for net control starting next Tuesday!"

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"I stopped behind a car at a red light and noticed the auto had a ham callsign on his license plate, so I quickly beeped out "hi" in Morse code on my horn. Next thing I know, his window scrolls down and the driver leans out yelling "Can't you see the %#@* light is still red!"

WAIPLENTY NETWORK

This is how the Waiplementy Network will look when 'Stage 3' is completed. 'Stage 3' is the recently announced repeater site of "Waihi North", just south of Whiritoa. This new site will cover the eastern side of the Coromandel from Waihi to north of Whangamata. Please remember to use your nearest repeater when using the system. There are still those who persist in using '695, when a closer repeater would give them a much superior signal. One would think they are still using a 'rock-bound' rig.

This link - <http://www.z1is.info/irlp.html> - to the club website gives a good indication of the coverage from the 3 existing repeaters.

