

THE WORLD BELOW 400 GHz

The Periodical Newsletter of the
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December General Meeting 2014

A General Meeting of the Waikato VHF Group will be held on
Sunday, 7th December, 2014 at 1.30pm
at

St. Stephen's Church Hall, corner Ohaupo Rd. and Mahoe Street, Hamilton

Click [HERE](#) to go to a map of the location.

The guest speaker will be Mike Baird of Radio Spectrum Management, who will talk briefly on the RSM compliance role and then focus on the interference analysis aspect of his work. He will also have some of his "tools" for members to check out.

Non members and visitors most welcome

Items from the November Committee Meeting

1 - It is hoped that the new Waihi North Repeater on the WaiPlenty Network will be fully operational by the time you receive this newsletter.

2 - VK Amateur, Brian Clarke VK2GCE will be in New Zealand in February 2015 and has offered to speak at one of our meetings on "Safety in the Radio Shack". To take up his kind offer we have scheduled a meeting for either the 8th or 15th of February 2015, and will know which date in due course as he finalises his itinerary. The meeting will be in Hamilton at the usual time of 1.30pm.

3 - The Group website was down for a few days in October while Alan (ZL1AMW) changed his ISP. Alan hosts the website on a server at his place.

4 - A new message will be placed on the WaiPlenty Network after the new Waihi Repeater is installed to advise of the new repeater and its coverage. It will be run 4 times a day.

IARU Administrative Council Resolution Seeks to Rein in Electromagnetic Interference - 20 Oct 2014

The International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council has called upon International Telecommunication Union signatory nations to take steps to ensure that the operation of "electrical apparatus or installations of any kind, including power and telecommunication distribution networks," does not cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio operations. The Council adopted a resolution expressing concern with the "rapid and largely uncontrolled growth" in devices that generate RF energy "as an unnecessary and undesirable consequence of their operation." It cited such devices as switching power supplies, power inverters, plasma video displays, and wireline telecommunication systems that employ such technologies as Broadband over Power Lines.

NASA Sets Pre-launch Activities, TV Coverage for Orion Flight Test

The first flight test of Orion, NASA's next-generation spacecraft that will send astronauts to an asteroid and onward to Mars, is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4. NASA will host a series of news conferences and flight test commentary on NASA Television, as well as media events at the agency's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Six Metre Antenna Project

If you are interested in becoming active on the 6m band, here is a website with two possible antennas to build - <http://www.hamuniverse.com/n2k6meterantennas.html>. One is a 3 element beam and the other is a Halo antenna.

NZART AGM and CONFERENCE 2015

will be held in Hamilton

"Heart of the Waikato"

on Queen's Birthday Weekend 2015

29, 30 & 31 May

at the

**Te Rapa Conference and Function Centre,
Te Rapa Racecourse, Ken Browne Drive, Te Rapa, Hamilton.**

Further details will be available [HERE](#) as they come to hand.

BOOK EARLY! BOOK NOW!

AS ACCOMMODATION IS AT A PREMIUM OVER QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

Click [HERE](#) for a list of hotel/motel accommodation.

High Altitude Balloon Keeps Going

The record breaking 434 MHz balloon B-64 launched by radio amateur **Leo Bodnar MOXER** features in *Hack-A-Day*.

Read the story about the balloon which has been flying for over 3 months -
<http://hackaday.com/2014/10/19/high-altitude-balloon-keeps-going/>

Links for tracking and receiving balloons - <http://amsat-uk.org/beginners/balloons/>

Pirate Radio's in China poses threat to plane safety

The Chinese authorities are concerned that a growing number of pirate radio stations may disrupt communications between passenger jets and air traffic controllers.

The high power stations are in Beijing and Tianjin municipalities and Hainan, Yunnan and Guangdong provinces, said the South China Morning Post.

The authorities last year began cracking down on burgeoning pirate and ham radio operators. China had 2.7 million civil radio stations by the end of last year, according to the Ministry of industry and Information Technology in a report last year in the *Global Times*. Ham radio enthusiasts were told to register under new national regulations.

But the pirate stations operating on the frequencies often reserved for licensed stations or for other purposes are another matter. They run commercials for medical products and escort agencies the SCMP said.

The SCMP said the Beijing Radio Administration Bureau also reportedly uncovered a pirate radio station operating in a residential building in Chaoyang district, and reportedly seized a 2Kw transmitter whose signal could reach most places in the capital.

STOP PRESS

Waihi North repeater now operational

Stage 3 of the Waikato VHF Group's 2 metre repeater "WaiPlenty network" was completed on Saturday 22 November when "Waihi North '5475" was commissioned. This new repeater, sited 8km east-north-east of Waihi, offers east coast coverage from north of Whangamata to south of Katikati plus the Karangahake and Athenree Gorges. Funded by a generous donation from NZART Branch 43, their members now enjoy hand-held coverage throughout the Waihi area.



'5475 Equipment Rack

This new repeater re-deploys the 2m duplexer plus two other cavity filters recovered from our earlier '695/840 installation (removed from Te Aroha on 24 May 2011), and like all other three repeaters in this network, employs new commercial grade equipment. It is installed on private property 317m above sea level with extensive views across the Bay of Plenty coast. In order to keep our antenna's visual impact low, a dual-band collinear simultaneously carries the repeater Rx and Tx signals plus associated link to Te Weraiti ('695 site) where '5475 links with the remainder of our WaiPlenty network. Radio equipment plus the antenna for that link was installed at Te Weraiti during the week leading up to this new repeater's installation.

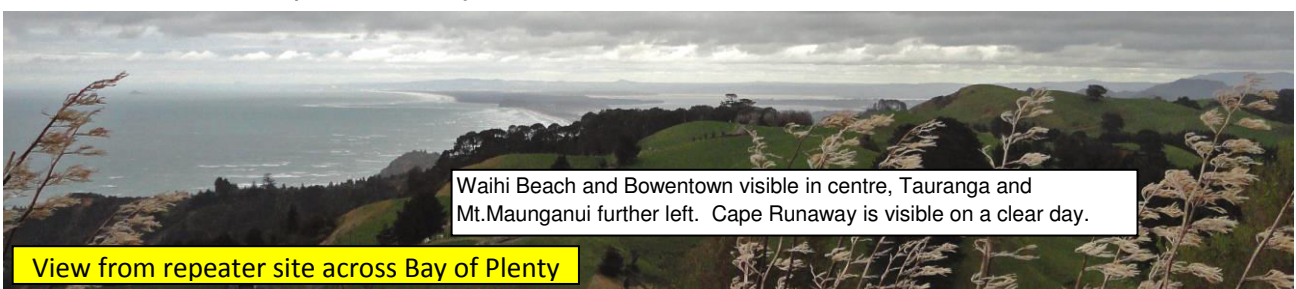
Waihi North transmits on 145.475 MHz, and has a -600 kHz split, so users must transmit on 144.875 MHz to access it while in that area. Transmissions on '5475 are linked to all three other repeaters in this network, unless one or more of those are temporarily un-linked to stand-alone for a specific event.

Like the rest of this network, IRLP access is also available on '5475. This newest repeater completes our Te Aroha 2m coverage replacement project, offering much more extensive overall coverage than was originally possible through that single site alone. Capital expenditure on the WaiPlenty network now totals \$31,152, with a further \$730 per year committed to radio licence fees and electricity to keep it on the air.



'5475 Antenna

The Waikato VHF Group acknowledges Roy ZL1BPB's effort in finding a suitable site as well as initiating a funding donation from Branch 43. Russell ZL1RWR provided a vehicle to transport our equipment rack / battery / mast / antenna to site. Rodney ZL1TFX, Ross ZL1AAF and Ian ZL1TAT assisted by Roy ZL1BPB carried out the on-site installation. We also acknowledge the site owner's (non-hams) generosity in providing us access to this site. For a diagram showing how this network connects together, see our web page at <http://www.zl1is.info/waiplicity.html> Further photographs of this new site will be posted shortly on the Group's web site.



Waihi Beach and Bowentown visible in centre, Tauranga and Mt.Maunganui further left. Cape Runaway is visible on a clear day.

View from repeater site across Bay of Plenty