

THE WORLD BELOW 400 GHz

The Periodical Newsletter of the
WAIKATO VHF GROUP Inc.,
ZL1IS,
PO BOX 606,
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NZART
BRANCH 81

DECEMBER 2005 ISSUE

WAIKATO VHF GROUP EXECUTIVE

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General Meeting December 2005

The next meeting of the Waikato VHF group will be held on Sunday, 11th December, 2005, at 1:30pm, at the Branch 12 Club Rooms, 88 Seddon Road, Hamilton.

The meeting will consist of 2 parts. Firstly Alan Wallace (ZL1AMW) will bring us up to date with the latest IRLP innovations and where our own IRLP node is at. Then secondly, we will have a discussion regarding the 2nd part of the motion that was agreed at the May 2004 meeting, "That an IRLP system be approved in principle and that it be reviewed 12 months after installation". That time is approaching. At its next meeting, the committee will then form a proposal to be placed on the agenda at the next AGM, in late Feb or early March, 2006, for members to vote on.

For those who are unable to attend the meeting, we are quite happy to receive your written ideas/thoughts, to the Secretary, Waikato VHF Group, PO Box 606, Hamilton, or z1qwp@nzart.org.nz

National System Repeater Update

By the time you receive this Newsletter, it is hoped that the Edgumbe Node will be operating on the new frequencies. Kaimai and Hamilton have already been done and are fully operational. So there is no reason why our part of the National System can not be used. Just remember that Kaimai does not have a tail. We are investigating an intermittent problem with the Kaimai node at present. It occasionally transmits noise, normally in the early mornings. When this problem is overcome, we are hopeful of being connected into the rest of the National System.

The new transmit frequencies for the Nodes in our area are:-

Kaimai - 434.850 MHz; Mt. Edgumbe - 439.975 MHz; Hamilton - 439.975 MHz; Rotorua - 439.925 MHz and Waitomo - 439.925 MHz.

For transmit frequencies greater than 438.000 Mhz, use a -5 split and for transmit frequencies lower than 435.000 MHz use a +5 split.

IRLP Node

We are planning to have another 'voice response' box on the node, similar to the "Club News" box, but for "Repeater and National System Status". This will give members and others, the latest details on the situation regarding all our repeaters. Thanks to one of our members for putting forward the suggestion.

There was a problem with the IRLP link a couple of months ago, which was causing a squealing noise to go out via the internet link. This was finally proved to be RF getting into the audio board of the UHF link transmitter, at Te Aroha.

Hamilton Market Day

Thanks to Kevin ZL1UJG, and others, the VHF Group made \$200.00, for Club funds, from the sales table. If you have any surplus bits and pieces, we would be happy to sell them from our table at the next Cambridge Club Market Day. Speak to any member of the committee.

VHF/UHF Contests

There has been some amendments to the VHF Contest rules, with regards to starting/finishing times. Start times are at 1700 (Sat) and 0700 (Sun) while Finish times are 2300 (Sat) and 1300 (Sun). Information may be found at <http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/Update/Contests/vhfcontestrules.html>

As this column goes to press, VHF Field day is fast approaching. There was an informal test day during late November, in which many people took part. This gave increased activity on all bands and also tested equipment. There were some excellent Microwave contacts. Follow VHF/UHF contest activities in ZL at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/zlvhfcontest/>

General

Remember this time of year, usually results in good VHF/UHF DX contacts, due to favorable weather conditions. These conditions often result in DX contacts not only in ZL, but often to VK as well. So keep the rig running on the 2m ZL calling frequency 144.200 MHz and 2m VK calling frequency of 144.100 MHz.

Thanks to work done by Queinten, ZL1QF, the Auckland 2m and 70cm Beacons are on their new frequencies of 144.253 and 432.253 MHz.

What projects are you working on? Contacted DX stations? Have images for the newsletter? Write/email to the editor (rfman@xtra.co.nz) let Kevin ZL1UJG know whats happening. Group members taking part in VHF/UHFcontests who have some images then forward them for inclusion in the next newsletter.

There has been lots of activity on the Meteor Scatter mode, with numerous contacts from from ZL1 through to ZL4. If you interested in taking part in this interesting mode, (even listening) then contact Bob, ZL3TY at b_mcquarrie@minidata.co.nz

Nick ZL1IU (Bay of Islands) and Bob ZL3TY (Greymouth) have both succeeded in extending the current distance for Digital mode contacts via the Moon. Bob ZL3TY worked EA2AGZ which extended the world record distance to 19435km. Nick ZL1IU and Bob ZL1RS then worked EA5SE on JT65B for a potential world record digital EME contact distance of 19,451km.

Bob and Nick have worked each other via the moon on 2M, via troposcatter and also via Meteor Scatter.