

2KO TIMES

Branch 20 Activity Contest 2010

- The dates for the 2010 Branch 20 Activity Contest will be from Monday September 20th to Sunday September 26th inclusive
- Hours of operation will be between 6pm and 8pm each night
- As per the past 4 years a system of reporting will be the format of your first contact you will give the number 10. This will decrease by one for each subsequent contact until the number one has been issued upon which you will start again at the number 10 and repeat the process throughout the contest
- Frequencies to use will be the Branch 20 Net frequencies of 3570 KHz on 80 metres and the 2 metre repeater on 147.125
- Contacts may be made with each station once per day on each frequency

The contest is open to all members of the following Branch's: 06 Tararua, 16 Horowhenua, 20 Manawatu, 23 Marton & Districts and 48 Wanganui

SCORING:

Total up the number of points that you have received. Your multipliers will be the number 3 and 7 that you receive. So if your total number of points that you have received equals 500 and you received a total of 4 number 3's and 6 number 7's then your final score would be $500 \times 10 = 5000$

At the conclusion of the contest a mystery station will be announce which will be worth bonus points. This will be added in to your score by the contest organizers Lawry ZL2HQ & Stuart ZL2SGA once they have received your log.

Logs can be handed in to Stuart or Lawry at the Branch 20 Table Sale on Saturday October 2nd, or emailed to Stuart at stuart.anderson@clear.net.nz or posted to: Branch 20 Activity Contest, P O Box 1718 Palmerston North 4440 to be received no later than Sunday October 10th.

Good Luck & Happy Contesting.

Table Sale 2010

Table Sale this year is on Saturday October 2, 2010 at Longburn Hall on state highway 56. Doors open for vendors from 8am. Sale is from 9am to 1pm refreshments will be available and there will be prize draws and raffles. Tables cost \$20 for full size and \$10 for half size. Please register before 1st October or there will be a \$5 extra fee for administration costs. Register by post to our secretary at P.O Box 1718, Palmerston North. Check the 2KO website for updates.

Inside this issue:

Activity Contest	1
Table Sale	1
Presidents Report	2
Website Update	3
Sunday Net	4
Contact Information	4

2KO Contact Info

- Website - www.zl2ko.org.nz
- Postal - P.O. Box 1718, Palmerston North
- Email - info@zl2ko.org.nz
- President - Richie ZL2KP
- Secretary - Cheryl ZL2VCC
- AREC Section Leader - Len Inkpen ZL2LI

Presidents Report - Ham Radio an Open Source Richie ZL2KP

About 24 months ago I began to look at alternatives to Windows since I was not happy with where Microsoft was taking the operating system. Microsoft seemed to be dictating what the user experience would be and what options would be made available to the user. I had looked at Open Linux during the 90's and while I liked the idea it was still a geek's operating system where knowledge of the terminal commands and lack of support for hardware I had made it unattractive to me. When the Microsoft NT 6 .x operating system arrived (Vista and later), I attempted to learn how it worked as it is part of the work I do. After persisting for 8 months I knew I needed to find an alternative where I again had the control of the PC.

Linux was the only real alternative on the Intel Platform and while Apple OSX had been ported onto non Apple hardware I wanted something I knew was supportable and in the public domain. I tried many distributions including Centos (the base OS for IRLP systems), Suse, Debian 5 and Ubuntu. While these are all good Linux distributions with great support and I loved Debian 5 as it looked great, I eventually settled on Ubuntu. I choose Ubuntu because it is a Debian based operating system, this means Ubuntu take the Debian code and further develop it adding their own software and tweaks in the process. Also over 30% of the installed Linux market is Ubuntu so I figured any help I wanted I would find online.

Now, when I am not away the only computer I have at home running Windows is my work laptop, which is what I am using now to write this column over the Tasman at 30 thousand feet on route home to the shaky isles. I have two PC's at home both running Ubuntu and I am not disappointed.

So, what can you run on Linux and Ubuntu in particular. The software you expect to see to run multi media, manage iPods, browse the Internet, manage email, and office tools like word processing, spreadsheets are all included. Much more is available to install with an Internet connection, and the installation of available software is usually much much easier completed than installing software on windows. With the addition of the Linux software 'WINE' many DOS and Windows programs can also run-but not all.

So, what about ham radio?

The first program I tried was Echolink, I downloaded the Windows installer as a native Linux version is unavailable. I ran the EXE to install it as if I was on a standard Windows desktop. When Echolink was installed I launched it and worked correctly and properly without any configuration.

FLDigi. FLDigi is a digital modes program which many already use, FLDigi is written using the Fast Light Tool kit which is where FLDigi gets part of its name and has its origins in Linux. FLDigi is available for Windows, Linux and possibly Macintosh. There is an array of ham specific software available to install from the Ubuntu software manager, for Linux software not in the software manager the installation can appear a little daunting even to someone with a year or so of experience. However, there is so much information available on the Internet now which can give line by line instructions in enabling any Linux software you wish. Most of the instructions you can cut and paste into a terminal window to install and configure software. Note, the software available in the Ubuntu software Centre has no impact on your pocket.

Support for many things 'ham radio' is included or available at minimal or no cost with Linux, even AX25 as a protocol is built into the Linux kernel for those utilising packet radio.

Presidents Report cont...

Where is Linux going?

Sitting here on an Air New Zealand A320 with individual in seat entertainment I was pleased to know these entertainment consoles are all Linux based with Tux the penguin (Linux Mascot) visible on the boot screen on a console as it was being reset. Also, in the mobile processor market with PDA? (Personal Data Assistant) and telephones is the Android Linux based operating system being developed by the Open Handset Alliance in conjunction with Google. This has enabled an open source operating system on a smart phone to compete with Windows Mobile and the iPhone which it is now doing. Even Echolink has now been ported to Android, I had a contact last week to a mobile station in Missouri using his HTC Android telephone. He was using Echolink (on high speed wireless data) into the Darlinghurst UHF Sydney City repeater when I was out mobile in the Olympic park area.

Why Linux? Well like Ham radio it is open source and free. Now free is more than the price, the real freedom is to use the software any way you like, to modify it anyway you want (source code is available), re write and release you own version if you wish. As an Example, the Levin Library are open source advocates and their Library System 'Koha' was written by people in Wellington and it has been released as open source software. This has enabled other libraries around the world to take what Levin have provided and add / include additional functionality and make this available free. Open source becomes an enabler for software by the people and for the people, no longer does anyone have to accept the functional limitations of proprietary software. The ideals of the GNU public license for open source software are enabling value based services to be available to schools / public bodies and the like without the crippling software compliance cost seen in business today.

While I am no wiz on Linux, I am an advocate for the philosophy and I grow in my understanding of it each time I use it. If you want to know more speak to me, I would love to know how many at branch 20 are using Linux daily now?

Richie
Richie – ZL2KP / VK2IAX

Thanks Richie for your novel of a story we hope to have another exciting report from you next month. Ed.

Club Website Update

Our Clubs website is currently been updated and we would like your hear from our membership what you would like to see on the site and any ideas you may have. Please email me zl2wd@zl2ko.org.nz. I will be working on this with a couple of other members of our branch also.

We are also proud to announce that we can offer you our members zl2ko.org.nz email address just like NZART ones. Basically how it works we use your callsign i.e. zl2wd@zl2ko.org.nz and forward it on to your home email address i.e. hayden-simsnz@gmail.com. This is a good idea if you like to use it to register at websites and so fourth. If you would like this service please contact me via email with your callsign and email address you would like mail sent to. In the next newsletter I will have the email address for our committee members .

Look forward to hearing from you. Hayden Sims - ZL2WD

M.A.R.S

P.O. Box 1718
Palmerston North

E info@zl2ko.org.nz
W www.zl2ko.org.nz

Upcoming Meetings

22nd September 2010 - Afternoon Meeting

5th October 2010 - General Meeting

19th October 2010 - Committee Meeting

26th October 2010 - Afternoon Meeting

Sunday morning net is at 9am on 3.570 LSB

Netmasters

September 26th Pete ZL2AUB

I will email out an updated list in the next week

Club Committee Contact Information

President:	Richard Prior ZL2KP PH: 06 825-6270 zl2kp@nzart.org.nz
Vice President:	Chester Clark ZL2AFJ PH:357-2829 clark.j.c@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Cheryl Wheatley ZL2VCC PH: 326-8551 cheryl@zl2max.gen.nz
Treasurer	Peter Moore ZL2AUB PH: 354-7861 zl2aub@inspire.nwt.nz
Contact Officer	Stan Russell ZL2BRS PH: 358-6683 stanruss@inspire.net.nz
AREC Section leader	Len Inkpen ZL2LI PH: 357-1493 lenjanet@inspire.net.nz
AREC Deputy Leader	Cheryl Wheatley ZL2VCC PH: 326-8551 cheryl@zl2max.gen.nz
Club Auditor	Trevor Brighting ZL2TN PH: 357-4603 rovertruth@xtra.co.nz
Newsletter Editor & Website Manager	Hayden Sims ZL2WD PH: 021 903912 editor@zl2ko.org.nz / webmaster@zl2ko.org.nz

General Committee Members:

Hugh Wilde	ZL2BFB PH: 356-9450 wildeh@clear.net.nz
Ian Thompson	ZL2IAN PH: 357-4545 i.thompson@ucol.ac.nz
Max Wheatley	ZL2MAX PH: 326-8551 max@zl2max.gen.nz
Peter McLeod	ZL2VX PH: 357-7913 mcleod-family@xtra.co.nz
Stuart Anderson	ZL2SGA PH: 357-7794 stuart.anderson@clear.net.nz