

# Ham Hum

December 2011



The official newsletter of  
The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc.)  
Branch 12 of NZART - ZL1UX  
Active in Hamilton since 1923



**Next General Meeting**

**Annual Club BBQ**

**10 Dec 2011 : 11am : BYO food/drink**

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<b>NZART Examiners:</b>	ZL1IC, ZL1PK & ZL1TJA		

## **From the Editor**

By the time you get this the annual Bridge to Bridge water ski race is either about to happen, or has just been. It's a big event covering the Waikato river from Cambridge to Taupiri and keeping track of all those boats who seem to know only 2 speeds. Really fast when racing, or really slow when broken down, or after dropping a skier.

Getting radio signals out when floating on the water, or on the sand at the waters edge is always difficult, so many thanks to all those who volunteer their time to keeping everyone safe.

I received a query on the images that appeared in last months issue with the description of the National System Award. For all those who wondered what they were :-

Those photos were from the Branch 65 website at [www.qsl.net/zl1vk](http://www.qsl.net/zl1vk) They are all Category 2 Historic Places from the 2010 National System Award.

The first one (page 5) was taken by ZL1GTB in Auckland Of Clifton House, Epsom, Auckland.

The second one (page 6) was by ZL3HI Of St Bartholomews Church, Kaiapoi.

The last one (page 6) was by ZL2KG Of Te Rauparaha Memorial and Jubilee Monument, Otaki.

The Annual Club BBQ will be happening on 10th Dec at 11 am. As normal, BYO food and drink.

**Next Committee Meetings -  
7th December & 18 January**

## SB PROP ARL ARLP047

### ARLP047 Propagation de K7RA

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday tomorrow, the bulletin is coming out two days early this week. There is an overlap of one day on the data reported at the end of the bulletin. Look for another bulletin on Monday which will have more overlap, and Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP049 a week from Friday will have still more overlap. This is because the end of the bulletin always has seven days of data, to keep it compatible with the Solar Data Plotting Utility created by Scott Craig, WA4TTK. You can download the utility for free at <http://www.craigcentral.com/sol.asp>. The Utility can handle redundant data, but it must remain in a certain format in order for it to glean data from the bulletin automatically.

Not much in the way of solar excitement this week, except there are many sunspots, but the solar activity in terms of flares or coronal mass ejections is low. The overlapping (by one day) average sunspot numbers in this bulletin declined 21 points to 124.

Expect good conditions for the CW weekend of the CQ Worldwide DX Contest, November 26-27.

The latest prediction from USAF/NOAA shows solar flux at 140 on November 23, 145 on November 24-27, 150 on November 28-29, 155 on November 30, 160 December 1-2, and 165 December 3-7. Predicted planetary A index is 5 on November 23-27, 7 on November 28-29, then 5 on November 30 to December 24.

Larry Goolsby, AA4JI of Fayetteville, Tennessee wrote on November 18: "This whole week on forty meters during the Triple H Net on 7.190 at 0700 UTC I and others have been working central Australia with strong 57 reports. Repeatedly I worked VK2NRB Bob and VK2TTP Peter using just 100 watts and a wire dipole at 30 ft. each morning, and also Europe is starting along with some Asia contacts. New Zealand has been strong along with V21N in Antigua."

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, [k7ra@arrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrl.net).

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at, <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. Find more good information and tutorials on propagation at <http://myplace.frontier.com/~k9la/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas loca-

tions are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Sunspot numbers for November 16 through 22 were 126, 122, 137, 149, 101, 101, and 132, with a mean of 124. 10.7 cm flux was 142.3, 147.7, 144.4, 139.6, 139.9, 141.1, and 142.4, with a mean of 142.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 3, 2, 1, 2, 5, and 6, with a mean of 3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 5, and 7 with a mean of 3.

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## **NATIONAL SYSTEM AWARD**

**Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Inc.  
Branch 12 NZART**

Presents

**Kordia National System Award 2012**

in association with

**New Zealand Historic Places Trust**

**Kordia National System Award 2012 - Historic Places**, is presented by The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Inc., Branch 12 NZART in association with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Based upon the original idea by Wellington VHF Group. This is a FUN award available to all amateurs to demonstrate the coverage and use of the National System, to promote our history and Category 2 Historic places.

The Award will run from **1 January 2012** to **6 February 2012**.

Thank you to all those who participated in the Award. Your participation has been greatly appreciated.

Whether you have only made **1** contact or **401** contacts and have the contact with ZL1UX, please enter your logs. All logs entered will receive a certificate.

**Points will be allocated for:**

1. Contact any Amateur in each NZART Branch area (excluding Branches in recess) via the National System. *Only Branches on the provided list are valid.* **1 point**
2. Contact ZL1UX, official station of Branch 12 via the National System. **3 bonus points**
3. Contact any Amateur, via the National System, operating from a Category 2 Historic Place (as listed in the [Historic Places Trust Register](#)). **1 point**
4. Contact any Amateur, via the National System, while operating from a Category 2 Historic Place (as listed in the [Historic Places Trust Register](#)). **1 point**

Points are cumulative and each site may only be listed once. Only one branch or historic site may be logged per contact. The log must record the registry number of the site, available from the [Historic Places Trust Website](#)



**Participants are requested to note the following key points:**

1. Safety is paramount, please be considerate of the safety of the field operator when making contact.
2. A number of the Historic Places are private property, these MUST be respected. **It is not necessary to enter any private property to log the contact.** Participants are expected to be in near proximity to the Historic Place, not on the site.
3. There are no definitive boundaries between branches, so participants need to determine which branch they are in, to log the point. This distance will vary for different parts of the country. Only one branch can be logged per contact. *Only Branches on the provided list are valid.*
4. Participants are encouraged to learn about the NZART branches and the places

that define our history  
through visiting the Cate-  
gory 2 Historic Places

**Correspondence to:**

The Award Custodian  
Hamilton Amateur Radio  
Club  
PO Box 606  
HAMILTON 3240

Or E-mail  
<[branch.12@nzart.org.nz](mailto:branch.12@nzart.org.nz)>  
with NS2012 in the subject.



**AWARD CUSTODIANS**

Phil King - ZL1PK  
and  
Gavin Petrie - ZL1GWP

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Send a log of contacts, with all details as per the standard log sheets  
provided, including a preferred award certificate format (electronic or  
hard copy) to:



The Award Custodian  
Hamilton Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 606  
HAMILTON 3240

Or E-mail  
<[branch.12@nzart.org.nz](mailto:branch.12@nzart.org.nz)>  
with NS2012 in the subject  
line.

**Applications close:** 6 March  
2012.

## ISS UHF Amateur Radio Packet Station

The amateur radio station located in the ISS Columbus module is currently operational with the UHF Ericsson FM transceiver and AX.25 packet system using the frequency of 437.550 MHz.

To utilize the the packet system, operators need to set the UNPROTO path to ARISS (the id is RS0ISS) for digi relay or they may connect to the BBS using the callsign RS0ISS-1. The packet beacon is set for 2 minute intervals so it may not appear to be active over many parts of the world but keep listening and mind the Doppler shift (+ or – 10 kHz).

To check when the ISS is in range see the real time tracking at <http://www.issfanclub.com/>

AMSAT-UK publishes a colour A4 newsletter, OSCAR News, which is full of Amateur Satellite information. A sample edition of the newsletter can be seen at [http://www.uk.amsat.org/on\\_193\\_final.pdf](http://www.uk.amsat.org/on_193_final.pdf)

Join AMSAT-UK online here <http://alturl.com/avuca>

-Southgate ARN

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## New Zealand's radio hams get 1 KW

Radio Amateurs in New Zealand received an early Christmas present from their regulator the MED, permitted power levels will be doubled to 1000 watts PEP output

The change takes effect on November 30, 2011.

Read the extract from the New Zealand Gazette at <http://www.rsm.govt.nz/cms/pdf-library/licensing/radiocommunications-regulations-general-user-radio-licence-for-amateur-radio-operators-notice-2011-issue176-7900.pdf>

-Southgate ARN

## Longest Morse code message

An article published on this website in October of 2009 and titled '*The longest morse code message ever ?*' has prompted this response from Charlie Wellander.

In an email to Southgate News, Charlie says:

On your web page - [The longest morse code message ever ?](#) - you have a quite accurate recounting of the very long telegram/Morse code message sent within the USA from Nevada to Washington, DC, in 1864.

The folks at the the Nevada State Library and Archives have now discovered that an even longer (over seven times as long, in fact) telegram/Morse code message was sent in 1881 from England to Chicago. Here's the link and some of their text. I thought you might be particularly interested because of the England connection! [http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1698&Itemid=418](http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1698&Itemid=418)

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Was the Nevada Constitution the longest telegram?

The question comes up every year: Was the Nevada Constitution the longest telegram ever sent? Was it the longest until 1864?

Pages 8 & 9 of the publication, Nevada, the Centennial of Statehood: An Exhibition in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., June 23, 1965, to October 31, 1965, (Washington: Library of Congress, 1965) reproduce the first and last pages of the telegram of the Nevada Constitution. The source is cited as the Nevada Territorial Papers in the National Archives. The last sheet contains a note with the total word count (16,543) and the cost of transmission (\$4,303.27).

For more than twenty years Nevada Archives staff followed leads of longer telegrams, but did not find proof of any until now. Newspaper articles made claims that something was the longest and now web sites are doing it, but few stood up to the 16,000 word telegram.

BUT, according to David McKittrick's, History of Cambridge University Press (New York, 2004) and Maurice Price's, An Ancestry of Our English Bible... (New York, 1921), on May 21, 1881, the English Standard Version of the New Testament, the first revision since the 1611 King James Bible, was published in England, transmitted across the Trans-Atlantic cable, telegraphed from New York to Chicago and published in the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Times on May 22, 1881. It was **118,000 words** making it the longest telegram ever sent.

It was the biggest scoop of the year for a United States' newspaper according to the History of the Chicago Tribune, (1922). The publishers explained that 92 com-

positors typeset the work in twelve hours. The Chicago Times printed it because it did not want to “scooped” by the Tribune, whose editors criticized the Times’ version as full of errors. They did not think that the telegram was the feat, but the typesetting.

That makes Nevada’s Constitution the second longest telegram in history and the longest up until 1881, until someone finds one longer.

**Charlie Wellander**

Southgate ARN



## **AO-51 Current Status**

AMSAT-NA VP Operations Drew Glasbrenner KO4MA reports on Friday’s IHU crash on the Amateur Radio satellite **AO-51**.

Sometime between 1815 and 1945Z November 25, AO-51’s IHU crashed. This happened after a few days of intermittent and unpredictable operation.

Mark N8MH and I reset the satellite and started the repeater back up around ~2030Z, and lowered the output power to about 300 milliwatts. Battery voltage was low, around 4.9v, with cell 1 less than 1 volt. This is very troublesome, as the impending third cell failure will likely end our continuing operations, particularly if it fails shorted as the others have.

We’ve also observed the transmitters cutting off around 4.7 to 4.6 volts prior to the last reset, in edipse.

We’ll do what we can, but her days are short. Let me ask once again for more reports, especially from the US operators, to the <http://oscar.dcarr.org/> webpage. The command stations monitor this for changes in the operation of AO-51, and while worldwide participation is good, few US operators post to it.

Please support the several satellite programs worldwide, such as AMSAT-Fox, AMSAT-UK FUNcube and UKCube, AMSAT-ZL Kiwisat, AMSAT-DL P3E, and others.

AO-51

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/>

*{update : it appears the batteries on AO-51 may have reached the end of their life}*



There is only one  
**NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION  
of  
RADIO TRANSMITTERS.**

It serves you at  
local, national and international  
levels.

*It deserves our full support  
if we are to continue to have  
the frequencies and operating privileges  
we currently enjoy.*

**The Association  
is what you and I make it.**



New Zealand  
**Historic Places Trust** *Pouhere Taonga*



**10th January 2012—Copy for Break-In due**  
**18th January 2012—Combined General/Exec Meeting**  
**22nd January 2012—NZART HQ InfoLine**  
**4-5 February 2012—NZART DX Weekend Contest**  
**5th February 2012—NZART HQ InfoLine**  
**15th February 2012—Club AGM**  
**19th February 2012—NZART HQ InfoLine**  
**25-26 February 2012—Jock White Memorial Field Days**  
**26th February 2012—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**3rd March 2012—Te Puke/Paengaroa Junk Sale**  
**10th March 2012—Colville Connection (AREC)**  
**10th March 2012—WARO 50th Anniversary Celebration**  
**April 2012—WARO TheIma Souper Memorial**  
**7-8 April 2012—NZART Low Band Contest**  
**19-20 May 2012—NZART Sangster Shield**  
**7-8 July 2012—NZART Memorial Contest**  
**August 2012—Hamilton Market Day**  
**Easter 2013—NZART Technology Conference - Auckland**

For more information on any of the above please contact myself or any committee member.

## AREC Event Operators Page

<b>WRC Rally NZ/ Possum Bourne Rally</b>	<b>June 2012</b>	<b>Organiser : ZL1DK</b>
Please contact the <a href="#">Section Leader</a> with your team information and he will pass it on to Auckland.		

<b>Rollo's Marine Bridge to Bridge Water-Ski Race</b>	<b>3-4 December 2011</b>	<b>Organiser : ZL1UPJ</b>
<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Saturday Operator</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday Operator</u></b>
<b>Base</b>		
<b>Start Boat</b>		
<b>Rescue Boat</b>		
<b>X-Band</b>		
<b>A.</b>	Ngaruawahia/ Taupiri	
	Start/Finish at Point	
<b>B.</b>	Ngaruawahia Ramp	
<b>C.</b>	Ngaruawahia W/S	
<b>D.</b>	Horotiu	
<b>E.</b>	Pukete Ramp	
<b>F.</b>	Days Park	
<b>G.</b>	Fairfield Bridge	
<b>H.</b>	Malcolm St	
<b>I.</b>	Narows	
<b>J.</b>	Field Days	
<b>K.</b>	Between Pipe and F/Days	
<b>L.</b>	High Level Bridge	

<b>Kairangi Hill Climb</b>	<b>Sunday September 2012</b>		<b>Organiser : ZL1IC</b>	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>			
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
<b>School C ycling</b>	<b>July 2012</b>		<b>Organiser : ZL1IC</b>	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>	
1.		5.		
2.		6.		
3.		7.		
4.		8.		
<b>Colville Connection</b>	<b>10th March 2012</b>		<b>Organiser : ZL1PK</b>	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Primary Operator</u>	<u>Secondary Operator</u>	<u>Other Operator</u>	
<b>Base</b>				
<b>Stony Bay</b>				
<b>Fletcher Bay</b>				
<b>Hill 1</b>				
<b>Hill 2</b>				
<b>Fantail Bay</b>				
<b>Stand B y</b>				

For Details about and to help w ith these events, contact the person indicated as the organiser for the event. See Page 1 for their contact information.

## Club Information



### Contacts :-

**Business Meeting:** 1930 First Wednesday of each month  
88 Seddon Road, Hamilton

**General Meeting:** 1930 Third Wednesday of each month (except Jan)  
88 Seddon Road, Hamilton

**Homepage:** <http://z1ux.tripod.com>  
**eMail:** [branch.12@nzart.org.nz](mailto:branch.12@nzart.org.nz)

**HF Net:** 3.575MHz LSB 1930 Mondays  
**VHF Net:** 146.525MHz simplex 2000 Tuesdays

**2m Repeater:** 145.325MHz -600kHz split  
**STSP** 146.675MHz -600kHz split  
**Repeaters:** 438.725MHz -5 MHz split  
**ATV Repeater:** 615.250 Ch39 (off air)

*Cover Photo: Hi-Mound HK-8 Serpentine Key. Worth approx US\$715 See <http://www.morsex.com/himound/>*

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