

Ham Hum

July 2010



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



Next General Meeting

21st July—7:30pm

ZL1UJG on his Spectrum Analyser

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From the Editor

The Hamilton Market Day has moved this year. All the rebuilding and remodeling at the Event Center to make it bigger and better seem to have resulted in the prices getting bigger as well. The club committee has been investigating alternate locations for a few years, and has settled on the Waikato Table Tennis Stadium. This also marks the return of our club organised food and drinks at reasonable prices with excellent kitchen and dining facilities.

Congratulations to our club patron Fin (ZL4HI) on obtaining his 50yr OTC certificate. A huge achievement to go with all the others he has earned.

Our training classes have started again with a fresh group of people who are wanting to become Hams. Many thanks to those running the classes, and I assume all candidates will pass as we have very high quality instructors.

The annual Club Dinner will be on August the 18th in place of the General Meeting. Monitor the club nets for further information.

From AREC : Thanks to ZL1IC, ZL1UPJ, ZL1GA, ZL1DGK, ZL1RGM, Shaun, ZL1TNO, ZL1KU, ZL2CMC & ZL1PK for their help with safety communications at the North Island Secondary Schools Road Championship cycling event around Ngaruawahia over the 3rd & 4th of July.

I've heard that ZL1UD (Tony)'s mother isn't very well. I'm sure we hope everything works out well for Tony and his Mum.

Next Committee Meetings - 2nd June & 7th July

SB PROP ARL ARLP026

ARLP026 Propagation de K7RA

Most stations reported not-so-great conditions for ARRL Field Day last weekend, but there were sporadic-e openings on 6 and 10 meters. Geomagnetic conditions were a bit rough, with the Planetary A index in double digits for both days, June 26-27. Conditions at mid-latitude were not too bad, but in Alaska the College A index was 20 and 22. With atmospheric noise from seasonal thunderstorms it was a bit rough at times, although with Field Day just about everyone has fun.

Read comments from participants at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox> and select 2010 ARRL Field Day from the drop-down menu.

June is over, so we have some new averages for sunspot numbers, and the numbers declined slightly. Average daily sunspot number over the month of June was 18, down from 20 in May. The three-month average centered on May was 16.2, down from 18.5 the previous month (centered on April, with data from March through May), 22.3 the month before, and 25.7 the month prior to that (centered on February).

For the past week, average daily sunspot numbers were 11.7, down from 16.1 the prior week and 26.9 before that.

The latest prediction (from Thursday afternoon) via USAF and NOAA has solar flux at 72 for July 2-3, and 74 on July 4-10. The same forecast has planetary A index at 10 for July 2, 8 on July 3-4, and 5 on July 5-10.

Geophysical Institute Prague in the Czech Republic sees quiet to unsettled conditions July 2-3, and quiet conditions July 4-8.

With sporadic-e season in full swing, we've heard a number of six meter reports. Jim O'Brien, W4AMP of Cedartown, Georgia (EM74) reports that on June 19 six meters was open most of the day. With a 2-element beam and 100 watts at midnight local time (0400z) he worked VE7BEE in DN09 and KW7Y in CN88. He noted that midnight is an odd time for multiple-hop sporadic-e skip.

Martin McCormick, WB5AGZ in Stillwater, Oklahoma sent in this note about sporadic-e on Field Day:

"On Saturday June 26, I was tuning between 25 and 30 MHz at about 12:30 CDT and heard a narrow-band FM signal on 25.99 MHz playing music. It was a broadcast station's Queuing system. These used to be very common around 26.xx MHz but most stations have gone to much higher frequencies to get away from Sporadic E, F2 and illegal CB-type activity so when one hears one of these signals these days, it is rare.

I listened for a while and heard 2 ID's which turned out to be for KSCS whose actual broadcast frequency is 96.3 in Fort Worth, TX. This is very interesting because Stillwater, Oklahoma is only a bit over 200 to 250 miles from the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The signal was full-quieting with fades for several minutes and then it vanished very quickly. This should have been good for Field Day participants on 12 and 10 meters as E Skip doesn't usually get that short.

The bands were actually pretty boring with 6 meters dead from here and not many strong signals between 25 and 30 MHz. You'd be surprised what the letters KSCS can sound like even when heard fairly clearly. I made a recording of the audio and heard them refer to Texas but it took several runs at [Radio-locator.com](http://radiolocator.com) to find anything that made sense. Fortunately, radio locator lists stations by Call letters, frequency and program format. KSCS is in Texas, plays country music and is on 96.3 MHz.

Some radio stations may still use these frequencies for actual remote broadcasts from a truck or public building back to the studio so you never know what you will find." Martin mentioned <http://www.radio-locator.com/> which is very handy for identifying broadcast stations with a great deal of detailed information.

Abandoned distress beacon triggers search

An old distress beacon dumped in a Bay of Plenty rubbish tip wasted time and resources, police say.

Tauranga Search and Rescue were called out today after aircraft flying into Tauranga and Rotorua (New Zealand) reported receiving a signal from an emergency beacon within the greater Tauranga area.

It was assumed the beacon was an old 121 MHz model, which was no longer monitored, as the signal was not being picked up by satellite.

The Tauranga Coastguard spent more than two hours sweeping the harbour up to Katikati trying to locate the source without success.

The Rescue Coordination Centre (RCCNZ) brought in specialist radio signal tracking equipment from Hamilton, which narrowed the signal down to the Te Maunga Refuse Centre in Mount Maunganui.

While an operator was there, the signal stopped and it is presumed the beacon was disabled as garbage was being crushed at the time.

Western Bay of Plenty Sergeant Craig Madden said disposing of an emergency beacon without deactivating it was careless and irresponsible.

Anyone possessing the older 121 or 243 MHz beacon should hand them in to their local police station or the local coastguard.

Mr Madden said the 406 MHz beacons were the only ones monitored by RCCNZ since February 1 2009.

"The new 406 has considerably greater advantages, with its signal being picked up by satellite within minutes."

The NZ Sun

<http://www.sunlive.co.nz/14924a1.page>

Oh How Times Have Changed

TO ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE BORN IN THE 1930's 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's !!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking .

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because.....WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem .

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of.

They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever!

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL! And YOU are one of them! CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good.

and while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.

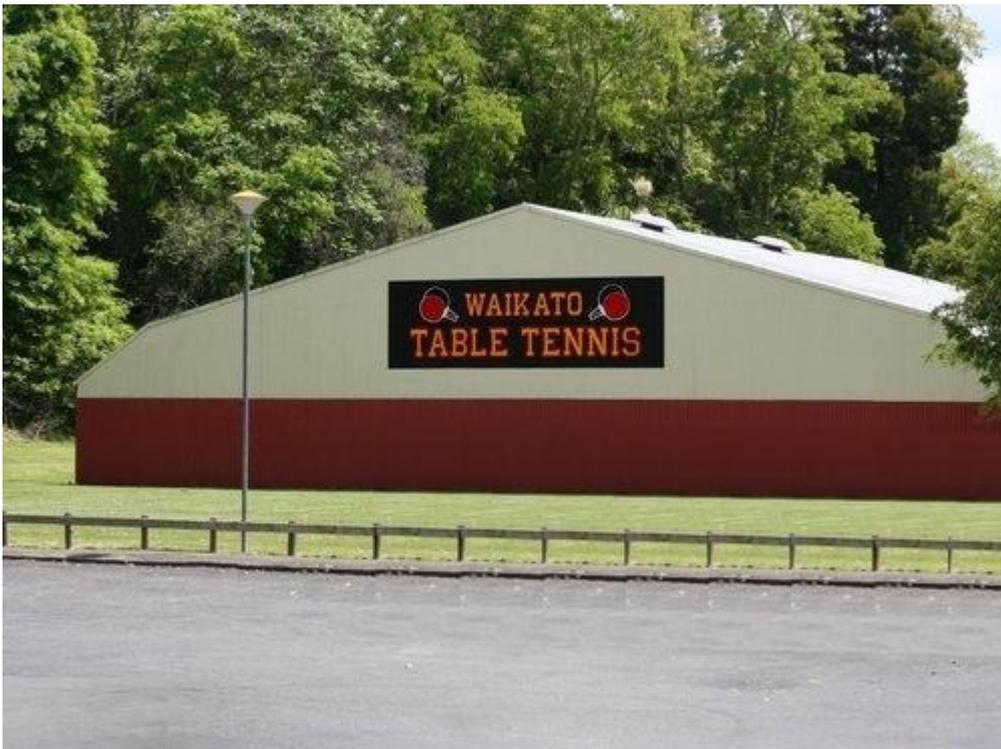
Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?!

PS -The big type is because your eyes are shot at your age.

[For those young ones reading this, maybe your suspicions have just been confirmed]



Hamilton Market Day
Saturday, 14th August 2010
Waikato Table Tennis Clubrooms
Edgecumbe St (off Ulster St)
Doors open 10am



ZL1CLUB HF Node

Do you not have the space for a 160m dipole?

Do you have difficulty hearing on some HF bands due to high QRM?

Do you do not have a tri band beam antenna but would like to use one?

Have you moved to a new QTH and are not able to put up HF equipment?

Do you travel a lot and want to be able to access HF to make contact with your Ham friends?

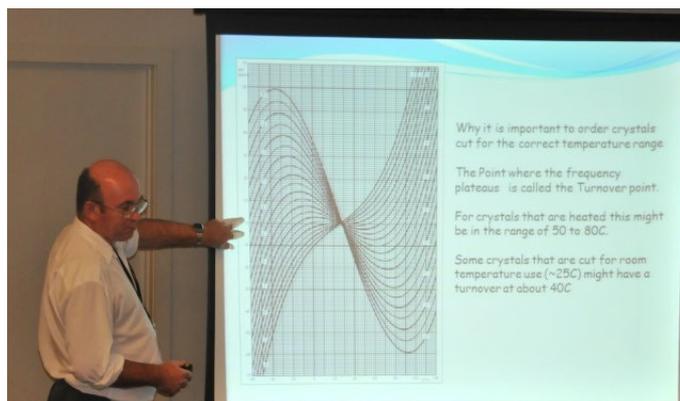
If you can answer yes to any of the above questions then we may have the answer to help.

Why not try the ZL1CLUB HF node at the Papakura Radio Club, go to <http://www.qsl.net/zl1club> and learn all about how you can have access to the ZL1CLUB Link, a shared HF station to help you keep in contact with you ham friends.

"ZL1CLUB" by the number One Club helping Amateur Radio operators stay on the air

Some photos from NZART Conference

Pictures by ZL1TPH



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Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings & Events</i>
3-4 July	NZART Memorial Contest
3-4 July	NI Secondary School Bike Race (AREC)
4th July	NZART HQ Info-Line
5th July	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
6th July	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
10-11 July	IARU HF World Championship
10th July	Closing date for Break-In
12th July	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
13th July	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
18th July	NZART HQ Info-Line
19th July	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
20th July	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
24th July	Waitakere Sprints (Phone)
25th July	NZART Official Broadcast
26th July	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
27th July	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00

7th August—Waitakere Sprints (CW)
7th August—NZART Boat Anchor Sprint
7-8 August—NZART Brass Monkey Contest
8th August—NZART HQ Info-Line
14th August—Hamilton Market Day
14-15 August—WIA VK Remembrance Day
14-15 August—International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend
21-22 August—Lighthouse Weekend—ILLW
22nd August—NZART HQ Info-Line
28th August—ALARA Contest
29th August—NZART Official Broadcast
5th September—NZART HQ Info-Line
6th September—NZART Doug Gorman Freq Measuring Contest
11th September—NZART Nostalgia Night
12th September—Kairangi Hillclimb (AREC)
19th September—NZART HQ Info-Line
26th September—NZART Official Broadcast
2nd October—Oceania All Bands SSB
2-3 October—NZART Microwave Contest
9th October—Western Suburbs Equipment Sale
9th October—Oceania All Bands CW
6th November—NZART Straight Key Night
13th November—NZART Boat Anchor Sprint
13th November—GlobalSET
4-5 December—NZART Field Day Contest
4-5 December—KDMG Twin Sprint

AREC Event Operators Page

WRC Rally NZ/ Possum Bourne Rally	2011	Organiser : ZL1DK
Please contact the Section Leader with your team information and he will pass it on to Auckland.		

Rollo's Marine Bridge to Bridge Water-Ski Race	November 2010	Organiser : ZL1UPJ
<u>Position</u>	<u>Saturday Operator</u>	<u>Sunday Operator</u>
Base		
Start Boat		
Rescue Boat		
X-Band		
A.	Ngaruawahia/Taupiri	
	Start/Finish at Point	
B.	Ngaruawahia Ramp	
C.	Ngaruawahia W/S	
D.	Horotiu	
E.	Pukete Ramp	
F.	Days Park	
G.	Fairfield Bridge	
H.	Malcolm St	
I.	Narows	
J.	Field Days	
K.	Between Pipe and F/Days	
L.	High Level Bridge	

Kairangi Hill Climb	Sunday 12th September 2010		Organiser : ZL1IC	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>			
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
School Cycling	3-4 July 2010		Organiser : ZL1IC	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>	
1.		5.		
2.		6.		
3.		7.		
4.		8.		
Colville Connection	March 2011		Organiser :	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Primary Operator</u>	<u>Secondary Operator</u>	<u>Other Operator</u>	
Base				
Stony Bay				
Fletcher Bay				
Hill 1				
Hill 2				
Fantail Bay				
Stand By				

For Details about and to help with 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://z11ux.tripod.com>
eMail: 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: North Island Secondary School Road Championship, under-20 boys race. 4th July 2010.

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