

Ham Hum

June 2008



The official newsletter of
The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Inc
Branch 12 of NZART - ZL1UX
85 years of leadership



Next General Meeting

18 June 2008

Conference Report/Show & Tell

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Contact Details 2007-2008

President:			
Robin Holdsworth	ZL1IC	855 4786	zl1ux@nzart.org.nz
Vice Presidents:			
Gavin Petrie	ZL1GWP	843 0326	zl1gwp@nzart.org.nz
Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	zl1pk@nzart.org.nz
Secretary:			
David Nation	ZL1TCE	843 0108	zl1tce@nzart.org.nz
David King	ZL1DGK	847 1320	zl1dgk@nzart.org.nz
AREC Section Leader:			
Tony Case	ZL1UD	850 5218	zl1ud@nzart.org.nz
Deputy Section Leaders:			
David Nation	ZL1TCE	843 0108	zl1tce@nzart.org.nz
"Jono" Jonassen	ZL1UPJ		zl1upj@nzart.org.nz
Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	zl1pk@nzart.org.nz
Treasurer:			
Tom Powell	ZL1TJA	834 3461	zl1tja@nzart.org.nz
Committee:			
"Jono" Jonassen	ZL1UPJ		zl1upj@nzart.org.nz
Terry O'Loan	ZL1TNO	824 7561	zl1tno@nzart.org.nz
Tony Case	ZL1UD	850 5218	zl1ud@nzart.org.nz
Patron:			
Fin Bruce	ZL4HI	843 9634	
Ham Hum Editor:			
David King	ZL1DGK	847 1320	zl1dgk@nzart.org.nz
Ham Hum Printer:			
John Nicholson	ZL1AUB	846 7477	
ATV Co-ordinators:			
Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	zl1pk@nzart.org.nz
Robin Holdsworth	ZL1IC	855 4786	
Market Day Co-ordinator:			harcmday@hotmail.com
David Nation	ZL1TCE	843 0108	834 4637
Publicity Officer:			
David Craig	ZL1CDO		
Webmaster:			
Tony Case	ZL1UD	850 5218	zl1ud@nzart.org.nz
BBS Team:			
Phil King (sysop)	ZL1PK	847 1320	zl1pk@nzart.org.nz
Alan Wallace	ZL1AMW	843 3738	zl1amw@nzart.org.nz
Doug Faulkner	ZL4FS	855 1214	
Gavin Petrie	ZL1GWP	843 0326	zl1gwp@nzart.org.nz
Club Custodian:			
Alan Mowry	ZL1UGM	847 7868	
Equipment Officer/Quartermaster:			
Colin McEwen	ZL2CMC	849 2492	
QSL Manager:			
Sutton Burtenshaw	ZL4QJ	856 3832	suttonb@slingshot.co.nz
Net Controllers:			
80m net—David King	ZL1DGK	847 1320	zl1dgk@nzart.org.nz
2m net—David King	ZL1DGK	847 1320	zl1dgk@nzart.org.nz

From the Committee

Situation report #3 on China earthquake

As the disaster recovery efforts continue following China 's most powerful earthquake, the Information Office of the State Council reported (on 26 May) that the death toll had reached 65,080.

Government officials and news media have recognised that when communications failed after the Sichuan earthquake on 12 May, it was amateur radio operators who stepped in to provide vital links.

In the past two weeks there has been more than five million people made homeless. The most in-demand materials and supplies for the disaster area are tents and medicines. Disease prevention is also at a very critical stage.

China Central Television (CCTV) reported on 26 May, 'When all other communication means failed, amateur radio operators came out! An amateur radio emergency communication network was setup and one of the commanders, Liu hu called for amateur radio operators on air to provide services for disaster relief.

Thankfully one main repeater survived during the earthquake, this repeater provided 100km coverage to Mianyang. Amateur radio operators from Chengdu Shenzhen, He'nan went to the centre of the disaster area, set up repeaters in Beichuan county, and provided various valuable first hand information from the centre.

The IARU radio society, CRSA said it hoped to report later more detailed information on the role of amateur radio emergency communications in the big earthquake.

In the meantime it advises that the main organiser of local amateur radio traffic, Luo Minglin BY8AA continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu , the capital of southwest China 's province of Sichuan.

(continued page 10)

Next Committee Meeting - 2 July 2008

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SB PROP ARL ARLP023

ARLP023 Propagation de K7RA

This week we saw only one sunspot, numbered 997, and only on Labor Day, May 26. Alas, this was another sunspot left over from fading Cycle 23, and the appearance was very brief. One day it weakly emerged, and it quickly faded from view. The previous five days were spotless; spots appeared on the five days prior to that, and previous to those spotted days were ten days of no spots.

If our Sun shows no more sunspots today and tomorrow, May 30-31, we will see a 3-month average of daily sunspot numbers centered on April just above the values for every 3-month average since the minimum, centered on October 2007. The values through April are 3, 6.9, 8.1, 8.5, 8.4, 8.4, and 8.9. Because this is a three month average, we won't know the value centered on May until the end of June.

If these numbers suggest Cycle 24 is stalled, we can compare with the previous minimum.

Using the same scheme, the 3-month averages of daily sunspot numbers centered on September 1996 through March 1997 (which includes all the sunspot data from August through the following April) were 8.7, 10.2, 14.2, 16.4, 11.7, 11.3, and 16.4.

Those are slightly higher values 11 years ago compared with the current numbers, but notice the six months following the minimum also seemed to flatten out. And while the last bottom had slightly higher average sunspot numbers, it had one longer period of no spots.

If we rank periods of spotless days back to the mid-nineteenth century, the period between Cycles 22 and 23 had the tenth-ranked spotless days period, the 42 days from September 13 through October 24, 1996. Now between Cycles 23 and 24 we have observed two stretches of spotless days of at least three weeks, a fifty-third ranked 22 days in September, and the twenty-ninth ranked 28 days in October and November of last year.

The three longest spotless periods since the mid-nineteenth century

were 92 days leading up to Cycle 15 in 1913, 69 days prior to Cycle 14 in 1901, and 54 days before Cycle 12 in 1879. You can peruse the 72 longest periods of zero sunspots lasting 20 days or more, all ranked from longest to shortest at the site, <http://tinyurl.com/6b4d6s>.

For Sale

Yaesu FT-897 in good order. Hardly used by Hamilton Search & Rescue.

Contact Barry (ZL1BNP) Ph: 7-849-1189

RSM helps out at the Australian V8 supercars championship

Published: 13.05.2008

Radio Spectrum Management was on hand to help out with the hosting of the Australian V8 Supercars in Hamilton in April. The use of wireless communications is an essential part of the event, with a significant potential for interference.

Attending teams had to reprogram their radios for this location, in some cases involving over 30 radios and up to 5 channels. Voice communication was a safety requirement between each driver and their pit team, while engineers needed real-time video and multi-channel telemetry to manage their cars. At least 1500 radios, using over 200 licensed frequencies, together with a large amount of General User Licence equipment mainly in the 921 – 928MHz and 2.4GHz bands were in use for the event.

Most of the teams audited by the RSM team had programmed their equipment correctly, while those who had not taken note of the possible

**Amateur Radio Training Classes
Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc)**

- When :** Thursdays 7:30pm
Weekly starting 2nd Week in June
Classes will run for at least 15 weeks
- How :** Training will be provided via NZART DVD training videos, NZART Training Manual, Computer Based Training and Instructors providing one-on-one and group training.
- Cost :** \$50 (includes Training Manual & Club membership, also includes any classes over and above the minimum of 15 weeks)*
- Where :** Hamilton Amateur Radio clubrooms
88 Seddon Rd
HAMILTON

For further details or to enroll for training please contact the club secretary (David) by phone at 07-847-1320, by post to Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 606, Hamilton, or by email to branch.12@nzart.org.nz

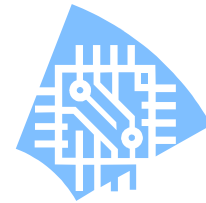
- * An examination fee of \$15 and other costs such as an annual subscription to NZART and a one-off payment for obtaining a callsign, while optional, will be encouraged.
- The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club has several Certified Examiners who will test an individual or group when requested.
- Timing of any test will be discussed during the training and will be arranged to suit.

The Hamilton Market Day



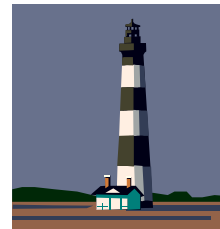
9th August 2008

Claudelands Event
Center



Heaphy Tce

Put this important
date in your diary now



Entry is free for buyers. Refreshments provided.
Prior vendors will receive registration details by mail.

AUSTRALIA ISSUES CLASS LICENCE FOR VISITING AMATEURS

The Wireless Institute of Australia advises that on 14 February 2008 a Class Licence issued by the Australian regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), allowing visiting amateurs to operate while in Australia came into effect.

The Class Licence is issued under the Australian Radiocommunication Legislation, and allows any overseas amateur visiting Australia to operate for up to 90 days after each entry to Australia. A visiting amateur does not have to make any application or payment to operate, but must hold evidence of a licence or qualification recognized by ACMA and a call sign issued by the administration that issued the licence or qualification.

The conditions of operation are fully set out in the Class Licence, including the 5 levels of operation permitted.

The Class Licence may be found on the WIA's website www.wia.org.au.

The level of operation, which range from the privileges and bands allowed to the Australian Advanced licence to a 146 to 148 MHz low power FM licence (essentially for hand held operation), depends on the level of the overseas licence.

Overseas licences and the equivalent level are set out in the Table of Equivalent Qualifications and Licences, which can be found on the ACMA's website. The URL for the part of the ACMA site 'Apparatus Licensing – Amateurs Visiting Australia' that includes the table is:

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_1311.

And if an amateur wishing to visit Australia cannot find his or her licence in the Table, then they can still use the low power 146 – 148 MHz FM licence, which is where all the repeaters are to be found.

There are currently a number of errors and omissions in the Table of Equivalent Qualifications and Licences and the WIA is assisting ACMA in identifying them. Any suggestions should be emailed to the WIA at

nationaloffice@wia.org.au.

The WIA is delighted that all visiting amateurs will now find it so easy to op-

erate in Australia.

- *The International Amateur Radio Union Region 3*

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Surfin': Google Earth's Ionosphere

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU

This just in: NASA-funded researchers released to the general public a new "4D" live model of the Earth's ionosphere. Called *Earth Space 4-D*, this new online tool visualizes the ionosphere using *Google Earth* and an Internet connection.

"This is an exciting development," says solar physicist Lika Guhathakurta of NASA headquarters in Washington, DC. "The ionosphere is important to pilots, ham radio operators, earth scientists and even soldiers. Using this new 4D tool, they can monitor and study the ionosphere as if they're actually inside it."

NASA's Explore the Ionosphere (from the safety of your own home) Web page announced the news about the tool and includes a video demo highlighting its features as well as a link to instructions on how to launch it.

In order to use *Earth Space 4-D*, you first must install [Google Earth](#) on your computer (both *Earth Space 4-D* and *Google Earth* are free). Second, you follow the simple instructions listed on the Communication Alert and Prediction System (CAPS) [Web page](#).

This tool is so new (only one day old as I write this) that I have only explored the tip of this impressive iceberg, but from what I have seen, it is an important addition to the Amateur Radio toolbox (its Maximum Useable Frequency [MUF] features alone should be interesting to most hams).

I highly recommend *Earth Space 4-D*. The price is right, so try it out.

Until next time, keep on surfen'!

- WA1LOU

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(From page 2)

In the meantime it advises that the main organiser of local amateur radio traffic, Luo Minglin BY8AA continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu , the capital of southwest China 's province of Sichuan.

More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang, among the worst hit areas outside the epicentre, to form an effective amateur radio communication network.

Zhang Zhen BG8DOU reports that right after the earthquake, two ham radio operators drove to the centre of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of 13 May.

This repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions, status reports and was a main communication channel for public use.

Among the traffic the repeater carried were communications for the Mayor of Mianzhu City , who gave orders to those on the front line rescue and recovery activity.

The CRSA appreciates the support given by the amateur radio community in helping to keep clear the emergency communication frequencies of 7050kHz, 7060kHz and 14270kHz during the critical period after the earthquake.

The CRSA said, "Thanks for the cooperation and efforts made by all amateur radio societies."

Those frequencies are no longer needed for emergency communications, but should a severe aftershock occur, there will be a call by the CRSA for them to be kept clear again.

The radio society also acknowledged having received inquiries and the warm concerns of amateur radio societies worldwide.

-BA1RB

Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings & Events</i>
1st June	NZART Official Broadcast
2nd June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
3rd June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
4th June	Committee Meeting
7-8 June	Hibernation Contest
8th June	NZART HQ Info-Line
9th June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
10th June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
14th June	Boat Anchor Sprint
16th June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
17th June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
18th June	General Meeting (Conference Report)
22nd June	NZART HQ Info-Line
23rd June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
24th June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
29th June	WRC Shakedown
29th June	NZART Official Broadcast
30th June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30

2nd July—Committee Meeting
5-6 July—NZART Memorial Contest 80m CW & SSB
5th July—VK/Trans-Tasman Contest 160m Phone
6th July—NZART HQ Info-Line
16th July—General Meeting
19th July—VK/Trans-Tasman Contest 160m CW
20th July—NZART HQ Info-Line
26th July—Hawkes Bay Rally
26th July—Whangarei Used Equipment Sale
26th July—Waitakere Sprints 80m Phone
27th July—NZART Official Broadcast
30th July—Hamilton AREC Section meeting
2nd August—Waitakere Sprints 80m CW
2-3 August—Brass Monkey Contest
9th August—The Hamilton Market Day
16-17 August—International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend
29-31 August—Rally NZ (WRC)
1-2 November—Bridge to Bridge
14th March 2009—Colville Connection
2nd May 2009—45th Rotorua Marathon

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

The Next AREC Section Meeting will be on July 30th at the Clubrooms.

Jono and I will be representing both the Club and the Section at both the NZART and AREC AGM's at Conference in Dunedin .

Upcoming events are listed on the Club Webpages. I am still looking for 3 people for Sunday the 2nd of November and 3 people for both Saturday 1st and Sunday the 2nd for the Water-ski Race. I am putting together a spreadsheet for Rally NZ operators for ZL1DK. Please phone me with your name, e-mail and postal address, address, shirt sizes and days available. The dates are 28 to 31 August. I am heading to Hawkes Bay for the HB Rally from July 24 to 29. I think I have a second operator. This is a 2 day rally and I will be stopping at Waikeremoana for a day on the way home.

The Club 2M STSP is going to have its frequency changed to 146.675MHz shortly. This will place the repeater on one of the frequencies under the NZART STSP License. If you are going to use either of the STSP's on an event, ensure that you are aware of the rules that are associated with the use of STSP's. The Policy is included in this issue of Ham Hum, and available from the NZART Website in PDF format. Please note that only NZART members can establish an STSP, and that it MUST be more than 50M from any other Communications System.

Jono, ZL1UPJ; Phil, ZL1PK; David, ZL1DGK and I took part in an AREC Comms exercise a few weeks ago. We were using the National System, 3.900MHz, 146.950MHz and 146.525MHz.

If you need gear for an AREC event, see Colin ZL2CMC. He is the Quartermaster (Q), and the procedure will be that gear will be signed out and signed back in by the borrower. It is YOUR responsibility to get the gear signed back in – not give it to someone else to sign back in.

There will be a course coming up for AREC Training. If you have not been, please go. I am trying?? to have it held in Hamilton.

-ZK1EC

Upcoming AREC Events

Please mark these dates on your calendar and/or diary

The club has 2m handheld radios for use on events like these which means YOU can help out.

WRC Shakedown

29 June 2008, Mystery Creek
2m simplex FM (SSB optional)
ZL1DGK, ZL1PK, ZL1TCE, ZL1UD, ZL1UPJ
already booked in.



Hamilton Section Meeting

30 July 2008

39th WRC Rally New Zealand 2008

29-31 August 2008, Mystery Creek
11th round WRC, 5th round PWRC, 5th round NZRC
Names of primary operators to ZL1UD via eMail. Reserve your spot quick. ZL1UD/ZL1IC, ZL1TCE/ZL1UPJ, ZL1PK/ZL1DGK already booked in.

25th Annual Rollos Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic 2008

1-2 November 2008
16 operators needed
ZL1DGK, ZL1DK, ZL1GWP, ZL1IC, ZL1KK, ZL1KN, ZL1LD,
ZL1PK, ZL1TCE, ZL1TNO, ZL1UD, ZL1UPJ, ZL2CMC, ZL4QJ
already booked in.

Kona Colville Connection 2009

14th March 2009
Using HF & 2m (simplex & repeater).
ZL1KK/ZL1KN, ZL1PK/ZL1DGK/ZL1LD, ZL1UD/ZL2TW,

For Details about and to help with these events, contact :-

Tony Case ZL1UD zl1ud@nzart.org.nz

or one of his deputies (ZL1PK, ZL1TCE, ZL1UPJ).

Club Information



Contacts :-

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

General Meeting: 1930 Third Wednesday of each month
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

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

Cover Photo: KATO MR-130 crane as used to lower a tower from a large building.

Sender Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc)
PO Box 606
Hamilton 3240