

Ham Hum

November 2008



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



Next General Meeting

19th November 2008

End of Year BBQ—6th December

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From the Committee

The VHF/UHF (2m/70cm) collinear is now back where it belongs, on top of the roof of our clubrooms. Many thanks to those who helped to repair the storm damage and ensure it is ready to withstand more.

We farewell another SK this month. ZL1ALG passed away on the 10th October in Kawerau. Dearly loved husband for 53 years of Bev (ZL1OS). In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Mountain View Rest Home, Kawerau. Thanks to Carol Dyer (XYL of ZL1AIS) for the information.



Our annual end of year BBQ will be held on 6th December at the clubrooms starting at 11am. BYO items for the grill, etc. This is a social occasion so bring along the XYL, YL, OM, Elmer, etc... Time to celebrate another successful year for the club.

The November committee meeting may be rescheduled to allow for family time on Guy Fawkes night. Please listen to the club nets for more information.

There are some who have us believe that the spirit of adventure in the air is a thing of the past and that the 1930's saw the end of aviation's pioneering era. Surely that is not true.
- Cliff Tait (ZL1AKI), *Water under my wings*.

Next Committee Meetings - 5th Nov 2008 and 3rd Dec 2008

SB PROP ARL ARLP044

ARLP044 Propagation de K7RA

Visible sunspots continued last week for eight days straight, the longest continuous period of sunspot visibility since the twelve days of March 23 through April 3 2008.

For this week a solar wind stream is headed our way, and may strike October 28. The NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center places the predicted effect slightly later, with a predicted planetary A index for October 27 through November 1 at 5, 8, 12, 15, 10 and 5. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for October 24, quiet to unsettled October 25, quiet October 26-27, quiet to unsettled October 28, unsettled to active October 29, and unsettled October 30.

Both predictions place the disturbance between this weekend's CQ Worldwide SSB DX Contest (October 25-26) and the ARRL CW Sweepstakes a week later.

Vince Varnas, W7FA of Portland, Oregon reports that on Sunday October 9, at 1930-2100z, 10 meters was open to Latin America. He worked (I assume on phone) Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Honduras and Costa Rica mostly with S9 signals. This is a bit late in the season for sporadic-E skip, and this was two days after the recent run of sunspots. Vince believes he is too far north for trans-equatorial propagation and that it must have been via the F2 layer.

The day before, Francisco Chubaci, PU2MLC of Sao Paulo, Brazil received a very strong 6 meter signal on October 18 from NP4A in Ponce, Puerto Rico. This was between 2300-0100z, and signals were a very strong 40 dB over S9.

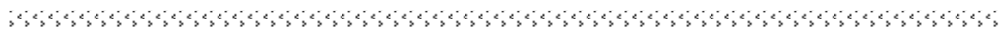
Mack Beal, W1PNR of Jackson, New Hampshire asked about new Cycle 24 sunspots compared to sunspots from old Cycle 23. He heard they change polarity, but wants more detail on how this is determined.

Yes, they do change polarity. We can see this by looking at magnetograms of the Sun. Go to the web site,

http://sohowwww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/realtime/realtime-mdi_mag-1024.html.

This site has an archive of recent images. Below the top section is a "List of Individual Images" for the current month. The leading characters in the filename represent year, month and day, and the last four indicate time in UTC. There is a link at the very bottom called "List of all individual images" which leads to an archive for the whole year.

You can look at images from October 10-17 to see that string of recent sunspots. If you click on the 10-15-2008 0941z file, you can see a big spot in the northern hemisphere with black on the right, white on the left. It is tracking from left to right, and if this were below the equator, it would be an old Cycle 23 spot. But this sunspot is a Cycle 24 sunspot, and note that spots above and below the equator have opposite polarity. So a Cycle 23 sunspot north of the equator would have black on the left and white on the right.



Internet Links

If you would like to add something that you've found on the internet to be useful, informative, or just plain funny, send it to me at zl1dgk@nzart.org.nz

Emergency preparedness and communications

<http://www.w2ik.com/>

Ham Radio shirts, mugs, etc...

<http://www.cafepress.com/73heaven/1984583>

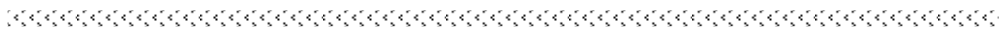


End of Year BBQ

**Clubrooms
88 Seddon Rd**

**Saturday 6th December
11am start**

BYO, and join in the celebration as we work towards 90 years of Ham Radio in Hamilton



Hubble telescope fails; NASA to delay shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) -- NASA said Monday that it is delaying its mission to the Hubble Space Telescope until next year because of a serious breakdown of the observatory in orbit.

Space shuttle Atlantis had been scheduled to blast off in just two weeks, but an unexpected problem with the Hubble appeared Saturday night, when the telescope stopped sending science data.

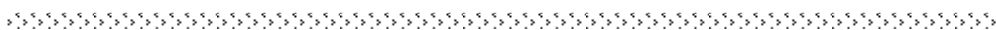
That potentially means a new repair issue for the astronauts to confront, one they haven't trained for and never anticipated.



The failure of the command and data-handling system for Hubble's science instruments means the telescope is unable to capture and beam down the data needed to produce its stunning deep space images.

Early Monday afternoon, NASA announced that the October 14 launch had been postponed until at least early next year, possibly February.

When Atlantis does fly, NASA may send up a replacement part for the failed component.



NZART

Next year is an election year, with the election taking place in February and March. In Hamilton, we get to vote for three ZL1 Councillors and the President.

It is now also time to pay your NZART Subscription for 2009. This is \$95.00, reduced to \$85.00 if paid before November 30th. One way of paying your NZART subscription is to pay by monthly installments. If you need to pay this way to keep your NZART membership going, speak to Debby. (04) 589-1802, write to her at The General Secretary, NZART, PO Box 40-525 Upper Hutt; or e-mail her at nzart.hq@clear.net.nz.



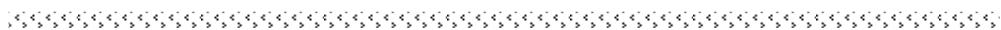
I would like to challenge the non members of the association who are reading this to consider joining NZART. Many of the rights and privileges that we enjoy as Amateurs in New Zealand are because of the work of NZART. Its officers are committed to making Amateur Radio in New Zealand as pleasurable as possible for Kiwi Hams and Hams through the world.

A while ago I wrote an article for Break-In called the Changing World (Page

4 November December 2007 issue). We are in a changing world, and if these changes slip by, we could end up losing the privileges that we have. There is more and more pressure on the Radio Spectrum from other interests (Commercial) and one of the areas that NZART is constantly vigilant is in looking for threats to the spectrum that we enjoy. Another area in which NZART is vigilant is the 10 yearly District Plans from Local Bodies. This can be quite an expensive obligation which NZART supplies to all NZ Amateurs, and yet another reason that New Zealand Amateurs should seriously consider joining NZART.

Generally in February, Council meets for a weekend in Wellington. This year we are meeting for one day only as a trial. This is one way that Council is saving money. The purpose of this meeting is preparation for articles that go into Break-In for the preparation of the AGM. During this and our other Face to Face meetings held at Conference, we also meet with selected Officers of the Association and discuss items of importance that need to be discussed Face to Face.

Tony Case ZL1UD
NZART Councillor (2003 – 2009)
Branch 12 Committee



Humour

Electricity originates inside clouds. There, it forms into lightning, which is attracted to the Earth by golfers. After entering the ground, the electricity hardens into coal, which, when dug up by power companies and burned in big ovens called 'generators,' turns back into electricity...where it is transformed by TV sets into commercials for beer, which passes through the consumers and back into the ground, thus completing what is known as a "circuit"

- Dave Barry

Something for the Technically Minded

An unfailingly polite lady calls to ask for help with a Windows installation that had gone terribly wrong.....

Customer: "I brought my Windows disks from work to install them on my home computer."



Tech Support: (Training stresses that we are "not the Software Police," so I let the little act of piracy slide.) "Umm-hmm. What happened?"

Customer: "As I put each disk in it turns out they weren't initialized."

Tech Support: "Do you remember the message exactly, ma'am?"

Customer: (proudly) "I wrote it down. 'This is not a Macintosh disk. Would you like to initialize it?'"

Tech Support: "Er, what happened next?"

Customer: "After they were initialized, all the disks appeared to be blank. And now I brought them back to work, and I can't read them in the A: drive; the PC wants to format them. And this is our only set of Windows disks for the whole office. Did I do something wrong?"

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## HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CHINA TO LAUNCH HAMSAT

China is planning to launch its first-ever ham radio satellite. Michael Chen, BD5RV portable 4 reports that he recently received an update from BA1DU,

on the progress of the ham radio bird.



First off, this satellite was originally named CAS-1 but its is now known as XW-1. And XW-1 will carry a beacon and three cross band transponders into space. One is for FM, another is linear, and the last is designed for digital operation.

Plans call for it to be launched into a sun synchronous orbit in June 2009. This, by a CZ-2C rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China.

More on this upcoming hamsat launch as information becomes available.

- ANS

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## **THE BPL WAR: RSGB VS. UK TELECOM REGULATOR OFCOM**

The Radio Society of Great Britain seems more than a little upset with U-K telecommunications Ofcom, and the reason can be summed up in three letters. B-P-L.

After waiting for nearly two years for a response from Ofcom over the introduction of possibly non compliant power line adapters the RSGB was extremely disappointed to hear the regulatory agency's response. In a nutshell, Ofcom said that it does not intend to do anything about it.

Now, RSGB President Colin Thomas, G3PSM, has written to Ofcom. In it, Thomas states the RSGB's concerns that Ofcom is failing to deliver on its statutory duty of ensuring the optimal use of the electromagnetic spectrum

especially in the High Frequency bands.

The RSGB has also told its members that it will continue to pursue Ofcom on this matter.

- GB2RS

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## **RADIO EDUCATION: A NEW MORSE TRAINER FOR PC BY ZL1AN**

If you are a no-code ham or an SWL and want to learn C-W, have we found a neat way to assist you. It's a new Morse teacher program from ZL1AN, that can be downloaded from the New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters ham radio society website. Its really neat. Take a listen as we play with its speed control from about 20 down to 5 words per minute:

In playback mode you can vary the speed from 3 to 30 words per minute. You can also set the output frequency of the audio the from 500 to 1000 hertz and the Farnsworth character separation speed from 12 to 35.

The program runs in Windows and has already received rave reviews. Many are saying that it is the best "teach-yourself-Morse" program yet developed or that they have ever seen. You will find it in cyberspace at: <http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/exam/morse.html> )

- NZART

## Upcoming Happenings & Events

| <i>Date</i>           | <i>Happenings &amp; Events</i>                   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>31 Oct-9 Nov</b>   | <b>Taranaki Rhododendron Festival Award 2008</b> |
| <b>1-2 November</b>   | <b>Bridge to Bridge (AREC)</b>                   |
| <b>1st November</b>   | <b>Straight Key Night</b>                        |
| 3rd November          | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30                         |
| 4th November          | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00                      |
| 5th November          | Committee Meeting                                |
| <b>8th November</b>   | <b>GlobalSET (EmComm) Exercise</b>               |
| <b>9th November</b>   | <b>NZART HQ Info-Line</b>                        |
| <b>10th November</b>  | <b>Break-In Deadline</b>                         |
| 10th November         | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30                         |
| 11th November         | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00                      |
| 17th November         | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30                         |
| 18th November         | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00                      |
| <b>19th November</b>  | <b>General Meeting</b>                           |
| <b>23rd November</b>  | <b>NZART HQ Info-Line</b>                        |
| 24th November         | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30                         |
| 25th November         | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00                      |
| <b>29-30 November</b> | <b>CQ World Wide (CW)</b>                        |
| <b>30th November</b>  | <b>NZART Official Broadcast</b>                  |
| 1st December          | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30                         |
| 2nd December          | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00                      |
|                       |                                                  |

**3rd December—Committee Meeting**  
**6th December—End of Year BBQ at clubrooms**  
**6-7 December—Field Day Contest (VHF and above)**  
**7th December—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**21st December—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**21st December—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**21st January 2009—NO General Meeting**  
**21st January 2009—Committee Meeting**  
**4th February 2009—Committee Meeting**  
**7-8 February 2009—DX Weekend Contest**  
**14th February 2009—Boat Anchor Sprint**  
**18th February 2009—AGM**  
**21-22 February 2009—Jock White Memorial Field Days**  
**14th March 2009—Colville Connection (AREC)**  
**28th March 2009—EXPO-09 5th Wellington Region Expo**  
**4-5 April 2009—Low Band Contest**  
**11-12 April 2009—VHF Convention 2009 (Hamilton)**  
**18th April 2009—World Amateur Radio Day**  
**29th April 2009—Hamilton AREC Section Meeting (AREC)**  
**2nd May 2009—45th Rotorua Marathon (AREC)**  
**2nd May 2009—GlobalSET (EmComm) Exercise**  
**1st June 2009—NZART Conference (Hastings)**  
**September 2009—9th Kairangi Hill Climb (AREC)**  
**12-16 October 2009—14th IARU R3 Conference (Christchurch)**  
**17-19 October 2009—Admin Council of IARU (Christchurch)**  
**November 2009—GlobalSET Exercise**

## Hamilton AREC Section News

As I write this article, the Bridge to Bridge has not taken place; it will be done and dusted by the time that you read it. There will be a report in the next Ham Hum.

Our STSP will have been QSY'd to our new frequency; 146.675MHz with a negative split. There will be new radios in the STSP, so some of us will need to be trained in its use.

I am working on an event organiser for a new event that is held yearly in late February or early March each year. This will require 5 operators. More to follow later on.

Our next major event is the Kona Colville Connection on 14 March. Operators are already sorted for this event, but if you are interested in coming along, see one of the Primary Operators for the event; Phil, Jono, Robin, Iain (ZL1KK) or myself. (If you want to go with Robin and Dave, you will need to be super fit (They hike around a mountain).)



Did you know that event operators are now listed on our Internet site off the AREC Page? Have a look. <http://zl1ux.tripod.com>

That's all for this month.

Tony ZL1UD/ZK1EC  
Section Leader

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## 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.

### 25th Annual Rollos Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic 2008

1-2 November 2008

16 operators needed

ZL1CNM, ZL1DGK, ZL1DK, ZL1GWP,  
ZL1IC, ZL1KK, ZL1KN, ZL1LD, ZL1PK,  
ZL1RGM, ZL1TCE, ZL1TJA, ZL1TNO,  
ZL1UD, ZL1UF, ZL1UPJ, ZL1WT,  
ZL2CMC, ZL2MGS, ZL4QJ already  
booked in.



### Colville Connection 2009

14th March 2009

Using HF & 2m (simplex & repeater).

ZL1KK/ZL1KN, ZL1PK/ZL1DGK/ZL1LD, ZL1UD/ZL2TW,  
ZL1UPJ/OM, ZL1IC, ZL1TCE Reserve : ZL1AVR, ZL1TXQ  
already booked in.

### Hamilton Section Meeting

29 April 2009

### 9th Kairangi Hill Climb 2009

September 2009

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

Tony Case ZL1UD [zl1ud@nzart.org.nz](mailto: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 (except Jan)  
88 Seddon Road, Hamilton

**Homepage:** <http://z11ux.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: Ham Radio shirt from Cafepress.com (see page 4 for URL).*

|        |                                                                  |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sender | Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc)<br>PO Box 606<br>Hamilton 3240 |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|