

# Ham Hum

September 2011



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



**Next General Meeting**  
**KiwiSpace—ZL1AXL et al.**

**21 September - 7:30pm at the clubrooms.**

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## **From the Editor**

By all accounts the annual Hamilton Market Day was another great success. A huge demand from buyers keen to part with their money and sellers keen to do some honest dealing. Along with this, the usual socialising and group meetings happened. One review I read stated it is one of the “not to be missed” events in the national amateur radio calendar.

Upcoming events include the WVVCC Kairangi Hill Climb and the Bridge to Bridge.

The Kairangi Hill climb is a wonderful relaxed event on 11th September where we provide safety comms for lovely old vintage/veteran vehicles as well as timekeeping and other duties. See Robin ZL1IC for more info.

The Bridge to Bridge event is rather more serious event on 3-4 December. Some big budget equipment and teams. The top teams (2 skiers and 2 in the boat) cover the 82km in about 30mins giving an average speed of about 160kph. Needless to say, safety comms is very important at those speeds and we work very closely with the event organisers, event Safety Officer and event Race Controller who are located with our “base” communications team at Grantham St. See Jono ZL1UPJ for more info.

## **Next Committee Meetings - 7th September & 5th October**

## **SB PROP ARL ARLP034**

### **ARLP034 Propagation de K7RA**

Solar activity rose this week, with the average daily sunspot number increasing over 40 points to 66, and average daily solar flux up over 13 points to 101.9.

Predicted solar flux for August 26 is 110, and 115 for August 27-28, 110 for August 29 to September 1, 105 for September 2-3, 100 for September 4-5, 95 on September 6-7, and bottoming out at 90 on September 8-12. The next peak of activity is predicted for September 22-23.

Predicted planetary A index is 5 for August 26-27, 10 on August 28, 8 on August 29, and 5 on August 30 through September 2, then 8 on September 3, 10 on September 4-6, 7 on September 7, and 5 on September 8-10.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for August 26, unsettled on August 27-28, quiet to unsettled August 29 and quiet conditions on August 30 through September 1.

A story forwarded from a British newspaper by a reader warned that "a huge mass of electrically charged particles thrown out by a giant eruption on the Sun is due to strike the earth tonight." But the article itself is undated, and the web page continuously updates to show the current date. The link to the article was sent to me on August 21, but the event didn't happen then, and is not happening now, nor is such an event predicted for the next few days. Down the left margin of the page are ads for astrologers, and on the right margin are links to over 80 stories about celebrity gossip.

If you do a web search for phrases from the article - which is at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-200952/power-cuts-threat-sun-storm-hits-earth.html> - you find it quoted all over the net by people assuming that this is about to happen, some of them quite alarmed. But looking at the latest prediction from NOAA/USAF at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html> shows no predicted rise in the A index, which would be large if such an event were predicted.

So what date was the article published? I doubt if this newspaper has had a science editor for a number of years, so perhaps they keep running the same article with its dire warnings, and only the celebrity gossip changes.

The key to the date of this article lies in searching the newspaper archive for the headline. If you enter a portion of the headline into the search box next to the article, the actual date is revealed: October 29, 2003. This is nearly eight years ago. Now we know why nobody predicted this event. In these fast moving times, 2003 might seem to some like ancient history.

Try doing a web search of a phrase from this article. Some of the results are quite funny. You will see it referenced all over the web as if it just happened and were breaking news.

Last week's bulletin mentioned the new issue of WorldRadio expected last Saturday, which would have an updated propagation column by K9LA. The new September issue didn't actually appear online until several days later. You can read it now at <http://www.worldradiomagazine.com>.

The propagation column by K9LA, Carl Luetzelschwab pays tribute to the late Bob Brown, NM7M and his writings about propagation for the amateur community. Carl mentions that one of Bob's popular books is available for download from Carl's web site. Just go to <http://myplace.frontier.com/~k9la/> and click on General on the left side of the page, then right-click the link for "Little Pistol's Guide to HF Propagation" to download the PDF.

We are just a few weeks away from the Autumnal Equinox, a time when we see better HF propagation than we did during the summer. You can check the effect of seasonal change by running two instances of a propagation program, and switching back and forth to see the same projection over two different dates.

You can download W6ELprop from <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/> and try what I did, which was to compare August 2 with September 22. The predicted smoothed sunspot number for August was 59, and for September it is 62. You could use those numbers, or use the same sunspot number on both projections to isolate the seasonal effect.

I ran my projection between Atlanta, Georgia and England. You bring up Atlanta coordinates in W6ELprop by entering the prefix W4, and England with the G prefix. You can see the generally improved signal strengths and longer openings in the September prediction.

If you want the latest smoothed sunspot numbers for this month and off into the future, go to <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1875.pdf> and look at the table on page 18. Every 4-5 issues they have an updated projection for the current solar cycle.

Finally, do you think Cycle 24 is weaker and still progressing slower than previous solar cycles? You are correct. For a comparison of Cycles 21, 22, 23 and 24, check <http://www.solen.info/solar/cyclcomp.html>.

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>.

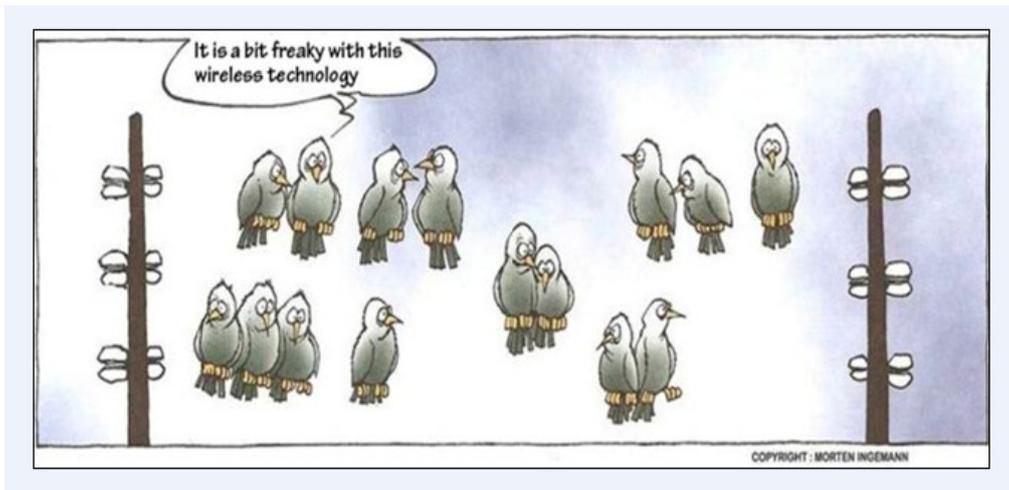
Find more good information and tutorials on propagation at <http://myplace.frontier.com/~k9la>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of ARRL bulletins are at <http://arrl.org/bulletins>.

Sunspot numbers for August 18 through 24 were 53, 46, 59, 66, 82, 81, and 75, with a mean of 66. 10.7 cm flux was 97.8, 98.2, 100.5, 100.9, 108.2, 103.7, and 104.1, with a mean of 101.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 5, 3, 7, 9,

and 6, with a mean of 5. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 1, 4, 3, 5, 8, and 5, with a mean of 3.9.



With thanks to Rotorua Br 33 for the heads up on this one.



## 2010 Oceania DX Contest

The Oceania DX Contest Committee is pleased to advise that the results of the 2010 contest are now available at [http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/2010\\_Results.htm](http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/2010_Results.htm) ..

A total of 1092 logs were processed which is a new record and a big step up from the previous record of 999 logs in 2009. This ongoing increase in participation is most encouraging and can be attributed to a combination of factors including the introduction of new categories and plaques, improving conditions on the higher bands and growing awareness of the contest.

The increased participation and improved conditions meant that overall QSO activity also reached a new high with 21% more QSOs being logged in 2010 than in 2009. In particular, the 15M band really came to life and ended up carrying the majority of the traffic in the contest.

Several changes were made to the categories for the 2010 contest - the Single Operator categories were split into low power and high power categories, and the Multi-Single category was split into one transmitter (M1) and two transmitter (M2) categories. The Committee is pleased to note that the new categories appear to be having the desired effect of boosting participation from low power stations and from smaller multiple operator teams that have limited resources.

## 2010 CERTIFICATES

The Committee has made some changes to the certificate arrangements for the 2010 contest. The purpose of these changes is to make a wider range of certificates available, reduce costs, and speed up the delivery process.

Firstly, as well as awarding certificates to the top scoring station in each category for each continent and country, participation certificates identifying the number of successful QSOs are being awarded to every station that submitted a log for the contest.

Secondly, rather than posting the certificates, they will be published online as pdf files for you to download and print at your convenience. The link to the online certificates will be published on our web site at <http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/index.html> ..

Thirdly, certificates can still be posted but only in response to specific requests from entrants who won a category in their country and made more than 10 QSOs in that category. If you wish to make such a request then please submit it as an email message to [info@oceaniadxcontest.com](mailto:info@oceaniadxcontest.com) by 9 September 2011. Remember to include your call sign in the message. Note that participation certificates are not eligible for delivery via post.

## LOG CHECKING REPORTS

Log checking reports are available for each entry in the 2009 contest. These reports provide details about the calculation of your score, including the QSOs that have been removed from the score and the reasons for their removal. You can request your report by sending an email to [info@oceaniadxcontest.com](mailto:info@oceaniadxcontest.com) stating the call sign and mode (PH or CW) that you used in the contest.

## 2011 CONTEST

The next Oceania DX contest will be held on the first two full weekends of October 2011 as follows:

PHONE: 08:00 UTC Saturday 1 October to 08:00 UTC Sunday 2 October 2011

CW: 08:00 UTC Saturday 8 October to 08:00 UTC Sunday 9 October 2011

The full set of rules for the 2011 contest is available from our web site at <http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/rules.pdf> ..

THANK YOU!

Finally and most importantly, thank you for participating in the 2010 contest and making it such a success. We look forward to seeing you again in the 2011 event. There should be more sun spots and even better HF conditions to make it the biggest and best Oceania DX Contest party yet!

73 from

Oceania DX Contest Committee

ZL1AZE/VK3, ZL3GA, VK2HN, VK3TZ, VK4TI, VK6DXI, VK7GN

## First 2m DXCC for ZL

From Bob McQuarrie (ZL3TY),

Yesterday the postie delivered 2m DXCC certificate #69, dated June 22, 2011. This is a first for ZL, Oceania and possibly the Southern Hemisphere. The list of 2m DXCC recipients can be seen at <http://www.arrl.org/system/dxcc/view/DXCC-2M-20110818-A4.pdf>

All but one of the QSOs was made by EME (moonbounce), the exception being a meteor scatter QSO with VK0MT on Macquarrie Is.

My first 2m EME QSO was with W5UN on 16 June 2002. Other stats:

EME QSOs	1214
Initials	653 (individual stations worked)
Gridsquares	402
DXCCs	109

All but a few CW QSOs were made using WSJT digital mode (by K1JT). WSJT has revolutionised VHF DXing and made EME possible for small stations, for example I have worked many single yagi stations, the smallest 100W to 10el yagi. My QTH is good for moonset with a clear horizon over the sea, which gives strong ground gain at times. Activity on 2m EME is very good with lots of DXpeditions to rare locations, I have lost count of the number of QSOs with Bob ZL1RS from remote spots.

My station is 4x12el yagis, TS790A with MGF1302 GaAsFET preamp, GU74b amp 500W. Antennas, preamp, TX amp and other bits all homebrew.

Bob ZL3TY

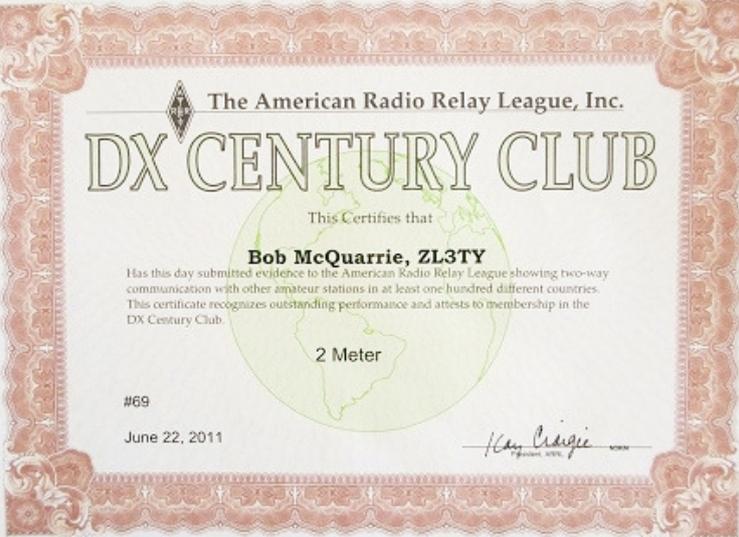


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**Bob McQuarrie, ZL3TY**  
 Has this day submitted evidence to the American Radio Relay League showing two-way  
 communication with other amateur stations in at least one hundred different countries.  
 This certificate recognizes outstanding performance and attests to membership in the  
 DX Century Club.

2 Meter

#69  
 June 22, 2011

*Kay Ludwig*  
President, ARRL

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## Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings &amp; Events</i>
<b>4th September</b>	<b>NZART HQ Infoline</b>
5th September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
<b>5th September</b>	<b>NZART Doug Gorman Freq Measuring Contest</b>
6th September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
<b>10th September</b>	<b>Break-In copy due</b>
<b>11th September</b>	<b>Kairangi Hillclimb (AREC)</b>
12th September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
13th September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
<b>18th September</b>	<b>NZART HQ Infoline</b>
19th September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
20th September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
<b>21st September</b>	<b>Hamilton General Meeting</b>
<b>25th September</b>	<b>NZART Official Broadcast</b>
26th September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
27th September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00

**1-2 October—NZART Microwave Contest**  
**1st October—Oceania All Bands SSB Contest**  
**8th October—Western Suburbs Junk Sale**  
**8th October—Oceania All Bands CW Contest**  
**9th October—NZART HQ Infoline**  
**19th October—Hamilton General Meeting**  
**23rd October—NZART HQ Infoline**  
**30th October—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**5th November—Papakura Sprints (Phone)**  
**6th November—NZART Straight Key Night**  
**6th November—NZART HQ Infoline**  
**10th November—Break-In copy due**  
**12th November—Papakura Sprints (CW)**  
**20th November—NZART HQ Infoline**  
**27th November—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**3-4 December—Bridge to Bridge Ski Race (AREC)**  
**3-4 December—NZART VHF Field Day Contest**  
**4-5 February 2012—NZART DX Weekend Contest**  
**25-26 February 2012—Jock White Memorial Field Days**  
**10th March 2012—WARO 50th Anniversary Celebration**  
**April 2012—WARO Thelma Souper Memorial**  
**7-8 April 2012—NZART Low Band Contest**  
**19-20 May 2012—NZART Sangster Shield**  
**August 2012—Hamilton Market Day**  
**Easter 2013—NZART Technology Conference - Auckland**

## 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>		
<b>I.</b>		
<b>J.</b>		
<b>K.</b>		
<b>L.</b>		

<b>Kairangi Hill Climb</b>	<b>Sunday 11th September 2011</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: Waikato as seen from a camera attached to ZL1AWQ-9.*

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