

Ham Hum

August 2012



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



Next General Meeting :
August 15th : Post Market Day & CW
Hamilton Market Day : 11th August

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From the Editor

The next General Meeting will be on the 15th at the dubrooms. Will include a post Market Day sort out and a morse training session.

The Annual Hamilton Market Day should be a fun affair. Of special note will be ICOM coming down from Auckland with some of their new rigs. Also, as always, the Auckland VHF Group will bring part of their trading table down to our Market Day.

Hamilton Market Day—11 August
See page 5 for details.

(picture by ZL1GWP)



**Next Committee Meetings -
4th July & 1st August**

SB PROP ARL ARLP031

ARLP031 Propagation de K7RA

Average daily sunspot numbers this week were up over 47 points to 99.3. Average daily solar flux rose nearly 35 points to 131.7.

Solar flux jumped from 139.8 on Tuesday, July 31 to 150.1 on Wednesday, August 1. Predicted solar flux is 135 on August 3-4, 130 on August 5-6, 125 on August 7-9, 130 on August 10-11, and 120 on August 12-13. Solar flux is expected to drop below 100 on August 16-21. Predicted planetary A index is 8 on August 3, 5 on August 4-19, 8 on August 20-21, 5 on August 22-23, then 8, 8, 12 and 8 on August 24-27.

At the beginning of August we have some new sunspot data from our 3-month moving average. The three-month moving averages centered on January through June 2012 are 83.3, 73.7, 71.2, 87.3, 91.5, and 96.5. The average centered on June 2012 is every daily sunspot number from May 1 through July 31 added together, then divided by the number of days, which is 92. You could say that this latest number is the 3-month trailing average, or the 3-month average centered on June. Every month we include a new month of data and drop off an old month.

F.K. Janda, OK1HH says to expect mostly quiet geomagnetic conditions on August 3-4, active to disturbed on August 5, quiet to unsettled August 6-7, mostly quiet August 8, quiet on August 9, active to disturbed again on August 10-11, quiet to active August 12-13, mostly quiet on August 14-15, and quiet to active on August 16-17.

On the NASA Solar Cycle Prediction page, the only thing that has changed over the past few months is the date. This is issued monthly: <http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml>.

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

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service 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/~k9ja/>.

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

Sunspot numbers for July 26 through August 1 were 77, 91, 108, 79, 106, 116, and 118, with a mean of 99.3. 10.7 cm flux was 114.7, 123.3, 126.6, 131.4, 136, 139.8,

and 150.1, with a mean of 131.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 5, 11, 6, 13, 6, and 6, with a mean of 7.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 5, 11, 6, 11, 5, and 7 with a mean of 6.9.

Record year for the ILLW

With less than two weeks to go, the **International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend** has already exceeded last year's total of 470 registrations in its 15th year and is headed for a new record.

The 48 hour fun event has steadily grown from the 158 in its first year and most of those early registrations continue to be involved.

In the United Kingdom there are 60, and half of those can be found in England.

There are plenty throughout Europe including Germany on 52 and The Netherlands 25.

North, Central and South America have more than 80 stations registered with Argentina, Canada, Chile, Curacao, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Puerto Rico plus 55 in the USA.

Nearly 70 been received from Australia and New Zealand, South Africa has 15 and no matter where you are there will be plenty to work. Most issue special QSL cards.

The mainstream media continues to run the story. The *Clare Herald* reports that the Loop Head Lighthouse in County Clare will be on air courtesy the Limerick Radio Club **E1OLHL**. It will join others to participate in promoting public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is on August the 18th and 19th.

Visit its website ILLW.NET to make an online registration, read the guidelines and explore it for more details.

Jim Linton VK3PC

Hamilton Amateur

Radio Club

MARKET DAY

Saturday

August 11th, 2012

Hamilton Table Tennis

Club Rooms

Edgecumbe Street

Vendors from 8.00 am

Buyers from 10.00 am

Table space at \$20 per metre pre-paid

\$25 per metre on the day

All enquiries to: Market Day,

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,

PO Box 606, Hamilton

E-mail: harcmday@nzart.org.nz

Web: http://z11ux.tripod.com/market_day.html

Heathkit Declares Bankruptcy, Closes for Good (Again)

24 July 2012

The July 19 edition of *The Herald-Palladium*-- a newspaper serving the communities of Benton Harbor and St Joseph, Michigan -- is [reporting](#) that Heathkit Educational Company has declared bankruptcy and has officially closed its doors after defaulting on its lease. According to the paper, Heathkit employed more than 1800 people in its heyday after World War II; when it finally closed, its workforce totaled fewer than six people. This is the second time [since 1992](#) that Heathkit Educational Services has shuttered its doors. In August 2011, Heathkit announced it was [returning to the kit building business](#), and in September, that it would once again be [manufacturing Amateur Radio kits](#).

Heathkit owner Don Desrochers told the newspaper that he has filed for bankruptcy and a bank now owns what's left of Heathkit; the bank is disposing of some items via online auctions. "The situation was purely one of the economy," he explained in the article. "Heathkit was primarily dependent upon federal and state funding for schools. Spending in education continued to drop down, and it was economically unfeasible to continue operating. When we got back into the kit business, we were losing the education business faster than we were growing the kit business. It was not sustainable."

According to the newspaper, Heathkit abandoned its lease around March, and in May, Phil Maki said he received notice that Desrochers had declared bankruptcy and that Heathkit would be closed. Maki is treasurer of Southshore Companies, the company that owns the building that Heathkit had leased a portion of. "It's a sad thing for the community," Maki said. "A lot of us grew up using Heathkit products, and it's sad they ended the way they did."

In May 2012, the ARRL [reported](#) there were rumors of the company's demise, but nothing was certain. Tom Ferriter, of Technical Education Products in Hampden, Massachusetts, told the ARRL at that time that "Heathkit is telling us [outside sales representatives] that they have temporarily closed, but that they are hopeful that they will be able to reorganize. While they're not telling us too much, they did say that they were having poor sales for a myriad of reasons and are hopeful that they will be able to refinance the company and negotiate with the bank to refinance some of the debt."

Desrochers -- who served as Heathkit's President and Chief Executive Officer from 1995-2000 before purchasing the company in 2005 -- told *The Herald-Palladium* that closing Heathkit was hard for him: "It was a tough decision, but you can't oper-

ate and lose money. Hopefully the employees will find other employment. They were great, loyal employees for a long time." -- Thanks to [The Herald-Palladium](#) for the information.

Radio Ham elected Serbian Prime Minister

The *ARRL* reports that former Serbian Internal Affairs Minister **Ivica Dačić, YU1YU**, was elected as that country's newest Prime Minister on July 27

He succeeds Mirko Cvetković, who served as Serbia's Prime Minister from 2008-2012. Dačić is the leader of the Socialist Party of Serbia; from 2008 until his election as Prime Minister, he served as First Deputy Prime Minister, as well as Minister of Internal Affairs. In March 2012, Serbia became a candidate for membership in the European Union ([EU](#)).

Dačić is a member of the Amateur Radio Union of Serbia ([SRS](#)), Serbia's IARU Member-Society and is said to be a member of his local club, [YU1AAV](#). The club was founded in 1978 as one of nine sections of the Novi Beograd (New Belgrade) Amateur Radio Club, [YU1FJK](#). According to its website, YU1AAV's primary goal has been to teach kids Morse code and Amateur Radio Direction Finding skills: "The 1990s brought us war, sanctions and social crises, but it also brought the good opportunity to move kids from the streets to learn ham radio. These were the years when the most kids from neighborhood finished the course to get their basic ham license."

Prior to his election as Prime Minister, Dačić served as the spokesman for the Socialist Party of Serbia ([SPS](#)) from 1992-2000; he has served as president of the SPS since December 2006. He holds a degree in political science from the University of Belgrade. Fluent in both Russian and English, Dačić is 46, married and the father of two children.

Source ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/news/ivica-da-i-yu1yu-elected-prime-minister-of-serbia>

The importance of sponsorship to a DXpedition

When people think of DX'Peditions, they think of operators sat under palm trees on exotic islands with the world of amateur radio enthusiasts trying to talk to them.

While this is where every DX'Pediton tries to get to, there is a LOT of work that has to happen before this is possible!

Months or even years before, the event planning starts and permits are requested, equipment assembled and transport both of equipment and operators arranged. Accommodation organised and all red-tape worked through. All of this requires a lot of work from the organisers and also requires finance in the form of contributions from those taking part in the event and from sponsors. Without sponsors no DX'Pediton can take place and the **ZL9HR** DX'Pediton to Campbell Island on November 28th. to December 9th. this year is no exception.

This DX'Pediton is rightly being billed as one of the most important DX'Peditions in 2012 and the HARA OA is very happy to announce that many of the sponsors that supported earlier DX'Peditions are helping again with ZL9HR. It is hoped that there will be additional sponsors "signing up" over the next few weeks, but we would like to thank those who have already committed to support the Dx'Pediton.

These are as follows (in alphabetical order);

Commercial sponsors:

RF Solutions
Spiderbeam

Club & Organisations;

British Columbia & Northwest Washington – ORCA DX & Contest club
Danish DX Group
German DX Foundation.
Lone Star DX Association.
Long Island DX Association.
Mediterraneo DX Club.
Northern Illinois DX Association.

There are also currently 24 individuals who are sponsoring the event.

For the complete up-to-date list please refer to the ZL9HR.COM website.

The survey on the website is also getting a good response with keen DX-ers who

are looking to get ZL9 on a particular band and mode to move towards a DXCC or other award voting for their preferences. Please don't miss out if you haven't already placed your vote please do so.

73 from

ED VK2ARE

Australian Publicity officer for ZL9HR

NASA's Curiosity Rover caught in the act of landing

An image from the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) captured the Curiosity rover still connected to its 51-foot (almost 16 meter)-wide parachute as it descended toward its landing site at Gale Crater Sunday.

"If HiRISE took the image one second before or one second after, we probably would be looking at an empty Martian landscape," said Sarah Milkovich, HiRISE investigation scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. "When you consider that we have been working on this sequence since March and had to upload commands to the spacecraft about 72 hours prior to the image being taken, you begin to realize how challenging this picture was to obtain."

The image of Curiosity on its parachute can be found at: <http://go.nasa.gov/NeQyBW>

The image was taken while MRO was 211 miles (340 kilometers) away from the parachuting rover. Curiosity and its rocket-propelled backpack, contained within the conical-shaped back shell, had not deployed yet.

At the time, Curiosity was about two miles (three kilometers) above the Martian surface.

"Guess you could consider us the closest thing to paparazzi on Mars," said Milkovich. "We definitely caught NASA's newest celebrity in the act."

Curiosity, NASA's latest contribution to the Martian landscape, landed at 10:32 p.m. PDT Aug. 5 (1:32 a.m. EDT Aug. 6) near the foot of a three-mile tall mountain inside Gale Crater, which is 96 miles in diameter.

In other Curiosity news, one part of the rover team at JPL continues to review the data from Sunday night's landing while another continues to prepare the 1-ton mobile laboratory for its future explorations of Gale Crater. One key assignment given

to Curiosity for its first full day on Mars is to raise its high-gain antenna.

Using this antenna will increase the data rate the rover can communicate directly with Earth. The mission will use relays to orbiters as the primary method for sending data home because that method is much more energy efficient for the rover.

Curiosity carries 10 science instruments with a total mass 15 times as large as the science payloads on the Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity. Some of the tools, such as a laser-firing instrument for checking rocks' elemental composition from a distance, are the first of their kind on Mars. Curiosity will use a drill and scoop which is located at the end of its robotic arm to gather soil and powdered samples of rock interiors, then sieve and parcel out these samples into the rover's analytical laboratory instruments.

To handle this science toolkit, Curiosity is twice as long and five times as heavy as Spirit or Opportunity. The Gale Crater landing site places the rover within driving distance of layers of the crater's interior mountain. Observations from orbit have identified clay and sulfate minerals in the lower layers, indicating a wet history.

The Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity mission is managed by JPL for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington. The rover was designed, developed and assembled at JPL. For more information on the mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/mars>

and <http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/msl>

Follow the mission on Facebook and Twitter at:

<http://www.facebook.com/marscuriosity>

and

<http://www.twitter.com/marscuriosity>

HiRISE is operated by the University of Arizona in Tucson. The instrument was built by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. in Boulder, Colo. The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and Mars Exploration Rover projects are managed by JPL for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. JPL is a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Lockheed Martin Space Systems in Denver, built the orbiter.

For more about the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/mro>

Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings & Events</i>
3rd August	NZART HQ Infoline
4th August	Waitakere Sprint (CW)
4-5 August	NZART Brass Monkey Contest
6th August	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
7th August	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
11th August	Hamilton Market Day
13th August	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
14th August	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
17th August	NZART HQ Infoline
19th August	Hamilton Club General Meeting
20th August	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
21st August	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
26th August	NZART Official Broadcast
27th August	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
28th August	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
29th August	Hamilton Section AREC Meeting (AREC)

7th September—NZART HQ Infoline
10th September—Break-In copy deadline
19th September—Hamilton Club General Meeting
21st September—NZART HQ Infoline
30th September—NZART Official Broadcast
5th October—NZART HQ Infoline
6-7 October—NZART Microwave Contest
19th October—NZART HQ Infoline
26-28 October—Bridge to Bridge (AREC)
28th October—NZART Official Broadcast
31st October—Hamilton Section AREC Meeting (AREC)
4th November—NZART Straight Key Night
10-17 November—Silver Fern Rally-North Island (AREC)
30th November—AREC Section meeting
1st December—NZART VHF+ Field Day
30-31 March 2013—NZART Technology Conference - Auckland
1-3 June 2013—NZART Conference—Masterton

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

AREC Event Operators Page

WRC Rally NZ/ Possum Bourne Rally	June 2013	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	26-28 October 2012	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 September 2012		Organiser : ZL1IC
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>		
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
School C ycling	July 2013		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 2013		Organiser : ZL1PK
<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 B y			

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

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: Special call for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, along with GB2012MW and GB2012MS.

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