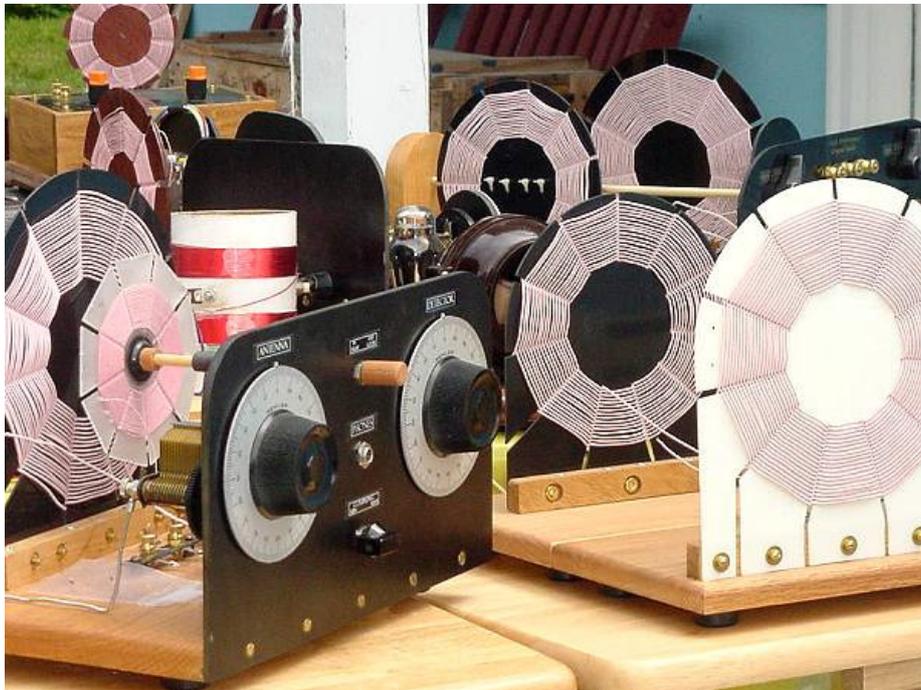


Ham Hum

December 2009



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



Next General Meeting

End-of-Year BBQ—5th December—12 noon

Disclaimer: The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc) accepts no responsibility for opinions expressed in this publication. Where possible, the articles source details will be published. Copyright remains with the author or HARC. All rights reserved.

Contact Details 2008-2009

Patron:			
Fin Bruce	ZL4HI	843 9634	
President:			
Robin Holdsworth	ZL1IC	855 4786	z1lux@nzart.org.nz
Vice Presidents:			
Gavin Petrie	ZL1GWP	843 0326	z1gwp@nzart.org.nz
Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	z1pk@nzart.org.nz
Secretary:			
David Nation	ZL1TCE	843 0108	z1tce@nzart.org.nz
Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	z1pk@nzart.org.nz
Acting AREC Section Leader:			
David Nation	ZL1TCE	843 0108	z1tce@nzart.org.nz
Deputy Section Leaders:			
"Jono" Jonassen	ZL1UPJ		z1lupi@nzart.org.nz
Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	z1pk@nzart.org.nz
Treasurer:			
Tom Powell	ZL1TJA	834 3461	z1tja@nzart.org.nz
Committee:			
"Jono" Jonassen	ZL1UPJ		z1lupi@nzart.org.nz
Colin McEwen	ZL2CMC	849 2492	
Ray McNickle	ZL1RGM	827 0304	
Terry O'Loan	ZL1TNO	824 7561	z1tno@nzart.org.nz
Mike Sanders	ZL2MGS	855 1612	z1mgs@nzart.org.nz
Ham Hum Editor:			
David King	ZL1DGK	847 1320	z1dkg@nzart.org.nz
Ham Hum Printer:			
John Nicholson	ZL1AUB	846 7477	
ATV Co-ordinators:			
Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	z1pk@nzart.org.nz
Robin Holdsworth	ZL1IC	855 4786	
Market Day Co-ordinator:			harcmday@nzart.org.nz
David Nation	ZL1TCE	843 0108	834 4637
Webmaster:			
BBS Team:			
Phil King (sysop)	ZL1PK	847 1320	z1pk@nzart.org.nz
Alan Wallace	ZL1AMW	843 3738	z1amw@nzart.org.nz
Doug Faulkner	ZL4FS	855 1214	
Gavin Petrie	ZL1GWP	843 0326	z1gwp@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—Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	z1pk@nzart.org.nz
2m net—Phil King	ZL1PK	847 1320	z1pk@nzart.org.nz

From the Committee and/or Editor

The Annual Club BBQ on 5th December (see page 4) marks the end of another year for the club. Promises to be an excellent event not to be missed. The BBQ will be started about 12 noon, so bring along your favourite meat and other bits and pieces and enjoy a great day.

I hope you all enjoy a great summer break and get everything you wanted from Santa. The new year starts in February with the club AGM on Feb 17th.



**Next Committee Meetings -
2 December & 20th January**

SB PROP ARL ARLP047

ARLP047 Propagation de K7RA

Sunspot activity seems to be increasing steadily of late. Daily sunspot numbers for November 5-19 were 15, 16, 11, 0, 14, 13, 11, 11, 0, 0, 11, 12, 0, 29 and 30.

Sunspot 1029 made its trip around the Sun and has re-emerged as sunspot 1032, and a new sunspot 1033 has come over the eastern limb. This steady appearance of sunspots has raised the MUF over many paths, and 15 meters is beginning to open regularly.

In the Southern Hemisphere, which gets more solar radiation this time of year, you can see a pronounced effect on the foF2 reading in the afternoon (local time is UTC+6.5 hours) on the web site http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/lists/iono_day/Cocos_Is_iono.txt.

This is a measurement taken with an ionospheric sounder on Cocos-Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean, 12.5 degrees South latitude and 96.8 degrees East longitude. The instrument sweeps a radio signal across the HF spectrum, beamed straight up to the ionosphere overhead, and it measures the strength of the signal bouncing back to determine optimum frequency. You can see during mid-day foF2 is going above 10 MHz.

Of course, your results may vary. The effect was pronounced from 0600-1400z on November 19, and not quite as enhanced on November 20, 0700-1000z. Unfortunately, these ionosonde records don't go back but a day or two. You will see less effect this time of year in the Northern Hemisphere, as seen at a record of ionosonde data in Italy on the http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/lists/iono_day/Rome_iono.txt site. On the http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/lists/iono_day/Chilton_iono.txt site see similar data taken in the UK.

At http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/lists/iono_day you can check a list of links for 68 different locations, but some of them seem inactive. For instance, after months of checking, I have never seen a bit of ionosonde data from Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, in the file "Eglin_iono.txt."

Another interesting tool to see varying MUF around the world, updated every five minutes, is at, <http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.php>. The contour lines show the MUF over that particular area. During the day recently some areas over Africa are going above 30 MHz.



Annual Club BBQ

Saturday 5th December,
at the clubrooms,
with the BBQ being fired up at 12 noon.

BYO drinks & food to eat.

All club members and others welcome to attend.

National System Award 2010

OPERATORS WANTED!

The National System Award is being run by Hamilton, Branch 12, from Friday, 1 January 2010 to Sunday, 7 February 2010. To make this a success, we need amateurs to operate as ZL1UX, the branch callsign, on the National System daily, to give out points to those who make contact. The times when this happens during the day can be varied and at a time that is convenient to the operator, but we should have somebody on between 7pm and 9pm (may be on two occasions) for those who have to work during the day. This is not an onerous task, as it can be done from your home and each occasion should only last for about 10 minutes. There are however two criteria, that you hold an Amateur Operators Licence and that you are a member of Branch12. If you are able to assist please send an email to (Gavin ZL1GWP) - zl1gwp@nzart.org.nz - with your name, callsign and the day/s you are able to participate. If you would like to know more please also contact Gavin at the previous email address.



Hamilton Amateur Radio Club National System Award 2010 - Historic Places Award Notification

National System Award 2010 - Historic Places, is presented by The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, Branch 12 NZART in association with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Based upon the original idea by Wellington VHF Group this is a FUN award available to all amateurs to demonstrate the coverage and use of the National System, to promote our history and category 1 Historic places.

The award will run from 1 January 2010 to 7 February 2010.

Points will be allocated for:

1. Contact any Amateur in each NZART Branch area (excluding Branches in recess)



via the National System **1 point.**

2. Contact ZL1UX, official station of Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, Branch 12 via the National System **3 bonus points.**

3. Contact any Amateur operating from a Category 1 Historic Place (as listed in the Historic Places Trust Register, available from www.historic.org.nz approx 940 sites) via the National System **1 point.**

4. Contact any Amateur whilst operating from a Category 1 Historic Place (as listed in the Historic Places Trust Register, available from www.historic.org.nz approx 940 sites) via the National System **1 point.**



Points are cumulative and each site may only be listed once. Only one branch or historic site may be logged per contact. As evidence of contact the log must record the registry number of the site available from the Historic Places Trust Website www.historic.org.nz. See document 'NS2010 Award Notes' for accessing the Register available from <http://z1ux.tripod.com/nsaward.htm>.

The Branch List being used for the Award is available from <http://z1ux.tripod.com/nsaward.htm>.

Participants are requested to note the following key points:

- A number of the Historic Places are private property; therefore participants **MUST** respect the private property. It is not necessary to enter any private property to log the contact. Participants are expected to be in near proximity to the Historic Place, not on the site.



- There are no definitive boundaries between branches, so participants need to determine which branch they are in, to log the point. This distance will vary for different parts of the country. Only one branch can be logged per contact. Branches in recess **DO NOT** count.

- Participants are encouraged to learn about the NZART branches and the places that define our history through visiting the Category 1 Historic Places.

- Have FUN, a safe and enjoyable holiday period.
- The award is available in electronic format or hard copy.

Send a log of contacts with; date, time, Callsign and first name of contacted person, NZART Branch name or Historic Places Trust Register Number of the site, for each contact, and preferred award format (electronic or hard copy) to;



The Award Custodian
Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 606
HAMILTON 3240

or E-mail <branch.12@nzart.org.nz> with NS2010 in the subject. Applications close 7 March 2010.



From The Business Manager Debby Morgan ZL2TDM

NZART HQ Office Hours

As from 1 December 2009, NZART headquarters office hours will be from 9am to 4:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. It will NOT be open Monday's and Friday's however if urgent a simple call to the office will advise my cell phone details, so you contact me.

Remits

It is time again for branches to consider any remits they wish Council to consider for the AGM in 2010.

Could all branch secretaries please send these in writing, either by post or e-mail before the 31st December 2009.



Progress Report on Transferring the NZART Web and E-mail Services to NZ

The physical position of the NZ server is Lower Hutt, not that it matters where it is located in NZ. The web is up and running and has been checked and tested successfully for some months now.

Getting e-mail successfully running has been the cause of the delay in transferring the service over, but progress is being made.

The NZART member e-mail alias service is still up and running on the USA server and is offered for any current or future member to join. Use e-mails NZART.HQ@NZART.ORG.NZ, WEBMASTER@NZART.ORG.NZ or ZL2NN@NZART.ORG.NZ to request to join the service.



New 'Antennas & Planning' web page

Our national amateur radio society, **NZART**, has launched a new web page with some useful information for those ZL hams wishing to erect antennas.

'Antennas and Planning' contains information relating to local authority planning and how it affects amateur radio antenna installations.

The current issues are

a) Wellington City District Plan Change No 74

Submissions have been made and further submissions close on 4 December.

A proforma further submission will appear on the web-site in a day or so, and all amateurs, whether NZART members or not, are invited to make a further submission.

You can use the proforma or write your own further submission.

b) Proposed Tauranga District Plan

Submissions close on 15 December. A summary will be published and further submissions will then be invited.

Remember - these are the only opportunities we get to persuade the Councils to meet our reasonable needs, so that antenna installations can be erected as permitted uses, and without the problems that can occur with overly restrictive planning rules and vexatious neighbours.

Visit these pages often to keep abreast of ongoing planning developments.

The new web-page can be found on the NZART website at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/anten-plan/index.html>

For further information email mnewman@nzart.org.nz

Antartica Planned for Activation on HamSats

Bill, K7MT, is going to work at the McMurdo base (AN-011) between Nov 15 and Feb 20, 2010. He will sign KC4USV mostly on 20m during Sundays. Listen for him in SSB on 14243 kHz, in CW on 14043 kHz or in PSK-31 on 14070 kHz. He plans to bring his Arrow II antenna and a Kenwood TH-7 which he can use also on amateur radio satellites. QSL via K1IED. His homepage can be found at: <http://www.mt.net/~k7mt>

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 326.04 From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
November 22, 2009

Indonesia to Launch Rescue Radio HamSat

The Bernama dot com on line newspaper reports that the Indonesian Amateur Radio Organization called Orari and the Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautic and Space plan to launch the ham radio bird next year. But so far the president of the Orari has not revealed the satellite's size nor its orbital distance from Earth. According to the website, the new ham radio bird will be used to expand the nations ham radio communication network to remote districts. It went on to note that the satellite will play a major role in linking land, sea and air communication for rescue radio operations. The article also noted that ham radio operators from Orari had become the alternative communication tool. This, during disasters like the tsunami in Aceh and the recent earthquake in Padang. Amateur Radio Newslines Report 1683

New Ham Antenna Installed on the ISS

ARISS US Hardware Manager Lou McFadin, W5DID says that all the teamwork and effort to expand the ARISS amateur radio station aboard the ISS were successful this weekend when the new dual band 2m/70CM antenna was installed on the outside of ESA's Columbus module. Lou congratulated the team, "This is an example of what can be achieved by volunteer hams working closely with a space agency. This antenna project was



funded entirely by AMSAT-NA and volunteers who built the antennas for both an ESA experiment and for ARISS. I am very proud of all the teamwork and effort that has gone into this project." The new ARISS antenna is very similar to the antennas already on the Russian service module. Once the antennas are in place the ARISS team will be working to bring amateur radio to the Columbus module. In conclusion Lou noted the tremendous contribution from ESA for the experiment, the launch and the EVA making this expansion of amateur radio aboard the ISS possible. [ANS thanks Lou McFadin, W5DID for the above the information]

OSCAR-11 heard again

OSCAR-11, built by the University of Surrey's Spacecraft Engineering Research Group, ceased operating in 2008 after 24 years service. Now its signals have been heard again on 145.826 MHz FM.

In a posting on the AMSAT Bulletin Board **Clive G3CWV** writes:

I have received two reports from **Keith N4ZQ** (EL88ob) that he has heard UO-11 on 19 November at 13:33 - 13:43, and on 22 November at 13:02 UTC.

He has sent me a WAV file of the second pass. Unfortunately, it's a very low elevation pass, and probably will be difficult to decode, as it contains a lot of noise. However it's definitely UO-11.

I'll be interested in receiving any other reports.
The frequency is 145.826 MHz. Mode is FM.

Further details are on my OLD website <http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/clivew>

There is an audio dip to help identify the satellite.

Please e-mail me via the AMSAT reflector.

73 Clive G3CWV

Hitchin, North Hertfordshire, UK

AMSAT Reflector Email: xxx@amsat.org (please replace the xx's by G3CWV)

G3CWV Oscar 11 Pages

<http://www.g3cwv.co.uk/oscar11.htm>

AMSAT Bulletin Board AMSAT-BB

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/maillist/>

AMSAT-UK publish a colour A4 newsletter, OSCAR News, that is full of Amateur Satellite information.

Join online at https://secure.amsat.org.uk/subs_form/

April 2008 - Final monthly OSCAR-11 report

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/april2008/final_monthly_oscar11_report.htm



MORE ON THE QANTAS STORY

Did space radiation nearly down a jetliner?

Cosmic rays are the latest theory as to the cause of a Qantas flight in October last year that gave its passengers and crew a roller-coaster ride, as the aircraft's nose pitched violently downward twice in rapid succession.

The Australian Transport Safety Board is now seriously considering whether cosmic radiation corrupted the aircraft's flight control systems throwing passengers and in-cabin luggage around.

Eleven passengers and a flight attendant were seriously injured. The jet made an emergency landing rather than continue after plunging 650 feet, leveling out only to drop a further 400 feet.

Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings & Events</i>
1st December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
5th December	Annual Club BBQ
5th December	KDMG Twin Sprint Digital Contest
5-6 December	VHF+ Field Day Contest
6th December	NZART HQ Info-Line
7th December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
8th December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
14th December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
15th December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
20th December	NZART HQ Info-Line
20th December	NZART Official Broadcast
21st December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
22nd December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
28th December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
29th December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00

1 Jan-7 Feb 2010—National System Award 2010
10 January 2010—Break-In copy due
17th January 2010—NZART HQ Info-Line
20th January 2010—Business Meeting
3rd February 2010—Business Meeting
7th February 2010—NZART HQ Info-Line
17th February 2010—Club AGM
20-21 February 2010—ARRL International CW Contest
21st February 2010—NZART HQ Info-Line
27-28 February 2010—Jock White Memorial Field Days
28th February 2010—NZART Official Broadcast
March 2010—VHF mini-convention
6 March 2010—Paengaroa Junk Sale
6-7 March 2010—ARRL International Phone Contest
13th March 2010—Colville Connection (AREC)
13-14 March 2010—RSGB Commonwealth Contest BERU
27th March 2010—Wellington Radio Expo
6-9 May 2010—WRC Rally New Zealand (AREC)
5-7 June 2010—NZART Conference (Auckland)
August 2010—Hamilton Market Day
21-22 August 2010—Lighthouse Weekend—ILLW
September 2010—Kairangi Hillclimb (AREC)
22-25 April 2011—VHF Convention (Wellington)
4-5 June 2011—NZART Conference (Upper Hutt)

Icom IC706 has ceased production

News has filtered through from ICOM Japan that the very popular IC-706 Mark 2 G HF VHF UHF Transceiver has ceased production. Advice has also been received from ICOM premium dealer Navcom Electronics that there are only 14 units currently held in stock in Australia and that this stock is expected to deplete rapidly.

There is good news as well though, as from 16 November 2009 all ICOM amateur radio equipment is being backed with a 5 year warranty.



Thanks to Bazz VK4TBD at Navcom Electronics for most of this information.

PL-259 CONNECTOR TOOL FOR COAX CABLES

Tired of using pliers to screw on the PL-259 connectors when you are preparing cables?

This work bench tip from the pages of the ARRL Letter.

Pliers always seem to do some damage by the amount of force this task requires.

I use an inexpensive 1/2 inch PVC female to male coupler.

Simply use a step drill and ream out the female end. This works for most half inch coaxial cables.

PL-259s do vary in diameter.

Be sure to measure yours before you ream out the PVC adapter.

It will not take a lot of reaming for the connector to fit snugly. The outer part of the PL-259 that fits into the connector is 0.55 inch diameter. This makes a secure fit.



If you wear out the adapter, purchase another, as they are inexpensive.

This works for Paul K4AVU.



AREC Event Operators Page

Rally NZ/Possum Bourne Rally	Saturday 6-9 May 2010	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	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.		
I.		
J.		
K.		
L.		

Kairangi Hill Climb	Sunday September 2010		Organiser : ZL1IC
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>		
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
School C ycling	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	Saturday 13th March 2010		Organiser :
<u>Position</u>	<u>Primary Operator</u>	<u>Secondary Operator</u>	<u>Other Operator</u>
Base	ZL1PK	ZL1DGK	ZL1LD
Stony Bay	ZL1TNO???	Sandy???	
Fletcher Bay			
Hill 1	ZL1IC		
Hill 2	ZL1TCE		
Fantail Bay	ZL1UPJ	Arthur	
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: Homemade crystal radios made by N2DS <http://makearadio.com/crystal/index.php>

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