

# Ham Hum

June 2009



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



**Next General Meeting**

**17th June : Report from Conference—  
ZL1UD**

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## **From the Committee and/or Editor**

NZART Conference has finished for another year. All remits were put to a vote and lost. Remits for the 2010 Conference in Auckland need to be submitted to NZART by 31 December.

Many thanks to our branch delegate as well as to the two councilors that base themselves with us. Tony (ZL1UD) has been joined by Phil (ZL1PK) in representing Amateur Radio in the northern region. If you have any questions about NZART please don't hesitate to ask them at one of our General Meetings.

As we head into winter outside activities tend to slow down as can be seen from a rather empty events calendar on page 11. Don't worry, things will warm up again and going outside will again be comfortable.

Join us on the Hamilton Club HF net on Monday evenings at 19:30 on 3.575 MHz.

Or, try the VHF simplex net on Tuesday evenings at 20:00 on 146.525 MHz.

Both nets run by Councilor ZL1PK. He uses this opportunity to keep us fully informed about upcoming club activities and I'm sure he will add NZART activities to that list now.

If you can hear the net then you are more than welcome to join in.

## **Next Committee Meetings - 3rd June & 1st July**

## **SB PROP ARL ARLP021**

### **ARLP021 Propagation de K7RA**

Do sunspots matter? Many of us are surprised at how good conditions can be with zero sunspots. The weak solar wind and lack of flares and geomagnetic events likely have something to do with it. Many times during more active solar periods the sunspots were welcomed, but then some event associated with the higher solar activity would make conditions difficult, disrupt the ionosphere and increase absorption.

For example, look back to the Fall of 2003 bulletins via the index at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/2003-index.html> and in addition to the text, note the sunspot numbers and A index listings at the end of each bulletin. There were plenty of sunspots, but if you look at Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP038 in September, or ARLP044 through ARLP049 around November, there were huge events that drove the planetary A index to 189 during one week and 162 the next. This is hard to imagine today. Also note the comment in ARLP051 in December 2003 about the relief from geomagnetic disturbances and somewhat higher sunspot activity. Actually, the planetary A index went as high as 43 one day that week, hardly a quiet geomagnetic number, but the previous two weeks were quite a bit calmer than the week prior.

Finding those old bulletins was aided by a graph of planetary A index progression from January 2000 to present on page 10 in the Preliminary Report and Forecast of May 12 at, <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/weekly/pdf/prf1758.pdf>.

I apologize that last week's bulletin reached many people several days late. The bulletin was dated Friday, May 15, but for some reason did not get distributed via email until the following Monday night, and the date of the bulletin was changed to May 20. The bulletin mentioned that sunspots were just reappearing the day before, but by the time it went out, there were already five days of sunspots. It turns out it had something to do with a string of minor unfortunate events, and HQ staff trying to administer bulletin distribution

remotely from ARRL National Convention and the Hamvention held concurrently in Dayton, Ohio. Your author was safe and snug in Seattle (having visited Newington only once, decades ago), and wants to assure everyone that W1AW staff are really a brilliant and clever bunch, but Murphy struck.

The report linked from the main ARRL web page appeared as normal last Friday. As often is the case, many interesting emails arrived in the past few days.

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## Internet Links

2009 Jock White with Branch 65 (ZL1VK)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3oMcMwDqHE>

Download Helper for downloading video from internet (YouTube etc)

<http://www.downloadhelper.net/>

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](mailto:zl1dgk@nzart.org.nz)

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## Dipole Session

Shortly, the Hamilton Club will be making 2 dipoles, one for each poleset. The Club ones are going to be tuned for 3.550MHz, 3.850MHz and 7.100MHz. These dipoles will be portable ones.



The club is intending to assist members with making their own dipoles. There will be a cost involved:

With Reel - \$81.00 – without reel - \$33.00. This price may go down a little dependent on the number made.

The price includes spade connectors, insulators, SO-239 and wire.

If you are interested, phone Tony Case, 850-5218 urgently.

Cheers



Tony.

PS – Later on in the year, we will be making poleset's.

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### Hyperlinks in eMail version

Those who receive the eMail version of this newsletter will notice that internet links, eMail addresses, etc have become hyperlinks and you should be able to just click on the links to view web sites.

My thanks go to Tom (ZL1TJA) for suggesting this extra feature.

-Editor

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### A little project for 23cm

Have a 70cm FM handheld and a scanner covering 1.3 GHz? Then you could be on 1.3 GHz, with little effort. Using a Waikato VHF Group FILTER PCB, and a few components (which could be available as a kit or prebuilt), then you can have ~600 mW on the 23cm band. You need about 1.5 watts from on your 70cm radio. Too much power (3 or 4 watts) then just run some lossy coax. Of course, the deviation is 3 times (15 kHz), so you will have to speak quietly, or hold the mic at arms length.

A cheap start to getting on the 23cm band

What about an antenna, I hear you say. One of the simplest is a bowtie, fig "8" or Double Quad. All you need is some wire, coax, both with some rigidity and a metal reflector.

Although this version is for 2400 MHz, the princi-



ple is similar. Each segment is 62mm from center to center (bend to bend), with the antenna ~ 30mm off the reflector. If you wish to support the antenna top and bottom, then a high value resistor could be used.



The polarization shown is horizontal.

What about a change over relay... Change the coaxes over manually, or just build two of the antennas...

There was a contact from near Wellington to the Bay of Islands using one of these antennas. Unfortunately we can't supply the good propagation that helped. However the Wellington 1296 MHz Beacon has been heard frequently north of Auckland.

-ZL1UJG





**Annual Market Day**  
**Claudlands Event Centre**  
**Saturday August 15th 2009**

**Vendors from 8:00am**

**Buyers (free entry) from 10:00am**

**Refreshments available**

**Free parking on site**

**An excellent chance for some social time  
with fellow Hamilton Amateurs.**

**All Enquiries to :**

**Market Day**

**Hamilton Amateur Radio Club**

**PO Box 606, Hamilton 3240**

**Or**





**Images of the Pariwhariki container repeater.**



## Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings &amp; Events</i>
1st June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
2nd June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
<b>3rd June</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>
<b>6-7 June</b>	<b>Hibernation Contest</b>
<b>7th June</b>	<b>NZART HQ Info-Line</b>
8th June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
9th June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
<b>13-14 June</b>	<b>ANARTS WW RTTY Contest</b>
15th June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
16th June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
<b>17th June</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>
<b>21st June</b>	<b>NZART HQ Info-Line</b>
22nd June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
23rd June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
<b>28th June</b>	<b>NZART Official Broadcast</b>
29th June	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
30th June	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00

**1st July—Committee Meeting**  
**4th July—NZART Memorial Contest**  
**5th July—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**10th July—Closing date Break-In**  
**15th July—General Meeting**  
**19th July—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**25th July—Waitakere Sprints (Phone)**  
**26th July—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**29th July—AREC Section meeting (AREC)**  
**1st August—Waitakere Sprints (CW)**  
**1-2 August—Brass Monkey Contest**  
**8th August—Boat Anchor Sprint**  
**9th August—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**15th August—Hamilton Market Day**  
**15-16 August—Lighthouse Weekend - ILLW**  
**22nd August—Possum Bourne Memorial Rally (AREC)**  
**23rd August—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**30th August—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**September—9th Kairangi Hill Climb (AREC)**  
**7th September—NZART Doug Gorman Frequency Measuring Contest**  
**12th September—Nostalgia Night**  
**3-4 October—Microwave Contest**  
**11-17 October—"GET READY GET THRU" Disaster Awareness Week**  
**12-16 October—14th IARU R3 Conference (Christchurch)**  
**17-18 October—JOTA/JOTI**

## Hamilton AREC Section News

May has been a quiet month AREC wise. We held a successful Section Meeting in April, and the next one is due on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Presently the club is getting names for those interested in making portable dipoles. If you choose to use the frequencies that the new Club Dipoles use, these will be suitable for both AREC and normal use. (3.550, 3.850 and 7.100MHz)

Coming up also is a Car Club Hill Climb event (Organised by Robin ZL1IC) and the Bridge to Bridge (Organised by Jono ZL1UPJ).

Conference will be over when you read this. I will be (or would have) attended the AREC Forum and there will be a report on this at the June Meeting.

That's all for this month

Tony Case 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.

**AREC Section Meeting**  
29 July 2009

**Possum Bourne Memorial Rally**  
22 August 2009



**9th Kairangi Hill Climb 2009**  
September 2009

**26th Annual Rollos Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic**  
November 2009  
16 operators needed

**Colville Connection (Kona)**  
13 March 2010  
Using HF & 2m (simplex & repeater).

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: 13.7 meter dish from Artjärvi Telecommunications Society in Finland ex [Metsähovi Radio Observatory](#) Good to 95 GHz*

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