

Ham Hum

March 2011



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



Next General Meeting
16th March - 19:30

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Contact Details 2010

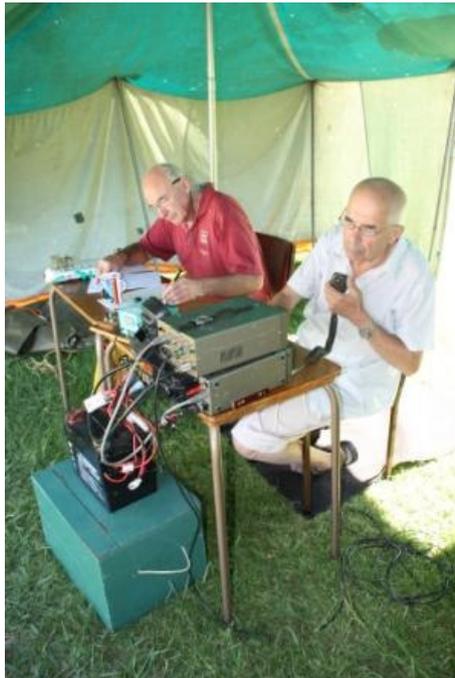
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From the Editor

Another Jock White Memorial Field Days ends as I finish this issue of Ham Hum. Check out some comments and photos inside.

I am sure our thoughts are with the folks down in Christchurch. I have included a selection of articles in this issue on that topic.

Upcoming events include the Colville Connection on March 12th. Another is the annual club dinner in April. See pages 11 & 12 for more.



**Next Committee Meetings -
2nd March & 6th April**

SB PROP ARL ARLP008

ARLP008 Propagation de K7RA

The average solar flux was nearly unchanged this week, up just 0.3 point to 103.8, while the average daily sunspot number was down 4.9 points to 65. Sunspot groups 1161 and 1162 -- which brought so much activity last week -- have now rotated across our Sun's western horizon, but new sunspot group 1163 has now emerged over the eastern limb. For Thursday, February 24, we saw a sunspot number of 23. The solar flux was 88.9, planetary A index was 3 and the mid-latitude A index was 0.

The outlook from NOAA/USAF shows 90, 88 and 88 for February 25-27, then 86 on February 28 through March 4, 95 on March 5, 100 on March 6-8, 105 on March 9 and rising to 110 on March 10-15. The predicted planetary A index for February 25-March 2 is 7, 8, 8, 15, 12 and 8, then 5 on March 3-6, and 7, 8, 8, 7 and 5 on March 7-11. Geophysical Institute Prague expects quiet to unsettled conditions for February 25-26 and quiet conditions on February 27 through March 3.

The predicted geomagnetic storm just prior to last weekend's DX contest did not persist, lasting only half a day through February 18. It was triggered by a flare on February 15. Bob Marston, K6TR, sent a link to a high definition video of the flare, as seen through the Solar Dynamics Observatory. It can be viewed on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJViaJ_kgZ0.

Note that you can select resolution of the image by clicking on the 360p on the lower right and can run it as high as 720p. It takes some time to load, varying dependent on your Internet connection speed. Best to just let it load, then run it again to actually watch it.

Dean Straw, N6BV, observed last Friday that the "latest solar wind sequences show that the Bz field was strongly north-directed (rather than south-directed) from 05 to 10 UTC Feb 18, so we probably dodged the big bullet for this ARRL DX CW weekend." He is referring to an element of the IMF, or interplanetary magnetic field. When Bz points south, our planet is vulnerable to flares and resulting solar wind, but when Bz points north, we tend to be protected.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, has an interesting and informative column on 10 meter sporadic-E propagation in the current issue of WorldRadio Online. Carl mentions downloading N6BV's presentation on sporadic-E titled, "HF Propagation and Sporadic-E, A Case Study: WRTC 2010."

Bill Collins, KB1MSJ, of Boylston, Massachusetts, is excited about openings on 10 meters. He wrote: "On Friday, February 18, there was a 10 meter band opening here on the East Coast. I was able to talk to Aruba, Brazil and El Salvador, all with only 25 W of power on a homebrew 10 meter antenna. I have been waiting for this to happen for years, as I only have my Tech license (working on General) and have an old 10 meter radio".

Elwood Downey, WB0OEW, of Tucson, Arizona, wrote: "Just wanted to mention you seem to have missed the highest actual 10.7 cm flux reported from Penticton for all of last week. On February 13 at 1800, it was 125.7. The value you report for February 13 -- 106.8 -- was reported two hours later at 2000. Normally I wouldn't bother to mention it, but this was higher than any value you reported for the entire week and is something for the record books."

Yes, I saw that, but only the local noon number is the "official" number for the day. Elwood is talking about the numbers as they are reported directly from Penticton. Note that there are three readings per day, and the local noon number is at 2000. NOAA rounds off the solar flux noon reading to the nearest whole number, and reports it at, <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpd/r/indices/DSD.txt>. I do like to look at the morning and afternoon numbers though to try to spot trends.

Sometimes NOAA will report a lower value for the day than the noon reading at Penticton. This is if the receiver at Penticton was overloaded, and the value is regarded as anomalous. But I don't have any way of knowing when that receiver is overloaded. My only clue is when NOAA reports a lower value.

In Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP006 we mentioned Joan Feynman and erroneously reported that she is physicist Richard Feynman's daughter, when in fact she is his sister. Thanks to Walt Knodle, W7VS, Michael A. Gottlieb and Gregory Andracke, W2BEE, for the correction. Greg is a filmmaker and mentioned that he met Richard Feynman while working on a documentary with Bill Moyers on the 45 year anniversary of the atomic bomb. Michael A. Gottlieb (who is not a ham) runs a website devoted to The Feynman Lectures on Physics. He also published the

book Feynman's Tips on Physics: A Problem-Solving Supplement to the Feynman Lectures on Physics. He works in the Caltech Physics Department and is editor of two editions of the Feynman Lectures on Physics.

Another correction, this time from last week's bulletin, we mistyped Bob Marston's call sign (K6TR) as K6TW. We got a nice note about this from Tim Goodrich of Torrance, California, the proud owner of new vanity call K6TW, which he has held for just one month.

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

Some Famous People and Their Callsigns

W5CY Howard Hughes - Billionaire, Inventor, aviator, aircraft designer

W2JOF Sir Cliff Richard - Singer (W2JOF is his USA call sign)

WD4SKT Donnie Osmond - Singer

WB6ACU Joe Walsh - Of The Eagles & James Gang

JA3FA Tokuzo Inoue - Founder of ICOM

3A0AG Prince Alberto Grimaldi - Monte Carlo, Monaco

W6RO Queen Mary Ocean Liner - Wireless room operated by The Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach Calif

W6DOE Clarence Leonidas Fender (Leo Fender) - He of Fender electric guitars. Prolific inventor & designer of instruments

From Shacknews JAN-2011:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/council/promotion/#shacknews>

Christchurch amateur radio emergency communications traffic

Arnie Coro, CO2KK, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region II Area C Emergency Coordinator, advises users of the 40 and 20 meters bands to "be aware of possible (earthquake) emergency communications traffic taking place in and around the affected areas of New Zealand's South Island, where Christchurch is located."

He continues: "This is a city of about 400,000 population and it was hit pretty badly because of the proximity of the epicenter of the earthquake and the fact that it was registered at a very shallow depth and very near to the city."

"The propagation on 40 meters more likely to cause problems to the New Zealanders from unintentional QRM coming from the Americas is the window that starts about two or three hours before sunrise and lasts until sunrise at this end. A similar pattern, with a slight time shift shows up on 20 meters, too."

Specific emergency communications frequencies will be posted as soon as the information is available.

Source: WorldRadio and CQ Amateur Radio newsrooms

NZ - old analogue phones wanted

Telecom is running a campaign in New Zealand to collect old fashioned analogue plug-in phones, that do not require mains power, to be given to Christchurch residents.

Read the National Business Review story at

<http://www.nbr.co.nz/article/christchurch-quake-phone-network-updates-ck-86690>

{A timely reminder that cordless phones generally require 240VAC to work—editor}

New Zealand Amateurs Assist in Earthquake's Aftermath

24/02/2011

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck the Canterbury region in New Zealand's South Island on Tuesday, February 22 at 12:51 PM local time (2351 on February 21 UTC). According to IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC, 10 radio amateurs are using their two emergency broadcast vans to keep rescue teams and Civil Defense staff in touch. One is at a major welfare center, providing portable communication so they can talk to Civil Defense, and the other vehicle is on its way to assist search-and-rescue teams in an area where communication is poor.

"Richard, ZK4FZ, said Amateur Radio operators from around the country are volunteering to help out," Linton said. "Others are sending updates on the disaster to families of people in Christchurch who are overseas."

As of February 24, the death toll from the earthquake stands at 98, with dozens yet to be rescued from beneath building rubble and hundreds of people still missing. The massive rescue effort now involves 300 rescuers -- boosted by urban experts from Australia -- and has rescued 20 people so far. Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said a pocket of 15 had been found in the TV3 building, the heart of local television production.

Countries around the world have responded with personnel and materials to help the citizens of New Zealand in the aftermath of the earthquake, including the US. The [Urban Search and Rescue California Task Force 2](#) -- a 74 member heavy rescue team consisting of firefighters and paramedics from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, emergency room physicians, structural engineers, heavy equipment specialists, hazardous materials technicians, communications specialists and logistics specialists -- with 26 tons of pre-packaged rescue equipment is now in Christchurch. This unit also responded to the 2010 Haitian earthquake, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

According to media reports, buildings collapsed around Cathedral Square in downtown Christchurch and the spire atop ChristChurch Cathedral collapsed. The spire's tip had also fallen in earlier earthquakes, but much more fell during the February 22 earthquake. Police believe 22 people died in the collapse of the cathedral's tower. The Canterbury Television (CTV) building was severely damaged and caught fire. On February 23, police decided that the damage was not survivable and rescue efforts at the building were suspended. More than 100 people may have died in the building. Firefighting and recovery operations resumed that night, later joined by a Japanese search and rescue squad. Thirteen Japanese students from the Toyama College of Foreign Languages are missing, with some feared

trapped in the rubble of the CTV building.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said a State of Emergency continued and those in the affected areas needed to keep their resolve and good spirits as the whole country was right behind them. He acknowledged the support already given and being offered from overseas. Christchurch and its surrounding areas account for 500,000 people, about half the population of the South Island.

There is no word yet on the frequencies being used. Once the ARRL has this information, it will be posted on the ARRL website. -- *Thanks to IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC, for some information*

QSL Cards

Our QSL manager, Sutton ZL4QJ, advises he has received a new batch of QSL cards.

Could the following people get in touch with Sutton :-

ZL1AJ, ZL1AUB, ZL1BYH, ZL1CAH, ZL1CTC, ZL1KM, ZL1MAN, ZL1ST,
ZL1UV and ZL1WW.

These cards can be uplifted from Sutton ZL4QJ, 33A Galloway St, Hamilton. Phone 07 8563832.

Jock White Field Days

The Jock White Memorial Field Days has finished for another year. I, ZL1DGK, wasn't at Hamilton this year, so I thought I'd give you something from a different branch and follow that with photos from Hamilton.

After some car problems, cam belt, I got to the site used by Br88 (ZL1TEC) a cou-

ple of hours late. The Tauranga Emergency Communications Group has just purchased a new communications vehicle to replace their aging ex-ambo vehicle. A wonderful vehicle that they have already kitted out with HF, VHF, UHF and probably others that I didn't spot in the dark.

The location on Joyce Rd in Pyes Pa was excellent. Driving past kiwifruit orchards, I came across a grazing paddock with the vehicle and aerials already set up. 80m dipole and a 40m dipole, with an interesting 40m vertical setup using the midpoint pole on the dipole.

I ended up on 40m, searching out ZL's amongst all the other DX signals out there. At times it was tough, at other times I was running a pile of responses.

The highlight of my evening may have been when I pretended to be a farmer and tried to persuade

some local cows to stop chewing the guy ropes and rubbing up against the support poles. I suspect my size may have helped with getting them to move on...



(Photos of Hamilton Jock White operations with thanks to Tom ZL1TJA)



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the frequencies and operating privileges
we currently enjoy.*

**The Association
is what you and I make it.**



2-3 April—NZART Low Band Contest
8th April—NZART HQ Info-Line
16th April—KDMG RTTY (80m)
20th April—Hamilton General Meeting—Club dinner
22nd April—NZART HQ Info-Line
22-25 April—VHF Convention (Wellington)
23 April—KDMG RTTY (40m)
29th April—NZART Official Broadcast
30th April—Rotorua Marathon (AREC)
14th May—Tasman Sprint (Phone)
21st May—Tasman Sprint (CW)
4-5 June—NZART Conference (Upper Hutt)
11-12 June—NZART Hibernation Contest
2-3 July—NZART Memorial Contest
6-7 August—NZART Brass Monkey Contest
13th August—NZART Boat Anchor Sprint
5th September—NZART Doug Gorman Freq Measuring Contest
1-2 October—NZART Microwave Contest
1st October—Oceania All Bands SSB Contest
3-4 December—NZART VHF Field Day Contest

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	7/8 May 2011	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	November 2011	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 2011		Organiser : ZL1IC
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>		
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
School C ycling	July 2011		Organiser : ZL1IC
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>
1.		5.	
2.		6.	
3.		7.	
4.		8.	
Colville Connection	12th March 2011		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: Jock White Memorial Field Days (ZL1TJA)

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