

Ham Hum

October 2010



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



Next General Meeting
20th October—19:30

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From the Editor

A new junk sale enters the calendar with a new junk sale at Suburban club on 13th November at Musick Point

“The VERY FIRST Hamfest and Junk sale to be held at this historic station. Be amazed at the wide selection of quality and “not so quality” surplus and pre-loved radio equipment that is offered to the “Discerning Amateur”. The quantity available is so vast and diverse that the club considered it too large to manhandle to the various regular branch junk sales. Another feature of this one-off sale is a huge inventory of components available from a deceased estate

The day is being organized as a real Hamfest get-together, so car-boot vendors are also welcome to participate in the days activities. Those attendees who will be worried about empty stomachs (read: hungry) because of the time taken to take in all the activities will be pleased to note that survival quantities of sausages etc; and refreshments will be available for the whole day of fun and “Hampanionship”

As a special feature on the day, club members will be on hand to conduct fellow Hams through the historic station to view the vast array of original vintage transmitter and receiver equipment used by the station since the 1940's lovingly restored and made operational. It will be a great day.”

See Page 8 for more details

Next week we will have a report from the Kairangi Hill Climb. Looks like they had lots of fun.

Next Committee Meetings - 6th October & 3rd November

SB PROP ARL ARLP039

ARLP039 Propagation de K7RA

HF radio conditions were good over this past week, with average daily sunspot numbers up more than five points to 45.3, and average solar flux rising 1.5 points to 84.4. On Wednesday, September 29 solar flux was 90.7. The last time flux values were nearly this high was August 7 at 90.5, and it last topped this value at 91.8 on March 13, 2010.

A coronal wind on September 24 provided the moderate geomagnetic activity for the week, with the planetary A index rising to 13.

With the end of September comes the opportunity to examine some average sunspot numbers based on calendar months. These numbers look good. Every month since early 2007 we have taken a 3-month moving average of sunspot numbers. The hope in the beginning was to help us spot the bottom of the sunspot cycle without resorting to smoothed sunspot numbers, which average a year of sunspot data. But three months of data allows a lot of smoothing of short term variation.

Now at the end of September we know the 3-month average centered on August, taking all the data from July, August and September. It is a simple arithmetic average in which we add all the sunspot numbers together, then divide the sum by the number of days in those 3 months the data was taken from.

The three-month moving averages of daily sunspot numbers for October 2008 through August 2010 were 4.5, 4.4, 3.6, 2.2, 2, 1.5, 2, 4.2, 5.2, 4, 4, 4.6, 7.1, 10.2, 15.2, 22.4, 25.7, 22.3, 18.5, 16.2, 20.4, 23.2 and 28.9. This takes into account all of the daily sunspot numbers from September 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010. It is clear that there was a minimum centered around April through July 2008, and that for the past few months numbers have risen steadily. The monthly averages for August and September 2010 were 28.2 and 35.7.

For this week NOAA and USAF predict quiet geomagnetic conditions with a planetary A index of 5 on October 1-2, 7 for October 3-5, and 5 again on October 6-10. Geophysical Institute Prague sees quiet conditions October 1-3, unsettled October

4-5, and quiet October 6-7.

Dave Fisher, KA2CYN of New City (Rockland County) New York says he had a very active weekend in the CQ World Wide RTTY Contest last weekend, September 25-26. With a 4-band roof-mounted rotatable dipole and low power on 40-10 meters he made 513 contacts overall, with 6 contacts into South America on 10 meters, and 161 QSOs into North America on 40 meters. 20 meters was the best band into Europe, with 101 QSOs on that band.

Andy Gudas, N7TP of Amargosa Valley, Nevada wrote: "Since we have now entered the 'Solar Cycle That Couldn't,' is there any way to compare where we think we are in the new sunspot cycle with an average cycle, or maybe a really poor cycle? I think we're something like two years into the new cycle and not much is happening."

Check <http://www.solen.info/solar/cyclcomp.html> for a graphic comparison of Cycles 21-23, with the beginning of Cycle 24 plotted. The time axis is marked in months since the start of the cycle, which could be somewhat subjective. Note that smoothed sunspot numbers are displayed here, and since that takes a year of data to compute, the latest number always lags the current date by about six months. The latest update of this chart as of October 1 was September 4.

You can see another comparison at <http://www.solen.info/solar/solcycle.html>, and note that Cycle 24 is just a little squiggly line to the right of Cycle 23. This page says the current forecast is for the current cycle to peak in 2013 with a smoothed sunspot number of 50-70. If that turns out to be true, it will be a much lower cycle than previous ones.

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

Proposal for a New Zealand Amateur Radio Day

Purpose

The purpose of the New Zealand Amateur Radio Day is to promote our hobby to the public so that some may be encouraged to join the local club, take on classes and become amateur radio operators.

Time

From 1000-1200 hours local time annually on the 3rd Saturday of January

Location

Any prominent and public location where there is plenty of public foot traffic. The location will most likely require council (or other landowner) approval. Make sure this is sought and obtained in plenty of time as councils often have minimum notification times.

Logs

You are required to keep a log of all stations worked during the 2 hours. Logs must include the callsign of the station worked, time, frequency, and any other information you may like to include.

Callsign

Use of club callsigns is encouraged, however individuals may also set up a station using his or her own callsign.

Prior Publicity

For this exercise to be a success prior publicity is essential. Make every effort to publicise the event through local club magazines, local newspapers and other media outlets as much as possible.

Publicity on the day

As the aim of this exercise is to promote our hobby to the public, have material to hand out on the day. A liaison person or persons should be nominated for this task. People with good communication skills are recommended to take on this role. This person should have a thorough understanding of the systems and modes being used on the day as they will be inundated with questions. Cards, pamphlets and other such giveaways, with club representative contact details are a must. Get copies of the latest amateur radio promotional brochure from Debby at NZART HQ. If you have a class coming up make sure the details are included on any handout material. Take down details of people who express an interest in the hobby and follow them up.

Contacts

Contacts are to be made with other NZARD stations, or home stations willing to work NZARD stations. Interested public should be encouraged to have a go on the air under direct supervision.

Bands and Modes

Operation on the day can be on any band and any mode. The national system, IRLP nodes, 80 and 40m would be recommended as a starting point for New Zealand based contacts. Digital modes and CW may also be used to attract interest.

Other Rules

While this is a field type operation, mains may be used if available.

Make sure your equipment is working and presentable to the public before the event.

Afterwards

Please write an activity report and submit it with your log to warren@zl2aj.com. There is no scoring of contacts made during the day. Activity reports will be submitted to Break In. It is imperative to follow up any names collected on the day. Invite them to a club night, or get them involved in activities. Encourage them to study and get a callsign. All this will help boost club membership.

From The Business Manager ZL2TDM

Debby Says...

Break In & Call Book

Due to the production of call book this yeas, the October Break In will not be dispatched until after the 14th October. Our apologies for the delay, however the call book compiler, RSM and myself have endeavored to maintain the highest possible standard for this years call book.

HQ Closed

I will be away...Due to sickness I will be absent from NZART headquarters until the 12th October. If you urgently need information, please contact your local Councillor or the Association President, for whom e-mail addresses may be found on our web site.

Talk soon...Debby ZL2TDM

***The
Suburban Amateur Radio
Club Inc:***



Branch 86

Musick Point



Musick Memorial Radio Station

**Extends a very warm welcome
to all Hams and visitors to the**

**Saturday, 10-00 AM
November 13th 2010**

Giant *Hamfest* and *Junk* sale

**Come see, visit, chat and look for
that special component from a
huge selection of equipment**

WESTERN SUBURBS RADIO CLUB INC, BRANCH 03, NZART

ANNUAL NEW and USED EQUIPMENT SALE

SATURDAY 9th October 2010

ROSEBANK ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

217 ROSEBANK ROAD, AVONDALE

IT IS A LOVELY BIG HALL AND HAS PLENTY OF PARKING

\$2-00 entry for buyers

TO PRE-BOOK A TABLE

Please call one of the following.

IAN (ZL1RCA) 09 814 9597

ROY (ZL1WI) 09 814 9550

ROSS (ZL1VRR) 09 629 0504

Email sangsfam@clear.co.nz

FLOOR spaces are \$10.00 PRE-PAID or \$15.00 on the day.

Make out cheque to WSRC (Inc) send to P.O. Box 15-122 New Lynn 0640 Waitakere (Some space may be available at 0800hrs on the day.)

SELLERS please arrive by 0800hrs BUYERS 0900hrs \$2 entry)

The sale closes at Midday. There are some Commercial Dealers coming,

CAFETERIA will have, hot sausages, Tea, Coffee & biscuits to buy from \$2-50.

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT BUYING OR SELLING COME ALONG FOR THE FUN
AND MEET FELLOW ELECTRONIC ENTHUSIASTS. ALL N.Z.A.R.T. BRANCHES

AND PRIVATE VENDORS ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO BRING AS MUCH EQUIPMENT FOR SALE AS THEY WISH.

ALLTHINGS ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONIC, ANTENNA, COMPUTER, TOOL, RADIO AND TV RELATED PRODUCE IS THE BASIC IDEA FOR SALE ITEMS.

Note to Sellers: As there are limited power outlets available, please bring own power board and leads if required. All un-sold equipment must be removed, at close of sale. The Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc, is a non-profit Amateur Radio club, this sale is way we raise some funds for our technology projects and upkeep of our facilities. Donations gratefully accepted, receipts available

John ZL1JT

NZART Web Update

The build of the NZART Web into a Content Management System (CMS) is nearing completion. Testing and final checking is the name of the game. The Website has been build using "SilverStripe", an open source CMS, born and developed in Wellington, New Zealand. <http://www.silverstripe.com/>

- Jamie ZL2NN

NZART Membership

Did You Know That Exam Candidates Can Join NZART and Get One Year Free Membership?

For details see the last section of the Radio 4A Form at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/exam/examprocedures.html#examproc>

Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings & Events</i>
2-3 October	Oceania All Bands SSB
2-3 October	NZART Microwave Contest
3rd October	NZART HQ Info-Line
4th October	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
5th October	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
9th October	Western Suburbs Equipment Sale
9-10 October	Oceania All Bands (CW)
11th October	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
12th October	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
16-17 October	JOTA/JOTI
17th October	NZART HQ Info-Line
18th October	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
19th October	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
20th October	General Meeting
25th October	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
26th October	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
31st October	NZART Official Broadcast

6th November—Papakura Sprint (Phone)
7th November—NZART Straight Key Night
7th November—NZART HQ Info-Line
10th November—Closing date for next Break-In
13th November—Suburban Radio Club Hamfest & Junk Sale
13th November—NZART Boat Anchor Sprint
13th November—Papakura Sprint (CW)
13th November—GlobalSET
17th November—General Meeting
21st November—NZART HQ Info-Line
27-28 November—Bridge to Bridge (AREC)
28th November—NZART Official Broadcast
4-5 December—NZART VHF/UHF/SHF Field Day Contest
4-5 December—KDMG Twin Sprint
5th December—NZART HQ Info-Line
15th December—General Meeting
19th December—NZART HQ Info-Line
19th December—NZART Official Broadcast
5th February 2011—Summer Sprint (Phone)
6-7 February 2011—NZART VHF/UHF/SHF DX Weekend
12th February 2011—Summer Sprint (CW)
12th March 2011—Colville Connection (AREC)
22-25 April 2011—VHF Convention (Wellington)
14th May 2011—Tasman Sprint (Phone)
21st May 2011—Tasman Sprint (CW)
4-5 June 2011—NZART Conference (Upper Hutt)

AREC Event Operators Page

WRC Rally NZ/ Possum Bourne Rally	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	27-28 November 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 2011		Organiser : ZL1IC
<u>Position</u>	<u>Operator</u>		
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
School Cycling	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 :
<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 By			

For Details about and to help with 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://z11ux.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: ARRL advertisement for Amateur Radio

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