

Ham Hum

December 2008



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



Next General Meeting

February 2009

End of Year BBQ—6th December

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From the Editor

Another successful year for Branch 12 comes to a close with this issue of Ham Hum so I thought I'd do a summary in time for our annual BBQ on 6th December.

The AGM of members in February was successful with all positions filled quickly.

The Jock White contest was well supported and lots of fun. The trying conditions on 40m affected everyone, however we still came in 4th in the Open Class with 690 QSO's and 199,125 points. An overall improvement from last year.

We then settled in to monthly meetings with guest speakers and social time. Lots of interesting topics and much to learn about.

In amongst that we had several AREC events and training sessions/ meetings that were well attended and showed the public how professional and competent we all are.

The V8 Supercars came to town and a fence appeared between the clubrooms and our tower. I must thank those who worked with the City and the V8 organisers to make sure we remained fully functional as an AREC Section and as a club during that time. Oh, and the free tickets were very nice.

NZART Conference came along with our representatives Tony (ZL1UD) and Jono (ZL1UPJ) making the trip down to Dunedin.

Class of 2008 was started with our dedicated team of trainers and an equally dedicated team of students. Wonderful results all round and the classes are continuing as our new Hams continue to learn more about the hobby.

The annual Market Day in August was another success with special thanks to Dave (ZL1TCE), Jono (ZL1UPJ) and Brett (ZL1TFA) for all their hard work.

And those are just the highlights.....see you at the BBQ or in the coming year. - Editor

Next Committee Meetings - 3rd Dec 2008 and 21st January 2009

SB PROP ARL ARLP049

ARLP049 Propagation de K7RA

We had our last glimpse of sunspot group 1008 as it was about to slip over our sun's western horizon on November 18. No sunspots have emerged since then, but it seems a reasonable assumption that we will see more cycle 24 spots, but we do not know when. There is a prediction from USAF/NOAA that shows solar flux rising to 70 on December 8-9, and perhaps this is just tracking a possible reappearance of the region that birthed sunspot group 1007, which we saw in the sun's southern hemisphere from October 30 through November 6.

Tonight high latitude regions may see some aurora, caused by another solar wind stream from a coronal hole. But that same USAF/NOAA forecast mentioned earlier shows a planetary A index of just 12 for today, dropping to 8 on Thursday, then 5 (a very quiet level) until December 4-6, when they expect a planetary A index of 8, 15 and 10. The planetary A index is calculated with data from a collection of mid-latitude and higher magnetometers around the world, and 12 is a drop from Tuesday's (November 25) planetary A index of 17, when aurora was observed in Polar Regions.

Recently geomagnetic conditions have been very, very quiet, as mentioned in the last bulletin. At

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftplib/indices/DGD.txt>

note the abundance of zeroes for both A and K index for two weeks through November 24, with the exception of November 16.

Milan Cerny, OK3AA of the Czech Republic is QSL manager for Josef Archman, ET3JA in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. Milan says that Josef is on 20 meters PSK sporadically from 0600-1600z. With no sunspots, stations in the Northeast United States and Southeast Canada should have a good shot during the last couple of hours in that period on 20 meters.

Australian and New Zealand stations may find a workable path with stronger signals into Australia starting around 1200z and New Zealand an hour later. Stations in and around India should see excellent signals until 1200z. Milan should see excellent conditions over the whole 0600-1600z period, with strongest signals at the beginning and end of that period. Weakest signals should be around 0800-1100z.

In the last bulletin ARLP048 we mentioned Jim Borowski's (K9TF of West Allis, Wisconsin) request for information on propagation prediction software for the Apple Macintosh.

David Olsen, VK4FOLO (not a typographical error) suggested DX Toolbox (<http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/dxtoolbox.html>) from Black Cat Systems, which works with both Mac and PC. If you click on the screenshots link at the bottom of the page, you can see some of the prediction screens, including the maps that show propagation conditions in all directions from your location, varying by the hour. It isn't free software, but you can download a trial version.

David also has his own web site devoted to his ham station at <http://www.djolsen.com/ham/vk4folo.html>, and if you back up on that URL to delete everything to the right of .com, you can see what else David does in the Australian Outback.

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Internet Links

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

Amateur Radio and related suppliers

Com Centre

<http://www.amateurradio.co.nz/>

Dick Smith Electronics

<http://www.dse.co.nz/>

FeatureTech

<https://secure.featuretech.co.nz/>

ICOM New Zealand

<http://www.icom.co.nz/>

Jaycar

<http://jaycar.co.nz/>

Tait Electronics

<http://www.tait.co.nz/>

Radiola

<http://www.radiola.co.nz/>

Signals NZ

<http://www.signals.net.nz/>



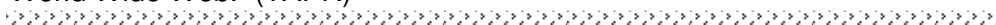
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: TAPR ANNOUNCES MERCURY SDR RECEIVER BOARD

Tucson Amateur Packet Radio has announced the development of a new software Designed Receiver board code named Mercury.

The Mercury board is described as being a High Performance Software Defined Radio open-source hardware and software project. It was designed

and developed by a group of enthusiasts with representation from interested experimenters worldwide.

Tucson Amateur Packet Radio says that it is looking for a show of interest in this unit to determine the production run for the new Mercury receiver board. If this unit interests you please check out <http://hpsdr.org> on the World Wide Web. (TAPR)

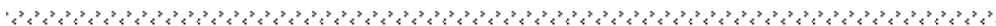


End of Year BBQ

Clubrooms
88 Seddon Rd

Saturday 6th December
11am start

BYO, and join in the celebration as we work towards 90 years of Ham Radio in Hamilton



Scrap Metal Recycling

Our chief metal recycling expert, David Nation (ZL1TCE), is again on the

lookout for Aluminium, Brass, Copper, Steel and any other recyclable metal. This is an excellent fundraiser for the club as well as an opportunity for you to get rid of some "junk". Contact Dave at zl1tce@nzart.org.nz

National System Award for January and February 2009

HOLIDAY FUN

NATIONAL SYSTEM AWARD 2009

The management committee of Wellington VHF Group invite you to participate in this award to highlight the coverage of the National System, incorporating NZART Branch areas, and DOC public conservation land areas.

Contact any Amateur residing in each NZART Branch area via the National System = 1 point.

Contact any Amateur in a DOC National Park, Conservation Park, Forest Park, Marine Reserve, or Marine Mammal Sanctuary via the National System = 1 point

Contact ZL2WA, official station of Wellington VHF Group via the National System = 3 bonus points.

- (1) The award will run from 1 January 2009 to 28 February 2009 and is available to all Amateurs. No fee applies.
- (2) Each NZART Branch, and each DOC public conservation land area may be listed only once. Contacts are cumulative.
- (3) An attractive Certificate will be issued showing the total number of contacts achieved.
- (4) Send a log of contacts with; date, time, Callsign contacted, NZART Branch name or DOC public conservation land area, for each contact, to;

The Award Custodian
Wellington VHF Group Inc
PO Box 12259
Thorndon
WELLINGTON 6144

or E-mail zl2wa@clear.net.nz with NS2009 in the subject. Applications close 31 March 2009.

For a list of Branches consult Call Book, Page 6-4. Branches in recess are not valid for NS2009.

For DOC Parks and other land administered by DOC see brochure "Exploring Parks" available from DOC, or download from www.doc.govt.nz.

On behalf of the Committee

Dick ZL2TGQ Award Custodian

[<zl1tgq@touchsystems.co.nz>](mailto:zl1tgq@touchsystems.co.nz)

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Join Now

HAMILTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (INC.)

ZL1UX

All Welcome

Come and be a member, share your interests with others that enjoy the hobby of Amateur Radio.

The club has recently been active in radio contests, AREC activities, upgrading radio equipment, upgrading clubrooms, working bees, monthly meetings, social events and we are currently running Amateur Radio education classes.

Come along.

Bridge to Bridge photos





ZL1DK enjoying himself in the sweep boat. *(Photo: ZL1UD)*



Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings & Events</i>
1st December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
2nd December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
3rd December	Committee Meeting
6th December	End of Year BBQ at clubrooms
6-7 December	Field Day Contest (VHF and above)
7th December	NZART HQ Info-Line
8th December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
9th December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
15th December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
16th December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
21st December	NZART HQ Info-Line
21st December	NZART Official Broadcast
22nd December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
23rd December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
25th December	Christmas Day—Family Time
29th December	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
30th December	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
1 Jan-28 Feb 2009	National System Award

10th January 2009—Break-In Deadline
21st January 2009—NO General Meeting
21st January 2009—Committee Meeting
4th February 2009—Committee Meeting
7-8 February 2009—DX Weekend Contest
14th February 2009—Boat Anchor Sprint
18th February 2009—Hamilton AGM
28 Feb-1 March 2009—Jock White Memorial Field Days
4th March 2009—Committee Meeting
7th March 2009—Te Puke Market Day (Paengaroa)
14th March 2009—Colville Connection (AREC)
18 March 2009—General Meeting
28th March 2009—EXPO-09 5th Wellington Region Expo
4-5 April 2009—Low Band Contest
11 April 2009—Boat Anchor Sprint
11-12 April 2009—VHF Convention 2009 (Hamilton)
18th April 2009—World Amateur Radio Day
29th April 2009—Hamilton AREC Section Meeting (AREC)
2nd May 2009—45th Rotorua Marathon (AREC)
2nd May 2009—GlobalSET (EmComm) Exercise
1st June 2009—NZART Conference (Hastings)
September 2009—9th Kairangi Hill Climb (AREC)
12-16 October 2009—14th IARU R3 Conference (Christchurch)
17-18 October 2009—JOTA/JOTI
17-19 October 2009—Admin Council of IARU (Christchurch)
November 2009—Bridge to Bridge (AREC)

Hamilton AREC Section News

What a weird month. There has not been a lot going on in the AREC world, but the Hamilton Section is growing, something I wanted to see happen since becoming S/L during 2007.

I have been hassling the AREC hierarchy in Auckland to get a training course in Hamilton. Everyone has been busy and there has been no chance this year. Hopefully we will see something in 2009.

Some of our new members cut their teeth on the Bridge to Bridge this year and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Bridge to Bridge was successful and the organisers were very pleased with the job we did.

I ended up in Hospital on November 21. My heart was playing silly bug-gers and beating itself silly. I write this from Hospital, and I am looking at another few days before they let me loose on the community again.

Our next major event is Kona on March 14 next year. Operators are sort of all sorted out for the event. If you are interested in going as a helper, speak to one of the Primary Operators and see if you can go with them.

Well, that's it for this issue and for 2008. On behalf of the Hamilton Management Team; ZL1PK, ZL1TCE and ZL1UPJ, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you at the Club BBQ on the 6th.

Tony Case S/L
ZL1UD/ZK1EC

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.

Colville Connection (Kona) 2009

14th March 2009

Using HF & 2m (simplex & repeater).
ZL1KK/ZL1KN, ZL1PK/ZL1DGK/ZL1LD,
ZL1UD/ZL2TW, ZL1UPJ/OM, ZL1IC,
ZL1TCE Reserve : ZL1AVR, ZL1TXQ
already booked in.



Hamilton Section Meeting

29 April 2009

9th Kairangi Hill Climb 2009

September 2009

26th Annual Rollos Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic 2008

November 2009

16 operators needed (ZL1DK, ZL1DGK)

For Details about and to help with these events, contact :-

Tony Case ZL1UD 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

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: A moonbounce antenna array

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