

# Ham Hum

January 2011



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



**Next General Meeting**  
**Combined Committee/General Meeting**  
**19th January, 19:30**

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### Contact Details 2010

|   |        |          |  |
|---|--------|----------|--|
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| Phil King                               | ZL1PK  | 847 1320 | <a href="mailto:zl1pk@nzart.org.nz">zl1pk@nzart.org.nz</a>           |
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## From the Editor

January starts with the National System Award. Not a contest, but something to partake in at your own pace with the same reward being received as all other participants.

Many thanks to all club members who helped out with the 19th NZ Scout Jamboree "Adventure Jam" at Mystery Creek. Some photos are included in this months issue from ZL1GWP (Gavin) and from the jamborees Facebook site.

This year is election year for NZART Council. Nominations of interest are :-

President ( 1 Required)

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| John Andrews | ZL2HD  |
| Ann Fraser   | ZL3TNT |
| Simon Lewis  | ZL4PLM |
| Roy Symon    | ZL2KH  |

Northern District ( 3 Required)

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Neill Ellis       | ZL1TAJ |
| Stephen Hayman    | ZL1TPH |
| Vaughan Henderson | ZL1TGC |
| Phil King         | ZL1PK  |

You will notice Tony (ZL1UD) isn't on the list. Please join with me in thanking him for all his efforts on our behalf at NZART.

## Next Committee Meetings - 19th January & 2 February

## **SB PROP ARL ARLP052 ARLP052 Propagation de K7RA**

There were no sunspots for a full week, from December 18-24. Christmas day saw a return to sunspot activity, so the last two of those spotless days were in the Thursday through Wednesday reporting period in this bulletin, December 23-29.

Average daily sunspot number for this past week rose nearly 15 points to 19.7, and average daily solar flux was about the same as last week. It changed from 80.1 to 80.3.

The latest forecast from NOAA/USAF shows solar flux for December 31 through January 10 at 83, 84, 84, 82, 80, 80, 80, 83, 88, 88 and 88. Predicted planetary A index 5 on December 31 through January 2, 7 on January 3-6, and 5 again on January 7-10.

Our report from Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions December 31 to January 3, unsettled geomagnetic conditions January 4, quiet to unsettled January 5, and quiet again on January 6.

Although there are two more days of sunspot and solar flux readings to complete the 2010 data, with 363 data points we can easily calculate the year's averages.

Yearly averages of daily sunspot numbers for 2004-2010 were, 68.6, 48.9, 26.1, 12.8, 4.7, 5.1 and 25.5.

Yearly averages of daily noon 10.7 cm solar flux readings from Penticton for 2004-2010 were 106.6, 91.9, 79.9, 73.1, 69, 70.6 and 80.

These averages represent a nice increase in solar activity, but they still indicate a weak solar cycle. We can compare these averages with yearly averages around the end of the previous solar cycle. Cycle 23 probably ended in late 2008, and Cycle 22 ended in mid-1996, so averages based on calendar year are somewhat skewed, whereas counting 365 day periods or perhaps shorter increments after the end of a cycle would not be.

For 1993-1998, yearly averages of daily sunspot numbers were 79, 48.1, 28.7, 13.2, 30.7 and 88.7. Over the same period the yearly averages of daily solar flux were 109.5, 85.8, 77.1, 72, 81 and 117.9.

But looking over the data at hand, as presented, tells us that the activity at the minima between Cycles 23 and 24 was lower than between 22 and 23, and Cycle 24 still seems to be advancing much more slowly.

Perhaps at another time we could examine the averages over shorter periods following each minimum.

Last week's bulletin neglected to mention the propagation column in the January 2011 issue of Worldradio by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. This is available for free online on the 20th day of each month. This time Carl gives a careful analysis of skewed long-path propagation on 40 meter CW between G3WW and YB0AZ, England to Indonesia. You can find it at <http://www.worldradiomagazine.com>, and Carl's column runs from pages 38-40.

Jon Jones, N0JK regularly reports on E-skip openings on 6 meters. This time he wrote, "Finally another winter season Es opening. From Wichita EM17 I worked K4UI EM76 with very loud signals at 0117 UTC December 27. Also heard a couple of '5s' in EL09 and K5AB/b EM10. Most of it was going overhead as was too close in for most of the Es."

You can take a look at this opening by querying <http://www.vhfdx.info/spots/>. He listed contacts from 0111z-0125z on December 27. Just leave everything at default, but select 50 MHz, Reported from 27 December 2010 at 0110 UTC until 27 December 2010 at 0130 UTC, and select the maximum number of returned QSOs at 100 or 250. Click on "Submit Query," and you will see the listing.

You can also click on the NA Map tab to see a map of the paths reported. And if you want, you can expand the times in your query to see more than what Jon reported. Note that if you don't see QSOs listed all the way to the early and late times you've entered, either you have hit the 250 QSO limit, or there were no QSOs reported during that period. If you hit the limit, then just narrow the time period, and also move the period forward and backward in time to get a full report on 6 meter openings. Also note that you can restrict the report to paths greater than some arbitrary value.



## From NZART HQ

HQ Closed: Headquarters will be open through the short weeks of Christmas and the new year, however will be closed from Tuesday 11th January to Wednesday 26th January.

- Debby ZL2DL (yep I have changed my call sign!)

## Call Book News

As members will be aware, there are a number of errors in the callsign listings in the 2010 Call Book.

These listings are based on information extracted from SMART for us by the MED. Unfortunately, the final list supplied by the MED omitted a number of callsigns that had appeared on previous lists. It is not clear at this stage what caused this to occur but the MED has written to us apologising for the errors.

Such an error should not happen again as the MED is planning to introduce a new facility to SMART during 2011 called "web services". This will enable us to extract our own callsign listings from SMART.

A full copy of the email received from the MED is available on this link <http://www.nzart.org.nz/council/policies/2010-2011-nzart-call-book/> for those that would like further information.

There will be an errata sheet containing corrections to all the callsigns that we have been able to resolve in the November/December Break In along with the Call Book on CD which will also incorporate the corrections. These corrections have been arrived at from membership records, and also those errors reported to the Call Book team.

The item above has come from two sources. Principally from a summary of correspondence with RSM by the ALO (Don Wallace), and from the Call Book Editor (Lorne Douglas).

Phil King  
NZART Council

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## AR NEWSLINE (USA) Gives ZL2BHF a Tribute

On the 11-DECEMBER-2010 Jim Meachen received a surprise when he received an e-mail from the American Amateur Radio News organisation NEWSLINE. Attached to this e-mail was a tribute to Jim's 25 years attachment to the NZART Official Broadcast from Bill Pasternak WA6ITF President, and Co-Founder of [Newsline](#).

The tribute can be heard by clicking on this [LINK](#).

## **National System Award 2011**

### **New Zealand Railway Stations**

The railway network in New Zealand once had extensive coverage and service all over the country. The National System aims to provide wide coverage and reliable service to most of the country. New nodes are still being added to the system and we are not likely to be "pulling up the rails" anytime soon!

To celebrate and explore the coverage of the National System this year we are inviting hams to use the NS from railway stations around the country. A contact can be from any station that is documented in a reliable manner, no matter if it is still in service or has been retired. With whole lines missing now, it will be a challenge to find and operate from many of the locations, while others are still in active service and easy to access. Operating from a train is allowed and you can claim the last or next railway stations as you move along. In many cases the old station is not accessible to the public, so you will need to locate close to it and remain in public areas.

The rules are as follows:

The award will run from 1 January 2011 to 7 February 2011 (inclusive)

All contacts must be via the National System

A point will be awarded for:

Each NZART Branch area worked

Each railway station worked

You can claim the branch area or railway station you are operating from, but each QSO can only count once

The log must include working the Branch 74 station ZL2WA

There is no fee for this award and certificates will be issued showing the number of branches worked and the number of railway stations claimed.

It is intended that the Wellington VHF Group website will show a map of railway stations as they are worked. Please email station names and location to [awards@vhf.org.nz](mailto:awards@vhf.org.nz) as you work them.

Please send a log of contacts (containing: date, time, callsign, NZART branch name and number, or railway station name for each contact) to:

NS Award 2011 Custodian  
Wellington VHF Group Br 74  
P.O. Box 12259  
Thorndon  
**Wellington 6144**

Or email to [zl2wa@clear.net.nz](mailto:zl2wa@clear.net.nz) with NS2011 in the subject line. Applications close 31 March 2011.

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## A Reminder For Conference Awards

### **Amateur of The Year AoTY**

Award to be made to the radio amateur who in the preceding 12 month calendar year (January to December) has given outstanding service to Amateur Radio.

Details are found at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities/awards-conference/amateur-of-the-year/>

### **Arthur (Jumbo) Godfrey**

The purpose of this award is to remember one of New Zealand's most well known radio amateurs, who fully supported NZART Inc and branch level activities, in the belief that strong branches meant a strong national organisation.

Details are found at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities/awards-conference/arthur-jumbo-godfrey/>

### **Young Amateur of The Year (Y AoTY)**

To Recognise The Young Amateur of the Year. Last award given out in 2005.

Details are found at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities/awards-conference/young-aoty/>



## Pictorial of the Scout Jamboree at Mystery Creek

Branch 12 Hams teaching scouts



The Hamilton Kart Club control tower being used for aerals and radios.



Vaughan Henderson (ZL1TGC) [in blue shirt] talking to a group of scouts about morse code and ARDF. Looks like a “hands-on” talk.





President of Branch 12—Hamilton, Robin Holdsworth (ZL1IC) talking to a group of scouts.





**5th February—Summer Sprint (Phone)**  
**5-6 February—NZART VHF/UHF/SHF DX Weekend**  
**6th February—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**12th February—Summer Sprint (CW)**  
**12th February—Boat Anchor Sprint**  
**17th February—Club AGM**  
**20th February—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**26-27 February—NZART Jock White Memorial Field Days**  
**27th February—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**5th March—Te Puke (Paengaroa) Junk Sale**  
**12th March—Colville Connection (AREC)**  
**2-3 April—NZART Low Band Contest**  
**16th April—KDMG RTTY (80m)**  
**22-25 April—VHF Convention (Wellington)**  
**23 April—KDMG RTTY (40m)**  
**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**

## AREC Event Operators Page

|  |      |                          |
|--|------|--------------------------|
| <b>WRC Rally NZ/<br/>Possum Bourne Rally</b>   | 2011 | Organiser : <b>ZL1DK</b> |
| Please contact the <a href="#">Section Leader</a> with your team information and he will pass it on to Auckland. |      |                          |

|   |                                 |                               |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Rollo's Marine Bridge<br/>to Bridge Water-Ski<br/>Race</b> | 27-28 November 2010             | Organiser : <b>ZL1UPJ</b>     |
| <b><u>Position</u></b>  | <b><u>Saturday Operator</u></b> | <b><u>Sunday Operator</u></b> |
| <b>Base</b>   |                                 |                               |
| <b>Start Boat</b>   |                                 |                               |
| <b>Rescue Boat</b>  |                                 |                               |
| <b>X-Band</b>   |                                 |                               |
| <b>A.</b>   | Ngaruawahia/Taupiri             |                               |
|   | Start/Finish at Point           |                               |
| <b>B.</b>   | Ngaruawahia Ramp                |                               |
| <b>C.</b>   | Ngaruawahia W/S                 |                               |
| <b>D.</b>   | Horotiu                         |                               |
| <b>E.</b>   | Pukete Ramp                     |                               |
| <b>F.</b>   | Days Park                       |                               |
| <b>G.</b>   | Fairfield Bridge                |                               |
| <b>H.</b>   | Malcolm St                      |                               |
| <b>I.</b>   | Narows                          |                               |
| <b>J.</b>   | Field Days                      |                               |
| <b>K.</b>   | Between Pipe and F/Days         |                               |
| <b>L.</b>   | High Level Bridge               |                               |

|                            |                              |                           |                          |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Kairangi Hill Climb</b> | <b>Sunday September 2011</b> |                           | <b>Organiser : ZL1IC</b> |
| <u>Position</u>            | <u>Operator</u>              |                           |                          |
| 1.                         |                              |                           |                          |
| 2.                         |                              |                           |                          |
| 3.                         |                              |                           |                          |
| 4.                         |                              |                           |                          |
| 5.                         |                              |                           |                          |
| <b>School Cycling</b>      | <b>July 2011</b>             |                           | <b>Organiser : ZL1IC</b> |
| <u>Position</u>            | <u>Operator</u>              | <u>Position</u>           | <u>Operator</u>          |
| 1.                         |                              | 5.                        |                          |
| 2.                         |                              | 6.                        |                          |
| 3.                         |                              | 7.                        |                          |
| 4.                         |                              | 8.                        |                          |
| <b>Colville Connection</b> | <b>12th March 2011</b>       |                           | <b>Organiser :</b>       |
| <u>Position</u>            | <u>Primary Operator</u>      | <u>Secondary Operator</u> | <u>Other Operator</u>    |
| <b>Base</b>                |                              |                           |                          |
| <b>Stony Bay</b>           |                              |                           |                          |
| <b>Fletcher Bay</b>        |                              |                           |                          |
| <b>Hill 1</b>              |                              |                           |                          |
| <b>Hill 2</b>              |                              |                           |                          |
| <b>Fantail Bay</b>         |                              |                           |                          |
| <b>Stand By</b>            |                              |                           |                          |

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://zl1ux.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: Gary (ZL1DA) talking to a very attentive group of scouts at the Jamboree at Mystery Creek.*

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Sender | Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc)<br>PO Box 606<br>Hamilton 3240 |
|--------|--|