

Ham Hum

September 2008



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



Next General Meeting
ZL1AOX—Air NZ & NAC
17th September 2008

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From the Committee

Congratulations to Mike (ZL2MGS) and Cecil for their passes in the Class of 2008 amateur radio course held at our clubrooms on Seddon Rd. They will continue with the classes which is an excellent statement about our chief instructor who is determined to teach far more than is required for the Amateur Radio Exam.

A special thank you goes to all who helped with the Hamilton Market Day. A great time was had by all and many managed to match a face to a callsign or had a face-to-face with one of the four NZART councilors at our Market Day.



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"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious." - Albert Einstein

Next Committee Meeting - 1 Oct 2008

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SB PROP ARL ARLP035

ARLP035 Propagation de K7RA

Another week of quiet sun, but on Wednesday and Thursday, August 20-21, a new spot seems to be emerging. There is no sign that it is anything other than an old cycle 23 spot. Spaceweather.com reported it with a sunspot number of 11 for August 21, but NOAA did not, reporting zero instead for Thursday. A late Thursday image at <http://tinyurl.com/5l8mcz> suggests a spot in the northern hemisphere on the left side of the image.

About a year and a half ago in bulletin ARLP010 we speculated whether solar cycle minimum had been reached. The same issue mentioned a personal quest by JQ2UOZ to work DXCC at the solar cycle minimum running only one-half watt on 17 meters and higher using dipole antennas. In an email this week he said he has reached his goal. So far he has worked 138 countries, and you can see details on his web site at <http://www.k4.dion.ne.jp/~jq2uoz/>.

Tony Dixon, G4CJC produces a weekly report on the ten meter band, including calls heard, at <http://www.southgatearc.org/bands/10metres/>. Even at the bottom of the cycle, there is still propagation on 10 meters, although it tends to be sporadic-E skip, rather than F layer propagation we see when there are more sunspots.

This week NASA released an article with details on upcoming solar research initiatives, ranging from soon to 2015. One that is expected to launch in 2015 will place four satellites around the sun and it will observe solar activity on the other side, facing away from Earth. See details at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/19aug_lws.htm.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in

this bulletin, see <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/>.

Sunspot numbers for August 14 through 20 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 65.9, 65.3, 66.2, 66.5, 66.2, 67.3, and 65.9 with a mean of 66.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 4, 5, 7, 23, 8 and 6 with a mean of 8.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 3, 4, 5, 15, 7 and 5 with a mean of 6.1

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For Sale

Yaesu FT-897 in good order. Hardly used by Hamilton Search & Rescue.

Contact Barry (ZL1BNP) Ph: 7-849-1189

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BPL in the UK

UKQRM The New Yahoo Group From The UK To Fight The March Of Broadband Over Power lines

UKQRM is a growing on-line group of shortwave users who have come together to defend their right to tune into broadcasts on short wave radio, be it analogue AM, digital over short wave, amateur or any legal transmissions.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/UKQRM/>

The reason for our existence is to oppose the home internet equipment known as Power Line Adaptors. These are currently being supplied by BT (British Telecom) who is one provider (ISP) of internet connection and home networking equipment. The particular equipment that we are concerned about here in the UK is called BT Vision and its associated power line adaptors.

There are others being sold by Maplin and Argo but the BT devices are the most widespread at the moment. Maplin has been asked for a report but so far has not responded.

Using power line adaptors the householder sets up a network within the home using the mains house hold wires to carry a radio frequency signal. The frequency used is the whole of the spectrum from 3 - 30 MHz which of course includes all the short wave broadcast bands. The resulting interference extends 100's of feet from the house with the equipment and makes listening to short wave radio impossible for anyone within that range. 24/7

There are some notches (no transmission) on some parts of the amateur allocation however nearby the noise floor is significantly higher than normal on the amateur frequencies.

Please view and listen to this You Tube video presentation for a classic example.

http://youtube.com/watch?v=S_UBDaL-aE

I have been over a month now with no shortwave radio, something I have used regularly for 30 years!

These systems are being rolled out to many BT customers.

Connecting a radio transmitter to a long length of un-screened wire will always mean it transmits the signal and blocks or jams everything else. The makers of these devices have already accepted this as they do have some notches on the amateur bands.

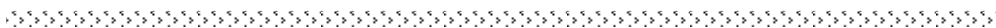
UKQRM is building its number and trying to alert the wider shortwave world to this problem. We are ready to work with the RSGB and other groups to fight for our right to tune. While there are many other countries in the world suffering this problem we have to concentrate on the UK issue for now.

Power line adaptors and BPL in general could spell the end of short wave radio.

UKQRM welcome new members who wish to involve themselves in the defense of the shortwave spectrum.

Mike

UKQRM (owner)



German Radio Manufacturer Halts Transceiver Production

In a surprise move, [Hilberling GmbH](#) has stopped production on the much anticipated PT-8000 series of HF/VHF Amateur Radio transceivers. Apparently due to [CE marking](#) regulations, Hilberling had to make constant adjustments to the design of the radio and was unable to repeat the performance of prototypes in production models and was not able to justify the expense involved with further redesign work. The CE mark certifies that a



product has met European health, safety and environmental requirements, ensuring consumer safety. [Array Solutions](#) -- which had been set to be the North American distributor for the transceiver series -- featured the PT-8000 at its booths at the 2008 [Dayton Hamvention](#)®.

Hans Hilberling, DK7LG, explained in German on the company's Web site why the company canceled production of the PT-8000 series:

Production of the PT-8000 equipment series has been halted. Due to the persistent challenges we've had to overcome in the process of bringing the official EU-wide manufacturer's model to fruition, it became necessary to make more and more adaptations in the design of this cutting-edge transceiver. The lofty design goals of the PT-8000 could be attained in some prototypes. We encountered difficulties that we could not overcome at justifiable expense in guaranteeing, without reservation, a high standard of mass production involving many suppliers. We appreciate the great interest this project has attracted over its entire course. -- Translation by Rick Lindquist, WW3DE

-ARRL

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RFI and Poorly Shielded Equipment

There are few practical RFI fixes for poorly shielded equipment. The most obvious is to shield it, but this is usually either expensive or impractical if it wasn't built with good shielding. We could, for example, wrap it in aluminum foil, but to make that shielding effective, 1) we must bond the shields of all wiring that enters and leaves the equipment to that foil shield; and 2) any openings in the shield must be small as a fraction of the wavelength of the interfering signal; [It is quite difficult to watch a TV set, or adjust the controls of a stereo system, that is surrounded by aluminum foil!]; 3) Modify the defective product by adding filters (ferrite beads, bypass capacitors) to the junctions that are detecting the RF [you may have time for a science project like this, but I don't]; 4) use the *bucket treatment*.

The Bucket Treatment: Find a bucket large enough to hold the defective

equipment, and fill the bucket with water. Put the equipment in twice. Take it out once.

-K9YC

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QRZ Forums : QRZ.COM SAY NO MORE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS

The QRZ.com website has banned discussion of political issues that are not directly related to ham radio. This as it takes down its Political Junkie discussion pages due to abuse by a number of those posting to it.

In a statement on the site its owner Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, said that he really would have preferred that the Political Junkie forum remain open. However, the rudeness, hate, and vicious nature of many of its participants, killed it.

Lloyd went on to say that for every reasoned and articulate argument there were at least 10 that were either senseless or otherwise non-contributing. AA7BQ added that nobody at QRZ dot com wanted to police the postings and letting it go completely un-moderated would have been an even worse disaster.

Reaction to the decision to remove the Political Junkie discussion area from the website has been generally supportive. Most of those who opposed the change say that the Political Junkie discussion area was their main reason for coming to QRZ dot com. Very few say that they are likely to abandon posting on the site in the other areas that are directly related to ham radio.

- K6PZW for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

Lighthouse Weekend

Unfortunately the Branches participation in Lighthouse weekend had to be called off. This is an Amateur Radio event and we have a callsign to use for it.

I would like to hear from people who would be interested in going somewhere for the event next year.

We need to ask:

Where do we want to go?

What sort of accommodation do we want to utilise?

How many people do we need in the team?

Let's get this organised and get something going for next year. If we get a team together now, we can look at putting some money aside to fund the trip.

- Tony ZL1UD

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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

APRS display (includes examples of display on handheld/mobile radios)

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

New IARU Region 3 website address

<http://www.iaru-r3.org/>

Fox Delta

<http://www.foxdelta.com/>

Bridge to Bridge

This event is coming up on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 November and we need some operators urgently.

We are looking for 3 further operators for both days (one in a boat) and 4 operators for the Sunday only (3 in boats).

The event can be totally run using a VHF handheld and a high gain mobile antenna. You will need to ensure that you have enough battery power to last the day.

Phone me urgently (850-5218). The more operators that we can get out of the club, the less we need to import from other sections. Gear may be borrowed from the club. See the Quartermaster "Q" – Colin – ZL2CMC.

There will be a pot luck bar-be-que for all operators at the clubrooms on Saturday night (1 November).

- Tony ZL1UD/ZK1EC

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APRS & Fox Delta

After Westfest 2008 down south, a group of hams are planning a bulk purchase of APRS kits from Fox Delta (<http://www.foxdelta.com/>). These kits are based on a Picaxe chip and look very good. Some would say they are better than the Byonics Opentracker kitsets that were being sold in New Zealand a while ago.

If you are interested in being involved in this purchase, please contact ZL2TZE (Phillip) at zl2tze@yahoo.com.au

I'm planning on getting one or two.

- ZL1DGK

Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings & Events</i>
1st September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
1st September	Doug Gorman Memorial Frequency Measuring Contest
2nd September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
3rd September	Committee Meeting
7th September	Kairangi Hill Climb (AREC)
7th September	NZART HQ Info-Line
8th September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
9th September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
10th September	Break-In, closing date for copy
13th September	Nostalgia Night
15th September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
16th September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
17th September	General Meeting (ZL1AOX)
21st September	NZART HQ Info-Line
22nd September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
23rd September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
28th September	NZART Official Broadcast
29th September	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
30th September	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00

1st October—Committee Meeting
4th October—Manawatu Table Sale
4-5 October—Oceania Contest (Phone)
4-5 October—Microwave Contest
5th October—NZART HQ Info-Line
11th October—Western Suburbs Sale
11th October—Boat Anchor Sprint
11-12 October—Oceania Contest (CW)
15th October—General Meeting
18-19 October—51st JOTA
19th October—NZART HQ Info-Line
25-26 October—CQ World Wide (SSB)
26th October—NZART Official Broadcast
29th October—Hamilton AREC Section Meeting (AREC)
31 Oct-9 Nov—Taranaki Rhododendron Festival Award 2008
1-2 November—Bridge to Bridge (AREC)
8th November—GlobalSET (EmComm) Exercise
29-30 November—CQ World Wide (CW)
30th November—NZART Official Broadcast
21-22 February 2009—Jock White Memorial Field Days
14th March 2009—Colville Connection (AREC)
4th April 2009—5th Wellington Region Expo
18th April 2009—World Amateur Radio Day
2nd May 2009—45th Rotorua Marathon (AREC)
October 2009—IARU Region 3 Conference (Christchurch)
17-19 October 2009—Admin Council of IARU (Christchurch)

Hamilton AREC Section News

As I write this, we are still looking for operators for the Bridge to Bridge. We need to finalise this now as we need to look for operators to fill in the spaces left. This is a good operation to learn the ropes off, as it is not as "dramatic" as other operations that we perform.

This weekend we have RNZ Briefing which is followed by RNZ the following weekend and a hill climb the weekend after that. The section is busy this month.

That's it this month.

- Tony ZL1UD/ZK1EC

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## Borrowing Gear from the Club

The club has some equipment that is available to borrow for events. Colin (ZL2CMC) is the quartermaster and gear can only be signed out and signed in through him.

The gear remains the responsibility of the borrower until returned, checked, and signed back in by "Q".

Presently we have available 4 VX-150 VHF Handhelds and 1 IC-718 HF Station with the other being brought online shortly. We will also be bringing the 2 FT-23 VHF Handhelds back online after the battery packs are repacked. 2 Icom UHF Handhelds will also be brought online.

Cheers.

- Tony ZL1UD/ZK1EC

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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.

**Veteran Kairangi Hill Climb**  
7th September 2008

**Hamilton Section Meeting**  
29 October 2008



**25th Annual Rollos Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic 2008**

1-2 November 2008

16 operators needed

ZL1DGK, ZL1DK, ZL1GWP, ZL1IC, ZL1KK, ZL1KN, ZL1LD,  
ZL1PK, ZL1TCE, ZL1TNO, ZL1UD, ZL1UPJ, ZL2CMC, ZL4QJ  
already booked in.

**Colville Connection 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.

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  
88 Seddon Road, Hamilton

**Homepage:** <http://z1ux.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: CW Touch Keyer (TT1) by WA1JOS. [www.cwtouchkeyer.com]*

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