

Ham Hum

August 2008



The official newsletter of
The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Inc
Branch 12 of NZART - ZL1UX
Active in Hamilton for 85 years



Market Day : 9th August 2008

Next General Meeting : Show and Tell

20th August 2008

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From the Committee

The NZART Business Manager informs us that the 2009 NZART Annual Subscription will be included in the next issue of Break-In. She also asks us to remember the payment installment option now available for paying your 2009 subscription. \$23.75 per quarter, \$7.92 a month or \$3.65 a fortnight. These can be set up as an Automatic Payment or Direct Credit. Pro-rata subs are also available for those who join NZART after 31 March.

Efforts by the Hamilton City Council to remove graffiti and tagging are paying dividends for the club. We now have access to a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week hotline for reporting graffiti to our clubrooms and the city council will remove the graffiti free of charge. This is in addition to our own efforts to ensure the clubrooms are well presented to our neighbours and the wider community.

The Annual Hamilton Market Day is upon us. The Market Day committee (Dave—ZL1TCE, Jono—ZL1UPJ and Brett—ZL1TFA) have been working hard to make this years event another outstanding success for our club. Helpers are welcome on Friday 8th August from 12 noon at the Claudelands Event Centre to setup tables, signs and other essential bits and pieces. During the Market Day helpers are needed for selling Raffle Tickets, helping Sellers find and setup their tables and sell items from the club table and café. Also, after the event, a big tidy up needs to happen. Bring your handhelds ready to use 146.525 MHz simplex at 1W max.

Another of our club members is due congratulations. This time it is ZL1PK's turn in the limelight. Phil has been named Assistant LGO (Local Government Officer) within NZART. He will be assisting ZL1BNB (Mike Newman) who is the NZART LGO and an expert in aspects of Local Government that can effect Amateur Radio. Phil's recent demonstration of expertise in the Waikato is much valued by local Hams.

Next Committee Meeting - 3 Sept 2008

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SB PROP ARL ARLP031

ARLP031 Propagation de K7RA

For several days over the past week we saw a couple of sunspots, but just like other recent dying cycle 23 spots, they faded quickly. This group was number 1000, and lasted from July 18-20. No sign of cycle 24 in recent memory, just a couple of false starts.

The autumnal equinox, the beginning of the fall season, is less than 60 days from now. I would like to suppose that cycle 24 will be in full swing by then, but we have no way of knowing.

We are still getting regular reports from readers about the continued sporadic-E activity on six and ten meters.

Going back a few weeks, Mark Lunday, WD4ELG of Hillsborough, North Carolina commented "Amazing the stuff that happens at the sunspot lulls. Actually gives calmer conditions under which to observe phenomenon like gray line prop without the geomag disturbances". That's true, and I can recall a couple of years when there was a fair amount of sunspot activity, but month after month we witnessed severe geomagnetic storms, making HF bands nearly useless, especially at higher latitudes. "Of interest to me (besides the admonition that this minimum is not a record low) is the possible support of Mausumi Dikpati, et al's, forecast that this cycle will start late and be '30-50% more intense' that is revealed in the plots for the 1933 minimum at the end of this piece.

"While we need 200+ days of spotless sun to equal 1933, a comparison of the peak of Cycle 16 (approx 80) to that of Cycle 17 (approx 120) shows that it was almost exactly 50% higher.

"Protracted low, followed by a bigger maximum.

"A bit of good news?

"It doesn't prove anything, but I am encouraged to continue placing my bet on Ms Dikpati....

"If I am wrong about Dikpati's forecast and we go into an extended period of low cycles, I will be selling my 10/12/15m antennas and installing a 160m Yagi. :-)"

(Dikpati is reference to a 2006 prediction for a large cycle 24. See ARLP010 from 2006 at

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/2006-arlp010.html>).

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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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Wanted

Transformer for a Kenwood TS-520 or TS-530. Call Laurence (ZL1LD) 7-824-4092 or via his address in the callbook.

The Sienna

A new kit from DZ Co. HF (500 KHz to 30 MHz) SSB, CW, AM, FM with an optional built-in PC for Digital Modes that runs MS Windows or Linux. So,



instead of using a HF rig with a separate machine to do digital modes, log-

ging and other functions, it can all be built into the one rig. See <http://www.dzkit.com> for further information.

Dual microprocessors - one for keying and mic sampling, one for general control (plus the PC)



Full-duplex - Tx and Rx do not share any circuitry



Dual displays (blue-green vacuum fluorescent on front panel, VGA on optional embedded PC)

ditional embedded PC)

Dual passband tuning (at 9MHz 2nd IF and 455KHz 3rd IF) with choice of four filters at each IF

Internet Links

There is a vast amount of Amateur Radio information available on the internet. In an attempt to reduce it to a manageable size I asked for some sites from various people. What we have here are some of those sites in what I hope will become a semi-regular feature in Ham Hum. If you would like to add something that you've found to be useful, informative, or just plain funny, send it to me at z11dgk@nzart.org.nz

Amateur Radio Projects and Kits

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

Homebrew rf amplifiers and other goodies for licensed hams by WB0NNI

<http://wb0nni.dakotamade.com/index.html>

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NASA News

I thought you'd be interested in this story from [Science@NASA](#): The sun is entering its third year of eerie calm. Sunspots are rare and solar flares simply aren't happening. Is this "solar minimum" lasting longer than it should? A NASA scientist has examined centuries of sunspot data to find the answer, revealed in today's story:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/11jul_solarcycleupdate.htm?friend

-ZL1PK

any idea for a lighthouse to operate from, please see me.

Tony Case – ZL1UD

ZL6LIT Organiser

LCD/Plasma Television

With the main users of the Television Spectrum moving from analogue to digital I thought I'd look into the current LCD and Plasma TV's that are needed to maximize the viewing experience. After a quick browse of some advertising materials I became rather confused as to what specifications I actually needed in order to be able to watch TV. I've listed below some of the various numbers that seem to be very important now :-

Contrast Ratio—500:1, 800:1, 1000:1, 1500:1, 1600:1, 3000:1, 7000:1, 8000:1, 10000:1, 1000000:1

Display Resolution—1024 x 768, 1366 x 768, 1920 x 1080

And, of course, simple things like Response Time, HDMI, HD Ready, Built-In Freeview, cd/m², and something to do with nits.

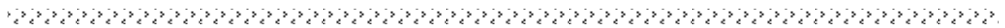
Then, once you've mastered all that, there is the simple diagonal screen size (in inches and cm's) and what sort of money you are willing to spend.

From reading various How-to guides I discovered the following. Contrast Ratio doesn't have one standard method of measurement so numbers given should be treated as a rough guide, although it is safe to say that higher ratios are better than small ones.

Higher resolution is always better, but if your DVD is putting out 720 x 576 (which is the standard DVD resolution) then why would you need a TV that can display higher resolutions? The answer is if you wish to watch High Definition TV via Freeview or Sky. Freeview can transmit up to 1080i which requires 1920 x 1080 resolution.

So, while there are lots of new and different terms to describe how a TV works and how well it works, one thing that hasn't changed is to take one home to see what it looks like for the things you like to watch with the lighting conditions you have at home. Or, if your local store doesn't let you do that, go visit some friends and see what their TV looks like.

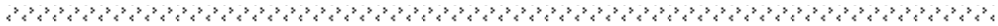
-ZL1DGK



A Song to Teach Morse Code

"My wife Lissa and I have written and recorded a song about rebuilding the OZ5E contest station - it is also a video and also teaches you morse code! hamband.com is the link - it is not a commercial venture. There is a small charge to view the whole 20 minute video because of bandwidth charges (very big file) but the first part of the video is completely free.

-73 de Lissa and Andrew OZ5E



Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc)

Annual Hamilton Market Day

Saturday, 11 August 2007

Claudlands Event Centre

Heaphy Tce, Hamilton

Buyers from 10:00am.

Vendors from 8:00am.

Entrance is free.

Trade Displays - Cafeteria and BBQ - Raffle

Major Vendors : AA Solar Ltd, Auckland VHF Group (Inc)

Table space at \$20 per metre pre-paid

\$25 per metre on the day

All enquiries to :

Market Day

Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc)

PO Box 606, Hamilton 3240

or

E-Mail: harcmday@hotmail.com

Upcoming Happenings & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Happenings & Events</i>
2nd August	Waitakere Sprints 80m CW
2-3 August	Brass Monkey Contest
3rd August	NZART HQ Info-Line
4th August	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
5th August	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
6th August	Committee Meeting
9th August	The Hamilton Market Day
11th August	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
12th August	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
16-17 August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend
17th August	NZART HQ Info-Line
18th August	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
19th August	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
20th August	General Meeting—Show and Tell
25th August	HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30
26th August	VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00
29-31 August	39th Rally NZ (WRC) (AREC)
31st August	NZART Official Broadcast

1st September—Doug Gorman Memorial Frequency Measuring Contest

7th September—Kairangi Hill Climb (AREC)

7th September—NZART HQ Info-Line

10th September—Break-In, closing date for copy

21st September—NZART HQ Info-Line

28th September—NZART Official Broadcast

4-5 October—Oceania Contest (Phone)

11-12 October—Oceania Contest (CW)

29th October—Hamilton AREC Section Meeting (AREC)

1-2 November—Bridge to Bridge (AREC)

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—Admin Council of IARU (Christchurch)

For more information on any of the above please contact myself or any committee member.

Hamilton AREC Section News

Hi all, It has been a quiet month as the Branch prepares for Market Day and Rally NZ.

The Donation from Kona is on its way as I write this and Kona is all organised for next year.

Our Section is committed to the Bridge to Bridge, and we are still looking for operators. It is the first weekend in November. Sunday Operators are crucial. Please see me.

That's it for this month

Tony Case ZK1EC
Section Leader.



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.

39th WRC Rally New Zealand 2008

29-31 August 2008, Mystery Creek
Names of primary operators to ZL1UD
via eMail. Reserve your spot quick.
ZL1UD/ZL1IC, ZL1TCE/ZL1UPJ,
ZL1PK/ZL1DGK already booked in.



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

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://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: Multi pin mic/speaker connector as featured on the soon to be released Yaesu VX-8—FCC

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