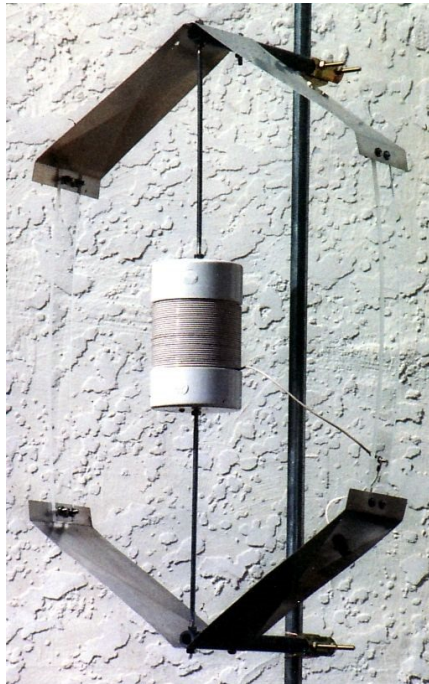


Ham Hum

October 2008



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



Next General Meeting
15th October 2008

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From the Committee

eDay 2008 is coming up on 5th October 2008. From 9am to 3pm on Sunday 5 October at the Mainfreight Depot Foreman Road (Off Avalon Drive) entrance. eDay is a simple, free and effective way to dispose of your household computer waste and old mobile phones in an environmentally sustainable way. What can you drop off? Computer hardware, monitors, networking equipment, scanners, keyboards, mice, computer speakers, laptops, printers, toner and ink jet cartridges, games consoles and mobile phones.



Recently our AREC section provided communications for the V&VCC Hill Climb at Kairangi. A wonderful collaborative effort where we provided a Start Marshall, a Timing Marshall and various safety operators who all worked with the V&VCC Communications Official to create a wonderful day in the sun for all.



On a sad note, we note the passing of ZL1AUV (Jack Sanders). A key figure in transforming a Transformer Station into the Hamilton Branch 12 clubrooms, past president of Branch 83 (Raglan), and an impressive time in the military. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations are sent to Waipuna Hospice in Tauranga.

**Next Committee Meetings -
1 Oct 2008 and 5 Nov 2008**

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SB PROP ARL ARLP040

ARLP040 Propagation de K7RA

This week saw the appearance of another sunspot, this one a new Cycle 24 spot, larger and lasting a little longer than last week's Cycle 23 sunspot. It appeared for two days, September 22-23, with sunspot numbers of 18 and 16.

Geomagnetic activity is very quiet, and on September 25 the K index was 0 for a good part of the day. This was true for the mid-latitude index, planetary, and the college K index in Alaska. The three corresponding A indices for the day were 4, 1 and 1 respectively. This is especially nice for the lower part of the HF spectrum, such as our 160 and 80 meter bands, and something we don't see during periods of higher sunspot activity.

Last week's Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP039 mentioned an announcement coming on Tuesday this week from NASA. It concerned data from the Ulysses spacecraft indicating solar wind pressure is declining. The speed of solar wind hasn't changed much, but the density and temperature are lower. The Ulysses craft orbits the Sun over a six year period, during which it flies over both the Sun's south and north poles. The average solar wind pressure measured from February 1992 to February 1998 declined over the following decade, and the pressure during the February 2002 to February 2008 pass was about 20 percent lower.

In addition, the solar magnetic field dropped more than 30 percent over the same period. Because the data has been collected over such a short time, there isn't much historical context for these readings.

What does this indicate for radio propagation? Unknown, but perhaps this shows overall slowing of solar activity.

Last week's bulletin said the predicted planetary A index for September 30 through October 2 was 8, 30 and 8. This prediction has moderated somewhat, and currently the expected values are 8, 20 and 10.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions September 26-29, unsettled September 30, active October 1, and unsettled conditions on October 2.



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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Internet Links

If you would like to add something that you've found on the internet to

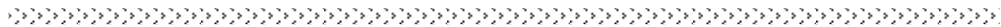
be useful, informative, or just plain funny, send it to me at
zl1dgk@nzart.org.nz

Various manuals

<http://mcars.us/Manuals/>

A science portal for Amateur Radio

<http://www.101science.com/amateurradio.htm>



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

Repco Rally NZ 2008

This year, a number of teams represented Branch 12 providing communications for the Repco Rally of NZ in all Start/Finish, Safety Points and Park Ferme positions.

My team, myself (ZL1UD) and Robin (ZL1IC) were there on 5 K Safety Points for five Stages in three positions. We used the callsign ZK1ECT on the control channel and the stage position on the H.F. Net on 3.830MHz USB.

The organisers provided GPS positions in Degrees and decimal, which needed to be converted to Degrees Minutes and Seconds before being loaded into the GPS.

Friday 29th of August was the longest day with Robin and I leaving my home at 0600 Hrs. We were headed for the Waitomo area and the middle of nowhere. Our point was a roadside driveway into an old disused stockyard and nowhere fantastic to place a dipole, so after some discussion, we placed it with one leg headed South down the road and the other heading East towards the stockyard. We arrived home about 1800 – very tired, after doing two stages (2 and 4).

Stage 2/4 was a long stage and needed to be split in two following a massive slip a few weeks prior to the rally.

Saturday 30th of August was a short day with only one stage (10) and the survivors from day one competing to be the best that they could be. We left home at 1130Hrs and were back home around 1700. We were located between Ragland and Te Akau on a long straight piece of road, parked beside a farm shed. The dipole was easy to set up. The competitors were added to on this stage by another 54 cars; their stage being called Possum. It made

for a long stage, but a short day.

Sunday 31st of August had us leaving my home at 0600 again to a stage run just south of Raglan. Our set up position here could have been beautiful; in a paddock above the road, but the farmer had thrown a hissy fit following the antics of spectators last year. We were in a spectator area which was also a shooting gallery for rocks, some the size of Ayres Rock in Australia. The two stages were 12 and 14, which were followed immediately by 13 and 15. This also allowed for a short day and we arrived home to unpack the car at around 1500 Hours.

Two hours before the start of all stages, there is an entourage of Safety, FIA and Zero cars that proceed through the stage at differing speeds and with differing purposes. Following this the stage goes green and it is all on. 57 (at the start of Stage 1) cars hell bent on doing it faster and better than any other car has or will ever do the stage. These guys reach speeds that Captain Kirk would be proud of and it has an amazing effect on the surface of the road.

Following the stage the Sweep Car goes through, and as soon as this has happened, the position can apply for permission to pack up and go home.

Our team only missed one car number for the whole rally. The number was not there, nor was the window that it was supposed to be in. Cars came through in various stages of repair; cars that were perfect prior to Stage 1 were sometimes up to twice as long on Stage 14, as they were towing different parts of their body behind them.

Communications held up well with 80M being very active and alive during the whole rally. VHF Control was 6625 and we had access to this for the whole rally too.

So ... Rally NZ is all over for 2008. No one knows the format for Rally NZ 2009 yet, as it is still being discussed at a high level. No doubt, when the

time is right, we will all hear, and do what we do best all over again.

Tony Case – ZL1UD/ZK1EC/ZK1ECT

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QRP CW Operating Tips

For the rank newcomer to CW, the current best way to learn the code is via a computer program which has replaced the classic CW practice tapes method. Those old tapes were great, but a computer program is more flexible. You could get to the point where you memorized the content of the tapes. Not so with a computer program that can generate random characters or words using all letters and/or numbers or just a few select letters/numbers at a time. Or you can point the program to any text file and have it send code from that at any speed you choose, regular or Farnsworth method.

My favorite of all the programs I've tried, although by the time the computer programs became popular, I no longer needed them, is one called simply and to the point "Just Learn Morse Code" available FREE at <http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com/> There is virtually no limit to the ways it can be used to send Morse Code. I'd suggest giving it a try to see what I mean.

- K3WWP, NAQCC

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NZART

While reading a submission from NZART on the "Radio Licenses: Security of Tenure" Discussion Paper from MED/RSM I was reminded, once again, that NZART Councillors do a lot of work to ensure that Amateur Radio continues to exist now, and in the future.

All of our councillors spend many thankless hours doing what the rest of us don't want to do. That is, deal with the bureaucracy that is involved in our hobby. Personally, I'm very thankful that our local councillor has the time and energy to be the Hamilton AREC Section Leader, a Northern District Councillor, a Branch 12 committee member, an "active" Ham operator and to retrain following a debilitating workplace accident.

NZART is now calling for nominations for the 2009-2011 period. Existing councillors can stand again, and I encourage all to do so. Also, other Hams can stand to represent other Hams in Southland, Midland, Central and Northern Districts.

Please consider who you would like to see representing our hobby and make sure they are nominated before the end of December.

For information on the nomination process please contact our local councillor (ZL1UD), a member of our committee, or Debby at NZART.

- ZL1DGK

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## **THIRD ANNUAL ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION SET FOR OCTOBER**

The Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicks off October 23, running until November 1 on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/auction>>. This is your chance to pick up one-of-a-kind Amateur Radio items. To see what the Auction will offer this year, be sure to check out the Auction preview that begins October 16. Last year, the Auction attracted more than 3000 registered bidders from more than 40 countries. While the majority of buyers were from the USA, Canada and the UK, there were buyers from Australia, Malaysia, Grenada, Vietnam and Tanzania.

-ARRL Letter



**BRIDGE  
10  
BRIDGE**



**WATER SKI CLASSIC  
HAMILTON - NZ  
1st & 2nd November 2008**

## Upcoming Happenings & Events

| <i>Date</i>          | <i>Happenings &amp; Events</i>  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>1st October</b>   | <b>Committee Meeting</b>        |
| <b>4th October</b>   | <b>Manawatu Table Sale</b>      |
| <b>4-5 October</b>   | <b>Oceania Contest (Phone)</b>  |
| <b>4-5 October</b>   | <b>Microwave Contest</b>        |
| <b>5th October</b>   | <b>eDay 2008</b>                |
| <b>5th October</b>   | <b>NZART HQ Info-Line</b>       |
| 6th October          | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30        |
| 7th October          | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00     |
| <b>11th October</b>  | <b>Western Suburbs Sale</b>     |
| <b>11th October</b>  | <b>Boat Anchor Sprint</b>       |
| <b>11-12 October</b> | <b>Oceania Contest (CW)</b>     |
| 13th October         | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30        |
| 14th October         | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00     |
| <b>15th October</b>  | <b>General Meeting</b>          |
| <b>18-19 October</b> | <b>51st JOTA</b>                |
| <b>19th October</b>  | <b>NZART HQ Info-Line</b>       |
| 20th October         | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30        |
| 21st October         | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00     |
| <b>25-26 October</b> | <b>CQ World Wide (SSB)</b>      |
| <b>26th October</b>  | <b>NZART Official Broadcast</b> |
| 27th October         | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30        |
| 28th October         | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00     |

**29th October—Hamilton AREC Section Meeting (AREC)**  
**31 Oct-9 Nov—Taranaki Rhododendron Festival Award 2008**

**1-2 November—Bridge to Bridge (AREC)**  
**2nd November—Straight Key Night**  
**8th November—GlobalSET (EmComm) Exercise**  
**9th November—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**10th November—Break-In Deadline**  
**23rd November—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**29-30 November—CQ World Wide (CW)**  
**30th November—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**6-7 December—Field Day Contest (VHF and above)**  
**7th December—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**21st December—NZART HQ Info-Line**  
**21st December—NZART Official Broadcast**  
**7-8 February 2009—DX Weekend Contest**  
**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)**  
**2nd May 2009—GlobalSET (EmComm) Exercise**  
**1st June 2009—NZART Conference (Hastings)**  
**September 2009—9th Kairangi Hill Climb (AREC)**  
**12-16 October 2009—IARU Region 3 Conference (Christchurch)**  
**17-19 October 2009—Admin Council of IARU (Christchurch)**

## Hamilton AREC Section News

Another month has gone and it has been a busy month for the Section.

A number of us were involved in Rally NZ. Comms were great on 80 M with the band holding up all of the three days therefore making Comms easy. A piece of wet string would have probably done for an antenna with the band in the condition it was.

I severely damaged the soft tissue in my leg on the rally and have been quiet for the past month or so as it has healed. It is nearly right now so I will be more active again soon. During this time the section participated in a Car Rally and a report for this will be added by one of the participants.

Coming up of course is the **Bridge to Bridge Water-ski Classic** on the Waikato River. The dates for this are Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. Comms will utilise our STSP which will have had its QSY completed by then and an X-Band Repeater for the Cambridge Start. As I understand it, we will not be doing the Starts this year but we will be providing an operator on the sweep boat.

*On another page you will find the operators list for the Bridge to Bridge.*

**Section Meeting:** The final section meeting for 2008 will be held on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October at 1930 at the Club Rooms.

That is all for this month.

- Tony Case ZL1UD/ZK1EC  
Section Leader

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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.

### Hamilton Section Meeting

29 October 2008

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

1-2 November 2008

16 operators needed

ZL1CNM, ZL1DGK, ZL1DK, ZL1GWP,  
ZL1IC, ZL1KK, ZL1KN, ZL1LD, ZL1PK,  
ZL1TCE, ZL1TJA, ZL1TNO, ZL1UD,  
ZL1UPJ, ZL2CMC, ZL2MGS 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.

### 9th Kairangi Hill Climb 2009

September 2009

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://z11ux.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: 80m Isotron antenna 32" x 16" x 15" <http://www.isotronantennas.com/>*

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