



## Headquarters - Info - Line

... a service from ...

The New Zealand Association of  
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



21<sup>st</sup> April 2002

Issue # 29

Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to **Headquarters-Info-Line** a fortnightly bulletin of news from NZART Headquarters E-mailed directly to Branches.

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### **NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM Says:**

**Remit 3 Break In Correction** - Hamilton Branch 12 has placed this remit, *not Independent members* of Branch 12 as published in Break In on page 25 of the March/April issue. Please accept my apologies for this error.

**Remit 4 Explanation** - I was somewhat tardy in advising the author of Council Comments, that an explanation was to be included in his column. Explanation as taken from Council's February Face to Face meeting.

ZL2AMJ produced an agenda item that considered costs and running expenses of Amateur Radio compared to other hobbies. Council gave much consideration about how to attract people into Amateur Radio. One possible option is being able to obtain a life-time licence. It was agreed that Council place a remit at the Annual General Meeting in June to obtain support from NZART members to sound-out the MED with regard to the possibility of a life-time licence.

**Call Book updates date for return** - The Call Book editor Doug Pratt ZL2BCF advised in his column in the March/April Break In, that all update forms are to be returned by May 15<sup>th</sup> 2002. This has now been extended until 15 June, to allow those Groups who hold their AGM's at Conference to forward any changes to the General Secretary at Conference.

**Procedure for updating Callsigns and Addresses etc** - I have been asked on a number of occasions what is the correct procedure when a member changes his call-sign or address. Please forward all amendments of your personal details to me at HQ. I will then forward on to the Call Book compiler if you wish them to be published. If you are unsure what to do, please send to me, and I will ensure they are sent to the correct Officer.

Until next time....

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**AREC Auckland Training Weekend:** AREC Area Manager for ZL1, Richard Gamble ZL1BNQ advises that Auckland area AREC is organising a practical training weekend May 18/19 in the Hunua ranges at the Kokako Lodge. The training will cover LSAR and CD. For more information and to register, go to [www.qsl.net/zl1vk/AREC.html](http://www.qsl.net/zl1vk/AREC.html) or <http://www.qsl.net/zl1vk/AREC.html> or contact your AREC Section Leader.

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**First for Trans-Tasman WSJT:** Increased activity between VK and ZL using the WSJT mode is likely following what is believed to be the first 2-metre contact of random meteor scatter propagation between the two countries. Rex VK7MO in Hobart and Bob ZL3TY, Greymouth, on the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island, made the contact on Saturday 13 April over a distance of 1950km.

The WSJT computer program for weak signal communications has recently gained popularity in Australia with a number of experimenters using it regularly to achieve MS propagation contacts on VHF.

Rex VK7MO says while there have been a number of SSB meteor scatter contacts from VK to ZL at the time of the Leonids meteor shower, the contact with ZL3TY would be the first VK ZL MS contact on random meteors. It should open the possibility of VK ZL two metre contacts on a regular basis without waiting for tropo openings or meteor showers - but we need to do a lot more tests before we know.

The inaugural VK ZL two metre random MS propagation contact used WSJT FSK441, which make effective use of the audio bandwidth of modern amateur SSB transceivers. The program sends messages using four-tone frequency shift keying at 441 baud. The name of the transmission mode is FSK441, although most just call it the WSJT mode. It was developed by Joe Taylor K1JT who has a Nobel Prize for his work in radio astronomy.

Rex says I gave Bob, ZL3TY a 16 report and he gave me a 26 report. My best signal from him was 15 dB above the noise and the best he got from me was 7 dB above the noise. It took 45 minutes to complete the QSO with only four or five readable pings in both directions. The distance is 1950 km.

Rex was running an FT-847 to a Mirage B 5030-G solid state linear at 200 watts - the pre-amp was disabled as it produces too much cross-modulation due to close proximity to high power TV and FM broadcast stations at Mt Wellington. The antenna at his end was a relatively small home brew seven element beam on a 2.6 metre boom designed recently for Rex VK7MO by VK3AUU, following a range of tests on MS with different antennas.

Bob ZL3TY expressed thanks to Rex for his help and encouragement with WSJT, which included successful WSJT skeds on 6-metres during the past week. He says the 6-meter QSOs were amazing with audible transmissions most periods on an otherwise dead band. Bob's QTH at Greymouth RE570m has a clear view across the Tasman sea and he's keen for more WSJT contact with VK. His working conditions are a TS790A plus amplifier with 130-watts out, feeding a 12-element K1FO (ARRL) horizontally polarised antenna.

Further details on WSJT activity is available at the VK7 WIA web site <http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/vk7wia/> Via the index page go to the bottom using the slider and click on WSJT Activity in Australia.

**(Report By Jim Linton VK3PC)**

*Bob ZL3TY advises that he is looking for skeds with interested ZL's. Ed.*

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### **Did You Know?**

... that the first NZART Official Broadcast was made by Gordon Smithson Z1AF in 1926 using CW? History records that the OB was being delivered at 15 words-per-minute in 1933. Doug Gorman ZL2IY commenced the OB again in 1946 after the WW2 close-down using amplitude modulation on 3960 kHz. In 1986 one broadcast of the OB was simulcasted on 3900 kHz SSB and on Amateur Television for the first time by ZL2BHF. It was first networked on VHF repeaters and 3900 kHz in 1987. After 40 years of service Doug ZL2IY retired from the OB in 1985 from when Jim ZL2BHF has provided this service.

You can hear the Official Broadcast on 3900 kHz and on the National System at 8 pm and again at 9 pm on the last Sunday of each month except December when it is on the Sunday before Christmas. A special OB from NZART Conference is made on the Sunday night of conference at 8 pm. Recent Broadcasts are also available for downloading from the NZART Web page.

See <http://www.amateur.radio.org.nz/nzart/Update/Broadcast/>

NZART works in the interests of all radio amateurs in New Zealand and needs the support of your continuing membership. Suggest to others that they join NZART too. See: <http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/join/join.html>

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**The Branch Spot:** In this issue of HQIL it's time to visit the Capital City. Point your browser to <http://www.warc.cjb.net/> and update on the activities of the Wellington Amateur Radio Club Branch 50 NZART.

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**ZL6A ANZAC DAY ACTIVITY:**

ZL6A will be active on ANZAC Day Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April in commemoration of those who have died in wars. Stations will be active on all HF bands throughout the day. While this is not an award as such, a QSL card will be issued for contacting ZL6A and will be sent via the Bureau or direct by sending a SASE to Bob ZL2GJ at his Call Book address.

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***"Centre of New Zealand NZART Conference 2002"***

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 1-2 JUNE 2002**

Nelson Conference 2002 will be held at the Tahuna Beach Function Centre, located at Tahuna beach Holiday Park, Beach Road, Tahuna Nelson. This is 6kms away from Nelson City center. Magnificent scenery, beach at your doorstep, central heating for your comfort, plenty of on site accommodation, parking and plenty of aerial space.

Accommodation is available on site at the Tahuna Beach Holiday Park, and all motels are within in 10 minutes walking distance to the venue. ALL accommodation bookings MUST be made through Nelson Tourism Services P.O. Box 1282 Nelson Phone 035466338 or Fax 035459227. Email [conferences@nzdirect.co.nz](mailto:conferences@nzdirect.co.nz) This will be at no extra cost to you as they have arranged bulk bookings for us, so be in early to avoid disappointment.

Origin Pacific has come to the conference offering a 30% discount on standard fares. Please quote reference number **2166** to take advantage of this offer. Some conditions apply. Earlier bookings maybe eligible for greater discounts so check this out first. If you travel with Origin Pacific you automatically go into the draw to win return travel for two anywhere within the Origin Network. This will be drawn Sunday night at the dinner. We will happily meet all those who want transfers to accommodation from both airports Air Nelson and Origin but please specify on registration form. If you are on the ferry from Wellington then busing to Nelson we will meet you at the bus depot and transfer you to your accommodation but please specify on your registration form also.

The Conference registration form is your March/April Break-In or it can be down loaded as an 85K pdf file from the NZART web site at:  
<http://www.amateur.radio.org.nz/nzart/Conference/RegForm.pdf>

**SEE YOU ALL IN NELSON TO - LIVE THE DAY**

**Letitia Scott  
Conference Secretary 2002**

## **K6KPH ON THE AIR FOR INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY:**

The Maritime Radio Historical Society is pleased to announce that K6KPH will be on the air from 1700GMT (1000PDT) on 27<sup>th</sup> April to participate in the annual International Marconi Day commemorative event.

K6KPH uses the original transmitters, receivers and antennas of famous ex-RCA coast station KPH. The transmitters are located at the transmitting station founded by the American Marconi Co. in 1913 at Bolinas, CA. The receivers and operators will be at the KPH receiving station about 20 miles north at Pt. Reyes, CA. K6KPH transmitting frequencies will be 7050, 14050 and a new frequency, 21050kc. 3545kc may be activated occasionally to test the keying of that transmitter.

International Marconi Day takes place each year on a weekend close to the birthday of the great radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi. The event is organized by the Cornish Amateur Radio Club which offers awards to stations in various classes. See their Web site at <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~straff/> for details.

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### **Dates To Remember:**

- **NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**
- **HQ-Info-Line, will be E-mailed next on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**
- **Closing Date for copy for the next issue of Break-In 10<sup>th</sup> May**
- **NZART Conference 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2002 Nelson - live the day**

73

**Jim Meachen ZL2BHF**  
**Editor**