



Headquarters - Info - Line

... a service from ...

The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



6th April 2003

Issue #50

Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to the 50th issue of **Headquarters-Info-Line** a fortnightly bulletin of news from NZART Headquarters E-mailed directly to Branches.

It has never been easier to subscribe to the Info-Line distribution list and have Info-Line sent to you direct by E-mail. Just check into the NZART web page <http://www.nzart.org.nz> look for **Info-Line Subscribe**. Supply your name, callsign and e-mail address and that's all you need to do. You will receive an e-mail confirmation of your auto-subscription and you can un-subscribe at any time.

NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM Says: Transport to Conference

Much has been asked about transport availability from Wellington airport to Masterton over Conference weekend. After very extensive surfing of the net and telephone calls the following options appear to be the most inexpensive.

Rental Car

Unfortunately a one way option is not available, i.e. Wgn airport to Masterton, therefore the following are based on a per day hire (i.e. 24 hours)

Hertz	3 day special Friday to Monday
1300cc 4 door manual	\$44+gst+Insurance
	A one off airport fee of \$17 is also payable on pick-up.
	Web address www.hertz.co.nz
Darn Cheap Rentals	1600cc 4 door manual
	\$45 per day inclusive of km/insurance/gst
	Must be prearranged for pick-up at airport
	Web address www.darncheaprentals.co.nz

Other rental companies' are available and it may pay to shop around, but these were the two that stood out as not too expensive.

Shuttle Bus

Wellington Airport Shuttles \$240 for 10 people one way
From Wellington Airport
Web address www.taxicab.co.nz/html/shuttle.htm

Train

Wellington – Wairarapa Fare \$26 one way
From Wellington Railway Station to Masterton
Travel time approximately 1.5hrs

Departure times

Ex Wgn Railway Station Mon – Fri 0825hrs, 1255hrs, 1632hrs, 1729hrs, 1818hrs
Ex Masterton Sun (Mon public holiday also) 0800hrs, 1700hrs.
Web address www.wrc.govt.nz/timetables/

I am unable to make reservations for you, so would appreciate if you can make your own arrangements. No discounts have been offered as travel times and numbers cannot be confirmed in advance. It is advisable to make your bookings early.

Headquarters Closed

HQ will be closed from Friday 4th April until Tuesday 15th April. I have been invited to talk at various branches around the Taupo, Bay of Plenty and Te Puke areas. As there is considerable travelling involved between Branches, I have tried to incorporate a few days annual leave as well. I will be logging on to the Internet from time to time to answer urgent e-mails etc. If you need to get hold of me just ring the usual office number as I will transfer all my calls to my cell phone or you could ring direct on 027 295 3733

CU in the next issue

From the NZART Administration Liaison Officer:

A document proposing a review of the amateur radio licence fees was received by NZART from the MED on 17 March. It was circulated attached to the special edition of "HQ InfoLine" on 21 March. Many messages expressing concern were received from Branches and from interested amateurs.

There was universal agreement that the suggested fees for repeaters and beacons were not acceptable. There was some concern about the deterioration in the integrity of the Ministry's database if the life-time licence was introduced and some concern too about the removal of the licence fee being seen as removal of the MED's responsibilities to give support for interference-tracing problems.

After long discussions at a meeting on Wednesday 2 April, NZART and the MED representatives sought a new approach to keep the annual fees for repeaters and beacons at \$(nil) and still meet both the MED and the amateur radio operational requirements.

The no-fee for repeaters and beacons was arranged ten years ago after two decades of problems and those who remember have no wish to re-establish them.

Retaining an annual amateur (operator) licence fee but reducing it to \$35 was found to satisfy the MED's costing arithmetic, but it puts a temporary end to the Ministry's idea for a once-only fee for a life-time amateur licence.

The proposal now being considered is for the amateur (operator) fee to be reduced from \$49.50 to \$35 for the first and subsequent annual renewal of licences, with the amateur (beacon and repeater) fee to be \$(nil) for the first and subsequent annual licences.

This proposal means too that the Ministry's database continues to be regularly refreshed and a connection is seen to be maintained between paying an annual licence fee and expecting and getting help with interference matters when you need it.

The practical position is that you will receive a 30% reduction in your own personal annual licence fee and as a result will then be paying just 67 cents per week to have access to more than 5% of the radio frequency spectrum. You can also sleep well in the knowledge that your local radio club does not have to divert time and energy to compete with all the other local fund-raisers to find truly exorbitant sums each year to just pay the licence fees for its repeaters and beacons.

This seems to be a satisfactory interim solution for both the Ministry and for the amateur radio fraternity. As was heard at the NZART Conference at Nelson last year when the Ministry's proposal for a life-time amateur licence was first revealed: "remember the life-time driving licence?"

NZART Council is involved in these evolving developments and there is a lot to do. The matter is still being worked on and there are to be further discussions with MED during this coming week.

Please note: Nothing is final. The Radio Regulations have to be changed. So it could all still fall apart. The implementation date is hoped to be 1 July. The idea of a 5-year licence is being suggested and must be explored.

The MED staff has been reduced with new faces leading the fees review project. These replace the departed originals who had advised NZART by mail and who addressed the Nelson Conference, breaking the news about this fees review and what it would mean for individual radio amateurs but without referring to repeaters and beacons.

Copies of the CallBook and copies of recent "Break-Ins" were distributed at the meeting with MED, with AREC activities highlighted, an educational opportunity.

You may be interested to know that the amateur service is not the only service with concerns about the Ministry's fees proposals.

An assurance was received at the meeting that support from MED for solving interference matters in the Amateur Service has NOT been discontinued. Some incorrect guidance was issued in recent times. A text for publication in “Break-In” and in “InfoLine” to clarify the Ministry’s position on amateur radio and interference matters is being sought to keep us all informed of the present policies and resources.

Again, please note: Nothing is final. More information will be distributed when it comes to hand ... keep on enjoying your amateur radio activities!

ZL2AMJ

FMTAG NOTES FOR APRIL:

Gisborne Extension to the National System - Branch 11 has advised FMTAG that it intends to make an application for an extension to the National System. We await the completed application with interest.

INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

70cm IRLP FM Simplex - We have received a request to co-ordinate a frequency for fixed-location FM simplex IRLP “nodes” or “gateways” in the 70 cm band. Following consultation with various interested parties, a frequency of 432.700 MHz appears to be the most suitable.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

None this month.

COMMENTS

As always, we value your comments and suggestions on the above matters and recommendations, and on any other FMTAG matters.

Please send your comments by mail to FMTAG, NZART Headquarters, PO Box 40-525, Upper Hutt, or by e-mail to fmtag@nzart.org.nz.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for repeaters, beacons, digipeaters, point-to-point links, and so on, should be made on the latest version of FMTAG Form 10, which may be obtained from the above address, in paper or electronic versions. Completed forms should be sent to NZART Headquarters or by e-mail to fmtag@nzart.org.nz

CONTESTS with Stan ZL2ST:

Jock White Memorial Field Day Contest.

The results of this contest are attached to this Info Line as a Word file. The event was much the same as in recent years, with a small increase in the number of stations active but Single Operator stations increased markedly this year. Forty metres was affected by the falling sunspot numbers.

- [Results available on the Contests Page](#)

The second evening of the **Thelma Souper Memorial Contest** is on 80 metres between 0700 and 1000 UTC tonight (6 April).

Upcoming contests are:

April 16/18 1400-0200 UTC (Wed-Fri) DX YL - North America YL SSB Contest

April 19 0000-2359 UTC (Sat/Sun) Holyland CW/SSB

April 19/20 1200-1200 UTC (Sat/Sun) YU (Yugoslavia) CW/SSB DX Contest

DID YOU KNOW:

That after repeated requests from NZART over a long time, the Ministry of Economic Development's Radio Spectrum Management web site now has several links to the NZART web pages. One of these appears at:

<http://www.med.govt.nz/rsm/licensing/certificates/info.html>

This didn't just happen. 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>

Technology Convention, Hamilton, Easter 2003:

Technology Convention hosted by the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club will be held this Easter 19th & 20th April at the Hamilton Astronomical Society, Brymer Road, Hamilton, adjacent to the Hamilton Zoo.

Technology Convention Programme details and a Registration form can be found on page 20 of your Jan/Feb issue of Break-In or in recent copies of "HQ-Info-Line."

The Guest Speaker Lineup includes: Kevin Murphy ZL1UJG with a talk and demonstration on a number of aspects of a typical Amateur transceiver and Robin Holdsworth ZL1IC presents information about the Radio Telescope at the Hamilton Observatory. John Andrews, ZL2HD deals to 'Software for controlling microwave Systems' and Grant Taylor, ZL1WTT will cover Amateur Television on the UHF Bands. Peter Loveridge, ZL1UKG will give a presentation of Simple Test Equipment and Techniques and the ZL AMSAT team of Fred Kennedy, ZL1BYP & Ian Ashley ZL1AOX will respectively gives update on Kiwisat and the The Oscars. (satellites of course!) Vaughan Henderson, ZL1TGC will conduct a 6meter/VHF/UHF Forum and Doug Ingham ZL2TAR will make a presentation on a subject yet to be revealed. There is also to be a 'Bring & Show' – bring along an item of technology you can show and talk about to others on a one-to-one basis.

If you require additional information about about Technology Convention, drop a line to Technology Convention 2003, PO Box 606, Hamilton or e-mail Gavin Petrie at gavinwp@ihug.co.nz

NZART Annual Conference
Masterton
Queen's Birthday Weekend – 31st. May / 1st. June

The NZART Conference 2003 will be held in Masterton at the Copthorne Hotel, Solway Park, on High Street, Masterton. All Conference functions will take place in this one venue, all under one roof, with excellent facilities and space for meetings, displays and social events.

Provisional Programme

The main programme will follow the usual format, NZART AGM, and AGM's AREC, AMSAT, OTC, SPAM, WARO, together with forums for DX, IRLP, APRS, etc.

Guest Speaker

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Warren Tucker, a Wairarapa resident who is presently the Colonel Commandant of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals and has considerable experience in and with government communications.

Friday

Registration will commence on Friday 30th May at the Copthorne Hotel reception area between 3 and 9 p.m. Refreshment facilities will be available also to allow opportunity for informal gatherings and gossiping.

Talk-in Station - On the local 680 repeater

Saturday

Registration facilities will open at 7:30 a.m., and the Conference will be opened at 9 am., by his worship the mayor of Masterton, Mr. R. C. Francis. The annual dinner and social will take place, again in the Copthorne Hotel, this evening at 7 p.m., for pre-dinner drinks followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday

The Sunday programme will include both the various Section AGM's and also a range of sectional interest forums.

Alternative Programme

Saturday

This will include shopping in Masterton together with the opportunity to visit the Transport Museum, Aratoi Museum and Art Gallery or the local Genealogy Society, all close to Queen Street, the main street of Masterton. Also close by is the Queen Elizabeth Park and gardens, aviary and deer park. Saturday afternoon will include a short visit to the Carterton Paua Shell Factory and other places of interest along the way.

Social Programme

Saturday

The Conference dinner will include live entertainment

Monday

Other attractions, activities and visits can be arranged where there is sufficient interest advised.

Accommodation

Accommodation has been arranged with an attractive special **room rate** at the Copthorne Hotel and you can check this at www.solway.co.nz and bookings can be made by calling 0800 SOLWAY (765929). However if you choose to book your accommodation you must quote the booking **number 62850**. For those attending the Conference and using their motor homes for their accommodation, sites are available at the nearby Solway A&P showgrounds at a cost of \$12.00 per night with electric power or \$8.00 without power.

Conclusion

It is fervently hoped that you will join us for this Queen's Birthday weekend and make Conference 2003 a memorable experience. Should you require any further information please contact the Conference Secretary, Ian Stewart, ZL2TIS at zl2tis@contact.net.nz or PO Box 860 Masterton.

Conference 2003 Registration Forms were in APRIL/MAY Break-In

Dates To Remember:

- **Technology Convention 2003 in Hamilton on 19th & 20th April**
- **Next HQ-Info-Line e-mailed on **Easter Monday 21st April****
- **Next NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 27th April**
- **NZART Conference 2003 Solway Park, Masterton Queen's Birthday Weekend.**

73

Jim Meachen ZL2BHF

Editor