



Headquarters - Info - Line

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The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



14 January 2007

Issue # 130

Greetings Everyone

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

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A Bright Comet is coming - Stay tuned for SOHO images!

[SOHO = Solar & Heliospheric Observatory]

The latest prediction is for July 2007 to be the minimum for our current sunspot cycle but here is some action from the sun before then.

The "spot a bright object" reference is for the Northern Hemisphere

If you watch the morning or evening sky these days and have a clear view of the horizon, you will be able to spot a bright object with a prominent tail. That object is comet C/2006 P1 (McNaught). It was discovered on August 7th, 2006 by the hugely successful comet discoverer Rob McNaught (Siding Spring Survey)¹. At time of discovery, the comet was a very faint object, but the predicted perihelion distance (closest distance to the sun) of just 0.17 astronomical units² indicated that the object has the potential to become very bright indeed.

Nobody really knows just what this comet will look like at its closest point to the Sun and that is where SOHO comes in! As you are probably aware, the LASCO instrument on-board SOHO has the ability to watch comets as they get extremely close to the Sun. Fortunately for us, C/2006 P1 is going to pass right through the LASCO C3 field of view about now. As soon as SOHO's cameras capture the comet, we will post images and further information on this page. In the meantime, you may enjoy looking at some photographs and check out the link below for further information.

<http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/hotshots/>

SOHO, the Solar & Heliospheric Observatory, is project of international collaboration between ESA (European Space Agency)³ and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)⁴ to study the Sun from its deep core to the outer corona and the solar wind.

- 1) <http://www.mso.anu.edu.au/~rmn/>
- 2) <http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/classroom/glossary.html#A>
- 3) <http://www.esa.int/esaCP/index.html>
- 4) <http://www.nasa.gov/>

Amateur Radio Statistics with Tony Case ZL1UD

Hello everyone

I have just had another go at doing the stats for January 2007 and it is still no go. The only stats listed on the MED site are those for Novice License holders. I wish everyone a happy new year, and all the best for 2007.

Tony Case - ZL1UD

Contest News

FORTHCOMING NZART CONTESTS

2006 DOUG GORMAN FREQUENCY MEASURING CONTEST

Results are now available from the NZART Website <http://www.nzart.org.nz/contests>

2007 RSGB COMMONWEALTH (BERU) CONTEST

When – 10 & 11 March 2007. 1000UTC (10th) until 1000UTC (11th).

All Bands CW.

Please refer to Contests Column, Nov./Dec. 2006, Break In, (Page 30), regarding the Commonwealth Countries Teams Section of this event. Frank, ZL2BR is co-coordinating the NZ Team – if you are interested in competing and becoming a member of the NZART Team contact him by email (zl2br@ihug.co.nz), or snail mail. Callbook address OK.

2007 JOCK WHITE MEMORIAL FIELD DAY CONTEST

When – 24 & 25 February 2007.

Times – Saturday 24th – 1500 NZDT until 2400 NZDT

Sunday 25th – 0600 NZDT until 1500 NZDT.

For Contest Rules and other Operating Information please refer to either
2006/2007 NZART Callbook, Pages 5-2 to 5-4 or,
NZART Website – <http://www.nzart.org.nz/contests>

PLEASE NOTE THAT JOCK WHITE ONLY LOGS ARE TO BE FORWARDED TO :

Stuart Watchman, ZL2TW, 33 Brooklyn Drive, BLENHEIM by 24 March 2007.

UPCOMING NZART CONTESTS

BOAT ANCHOR ACTIVITY/CONTEST

When – Saturday and Sunday, 10 & 11 February 2007, 2000 NZDT until 2200 NZDT each evening.

Updated Rules and other information is available from the NZART Website – <http://www.nzart.org.nz/contests>

Feb. 24th	1500 – 2400 (Sat. NZST)	Jock White Memorial Field Day
Feb. 25th	0600 – 1500 (Sun. NZST)	Contest
March 31 & April 1	2000 – 2200 (Sat NZDT) 2000 – 2200 (Sun NZDT)	NZART WARO Thelma Souper Memorial Contest
May 19/20	2000 – 2300 (Sat/Sun NZT)	Sangster Shield QRP CW Contest

OTHER FORTHCOMING CONTESTS

LZ Open Contest	0400Z - 1200Z Jan 20
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z Jan 20 to 1200Z Jan 21
LZ Open Contest	0400Z-1200Z, Jan 20
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 20 to 1200Z, Jan 21
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 20 to 1200Z, Jan 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 27 to 2359Z, Jan 28
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 27 to 1800Z, Jan 28
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 27 to 1300Z, Jan 28
February, 2007	
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 3 to 1759Z, Feb 4
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 3 to 1759Z, Feb 4
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 24 to 2359Z, Feb 25
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 24 to 1800Z, Feb 25
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 24 to 1300Z, Feb 25

73

John Powell. ZL1BHQ
NZART Contest Manager

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Dates To Remember

- **NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 25 February 2007**
- **Next HQ-Info-Line E-mailed on Sunday 04 February 2007**

A Happy New Year to you
Jamie Pye ZL2NN
Editor