



Headquarters - Info - Line

... a service from ...

The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



4 March 2007

Issue # 133

Greetings Everyone

Welcome to Headquarters-Info-Line a fortnightly bulletin of news from NZART Headquarters E-mailed directly to Branches and to others that subscribe through the NZART Web Site.

In This Issue

- The NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM Says
 - Correction
 - Elections
 - License Fees
- NZART: Report from meeting the MED
- Break-In Closing Date
- National System Award 2007 - Celebrating 20 years of the National System
- Contest News
- Auto-Subscription and Un-Subscribe
- Dates for Official Broadcast (OB) and Head Quarter's Info-Line (HQIL)
- Attached are: A copy of HQIL#133 and the Rules for the National System Award

The NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM Says

Correction... in my last issue of HQ Info-line, I mentioned that conference registrations were low. This was actually because the registration form has yet to be printed in Break In. Silly me, I got ahead of myself.

Your next Break In due out at the beginning of April will have the Conference registration form included, so please make sure you fill it in and come to Conference. It would be great to see all the same faces and some new ones as well.

Elections... Voting closes on the 20th March, so make sure you get those votes to the Returning Officer as soon as possible. When voting please make sure that if you area has more than the required nominations, to cross off those whom you do not wish to be on Council + the nominated President of your choice.

License Fees... Council wishes to reiterate to Branches. Those trustees who feel their Branch is able to forward a financial donation for the Repeater Beacon or fixed links that was paid throughout November December last year, to please encourage the branch to do so.

It was agreed that NZART would not be directly be invoicing Branches for their licenses, however where possible that Branches please forward a Cheque for payment of the same.

Talk to you all again soon... Debby ZL2TDM

NZART: Report from meeting the MED

On Friday 23 February 2007, NZART President Bruce Douglas ZL2WP and Councillor Mark Gooding ZL2UFI attended a meeting, at the MED Bowen Street Wellington. As previously stated in the last InfoLine, Bruce and Mark are in the temporary role of Administration Liaison Officers.

MED were represented by Wayne Wedderspoon and Jeff Hicks.

The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the MED to progress various matters of concern, interest and apprehension to amateurs.

The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and concluded at 5.30 pm.

The meeting covered the following points:

- Item 1: ZK Callsign Issue
- Item 2: Amateur Approved Radio Examiner (ARX) Requirements
- Item 3: SMART – Certificates and Callsigns
- Item 4: SMART – Callbook Listing
- Item 5: BPL (Broadband over Power Lines)
- Item 6: STSP (Short Term Special Purpose) Repeaters
- Item 7: 5 MHz – Usage/Policy
- Item 8: WRC-07
- Item 9: AREC Activities
- Item 10: Security of Tenure
- Item 11: Repeater, Beacon and Fixed Links Fee

Item 1: ZK Callsign Issue

A discussion took place on the current state, and status of the ZK Callsign series. MED stated that the callsign series was underutilised and their use by, and for AREC was an appropriate usage. Many amateurs seem to think, wrongly that the MED does not have the authority of power to exercise what it has done to date – simply put it does. Many amateurs also seem to think that ARRL or the DXCC Desk is the authority on this matter – they are not.

MED has agreed to continue to pursue the release of both ZK2 and ZK3 from the Niue and Tokelau administrations. To date no reply has been heard from them. MED acknowledge the fact that AREC has moved from ZK2/ZK3 to ZK8/ZK9. It is envisaged that a period of non-use once the ZK2/ZK3 series become available is required to ensure that there is time for the change to take place, and for people to realise this. No time period was agreed too once released by the island administrations, but a suitable period is required.

As the ZL “E” series is now available for issuing, it was discussed that a period was required prior to this occurring. This requirement is based on the fact that the ZL “E” has been available to AREC for some 40 years, and that to introduce their immediate alternative use would cause confusion to the general amateur population. An agreement was made that the ZL “E” would be placed on hold by MED, and a mention made in the PIB 46 to this effect. Again no exact period was stated for ultimate release, but it was expected to be between 3-5 years.

Item 2: Amateur Approved Radio Examiner (ARX) Requirements

Next a discussion took place over the PIB 45 - Application for Approved Radio Examiner. NZART is to ensure that the 600 Question Bank developed and made available from various sources requires notes, or statements to the effect that NZART owns and exercises this copyright.

Note: It is clearly stated in for example "The New Rules Explained - Become a Radio Amateur" and in the "New Zealand Amateur Radio Question Bank" that the Question Bank is the intellectual property of NZART and can only be used within NZART systems and procedures to ensure the integrity of the examination process is maintained.

Item 3: SMART – Certificates and Callsigns

Bruce provided two reports to MED, from NZART's General Secretary Debby Morgan ZL2TDM on the certificate issuing, and general report on numbers of callsigns issued, and general usage of SMART.

Overall SMART usage is good and no real problems are being experienced at this point.

Item 4: SMART – Callbook Listing

With the change to the amateur GURL and then the SMART system the ability to extract a Callbook type listing has been lost. MED have offered to provide on a monthly basis an update in an electronic format.

Item 5: BPL (Broadband over Power Lines)

A discussion took place on the BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) threat to amateur radio in New Zealand. Currently the most likely source for possible usage of this technology is thought to be from the various power companies in New Zealand – currently no such company is showing any interest in this technology. It is expected that New Zealand's infrastructure is perhaps not up to the standard required at present to support this technology.

NZART advised that it intends to develop a policy on this technology, as a position statement to be proactive in this area and not a reactive one once the technology arrives. NZART needs to "pre-empt" through the RMA (Resource Management Act) any attempt to establish BPL in New Zealand. The example to follow is that of the NZART Local Body Administration Officer, Mike Newman's approach – e.g. the North Shore District Council over the number and size of antennas. NZART must be proactive in this area.

Item 6: STSP (Short Term Special Purpose) Repeaters

A discussion took place on the licensing of these repeaters.

Agreement was reached that NZART would initiate a license application to have all two metre and seventy centimeter STSP repeaters, defined by frequency pairs. The MED would then approve on a single licence all STSP repeaters.

The MED acknowledge the low usage of these types of repeaters, but also their high value when required.

Item 7: 5 MHz – Usage/Policy

A discussion took place on the current policy (as developed and available on the NZART web site). Also recent reports of usage were noted.

As the NZART Policy was discussed it was decided that some tightening of the policy was required to remove vague wording. This is to ensure that persons reading and operating under the policy are clearly aware of the requirements.

NZART is to liaise with the NZDF (New Zealand Defence Force) to confirm modifications to the policy to further remove ambiguity and tighten the policy.

Item 8: WRC-07

Discussion on the attendance of NZART at the upcoming WRC-07.

NZART needs to approach, via letter the MED to explore possible funding options.

Item 9: AREC Activities

AREC activities where a donation or costs are involved were discussed. The MED acknowledged that costs are involved in participation in such events and cost recovery in reimbursement of expenditure, use of equipment and depreciation (by way of example) is not an issue, but clearly state that AREC involvement cannot become 'commercial' in nature. Full allowance/provision for costs incurred such as meals, fuel and accommodation is no issue. However, there should be no overt appearance of any intention of "operating for profit" as this is not within keeping of the ethos of the amateur service and thereby (by necessary implication) not within expected conduct in relation to AREC activities. Budgeting for a small surplus to cover contingencies might be acceptable and any resulting unintended surplus resulting from under budget expenditure would not be an issue.

MED is to write to NZART stating this position.

Item 10: Security of Tenure

Discussion on this Discussion Paper (DP) was had in relation to how it affected amateur radio in New Zealand.

It is well known that amateur frequency allocation is done on an international allocation basis, and where possible this seems to work well. Shared frequency bands are where the pressure especially in frequencies above 300 MHz is increasing as new technologies appear. These new technologies are exerting the pressure on amateur allocations especially in the fixed and mobile areas. These fixed and mobile pressures have a particular interest in the 400-500 MHz area, with huge pressure being exerted on the 430-440 MHz band amateur allocation.

NZART is encouraged to put a submission in on this DP.

Item 11: Repeater, Beacon and Fixed Links Fee

A long discussion was had on this issue. The MED clearly stated that a return to the past to amateur only fees (and no repeater fees) is not possible. This view is one based on the issue of cross-subsiding one service by another. If a return was considered, then amateurs would have two fees to pay, that of their own station licence and that of a repeater.

This view (of cross-subsiding) is one taken at a government level, outside of MED control.

A new proposal was put forward, not previously considered in the past. This new proposal was spoken about in the NZART Presidents last Official Broadcast. This proposal will take between 4-6 weeks to prepare, and present to the MED. More information will be available once the analysis is completed.

Break-In Closing Date Reminder

From the Editor *Break-In*, Official Journal of NZART Inc.

"Copy for the April/May issue of Break-In closes on **10th MARCH 2007 – NEXT SATURDAY**. Early receipt of copy is much appreciated. Thanks. John ZL3IB, Editor"

National System Award 2007

Celebrating 20 years of the National System

The third National System Award will run during the month of March 2007.

Purpose:

To celebrate 20 years of the National System, which first became operational between Auckland and Wellington on April 5th 1987.

To highlight the continued support by NZART, many NZART branches and the devotion of the Trustees and other helpers. Mention must also be made of the donations of time, expertise and equipment by a number of companies that continue to make the National System possible.

To encourage home station and mobile use of the system, and to demonstrate the wide coverage over most of New Zealand.

Details of the rules, scoring and award application details can be found on the Wellington VHF Group web site at www.vhf.org.nz/nsaward.

The Rules are attached.

Contest News

Well another Jock White Memorial Field Day Contest behind us and it would appear increased participation, both from Branch FD stations and Home Stations. We at ZL1AB had the misfortune to have a S9+ noise level from our Generator, which hampered things a bit. The front-runners appear to be the ZL1VK team for the ZL1 District and ZL2GT for the ZL2 District. Both slick operations with outstanding signals. Well done to all who took part and thanks to Stuart, ZL2TW for his management of the event.

UPCOMING NZART CONTESTS

NZART WARO Thelma Souper Memorial Contest

Mar 31 - 2000 - 2200 (Sat NZDT) and

Apr 1 - 2000 - 2200 (Sun NZDT)

Sangster Shield QRP CW Contest

May 19/20 - 2000 - 2300 (Sat/Sun NZDT)

NZART Memorial Contest - All Modes 80M

July 7/8 - 2000 - 2300 (Sat/Sun NZDT)

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.

Next weekend for this easy paced event. An NZ Team has been organised by Frank, ZL2BR comprising 11 members to emulate the Black Caps participating in the Caribbean Cricket World Cup. Although a full complement has been organised a few more ZLs taking part would be most welcome. If you are interested in competing and becoming a member of the NZART Team contact ZL2BR by e-mail (zl2br@ihug.co.nz), or snail mail. Callbook address OK.

So just to confirm the ZL/Oceania is now: ZL1ANH Graeme, ZL1MH Mike, ZL2AZ Peter, ZL2BSJ Wilbert, ZL2IFB Gary, ZL3NB Bill, ZL4BR Frank, ZL4OL Mike, ZL4PW Paul, ZL6QH (ZL1AZE) Brian and E51PJT (G3PJT) Bob.

UPCOMING CONTESTS

RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 10 to 1000Z, Mar 11
UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700z-1100Z, Mar 11
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18
9K 15-Meter Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 18
Bucharest Contest	1500Z-1559Z, Mar 19 and 1600Z-1659Z, Mar 19
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 7 to 1500Z, Apr 8
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 7 to 1600Z, Apr 8
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 14 to 1300Z, Apr 15
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 21
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 21 to 0500Z, Apr 22 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 22
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 28 to 1200Z, Apr 29

73, John Powell ZL1BHQ, NZART Contest Manager

Auto-Subscription and Un-Subscribe

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/nzart> 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.

Dates for Official Broadcast (OB) and Head Quarter's Info-Line (HQIL)

2007 OB Sunday 8 pm. Broadcasts dates are: Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27, Jun 3 CONF OB, Jun 24, Jul 29, Aug 26, Sep 30, Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 23

- **NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 25 February 2007**
- **Next HQ-Info-Line E-mailed on Sunday 18 March 2007**

2007 HQIL Sunday publishing dates are: Mar 18, Apr 1, Apr 15, May 6, May 20, Jun 10, Jul 8, Jul 22, Aug 5, Aug 19, Sep 2, Sep 16, Oct 7, Oct 21, Nov 4, Nov 18, Dec 9 Dec 23, 2008: Jan 13, Feb 3, Feb 17, Mar 2

Regards, Jamie Pye ZL2NN, Editor zl2nn@nzart.org.nz

Attached are: A copy of HQIL#133 and the Rules for the National System Award

National System Award 2007

Celebrating 20 years of the National System

Sponsored by the Wellington VHF Group, this third National System Award has three main objectives:

- To celebrate 20 years of the National System, which first became operational between Auckland and Wellington on 5th April 1987.
- To highlight the continued support by NZART, many NZART branches and the devotion of the Trustees and other helpers. Mention must also be made of the donations of time, expertise and equipment by a number of companies that continue to make the National System possible.
- To encourage home station and mobile use of the system, and to demonstrate the wide coverage over most of New Zealand.

The Award

A certificate is being designed for this award, and to celebrate 20 years of the National System.

You must obtain a minimum of 50 points to claim this award. Entry is open to all licensed amateurs. No fees apply.

Certificate endorsements apply for each additional 25 points.

Applications for this award should include your name, callsign, return postal address and log of contacts claimed, and be sent to:

The Award Custodian
Wellington VHF Group
PO Box 12-259
Wellington 6144

Applications close 30th April 2007.

Applications or questions can also be sent by email to nsaward@xtra.co.nz

Certificates for any applications received on or before Thursday 5th April 2007 can be awarded in person at the VHF Convention in Wellington at Easter. Please advise if you wish to claim your award in person, so they can be produced in time.

Rules

1. All Award stations must operate in accordance with the Radio Regulations and the Amateur GURL, these contest rules, and expected procedures. In particular, they must:
 - Absolutely give way to AREC or other Emergency traffic.
 - Give way to the NZART Broadcast and regular nets.
 - Ensure non-Award stations fair access to the National System. Extra care is required during the morning and afternoon "Drive Time".

2. The Award will run for one month, from the 1st March 2007 to the 31st March 2007.
3. Award **station types** can be either of:
 - Home Station / Fixed. (Score as “HS”)
 - Mobile / Portable / Field Station. (Score as “Mobile”)
4. All contact must be on the National System, and your log must record date, time, callsign, and NZART Branch number and **station type** given and received.

Scoring

Score one point for each unique NZART Branch number, where the other station is Home Station / Fixed.

Score one point for each unique NZART Branch number, where the other station is Mobile / Portable.

Score 5 points, once only, for working the special events station, ZL6NS, which will appear on the National System from time to time during March.

Notes on Station Types

The following notes are to reduce doubt, and to prevent a station giving out multiple branch numbers at the same time. Only a single branch number and station type can be used by an operator at a given time.

Home Station / Fixed

This includes home, work, branch clubrooms, or elsewhere that a station is normally present. This includes using a mobile or handheld rig within a block or two of the fixed location. (If you first use your base rig, and then go outside with your handheld, you are still the same “Home Station”).

An operator can only use a single “Home Station” NZART Branch number during the month. Generally this will be your closest branch, but in areas with overlap, this can be the one you have most connection with. Ideally you will be a member there, but this is not a requirement.

You may use a Branch in recess if it is the more “natural” choice for your station, if you feel some connection or history with that branch. This is your personal choice, but cannot change during the award period.

In the event that you relocate during the month, you may change to a new branch number, but this should be clearly shown on your log.

Mobile / Portable

This includes most anything that is not a home station as above.

If you activate a branch number in recess, you must actually be in that area.

Operators are expected to act in good faith regarding the branch numbers they give out while Mobile / Portable.

You must have moved at least 5 km before you can give you a different branch.

If you take a radio and antenna to a remote hill-top, to access the National System, this scores as “Mobile”. If you make a special effort to give out a rare branch, you can count

yourself for that “mobile” point, provided you have given out that branch to at least 25 other operators. This is to ensure you are not disadvantaged, having made the special effort.