



Headquarters - Info - Line

... a service from ...

The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



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Issue #144

Greetings Everyone

Welcome to Headquarters-Info-Line a twice-monthly bulletin of news from NZART Headquarters e-mailed directly to Branches and to others that subscribe through the NZART Web Site. This bulletin is also distributed on the amateur radio packet network.

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The NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM says

SMART processing

I would like to advise that I am now officially responsible for entering new or lapsed call sign details into SMART.

You may have thought I was already doing so; however I was not able in the past to allocate a Client ID. This is the special number that each certificate holder receives if you wish to make changes to your details.

This part of the process was actioned by an RSM contact centre in Christchurch, then passed on to me to issue a call sign.

Unfortunately it created a considerable delay in issuing a call sign as the Client ID is like a password for me to continue.

Call signs and certificate can be produced almost immediately once I receive a correctly completed Radio 4A application form.

Subscriptions

Just a reminder that you should now have received your 2008 annual subscription invoice. If you are wishing to donate the \$15 rebate to WRC 07, then please indicate on your payments slip.

If paying by credit card and the \$80 amount is not advised, then I will assume that you wish to donate the \$15 rebate.

I do apologise as one person put it - if you want people to donate, the tick box should have been included in the remittance portion of the invoice. While this is true just a note to advise deduction of either \$95 or \$80 will be sufficient information for me to action the payment.

Also if paying by credit card please make sure that your expiry date is given.

Finally remember that you can also pay directly into our bank account BNZ 02 0772 0209 760 00. Please make sure you supply a membership number and/or call sign.

That's all from me....Debby ZL2TDM

Notes from NZART and MED Meeting for August 2007

Date: Monday 6 August 2007 Time: 2.00 pm

Attendees: Bruce Douglas (NZART), Mark Gooding (NZART), Wayne Wedderspoon (MED), Jeff Hicks (MED), and John Parker (MED)

Location: MED Building 33 Bowen Street, Wellington

Item 1: 3.900 MHz USB Usage for SAR and AREC

MED have agreed to the adding to the current Amateur Licence GURL of the following foot note:

"(9) The frequency 3.90MHz in the USB (upper side band) mode may be used for search and rescue and emergency communications."

NOTE: This also includes the usage for training purposes as well e.g. SAREX, AREC training etc.

An update to the Amateur GURL will come later on this year, but we are able to continue to use 3.900 MHz as we always have, this just puts the matter in print.

Item 2: Fees Review and the Repeater GURL

Bruce and Mark gave a report on the outcome of the NZART AGM with a discussion of the Repeater GURL. MED were advised of the resolution passed at the AGM.

Next a discussion took place over the Fees Review. This discussion was lead by John Parker. John is currently the Policy Analyst employed by MED to present to the Government the findings and outcome of the various submissions put forward. A reasonable amount of time was spent explaining the NZART Fees Review Submission, providing background, and the like. This discussion also lead back to the Repeater GURL - on which again some time was spent explaining the history on it. A number of points were discussed in relation to the Repeater GURL, such as the views expressed by the Wellington VHF Group, as well as the views expressed by the AGM, and other branches.

The MED stated that it would not force the GURL on the amateur service unless it was a willing party to it. Bruce and Mark have not committed to requesting that the Repeater GURL as a proposal be finally closed off, but to be clear have not stated that they are for it either. What Bruce and Mark did say is at this time they wish that the proposal still be left on the table, and it may be picked up later or revisited as the basis of resolution for the fees issue at some later time.

The discussion then continued for sometime round the Fees Review paper relating to Option A (a fee of \$200.00 per licence). Bruce and Mark put the notion of the "public good" and also history on how we ended

up where we are today, which included the GURL option of course. It would be fair to say, that we were thoughtfully listened to, and are satisfied from good feedback that we have assisted in the understanding that John was looking for.

We are hopeful of the best possible outcome on the matter of the Fees Review. We were satisfied that our concerns and points were listened to, and more importantly understood. Until the final outcome of the Fees Review is known then the cost of licensing Repeaters/Beacons and Fixed links in the Amateur Service remains up in the air.

We believe that we were also able to get the message across to the MED about how the fees are unfair, unacceptable and will eventually, if allowed to continue to rise beyond the ability of amateurs to pay, would lead to the end of repeaters, beacons and fixed links in New Zealand. Wayne and Jeff both stated that this was not their intention and that they would assist as much as possible to ensure that this didn't happen.

The question was again asked, what if we returned to the paid licensing of individual licenses, would this see a removal of the repeater fee? The answer was "no", the amateur service would then have two licence fees to pay, one being for your own station licence, the second being the repeater fee. The reason for this is that you cannot cross-subsidise one fee with another, in other words we cannot return to the past when this was the case.

Item 3: Repeater Policy

A brief discussion was held on the point of non-NZART branches or individuals applying for repeater or other licenses. NZART policy on this has been emailed the MED. The NZART Policy was reviewed and re-issued earlier this year (2007).

The MED have no problems with the current process and wish for the status quo to remain, with FMTAG playing their part. However, if FMTAG are consulted and the application meets all technical requirements and there are no reasons to deny the application then the MED will more than likely approve it, even if FMTAG does not; as the MED has the final say in such a matter.

Again it was stated that if all technical band plan coordination was in agreement with FMTAG, and all that the application didn't meet was the fact the branch or non-NZART members supported the application then it would go through. (NZART policy states this)

Item 4: Foundation Licence in New Zealand

The matter of a Foundation Licence was raised with MED. Their opinion is that as long as their involvement (subsequent to initial regulation changes and set up) is/was no more that they have today in the Amateur Licence GURL then they have no objections to it. So in principal they agreed that if NZART was willing to pursue this option they would look at it and implement what we wanted subject to discussion and review.

Meeting concluded at 3.50 pm.

August FMTAG Notes

At its August meeting, NZART Council approved publication of the following FMTAG notes, for the information of, and seeking comments from NZART members.

INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS TO NZART COUNCIL

ZL2CC and ZL2RC have applied for coordination of a digipeater transmitting and receiving on 144.650 MHz, located at Te Kapua, NZ260 map reference Y17 341903. This station is intended to link to the Branch 11 Gisborne digipeater on 144.650 MHz located at Whakapunake.

Branch 29 North Shore has applied for three BBS digipeaters located on East Coast Road, North Shore, NZ260 map reference R10 660934. The proposed operating frequencies are:
144.600 MHz transmit and receive.
432.650 MHz transmit and receive.
438.300 MHz transmit and receive.

Branch 39 Tauranga has applied to re-locate and increase the power of its 885 repeater. The repeater will transmit on 438.850 MHz and receive on 433.850 MHz at Papamoa, NZ260 map reference U14 997800. An engineering evaluation has shown that the power increase and relocation will not affect the operation of the other stations using the same channel.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO NZART COUNCIL

None this month.

COMMENTS

Please send your comments and suggestions on the above matters and recommendations, and on any other FMTAG matters, by e-mail to fmtag@nzart.org.nz or by mail to FMTAG, c/- NZART, PO Box 40-525, Upper Hutt.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for repeaters, beacons, digipeaters, point-to-point links, and so on, should be made on the latest version of FMTAG Form 10.

The latest versions of FMTAG Form 10, and the explanatory Form 10A, are available from the above address, in paper or electronic versions, or in Word or PDF versions on the NZART web site at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/nzart/fmtag.html>

Completed forms should be sent by e-mail to fmtag@nzart.org.nz or by mail to FMTAG, c/- NZART, PO Box 40-525, Upper Hutt.

The FMTAG procedure, mandated by NZART Council, is described on page 1-4 of Call Book.

NZART Notices

Break-In

From the Editor of Break-In: John ZL3IB

Closing date for next Break-In is 10 SEPTEMBER 2007

Out and About

OZ QSL Bureau to Change

As the QSL Bureau Managers should not accept money from either members or non-members the Bureau will, from Dec 1 this year, post to members yearly at no cost to the member and will not handle non-members cards at all.

Contest News

VHF Contests

The next contest is the Microwave Contest, all bands 614 MHz and up, on Saturday the 6th and Sunday the 7th of October 2007. The operating times are: Saturday 1700 to 2300 NZT and Sunday 0700 to 1300 NZT.

The rules are available at: <www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/contests/vhfcontestrules0606.html>

All contest logs should be sent, to arrive within two weeks, to:

Contest Manager, Wellington VHF Group, P.O. Box 12-259, Thorndon, Wellington

HF Contests

Band conditions have shown very little improvement over the past 2/3 weeks, in fact the Solar Flux Indices have still remained in a "constipated" state of low 60's for some months now. One can only hazard a guess when an improvement will take place, in all probability the start of the new Solar Cycle 24. It can't come faster enough, hopefully in the upcoming equinox period - in time for the forthcoming Oceania and CQWW Contests.

SARTG WW RTTY Contest: 0000Z-0800Z, Aug 18 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 18 and 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 19

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP ACTIVITY - THIS WEEKEND

Good luck and safe travelling to Lighthouses well away from their homes and trust that band conditions show a sudden improvement to allow a successful and satisfying participation. Your support of these expeditions - that I know of:-

Baring Head Lighthouse by the Papakura Branch Team, Tiri Tiri Matangi Lighthouse by the Auckland Branch Team and Cape Campbell Lighthouse (ZL6CC) - will make their participation worthwhile. All Band activity is proposed, as I understand it, by most of the participating "expeditions".

Apologies for the "advance notice" in the bulletin of 3 August 2007. The promo that was displayed related to the US "National: Lighthouse/Lightship Activity. Wonder if they had ever considered linking up with the International activity.

FORTHCOMING NZART CONTESTS

DOUG GORMAN MEMORIAL FREQUENCY MEASURING CONTEST

When: - 3 September 2007

Time: - 2115 NZST

Band: - 80M

Contest Rules -refer 2006 NZART Callbook, Page 5-4, also NZART Website.

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/contests> for updated, information.

2007 OCEANIA CONTESTS

Phone - 6 & 7 October 2007, 0800Z, 6 Oct. until 0800Z 7 Oct. - All Bands

CW - 13 & 14 October 2007, 0800Z 13 Oct. until 0800Z 14 Oct. - All Bands

Updated Contest(s) information will be available on the NZART Website well in advance of the Phone Contest - <http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/contests>

OTHER FORTHCOMING CONTESTS

SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 25 to 1159Z, Aug 26
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 25 to 1200Z, Aug 26
SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Aug 26
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 1 to 2400Z, Sep 2
Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Sep 1
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Sep 1 and
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 8 to 2359Z, Sep 9
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 15 to 1200Z, Sep 16
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Sep 22 to 1200Z, Sep 23
CIS DX Contest	1200Z, Sep 22 to 1200Z, Sep 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 29 to 2400Z, Sep 30
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Sep 30
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 6 to 0800Z, Oct 7
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Oct 13 and 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 13 and 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 14
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 13 to 0800Z, Oct 14

Well that's about all for this week.

It was pleasing to catch up with a number of fellow Contesters and DX'ers at last weekend's Hamilton Market Day. Ken, ZL1AIH and I attended and later had a very pleasant time catching up with old friends and making new acquaintances at the luncheon hosted by the Waikato Radio Enthusiasts Group (hope I got this right!).

Well done and grateful thanks ZL1PO and their band of helpers for a most hospitable occasion.

73, John Powell. ZL1BHQ, NZART Contest Manager

Auto-Subscription and Un-Subscribe

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

*** NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 26 AUGUST 2007 and**

*** Next HQ-Info-Line e-mailed on Sunday 9 SEPTEMBER 2007**

2007 OB at 8pm Sunday: Jul 29, Aug 26, Sep 30, Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 23

2007 HQIL on Sunday: Sep 9-23, Oct 7-21, Nov 4-18, Dec 9-23

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