



Headquarters - Info - Line

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The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



NZART Headquarters Infoline Issue 175
21-December-2008

Christmas Greetings Everyone

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

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Official Broadcast this month is TONIGHT

Next Official Broadcast is on SUNDAY 22-FEBRUARY-2009

Next Infoline is to be e-mailed on SUNDAY 18-JANUARY-2009

Jock White Field Day Rules 2009

From the Jock White Field Day Manager, Stuart Watchman ZL2TW

There have been changes to every rule, as a new one was inserted (rule 7) all the subsequent ones have been incremented.

The rule concerning the date has been changed.

Please find the PDF copy at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/pdf/2009/2009-jwfd-rules.pdf>

Summary of Proposed Changes for NZ 40 Metres Band Plan

Post 29 March 2009

Full document is available at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/pdf/2009/2009-40m-band-changes.doc>

or

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/pdf/2009/2009-40m-band-changes.pdf>

[Prepared for NZART IARU Liaison Committee by Peter ZL2AZ]

This document is to promote discussion of possible changes to the NZ Band Plan for 40 Metres.

(A) Summary

Introduction

The World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-03) made a PRIMARY allocation to the Amateur Service in the band 7100-7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3, to be implemented after 29 March 2009. Region 2 amateurs retained a primary allocation in the band 7100-7300 kHz. There are some possible "fish hooks" in the details, however, as detailed later in this document.

It is now timely to consider how to revise the NZ Band Plan to take advantage of this additional spectrum.

This document from the NZART IARU Liaison Committee is intended to start the process. The existing NZ band plan is shown and a possible revision is given as a starting point.

Summary of Proposed Changes

Additional spectrum is proposed for each of the three "modes" used in the 40 metre band, with the prime goal of spreading out activity over the full 200 kHz that will become available. The extra spectrum needs to be shared equitably between the "modes", and account taken of changes in usage patterns, especially the growth in data modes. The proposed "sub-band" boundaries in the Band Plan are the key issue for debate and decision.

The changes proposed are summarised as follows:

Mode	Existing Subband MHz	Proposed Subband MHz	Increase kHz	Increase %
CW or modes less than 1 kHz bandwidth	7.000 - 7.030	7.000 - 7.050	30 > 50	67%
Data/packet, less than 6 kHz bandwidth	7.030 - 7.040	7.050 - 7.070	10 > 20	100%
All modes with band width less than 6 kHz	7.040 - 7.100	7.070 - 7.200	60 > 130	117%
Secondary access NIB	7.100 - 7.300	7.200 - 7.300		
Amateur satellite service	7.000 - 7.100	7.000 - 7.100		

These proposed changes are shown pictorially in a revised band plan diagram later in this document, along with details of the factors taken account of, and some comparison tables.

Summary of Key Factors Accounted For

* The existing band plan is the starting point

* The prime goal is to spread out our NZ activity in the full 200 kHz becoming available (a "use it or lose it" philosophy)

* We need to take advantage of the additional spectrum, and make 40 metres a "better place to be" for daily operating, DXing, contests, awards, special interests like SPAM, experimenting with new data and other modes etc.

* Additional spectrum is proposed for each of the three "modes" used in the 40 metre band, in the "sub-bands" in the band plan. The extra spectrum needs to be shared equitably between the "modes", and account taken of changes in usage patterns, especially the growth in data modes. The proposed "sub-band" boundaries are the key issue for debate and decision.

* There is some merit in having the sub-band boundaries at multiples of 5 or 10 kHz, to make them easier to remember and see on frequency displays and dials

* It is recognised that band plans are "living documents" and that any initial re-planning adopted will be reviewed from time to time as operating modes, technology and usage etc. change

* It is also recognised that band plans are "advisory" in nature, but represent "best practice" for the users during normal operating conditions

* At times of peak usage or unusual events (e.g. contests, emergencies etc.) it is realised that there will be periods when users will "spill over" into adjacent "sub-bands" - with additional activity usually spilling upwards in frequency. This could apply to any modes at any time, including the "All modes with bandwidth less than 6 kHz" transmissions (principally SSB). They can move up into the 7.2 to 7.3 MHz part of the band on a "Non Interference Basis" (NIB). Mode and frequency sharing are well understood operating practices.

* The sub-band allocations proposed are similar proportionately to those in our 20 metre Band Plan; probably the most comparable band to 40 metres in terms of popularity, world-wide coverage, and propagation. Comparative figures are shown in a table in Section (E).

* The IARU Region 1 triennial Conference was held recently in Cavtat, Croatia concluding on 22 November 2008. They considered proposed changes to their 40 metre band plan for Europe and Africa, effective from 29 March 2009. Their outcomes are similar to our proposal, although not identical. They have approved "narrow band modes" from 7.000 - 7.050 MHz, "wideband" digimodes 7.050 - 7.60 MHz, and "All Modes" (voice, SSB etc.) from 7.060 - 7.200 MHz. They are promoting 7175 - 7200 kHz at the top end of the band for "intercontinental operation", so this should help to set the scene for an "upwards" migration of SSB

activity, to overlap with North American SSB activity. Region 1 has been a bit more conservative than us, with only limited extra spectrum allocated for "wideband" digimodes. Care is needed in comparisons since their "maximum bandwidth" definitions are a little different to ours, they are more prescriptive and detailed about usage in their sub-allocations, and have more explanatory footnotes in their plan. In summary, our proposal is in reasonable alignment with Region 1.

* At a later stage Regions 1 and 3 may need to harmonise their new regional band plans for world wide compatibility. Region 2 (North and South America) may also need to make some realignments. This will occur over the next 3 yearly cycle of regional IARU Conferences. Band Plans are not fixed forever, and we can "tune them up" as usage changes

* We need to exercise some caution and make some allowance initially for a "limitation of value" of the new allocation from 7.100 - 7.200 MHz. Some reservations have been expressed about just how free of HF Broadcasters the new segment will really be (especially in first year or two). This allocation will also be permanently shared on a "Co-Primary" basis with fixed and mobile users. Their usage in NZ and Australia (most likely to affect us) is not expected to be high, but there may be some sharing needed.

A Reply To "Being a Councilor of the NZART"

The Editor,
NZART Headquarters InfoLine

In 800-plus words in NZART HQ InfoLine of 7 December 2008, Councillor Henderson ZL1TGC writes about the lot of the NZART-Councillor. But important issues are not mentioned.

Since its very inception in the 1920's, NZART has been about the PROTECTION of the AMATEUR SERVICE. First and foremost, that's NZART's 'raison d'être'. The Association's Constitution reflects that in many entries in its 'Objects' (1.2 Objects).

Furthermore, NZART is a member of the International Amateur Radio Union and the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 to add to the world-wide protection and international support and representation needed at ITU-level needed to retain our access to the radio frequency spectrum - without which there would be no amateur radio. This is why the IARU Region 3 Conference scheduled for Christchurch in 2009 is so important.

A Councillor is a member of the Executive Council, "entrusted with the conduct of the business of the Association and the control of the funds and assets of the Association and has all executive powers necessary to properly carry out the objects..." (3.3 Powers of the Executive Council).

With local and international protection of the Amateur Service first and foremost, the Amateur Service views on issues of the day under scrutiny by our NZ Administration are vitally important and should be properly addressed. It seems that NZART Council has failed to respond on important issues in which NZ radio amateurs have interest.

Ultra Wideband (UWB) communication technology operates in spectrum spanning the range between 3.1 GHz and 10.6 GHz. A paper released by the Ministry in April 2008 solicits the opinions of UWB vendors, potential UWB users, existing spectrum users, and other stakeholders on the most appropriate approach to the licensing of UWB communications devices in New Zealand. There are Amateur bands and Amateur Satellite bands at: 3.30 to 3.41 GHz, 5.65 to 5.85 GHz, and at 10.00 to 10.50 GHz. New Zealand radio amateurs have a sincere interest in these designated bands. The list of submissions does not list a response submission from NZART. NZART Council has shown failure in its task of expressing spectrum protection for the interests of the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service.

Another Ministry paper sought the views of stakeholders and others with an interest in options for future regulatory arrangements for high capacity short haul point-to-point linking in the 70-90 GHz band. There are Amateur bands and Amateur Satellite bands at: 75.5 to 76 GHz and from 76 to 81 GHz. The closing date for submissions was 1 October 2008. It is not yet known if NZART has made any submission. Again it seems very likely that NZART Council has once more failed in its task of expressing spectrum protection for the interests of the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service.

NZART Council is exposing its failure to keep a weather eye on the activities at the Ministry and to act accordingly to protect and express the interests of its members and of the New Zealand radio amateur. If amateur bands are involved, radio amateurs must actively respond. Refer to the NZART Constitution.

The task of Councillors is primarily to ensure the PROTECTION of the AMATEUR SERVICE. A Councillor should read the constitutions of NZART, IARU and IARU Region 3, every morning before breakfast and properly comprehend the task involved. Each document is freely available on the web.

73,
Fred ZL2AMJ

A Lookup System For SMART

On the home page (<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/>) you will find in the right hand column a form where you can enter a callsign. Once a callsign is entered and the "submit" bar clicked, the form will go and get the callsign information from the MED SMART database.

This service is given to the NZART Web by Andrew ZL3AME.

The lookup service is done by the form, held on the NZART home page, requesting data from a Python script program running on Andrew's web server. Next the Python script looks for the data from the MED SMART database, formats it, and shows it in a page on Andrew's web server.

Andrew points out that the query may be slow, (my testing doesn't show this in any way EDITOR) and that its continued operation is not guaranteed. Also that NZART or Andrew does not take any responsibility for it or the consequences of using it.

Another service from NZART and promoted on its Web.

CHU to move 41 metre frequency

On January 1, 2008 at 00:00 UTC, CHU will be moving its 41 metre time broadcast from 7335 Khz to 7850 Khz as a result of the 2007 WRC which relocated the band 7300-7350 Khz from Fixed services to Broadcasting. As a result of the increased interference, the National Research Council (NRC) decided to change frequency at the same time a refurbished transmitter will be installed.

For more information see :

http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/common_files/stories/chu/communique_e.pdf

Contest News

VHF/UHF/SHF CONTEST NOTES

The next contest is the DX Weekend Contest, on Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th of February 2009. The operating times are: Saturday 1700 to 2300 NZT and Sunday 0700 to 1300 NZT.

The contest rules are available at:

<http://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

or:

Email: zl2wa@clear.net.nz

Website: www.vhf.org.nz

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HF Contests From NZART Contests Manager

In view of the upcoming incidence of Christmas and the New Year I have opted to make this bulletin the last one for the year and plan on re-commencing the weekly despatch on 16 January 2009, although that bulletin may well be somewhat sparse as I will, in all probability, still be unpacking at the new Mt. Maunganui QTH. Judging by reports from the various Contest Reflectors last weekend's ARRL 10M Contest was hard work for those taking part with QSO numbers well down and propagation being described as disastrous. Hopefully Solar Cycle 24's effect will be well into the upswing for the 2009 event.

2009 ARRL INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

When:- CW - 21 and 22 February 2009 - 0000Z (21st) - 2400Z (22nd)

Phone - 7 and 8 March 2009 - 0000Z (7th) - 2400 (8th)

Rules and other contest information - refer to the ARRL Website - www.arrl.org

2009 JOCK WHITE MEMORIAL FIELD DAY CONTEST

When:- Saturday, 28 February 2009 and Sunday, 1 March 2009

Times :- Saturday - 1500 NZDT (0200 UTC) until 2359 NZDT (1100UTC)

Times :- Sunday - 0600 NZDT (1700UTC) until 1500 NZDT (0200 UTC)

Bands :- 80m and 40m

Modes :- SSB and CW

Rules :- Please refer NZART Website – www.nzart.org.nz/contests . Updated Rules and other operating information will be included in the November/December Break In Contest column. Additionally, a NZART HQ Circular will be issued in the near future encapsulating the revision of sum of the Contest rules. The Contest Website will also be updated within the next 10 days.

RSGB COMMONWEALTH CONTEST

When:- 14 & 15 March 2009

Time:- 1000Z (14th) to 1000Z (15th) – All Bands – CW Only

Contests Rules and other operating information is, or will be available at :-

<http://www.vhfcc.org/hfcc/rules/2009/beru.shtml>

OTHER FORTHCOMING CONTEST INFORMATION

Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 to 1500Z, Dec 28
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z-0730Z, Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z-1000Z, Jan 11
LZ Open Contest	0400Z-1200Z, Jan 17
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 17 to 1159Z, Jan 18
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 17 to 1200Z, Jan 18
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 24 to 1800Z, Jan 25
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 24 to 1200Z, Jan 25
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 24 to 1300Z, Jan 25

I take this opportunity of extending to you all Christmas Greetings and Blessings and also a Happy New Year to you and your families and trust that 2009 will see much improved band conditions.

Thanks to those who kindly contributed to the weekly bulletin and assisted in many other ways.

73, John Powell ZL1BHQ, NZART Contest Manager

Upcoming Events - 2009 is 10 days away

On Saturday 07-March-2009, The Te Puke Amateur Radio Club Inc. will be holding their Market Day @ Paengaroa Community Hall.....

Wellington Region Expo - Saturday, 28-March-2009

For Further Details Please Look at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/events/index.html>

14th IARU R3 Conference - Christchurch 12 to 16 October 2009

Break-In and Infoline Information

Break-In Closing Date Reminders

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

"Copy for the JANUARY/FEBRUARY issue of Break-In closes on 10-JANUARY-2009.

Early receipt of copy is much appreciated. Thanks, John ZL3IB, Editor"

2. Copy for the AREC Break-In Column

The close-of-copy date is the 03-JANUARY-2009 for articles for publication in the AREC COLUMN OF BREAK-IN. Photos, if available, to be on a separate floppy or CD (with captions), posted DIRECTLY TO US

Call Book address. All other material can go to e-mail: zl3qr@nzart.org.nz or zl3ov@nzart.org.nz.
Regards, Geoff ZL3QR

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Dates for Official Broadcast (OB) and Head Quarter's Infoline

OB 2008 8pm TONIGHT

OBS FOR 2009=FEB-22 MAR-29 APR-26 CONF-MAY-31 JUN-28 JUL-26 AUG-30 SEP-27 OCT-25 NOV-29 DEC-20

- * NZART Official Broadcast SUNDAY 21-DECEMBER-2008, *
- * Next NZART Official Broadcast SUNDAY 22-february-2009, * and
- * Next HQ-Info-Line e-mailed on SUNDAY 18-JANUARY-2009 *

INFOLINE 2009 SUNDAY: JAN-18 FEB-08-22 MAR-08-22 APR-05-19 MAY-03-17 JUN-07-21 JUL-05-19
AUG-09-23 SEP-06-20 OCT-04-18 NOV-08-22 DEC-06-20

A happy New Year to All.

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