



Special Issue # 3

24th May 2005

Greetings everyone,

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

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The following information on the Amateur Radio Service was published in the Ministry of Economic Development Radio Spectrum Management Newsletter published on 23rd May on the Ministries Web Page located at <http://news.business.govt.nz/news/rsm/article/2192>

Amateur Radio Service

Published: 23.05.2005

On 1 July 2005 new annual fee provisions are planned to come into effect.

In regard to the amateur radio service there are two key changes:

- Amateur operators will no longer pay an annual fee of \$35.
- Amateur beacons and repeaters will be subject to an annual fee of \$50.

The first provision gives effect to undertakings to the amateur fraternity in recent years to remove the annual amateur operator licence fee, and therefore reduce the entrance barrier to young people, and help encourage them in a career in telecommunications. Further, in conjunction with new on-line services currently in development, it will make amateur licensing and certification arrangements comparable with the New Zealand maritime and aeronautical services, and amateur counterparts overseas. The changes also have cost benefits for the Ministry, and are aligned with government policies for e-commerce.

The second provision, however, recognises that there remain some spectrum management administrative costs associated with the amateur service. Informal comment has been received from amateur licensees to the effect that while it may be logical for RSM to recover costs through the licensing of beacons and repeaters, this does not necessarily fairly spread those costs across the whole amateur service. The reason given is that while most repeaters and beacons are licensed to amateur radio clubs or NZART, only about half of the users of repeaters and beacons are members of clubs or NZART. In essence, annual fees for beacons and repeaters mean that a minority of amateur operators bear the spectrum management costs of the majority.

If an annual fee for beacons and repeaters does not represent a reasonably equitable distribution of the remaining administration costs across the amateur service, then options for reviewing fee mechanisms include introducing a 3-year, or possibly 5-year, callsign fee for amateurs. This would likely be, on an annualised basis, considerably less than the present operator fee.

A further revision of annual fees is planned for 1 July 2007. In the intervening period RSM will consult with amateurs and NZART in regard to an appropriate funding mechanism for the spectrum management costs of the amateur radio service.

The NZART President Comments: The above official release reflects the disquiet and frustration expressed to MED RSM officials by the NZART representatives at a meeting at the MED RSM Head Office on 9 May. Your representatives were the NZART President, the NZART Vice-President and President-elect, the NZART Administration Liaison Officer, and the NZART Treasurer.

The difficulties arising from placing a fee on beacons and repeaters were clearly expressed in the NZART submission sent to the Ministry in January 2005. (*In response to a MED request for comment dated December 2004, the document is still on the MED web page*) **See the copy of the NZART submission at:**

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/Update/InfoLine/NZARTresponsetoMEDFeesproposalsDec2004.pdf>

This fees matter is far from settled.

Andrew Corney ZL2BBJ Silent Key: It is with sadness that I report the passing yesterday morning of Andrew Corney ZL2BBJ. Andrew was the Associations representative on the Australian and New Zealand Standards Committee on Non- Ionising Radiation. His funeral will be held on Thursday 26th May at the Khandallah Presbyterian Church, Ganges Road Khandallah, Wellington at 11.00am. The Association expresses sympathy to Andrew's wife and daughters.
Peter Norden ZL2SJ President

Dates To Remember: NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 29th May
NZART Wind-Wand Symposium 4th, 5th and 6th June.
NZART Conference Official Broadcast 8pm Sunday 5th June
Next HQ-Info-Line Sunday 12th June.

73

Jim Meachen ZL2BHF

Editor