



Headquarters - Info - Line

... a service from ...

The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



20th August 2006

Issue # 121

Greetings Everyone!

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

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This issue of HQIL is my final issue as your editor. Since my suggestion to NZART Council of the benefits of having such a HQ publication in November 2000 and commencing as the HQIL Editor with Issue # 1 in January 2001, 121 issues of Headquarters Info-Line have been compiled and e-mailed. Now it's time for a change and for me, more time to pursue other interests. None of my other involvements and activities with NZART are changed. I have pleasure in informing you that my replacement was appointed on the last NZART Council Net and is Jamie Pye ZL2NN. Jamie is an Honorary Life Member of NZART and has been actively involved in a wide range of NZART activities for the last forty plus years. Thank you Jamie and welcome!

The NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM Says:

A special thanks...I think it is timely to pay a special tribute to Jim ZL2BHF as this is his last edition as Editor of HQ Info-line. Jim was not only the mastermind of this very informative, very regular fortnightly publication, but gave the Association the perfect opportunity to ensure accurate records of many contests, repeater changes, updates on the IARU, examinations and many more important aspects of amateur radio a forum to be heard.

Jim, although at times, you're insistence that I place just 'something' in HQIL became slightly an annoyance, as believe it or not, I don't always have something to say! I wish to thank you on behalf of your many readers for your continued commitment to all things amateur radio and most importantly NZART. I now look forward to working with Jamie Pye ZL2NN, the new HQ Info-line Editor.

Subscriptions...For those of you who missed the last issue of HQIL, just wanted to remind you that subs can be paid online. NZART account details are **BNZ 02 0772 0209760 00**, please quote your membership number (where known) in the reference field, otherwise your call sign.

Talk to you all again soon... **Debby ZL2TDM**

From The President Bruce Douglas ZL2WP:

Operating on the 614-622 MHz band

The recent GURL for Amateur Radio Operators that came into force on 1 July 2006 removed the band 614 to 622 MHz from the schedule of bands available to radio amateurs with an operator's certificate and current callsign. This band had been used for the output from the many ATV repeaters throughout the land as well as for the usual amateur radio experiments and contests.

The MED RSM, pursuant to a Cabinet decision, is creating a Management Right for the spectrum block 614 to 646 MHz. A Management Right automatically cancels any radio licences in the included bands. The MED intends issuing Spectrum Licences to NZART for the ATV installations and their operation will continue.

Provision for individual amateurs with an operator's certificate and current callsign to operate from time-to-time on the 614 to 622 MHz band for experiments and for contests has now been restored by a new arrangement. Fred ZL2AMJ and Doug ZL2TAR met with two officials from the MED and an agreement for the continued use of this band has been developed. The "rules" are different to what we are accustomed to and are expressed in the NZART policy document **attached to this issue of HQ-Info-Line**. This is NOT an amateur band, but by these conditions being within the engineering profile of a covering ATV Spectrum Licence, amateurs continue to have access. This provision is for NZART members, the Spectrum Licence being in the name of NZART. Enquiries to FMTAG.

Contest News with John Powell ZL1BHQ, NZART Contest Manager:

Manawatu Branch Activity Contest 16th-22nd of September 2006 - For Contest/Activity information, downloadable logsheets, rules etc. refer to the Branch website www.zl2ko.org.nz. Other details are available from Allan, ZL2SKY - zl2sky@zl2ko.org.nz

Forthcoming NZART Contests

Doug Gorman Frequency Measuring Contest

When: Monday, 4 September 2006 – 2115 NZDT – 80m

Refer to the NZART Callbook, page 5-6, or the NZART website, as above, for rules and updated information.

2006 Oceania Contests

When - Phone: 7 & 8 October 2006 - 0800 UTC (7 Oct.) until 0800 UTC (8 Oct.)

- CW: 14 & 15 October 2006 - 0800 UTC (14 Oct.) until 0800 UTC (15 Oct.).

There is now less than two months to Oceania's premier HF DX Contest and so time to prepare for either, or both events. Recent years have seen a decline in ZL/VK participation to the extent that greater numbers of overseas hams are participating in our own HF DX Contest. The Contest organizers welcome increased involvement from both ZL and VK operators, so how about giving it a go.

Contest Rules and operating information is now available at the Contest Website

<http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/rules.pdf>

2006 STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT

When - 4 November 2006 – 2000 NZDT – 2300 NZDT

Where - 80m (3.5Mhz)

Mode - CW only

For the Contest Rules and other operating information – please refer 2004/5 NZART Callbook Page 5-8

GENERAL

Recent propagation trends indicate that the usual monthly peaks and troughs are leveling out, there being very small movement between the two points. Perhaps the end of the Solar Cycle is a little closer than some forecasts. Any improvement in the HF band conditions will be most welcome. Last weekend I had a crack at the WAE CW contest, mainly on 40m. Some great signals from the well known "super" Contest stations. I did a prediction, or two using W6ELProp - the predicted openings were mirrored by the actual results. Openings were generally of a shorter than usual duration.

IARU Region 3 Elects New Leadership:

The 13th Conference of IARU Region 3 was held in Bangalore, India August 7-11. IARU Region 3 <http://www.jarl.or.jp/iaru-r3/> consists of the member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in the Asia-Pacific area. There were 13 IARU member-societies represented in person with another five represented by proxy. Representing the ARRL, which has Full members in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa, were International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, and Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI. The IARU International Secretariat was represented by Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH. All four also will attend a meeting of the IARU Administrative Council in Bangalore on August 12-14.

Conference arrangements were made by an outstanding team of volunteers of the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI), the IARU member-society for India.

The conference considered more than 60 input documents containing reports and proposals from Region 3 member-societies, coordinators and committee chairmen, as well as from IARU Regions 1 and 2. The conference documents are available on the Web <http://www.jarl.or.jp/iaru-r3/13r3c/docs/docs.htm>

Two Working Groups dealing with policy and operational issues met in parallel. A third Working Group to consider constitutional issues met when the other two Working Groups were not in session. Proposals to amend the Constitution that had been proposed in advance by member-societies were considered, and modest amendments were adopted. Recommendations were adopted addressing a wide range of Amateur Radio issues, including the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference, BPL/PLC interference, international licensing, and development of Amateur Radio in the Pacific Islands, interference from unauthorized non-amateur stations operating in the amateur bands, emergency communications preparedness, and signal reporting for digital modes.

Five new Directors were elected to manage the affairs of the Region between conferences. They are Michael Owen, VK3KI, who also was elected Chairman of Directors; Shizuo Endo, JE1MUI; Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN; Peter B.Lake, ZL2AZ; and Prof. Rhee-Joong Guen, HL1AQQ. The contributions of retiring Directors Y. S. Park, HL1IFM, Chandru Ramchandra, VU2RCR, Yoshiji Sekido, JJ1OEY, and K. C. Selvadurai, 9V1UV were noted with great appreciation. Keigo Komuro, JA1KAB, continues as Secretary of the Region.

Branch Spots:

NZART's Branch 66, the Auckland VHF Group, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary over Labour Weekend this year. Plans are on course for a social and fun time that includes an old style transmitter hunt, a mobile rally, BBQ's and an Anniversary Dinner all with plenty of time for what anniversaries are about, reminiscing. The VHF group is trying to contact as many old timer VHF'ers as possible many of whom it has lost contact with over the years with address changes and such like. If you are a former member of the Auckland VHF Group or know someone who has been, or wish to be on the mailing list for more information of the Celebrations you can drop a note to: Celebration, Auckland VHF Group, PO Box 10-138, Dominion Road Auckland. Or email to john.dunn@clear.net.nz

Congratulation to the Rotorua Amateur Radio Club, NZART Branch 33, which yesterday celebrated the 80th Anniversary of their formation. The occasion was marked with a special luncheon in the upstairs restaurant of the Rotorua RSA. About 53 persons from Rotorua, Te Puke and Kawerau Branches attended. The oldest Past President attending, along with the current President Graham ZL1GTB cut the 80th Anniversary cake. The five Past-Presidents present joined the current President ZL1GTB for an official photograph. Look for more details in future Break-In. – *Thanks to ZL1GTB for the information.*

Dates To Remember:

- **NZART Official Broadcast Next Sunday 27th August**
- **Next HQ-Info-Line E-mailed on Sunday 3rd September**

Jim Meachen ZL2BHF
Editor

Operating on the 614 – 622 MHz band Conditions for access

(The content of this document was developed by FMTAG, cleared by MED RSM in a letter of 3 August 2006 and issued by NZART Council on 11 August 2006.)

The band 614-622 MHz is not an amateur band.

Spectrum Licences are required for the operation of ATV (amateur television) repeaters on this band. Input to the repeaters may be from any appropriate amateur band making the repeaters open to all individual radio amateurs in the usual amateur radio way.

FMTAG arranges the engineering work for ATV repeater licences. The licences require engineering coordination with other licensed non-amateur users of a site, Management Rights owners and with holders of other Spectrum Licences. Technical coordination is facilitated by MED.

NZART holds many licences for ATV repeaters on 614 to 622 MHz. These are at selected hilltops throughout New Zealand. Exact licence details can be obtained from FMTAG.

All ATV repeater sites have been chosen to dominate the surrounding area and many are suitable for contests and experimental activity. By local agreement with the users, these ATV repeaters can be individually turned off for the period of a contest or for experimental activity.

The ATV repeaters are licensed at precise locations and most are on private land. Accessible public land is within the MED's 100 metre location tolerance for licensing.

Operation from other prominent hilltops for contest and experimental activity can be considered by FMTAG and assuming adequate and timely preliminary information, a temporary licence may be possible.

The organisers of a contest or experimental activity involving this band are to include the following words in the rules for the contest:

When submitting a 614 MHz to 622 MHz band contest log, a certificate is to be provided by the chief operator of the contest station that:

the contest or experimental station was operated by NZART members (NZART is the holder of the ATV repeater licence),

local ATV repeater trustees agreed with the turn-off of the ATV repeater for the period of the contest or experimental activity, and,

the contest or experimental transmissions complied with the licensed power.

Experimenters using this facility are to make a similar report to FMTAG and include the nature, dates and times of their activities.

Attachment: MED RSM Letter POL/1/24/3/1 of 3 August 2006.

File No: POL/1/24/3/1 3 August 2006

Fred Johnson
NZART Administration Liaison Officer
The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters
PO Box 40525
UPPER HUTT

Dear Fred Johnson

CHANGE IN LICENSING REGIME: 614 - 646 MHZ BAND

Thank you for meeting with us on 26 July 2006 to discuss the creation of a Management Right for the 614-646 MHz band. This letter confirms the discussion and outcomes of that meeting.

- Pursuant to Cabinet decisions, the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) will proceed with creating a Management Right in the 614-646 MHz spectrum block.
- Technical coordination of use of the Management Right for broadcasting and amateur radio purposes will continue to be facilitated by the MED.
- Registration of a Management Right automatically cancels any radio licences in the relevant bands. The MED will therefore issue Spectrum Licences to the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) that will enable the continued operation of NZART's licenced Amateur Television (ATV) repeaters. In some cases it may be necessary to clarify the present technical parameters of existing licences and the MED will liaise on a case by case basis as necessary.
- All ATV repeater sites have been chosen to dominate the surrounding area and many are suitable for contests and experimental activity. By agreement within NZART, these repeaters can be individually turned off for the period of a contest or for experimental activity.
- It is recognised that individual amateurs will from time to time operate from the locations of NZART licences within the parameters of the Spectrum Licence for that particular ATV repeater.
- The ATV repeaters are mostly located on private land. Accessible public land is generally nearby, within the practical tolerance expected of a grid reference, and such land may be used by individual amateurs.
- Operation from other prominent hilltops for contest and experimental activity can be considered by NZART and assuming adequate and timely preliminary information, a temporary licence may be possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or comments. I would appreciate any feedback before **14 August 2006**.

Yours sincerely

Ian Hutchings
Senior Policy Analyst
Radio Spectrum Policy & Planning
Resources and Networks Branch