



13 June 2004

Issue # 75

Greetings Everyone,

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

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Keypoints from NZART Conference in Marlborough:

From Council's Friday Meeting

- All Youth Awards be given a higher profile on the NZART web site, so that branches are encouraged to nominate suitable recipients.

- **Subscription for 2005 will be:**

Transmitting/Non-Transmitting	\$95
An Early repayment rebate of \$15 is applicable if paid before 30 November 2004	
Family membership	\$30 no change
Maximum payable \$120	
Students	\$40
Overseas Surface mail (no GST)	\$95
Overseas Airmail (no GST)	\$110

- Break In will be trialed for a three-issue period in bookshops in the main centres, commencing with the July/August issue.
- Council is to review the structure and purpose of the Business Management Committee, which is governed by terms of reference established in 1999.

- FMTAG, Council, and HQ expressed concern and disappointed at the failure of many branches to provide the requested annual repeater/beacon information for Call book. Only 50% so far have replied.
- The sale of NZART clothing by HQ is to be **discontinued** due to a very poor response.

Marlborough Conference Highlights

- Delegates welcomed by Dr Stuart Watchman ZL2TW Chairman of the Blenheim conference committee.
- The Conference AGM was Officially opened by Marlborough District Councillor Larry Pigou.
- The Youth Achievement award for best examinations result awarded to Heidi McKenzie ZL4HAM from Eastern Southland Branch.
- The Association Treasurer, Evan Sayer spoke to the annual accounts. These were carried with no comments from the floor. Messer's Parsons Roddick was appointed as the Association Auditors.
- Officer reports as printed in Break In were presented to the meeting. Administration Liaison Officer, Fred ZL2AMJ advised that over the next 18 months we will progressively implement great changes as discussions and agreements are reached between the Ministry of Economic Development and NZART
- Fred Johnson ZL2AMJ was presented with the Amateur of the Year Award for his outstanding efforts for amateur radio in 2003. AGM attendees gave Fred a standing ovation in support of this award and in thanks for his unceasing and tireless efforts for Amateur Radio.
- A quorum of 1220 was required for the AGM to proceed. 1604 transmitting members were confirmed present or represented.
- **REMIT 1 NZART Constitution**
- Considerable discussion regarding changes to the Constitution saw a global amendment put, correcting some small errors and replacing Clause 2.8 vi with *To be associated with and support a Branch of the Association.* **This was carried on voices.** The amended remit was then put, and **CARRIED ON VOICES**
- **REMIT 2 Manawatu Branch "Foundation Licence"**
Many questions arose from the floor, with the intent of this remit, as it appeared to revisiting a remit submitted at the 2003 AGM.
THE REMIT WAS LOST ON VOICES

- Honorary Life Membership of the Association was awarded to Bob Knowles ZL1BAD for his many years of work with NZART Intruder Watch and IARU Monitoring Service.
- General business saw the approval and implementation of an Annual ALL KIWI Contest to commemorate the removal of CW requirements. Western Suburbs Branch 03 has offered to organise this event each year.
- NZART President Peter ZL2SJ paid special tribute to Jamie ZL2NN for his continued assistance with IARU Region 3 affairs, NZART Band Plans and an updated edition of the Basic Radio Training Manual. Jamie has been forced into early retirement after a serious fall. The AGM applauded Jamie's commitment and dedication.
- The prestigious Stirrers award presented to David Andrews ZL2SX.
- The AGM concluded at 3pm.

Saturday Night Dinner:

- The Young Amateur of the year award co- sponsored by NZART and Com-Centre was presented NZART Business Manager Debbie ZL2TDM for onward presentation to Heidi McKenzie ZL4HAM.
- Richard ZL1BOK of Com-Centre presented a YAESU FT-857D Transceiver to NZART HQ for the benefit of visitors. This was gratefully received.
- The Red Honorary Life Membership badge was formally presented to Bob Knowles ZL1BAD

From the NZART Administration Liaison Officer:

New Directions in Amateur Radio Licensing in New Zealand

This is a summary of essential points from the report by Fred Johnson MNZM ZL2AMJ, NZART Administration Liaison Officer, given at the NZART Conference, Blenheim, 5 June 2004.

There has been a complete review of the conditions for the Amateur Radio Licence in New Zealand, the most thorough review ever. It commenced with a letter on 18 July 2003 from NZART to the Ministry of Economic Development, Radio Spectrum Management group (RSM), asking for the many successful outcomes for the Amateur Service from the World Radiocommunications Conference 2003 to be implemented in New Zealand. Your NZART ALO has been working with RSM to develop these new requirements. NZART Council has been kept apprised of the developments.

This is to advise you of the coming changes - but we all have to wait until the Ministry makes the official announcements.

The Ministry is changing its licensing software system to SMART (Spectrum Management and Registration Technology) and this system is expected to come on-stream in about 18 months. Some changes may have to wait for this new system to be operating as explained in the following notes.

The changes start on 17 June when a new revised Schedule 3 attached to our licence comes into effect. Other changes will take effect over the next 18 months or more. The news is all good. Many long-standing problems are being eliminated. Some of the changes are believed to be world firsts.

As a licensed radio amateur, what changes can I expect?

All present radio amateurs may soon receive a letter from the Ministry explaining the full regulatory details and other release information. The following points give background to some of these matters.

1. A callsign must be transmitted at least once every 15 minutes during communications.
2. The permitted maximum transmitter power output for an amateur station is quoted with one figure: 500 watt PEP. This is defined in the ITU RR 1.157 (see Appendix following). With only one figure, it is now mode-independent.
3. Third-party traffic, which since 1988 has been permitted nationally within New Zealand, is now permitted internationally with **any country**. But **beware**: the station you work in another country may not be permitted to handle such traffic with you. Other countries have rigid country-to-country agreements for third-party traffic by radio amateurs. New Zealand is not a party to any such agreement. This is not New Zealand's problem, the other countries will have to change their rules to permit such traffic with you. NZART's "*Guidelines for Third-Party Traffic*" has been revised – a copy is available from your local Councillor or from NZART HQ.
4. Licensed overseas visitors, i.e. persons holding a current amateur certificate of competency, authorisation, or licence issued by another administration, may operate an amateur station in New Zealand under a General User Radio Licence (GURL) with similar privileges to a ZL resident station for a period not exceeding 90 days, provided the certificate, authorisation or licence meets the requirements of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544, or CEPT T/R 61-01, or CEPT T/R 61-02, and is produced at the request of the Chief Executive.
5. The present country-to-country reciprocal licence agreements will disappear in time as more countries directly recognise the licences issued by other administrations. Cross-border travel by radio amateurs will become easier.
6. The callsign to be used by a visitor from overseas will be the home-country callsign as allocated by the other administration with an added **prefix** "ZL" **or** an added **suffix** "ZL" which is to be separated from the national callsign by the character "/" (telegraphy), or the word "stroke" (telephony).
7. Encoded transmissions by radio amateurs remain prohibited but are now permitted for the licensees of remotely operated stations, for example repeater and beacon trustees and for satellite control.
8. The present unwanted emission limit figure for amateur stations -56dbW is being discarded. The ETSI standard *ETS 300 684* is being adopted to apply to any emissions falling outside amateur bands. Although this ETS is written for commercial amateur equipment, the requirement "*apply to emissions outside amateur bands*" gives support to amateur's experiments and home-constructed equipment. The established official view continues: "*what amateurs do within their own bands is their own problem and for them to fix*".
9. Licensees are now encouraged to prepare for, and to meet, the communication needs of national and international disaster relief. In New Zealand this has been an agreed and understood arrangement for decades but any written authorisation seems to have been lost in history. This international provision is now reflected in the new licence schedule.
10. To demonstrate competency in the Morse code is no longer a requirement for an amateur radio licence. There is no mention of Morse code in the new licensing provisions.
11. Morse testing by NZART will continue, voluntary for persons who wish to take a test for challenge purposes. NZART's Examinations Division could issue speed-achievement certificates. Some overseas countries are retaining a mandatory Morse requirement so a testing facility will be required for some overseas travellers for reciprocal-licensing purposes.
12. There is only one grade of amateur operator licence in New Zealand, the General Amateur Licence. The word "General" must continue meantime because it is hard-entered in the Ministry's existing database. This may change with the new SMART system expected in 2005 but is undecided.

13. All existing Limited Amateur licensees will automatically become General Amateur licensees on 17 June 2004 irrespective of what is written on their existing licences.
14. The very few present legacy Novice licensees and their separate conditions will continue and will be manually processed outside the database by the Ministry until extinction. No new Novice licences are possible. Novice Licensees require a pass in the examination to attain General grade and are encouraged to do so.
15. Existing Limited and Novice callsigns will be retained.
16. A change of callsign can be requested following the existing rules. There being only one licence grade, licences will no longer indicate a grade.
17. All amateur bands remain the same but the LF band is being listed for the first time as an allocated amateur band and is extended from 130 to 190 kHz.
18. The band 7.1 to 7.2 MHz is to become amateur exclusive world-wide in 2009 – but that’s a future excitement.

How does a person get an Amateur Radio licence in New Zealand?

19. There continues to be only one amateur radio examination, computer-generated, administered by NZART. The 600-question question-bank is being revised for the new conditions. New exam-generating software will soon be available for exam supervisors. Exams conducted after 17 June should be for the new conditions.
20. The present generally-established entry route into amateur radio is to pass the one examination and then spend some time on the VHF bands gaining operating experience. The future entry path into amateur radio continues this pattern. A pass in the examination is followed by access to several HF bands and to VHF for a 3-month period to gain practical operating experience and with at least 50 contacts logged. Then access is permitted to all amateur bands. This requirement is only for new amateurs licensed after 17 June 2004.

What other documents are being amended?

21. A special access arrangement to the band 50 to 51 MHz was developed in 1990. The wording is being updated and it will be republished. No change to the philosophy is expected.
22. The Ministry’s internal document about the format etc. of amateur callsigns is being revised. Amateur callsigns may now have up to four characters in the suffix with more than four characters for short-term special event stations. These changes may have to wait until the SMART system is in operation.

Where does NZART fit into all this? Licensing administration changes:

23. Applications for licences for amateur beacons, repeaters and fixed links in designated amateur bands will be subject to “engineering certification” from 1 October 2004. The procedures and arrangements are still being worked out, however this will likely entail one or more FMTAG members applying for Approved Radio Engineer status.
24. The maximum power output for amateur repeaters and beacons, being in designated amateur bands, will also be documented as 500 watt PEP. The definition ITU RR 1.157 refers (see Appendix).
25. A review of all fees is currently being undertaken by RSM. Further information on this matter, including the question of the amateur operator annual fee, is expected shortly.
26. Under SMART, the Amateur Operator Licence record entries in the Ministry’s database, including certificates of competency and amateur callsigns, will be directly managed on-line by an “MED Approved Examiner”. More work is to be done on this arrangement but the NZART Examinations Co-ordinator may be the person.
27. It is likely that there will be no Ministry fee when an “Approved Examiner” adds or makes changes to the operator licence entries on the Ministry’s database. A *once-only* fee for a *new* operator licence entry or for a Certificate of Competency may be decided upon and could be collected and retained by approved examiners. More work is being done on this too. NZART Council will further consider this issue.

28. Any follow-up enforcement required for non-compliance with, or breaching of, any licence condition is a clear *Ministry function*. There is no question about this – it is a statutory function. The Ministry has compliance auditing and enforcement arrangements in place, active and being strengthened.
29. Under SMART, certificates can be printed off by the “Approved Examiner” as required, probably for a nominal fee. This could be in a variety of forms and made more suitable for hanging on the shack wall. This should be an encouragement for youngsters to become qualified.
30. In the longer term, when the SMART system is working, the amateur licence itself may disappear and a GURL (“General User Radio Licence”) introduced for New Zealand amateur radio stations. The callsign allocated for the operator will then appear on the certificate itself.

Finally:

These changes are being introduced over a lengthy period. It is suggested that remits for further changes or tinkering be held off for several years until the new system settles down and is properly studied and understood.

With one examination, with only one licence grade, and with new and simplified procedures, New Zealand amateur radio is positioned for an exciting future. We are very fortunate to have a supportive and understanding administration. Thanks are extended to the staff of the Ministry for their enlightened and fresh approach to licensing.

Appendix:

Extract from The ITU International Radio Regulations:

- 1.157** *peak envelope power* (of a radio transmitter): The average power supplied to the antenna transmission line by a transmitter during one radio frequency cycle at the crest of the modulation envelope taken under normal operating conditions.

Amateur Licence Statistics from the Ministry of Economic Development’s web site with Tony Case ZL1UD:

Statistics				
Amateur Radio Licensing Statistics				
Category	Feb.26.04	Mar.23.04	Apr.27.04	May.24.04
General Grade	3171	3173	3173	3172
Limited Grade	1541	1543	1546	1547
Novice Grade	12	12	12	12
Total Licensed Amateurs	4724	4728	4731	4731
Beacons	42	42	42	42
Digi-peaters	29	29	29	29
Fixed	2	2	2	2
Repeaters	211	219	219	219
TV Repeaters	19	19	19	19
Total Licenses	5027	5039	5042	5042

Branch Spot: Far North Districts Amateur Radio Club 25 Year Anniversary

The celebration will comprise an evening meal at the Doubtless Bay Scouts Hall, Taipa on Saturday 26th June. Celebrations will also include a used equipment sale on Sunday 27th June commencing at 10.30am at the same venue. The Club has advised that they have extended the closing off date for registering for the Anniversary Celebrations. Names and numbers will now be accepted up until the evening of Tuesday 22nd June. A registration form is attached to this Issue HQIL.

Dates To Remember:

- **Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM returns from leave NZART HQ back in action Tuesday 15th June.**
- **Next NZART Official Broadcast 8pm & 9pm on Sunday 27th June.**
- **Next HQ-Info-Line e-mailed Sunday 4th July**
- **Closing Date for Next Issue of Break In 10th July.**

73

Jim Meachen ZL2BHF

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-

Branch 78 25 Year Celebrations Saturday June 26th / Sunday June 27th.

Registration form.

Name and Call Sign (if applicable):

Number attending: @ \$10 per head = \$.....

Postal address:.....

.....

.....

.....

Payment enclosed:.....

Please post to: Branch 78 NZART
arrival.
P.O.Box 4
AWANUI
Far North 0552

Registration can be e-mailed to
rshack@xtra.co.nz with payment on

Closing date is 12th June 2004

The celebrations comprise an evening meal at the Doubtless Bay Scouts Hall, TAIPA on Saturday 26th June. The cost is being subsidised by the Far North Districts Amateur Radio Club and is set at \$10.00 a head. B.Y.O.
Time is 6.30p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

The 25yrs celebrations also include a Used Equipment sale on Sunday 27th June at the same venue. This will commence 10.30 a.m. *If you have equipment you wish to trade please provide details beforehand so that space can be made available for you.*
A sausage sizzle will be available at \$2.00.

A separate program on Sunday is being planned for those not attending the sale. Dependent on numbers it is planned to visit local attractions some free and some with a concession entry fee. Attractions may include the Ancient Kauri Kingdom, The Gumdiggers Park, Matthews Vintage Car Museum etc.....

More details will be provided in a "registration pack" which will be mailed out to those registering. A raffle of two items of used equipment will also be held. Details in the registration pack.