



Headquarters - Info - Line

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The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



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Issue # 131

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 NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM says:

Elections: Voting forms will be included with your next issue of *Break In* due out in the next few days. Please make sure you complete and return them in the *freepost* envelope provided. This is your opportunity to vote for those people nominated for Council and President. The price of not voting will be to remain silent throughout the term of the nominees' office. It was disappointing to note that only a small percentage of membership returned their forms at the last election. Yet there has been considerable discussion on the airways and reflectors as to what Council could and should be doing.

The *freepost* envelope is ONLY valid for the duration of the election.

Away: I will be away from Monday 5th Feb until the following Monday 11th February as I am having family from the UK visiting.

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

Packet News

NZART has started a new e-mail list for General Packet Radio topics. HF & VHF & Satellites & BBS & NODES & WI-FI are included. See

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/Lists/>

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Comet Hunting is Like the Elusive DX Country

The bands are quiet for some, so an alternative to early morning grey band QSOs had an amateur on the track up to a local high point, before dawn, to see the early morning sun rise and its current comet. Arriving at the destination saw the sky covered with cloud so no comet this morning. Another morning, another try.

The story continues:

“After studying maps, reading the morning paper, checking out the Internet etc, I expected that a horizon view over the sea to be a better bet.

So at 8.30 pm we left, the cloud cover of the sky didn't bode well for comet spotting, nevertheless we continued on to our designated spot.

We were not the only ones comet spotting; about 5 other cars were parked on the grass verge, looking out to sea, so we joined up. It was 9.05 pm and the sun had not set, a bit cloudy at the horizon still, so we waited, and waited and waited, the sun dipped below the horizon, it was a very pink sky, still quite light, and one could detect the mountains of the South Island in the distance. And still we waited, it was then 9.35 pm.

All the others parked by us had packed up and left and I said if there is no show, we will go at 10.00 pm (having been up at 4.30 am for my first attempt at comet spotting I was a little tired).

There were 2 stars in the sky, no where near where Jupiter was supposed to be (it's a guide to locate the comet), so I got out of the car, to stretch my legs and lo and behold there it was. Quite high up, I reckon about 20 25 degrees above the horizon, and about 5 degrees to the left of where the sun had set. It was quite faint as I had to have my glasses on to see it, but through the binoculars it was fantastic.

A bright spot at the tip, and then the tail quite remarkable, it was very long so it seemed. We were both quite pleased so we stayed for 10-15 minutes looking at it trying to take a picture, but it was to faint to show up.

So having been comet spotting at night we headed home through a small town where there was quite a crowd all looking to the sky. It was very bright and the tail was magnificent. The complete comet followed us to almost home, then it faded into just the tail.”

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Contest News

UPCOMING NZART CONTESTS

Jock White Memorial Field Day Contest

Feb. 24 1500 – 2400 (Sat. NZST)

Feb. 25 0600 – 1500 (Sun. NZST)

NZART WARO Thelma Souper Memorial Contest

March 31 & 2000 – 2200 (Sat NZDT)

April 1 2000 – 2200 (Sun NZDT)

Sangster Shield QRP CW Contest

May 19/20 2000 – 2300 (Sat/Sun NZT)

2007 JOCK WHITE MEMORIAL FIELD DAY CONTEST

When – 24/25 February 2007.

Times – Saturday 24 – 1500 NZDT until 2400 NZDT and Sunday 25 – 0600 NZDT until 1500 NZDT.

For Contest Rules and other Operating Information please refer to either 2006/2007 NZART Callbook, Pages 5-2 to 5-4 or NZART Website –

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/contests>.

PLEASE NOTE THAT (ONLY FIELD DAY) LOGS ARE TO BE FORWARDED TO:

Stuart Watchman, ZL2TW, 33 Brooklyn Drive, BLENHEIM by 24 March 2007.

BOAT ANCHOR ACTIVITY/CONTEST

When – Saturday and Sunday, 10 & 11 February 2007, 2000 NZDT until 2200 NZDT each evening.

Updated Rules and other information are available from the NZART Website –

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/contests>.

2007 RSGB COMMONWEALTH (BERU) CONTEST

When – 10/11 March 2007. 1000UTC (10th) until 1000UTC (11th).

All Bands CW.

Please refer to Contests Column, Nov. /Dec. 2006, Break In, (Page 30), regarding the Commonwealth Countries Teams Section of this event. Frank, ZL2BR is co-coordinating the NZ Team – if you are interested in competing and becoming a member of the NZART Team contact him by email (zl2br@ihug.co.nz), or snail mail. Callbook address OK.

Here is a message from Bob Whelan (former President of RSGB and successful Commonwealth Contest participant) to ZL's giving hints and suggestions so as to enhance the ZL Team's scoring opportunities in the upcoming RSGB Commonwealth Contest Team's Event. Bob will be a member of the ZL Team operating from the Cook Islands (E5):

Yes the bonus points mean that every ZL pretty well, can help our score by working any other ZL call area in our team. So if you can suggest/cajole/threaten/bribe casual ZL ops to at least give the teams a few Qs then they will have done us a big service.

I want to try and understand what you think would be the best strategy for me to follow, clearly I want to work the whole ZL team on as many bands as possible, whether that will include 10m I don't know - but it might and if so when ?. I guess from your current experience of band conditions that only 80/40 are likely to be open at the start of BERU.

Anyway can we share some thoughts on these matters.

I had a look at other Commonwealth DXpeders at the same time and there is one due to start from 9M0 , one from 9M6, ZS3 (polar path?) , ZF? J6 or 8 but not too much else.

I should add that the other interesting team 'DX-exotica' captained by Dave J8? has been recruiting all over the place so when we know its members in a few weeks time that should provide some more to go after. I will post this on the website if I get it before we leave here on the 16th Feb.

73 and thanks, Bob G3PJT

OTHER CONTESTS

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 10 to 2400Z, Feb 11
Dutch PACC Contest	200Z, Feb 10 to 1200Z, Feb 11
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 23 to 2100Z, Feb 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 24 to 2359Z, Feb 25
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 24 to 1800Z, Feb 25
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 24 to 1300Z, Feb 25
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SS	0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 10 to 1000Z, Mar 11
UBA Spring Contest, CW	0700Z, Mar 17 to 1100Z, Mar 11
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 17 to 0200Z, Mar 19
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 17 to 1200Z, Mar 18
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 24 to 2359Z, Mar 25

That's about all for this week - another family of Grandkids have been with us and are returning home to Mt. Maunganui tomorrow. Am about to don the Chef's hat and fire up the Barbie.

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 25 February 2007**

2007 OB Sunday 8 pm. Broadcasts dates are: Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27, Jun 3 CONF OB, Jun 24, Jul 29, Aug 26, Sep 30, Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 23

- **Next HQ-Info-Line E-mailed on Sunday 18 February 2007**

2007 HQIL Sunday publishing dates are: Feb 18, Mar 4, Mar 18, Apr 1, Apr 15, May 6, May 20, Jun 10, Jul 8, Jul 22, Aug 5, Aug 19, Sep 2, Sep 16, Oct 7, Oct 21, Nov 4, Nov 18, Dec 9 Dec 23, 2008: Jan 13. Feb 3

Regards, Jamie Pye ZL2NN, Editor

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