



Headquarters - Info - Line

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The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



NZART Headquarters Infoline Issue 165
20 JULY 2008

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 Web Site. This bulletin is also distributed on the amateur radio packet network.

As NZART General Secretary is away there are no notes or comments from NZART HQ this time. However, several items have come to hand, which have been included. The items are not strictly HQ stuff, but worth passing on, even if all the contents will not be fully understood by all readers.

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 - Attachment for Branches:- NZART Headquarters Infoline 165.doc
- Official Broadcast this month is on SUNDAY 27 JULY 2008
Next Infoline is to be e-mailed on SUNDAY 3 AUGUST 2008

A Plea From The Call Book Editor

The Call Book Editor would appreciate the Branch Secretary or other Committee Member confirming or amending the details for the following Branch Nos:

04, 11, 17, 23, 26, 35, 39, 43, 47, 48, 51, 57, 62, 67, 69, 70, 72, 73, 76, 78, 83, 84, 85, 88

The current details can be viewed on the NZART website and these details will be used for publication in the forthcoming Call Book.

Please note that the spreadsheet may not show all the correct details for branches not listed above but all will be updated after receiving all amendments.

If you should have difficulty in getting the web spreadsheet to work please don't leave it in the too-hard basket, but e-mail the Call Book Editor at callbook@nzart.org.nz.

Many Thanks
Call Book Editor

Silent Key

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

1. Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault, and

2. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live, as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; his son, Reason. His four stepbrothers survive him; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Web Sites and Related Things

I do not envy Jamie and those that maintain web sites in the amateur radio world. After all I know what it is like having set up and run a couple, actually about 20 odd. Eventually I gave up all the commercial sites that I had worked so hard to gain in the first place. Trying to do it on the cheap just cost me way more than it was worth.

Many web site design companies have to write off or understate the expense of creating a site. It takes the experience and abilities of at least three people or more with there being at least four distinct areas of expertise required. A graphics artist is a must and if you do not have at least basic skills you are confined to vanilla sites such as the one I have done for the Auckland VHF Group. Next comes the html layout which requires a few more skills than the html editor of old. Today the html code is embedded in php code and often in database fields. Blogs are a good example. Users enter text that can contain html code in an Internet accessed GUI interface which is then stored away in an SQL data base. Which leads on to the Data Base designer. Being able to understand code and data structures is an absolute requirement. Finally we get to the System Administrator. The person who is able to set up the computer or the BOFH as he is affectionately known. It is not possible to even touch on the skills required here.

I will leave you to do some homework and search for the term BOFH. That will lead to Simon Travaglia. Great sense of humour and all round good guy from the early days of the net. I remember when he created the character and like many of the day frequented Usenet news and IRC chat.

But wait there is more. I just love that saying. There are two different planets so to speak. Planet Bill and planet Linus and never shall the two meet and of course they revolve around us. Muggins the computer user who is always right or is that left. Oh dear. Do we really know which way we are going? I am sure most will know who Bill is. Bill Gates the founder of Microsoft and author of MS DOS who went on to build a mighty empire. And of course Linus Torvalds, creator of the Linux kernel.

I live on planet Linus having moved from planet Bill in the early days. From many years experience helping new users on Undernet IRC channel #LinuxHelp I know that it is a very difficult task learning how Linux works. Multi tasking kernels, processes, users and permissions and all that stuff that Windows users are not

familiar with. Many people have approached me asking questions and in most cases the answer is read the manuals. The only other question I can easily answer is what distribution to use.

Debian with the option of either Ubuntu or Kubuntu. These two options extend the user friendly interface of Debian. One has Gnome (Ubuntu) as the default desktop environment, the other KDE (Kubuntu). Personally I use Debian Sarg at present with the KDE desktop environment however it is getting time to move to the next version of Debian (etch). A full set of install disks for Debian is 3 or more 600 MB CD's last time I looked so ADSL is a must. There are other options though. With Debain there is the option of downloading one install disk, which does all the basic stuff, and then using apt-get to install selected packages from a Debian mirror.

So spare a thought for the Sys admin or Webmaster who toils long and hard to put the public face of amateur radio out there on the Internet. Contribute content, proof reading and support where you can. One page of accurate up to date content is worth many pages of poor content. I will leave you all with this suggestion. Co-ordinating and managing New Zealand's Amateur Radio web sites would be a good step forward.

Peter Bennett, ZL1UPB, Webmaster Auckland VHF Group

Contest News

VHF-UHF Contest Notes

The Next Contest

The next contest is the Brass Monkey Contest, 50 MHz and above, on Saturday 2 August and Sunday 3 August 2008. The operating times are: Saturday 1700 to 2300 NZT and Sunday 0700 to 1300 NZT.

The rules are available at:

<www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/contests/vhfcontestrules0606.html>

All contest logs should be sent, to arrive within two weeks, to:

zl2wa@clear.net.nz

or:

Contest Manager, Wellington VHF Group, P.O. Box 12-259, Thorndon, Wellington

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HF

Please see the updated page:

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

Upcoming Events

Whangarei ARC Sale - Saturday 26th July 2008

Hamilton Market Day - Saturday August 9th 2008

Repeco - Rally NZ 2008 - 29th - 31st August 2008

DayBreaker® Rally 2008 - Saturday 11 October 2008

2008 Silver Fern Rally - 16 October 2008 Branch 22

Wellington Region Expo - Saturday, 4th April 2009

See

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

for further details.

Break-In and Infoline Information

Break-In Closing Date Reminders

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

"Copy for the SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER issue of Break-In closes on 10 SEPTEMBER 2008.

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 3 SEPTEMBER 2008 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 at 8pm Sunday: 2008 Jul-27 Aug-31 Sep-28 Oct-26 Nov-30 Dec-21

*** NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 27 JULY 2008 * and
* Next HQ-Info-Line e-mailed on Sunday 3 AUGUST 2008 ***

Infoline on Sunday: 2008 Jul-20 Aug-03-17 Sep-07-21 Oct-05-19 Nov-09-23 Dec-07-21
Regards, Jamie Pye ZL2NN, Editor zl2nn@nzart.org.nz