



Headquarters - Info - Line

... a service from ...

The New Zealand Association of
Radio Transmitters Incorporated



NZART Headquarters Infoline Issue 174
07-December-2008

Greetings Everyone

The penultimate Infoline for 2008. From first seeing the word used as a young technician, the word penultimate has stuck in my memory, and I like using it when possible. The first time I saw this word used was in 1958 on NZ Post Office VHF transmitters, where the driver power amplifier was labelled "Penultimate Amplifier". The penultimate amplifier in the transmitter was described to me as the last but one. However, I agree with the current usage of "driver amplifier" as it is more descriptive and less formal.

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

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Official Broadcast this month is on SUNDAY 30-NOVEMBER-2008

Next Infoline is to be e-mailed on SUNDAY 21-DECEMBER-2008

From The NZART Business Manager Debby ZL2TDM

Debby Says....

Call book on the web....Just an update for you all, I am still waiting for the latest information from the Radio Spectrum Database to be able to produce a pdf file for our web page.

Once again I request that should you wish to receive a hard copy of this, when it is available, please forward an A4 stamped addressed envelope to me and I will send it out.

Subscriptions...are now due - for those who have yet to pay, please send before the end of December to ensure you receive Break In next year. You may find it easier to pay directly to our bank account BNZ 02 0772 0209760 00. If paying by this method please include your membership number as a reference.

Nominations for Council/President....I have received a number of enquiries regarding the nomination form for these elected positions. It was attached to the last issue of HQ Info-line, however for your convenience it included with this one also.

Please remember that all nominations must be addressed to the "Returning Officer", and received at NZART HQ on or before the 31st December 2008. Facsimile nominations are not acceptable.

For those nominees who have forwarded their forms, can you please prepare a small bio about yourself of 200 words or less, plus a passport size photo for inclusion in the February issue of Break In.

Headquarters will be closed...I have now been given approval to take leave, believe it or not, I do need it! Therefore the office will be closed from December 29th until January the 19th, however the mail will be collected by the Returning Officer for nominations to Council up to and including the 31st December.

Finally a request from Eric WA6HHQ

My Wife Lerma (KD6ANH) and I are travelling to New Zealand for the first time at the end of December (Dec 28 - Jan 12th). We will be staying with friends on Great Barrier Island for the first week and then heading down to Christchurch on Jan 2nd. We relax there for a day and then will fly a small plane for 5 days touring the South Island from the 4th to the 8th. Both Lerma and I are also private pilots. (See: <http://www.restnztours.co.nz/skysafari.cfm> and <http://www.flighttraining.co.nz/Home>)

At the end of the flying tour I've left us 4 days of unplanned time before we head back from Auckland to California. Do you have any suggestions on what we might want to see or do before we leave? My initial thoughts are to fly back to Auckland and then rent a car to drive around the north Island. But there might also be more we want to see on the South Island in the Christchurch area. It might also be fun to meet with some local ZL ham's for a meal or even to go to a club meeting, but I'm not sure where to start there. Any ideas will be greatly appreciated. Feel free to pass the word around in the ZL community.

Talk soon...Debby ZL2TDM

December 2008 FMTAG Notes

NZART Council approved publication of the following FMTAG Notes, at its December meeting, for the information of, and seeking comments from, NZART members.

INTERIM RECOMMENDATION

Branch 12 Hamilton has applied to change the operating frequencies of its BBS National System access station, located at Seddon Road, map reference NZ260 S14 102773. The transmit frequency will change to 434.975 MHz and the receive frequency will change to 439.975 MHz. An engineering evaluation confirms that there will be no interference to other stations.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

None this month.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Please send your comments and suggestions on the above matters and recommendations, and on any other FMTAG matters, by e-mail to fmtag@nzart.org.nz

Applications for repeaters, beacons, digipeaters, point-to-point links, and so on, should be made on the latest version of FMTAG Form 10. The latest versions of FMTAG Form 10, and the explanatory Form 10A, are available on the NZART web site:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/nzart/fmtag.html>

Completed forms should be sent by e-mail to fmtag@nzart.org.nz

END

Being a Councilor of the NZART

You will all be aware that nominations are being called for the position of NZART President and Council representing the Northern, Central, Midlands and Southern districts.

This article is edited from a document written by Michael Owen VK3KI entitled "Being a director of the NZART" I have taken Michaels' excellent words and given it an NZART and ZL slant.

In VK, the WIA directors have given some thought and discussion as to what qualities are required in an individual who puts his or her name forward. I have tried, in editing this to give the ZL perspective, and as such this also represents some of my personal views.

I think it is worth raising the whole question because I am sure that anyone considering nominating will think about what he or she can contribute to the NZART and then, when members are asked to vote, they will consider what each candidate can contribute, and hopefully look to a Council with synergistic skills and experience.

The NZART Council does not meet personally very often, usually only two times a year. The monthly Council net on 80m has its limitations, some subject matter is confidential and can't be openly discussed, and at other times the propagation conditions on 80m prevent good and full discussion from taking place. Accordingly, Councilors communicate sometimes by phone and mainly by email, more or less on a daily basis. That means that you do have to be able to express yourself adequately in writing. The monosyllabic response does not contribute much, and the point of exchanging views is to try and ensure that all points are properly considered.

You also have to read a lot. Much of what has to be read is dry, regulatory stuff. Certainly not scintillating! That is because Councilors are asked to provide input on many policy issues, whether it is a draft paper, responding to a discussion paper on issues that may have an impact on the Amateur Service, or just a report on an area where the NZART is represented. Much of the important work of Council is involved in things that are not the fun of amateur radio, rather what many find much less interesting.

In addition, while each Councilor may take a special responsibility for particular matters, such as liaison with our valued officers or membership, NZART Council relies on people who are appointed as coordinators or officers to look after aspects such as the QSL Bureau, FMTAG, and many others.

On the other hand, a Councilor who takes responsibility for a matter has to ensure that the matter is brought to finality. You not only need the time to deal with the daily emails, but also to complete particular tasks you undertake.

Does that help identify the skills and experience that the Association needs on its Executive Council?

Actually, what Council needs is a mixture of skills. In my view, underlying Council's approach to virtually every question, the economics of publishing a book or magazine, the management of the amateur qualification examination system, taking responsibility for the financial outcomes of the Association, the subscriptions we charge, the insurances we seek, all involve a mixture of managerial, accounting, financial, commercial and other skills. NZART would not be served by a Council made up solely of accountants any more than it would by a Council of only communication engineers.

Yes, of course we want true amateurs. But a mix of technical, managerial, commercial and professional experience and skills at Council level means that the NZART is better equipped to meet the challenges of the next period.

Does it matter from where people come?

Although Councilors are elected from each call district, no one elected to Council should expect to exclusively represent a particular group or area. Each Councilor must act in the best interests of all members of the Association. So, in that sense, it just does not matter from where a Councilor comes.

But it is obviously important that Council has a mix of people from different areas. I am sure that if all Councilors came from Auckland or Wellington, they would have little understanding of the perceptions and needs of amateurs in other areas. Thus Council benefits from a mix.

It has been suggested that a thick skin is also needed. Unfortunately, there is some truth in that. Council cannot act to please all members at all times. For example if 80% of amateurs supported an entry level licence during the consultation process, then 20% were opposed. Some of those who disagreed with the introduction of an entry level licence would continue to disagree with NZART working to make it work successfully, sometimes in an antagonistic way.

Some would like NZART to be some sort of Spectrum Police. NZART cannot take that role, it is clearly a function of central government through the Radio Spectrum Management branch of the Ministry of Economic Development. Those who do not accept that position can also be antagonistic.

Above all else, NZART must continue to attract new members. A Councilor must be prepared to go to meetings and events where NZART can be promoted.

Being a Councilor of NZART is nothing like being a member of a tennis club committee, where there is a monthly meeting and all correspondence is read out, every payment is discussed, and every issue like whether the club can afford better biscuits is discussed.

Being a NZART Councilor means a lot of time, a lot of effort, a lot of reading and a lot of writing. You may also find that you have to meet some travel and other incidental costs, not all of which can be claimed back from the Association.

But, as NZART faces new and real challenges, if you have the skills and experience and the time and the interest, then it can be totally satisfying, because you are working to secure the future of amateur radio.

Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC

A Lookup System For SMART

On the home page (<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/>) you will find in the right hand column a form where you can enter a callsign. Once a callsign is entered and the "submit" bar clicked, the form will go and get the callsign information from the MED SMART database.

This service is given to the NZART Web by Andrew ZL3AME.

The lookup service is done by the form, held on the NZART home page, requesting data from a Python script program running on Andrew's web server. Next the Python script looks for the data from the MED SMART database, formats it, and shows it in a page on Andrew's web server.

Andrew points out that the query may be slow, (my testing doesn't show this in any way EDITOR)and that its continued operation is not guaranteed. Also that NZART or Andrew does not take any responsibility for it or the consequences of using it.

Another service from NZART and promoted on its Web.

Database Of Nets

Steven Muvay ZL2DAT is prepared to make up a list of amateur radio nets, for the interest and information of amateur radio operators in general. The list will be on the NZART website and available to all. If you would like your net to be part of this list please e-mail Steven on zl2dat@nzart.org.nz.

Contest News

VHF/UHF/SHF CONTEST NOTES

The next contest is the DX Weekend Contest, on Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th of February 2009. The operating times are: Saturday 1700 to 2300 NZT and Sunday 0700 to 1300 NZT.

The contest 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:

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

or:

Email: zl2wa@clear.net.nz

Website: www.vhf.org.nz

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HF Contests From NZART Contests Manager

My apologies for the lack of a bulletin last weekend - I had to go for some medical tests, which took a lot longer than expected and afterwards meant a bit of shopping for follow up medication. In spite of the foregoing the advance publicity for the CQ World Wide CW Contest, no doubt, assisted the good support of ZLs to this event. The band conditions above 20m were anything but inspiring, while the lower bands played well, especially 80m.

The only contest of note this weekend is the ARRL 160m Contest.

Next week sees the running of the ARRL 10m Contest and it maybe somewhat optimistic to anticipate any improved 10m band conditions if current Solar Flux numbers are current at that time.

2009 JOCK WHITE MEMORIAL FIELD DAY CONTEST

When:- Saturday, 28 February 2009 and Sunday, 1 March 2009

Times :- Saturday - 1500 NZDT (0200 UTC) until 2359 NZDT (1100UTC)

Times :- Sunday - 0600 NZDT (1700UTC) until 1500 NZDT (0200 UTC)

Bands :- 80m and 40m

Modes :- SSB and CW

Rules :- Please refer NZART Website – www.nzart.org.nz/contests . Updated Rules and other operating information will be included in the November/December Break In Contest column. Additionally, a NZART HQ Circular will be issued in the near future encapsulating the revision of sum of the Contest rules. The Contest Website will also be updated within the next 10 days.

RSGB COMMONWEALTH CONTEST

When:- 14 & 15 March 2009

Time:- 1000Z (14th) to 1000Z (15th) – All Bands – CW Only

Contests Rules and other operating information is, or will be available at :-

<http://www.vhfcc.org/hfcc/rules/2009/beru.shtml>

OTHER FORTHCOMING CONTEST INFORMATION

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec.5 until 1600Z Dec.7

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 13 to 2400Z, Dec 14

OK DX RTTY RTTY Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20

Croatia CW Contest 1400Z, Dec 20 to 1400Z, Dec 21

Apologies for the layout in this week's bulletin - am having some problems and fixing may mean the bulletin may not get out .

73, John Powell ZL1BHQ, NZART Contest Manager

Upcoming Events - 2009 is not Far Away

On Saturday 07-March-2009, The Te Puke Amateur Radio Club Inc. will be holding their Market Day @ Paengaroa Community Hall.....

Wellington Region Expo - Saturday, 28-March-2009

For Details Please Look at:

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

14th IARU R3 Conference - Christchurch 12 to 16 October 2009

See

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/update/events/iaru-conf.html> or

www.jarl.or.jp/iaru-r3/.

Break-In and Infoline Information

Break-In Closing Date Reminders

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

"Copy for the JANUARY/FEBRUARY issue of Break-In closes on 10-JANUARY-2009.

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 03-JANUARY-2009 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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Auto-Subscription and Un-Subscribe

To Subscribe: It has never been easier to subscribe to the Infoline distribution list and have Infoline sent to you direct by e-mail. Just check into the NZART web page:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/Lists/index.html> of the NZART Web.

Supply your name, call sign and e-mail address and that's all you need to do. You will receive an e-mail confirmation of your auto-subscription.

To Un-subscribe: Send an e-mail message from the subscribed e-mail address to imailsrv@nzart.org.nz with the following WORDS in the body of the message: unsubscribe infoline.

PLEASE NOTE the above UN-SUBSCRIBE INSTRUCTIONS will only work if you send the UN-SUBSCRIBE MESSAGE from your ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBING E-MAIL ADDRESS. Send an e-mail to the address shown at the end of this newsletter if you are having difficulties.

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Dates for Official Broadcast (OB) and Head Quarter's Infoline

OB 2008 8pm Sunday: Dec-21

*** NZART Official Broadcast Sunday 21-DECEMBER-2008 * and**

*** Next HQ-Info-Line e-mailed on Sunday 21-DECEMBER-2008 ***

Infoline 2008 Sunday: Dec-07-21

Regards, Jamie Pye ZL2NN, Editor zl2nn@nzart.org.nz

ELECTORAL

Nomination for President and Executive Council period 2009/2010

To: The Returning Officer –Nomination
 N Z Association of Radio Transmitter Incorporated
 PO Box 40525
 UPPER HUTT 5140

I, the undersigned nominator HEREBY NOMINATE

_____ (ZL _____)
First name Surname Callsign

For the office(s) of:

		Tick <input type="checkbox"/> One
President		
Councillor for the _____	District	
President AND Councillor for the _____	District	

Select the required alternative and complete as necessary – In the event of the member being elected to both offices the member is deemed by the Association Constitution to prefer the office of President.

I, the undersigned **seconder HEREBY SECOND** this nomination.

I, the undersigned **nominee HEREBY ACCEPT** this nomination.

We, the undersigned nominator, seconder and nominee severally **CERTIFY** that the nominee is an active amateur as defined in paragraph 2.4 of the Association Constitution.

Signature of Nominator

Signed by the Nominator:

Details of nominator:

_____ (ZL _____)
First name Surname Callsign

Of _____
Address for acknowledgement

Signed by the **Seconder**:

Signature of Seconder

Details of seconder

_____ (ZL _____)
First name Surname Callsign

(no acknowledgement is forwarded to the seconder)

Signature of Nominee

Signed by the **Nominee**:

Details of nominee:

_____ (ZL _____)
First name Surname Callsign

Of _____
Address for acknowledgement

Telephone number (_____) &/or facsimile number (_____)

NOTES

1. Nominations **must** reach the Returning Officer by **31 December 2008**. The Returning Officer has no discretion to receive late nominations even if postmarked prior to that date. **Facsimile nominations cannot be accepted.**
2. Allow ample time for transit by post. Holiday mail is often delayed.
3. **Nominees** may submit biographical details and photo to the Returning Officer at the address overleaf by **10 January 2009**, for probable inclusion in the January/February 2009 issue of Break In. Endorse the envelope "**BIOGRAPHY**". The Returning Officer, (who has the authority to edit details submitted), suggests a limit of 200 words.
4. No nomination should be presumed to be in order until acknowledged in writing – usually within seven working days.
5. Ensure that addresses are shown above for acknowledgements as often in the heat of the moment, this detail is overlooked.