



## **NZART HQ INFOLINE ISSUE # 480**

**From HQ...** Yes, I am finally back on deck and NZART HQ is open for business! It's so good to be back in the office and back to a new normal.

At this time of year, I remind members to pay their subscriptions before the end of November to be entitled to the discount of \$15 for Transmitting & Family memberships only, however I have not yet sent out the annual invoices.

As many of you know, we now have a cloud-based database and accounting package. What this means to you, those who have advised their email address will receive an invoice via email by mid-September. Those who have not will receive their invoice in the post.

We do not have a PayPal portal, therefore if you wish to pay by credit card, you will have to either email me with your details, or send me a hard copy of your remittance advice and write your credit card number expiry date and CVV on the form.

As I said in the last issue of InfoLine, as we struggle to get articles for each InfoLine issue, Council will discuss the possibility of reducing this to monthly circulation, in the middle of each month, so as not to conflict with the Official Broadcast.

Should Council approve such a move, you will all be advised, however it would not come into effect until the new year.

Talk soon...Debby ZL2DL

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**NZART Conference 2024 – Christchurch**

Save the date: 1st and 2nd June 2024

Venue: Wigram Air Force Museum

It's not too early to be thinking about presenting a forum/presentation on the Sunday - email us with your proposal. A themed Award and special callsign are being finalised and the conference website at [hamradio.co.nz](http://hamradio.co.nz) is up. Email: [conference2024@nzart.org.nz](mailto:conference2024@nzart.org.nz)

Regular updates will be posted via all NZART channels. We look forward to seeing you in Christchurch - start planning your trip now!

Blair ZL3TOY  
Secretary  
Christchurch Amateur Radio Club

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## 2023 East-Fest Agenda

September Christchurch B05 Auction (held at East-Fest)

Any Amateur can bid on auction items. You can set your start and end \$\$\$ limits. We can ship or send home with someone attending from your area.

Geoff ZL3GA  
Christchurch Amateur Radio Club

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## Courage Kenny Handiham Program 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day in the Park Special Event Announcement

On Monday, September 11, as part of the 2023 Handiham Radio Camp, we will be conducting a "Day in the Park" special event QSO party to honor the 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Courage Kenny Handiham Program. Our goal is to work as many stations as possible throughout the United States and beyond.

We will operate on both SSB and CW on 10, 15, 20, and 40 meters as conditions and our antennas allow from 11 AM – 4 PM Central daylight time (16:00 – 21:00 UTC).

We will be using both W0ZSW and W0EQO, two call signs with a rich history in the Handiham Program.

The exchange for this special event will simply be name and state, province, or country. We also will use this opportunity to promote and give more details about the Handiham Program for those who are interested.

Contacts will be confirmed via a commemorative Handiham special event QSL card if requested.

Please listen out for CQ Handiham 56, and give us a call. We'd love to hear from you!

For more details visit: <http://handiham.org> or <http://handiham.net>

Authored by: Lucinda Moodey AB8WF

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## Contests

Well, Winter is finished, and so are the Winter Sprints! Thanks again to Mark ZL3AB for organising and scoring this fun event. Results are now posted at [www.nzart.org.nz/activities/contests/sprints/sprints-results](http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities/contests/sprints/sprints-results)

The results of the NZART Memorial Contest have been compiled and are now available at [www.nzart.org.nz/activities/contests/memorial-contest/results](http://www.nzart.org.nz/activities/contests/memorial-contest/results)

Congratulations to Bill ZL3VZ, overall winner 2 years in a row now!

I hope you are all getting ready for the Oceania DX Contests coming up on 7th (SSB) and 14th (CW) October. The beams of the world point to Oceania over these weekends, it's a great time to be on-air. Don't forget to add your club/group affiliation in the Cabrillo "Club" field.

Geoff ZL3GA

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A New Kid on the Block and How to Beat the HF Propagation Blues

The new kid on the block is RandomGram (RG), the brainchild of Drew AF2Z.

It's an innovative CW contest requiring participants to make a two-way exchange of 5-letter groups. Each RandomGram event runs for nine hours and is fully explained at <https://groups.io/g/RandomGram>

Unfortunately, the fickleness of HF propagation has put a big damper on RG for us in the south-west Pacific. While intra-US contacts are going wild, it is very difficult if not impossible for us in the Oceania region to make any headway at all. So far Oceania contacts have been made only during the ninth hour. The result is lamentably low scores.

So how do we propose to beat the HF propagation blues? Easy. By banding together a strong cohort of VK and ZL operators, RG 5-letter code groups can then be exchanged in the Oceania region while trans-Pacific propagation simply isn't possible, and thus, at least to some degree, we will achieve a better geographic balance in the RG score lists.

The SKCC sked page is used extensively in real time by those seeking RG contacts.

Use it to announce your own availability and specify frequencies.

<https://sked.skccgroup.com/>

To see the growth in popularity of RG activity since inception, Drew has archived the results from the first four events:

Event # 1	<a href="https://groups.io/g/RandomGram/message/8">https://groups.io/g/RandomGram/message/8</a>
Event # 2	<a href="https://groups.io/g/RandomGram/message/18">https://groups.io/g/RandomGram/message/18</a>
Event # 3	<a href="https://groups.io/g/RandomGram/message/32">https://groups.io/g/RandomGram/message/32</a>
Event # 4	<a href="https://groups.io/g/RandomGram/message/111">https://groups.io/g/RandomGram/message/111</a>

A practical demonstration for the use of 5-letter groups occurred the day after Event # 3 when a significant bonus in the form of an Enigma encrypted message was transmitted by the sponsored Maritime Radio Historical Society's station KPH in northern California. Considering that Enigma encrypted traffic consists of several groups of four or five random-letters, this bonus event was entirely in keeping with the RG educational concept. One-hundred thirteen successful decryptions of the KPH message were submitted to K6KPH and a rather nice

'Certificate of Cryptographic Achievement' was subsequently awarded to each operator. We've been advised to expect more such bonuses.

In preparation for the next RG event, simply follow the instructions at <https://groups.io/g/RandomGram> to obtain your own list of registered 5-letter groups.

73 Stan ZL3TK

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***Next Issue of HQ InfoLine***

The next InfoLine is due out Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023. If you would like to share any events or report on any upcoming activities, please send these through to [nzart@nzart.org.nz](mailto:nzart@nzart.org.nz).

The Next Official Broadcast will be held 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Nga mihi nui. (Kind regards)  
Debby

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