

THE WORLD BELOW 400 GHz

The Periodical Newsletter of the
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NZART
BRANCH 81

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WAIKATO VHF GROUP EXECUTIVE

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General Meeting July 2019

A General Meeting of the Waikato VHF Group will be held on

Sunday, 21st July, 2019 at 1:30pm

at the Tauranga Volunteer Coastguard Headquarters, 72 Keith Allen Drive, Tauranga.

Click [HERE](#) for a location map of the venue.

In the guest speaker slot will be a video on

"Bletchley Park - Code Breaking's Forgotten Genius"

This BBC documentary tells the story of Gordon Welchman, one of the key contributors of WW2 and cold war code breaking. The story of Alan Turing has gone public years ago, this documentary explains why Gordon Welchman's achievements were kept a secret for all these years.

Non members and visitors most welcome.

Coax

We have 2 lengths of Rosenberger SL 012R PE coax for sale. Please contact ZL1PK for more info.



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Repeaters/Beacons

The Waikato VHF Group owns and maintains a number of repeaters and beacons in the greater Waikato and Bay of Plenty area. These are available for sponsorship for a period of 1 year. Please see <http://zl1is.info/sites.html> for a list of repeaters, beacons & links that are currently available for sponsorship. If you are interested in sponsoring one of them, please contact our Secretary (ZL1GWP) or Treasurer (ZL1TAT).

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VHF Group 2m Beacon

The Group's 2m beacon was removed from the Hamilton telephone exchange late last year due to the difficulty in being able to access the building. Recently approval has been granted for it to be installed in central Te Rapa. We will advise when it is up and running.

SARL position on French WRC-2023 proposal

{I'm including this due to recent discussion about the proposal on 144-146 MHz. This from South Africa seems to be very complete and states that the earliest anything could be decided is 2023. NZART are watching this and are ready to take action if needed. - Editor}

The **SARL** (South African Radio League) have received several requests for clarification and more information regarding the recent French proposal for expansion of frequencies for aeronautical mobile services including the **2m amateur band**.

The SARL responds as follows:

The sharing of the 1 240 - 1 300 MHz band with the Galileo satellite navigation system and the proposal from France to study a range of frequencies, including the 144 MHz amateur band, for future primary aeronautical applications were discussed at the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Project Team A, one of the groups leading WRC-19 preparations. The CEPT meeting considered views that the Galileo issue did not currently warrant a WRC-23 agenda item and should be first investigated within CEPT. The proposal for new aeronautical frequencies including 144 MHz was unfortunately not strongly opposed by other administrations and has been carried forward to the higher level CEPT- CPG meeting in August this year.

CEPT will make its final decisions during the 26 to 30 August 2019 at the WRC-19 Conference Planning Group Meeting for proposals that will then be put forward to ITU WRC-19 in October. If agreed at WRC, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) would start work on them in November 2019 and that would continue during 2020 to 2023 for WRC-23.

The various amateur radio organisations in CEPT countries are working with their authorities to block the proposal from being put forward as an agenda item for WRC-23. The IARU Region 1 raised its strong opposition at the CEPT Project Team A meeting and will continue to do so.

In South Africa, agenda items for WRC-19 and proposal for WRC-23 agenda items are discussed at the Department of Communications led National Preparatory Working Group for WRC-19 and South Africa's position agreed on. South Africa's positions are lobbied for support at SADC level and thereafter at the African Telecommunication Union for South Africa's approach to be adopted as the African position. The SARL is a permanent member of the NPWC and participates in all the meetings and discussion groups. The NPWC will meet in September to review the final agenda items and submit its position to Cabinet for approval to become the final position and as a briefing document to delegates attending WRC-19 in Egypt. South Africa will host the ATU APM4 at the end of August where the African position for Agenda items are finalised. The SARL is representing the IARU at this meeting.

"It is understandable that people are concerned about these developments," SARL president Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, said. The SARL is fully in touch with the discussions and will lobby at the NPWC meeting for South Africa to vote against the French proposal

if it is supported by CEPT and tabled for discussion to become an agenda item for WRC-23." It should also be noted that if the French proposal makes the WRC-23 agenda, several study groups will be formed to look at the feasibility of the proposal. The SARL will lobby for South Africa authorities to have a member on the relevant study group and brief him or her accordingly.

Nico van Rensburg said he fully understands the concerns expressed in the various media but warns against unduly hype being created. "The SARL is fully on top of the situation. I urge radio amateurs to show how they value the frequency spectrum they have at their disposal by being active on the band. The band under discussion by others, the 2-metre band, offers so many interesting challenges and activities. I urge you to take part in the various activities, talk around town, take part in long distant activity, operate satellite with the recently launched AMSAT SA 2 m/70 cm Yagi, attend the VHF workshop to be held on 20 July 2019 at the NARC.

"Radio Frequencies are in demand by many organisations and commercial interests. There are groups that monitor band occupancy on a continual basis and look for bands where there is low activity. My advice is do not just listen but be active. No activity creates opportunities for others to start making claims to satisfy their needs for spectrum. Be radioactive let your voice be heard on the bands."

The French proposal is a clear illustration, if ever there was one needed, for amateur radio on national and international level to speak with a unified voice, then it is now. A strong representative national society is most important to make that voice heard. If you are not already a member of the SARL, join now and be part of a strong national voice to ensure a future for Amateur Radio."

The SARL are working on both national and international levels to contribute to a positive outcome for the forthcoming World Radio Conference-19 items and WRC-23 Agenda proposals.

[South African Radio League](#)

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