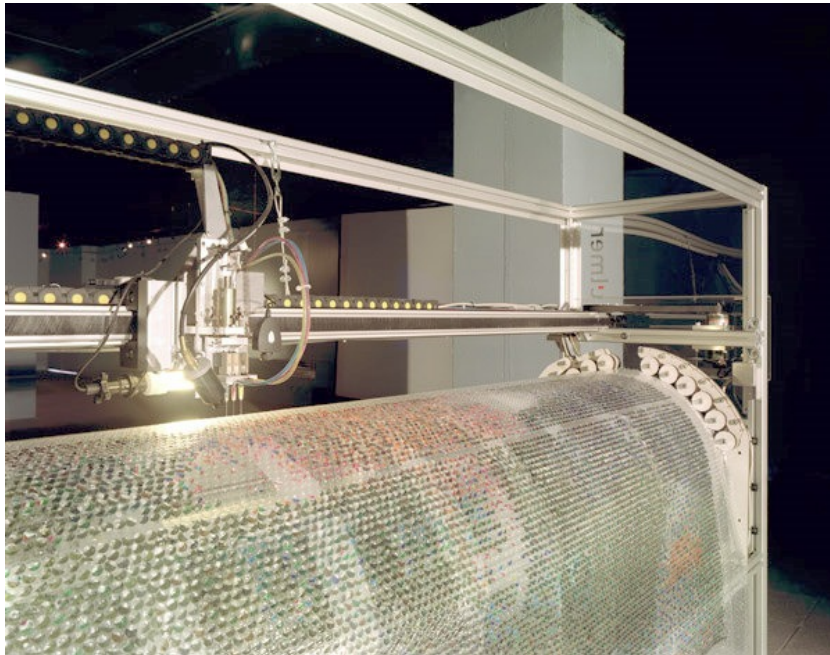


Ham Hum

April 2009



The official newsletter of
The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc.)
Branch 12 of NZART - ZL1UX
Active in Hamilton since 1923



**Next General Meeting replaced by -
Annual Club Dinner : 22nd April
Palladium : 6:30pm**

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From the Committee

The annual club dinner will be happening on 22nd April at 6:30pm in place of the April club meeting. See information on page 10 for more details.

NZART election results

President

D Roy Symon ZL2KH 513 Votes

John Lochhead ZL4QS 458 votes

Roy Symon is therefore elected President

Northern Region Councillors (3 Required)

Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC 337 Votes

Phil King ZL1PK 272 Votes

Tony Case ZL1UD 258 Votes

Stephen Hayman ZL1TPH 159 Votes

Brian Farrell ZL1HN 149 Votes

Vaughan Henderson, Phil King & Tony Case are therefore elected

Congratulations to club members Tony and Phil on their election to NZART council.

**Next Committee Meetings -
1st April & 6th May**

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SB PROP ARL ARLP013

ARLP013 Propagation de K7RA

Every day I check the 45 day forecast of planetary A index and solar flux from NOAA and the U.S. Air Force. For quite some time now, the solar flux forecast has been the same. The projection shows 45 days of solar flux at 70, with no variation. I look at this because there is so little sunspot activity, and I hope that any increase in predicted solar flux values may coincide with renewed sunspot activity. But this method hasn't worked out very well in the past year or so.

When I looked at this on Wednesday night, March 25, the 10.7 cm flux forecast showed 70 for March 26-27, then bumping up to 72 for March 28-31, then back to 70 for all of April and beyond. This is not much increase in activity, but with such a quiet Sun for the past few years, we become sensitive to small changes, and even optimistic at times.

Last night, Thursday, March 26 the prediction was nearly the same, except with the solar flux of 72 lasting two more days, through April 2.

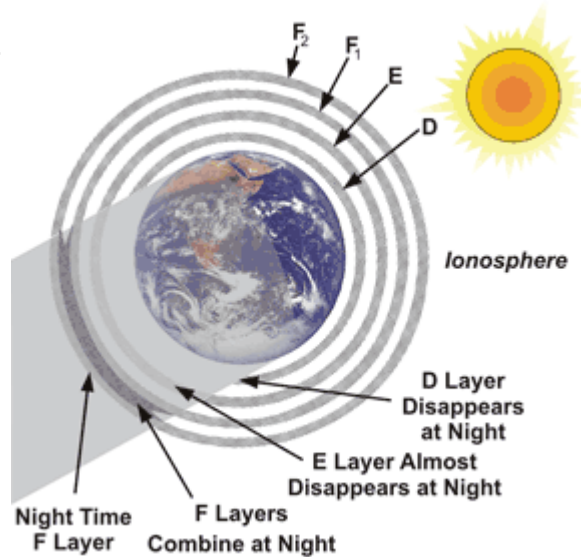
The forecasts are via <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/index.html>, click on "Alerts, Forecasts and Summaries," then "USAF 45-day Ap and 10.7 cm Flux Forecasts." The new daily forecast is posted around 2100z, but often doesn't appear in the list at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html> until later.

If you suspect this is the case, just click on the latest available date, then edit the URL at the top of your web browser to reflect the current date. So if it is Friday, March 27, and the latest listing you see is for March 26, just click on that link, and at the end of the URL change /032645DF.txt to /032745DF.txt and hit the Enter key. If that day's forecast has been uploaded, it should popup when you hack the web address using these instructions.

Early on March 26 Spaceweather.com reported a new "proto-sunspot" seen "struggling to emerge" at high latitude, making it a Cycle 24 spot. The same site reported the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) is monitoring "intense activity on the Sun's northeastern limb."

The following day Spaceweather.com repeated a common refrain heard lately after some activity begins to emerge: "Yesterday's proto-sunspot failed to emerge. The Sun is blank."

The NASA STEREO (Solar TERrestrial RELations Observatory) mission will eventually enable views of the entire Sun, so we will know in advance about emerging solar activity that is outside Earth's view.



The two spacecraft orbit the Sun similar to earth, but one leads the Earth and the other follows. The leading spacecraft A travels faster than the trailing spacecraft B, and because of this the angle of the two relative to each other gradually increases over time.

The craft were launched October 26, 2006 and they reached quadrature, or 90 degrees separation 62 days ago on January 24, 2009. Spacecraft A takes 347 days to complete an orbit of the Sun, and spacecraft B takes 387 days. They separate from each other at a rate of about 44 degrees per year.

View their current positions relative to Earth, the Sun, Venus and Mercury updated hourly at <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/where.shtml>. Click on the

STEREO Orbit Tool link, and you can view a similar image for any date and time from the launch date through the end of 2015.

NASA has a dense, single page pdf document describing the mission at <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/img/mpb.pdf>, and while we can't recommend Wikipedia as an always-reliable resource (its immediately changeable nature drives teachers and reference librarians crazy), the Wikipedia community seems to have a good information page on STEREO at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STEREO>. Other NASA resources are at <http://stp.gsfc.nasa.gov/missions/stereo/stereo.htm> and <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/>, and Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory has information at <http://stereo.jhuapl.edu/>.

Internet Links

Astrological image archives.

THEMIS—Mars Odyssey

<http://themis.asu.edu>

HIRISE—Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

<http://hirise.lpl.arizona.edu/>

Hubble Legacy Archive

<http://hla.stsci.edu/>

If you would like to add something that you've found on the internet to be useful, informative, or just plain funny, send it to me at zl1dgk@nzart.org.nz

NZART Conference 2009—Queen's Birthday Weekend 29 May - 1 June 2009

The Hawkes Bay Amateur Radio Club Inc (Branch 13) and the Napier Radio Club Inc (Branch 25) invite you to join us for what promises to be an ex-

citing weekend on the amateur radio calendar.

The venue is the Hastings Racecourse in Hastings city. The last time a Conference was held in Hawkes Bay was 1984. The members of both radio clubs looking forward to meeting and hosting old friends again in 2009.

Hawkes Bay is Wine Country. With our 37 wineries and unique Art Deco architecture, Hawkes Bay has become a fun place to travel for a holiday. Napier and Hastings were rebuilt in 1931 after the famous but deadly earthquake of that time. Boutique art galleries, great restaurants and bistros are numerous and Hawkes Bay hospitality is legend.

The Annual General Meeting on Saturday morning will be opened by Lawrence Yule, the Mayor of Hastings. A Recruitment forum will begin after the AGM and afternoon tea. There will be pre dinner drinks in the Cheval Room before you will enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner.

We expect to run the following forums: Recruitment, OTC, WARO, Icom, DX, AREC, Contest, SPAM, VHF. Others are planned and will be in the programme timetable.



Burghardt to No Longer Sell Amateur Radio Equipment

On March 16, Jim Smith, W0MJY, owner of Burghardt Amateur Center in Watertown, South Dakota <<http://www.burghardt-amateur.com/>>, announced that the company will no longer sell Amateur Radio transceivers and accessories. The company, now called Burghardt Radio Repair, has canceled all backorders. In an e-mail, Smith blamed the current economic conditions for the change that forced the company "to re-evaluate our goals and direction. We will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business. Our technicians are very experienced and parts inventories are good. Thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to continuing our relationships through our servicing facility." Jim Smith's son, Mike Smith, KC0FTM, told the ARRL that even though the company has had to lay off employees in the past couple of months, "Burghardt will concentrate on service, just like we have been doing since 1973." Burghardt was founded in 1937 by Stan Burghardt, W0IT (SK), as Burghardt Radio Supply. He sold the company to Smith in 1982, remaining

active in the company until January 2002. Burghardt passed away in 2004 at the age of 93.

-ARRL Letter

2009 Election for Council

The result of the 2009 Election for Council is as follows

President

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-----------|
| D Roy Symon | ZL2KH | 513 Votes |
| John Lochhead | ZL4QS | 458 votes |

Roy Symon is therefore elected President

Northern Region Councillors (3 Required)

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|
| Vaughan Henderson | ZL1TGC | 337 Votes |
| Phil King | ZL1PK | 272 Votes |
| Tony Case | ZL1UD | 258 Votes |
| Stephen Hayman | ZL1TPH | 159 Votes |
| Brian Farrell | ZL1HN | 149 Votes |

Vaughan Henderson, Phil King & Tony Case are therefore elected

Central Region Councillors (3 Required)

| | | |
|----------------|--------|-----------|
| John Andrews | ZL2HD | 206 Votes |
| Fred Johnson | ZL2AMJ | 192 Votes |
| Leith Jennings | ZL2AL | 185 Votes |
| Roy Symon | ZL2KH | 147 Votes |

Max wheatley ZL2MAX 133 Votes
Mike Mather ZL2CC 98 Votes
John Andrews, Fred Johnson & Leith Jennings
are therefore elected.

Midlands Region Councillors (2 Required)

Ann Fraser ZL3TNT
John Hirtzel ZL3ADF
Ann Fraser & John Hirtzel duly elected as
they were the only 2 Nominations to fill
the available positions

Southern Region Councillor (1 Required)

John Lochhead ZL4QS 38 Votes
Ken McVie ZL4NR 38 Votes

As the votes for these two candidates were tied, the election was decided by ballot in accordance with the Associations Constitution. John Lochhead was duly elected.

Scrutineers for this election were former Association President, Peter Norden, ZL2SJ and former Councillor Bob Stewart, ZL2AMI Company Director and Software Engineer Loek Strik and Dr Anton Erasmussen Research Scientist.

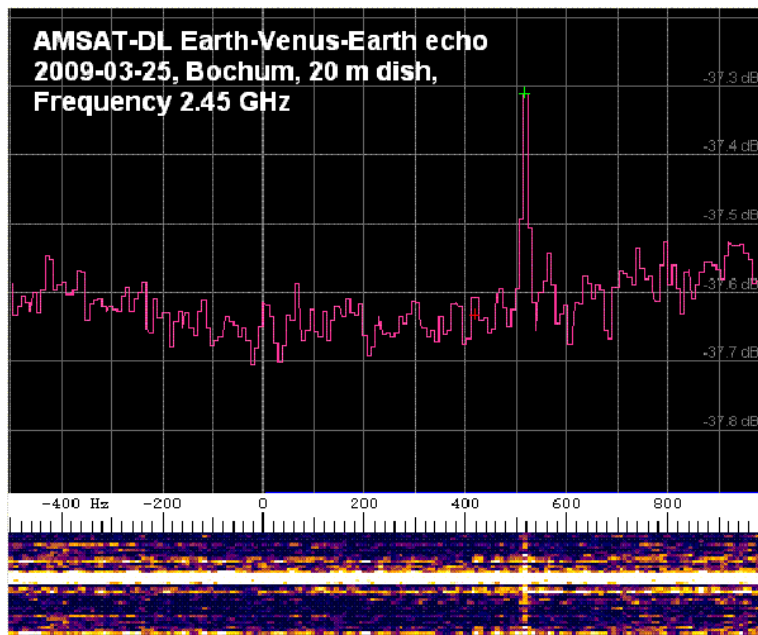
Evan T Sayer

Returning Officer

VSSTV - Very Slow Scan Television

Very Slow Scan Television (VSSTV) is a new television format that we have developed building upon Slow Scan Television (SSTV), an image transmission system used by Ham Radio amateurs. VSSTV uses broadcasts from this historic public domain television system and regular bubble wrap to construct an analogous system: Just as a Cathode Ray Tube mixes the three primary colors to create various hues, VSSTV utilizes a plotter-like machine to fill the individual bubbles with one of the three primary CRT colors, turning them into pixels on the VSSTV "screen". Large television images with a frame rate of one per day are the result, images that take the idea of slow scan to the extreme.

by Gebhard Sengmüller, in collaboration with Jakob Edlbacher, Johannes Obermayr, Gerhard Proksch-Weilguni, Ludwig Ertl and Andreas Konecky.





Annual Club Dinner

Palladium

22 April 2009

6:30pm

Victoria St (near Collingwood St)

Buffet/Smorgasbord \$20 each

This replaces the April General Meeting

An excellent chance for some social time
with fellow Hamilton Amateurs.

RSVP to Phil or Gavin so they can book a
suitable table.

Phil : zl1pk@nzart.org.nz or 847-1320
Gavin : zl1gwp@nzart.org.nz or 843-0326

Upcoming Happenings & Events

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Happenings & Events</i> |
|--------------------|--|
| 1st April | Committee Meeting |
| 4-5 April | Low Band Contest |
| 4-5 April | WARO Thelma Souper Memorial |
| 5th April | NZART HQ Info-Line |
| 6th April | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30 |
| 7th April | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00 |
| 11-12 April | VHF Convention 2009 (Hamilton) |
| 13th April | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30 |
| 14th April | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00 |
| 15th April | No meeting (see Annual Club Dinner) |
| 17-19 April | V8 Supercars |
| 18th April | AREC Training |
| 18th April | World Amateur Radio Day |
| 18th April | GlobalSET (EmComm) Exercise |
| 18th April | ZL-VK RTTY Sprint (80m) |
| 19th April | NZART HQ Info-Line |
| 20th April | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30 |
| 21st April | VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00 |
| 22nd April | Annual Club Dinner 6:30pm |
| 25th April | ZL-VK RTTY Sprint (40m) |
| 26th April | NZART Official Broadcast |
| 27th April | HF Net, 3.575 MHz, 19:30 |

28th April-VHF Net, 146.525 MHz, 20:00

29th April—Hamilton AREC Section Meeting (AREC)

2nd May—45th Rotorua Marathon (AREC)

2nd May—Wanganui Junk Sale

3rd May—NZART HQ Info-Line

7th May—Committee Meeting

9th May—Boat Anchor Sprint

10th May—Break-In deadline

16-17 May—Sangster Shield QRP CW Contest

17th May—NZART HQ Info-Line

21st May—General Meeting

24th May—NZART Official Broadcast

29 May-1 June—NZART Conference (Napier/Hastings)

31st May—NZART Official Broadcast (Conference)

6-7 June—Hibernation Contest

4th July—NZART Memorial Contest

25 July—Waitakere Sprints (Phone)

1st August—Waitakere Sprints (CW)

1-2 August—Brass Monkey Contest

8th August—Boat Anchor Sprint

15-16 August—ILLW

September—9th Kairangi Hill Climb (AREC)

3-4 October—Microwave Contest

11-17 October—"GET READY GET THRU" Disaster Awareness Week

12-16 October—14th IARU R3 Conference (Christchurch)

Hamilton AREC Section News

Hi all,

Kona is now over and the crew that went to the Coromandel did a great job. One of the comments that I heard from the organiser was "you are booked in for next year" and that was 48 hours before the event started.

The next major event is the Bridge to Bridge. The team is starting to look for operators for this event after Conference. There is some motorsport events coming up and Robin will keep everyone informed over these.

AREC Training: April the 18th at Papakura. We have sent a preliminary list off to Area, but there is room for more names.

Section Meeting This month. Wednesday the 29th of April. The first part of this meeting will be the debriefing for Kona.

I hope to see you all at the Club Dinner on the 22nd. Until then ...

Tony Case ZL1UD/ZK1EC

Section Leader

Upcoming AREC Events

Please mark these dates on your calendar and/or diary

The club has 2m handheld radios for use on events like these which means YOU can help out.

AREC Training

18 April 2009 in Papakura

Hamilton Section Meeting

29 April 2009



9th Kairangi Hill Climb 2009

September 2009

26th Annual Rollos Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic

November 2009

16 operators needed (ZL1DK, ZL1DGK already booked in)

Colville Connection (Kona)

13 March 2010

Using HF & 2m (simplex & repeater).

For Details about and to help with these events, contact :-

Tony Case ZL1UD zl1ud@nzart.org.nz

or one of his deputies (ZL1PK, ZL1TCE, ZL1UPJ).

Club Information



Contacts :-

Business Meeting: 1930 First Wednesday of each month
88 Seddon Road, Hamilton

General Meeting: 1930 Third Wednesday of each month (except Jan)
88 Seddon Road, Hamilton

Homepage: <http://z11ux.tripod.com>
eMail: branch.12@nzart.org.nz

HF Net: 3.575MHz LSB 1930 Mondays
VHF Net: 146.525MHz simplex 2000 Tuesdays

2m Repeater: 145.325MHz -600kHz split
STSP 146.675MHz -600kHz split
Repeaters: 438.725MHz -5 MHz split
ATV Repeater: 615.250 Ch39 (off air)

Cover Photo: VSSTV Very Slow Scan Television (see Page 9)

| | |
|--------|--|
| Sender | Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (Inc) PO Box 606 Hamilton 3240 |
|--------|--|