



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

November 2002 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn, PO Box 15-122, New Lynn.
President: James Moore ZL1WOT, Secretary: Roy Milam
VHF Club Net Wednesday 0730 146.525 MHz, HF Club Net Fridays 0730 3.622 MHz
Website <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac>

Club Calendar

Monday	11 th	November	Club Night – Echolink and IRLP Discussion
Thursday	14 th	November	AREC Training.
Saturday	16 th –	November	Horse Endurance Event Woodhill – Details to be confirmed.
Sunday	17 th		
Monday	9 th	December	Club Night – Christmas Social Function.
2003			
Monday	27 th	January	Committee Meeting
Tuesday	28 th	January	Regional Coordinating Committee Meeting at Branch 03
Monday	10 th	February	Club Night – Programme to be announced
Saturday	22 nd	February	Jock White Memorial Field Day
Sunday	23 rd		
Thursday	6 th	March	Regional Technical Lecture. Date and Speaker to be confirmed.
Saturday	12 th	April	Dairy Flat Sale
Tuesday	29 th	April	Regional Coordinating Committee
Tuesday	29 th	July	Regional Coordinating Committee
Tuesday	30 th	September	Regional Coordinating Committee

Club Night Monday 11th November

Brian, ZL1WBP, will be giving us a talk on Echolink and IRLP. These are both projects where radios are linked to computers and the Internet to give extended coverage possibilities. Everyone is welcome and supper will be served at the end of the meeting.

IRLP

I got the code wrong in last month's story but that doesn't matter as the codes have changed anyway. It is now a four-digit number generally ending in 0 but any number is possible. For example to connect to Paddington in Sydney Australia, key in 6050 and wait for the "canned voice" to tell you that the connection has been made, then start talking. To disconnect key in 73. Now that shouldn't be too hard to remember.

Equipment Sale

The used equipment sale was another successful occasion with a lot of people selling and even more buying. The new location proved to be very adequate for the purpose and may just be used again next year. The club thanks all those who helped in running the event and all Radio people who turned up to buy or just enjoy the occasion.

The Jumbo Trophy – 16 October 2002

The trophy was first awarded on 28th October 1988. Prospects did not look good for the night of 16th October 2002 when Western Suburbs Radio Club had to defend their possession of the Jumbo Indoor Bowls Trophy at Albany Hall. As Brian ZL1MW and Bob ZL1GD were the only candidates for a team, it appeared that we might have to surrender the trophy. However, Bob persuaded his XYL, Peg, to support us making the third person needed for a team. Surprise, surprise, despite some very competitive bowling by opposing teams, under Bobs skipping and Peg's accurate placement of key shots, we won two of the three rounds and ticked up enough points to win the Jumbo for the second time this year. WSRC has won this trophy previous to this year only on two occasions - on 25th October 1995 and 17th March 1996.

Brian ZL1MW

Regional Coordinating Meeting

In 2003 it is Branch 03's turn to chair these meetings. This will require two club members to attend each of the four meetings that will be held during the year. One person will chair the meeting and the other will act as secretary. Meetings are generally on the 5th Tuesday of months that have 5 Tuesdays although the next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th January 2003 at **Western Suburbs Branch (03) Clubrooms, 3000 Great North Road, New Lynn**. Meetings rotate around the branches in numerical order.

From Around the Branches

Branch 10 - Franklin

The Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 19 November at 8.00 p.m. For the first time in years we are experiencing difficulty getting people to stand for office. The end of year dinner is at the Cosmopolitan Club in Nelson Street, Pukekohe on Friday 29 November. This will be a combined event with Papakura Radio Club and is open to all hams who wish to attend. The price is \$15. RSVP to the Secretary of either club. The AREC section has been active in running safety communications for horse endurance meetings. The next events will be on 11-12 January at Glen Murray and 25-26-27 January for the North Island Endurance Championships at Woodhill. We are also providing some operators for the endurance event being organized by Western Suburbs at Woodhill on 16-17 November. Operators from Franklin have also helped recently with communications at Maramarua for the Auckland Car Club on 26 October, and assisted horse endurance events at Woodhill on 22 September and at Waiuku on 13 October. We have been reminded by some of the older members that we are nearly at the 50 year anniversary of the club. The committee will be moving on some form of commemoration around February 2003. There was no club activity for JOTA. At our October general meeting we had a talk and demonstration by one of our members on a technology developed by Dr. Royal Rife. The equipment comprised an HF transmitter modulated with an audio frequency square wave matched to an argon filled tube. The mauve coloured discharge is reputed to have physiological effects.

Branch 29 – North Shore

Due to lack of interest, the branch was unable to meet the Scout request for a 24 hour HF station and took no part in JOTA. Five members operated ZL1AB from Tiri Tiri Island lighthouse during the Lighthouse weekend. The Emicoms system is now fully operational. All stations have been fitted with dot matrix printers, which were donated by members or salvaged from the inorganic rubbish collection. For the 10 printers North Shore City Council was charged \$250. The next meeting of Branch 29 on 4th November is the AGM. The usual struggle to fill all posts is expected. The December meeting will be a social evening. The incoming committee will arrange the programme for 2003. Approval has been obtained to deploy the caravan to Musick Point on 12th January 2003 in conjunction with the event planned by Branch 86. It will be positioned on the 11th and a member will sleep in it. ZL1HV and ZL1BAV have given notice that they will retire as Sysops for ZL1AB packet radio BBS on 28th February 2003. After over 13 years, they feel it is time for a change. The bowls trophy was won for the second time in a year by Western Suburbs. The Albany Indoor Bowls Club is prepared to put up with radio hams in 2003. The Communication Group, which includes AREC, is functioning well as part of Civil Defence. Due to lack of interest the 4th Monday projects meeting is no longer held. This Branch is concerned about the future of the Regional Technical meetings and will raise the matter in "other business".

Branch 79 - Howick

The previous report to this committee indicated that our August meeting would be a talk by Kevin Sowerby on Radio Propagation in Buildings. Kevin was unable to attend and we had a Bring & Show evening. Graham ZL1TOF and Bert ZL1AQX contributed with equipment and books. Another Bring & Show evening was the subject of our September meeting, with Graham ZL1TOF showing us some more books from his library. Bert ZL1AQX reported on the meeting of interested parties who have formed the Musick Point Restoration Society. Our last meeting was the AGM of the club. There has been no change to the executive. We still have some committee vacancies and the position of Branch 79 AREC Deputy section leader for Branch 21 AREC section is presently vacant. At the conclusion of the AGM business, Ian Walker ZL1BFB gave us further information on progress on activities at Musick point and gave us some detail on preparations for the event on 12th January when the American Ambassador would be attending the venue. Our next meeting is on 6th November. We will have Kevin Sowerby talking to us on Radio Propagation in Buildings. Kevin is an associate professor at the Auckland University School of Engineering. Kevin's talk has been rescheduled several times this year, but this time we should be all right for an informative talk. We extend a welcome to members of other branches that may wish to attend. A dinner will replace our usual December meeting. The Howick Club is the venue for those members and partners that wish to attend.

Branch 80 – Hibiscus Coast

Branch 80 has 18 financial members, and 9 un-financial whom we are trying to persuade to come to the party. Monthly meetings have been held despite lack of organised topics. Average attendance has been 7 with only 3 at the August meeting. We hope this month's visit to the Observatory will draw a good response. The old faithful supported the Rally comms and AREC gear is maintained, although it would be difficult to find members to operate in an emergency. We have effectively withdrawn from AREC but some may be able to support Rodney Branch if required. The AGM is in about six weeks and it is doubtful if the main offices will be filled. One of the year's highlights must surely be the National System Award which brought dozens of operators out of the woodwork. At least two of our members completed their 75 contacts and others are on the way. Congratulations to Branch 74, and thanks for the "fish" although mine was more like a flounder with its inside squashed out!

Branch 86 – Suburban

The last three months have been busy with repairs, making it easier to operate the vintage equipment. An antenna patch panel has been incorporated downstairs to direct the antennas to the operating positions as required. The actual transmitter may be switched to mute and give the results required. A group called "The Musick Point Preservation Society Inc." has been formed and the radio club is one of its members. The aim is to make a museum type area, but this will take a few years yet to achieve the results envisaged. The club has had several guest speakers. The one for next month is from IPENZ (Institute of Professional Engineers New Zealand) and will talk on buildings and historical sites in Auckland. The masts have yet to be put in place, the delay being due to the weather keeping the ground too soft to carry the weight of the truck and hoist unit. A group of youths tried out the grass, got stuck, caused severe damage and deep tyre tracks in recovery. They also received a \$600.00 QSL from NZ Police. Two computers have been donated to the station and this will extend its on air activities when they are connected up, as well as providing a means of recording stock etc. In general, the ongoing maintenance is going well. With Christmas around the corner, many members may take advantage of operating the station at this time.

Propecia Rally Of New Zealand 2002 My View (ZL1VRR) Of The Event.

This years rally was, in my words, one of the best that has been run in the years I have been involved as a timing marshal since the 70's when names like Bob Holt ZL1BBZ, Dave Johnston ZL1AMN, Dave Karrasch ZL1TTS (now ZL1DK) were my Radio team for a number of years and got my interest started in Amateur Radio. Then over the past few years I had the pleasure of Murray and Darlene Griffin ZL1UHT and ZL1ULK as my Radio operators on the start line.

Each year it was hard to obtain crew to work on the smaller events for training, but all wanted to be present for the rally of New Zealand. So this year I put my name forward to assist with 5 km radio safety points and used my wife as my second operator and second pair of eyes to pick up the rally car numbers as they thundered passed our position. All our positions were perfect and we could see the cars coming in the distance before they reached us. Other members of Branch 03 Club involved were Brian ZL1MW, Merv ZL1SK, and John ZL1NE. Control was based at Sky City where there were many operators from various clubs.

Friday was spent listening to the radio and following the cars and their fortunes of the first day of the Rally. It certainly showed that the front running cars were the road sweepers so those cars running further down in the field had better grip and their times being 10 - 15 seconds quicker. After the first day it was the silver bullet Peugeots, which were the cars to beat. There were some top runners that crashed taking a little interest from the event. 81 cars started and only 66 cars were still running at the start of Leg Two.

It was a pleasant run up north on day two with all the traffic there and watching as we checked into our stage. Listening to the rally traffic we made our way to SS12, Batley. Following the route instructions to our position at point alpha was a bridge with a tape across the road. The bridge had collapsed, so we had to back track and find a farm road that had been constructed. The farm roads was only a goat track which was metalled for the many cars that would travel over it during the rally. A very obliging farmer made this possible.

We made our point with time to spare and with aid from Terry ZL1UFY parked our car and got our dipole up and 2m aerial on top of the mast and checked in. Set out our signs and then waited for the first of the safety cars to check the stage. Perfect timing as Adrian called in saying that the first car should be almost upon us, as it flew round the corner. It was there one minute and gone the next. We could see the dust trail coming towards us, so were forewarned of its presence. The field passed by with no problems until the trail came through after which we packed up our radio gear. Reception on HF was fine with no problem copying base and the other links down on the stage. On the VHF simplex frequency we heard nothing of the start, finish or intermediate crews although through the 560 repeater copy was good at all times.

It was decided that we could view a stage so we travelled to mid way along SS16, Brooks, and watched the field pass till the end. A good number of spectators were watching at this point. We could see the start and follow the cars then for the next 2km with two good sweeping bends as the cars drove into the dark. As the field got down to the NZ group N cars there was a big cheer for the top New Zealanders, Possum and Bruce Herbert and the slow Japanese ladies driver. Then it was time to negotiate the drive out to the main road and back home for the night.



ZL1VRR Mobile radio set-up



HF antenna mounted on the rear of the car

The alarm was set and we were up very early with the change to daylight saving, and off down the road to Maramarua forest for the last two stages of the rally. We checked in with HQ and made our way to our point in the forest. We were using 146.8750 repeater that Mark had set up for the stages. Each stage was used twice and most of the cars got through. Forty-six cars started the third leg and only 44 cars made the finish ramp. Radio communications were good through the repeater and everyone could copy all operators in the forest area. Again we could not copy much on 147.5750 simplex frequency. Adrian or Jim polled us for the cars that had passed our point. Our only interest was on car 11 driven by Peter Solberg who drove passed us rather slowly only to retire just round the corner on a straight. Betti went down the road and found them with harnesses off and sitting by their car. All the car numbers were easy to read and the dust was cleared by the wind.

The event was run in ideal conditions with nice warm weather and the many helpers enabled the rally to be run. Six months away it's all before us once more as we go and do it all over again. Looking forward till next year and hope I'll see you all there.

73's Ross ZL1VRR

**Minutes Of A Committee Meeting Of The Western Suburbs
Radio Club Held In The Clubrooms
At 1930 Hrs Monday 28 October 2002**

Present

Were James ZL1WOT, Barry ZL1ACZ, Brian ZL1MW, Ross ZL1VRR, Roy ZL1WI, Marc ZL1TMV.

Minutes

The minutes of the September Committee meeting were confirmed on the motion Barry ZL1ACZ, sec. Brian ZL1MW

Finance

Accounts to pay \$22.00 Genesis Energy (direct debit)
\$49.50 Renewal of ZL1AC amateur licence

Correspondence In.

Comcentre, branch newsletters, 02,66. Stolen equipment list from Roy ZL2KH.

AREC Report,

See attached report. 16 & 17 Nov. horse trials.

JOTA

19 and 20 October. Brian ZL1MW and Bob ZL1GD set up a station at Massey.

Guest Speaker

Guest speaker for November meeting, Barry ZL1ACZ to arrange.

Antenna Tuner/SWR Meter.

An antenna tuner, MFJ 941E, near new, has become available, price \$230. Moved James ZL1WOT, sec. Barry ZL1ACZ that the Club purchase the tuner.

Equipment Sale

Equipment Sale 2nd November. Avondale Primary School, Crayford St. Helpers wanted, 7.00am start. Arrangements were discussed. Friday at 1400hrs, load up at the Clubrooms. Float for cafeteria Roy about \$25. Soft drinks and coffee/tea and biscuits \$1.00. PA system? Equipment sign from Clubrooms?

Arrangements For Musick Radio Open Day.

It was suggested that this be left for the November Committee meeting.

Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz 7:30pm every Wednesday
HF Net 3622 KHz +/- QRM/QRN 7:30pm every Friday

HF Net Roster, Branch 03

15-November-2002	ZL1MW	Brian
22-November-2002	ZL1JL	John
29-November-2002	ZL1NE	John
6-December-2002	ZL1ACZ	Barry
13-December-2002	ZL1WI	Roy
20-December-2002	ZL1VRR	Ross
29-December-2002	ZL1MW	Brian

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