



## Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

### February 2003 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	10 <sup>th</sup>	February	Club Night – Bring, Show and Tell, and Field Day details.
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	February	Jock White Memorial Field Day
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>		
Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	March	Te Puke Radio Club Market Day PAENGAROA HALL. Time: Vendors 7.00am, Doors Open 10.00am. Enquiries to (07) 533 1029. Table Space Available @ \$8.00 per Metre.
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup>	March	Regional Technical Lecture. Date and Speaker to be confirmed.
Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup>	April	Dairy Flat Sale
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup>	April	Rally of New Zealand
Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup>		
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>		
Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup>	April	North Shore and Rodney Radio Clubs Market Day – Dairy Flat School Hall
Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup>	April	Regional Coordinating Committee
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	May	Cambridge Radio Club Annual Market Day
Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup>	July	Regional Coordinating Committee
Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	September	Regional Coordinating Committee

#### Club Night Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2003

The club evening will be a “Bring, Show and Tell.” Bring along a project that you are working on, just completed, or completed long ago that the other club members may be interested in. Radio related or something completely unrelated to radio. It could be an instrument, a tool, an heirloom or something from another hobby. Just bring something.

#### Annual General Meeting

This will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2003 at the Club Rooms. After many years of faithful service Roy ZL1WI, is stepping down as secretary. We need a volunteer to fill this vacancy. It involves taking minutes of the committee and general meetings and the very occasional letter. This is not a very onerous job so please consider putting your name forward. We would also like to see a couple of new faces on the committee. The more members we have the easier the committee work is. For further information please contact Barry ZL1ACZ on 627 9070.

#### Rally NZ 2003

David Karrasch and Richard Gamble are looking for radio operators to assist with the running of the Rally of New Zealand mid April. If you can help then they would like to hear from you. There is a form available on the web to be filled in. The site is <http://www.qsl.net/zl1vk/ARECRALLYFORM.html> Alternatively give Ross ZL1VRR or John ZL1NE a call for a copy of the form. Each radio operator's car requires two people so even if you don't have the ability to set up a mobile HF station there is possibly a place for you to help.

This year the rally route is as follows:

Friday 11 April – 5 stages east of Paparua Service Park – run twice.

Saturday 12 April – four stages west of Paparua S/P – Manukau SSS.

Sunday 13 April – Te Akau South then Te Akau North – Maramarua Forest.

## **MUSICK POINT**

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2003 the rededication of the Musick Point Radio Station and Open Day was held. This was a most successful occasion with a plaque being unveiled by the American Ambassador, Charles Swindells, to commemorate Captain Musick and the Coastal Radio Station that operated from the site for many years. All the radio clubs of Auckland set up displays on the various radio activities that radio clubs are involved in. Branch 03 erected the club's tents and set up a display of vintage, military and domestic radio equipment. The day was used to show Amateur Radio to the public and in this respect it was most successful with between 1000 and 1500 people attending to witness the rededication and to view the various displays. Congratulations go to Ian and Anne Walker of Branch 86 for organising a most successful day. Pictures taken by John ZL1NE can be viewed on the clubs web [Http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/page\\_01.htm](http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/page_01.htm) the file that loads, is only thumbnails of the pictures but click on the image and a full sized picture will load. (That is, when I manage to upload all the picture files.)

## **Field Day 22/23rd February**

A Site has been found at the Crawl Homestead, Anawhata Road to be used by our club for the Jock White Memorial Contest this year. Club stations from all around New Zealand will be competing in the contest. The aim of the field day contest is to demonstrate to the rest of New Zealand the radio amateurs' ability and preparedness to set up a field station and operate for an extended period free from mains power; and of course, to have a bit of fun. We need operators for both CW and Phone. The field day contest runs from Saturday 1500 hrs to midnight, then from 0600 to 1500 on Sunday. If you can help out for short or longer periods of time you would be most welcome. CW operators are most welcome. The power source will be from the club's new 4.1 kVA generator. If you are interested in helping please give James ZL1WOT 627 5576, Ross ZL1VRR 629 0504 or Barry ZL1ACZ 627 9070 a call and let them know what times you can help. During the February club meeting the details of the station or stations will be finalised.

## **Woodhill Horse Endurance Event on Saturday/Sunday 25/26th January**

This really started many days before the event with checks and organising operators to assist with the programme. This was done with the help of other Clubs under the leadership of Brian ZL1MW for WSRC and Bob ZL1BBZ for Franklin Club. Up to fifteen operators were needed for the two days of activity. Only in the last few days did Brian know where the checkpoints were to be placed in the forest and surrounding area. A schedule had to be produced and two shifts were required on Saturday because of the early morning start of 02:30am. The first shift was from 02:30am to 07:00am then the day shift from 07:00am to 17:00pm and latter for those back at base. Base was under canvas in a large Marquee. With no power, batteries were needed to power the radios, the PA system and lights. A special stand was erected to support the check board and associated paper work used to track the progress of the riders. On Saturday the riders had a number of options and could enter the 140km, 60km, 30km, and 40km Competition Rides, depending on his or her ability.

A start /finish operator was in place to check out the horses and check them back in. There were five operators set up in cars keeping a check on the rider's numbers as they passed by. This information, and time, was radioed to base so progress could be monitored for the whole distance to ensure that horses were not being overstressed. A speed average was worked out and the riders had to work to it or be penalised.

The day remained mostly fine, with a just a few showers that made it more humid. I took one of the club's tents and set up by the end of the track on some nice ground. We set up the rig from the car on a box table using extension power leads and coaxial cable to the vertical whip on the car. This worked well, apart from when I turned off the rig to remove it from the car and then reconnected, there was no display. It appeared that there was a thermal shut down and this would not allow the rig to start again till a period of time had elapsed, in this case one hour. In the mean time I could copy the other stations on my handheld but could not make contact with base or Ian who was some 3.5 km down the road at another checkpoint. Nothing could be done but wait with horses due soon. Bob came to the rescue with another rig and power supply. He thought it might have been a voltage drop with the extension power lead from the car. We were back in contact with the world, base and the other checkpoints on the battery that Bob installed.

Things worked out well for the rest of the day. We stayed in place over night, had tea, watched the news on TV, and then went to bed. Next morning we were up early, had breakfast waited for the first riders due shortly after the 05:00am start.

On the second day the events were the 100km Open Junior, Mass start of 100km, 80km Junior and to finish off with a 40km-training ride. The fields seemed to be bigger than the previous day, so we were all kept on our toes. There was not much road traffic as no tree-cutting was taking place in the area and the forestry had locked many of the gates. This meant that operators trying to get to check points had to use various other routes, but all managed to get in before the action began. Radio communications were good, though in some places if you moved more than a few feet forward or back signal strength dropped. On Saturday we made 53 reports to base and Sunday 44.

A tiring weekend but luckily Monday was Anniversary Day so we were able to catch up on some well-needed rest.

Thanks to all operators for their time and expertise during the event

Regards, Ross ZL1VRR

### **Exam success**

Ricard Kelly sat the Amateur Examination at the Western Suburbs club rooms on Saturday 25th January, and we are happy to report an excellent pass mark of 97%. Congratulations Ricard, we hope you will enjoy many years of Amateur Radio.



Ricard being congratulated by Doug

Doug Tennent & Alex Learmond  
Examiners.

### **Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the Western Suburbs Radio Club Held in the Clubrooms At 1930 Hours Monday 27 January 2003**

**Present Were** James ZL1WOT, Brian ZL1MW, Ross ZL1VRR, Roy ZL1WI, Marc ZL1TM, VBarry ZL1ACZ.

### **Finance**

Accounts to Pay  
\$7.27 Genesis Energy (direct debit)  
\$17.14 Water Charges (direct debit)  
\$17.51 Ross ZL1VRR Supper, Christmas Social

\$32.93 Brian ZL1MW Engraving of Cup

Moved James ZL1WOT sec. Roy ZL1WI that the accounts be paid.

**Donations**

\$25 From the Horse Rally Organisers  
\$30 From the Horse Rally Organisers  
\$20 John ZL1JAW For surplus parts

**Correspondence**

In Branch newsletters  
Out email to John ZL1NE

**AREC Report**

The section leader briefly outlined the section's activities on 25/26 January at the horse rally at Woodhill Forest. 14 operators participated including many from the Franklin Branch. Moved Ross ZL1VRR, sec. Barry ZL1ACZ, that the report be received.

**Auckland Regional Coordinating Committee**

Meeting to be held in the Western Suburbs Clubrooms Tuesday at 1930 Hrs. It is understood that John ZL1NE will chair the meeting and that Merv ZL1SK will act as secretary.

**February Meeting**

Bring and show talk By Barry and Marc.

**Yagi Antenna**

Roy ZL1WI to approach John ZL1JL about the beam.

**Working "B"**

A working B will be held at the Club Rooms 8<sup>th</sup> February, antennas including Field Day antennas.

**Field Day**

Ross ZL1VRR to phone or write to the ARC to see if it is possible to get a remission of fees for the Field Day site as we are a non-profit organisation.

Roy ZL1WI Secretary

**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 The full roster is on:

**<http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/wsrc-hf-roster.html>**

7 Feb 2003	ZL1MW	Brian
14 Feb 2003	ZL1JL	John
21 Feb 2003	ZL1NE	John
28 Feb 2003	ZL1ACZ	Barry
7 Mar 2003	ZL1WI	Roy
14 Mar 2003	ZL1VRR	Ross

John Neill ZL1NE - Newsletter Editor **[john.neill@clear.net.nz](mailto:john.neill@clear.net.nz)**  
(PS **[zl1ne@qsl.net](mailto:zl1ne@qsl.net)** seems to be giving problems)