



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

February 2004 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn, PO Box 15-122, New Lynn.

President: James Moore ZL1JYM, Secretary: Merv Thomas ZL1SK

Newsletter Editor – John Neill ZL1NE

VHF Club Net Wednesday 07:30 146.525 MHz, HF Club Net Fridays 07:30 3.622 MHz

Website <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac>

Club Calendar

Monday	9 th	February	General Club Meeting – Guess Speaker Curtis Dobbie on Smart Battery Chargers
Monday	16 th	February	Committee Meeting
Saturday	28 th	February	National Field Day
Sunday	29 th		
Saturday	6 th	March	Te Puke Branch Market Day
Monday	8 th	March	Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Monday	15 th	March	Committee Meeting
Monday	12 th	April	General Club Meeting

Club Evening 8 December 2003

At the February general meeting the guest speaker will be Curtis Dobbie. Curtis will speak on Smart Battery Chargers. Bring along some Nicad and maybe some Gel cells for Curtis to demonstrate the properties of these batteries. In general business we will be discussing the legal standing of the clubrooms on a Waitakere City Reserve, arrangements for Field Day at Anawhata and the next working bee.

Newsletters from Other Radio Clubs

From time to time the Club receives electronic copies of newsletters from other Radio Clubs. It is a simple matter to send these onto Western Suburbs radio Club members who have email and web access. If you would like to receive these Newsletters then send an email to john.neill@opus.co.nz and I will develop a list for redistribution of any incoming newsletters. If at any time you are tired of reading all the other club newsletters then another email asking to be removed from the list is all that is required to put an end to the “Spam.” This service can only be made available to members with email.

SSTV & Data Modes On 2m

As an experiment to give newcomers confidence in some of the Data Modes Doug ZL1AVY is proposing that we meet on WEDNESDAY nights at 8 pm local time, on the AUCKLAND 670 repeater.

We do have permission to do this PROVIDED that we announce ourselves and wait for 10 seconds before a transmission is sent.

The 670 repeater gives a greater coverage than a simplex frequency and it is hoped that a few interested souls who had difficulty in working on simplex, turn up and enjoy themselves.

Doug will put out a CQ at 8pm in voice and we can then take it from there.

73
Doug ZL1AVY

New Zealand Weather and Climate

I came upon this website on Weather and Climate and other club Members may also find it interesting. The website is maintained by Victoria University and can be found at: <http://www.metvuw.com/>

Jock White Memorial Contest Field Day

This will be held on the 28th & 29th February 2004. Help is wanted for this event. Can you help out for the weekend or just part of the weekend. There are two nine hour Sessions, one each day. The site will be set up from 0800 to 1400 on Saturday, however there are time

restrictions on when antennae can be erected. Operation on Saturday will commence at 1500 and continue until midnight. Sunday's operation commences at 0600 and continues till 1500, when the stations are packed up.

We require CW and Phone operators, log keepers, people to help erect and dismantle the stations, and people cooks. If you can help in any of these capacities then please contact one of the committee.

The Radio Stations are operated from tents and we have a large shed to eat and prepare food in. Power is from the clubs generator as the contest is non-mains power. We have a great site at Anawhata with great prospects of making a lot of contacts. Already there has been much discussion on the most appropriate types of Antennae to use. There is bound to be more discussion on this subject at the club evening on 9 February.

Club members (and any other helpers) may sleep in tents or whatever other accommodation you may be able to bring. You will need to bring food, sleeping equipment and any personal gear that you may need to use over the weekend.

Please contact Ross ZL1VRR at 09 629 0504 or by reply e-mail ross.reddell@xtra.co.nz

Hoping to hear from you before the contest date.

Ross ZL1VRR



Phone operation on 40m



CW on 80meters



One of the Clubs tents



Power plant for the Field Day Stations

Photographs from Recent Field Days

Club Computer Report

Michael ZL1ABS reports that the old PC being readied for APRS at Br03 has struck a problem with the Com 2 port refusing to work. Andrew ZL2ALW has had a look inside it and has discovered corrosion and rotted tracks on the I/O board. He has taken it all away to work on and replace the I/O board. The DB25 lead to the DB9 Baycom modem was given to him as well and keyboard and mouse.

Com 1 works but is tied up for the mouse under Win3.1, which UI-View 2.39 for APRS needs. Ken ZL1TD has tested the Baycom modem and it works fine. BPQ is loaded and appears to run and load itself well. However the final test has not been possible since the Com 2 does not work

The floppy disc trouble was traced to loss of BIOS data making the floppy look to be the wrong size. Michael and Andrew have sourced replacement parts for the computer from Doug ZL1AVY. Due to the efforts of all, the club now has two working Computers.

Western Suburbs Radio Club Branch 03, NZART Inc Minutes of the 10th: meeting of the elected Committee. Monday 19th: January 2004.

Attendance: Merv Thomas ZL1SK, Secretary, James Moore ZL1JYM, Chairman John Turnwald ZL1JT, Treasurer; Ross Reddell ZL1VRR; Barry Williams ZL1ACZ, The Meeting commenced at 1940 hours.

Apologies: Brian Huggard ZL1MW; John Neill ZL1NE.

Radio check-ins: ZL1SK

Minutes: As circulated by email by the secretary were taken as a true and correct record. Moved: Barry Williams ZL1ACZ. Seconded: John Turnwald ZL1JT

Matters Arising:

Clubrooms guttering has been repaired and paid for. Toilet cistern has been repaired by John Turnwald ZL1JT. The club has now got 2 PC's in working order (and paid for) thanks to Doug ZL1AVY and Michael ZL1ABS with our club's interests being monitored by Ross ZL1VRR.

Financial Report:

The Treasurer provided an interim report as 19 January 2004. The club reported financial growth for the year with Bank and Investment Accounts showing good financial health. Also received a \$20.00 donation from Doug Edgar from his sale proceeds. Moved: James Moore ZL1JYM. Seconded: Barry Williams ZL1ACZ.

Correspondence:

Inwards

Several Branch newsletters. Shirley Freeman change of address, Te Puke Branch Market Day March 6th 2004 circular. NZART Branch circulars dated Dec 2003 were read to the committee.

Outwards

Receipt No. 44 to Andrew Barnett

AREC Section Leader Brian Huggard ZL1MW's - written report was read to the meeting.

- A. Presume that the secretary has received a donation through the Franklin Branch for our provision of Communications at the Woodhill Horse Trials. Please confirm.
- B. ZLIGD and ZLIMW assisted Branch 10 with communications at the Glen Murray Horse Trials 10-11 January. NO BRO3 equipment used.
- C. Car Rally of NZ 2004 16-18th April. Richard Gamble is looking for operators. If you have't received a form yet for activity in this event please contact: Richard Gamble day 09 272 0114 night 09 537 1238 or Dave Karrasch day 09 266 0180 night 09 298 5271
- D. Civil Defense Exercise: Major event scheduled for 10 - 15th May. We will be very involved on the 15th to provide comms from welfare centres.
- E. Civil Defence Liaison: ZLIGD and ZLIMW (and occasionally ZL1SK) continue to carry out fortnightly comms checks at Waitakere CDHQ.

Moved: John Turnwald ZL1JT. Seconded: Ross Reddell ZL1VRR that the report be received.

General Business:

Barry ZL1ACZ will deliver the A.R.C.C. minutes brief case to Tom McDonald, Franklin Branch for their next meeting on 27th: January 2004.

James Moore ZL1JYM will contact Curtis Dobbie to confirm his availability as speaker for our February General Club meeting. Subject: Smart battery chargers.

Mandy McWilliam has still NOT been contacted re the Clubs Land Lease due to non-reply to emailed messages from James. He will further endeavor to make contact.

The next working bee date will be decided at February's general meeting.

Field day and the required number of operators was discussed and also to be brought up at the next (Feb) general meeting.

A long discussion ensued on spreading the value of being a ham to new potential operators with no answer in sight.

The A.G.M. was set down for March 8th 2004 general meeting and it was suggested that more club members be "gathered" into the committee and executive officers as a means of providing not just extra input but to help members feel as though they are involved as Hams and Club members.

That both Merv ZL1SK and John ZL1NE be publicly thanked for the work and time given while at the head of the ARCC meetings held in 2003, during our term in the chair.

Meeting concluded (stopped) (finished) (halted) (packed-up) (went home) at 21-10 hours.

Merv Thomas, Secretary / Vice-President / Scribe

22nd: January 2004.

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>

6 February 2004	ZL1JL	John
13 February 2004	ZL1NE	John
20 February 2004	ZL1ACZ	Barry
27 February 2004	ZL1VRR	Ross
5 March 2004	ZL1MW	Brian
12 March 2004	ZL1JL	John
19 March 2004	ZL1NE	John
26 March 2004	ZL1ACZ	Barry

This article Appeared on Packet Radio a few weeks back - with apologies to Gerald Hoffnung.

An amateur had an accident and this is an extract from his insurance claim form..

'I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block number 3 of the accident reporting form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware.

Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope..'