



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

March 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

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|----------|------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 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 |

February Club Evening

At the February general meeting, guest speaker Curtis Dobbie, ZL1TIB gave a most interesting and well received talk on “Smart Battery Charging Techniques” designed by him and also some “A.C. Induction Motor Speed Controllers” also patented by him.

The “Smart Battery Charging Techniques” featured AC charging using full positive swing for charging and some negative swing for partial discharge along with high voltage pulses controlled by microprocessor to equalize the charge across the whole area of the pole plates. His comments on the NZ Military purchase of American MCR Chargers for the new Army vehicles just imported, were quite disturbing given the lack of portability and adaptability of the devices for the required purpose.

His method of AC motor control was very innovative by using a microprocessor to select the number of full AC cycles turned ON followed by a selected number of full cycles that were turned OFF with the recommencing of the ON cycles synchronized to the motors back E.M.F. This method reduced the power required by the motor at slower speeds and also made the starting from stationary to a slow speed, more reliable. With less air throughput at slower speeds this method made considerable difference to the heat build up in the motor.

The meeting gave Curtis well deserved applause as thanks for the thought provoking explanations of his very original concepts to two old electrical problems.

Curtis can be contacted at clean@healthaire.co.nz and www.healthaire.co.nz

Annual General Meeting

This is to be held on Monday 8th March 2004 at the Western Suburbs Radio Club Rooms 3000 Great North Road New Lynn. Please be there and be prepared to help out by making yourself available for one of the positions on the committee. The club desperately needs your support. See the committee minutes from the last meeting below. The agenda is as follows:

Agenda

- 1 Presidents Introduction
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of 2002 AGM
- 4 Treasurers Report
- 5 AREC Report
- 6 Presidents Report
- 7 Election of Officers
- 8 General Business

Waitakere Sprint

Alex ZL1BVK informed the meeting that after 12 years of organizing the annual SPRINT contest he will not be able to do so this year. So the club needs a volunteer to take over from Alex this year. Alex will be able to provide all the details and printouts needed to do the job. Please contact Alex (09) 836-3134. AlexL@xtra.co.nz or the Secretary (09) 828-7174. m.r.thomas@titan.co.nz if you can help. Ross ZL1VRR thanked Alex at the February Meeting for his effort over the past 12 years.

Historic Code Receives Modern Update

The Morse Code was invented about 160 years ago and is still in use today. Its popularity has waned as faster and more efficient forms of communications have been developed. However, ham radio operators and a few others still communicate via this ancient technology. The Morse Code now has been updated for the twenty-first century.

It seems that Samuel F.B. Morse never anticipated the Internet. He and his successors never created a character for the "@" symbol used in e-mail addresses. Those communicating via Morse code have been unable to send e-mail addresses without resorting to awkward "work-arounds," such as sending: richard-at-eastman.net.

In December, 2003, the International Telecommunications Union, which oversees the entire frequency spectrum from amateur radio to satellites, voted to add the new character. The new sign, which will be known as a "commat," consists of the signals for "A" (dot-dash) and "C" (dash-dot-dash-dot), with no space between them. The new character is the first in at least several decades and possibly the first in more than a century. Among ITU officials and Morse code aficionados, no one could remember any other addition.

For more information about Samuel F. B. Morse, look at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/atthtml/mrshome.html>.

Jock White Memorial Field Day contest. February 28th and 29, 2004 Branch Activity Report.

On Friday at 1330, ZL's: 1GD, 1VRR, 1MW, 1SK, 1BID turned up at the club rooms to create the new antenna types that we had decided to try as suggested by ZL1BTR Robert Jaffares. The 80-metre system was to be 2 x 1 ½ wavelengths each fed at the ¼ wavelength points. The 40-metre system was to be a ½ wave dipole with a reflector dipole placed below it to create a near vertical skywave. The long length of wire needed to create the 80 metre antennas was mostly donated by Errol ZL1BID. All of the required equipment (generator, 2 tables, 4 chairs, antennas, 2 wooden poles, power and antenna leads, tents etc;) were then loaded on to Bob's (ZL1GD) trailer ready for taking to the "Craw Paddock" in Anawhata Road the next morning.

As you all well know it rained and blew pretty heavily Saturday morning and there was a phone conference to decide whether or not to proceed. The decision made to carry on, ZL's 1VRR; 1GD, 1MW and 1SK arrived at the site to attempt setting up in the rain and wind. At times we had to lean over so as to stay upright. With the addition of Robert ZL1BTR, the antennas were erected and that left 5 very wet hams looking for some dry clothes.

Because of the weather, there was no spare time to trial the 80-metre antenna and an apparent mismatch made the first two hours of operating very lack luster. The 40-metre antenna worked like a dream with virtually zero SWR. Despite the weather Brian ZL1MW again went out in the rain to erect an 80-metre dipole, including erecting a portable aluminum pole in the belief that the 1 ½ wavelength antenna was the problem. It turned out to be a Co-ax problem, which was soon replaced, and the dipole was used right through the event very satisfactorily.

A tent was bravely erected in a wind shelter created by an old shower box structure and that became the 40-metre station. It was decided that there was no further sheltered spot to erect another tent so Merv ZL1SK's caravan became the 80-metre station using his Icom 720A which is permanently installed in the caravan. A large shed on the property was used as personal shelter from the heavy rain and the amazingly strong wind gusts for tea and coffee making and for the preparation of the evening meal.

Those who stayed overnight slept in their cars rather than in the shed as the floor was becoming very wet.

The operators who took part in the weekend completed a variety of tasks which included unloading at the site, antenna and tent erection, tea or coffee, running out the required power leads from the generator to the 2 stations, Saturday dinner, topping up the generator, operating the rigs in rotation on Phone and C.W., filling the all important log sheets, making more tea and coffee, trying to stay dry in between the shed and the 2 stations, waking up at 05-15 on Sunday to start operating again at 06-00 hours, and at 15-00 hours undoing the previous day's good work to pack up everything and return the clubs gear to the club rooms.

It was commonly felt by those on site that despite everything it was worthwhile doing the event in the severe conditions if only to prove that the club could do it bearing in mind a possible AREC event in similar weather.

The participants were: Robert Jaffares ZL1BTR, Bob Highet ZL1GD, Brian Huggard ZL1MW, Maurie Challinor ZL1FK, Branco Hofman (ex 9A2YT, Croatia), Ross Reddell ZL1VRR and XYL Betty, Paul Wells-Green ZL1PWG, Marc Veldhuisen ZL1TMV, Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW and Merv Thomas ZL1SK. (No particular order or amount of involvement).

On 80-metres we had 396 contacts which included 361 Phone, 35 C.W., 3 VK's, 21 home stations, 33 field stations, 27 branches on phone, 12 branches on CW, 21 x ZL2's, 3 x ZL3's, 2 x ZL4's,

On 40-metres the results are still being analysed but the poor result on 40-metres from 0600 hours on Sunday morning was typical up and down the country due to conditions but the application of the reflector on the 40-metre dipole was proven to help control the overseas DX so it was well worth the effort.

So I personally feel that the club was well represented by a very keen team who all fulfilled their promise to participate despite the weather that was experienced. Many thanks to those who made sure that Branch 03 was there to be counted in the results.

Merv Thomas ZL1SK, Scribe

**Western Suburbs Radio Club
Branch 03, N.Z.A.R.T. Inc:
11th: meeting of the elected Committee.
Monday 16th: January 2004.**

Attendance: (3) Merv Thomas ZL1SK, Secretary, Brian Huggard ZL1MW, A.R.E.C. Ross Reddell ZL1VRR;

Meeting commenced at 1935 hours.

Apologies: (2) one was too tired; and the other got home late..

Absent: (2)

Quorum: (NO)

Radio check-ins: Brian ZL1MW; Ross ZL1VRR; John ZL1JT.

So the three of us spent some time discussing the Field day arrangements and the Antenna building working bee on Saturday 21st. February at the club rooms at 9 a.m. and then went home.
Merv Thomas ZL1SK, Secretary / Vice-President / Scribe.
18th: February 2004.

Experience Marlborough 2004 NZART Conference:

When - Queens Birthday weekend, 5th & 6th June 2004.

Where - Marlborough Girls College, McLaughlan Street, Blenheim.

The 78th annual NZART conference in Marlborough the gourmet province is easily accessible by road, air and sea; there is no excuse not to come!

Forum topics are virtually finalised and include something for everyone. Home brew Test Equipment, Kiwi Sat, Medical Equipment (to follow on from imaging two years ago), IRLP and Echo Link, New Amateur Radio Equipment with Mainland Radio & Com-Centre, A forum on the National System, FMTAG with procedures and advice on repeater problems, DX, also Marine electronics. In Sunday's lineup expect SPAM, AREC, WARO, OTC and AMSAT-ZL.

The registration cost for the Marlborough 2004 Conference will be the same as for the Wairarapa Conference last year. Look for the Conference registration form in your March/April edition of Break-In. It will also be available on-line early in March.

Accommodation remains at a premium in Blenheim for this holiday weekend so book early and avoid disappointment. For information see our website: www.zl2ks.com

Contact: Conference Secretary: Helen Harris ZL2TPT

Telephone or Fax: 03 575 7181 **Or e-mail:** mt.adde@xtra.co.nz

**Western Suburbs Radio Club AREC MEETING
26th February 2004 at BR03 Club Rooms**

Election of Section Leaders for 2004-02-29 were elected. These will be announced at the AGM.

Section Leader's Report (Edited) from ZL1MW Brian Huggard.

I believe that this section is in good shape. It is regretted that apart from 2 members assisting BR10 at horse trials in January, there have not been any meetings/exercises since the November horse trials at Woodhill, an event we ran very successfully with only a little outside help. I held off trials anticipating delivery of our repeater which initially was to be ready by September, but more on that later.

Equipment wise, we already have enough radio and ancillaries, ie generator to meet our needs for any S.A.R.. A.R.E.C. or Civil Defence operation except the repeater. There are 6 F3 H/Held units on SAR & AREC frequencies & GM 300s on SAR frequencies and 4 GM 300s on AREC/local repeater frequencies.

Membership: We seriously need 3 more preferably retired but reasonably active members to meet short notice call out deployments.

For the repeater project duplexers were ordered from TX/RX USA in August 2003. After much difficulty and effort they finally arrived on the 18th February and the repeater was rapidly assembled. The repeater is being tested at the moment and should be dispatch by mid March.

AREC equipment: GM 300s already have 146.925 incorporated. F3s are having this frequency incorporated by Richard Gamble. The new GM 300 frequency charts have been issued and the F3 charts will be issued when we get the F3s back again. Documentation is now on hand on how to clone the F3's.

Date for the next meeting 18th March. Hopefully will have the repeater by then and will attach ancillaries for a complete set up. Brian ZL1MW will purchase these components.

Projected events as known now. April 2nd Friday SAR Piha few details as yet. Some talk of "fit" trampers – that will exclude most of us. Dave Wilkins has some data on the event. April 16 – 17 National Car Rally. May 10- 15 Civil Defence exercise. We will only be needed on Saturday 15th. Need 5 reliable operators.

Suggested that the new Section Leader go to CD Headquarters to meet Bill Morley and provide the numbers available for above exercise. Continuous: 2 weekly radio checks at CDHQ 07 45hrs 0930hrs approximately by ZL1MW Brian Huggard and ZL1GD Bob Highet. If operators have the opportunity to join in this exercise, come along on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday every month. Only 2 fully trained and one minor experienced in this to date.

We must be more active in training exercises as well as other activities. If we are not more active, we may be in danger of losing our ZL1EK AREC call.

The following projects are suggested:

12 volt P.A. system 50- 100watt output for horse trials. Test communications from relief centres – with repeater aid particularly along the coast.

More repeater pole top VHF- UHF-VHF sets for extending range of coverage.

Think about Data communications – The way of the future.

Brian Huggard ZL1MW and Merv Thomas ZL1SK Scribes.

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>

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| 5 March 2004 | ZL1MW | Brian |
| 12 March 2004 | ZL1JL | John |
| 19 March 2004 | ZL1NE | John |
| 26 March 2004 | ZL1ACZ | Barry |
| 2 April 2004 | ZL1WI | Roy |
| 9 April 2004 | ZL1VRR | Ross |
| 16 April 2004 | ZL1MW | Brian |