



# Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

## July 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 3.623 MHz

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

### Club Calendar

Monday	12 <sup>th</sup>	July	General Meeting – Address by NZART Councillor Tony Case.
Monday	26 <sup>th</sup>	July	Committee Meeting
Saturday		November	Used Equipment Sale

### Club Evening 12th July 2004

Tony Case, ZL1UD, NZART Northern Region Councillor will be addressing the club at our clubrooms 3000 Great North Road. Tony will bring us up to date on NZART matters. Tony is traveling from Hamilton to be with us for this meeting. There will be a raffle during the meeting so bring a bit of cash or you will miss out on the fun.

### June Club Evening

The June Club meeting was an open discussion on AREC. A number of speakers outlined the regions emergency capabilities for the club members present. Our thanks Bill Morley from Waitakere Civil Defence, Richard Gamble From AREC Papakura, Terry James from Search and Rescue and Brian Huggard from Western Suburbs AREC.

### Waitakere Sprint

The Western Suburbs Radio Club is pleased to announce that the Waitakere Phone Sprint will be held on Saturday July 31st 2004 and the CW Sprint will be on Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup> 2004. The operator's basic goal in the sprints is to make as many contacts as possible, without duplication, during an hour of operation on a single band. Any contact with ZL, VK or Oceania stations on 80 metres during the contest period can be counted, but a station may be claimed only once. The Waitakere Sprints are open to all licensed amateurs anywhere in the ZL, VK and Oceania call areas. SWL logs will also be welcome.

#### Contest Periods

Phone 1000 to 1100 UTC, on July 31st 2004

CW 1000 to 1100 UTC, on Aug 7th. 2004

#### Frequencies

Phone Frequencies between 3.550 to 3.700 may be used.

CW Frequencies between 3.500 to 3.550 may be used.

#### Exchanges

Minimum exchange for a valid contact will consist of a serial number, sent and received. The serial numbers must start at 001 and increment by one for each contact made. Note :- Time and signal reports are not required.

#### Awards

Certificates will be awarded to the overall winner and to the best score in each ZL call area and to the best three scores from VK/Oceania. Other certificates may be awarded at the discretion of WSRC. To encourage contestants to enter both Sprints we have decided to issue a Special Certificate to the entrant with the Highest combined score.

#### Logs

A separate log must be submitted for each Sprint and must be clearly marked PHONE or CW. Contest logs must show for each contact - Callsign of station worked, serial number sent, serial number received. SWL logs must show both Callsigns in the QSO also both serial numbers. Logs to be sent to the contest manager: - Andrew Barnett - ZL2ALW 70 Waima Crescent, Titirangi, Waitakere City, NEW ZEALAND. Email [zl2alw@post.com](mailto:zl2alw@post.com). Contest Logs to be received by 1st September 2004 for Inclusion. Each log must show the following details. Mode Callsign Name Address Operating area (eg ZL1, ZL2) Total Number of contacts claimed. A declaration that the operator has abided by the rules and spirit of the contest. Any entry which is clearly in violation of the rules or spirit of this contest or which contains an excessive number of duplicate contacts (this does not refer to duplicates which have been indicated as such and are not claimed) may be disqualified. The decision of WSRC (Inc) in respect of interpretation of these rules, the granting of awards and disqualifications will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW Contest Manager WSRC. [Send email](#)

### Correction

In the last Newsletter I reported Alex Learmond's, call as ZL1AXT, It is of course ZL1BVK apologies to Alex and for any confusion it may have caused.

**Western Suburbs Radio Club  
Branch 03, N.Z.A.R.T. Inc:  
Minutes of the 4th meeting of the 2004 elected Committee.  
Monday 28th: June 2004.**

**Attendance:** Merv Thomas ZL1SK, Secretary, James Moore ZL1JYM, Chairman Ross Reddell ZL1VRR; Brian Huggard ZL1MW; Bob Highet ZL1GD, Maurie Challinor ZL1FK; Barry Williams ZL1ACZ

Meeting commenced at 19-30 hours.

**Apologies:** John Turnwald ZL1JT, Treasurer;

**Minutes:** As circulated by email by the secretary were taken as a true and correct record. Moved: Maurie Challinor ZL1FK  
Seconded: Bob Highet ZL1GD

**Matters Arising:** Brian ZL1MW brought the meeting up to date with the clubrooms lease negotiations. Barry ZL1ACZ made the meeting aware that the Equipment Sale arrangements will need to be attended to soon. Moved: Bob Highet ZL1GD, Seconded: James Moore ZL1JYM that the club proceed this year with a sale in October or November to be organized.

**Financial Report:** The Treasurer informed the committee by email that the Insurance Excess of \$250-00 has been paid and the rest of the report remains essentially the same as last months plus 3 subscriptions. This was accepted by the committee.

**Correspondence: Outwards** from the secretary:

Letter to all email members lamenting the poor attendance at the AREC Saturday morning session.

Letter to Gary Bold congratulating him on his Prime Minister's Award.

Report sent to Tom McDonald ZL1TO for the June A.R.C.C. meeting.

**AREC** Section Leader Brian Huggard ZL1MW related the success of the AREC promotional effort by the committee and its results. The third Saturday morning session (for S.A.R. training) has been abandoned. He further announced that the clubs ICOM F3's recorded frequencies are now obsolete and they are awaiting Richard Gamble ZL1BNQ to install the new emergency frequencies. Moved: James Moore ZL1JYM Seconded: Barry Williams ZL1ACZ that the AREC report be accepted.

**General Business:**

Secretary to confirm with Councillor Tony Case ZL1UD his visit to Br: 03 for July 12 meeting. (NOTE: so done and confirmed). A sked for new HF hams (under the new regulations) was brought to the attention of the committee. This sked is on Thursday, 20-00 hours, 3.755 MHz and is designed to help them become acquainted with HF operating techniques and protocols and experienced HF operators are invited to help them by joining in.

Newsletter Email addresses were discussed and posting costs. The committee then adopted the following: *The committee wishes to advise you that in future ALL correspondence to members including Newsletters, Meeting Minutes and any other information will be by Email (to those with Email) due to the increasing cost of hard copy postage and copying. Special requests for hard copy will be honoured.*

Maurie Challinor ZL1FK asked about the availability of publicity handouts as he is currently trying to develop a relationship with an Intermediate school basic electronic class for which he is building 2 land line telegraph sets for demonstration to the students. Some fliers were subsequently found out back and the secretary has been given the job of checking their 'up to datedness'.

A suggestion from John Turnwald ZL1JT regarding the clubs token of appreciation to Andrew ZL2ALW for his conference trip was lost and a donation of \$50-00 to go towards his expenses was Moved: James Moore ZL1JYM Seconded: Maurie Challinor ZL1FK. and agreed upon.

The July meeting as well as having Tony Case to speak to us has the added bonus of TWO (as one prize) radios for the evenings raffle.

The meeting requests the treasurer to check on the insurance status of the clubs new SPST repeater, valued at \$4,000 for when it is stored at the clubrooms and for when it is on temporary sites. At present AREC Section leader Brian Huggard ZL1MW is negotiating with the Civil Defence Headquarters to see if it can be stored there and even be installed operationally.

**IMPORTANT:** a working bee at the clubrooms has been set for SATURDAY 17 July to finish the H.F. vertical installation and its radials. Completion of the H.F. station would help the newly updated licensees to operate on H.F. where they have difficulty in installing the longer H.F. antennas, which equates to a worthwhile project for the club membership. This to be aired at the July meeting.

Maurie Challinor ZL1FK made a very good suggestion about the clubrooms, which will be discussed further at the July general meeting. Ross Reddell ZL1VRR has researched the idea and discovered figures of 169 basic and 348 deluxe This will be discussed at the general meeting in July.

NOTE: 2004 subscriptions of \$25.00 are now due. At 30 June 2004, of the 42 sub paying members for 2003, 28 have so far paid their 2004 subscription, (66 %).

The meeting concluded at 20-37 hours.

Merv Thomas, ZL1SK, Secretary.

30<sup>th</sup> June 2004

**Satellite For New Zealand?**

Wellington, June 24 - The Government says it is time to consider whether New Zealand can develop its own satellite capability. Associate Communications Minister David Cunliffe today released a discussion document, which he said would help develop policies. "Satellites

have become very much a part of our daily lives," he said. "They bring us news and entertainment from across the globe, most important of all they help us to pick up a phone or press a key to be in instant touch with the rest of the world. "There is potential for commercial entities to work with the Government to further develop satellite infrastructure." The discussion document is on <http://www.med.govt.nz/rsm/spp>. Responses can be submitted up to July 30. NZPA. - The Amateur Fraternity may just beat them if all goes according to plan with Kiwi Sat (Ed).

#### **Actor Marlon Brando, KE6PZH/FO5GJ, SK**

One of the best-known names in cinematic as well as Amateur Radio circles, actor Marlon Brando, died in Los Angeles July 1 at age 80. Known to hams worldwide as KE6PZH and FO5GJ, Brando is listed on the FCC database as Martin Brandeaux. He was on the air occasionally through the years with his FO5 call sign from his private island in French Polynesia.

In an interview with Larry King on CNN in 1994, Brando confirmed his continued interest in Amateur Radio. In response to a caller's question, he said ham radio provided him with the opportunity to just be himself.

The iconoclastic actor was best known for his roles as Stanley Kowalski in "A Streetcar Named Desire," a dockworker in "On the Waterfront," and Vito Corleone in "The Godfather." He was nominated for eight Academy Awards and won twice.

#### **Morton Coutts**

Some may not have noticed in the business section of the NZ Herald late June, a tribute to the late Mr Morton Coutts who passed away aged 100 in June 2004. Morton Coutts was a foundation Director of DB Breweries and a pioneer in the continuous fermentation of brewing beer. It was also noted that he was a pioneer NZ radio amateur being amongst the first NZ amateurs to be licensed in June 1923, with the call Z2AQ. It was not unusual in the early 20s for amateur to play records and give announcements over their transmitters to the growing number of experimental radio listeners. I would suspect that NZ's oldest amateur has just passed away. For further information about Morton's early days in amateur radio refer to the book, Ham Shacks, Brass Pounders and Rag Chewers. Barry ZL1ACZ.

#### **Cellphones and petrol stations**

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which mobile phones (cell phones) ignited fumes during fueling operations. In the first case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car. And in the third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

You should know that:

- Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes
- Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition
- Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boat! , Etc.
- Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust, i.e. solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc

To sum it up, here are the Four Rules for Safe Refueling

- 1) Turn off the engine
- 2) Don't smoke
- 3) Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off
- 4) Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling

Bob Renkes of the Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "static electricity" at gas pumps. His company has researched 150 cases of these fires.

His results were very surprising:

- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 2) Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas, when finished and they went back to pull the nozzle out the fire started, as a result of static.
- 3) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 5) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- 7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was reentered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulting in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.
- 8) Seventeen fires that occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door TOUCHING THE METAL, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

You can find out more information by going to <http://www.pei.org>. Once here, click in the centre of the screen where it says "Stop Static".

## Life In The 1500's

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s ~ these are interesting...

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw - piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth... Now, whoever said that History was boring ! !

## Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz 7:30pm every Wednesday, HF Net 3623 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>. We have changed the HF Frequency to 3.623 to avoid QRM problems associated with another nearby net. All are welcome to check in on the nets and in particular we would be most happy to have check-ins from the recently upgraded group on the HF net.

9 July 2004	ZL1MW	Brian
16 July 2004	ZL1JL	John
23 July 2004	ZL1NE	John
30 July 2004	ZL1WI	Roy
6 August 2004	ZL1VRR	Ross