



## Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

### September 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

Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	September	Hamilton Market Day – Claudlands Showground's – Vendors 8am, Buyers 10am
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	September	Club Night – Guest Speaker Warren Vickery
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup>	September	Committee Meeting - (Please Confirm Date.)
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	November	Western Suburbs Radio Club Used Equipment Sale

### Club Evening 13 September 2004

The Guest speaker for the next general meeting on Monday 13th September will be Warren Vickery ZL1TXN. Warren will tell us about his involvement in the field of professional radio communications and his experiences in running the micro FM station BLOCKHOUSE BAY MELODIES. I can assure you that what he has to say on both topics will be very interesting. Do not miss this meeting.

John ZL1JL has again kindly donated prizes for the September and October meetings. Many thanks John for your continued support. Members, please remember to bring along a few dollars to buy tickets.

### August Club Evening

We had a very successful dinner at the Avondale RSA on August 9th. We easily filled the tables allotted to us and doubled the numbers in attendance at the RSA for that evening.

### Silent Key - Shirley Freeman

It was with regret that the Club learnt of the death of long time club member Shirley Freeman, ZL1BI. Shirley was found in her home after friends had been unable to contact her, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2004. Shirley was a keen club member and served for a number of years on the committee. All at Western Suburbs will miss her friendliness and her presence at club meetings.

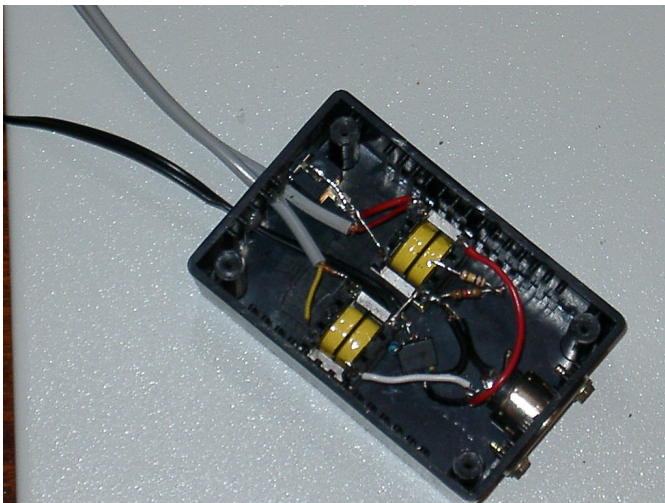
### Waitakere Sprints

Please send your Log(s) into Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW Contest Manager WSRC as soon as possible to ZL2ALW@post.com. Logs received after 1st September will be too late to be included for any of the awards.

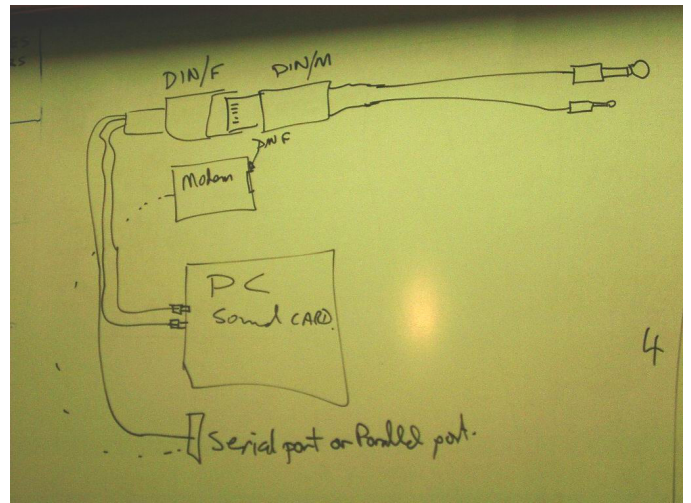
### Branch 03 Digi-peater

The Western Suburbs Radio Club Digi-peater is now up and running. This can be heard on 144.575 MHz (fm) if you have the appropriate software loaded on your computer, a soundcard in your computer and a cable to join the computer to the radio. As I write this on Sunday morning there are 81 stations active around the country. A number of these have weather recording equipment attached to the computer as well and are relaying weather conditions at regular intervals. It is also possible to pass messages from one station to another via this system, but sadly I don't see the system being used for this purpose on very many occasions. Common software to use at home is UI-View. The programme, maps and detailed instructions on how to go about the whole deal, can be downloaded from Alan Wallace's web site <http://www.zl1amw.wallace.net.nz/>. Below are pictures featured in earlier newsletters of a simple interface. The one on the left with transformers that isolate the radio from the computer and on the right one that connects directly. Alternatively any TNC that you use for Packet Radio can be used. If

you are using the computers sound card, then you will need have AGW Packet Engine installed, available at <http://www.raag.org/sv2agw/inst.htm>.



Interface with Isolating Transformers



Circuit for direct connection of the Radio to the PC

## USED EQUIPMENT SALE

The hall is booked for the **WSRC ANNUAL USED EQUIPMENT SALE**. With the continued support of branch members and Auckland amateurs, we can expect another very successful get-together and sale. WSRC needs donated items for the club table. Please check through your shack or workshop for any items you may wish to get rid of. Bring them down to the clubrooms or on the day. The day being **SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2004**. The venue being the same as last year, **THE ROSEBANK ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, 217 ROSEBANK RD. AVONDALE**.

For further information or to book tables contact;

Barry	ZL1ACZ	627-9070
Roy	ZL1WI	814-9550
Merv	ZL1SK	828-7174

## Western Suburbs Radio Club

### Branch 03, N.Z.A.R.T. Inc:

### Minutes of the 4th meeting of the 2004 elected Committee.

**Monday 23rd: August 2004.**

**Attendance:** Merv Thomas ZL1SK, Secretary, Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW Vice- Chairman Ross Reddell ZL1VRR; Brian Huggard ZL1MW; Bob Hight ZL1GD, Maurie Challinor ZL1FK; Barry Williams ZL1ACZ, John Turnwald ZL1JT Treasurer. Meeting commenced at 19-28 hours.

**Apologies:** James Moore ZL1JYM, Chairman; by ZL1AC radio call in.

**Minutes:** As circulated by email by the secretary were taken as a true and correct record. Moved: Barry Williams ZL1ACZ Seconded: Ross Reddell ZL1VRR

- Matters Arising: Brian ZL1MW reported to the committee on the August 2nd 2004 meeting with the New Lynn Borough Council re the clubs land lease for the club rooms and that we had a favourable hearing.
- We continued on our check of financial members.

**AREC** Brian ZL1MW reported S.T.S.P. repeater is NOT currently licensed but the repeater can be covered by ZL1EK usage. Doug Ihgham of FMTAG advises that due to a clerical oversight the license has not been issued so he has re-submitted the application. The ZL1AC Digi-peater is now current. The next A.R.E.C. Section Leaders meeting will be at our Br: 03 club rooms on Thursday 18 November 2004.

**Correspondence:**

The latest newsletters form; Br 02 Auckland; Br 10 Franklin; Br29 North Shore; Br 65 Papakura; Br 66 VHF Group; Br 79 Howick; Br 80 Hibiscus Coast; Br 86 Suburban. NOTE: These will be placed all together on the side table for members perusal at the next meeting. ALSO: Reply by email from FMTAG re our licenses, and surprise, surprise, a letter from Genesis Energy informing us the electricity will now cost more.

**Outwards**

From the secretary: Enquiry by email to FMTAG re our STSP and APRS digi-peater licenses.

**Financial Report:**

The Treasurer informed the committee of the clubs latest financial status. Hard copy attached to minutes folder. Moved: John ZL1JT and Seconded: Bob ZL1GD report be accepted Moved: Barry ZL1ACZ and Seconded: Andrew ZL2ALW that the treasurer pay the N.Z.A.R.T. annual subscription. The committee directed Merv ZL1SK and John ZL1JT to update the Incorporated Society Accounts Return details and to forward same. Barry ZL1ACZ submitted receipts for \$133.40 for Newsletter printing and postage for re-imburement. Moved: Andrew ZL2ALW and Seconded: Bob ZL1GD that Barry be paid.

**General Business:**

The gold leaf lettering for the Life Member shield has been quoted to Maurie ZL1FK at \$30.00. Moved: Merv ZL1SK and Seconded: that Maurie be authorised to go ahead and get it done.

The Waitakere Sprint has been and gone with Andrew ZL2ALW still receiving logs. Only 5 received thus far.

John ZL1JT suggested broadening the range of equipment that could be offered for sale at our November equipment sale. (Merv has subsequently updated the brochure he brought to the meeting and sent it to the committee for improvement or comment in return.

Barry is in contact with Warren Vickery as our guest speaker for the September meeting.

Andrew ZL2ALW then alerted the committee to the possible hazards of erecting horizontal radials for the H.F. vertical antenna given the close proximity of the two parallel running E.H.T. power pylons with their cables running nearly parallel to our proposed radials. Much discussion ended with a working bee being set for Tuesday 31st: August to investigate fully and hopefully finish the H.F. vertical antenna at the clubrooms.

Barry ZL1ACZ provided a audio cassette of Morse Code basic training and is placed at the back of the club rooms for members use.

Merv ZL1SK (Club scribe) was directed to update the contact data on the signboard at the drive entrance and produce a "DO NOT TURN OFF" sign for the digi-peater equipment in the clubrooms. So directed!

Meeting concluded at 21-12 hours.

Merv Thomas, ZL1SK

24<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

**Amateur Radio Facilitates Dramatic Rescue at Sea**

NEWINGTON, CT, July 30, 2004--Amateur Radio operators in the US, French Polynesia and Australia played a vital role in the successful late-June rescue of a couple aboard a privately owned sailboat in the Pacific Ocean. The drama began July 25 after John Caine, VK4CEJ, in Queensland, Australia, checked into the Pacific Seafarers Net on 14.313 MHz with emergency traffic from the 47-foot sailing ketch Fingolfin, some 680 nautical miles north of Nuka Hiva--the largest of the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia. A young Australian couple, John and Kelly Hallows, were on their way from Mexico to the Marquesas. With the trip taking longer than anticipated, John Hallows had run out of a required medication and was experiencing debilitating pain.

Through Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) member Bob Botik, K5SIV, in Austin, Texas, the US Coast Guard in Honolulu and a shipping firm, arrangements were made for the Greek container vessel Irene Logos to rendezvous with the Fingolfin and transfer the needed medication. Unfortunately, the larger vessel struck the ketch during the transfer, badly damaging it. To add insult to injury, the medication transferred turned out to be the wrong one. Eventually other Amateur Radio operators became part of the unfolding drama, and Botik found himself as a key player.

Later on June 25, Richard Le Massena, W6KH, in Vista, California, checked into the MMSN on 14.300 MHz to report that he was in contact on 17 meters with Stephen Hindrichs, VE0WND, aboard the S/V Wind Runner. VE0WND was in contact with the Fingolfin, and the Hallowses were still requesting assistance. Le Massena contacted the Coast Guard in San Diego, but propagation sufficient to handle traffic into the Pacific didn't become favorable until later in the day. Bill Healy, N6JRD/mm, in the Pacific relayed information from the Fingolfin to Bob, KA6LSL, in Yuma, Arizona, who, in turn, passed the traffic to K5SIV, who was in contact with the Coast Guard in Honolulu. In the meantime, VK4CEJ also copied the Fingolfin's transmissions and contacted the couple's families in Australia.

The Coast Guard meanwhile was in touch with the French Navy in French Polynesia to effect a rescue. But the situation aboard the Fingolfin continued to deteriorate. John Hallows was no longer able to assist in piloting the damaged vessel, and his wife, injured during the collision with the container vessel, was in pain and exhausted. Both also were suffering symptoms of dehydration. An hourly schedule with the Fingolfin on 14.300 MHz was maintained with stations staying on frequency after the MMSN shut down.

The next day, Botik patched Dr Jim Hirschman, K4TCV, in Miami to the Fingolfin so Hirschman could attempt a medical assessment. He determined that Kelly Hallows likely had suffered a broken leg or pelvis. Due to the couple's dehydration, evacuation became imperative. The French Navy patrol vessel La Tapageuse came on 14.300 MHz to advise it was on its way to the Fingolfin's last-known position and estimated it would take 30 hours to get there. Via VK4CEJ and K5SIV, a series of questions and answers to and from the Fingolfin were relayed to La Tapageuse. With ARRL Field Day impending, alternative non-amateur frequencies were arranged to maintain continued contact.

The K6FQ Field Day operation near Mount Palomar reported overhearing some of the Fingolfin communications, and participants monitored as events transpired. "With this real-life experience under our belts, several of our VHF/UHF-only operators are now working on license upgrades to expand their privileges into other Amateur Radio frontiers," commented Kurt Barnhart, W5WRJ.

The Fingolfin's situation continued to worsen. The vessel was taking on water and eventually lost one mast, which also struck its only lifeboat, rendering it unusable. The broken mast also threatened to bring down the radio antenna. Amateurs on frequency advised the Fingolfin to stay on frequency no matter what. Eventually the other mast would fall. A few hours later, the increasingly stressed, demoralized and desperate couple made contact with Gary Walls, KE6SD/mm, aboard the S/V Amidon Light in Suvarrow Atoll and with N6JRD/mm. The two amateurs discussed with the couple similar experiences they'd had at sea and attempted to lift their spirits to get them through the crisis. *La Tapageuse* finally reached the *Fingolfin* on June 27 and took the couple aboard, but the sailboat had to be scuttled. Botik subsequently received an e-mail to confirm that John and Kelly Hallows were admitted to a hospital in Nuka Hiva. In early July, he spoke with the Tahiti Rescue Coordination Center was told that the couple had been released from the hospital. The extent of Kelly Hallows' injuries was not known.

Earlier this month, Botik received a letter of appreciation from Rear Adm C. D. Wurster of the US Coast Guard in Honolulu. "Your valiant efforts enabled the US Coast Guard to obtain key medical and logistical information from the S/V Fingolfin and then respond with a French Navy patrol boat from Tahiti," Wurster said. "Your efforts and skills in radio communications directly resulted in the safe rescue of two personnel."

Wurster said he applauded Botik's "unselfish devotion and commitment to aiding others in distress."  
"Your actions uphold the highest principles and traditions of humanitarian service and of the U.S. Coast Guard."  
A more detailed account of the Fingolfin rescue is available on the MMSN Web site.--MMSN Assistant Net Manager Tom Job, VE3II

## 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.

3 September 2004	ZL1NE	John
10 September 2004	ZL1ACZ	Barry
17 September 2004	ZL1WI	Roy
24 September 2004	ZL1VRR	Ross
1 October 2004	ZL1MW	Brian
8 October 2004	ZL1JL	John