



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

November 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.qsl.net/zl1ac>

Club Calendar

Saturday	6 th	November	Western Suburbs Radio Club Used Equipment Sale
Monday	8 th	November	Club Evening – Dave Wilkins on Tramping Stewart Island with a FT817
Thursday	18 th	November	AREC Section Leaders Meeting

Club Evening 8th November 2004

Dave Wilkins ZL1MR from the Papakura Club will be our guest speaker at the November meeting explaining his tramping visit to Stewart Island. Dave took with him on the trip a Yaesu FT 817 - 5 watt all band portable radio, dipole antenna and power supply. With that set-up he managed to work many stations around the country on HF. On occasions the link was made via the EchoLink System as described at last months meeting.

September Club Evening

The formal part of the meeting closed at 1937 hours and a welcome was extended to Nigel Goldstone ZL2SEA who had travelled to Western Suburbs especially to explain the EchoLink System.

Nigel started by illustrating the 4 VOIP systems currently available i.e. ILRP, EQSO, Wires II (a Yaesu propriety type system used mostly in Japan) and EchoLink. Nigel is currently heavily involved in the management and control of the EchoLink Node ZL1VK-R #6504 on the ZL1HK Ponga repeater 147.325 MHz.

There are currently 155,000 EchoLink users worldwide, growing at a rate of about 3,600/month, with 903 licensed ZL operators. Usually there are about 2,500 nodes/users using the system at any one time. He explained that the usage of the EchoLink node ZL1VK-R on the Ponga repeater is not heavy and he is very happy for as many Amateurs as possible to take advantage of the EchoLink repeater set-up and maintained by the Papakura branch & the South Auckland Repeater Group. The South Auckland Repeater Group are going to link the Ponga Repeater 147.325 with the Musick Point repeater 145.775 which will give a much greater Auckland coverage for EchoLink usage. The EchoLink system can be operated "Computer to Computer", "Radio to Computer", "Radio to Radio", or "Computer to Radio" and covers the whole Globe. An operator could work most countries of the world while using a hand/held 2 Metre rig even while going walk-about. "The World on a Hand-Held!" For those who wish to use a computer, the computer systems requirements are very basic with Nigel doing the demonstrations on an old redundant 166 MHz P.C. using Windows 95. Any licensed Ham can download the required software and register using his/her callsign. The Website <http://www.echolink.org/el/logins.asp> can tell you who is currently logged on EchoLink if you have not got the software. Due to the large number of users EchoLink can have long DTMF codes. On the Papakura EchoLink node a number of DTMF shortcuts have been set up so that only two or three digit codes are required, to make the logging on to a particular contact so much easier even when operating mobile.

At the present moment for a short trial period, EchoLink node is Transmitting and Receiving on Ponga 147.325 and also Klondyke 845 giving U.H.F. access to the system. Every Sunday evening at 1930 hours the system is using "NZ EchoLink Conference Server" for the NZ wide VOIP net.

Nigel then went on to demonstrate the system using a standard 2 Metre rig with a DTMF mike and worked Cyril in Wanganui. Further explanations culminating in some questions and answers, completed Nigel's most interesting talk creating a timely opportunity for members to be on the air more using resources provide by other hams.



Nigel ZL2SEA demonstrating the use of EchoLink via the Ponga 2 metre repeater.

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

Bruce Wise ZL1ABD

Bruce died at Rotorua on 6th October 2004 in his early 80's. Bruce joined the WSRC about 1948, the same time as me (Roy ZL1WI) and got his Amateur Licence soon afterwards. A keen supporter of the Club and the AREC he was rewarded with Life Membership in 1977. On retirement Bruce moved to Pensioner flats in Massey, and because of antenna restrictions operated mostly on 2 metres. The elevation of the Royal Road Flats gave him excellent 2 metre coverage. Four years ago failing health forced a shift to a rest home where Amateur Radio was even more restricted. A year ago Bruce moved to Rotorua to be near his daughter Linda.

Roy ZL1WI

Western Suburbs Radio Club

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

Minutes of the 8th meeting of the 2004 elected Committee.

Monday 25th: October 2004.

Attendance:

James Moore ZL1JYM Chairman. Merv Thomas ZL1SK, Secretary,
John Turnwald ZL1JT Treasurer. Brian Huggard ZL1MW AREC Section Leader;
Ross Reddell ZL1VRR; Bob Highet ZL1GD Equipment minder;
Maurie Challinor ZL1FK; Meeting commenced at 19-31 hours.

Apologies:

Barry Williams ZL1ACZ

Minutes:

As circulated by email by the secretary were taken as a true and correct record. Moved: Bob Highet ZL1GD, Seconded: Maurie Challinor ZL1FK. A motion commending a good job done by the secretary was moved by James Moore ZL1JYM and seconded by Ross Reddell ZL1VRR.

- **Arising:** Nil, except Ross Reddell ZL1VRR questioned the result of the Waitakere Sprint contest.

Correspondence:

- **Incoming:** Received various branch newsletters and a cheque from Ken McCormack ZL1AIH for a Equipment Sale table pre-booking..
- **Outgoing:** Nil.

Finance:

Same report as previous committee meeting. 2 cheques were paid: Ross Reddell ZL1VRR re-imburement for outside light repairs. \$72.74. M.E.D. for ZL1AC license renewal. \$35.00

AREC

Nothing to report.

General Business:

- Dave Wilkins ZL1MR will be our speaker at the November meeting explaining his visit to Stewart Island.
- Moved: Maurie Challinor ZL1FK and Seconded: John Turnwald ZL1JT that an electric drill owned by the club should not be sold at the equipment sale.
- The final meeting for the year (The Xmas break-up one) on December 13th will once again be a BBQ / Social evening for members and XYL's. Members will be asked to bring along a "plate" selecting from salad, cake, scones, savouries, sweets or fruit. The club will provide tea, coffee, milk, sugar, biscuits, nibbles and dip etc.
- The equipment sale on November 6th Barry Williams ZL1ACZ will be asked to bring his electric griller along again. James Moore ZL1JYM will organize the sausages. Merv Thomas ZL1SK is to buy bread, butter, tea and coffee, milk, sugar, orange juice, 3 or 4 packs of biscuits, soft drinks, tomato sauce, for re-imburement by the club. It was agreed the club should retain the Alinco VHF/UHF hand held rig and offer the other 2 handhelds for sale. Merv Thomas ZL1SK undertook to email all the hams in his address book to publicize the sale (This was done A.M. the next day). A firm commitment is needed to sell more tables or the sale may have to be cancelled. The required table numbers will need to be checked the day before the sale to ascertain the number available from the clubrooms, the hall and from members. Volunteers are asked to come to the clubrooms Saturday 30th at 1000 hrs to sort the material on hand for the sale, and on Friday 5th (the day before) at 1430 hrs to load up Bob Highet's trailer.
- The sale of a Ten-Tec rig in the clubrooms is being negotiated with Brendon Dreaver ZL1OO.

Meeting concluded at 2022 hours.

Merv Thomas, ZL1SK, 28th: October 2004.

AREC

P.S. Brian Huggard ZL1MW, AREC Section Leader would appreciate a call from any members who could assist with a test radio coverage exercise of our STSP repeater in the greater Waitakere area on Saturday November 13th 2004. Ph: 833-7006, or email: natalie.brian.h@xtra.co.nz

SSTV Active In Auckland

For the past 6 months or so, a small but dedicated group of SSTV'ers has been meeting for discussion and exchange of pictures, on THURSDAY NIGHTS at 8 p.m. on the 690 repeater.

If you have a leaning for this interesting aspect of our hobby then an open invitation is passed on to you. Plenty of help and advice is available from this friendly group. The meeting usually lasts about an hour. We discuss new software, and how to get it to perform, various sound card interfaces and how to get the best out of them, as well as picture manipulation and compilation using a wide range of programmes.

Doug ZL1AVY has recently been producing a pcb for a simple but very effective, sound card interface and these are available from him for \$25.00. You'll need to find the plugs and sockets plus a wee case to house it. Doug can custom-make one to suit your radio if you can't. Contact him for details and price. This interface is also suitable for ANY data mode that uses a sound card.

He has also been running a SSTV repeater on 145.250 MHz simplex for people to use to test their radios and equipment, including their interface. This is active from 2 pm to 9 pm most days. Simplex contacts are usually made on this same frequency.

Check in on Thursday night at 8 pm - you'll be made very welcome.

73, Doug ZL1AVY Phone : 836-8206 and e-mail: zl1avy@nzart.org.nz

Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz 7:30pm every Wednesday, HF Net 3623 KHz +/- QRM/QRN 7:30pm every Friday. All are welcome to check in on the nets. The HF Net Controller Roster is shown below.

5 November 2004	ZL1VRR	Ross
12 November 2004	ZL1MW	Brian
19 November 2004	ZL1JL	John
26 November 2004	ZL1NE	John
3 December 2004	ZL1ACZ	Barry



FT817 For those interested ED