



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

February 2005 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	14 th	February	Club Evening – Barry's (ZL1ACZ) Recent Trip to the Mid West USA
Monday	21	February	AREC meeting at 19-30 hrs
Saturday Sunday	26 th 27 th	February	National Field Day competition. The Club will be active as ZL1AC at Anawhata all weekend. Please spend a few, or many, hours as part of the team.
Saturday to Tuesday	25 th to 28 th	March	VHF Convention. Venue is at Raroa Intermediate School, Haumia Street, Johnsonville, Wellington.

February Meeting – 14th February 2005

Next general meeting speaker for February will be Barry Williams ZL1ACZ. Barry will share his trip to USA with Club Members.

December Meeting

The December meeting as usual was our Christmas Social and BBQ. A good number of club members were present at the BBQ and all had a pleasant evening.

Auckland Regional Coordinating Meeting

The Auckland Regional Coordinating Meeting was held on Tuesday 30th November 2004 at the Branch 66 Clubrooms. Some snippets that may be of interest to you follow:

- VHF Convention is being held in Wellington this year at Easter, 25th to 28th March. Branch 66 VHF Group will organise a Mini-bus to get you there. You are most welcome to travel to Wellington with them. Contact any Branch 66 Committee member if you are interested in joining them.
- The Suburban Radio Club is running a low power FM transmitter on 88.2 MHz from Music Point. This is in the normal FM broadcast section of the radio spectrum and is running an information programme on the Music Point Radio Station. It is extremely low power so you are unlikely to hear it in the west but try anyway.
- Rally of New Zealand is coming up in April. If you want to be involved in assisting with communications for this world event then phone David Karrasch ZL1DK on 09 266 0180.
- A summary of the weekly News and Net is being relayed from the 690 repeater at regular (but not too often) intervals. This could be a good place to catch up on what is happening around the radio clubs during the week.
- The ARRL website has a section devoted to the continuing education of amateur radio operators. Try these two websites for details. <http://www.arrl.org/> or <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>

Woodhill Horse Endurance Event 18-19 December 2004

This again was our combined event with Franklin Br 10 and our club, the WSRC Br 03. The weekend was fine and warm with Horses running both days. This was the first long run for the STSP repeater running on 146.925. It proved that the repeater could sustain the traffic between Start / Finish, the field station out in the forest and farm area's. This was made up with Checkpoints 1/2/3 and base. Saturday events were 50km, 40km and 30km course fun rides. The fields were small and did not get under way till 1200noon and ran all afternoon till 1700 hrs. All riders and horses returned to base. Conditions were warm out in the forest and the sun stayed out all day.

Sunday started off a little overcast with not as much sun around. The fields were bigger with the running of the 80km and 40km events. The horses made good times to all the Checkpoints in the morning with only one hiccup; one rider came off between Checkpoints 2 and 3. One of the following riders came though and notified us of the accident with instructions as to where the

rider was. This was radioed to base and the recovery team shot into gear. The horse had caught a leg on some barbwire and had reared up throwing her rider. It then took off back to Checkpoint 2 where Bob ZL1GD managed to tie it up to the tree. Meanwhile, while this was going on the rider managed to walk back to Checkpoint 2 some 4km back. But the pick up team went to the site where the fallen rider was supposed to be, but could not find her and wasted time. This was the only retirement of the day. The rest of the day went by without any more trouble. There were about four horse's that were dragging the chain a little, but on asking if they would withdraw were reluctant to withdraw, and wanted to complete the course to the finish.

A good day was held by all. So it was only left to pack up all the gear and bring back the repeater to base, tidy up and head off home. Thanks to all who helped over the two days. They were ZL1MW, ZL1BBZ, ZL1UHT, ZL1ULK, ZL1GD, ZL1FK, ZL1PWG, ZL1CCJ, ZL1JAQ, ZL1VRR



Ross' Van and Radio Station at Checkpoint 3



Horses refuelling for the next leg of the endurance event

Ross ZL1VRR



The AVS Science & Technology Society marked its 100th anniversary of electronics on Nov 18, 2004. The Society is holding its 51st International Symposium and Exhibition through November 19 in Anaheim, California. More than 1300 papers in all areas of vacuum-related technology were presented. The Society considers November 16, 1904, the start of the electronic age. On that date, British scientist John Ambrose Fleming applied for a British patent for his invention of the first practical electronic device - the thermionic diode, also known as the "Fleming valve." Fleming discovered that his simple vacuum tube, containing only two electrodes - a cathode and a plate - could convert alternating current to direct current. His later research with the thermionic valve was important to the development of radio. A special AVS symposium session November 16 celebrated Fleming's seminal invention and the subsequent evolution of electronic components based on vacuum devices.

- submitted by William Ricker, N1VUX

Western Suburbs Radio Club

Branch 03, NZART Inc:

Minutes of the 1st: meeting of the 2004 elected Committee in 2005.

Monday 24th: January 2005.

Attendance:

James Moore ZL1JYM Chairman. Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW Vice-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 19-27 hours.

Apologies: Barry Williams ZL1ACZ is in the South Island

Minutes: From the November committee as circulated at the meeting by the secretary and written by John Turnwald ZL1JT were taken as a true and correct record. Moved: Ross Reddell ZL1VRR Seconded: Maurie Challinor ZL1FK. Matters Arising: Nil.

Correspondence: Incoming

Received various branch newsletters plus correspondence from NZART HQ; a brochure from Br: 65 Papakura announcing their "Ham Promotion" night of Wednesday 26th January 2005; from Br: 74 a brochure publicising the VHF Convention at Easter 2005; a circular from Waitakere City Council explaining the Reserves Management Plan and a brochure from Br: 53 announcing their Market Day of Saturday March 25th.

Outgoing: Nil.

Matters Arising: Secretary to email our members re Br: 65 Ham Promotion evening.

Finance

A report was read by John Turnwald ZL1JT giving the branches money situation but a discrepancy was found in the balances so the report was held over for correction. Moved: James Moore ZL1JYM and Seconded: Bob Highet ZL1GD that a donation to qsl.net be sent from the branch. Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW suggested NZ\$50.00 . Passed unanimously. John Turnwald ZL1JT to action same.

AREC

Brian Huggard ZL1MW reported a successful Horse Trials Event held on 12th December 2004 with communications running smoothly. The clubs new repeater performed well except for a susceptibility when receiving over-deviated signals.

He also asked for more volunteers from the club to help with radio checks done weekly on Wednesday mornings at the CD HQ in Elcoat Avenue Te Atatu. This activity helps the club considerably in maintaining a higher profile contact with the Waitakere City Council and other authorities.

The Rally New Zealand organizers are also looking for more operators to assist in communications for 7, 8 and 9 April. Email Richard Gamble ZL1BNQ (Richard.Gamble@panasonic.co.nz) or (gambler@xtra.co.nz) or David Karrasch ZL1DK (karrasch@ihug.co.nz) if interested. Jim Rowe ZL1AVR (jim.rowe@xtra.co.nz) is also looking for volunteer comms assistance on the same weekend for the Coromandel Adventure Race to be held near Thames. Secretary to email members outlining above 2 requests.

The next W.S.R.C. A.R.E.C meeting is Monday 21st February at 19-30 hrs. All welcome.

General Business:

Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW noticed on arrival at the clubrooms that the Digipeater had once again been turned off against the pleas of 2 notices on the wall. He is also hosting a Ham Television get-together and demonstrations at his home on Sunday 30th January starting 1 p.m. His address is available from the usual sources and all are invited. Secretary to email club members inviting attendance to above.

Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW suggested that the club contract a Telecommunications Broker to dispose of the computer surplus equipment held at the clubrooms.

James Moore ZL1JYM Moved: that a moving truck with suitable operators be hired to remove the remainder of the offered equipment held at the ASB building in Airedale Street as the need to shift it is urgent, and to also to dispose, as befitted the equipment, to a scrap merchant. Seconded: Bob Highet ZL1GD. John Turnwald ZL1JT to action same.

John Turnwald ZL1JT to inform WSRC volunteers to attend the equipment pick-up at the same time as the truck to select that which is for the scrap merchant and that, such as cards etc., to be retained for the club for disposal by the afore mentioned Telecommunication Broker. The timing of the pick-up to be arranged with Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW

AREC Field Day Contest

On the last weekend of February ZL1AC Field Day Station will again be operated by club members. James Moore ZL1JYM to book our usual site in Anawhata Road. All WSRC club members are requested to offer some operating time on site to lift the ZL1AC profile ESPECIALLY C.W. operators. (We were 5th: last year mainly due to a lack of C.W. operators). The committee requests that an appeal for C.W. operators for Field Day be highlighted in our next Newsletter to support our clubs 2 main stations ZL1AC (80

meters and 40 meters) Without that C.W. support the club station cannot move further up the ratings as the Phone contacts are up with the winners. Moved: Maurie Challinor ZL1FK, Seconded: Ross Reddell ZL1VRR Passed unanimously.

Maurie Challinor ZL1FK and Brian Huggard ZL1MW each gave John Turnwald ZL1JT Treasurer, a cheque as a donation for surplus equipment they had received from the clubrooms.

Treasurer John Turnwald ZL1JT suggested that the annual subscription for 2005 be held at \$25.00 and to be promoted as such by the committee at the next general meeting.

Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW suggested an idea that the WSRC promote a Field Trip for perhaps a week to the Chatham Islands ZL7 for the multi-purpose of promoting ham radio in the region, perhaps training and developing 1 or 3 ham operators amongst the residents, and gaining valuable publicity for our hobby. The recent profile lift for the Islands from government and other organizations (including a Maori Marae) would make the possibility of sponsorship and grants a real possibility to assist with the expedition. Hams and Branches from all over New Zealand would be invited to participate in various ways, equipment, operators, teachers, organizers, personal supplies etc; the whole to be managed by WSRC. Perhaps finance from "New Zealand on Air" could produce a TV documentary from it giving our hobby a substantial lift. Moved: Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW Seconded: James Moore ZL1JYM that a separate committee be formed to carry out the initial planning of the suggested project. Passed unanimously. The Secretary to contact Lester Price ZL4PO who has Chatham Islands experience to bring further information to the special committee.

Meeting concluded at 21:22 hours

Merv Thomas, ZL1SK, Secretary

25th: January 2005.

Annual General Meeting

The March meeting is our AGM night. Please consider putting your name forward as a committee member. As always we need new blood and new ideas. The more one gets involved with the club the more one gets out of it. The committee this year has been very dedicated to keeping the club alive and well, much of which is "behind the scenes" and not seen. It would nice to keep it fresh and forward looking with new input.

DX, Birds Nest Antenna and Other Bits

In a recent QSO with PY1EUN, Argentina, I was informed by the operator, Martin, that he was unable to rotate his beam towards ZL, short path. The reason being, that he had a birds nest up in the top of his beam and there were young chicks in the nest. he felt that by rotating the beam he may dislodge the nest. So the beam was struck in the one direction until the chicks were flying. Just one of the hazards one experiences in ham radio.

I have worked several EA6 stations, but none have QSL'd yet. I recently heard EA6UN working on 20 metres and I recognised it as a wanted country. I checked my computer log and found I had worked Yurek 12 months earlier on CW but never sent off a card. As I am not a good CW operator, I was concentrating so much on receiving CW that I did not recognise the call as a wanted country. I made my SSB contact with Yurek, got his QSL route, and hopefully will have EA6 QSLed soon. A sign of a novice DXer!!

For the last 3 weeks VU4 Andaman Islands has been very active with a small operation from this very rare DX country. The island is an Indian naval base and permission to operate there is very seldom given. The team were just running 100 watts and using dipoles. Even though their signals were audible at this QTH they never exceeded S7. As expected there was a continual pile up. There were 2 calls operating VU4NRO and VU4 RBI. On the 6th Dec I was listening to VU4NRO working a pile up, "up 10 kHz." Then he went silent for 15 minutes and I sat on his frequency. A new operator came on and started calling CQ on that frequency and I was fortunate to be his third QSO. By this time bedlam had broken out and after a couple more QSOs he was "listening 10 up" again. An example of luck and patience. I finally worked VU4RBI on the 15 December after daily monitoring. My mate Bill W5USM has verified all countries except VU4. He could hardly hear them and evidently propagation was so poor that only a very few west coast W's have made contact. For me it was a matter of luck and perseverance that paid off.

Barry ZL1ACZ

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.

4 Feb 2005	ZL1MW	Brian
11 Feb 2005	ZL1JL	John
18 Feb 2005	ZL1NE	John
25 Feb 2005	ZL1ACZ	Barry
4 Mar 2005	ZL1WI	Roy