



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

March 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	March	Annual General Meeting
Saturday to Tuesday	25 th to 28 th	March	VHF Convention. Venue is at Raroa Intermediate School, Haumia Street, Johnsonville, Wellington.

March Meeting – 14th March 2005

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. At the AGM, several retirements will mean that the club will be seeking Fresh New members to form the 2005 committee. Nominations will be accepted for all club officials up to and including the AGM meeting. The club rules state that all nominations must have a nominator, a seconder and show acceptance by the nominee all with signatures on the ATTACHED nomination form. Nominations can be emailed to Merv or posted to any of the present committee members or just brought along to the meeting. Members are reminded that subscriptions for the 2005-year remain the same as last year and will be due from the AGM onwards.

Agenda

- 1 Presidents Introduction
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of 2004 AGM
- 4 Treasurers Report
- 5 AREC Report
- 6 Presidents Report
- 7 Election of Officers
- 8 General Business

Merv Thomas ZL1SK. retiring secretary.

February Meeting

Following the general business at the February meeting Barry Williams gave us an entertaining talk on his recent visit to the USA. Barry was the guest of Bill Smith W6USM an amateur operator living in Texas. Bill had previously stayed with Barry so they had a lot of catching up to do. While there, Barry attended a number of Ham Radio related meetings and did a bit of touring including a visit to New Orleans, the Jazz capital of the world, and Iowa, the Corn Capital of the States. Barry passed around a number of very interesting photos and brochures that he had collected during the visit. These gave us a good idea of life in the area. Thanks to Barry for a very interesting talk.

Western Suburbs Radio Club

Branch 03, NZART Inc:

Minutes of the last meeting of the 2004 elected Committee in 2005.

Monday 28th: February 2005.

Attendance

Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW Vice-Chairman, Barry Williams ZL1ACZ Acting Chairman, Merv Thomas ZL1SK, Secretary, John Turnwald ZL1JT Treasurer. Brian Huggard ZL1MW AREC Section Leader; Ross Reddell ZL1VRR; Maurie Challinor ZL1FK.

Meeting commenced at 19-30 hours.

Apologies:

Bob Highet ZL1GD

Minutes:

Minutes of the January 2005 committee meeting as circulated by email and newsletter were taken as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising:

The \$50.00 donation to be sent to qsl.net was not sent because the treasurer questioned the reason for sending same. The committee re-affirmed that the money was to be sent. Moved, Ross Reddell ZL1VRR, Seconded, Barry Williams ZL1ACZ

Correspondence:

Incoming, 2 branch newsletters, **Outgoing**: Nil.

Finance:

A report was read by John Turnwald ZL1JT giving the branches bank balances and income and expenditure as at the end of January 2005. Moved: ZL1JT, Seconded: ZL1ACZ. Passed.

Payments to be made

- NZ Post postbox, Moved: ZL1MW, Seconded: ZL1ACZ
- Engraving of the Miller Cup. Moved: ZL1ACZ, Seconded: ZL1VRR
- Newsletter costs of \$66.70: Moved: ZL1SK, Seconded: ZL1VRR

AREC

No one put their hand up at last weeks AREC meeting to take on the role of Section Leader replacing Brian Huggard ZL1MW who needs to retire so that means the group is now in recess with the matter to be confirmed at the AGM.

The CARE-KIDS charity event will be borrowing the clubs F3 H/H radios under the control of SAR's Ross Thompson.

General Business:

The secretary read an email from Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW requesting the Chatham Islands project be re-investigated. A full discussion followed with each committee member expressing their views. Moved: ZL1SK, Seconded: ZL1VRR that Andrew write an article to appear in 'Break-In' to search out interest N.Z. wide in the project. If interest is shown, Andrew will contact WSRC volunteers to assist in researching the necessary details. Carried.

ZL1AC was not able to field a Field Day contest station but the Branch 03 was represented by 2 or 3 single operator stations.

John Turnwald ZL1JT moved that the committee exercise where necessary, their power to edit the committee minutes for general publication. Seconded: Maurie ZL1FK.

The sale of the surplus equipment contained in the clubrooms is being negotiated by Andrew ZL2ALW with various brokers for disposal, with the best advantage to the club being of prime importance. Andrew is further requested by the committee to report back to them on a monthly basis as to the progress of the negotiations. It was further decided that a commitment of manpower be sought at the AGM so that the remainder of the equipment available at Andrew's workplace can be removed.

Meeting concluded at 2048 hours

Merv Thomas, ZL1SK, Secretariat, 2nd March 2005.

Free For Removal

Mosley 33 Jr 3 element beam, Daiwa DR 7500 rotator, Daiwa DC 7055 controller and cable, 35 foot, tilt over galvanised pipe mast and insulated guy wires. This antenna is currently operational and can be inspected. For further details please contact Barry, ZL1ACZ, 4 Kay Drive, Blockhouse Bay, phone 09 627 9070. Alice and Barry have sold their house and are moving into Pinesong Retirement Village.

From the Radio New Zealand International Web Site

New Digital capable (DRM) Shortwave Transmitter in 2005/06

In May 2004 New Zealand's Minister for Broadcasting announced a funding boost for Radio New Zealand International. The Government is to provide additional funding to RNZI in 2005 – 2006 for a new digital capable (DRM) short-wave transmitter. Radio New Zealand International currently has just one analogue transmitter and it is nearing the end of its serviceable life.

Commenting on the funding announcement, Radio New Zealand Chief Executive, Peter Cavanagh, emphasised the importance of the Radio New Zealand International service:

“ The new transmitter will secure the long term future of what has become a vitally important service to the people of the Pacific region. This very welcome funding recognises the significant part played by Radio New Zealand International in increasing understanding and awareness of New Zealand's role in the Pacific. “

Radio New Zealand International Manager, Linden Clark, says the Government announcement is a great boost for the broadcaster.

“This announcement means that programming can be delivered to the Pacific via a high quality signal .. it'll sound like FM. We've known for a long time that our Pacific content is the best there is – and now we'll know that our delivery system can match it.”

The new transmitter will work alongside the existing RNZI transmitter and ultimately replace it. It will be used in its digital mode to deliver relaying Pacific stations with their daily RNZI news and programmes for broadcast around the region. The new transmitter can also be used in an analogue mode.

It is expected that the new transmitter will be in service by the start of 2006.

RNZI Antenna

Radio New Zealand operate two high frequency and two low band antennae manufactured by T.C.I. of California. One of each beams 35 degrees and one of each beams 325 degrees. They can be driven individually, or when fed in parallel the beam widens to 140 degrees.



HR 2/4/0.5 is a five band curtain antenna with a frequency range of 9.5 to 17.9MHz.

It consists of 8 folded dipoles arranged in two columns of four dipoles. The average angle of elevation is 10 degrees and the gain is 17db at 9 MHz which gives an ERP of two megawatts rising to 20 db at 17MHz which gives an ERP of five megawatts in broad terms. In March 1993 the low frequency antenna was installed.



HR 2/2/1 is a four band dipole curtain antenna with a frequency range of 5.95 to 12.05 MHz.

It consists of four dipoles arranged in two columns of two dipoles. The average take-off angle is 12 degrees with a gain of 16 db at 6 MHz increasing to 19 db at 12 MHz. The antennas are fed with 300 ohm open line feeders with a complex matching and switching system.

A large reflecting mesh forms a backdrop to each antenna array and the tension on the dipoles is maintained with a system of pulleys and counterweights.



The 35 degree beam covers the South Eastern Pacific, and North America. The 325 degree beam covers the South Western Pacific, NE Australia, Japan, China and Europe.

With the antennae combined, virtually all the Pacific Basin is covered.

This map gives a general view of the target area covered by Radio New Zealand International.

The transmitter is sited at Rangitaiki, 41km east of Taupo in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand. The transmitter coordinates are 176.25E and 38.50S. Audio is fed to the transmitter by a digital link from the studios in Wellington, 400 kms south of Taupo.

The transmitter was manufactured by Thompson CSF of France and installed in 1990. It has an output power of 100kw and is equipped with three transmitting tubes; 2 x TH581 with hypervapotron cooling and one TH581 with air cooling. The station broadcasts 15 hours a day, and the frequency is changed at intervals so as to maintain a strong signal in the Pacific region.

It includes a control and telemetry system operating through a standard RS232 computer port. It is unmanned and is controlled from the Studio in Radio New Zealand House, Wellington. The transmitter is single sideband capable and has Dynamic Amplitude Carrier Modulation as standard.

It is frequency agile, and can be tuned automatically to any frequency in the HF broadcast bands. Dynamic Amplitude Carrier Modulation is a system designed to reduce power costs by reducing the carrier level transmitted to a level necessary for demodulation of the received signal. A number of international broadcasters are now retro-fitting this system to older equipment to obtain power savings. The main features of the transmitter are:

- high level modulation of the final RF stage due to DMP (Duration Modulated Pulses) modulation;
- outstanding operational flexibility due to the option of several modulation systems including SSB and AM stereo;
- high performance frequency slaving for 100 preset frequencies, or automatic tuning to any frequency in the broadcast bands.

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.

11 march	ZL1VRR	Ross
18 March	ZL1MW	Brian
1 April	ZL1JL	John
8 April	ZL1NE	John
15 April	ZL1ACZ	Barry