Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

June 2005 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn, PO Box 15-122, New Lynn.
President: Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW, Secretary: John Turnwald ZL1JT
Newsletter Editor – John Neill ZL1NE
VHF Club Net Wednesday 07:30pm 146.525 MHz, HF Club Net Fridays 07:30pm 3.623 MHz
Website http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac

Club Calendar

Friday	4th	June	NZART Conference at New Plymouth
Saturday	5th		
Sunday	6th		
Monday	13th	June	Conference Review

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.

3rd June	ZL1MW	Brian
10th June	ZL1ACZ	Barry
17th June	ZL1WI	Roy
24th June	ZL1VRR	Ross
1st July	ZL1MW	Brian

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*  IMPORTANT NOTICE from THE TREASURER  *
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John, ZL1JT advises that there are a number of last years's members who
have not joined the Branch for the 2005 year. Final day to ensure further
News Letters and other services is the CLUB MEETING – JUNE 14.
The mail box is regularly cleared if you can't make it to the meeting.
The club values your support. NZART HQ has assigned 45 of its members
to Branch 03. It would be nice if all those were also Members of 03!

JUNE MEETING:-7.30 PM – Tuesday 14th @ 7.30 PM.
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On the agenda for this meeting is a report on the Conference AGM and some
of the Forums. This will be followed by a Mini Construction Session, where
Andrew, ZL2ALW will supply those present with the components to fabricate
a Yagi Antenna for TV Channel 39. The reason for this is to provide the
members with the facilities to monitor changes proposed for the Antennas
at the ATV repeater site.

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***************************ADVANCE NOTICE*********************************
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On July 12 we have something special – it is a "mystery technical evening"
all will enjoy, by a former member of Branch 03. "Not to be missed"!

REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION MEETING. Tuesday May 30.
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Unfortunately at the last moment I was unable to attend this meeting, but
I sent the report I had prepared to the Acting Secretary Vaughan, ZL1TGC.
Due to Vaughan's needs to prepare for Conference, he was not able to
finish the minutes, so a summary of them will appear in the next N/L.
Irving, ZL1MO

The following information on the Amateur Radio Service was published in the Ministry of Economic Development Radio Spectrum Management Newsletter published on 23rd May on the Ministries Web Page located at http://news.business.govt.nz/news/rsm/article/2192

Amateur Radio Service: Published: 23.05.2005

On 1 July 2005 new annual fee provisions are planned to come into effect.
In regard to the amateur radio service there are two key changes:
    a.. Amateur operators will no longer pay an annual fee of $35.
    b.. Amateur beacons and repeaters will be subject to an annual fee of $50.

The first provision gives effect to undertakings to the amateur fraternity in recent years to remove the annual amateur operator licence fee, and therefore reduce the entrance barrier to young people, and help encourage them in a career in telecommunications. Further, in conjunction with new on-line services currently in development, it will make amateur licensing and certification arrangements comparable with the New Zealand maritime and aeronautical services, and amateur counterparts overseas. The changes also have cost benefits for the Ministry, and are aligned with government policies for e-commerce.

The second provision, however, recognises that there remain some spectrum management administrative costs associated with the amateur service. Informal comment has been received from amateur licensees to the effect that while it may be logical for RSM to recover costs through the licensing of beacons and repeaters, this does not necessarily fairly spread those costs across the whole amateur service. The reason given is that while most repeaters and beacons are licensed to amateur radio clubs or NZART, only about half of the users of repeaters and beacons are members of clubs or NZART. In essence, annual fees for beacons and repeaters mean that a minority of amateur operators bear the spectrum management costs of the majority.

If an annual fee for beacons and repeaters does not represent a reasonably equitable distribution of the remaining administration costs across the amateur service, then options for reviewing fee mechanisms include introducing a 3-year, or possibly 5-year, callsign fee for amateurs. This would likely be, on an annualised basis, considerably less than the present operator fee.

A further revision of annual fees is planned for 1 July 2007. In the intervening period RSM will consult with amateurs and NZART in regard to an appropriate funding mechanism for the spectrum management costs of the amateur radio service.

The NZART President Comments: The above official release reflects the disquiet and frustration expressed to MED RSM officials by the NZART representatives at a meeting at the MED RSM Head Office on 9 May. Your representatives were the NZART President, the NZART Vice-President and President-elect, the NZART Administration Liaison Officer, and the NZART Treasurer.
The difficulties arising from placing a fee on beacons and repeaters were clearly expressed in the NZART submission sent to the Ministry in January 2005. (In response to a MED request for comment dated December 2004, the document is still on the MED web page) See the copy of the NZART submission attached. This fees matter is far from settled.

AMATEUR LICENCING STATISTICS! As of April 2004 & 2005.

	2004	2005
General	4731	4681*
Beacons	42	42)
Dig/ptrs	29	29)
Fixed	2	2)
Reptrs	219	249)
TV reptrs	19	42)

364) These would be affected by MED
     proposal.

* According to Break-In there were 2076 members, of which 1863 had
  paid by 31 December 2004. 2076 represents about 44% of amateurs
  belong to the Association. (1863 represents just under 40%)
  According to the NZART voting list for Branch 03 they have assigned
  46 (probably current licenced) to our Branch. As of 31 May our Branch
  membership stands at 23 plus Life Members.

E&OE I.H.S. 31/05/2005.

NZART CONFERENCE 2005 NOTES!
(A report on the Conference AGM will be provided for the June Meeting.)

118 ZL Amateurs plus 4 guests from VK attended accompanied by 51 ladies
or family members.

All the Conference activities were held at the Plymouth International
Hotel except for the AREC meeting (held at the TEMO Headquarters) and the
Mobile Rally held at the New Plymouth Racecourse.
Apart from the Main conference sessions on Saturday there were 12 AGMs and
Technical Forums on Sunday. We had WARO, OTC, AMSAT and SPAM AGM's plus
AREC, VHF, AMSAT, IRLP, National System, QRP and APRS Forums. Alternative
programs for Saturday and Sunday were organised by a New Plymouth Tour
Company and were extremely well supported and proved very enjoyable!

A probable first for an NZART conference was the Mobile Rally which was
run on the Sunday Afternoon starting at 1.00PM. The duration was about
1.5 to 2 hours on sealed roads providing time to find the Hidden TX
somewhere around the course.
Each vehicle was provided with a full set of instructions for the course,
an approximate time to start listening for the hidden transmitter, a log
and questionaire sheets, info for VHF Repeaters, Hidden Transmitter and
Simplex frequencies. Participants were due back in time for Afternoon Tea.

This year NZART were hosts to the WIA's President Michael Owen, VK5KI and
Nanette, with Vice President Ewan Mcleod, VK4ERM and Margaret. It perhaps
is pertinent to provide a little back-ground history to what may have
initiated these trans-Tasman Liasons.
In a letter to the Conference Chairman, Michael made reference to his
first visit to an NZART Conference as President of WIA "all those years
ago". In fact it was the 1969 Gisborne Conference, and the speech he
presented was fully reported in the July 1969 Break-In.
Michael returned to the NZART Conference in 1978 at Napier as Director of
Region III, IARU. In 1981, NZART Councillor Gerry, ZL1BBS visited the WIA
meeting, and suggested the annual trans-Tasman exchange which has
continued to the present day, and long may it continue!

WHAT IS VoIP Communication in AMATEUR RADIO?
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At the Conference in New Plymouth, one Forum Topic was IRLP and VoIP.
VoIP is popping up everywhere where modern communications are being
promoted, even in the Business sections of the local newspapers. But what
is VoIP and where does it fit into modern Amateur Radio. VoIP stands for
"Voice over Internet Protocol".

Those of you who monitored the local 146.700 repeater in the past may
have heard Amateur Stations from other parts of the world coming through
that repeater, or local Amateurs talking to someone with a foreign accent!
What you were hearing is the use of a technology called IRLP (Internet
Radio Linking Project) which uses VoIP technology to link Amateurs via a
local repeater to another repeater elsewhere in the world or in NZ through
a connection to the Internet.(Note-this link (6950) is off air at present.

IRLP is a technology that requires Amateur Radio must be at each end of a
VoIP link, the users must be licenced amateurs. The users at each end only
need a VHF or UHF Transceiver equipped with a DTMF capability to obtain
access to the local linking station to make a connection, but does not
need the DTMF to respond locally to someone who has opened the local IRLP
system from elsewhere.

The local IRLP linking station is called a NODE. If a club is providing
the NODE, and you plan to utilise that NODE regularly, then it is proper
that you support that club. If the NODE is run by an Amateur, then it is
polite to contact that individual and advise that you wish to use his
facility. He will be happy to assist you get the best from the NODE.

How does the NODE operate. Firstly there is a requirement for a full-time
Internet connection. Then there is a transceiver running permanantly on
the frequency of the amateur link, either a repeater or a simplex channel.
The computer which does the work uses the LINUX operating system and a
sound card plus software provided since 1997 by a Canadian Amateur VE7LTD.
The Software listens to the incoming audio. As soon as a valid carrier is
sensed from the link receiver, the received audio is converted into
"Adaptive Differential Pulse Code Modulation" (ADPCM) which is an audio
compression and encoding system form of digital data. The software then
converts this data into packets; each of which is assigned an IP (Internet
Protocol) address for the destination NODE.

These packets then travel via the Internet Service Provider and Internet
to the destination NODE's PC, where its software decodes the packets and
sends them to its sound card LINE OUT SOCKET, then to the destinations
link Transceiver's audio input. The destination's link transmitter is
keyed, the instant that the software detects valid packets arriving. As
soon as the data stops stops flowing, the software un-keys the links
transmitter, and when the destination's node replies, the process is
reversed.

The NODE at each end does a number of jobs. Firstly it listens for the
callsign of the user and checks that it is a valid station. Then it
decodes the DTMF tones to know what NODE it is to communicate with. It
also checks to see if the other NODE is busy and if so gives a spoken
message to that effect. (The comments here in ZL are pre-recoded by Jim,
ZL2BHF!) There are other programmed functions also provided by the NODE.
When the contact is completed the initiating station sends DTMF 73 and
the link will close. Overs must not be longer than 5 minutes and a gap of
about 15 seconds must be left for the equipment to change over.
One major user of the IRLP network are NZ WARO members who communicate
regularly with other YLs around the World via their IRLP net.

Thats my lot for this month. Hope you enjoy! Irving
ZL1MO