



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

May 2006 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn, PO Box 15-122, New Lynn.

President: Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW, Secretary: Ross Reddell ZL1VRR

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.gsl.net/zl1ac>

Club Calendar

Monday	8 th	April	Club night – Remits, Amateur Television and Tom's 70 Years in Amateur Radio 7:30pm
Saturday	20 th	May	Cambridge Used Equipment Sale – Town Hall 10am
Monday	29 th	May	AREC Meeting at 7:30pm

May Club Meeting

The May meeting will be dedicated to Tom Duxbury's remarkable achievement of 70 Years of Amateur Radio operation. Remits will be discussed. There are two Transmitting and two Non-transmitting. These are on page 22 of your Break-in. So bring Break-in with you for reference. There may be some time also to use the Video cameras and other ATV equipment.

April Club Meeting

At the April meeting we held the postponed Annual General meeting. The committee was elected and then the subject of Amateur Television (ATV) was discussed. The clubrooms had been set up like a mini Television Studio and it was decided by the meeting that we would endeavour to promote interest in the club and Amateur Radio by fostering some Amateur TV activities. The article below, put together by Merv ZL1SK, is aimed at introducing a possible way forward for ATV.

AREC Activity

AREC meeting for WSRC section members on May 29th 2006 1930 hrs at club rooms 3000 Great North Rd New Lynn.

David Karrasch ZL1DK is looking for Radio operators, both HF and VHF, for the Rally of New Zealand. This year it is to be held in the north Auckland area. The Rally is on Saturday 1st July and will take all day. If you are willing to assist please contact David on ph 298-5271 or e-mail zl1dk@nzart.org.nz.

Silent Key Dean Jackson ZL1JJ

It is with regret that the Club records the passing of Dean Jackson ZL1JJ. Dean had been a member of WSRC (inc) after obtaining his Radio Licence and then his full licence after participating in Morse class's that the late Kingie Gilbert ZL1UC conducted on 146.525 simplex. The funeral was held at Lincoln Road Bible Chapel where Dean had attended before moving to Christchurch.

All though Dean was not sighted this did not stop him from participating in many events on radio. He was employed by Data Com in Auckland and later moved to Christchurch where he set up his own apartment and worked with a company involved with computer software for the blind. Dean was on the help desk for customer inquires. His assistance and knowledge with customers was greatly appreciated by those he dealt with over the phone. He loved radio and was heard on talkback Radio on many occasions in the early hour's of the morning.

Many of Dean's friends were present at his funeral and gave tributes to him. Jim ZL2BHF spoke on behalf of NZART and Richard ZL1BOK paid tribute, as Dean had been a past winner of the Amateur of the Year. Mark ZL1VMF spoke of Dean when he went to Manurewa High School as a friend and computer help.

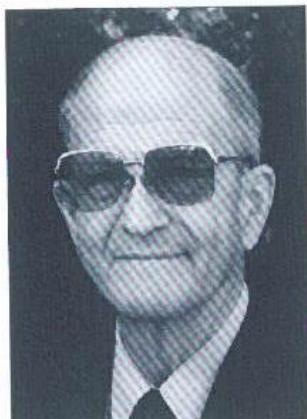
Dean recorded a number of Christian songs on CD and these were played during the service.

Jock White Field Day

This years Jock White Memorial Contest 2006 saw ZL1AC come fourth in the Northern Area Montgomery Cup. Thanks to all who helped at our new site just out of Titirangi. They were Andrew ZL2ALW, Merv ZL1SK, Ross ZL1VRR, Maurie ZL1FK, Robert ZL1BTR, and Ian ZL1RCA. We missed out doing better as unfortunately both our CW operators could only come for the Sunday session.

Fred Johnson Fellow of the Institute of Professional Engineers

The following is an extract from the Institute of Professional Engineers monthly Newsletter Engineering Dimension.



Fred Johnson is elected a Fellow of IPENZ for his contribution to the application of engineering and technology in the community; specifically recognising his contributions to amateur radio both in New Zealand and internationally. He represented New Zealand at several international radio spectrum management fora and has held office as the Chairman of Directors of the International Amateur Radio Union's region three. Fred's voluntary contribution spans several decades, continuing long after he retired from the workforce. He was recognised for his contribution to amateur radio in New Zealand when he became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2002.

Jumbo Trophy

The Jumbo Trophy Indoor Bowles tournament was contested on Wednesday 19th April at Albany. A team of four from Western Suburbs lead by Brian ZL1MW with Bob ZL1GD, Peggy his wife and Maurie ZL1FK were successful in winning and bringing the trophy back to Western Suburbs for the next six months.

The next series will be in October and we issue a challenge to all other clubs and to participate for this trophy at Albany. The cup is now inscribed to the memory of the tournament founder Jumbo Godfery ZL1HV.



Newsletter by Email

Until April last year we were emailing copies of the Newsletter to club members that preferred to receive them by this means. While your newsletter editor was on holiday in the UK this system was stopped and not restarted. The email listing is still there but hopelessly out of date. If you would like to receive the club newsletter by email then please send an email to john.neill@clear.net.nz and I will add you to the list. This will mean that you will not receive a paper copy in your letterbox but you will probably have it a couple of days earlier. There is a considerable cost saving to the club by emailing the newsletter and this will help the committee to keep the cost of your annual subscription as low as possible.

Club Fees

These are now due. The fees are that same as last year at \$25.00 per member and special rates for families. Fees may be paid to the treasurer at any club night or by post to **PO Box 15-122, New Lynn.**



Western Suburbs Radio Club

ZLIAC

Suggested project to revitalize the club membership activities.

1950's, 1960's

When I first became a "Ham" in 1950 I was excited by the range of avenues open for exploration and experimentation. Just some of the those were building, designing and operating in AM (in those days) in crowded Ham bands; trying different valves in ways not previously tried; modifying Ex-WW2 Surplus radio gear, going mobile with large valve equipment requiring large amounts of 6 or 12 volts in old sometimes pre-war vehicles and taming ignition and generator noise; finding ways to modulate 100 watt transmitters when you couldn't afford the valves and modulation transformer; buying, swapping and searching for bits that could be dismantled and used in a new role; and so on.

These days that has all changed. It seems to me that a lot of the experimentation today is mainly in the digital or micro-micro-wave realm where a different type of surplus gear can be tweaked to go even higher in frequency by VHF enthusiasts, and the use of processor and other large scale chips create even more complex and diverse equipment for those fascinated by those opportunities.

At a club level with ever diminishing numbers of members who are also getting older there seems to be a major problem keeping their interest and enthusiasm up with demonstrations of equipment building and the like that are interesting, challenging or simple to build or are "must have" for the shack to attract members to meetings. We have all mostly purchased our sophisticated operating equipment that in the main needs no further experimentation or modification. So there is very little to see or show how it works and the need to build or change ancillary gear to operate our stations or attract prospective members of any age is very limited. This fact of course is compounded (well documented) by the easy and cheap availability of computer related and mobile phone devices to keep the today's younger population happy with all the communication needs they deem to need.

So what new way can our club create a program for the members that is so diverse and interesting with such a multitude of different branches to it's make up that there could be at least one part of that program that could attract every member of that club to gain and contribute some new experience in a different aspect of our hobby of electronics.

Amateur Television. (A.T.V.) Transmitted on U.H.F. Channel 39

Western Suburbs Radio Club, ZLIAC, Branch 03 is taking a brave new step towards re-creating a team interest for all its members with an opening within that idea that will hopefully find a niche for every member to become an important and useful part of the project because of the wide range of activities, roles and interests that this planned activity can provide. This activity would happen once a month on our normal meeting nights. Practice/rehearsal sessions could also be arranged at other times to prepare a program and gain the necessary equipment operating skills.

Some of the activities that would be party of the clubs scheme would be to make one end of the clubrooms into a reasonable facsimile of a TV studio to conduct interviews with people related to our hobby, demonstrate technical and constructional elements of our hobby.

This might / could even extend to conducting the Wednesday or Friday night nets (or both) from the WSRC "Studio" with the Net Controller "On camera" transmitting on U.H.F. Channel 39 at the same time as the normal Net NFM VHF frequencies. The transmitted picture might even include some video footage of a particular event or still photographs relative to the club or the current conversation. This could entail cameramen, audio, video and transmitter operators being part of the evening's activities. Perhaps even a "News" night on the Monday prior to the monthly meeting detailing what's happening at the next meeting, DX successes a member may have had during the last month, A.R.E.C. information about past or upcoming events, and so on.

This could include members to operate a video camera/s, light the presentation, setting up the required microphone arrangements, set up the audio equipment, monitor and mix the incoming audio signals ready for transmission, operate a vision mixer thereby selecting a

particular camera for the program (the club has available 4 video cameras with tripods and a vision mixer, the video version of a audio mixer.) available thereby providing the “vision mixer” operator the facility to select the preferred shot / aspect of the program for transmission, setting up and learning the use of a “Wave-form and Vector-scope” monitor; plus the preparation / repair of all the necessary cables and plugs required.

There is also available 5 vision monitors (old computer monitors) to monitor the four incoming camera pictures and the out going from the vision mixer to the transmitter.

Now as well as the skills developed for “live” transmission there are the many facets of pre-production which can be learned, developed and practiced to gain pleasure from the enjoyment of trying out new things which the club has the personnel and equipment available to guide you. Many of these skills of course can be put to great use in the production of your own family videos.

Such skills as:

Shooting video of people, places and special interests like other Branch meetings, JOTA events, Field days, AREC SAREX’s, construction demonstrations and so on; learning how to edit video footage on your own PC at home; writing and adding narration to that footage; writing and inserting titles and credits; storing that footage; understanding the many features of your own video camera and what those features do; having that footage aired on Channel 39 from the clubrooms.

Then of course there are the other electronic projects of interest and execution like:

Building a video fader, wiring up the WSRC “Studio” for video, audio, lighting etc; the application and use of PC’s in video production and editing; the distribution of audio to transmitter, monitoring station, and video recorder; video switching network; and so on.

People with various TV/Video skills prepared to help and guide this exercise.

Merv Thomas ZL1SK

Merv is an ex “Town and Around” cameraman and has conducted his own video production business for the last 15 years covering everything from multi-camera (5) weddings, commercial promotions, analogue and digital video editing, special presentations like 21st birthday and wedding anniversary videos created from still photos and old video or film. He has a large range of technical and editing equipment as well as video cameras that would be available for the members to use.

Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW

Andrew could bring to the project his knowledge and experience in computer / radio sound interfacing, project management and operations. Also help with radio systems including the Antennas and amplifiers necessary to get a good picture to and from the ATV repeater. Andrew will assist anyone with building of kits and new equipment if you cannot do that yourself.

Michael Sheffield ZL1ABS

Michael could bring to the project his knowledge and experience in ATV. He has already provided an Eprom device that will present the “Station Logo” and Call-sign etc on air.

The club has already acquired some of the RF apparatus that converts video and audio in to the RF format and the committee is investigating the acquisition of other parts for the RF transmission chain. Some parts will be assembled at the clubrooms and Yagi antenna construction could become a club activity.

This document was prepared by Merv Thomas ZL1SK at the request of the incoming 2006-07 committee.

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 Roster can be found on <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/wsrc-hf-roster.html>. We are looking for more members to take a turn at running the net.

5-May-06	ZL1NE	John	16-Jun-06	ZL1NE	John
12-May-06	ZL1ACZ	Barry	23-Jun-06	ZL1ACZ	Barry
19-May-06	ZL1WI	Roy	30-Jun-06	ZL1WI	Roy
26-May-06	ZL1VRR	Ross			
2-Jun-06	ZL1MW	Brian			
9-Jun-06	ZL1JL	John			