



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

September 2007 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn, PO Box 15-122, New Lynn. 0600

President: Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW, Secretary: Ragi

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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

September	10 th		Club Night -
Saturday	13 th	October	WSRC Used Equipment Sale.

September Club Meeting

The next Club Night will be on Monday 10th September at 7:30 pm. The topic will be a talk on GPS and APRS tracking.

August Meeting

We had an interesting evening with club members demonstrating their latest projects.

Barry ZL1ACZ demonstrated a small transistor radio that he is using to monitor local stations and has SWR Bridge.

Roy, ZL1WI, demonstrated a battery drill that has served him well for a number of years but the Ni Cads have given up and he is repacking it with Sub-C cells that he has purchased from Jacar.

Maurie, ZL1FK, demonstrated some vintage morse code sounders and receivers that he has restored. He has these connected to a laptop computer that was sending the code. These are pictured below.



Maurie also has a made a programme available that may be of interest to some club members interested in the floppy program which he used to run the telegraph set through his notebook computer. The file is in WinZip format and is available from john.neill@clear.net.nz send me an email if you are interested in receiving the programme. Maurie can help with the installation if anyone strikes a problem.

Western Suburbs Radio Club Used Equipment Sale

The used equipment sale will be held on 13th October 2007. Not in November as in the past. The sale will be at the usual place at the Rosebank Primary School Hall at 217 Rosebank Rd Avondale. Sellers from 8 am and buyers from 9 am. The sale will close at 12 noon. There will be the usual canteen running with a sausage sizzle. Please look for equipment for the club to sell. Help will be required to set up and run the morning from club members from 7 am on and at the end of the sale to clean up the School Hall. Help is also required in the kitchen and on the club table. Please let one of the committee members know of your availability as soon as possible.

New Civil Defence Headquarters Opening

The Civil Defence Headquarters at Elcoat Avenue in Henderson have been rebuilt over the last few months. The old building has been removed and a replaced with a new improved facility. This is in the process of being stocked with the necessary Civil Defence equipment. The official opening for this will be on the 21st September. It is hoped that the AREC Members from the Western Suburbs Radio Club will be able to view this improved facility sometime after the opening.

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 full HF Net Roster can be found on <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/wsrc-hf-roster.html>.

7-Sep-07	ZL1WI	Roy
14-Sep-07	ZL1VRR	Ross
21-Sep-07	ZL1MW	Brian
28-Sep-07	ZL1JL	John
5-Oct-07	ZL1NE	John
12-Oct-07	ZL1ACZ	Barry
19-Oct-07	ZL1WI	Roy
26-Oct-07	ZL1VRR	Ross

To Send a 7 Plus File In Packet Radio using Winpack

Winpack has a 7 Plus button on the write a message box. Press that and it asks you what file you wish to 7 Plus. If you have PKZIP or WinZip set up for Winpack, you'll be asked if you wish to zip the file before a 7 Plus conversion is done. On a text file making a zip version can markedly reduce the size and fewer 7 Plus parts are produced.

If you are not into Packet Radio then the above will probably be of little use to you.

But then you may just find it useful. A Packet Radio BBS is still available at ZL1AB on 144.600 MHz and there is a surprising amount of Radio related topics available. There are also a lot of digital photos being sent via packet generally in 7-Plus format on all sorts of subjects. If you have a computer with a sound card, then with the addition of a bit of software and a cable to connect to your 2-metre radio you can be up and running on Packet Radio.

Rally Of New Zealand 2007 Waikato Mystery Creek

Another year has passed with the running of this years Rally. Time started with the packing of the Motor home and setting things up with all the Radio gear and auxiliary equipment that is needed to be taken. Operator briefing was held the weekend before. Head Quarters at Mystery Creek with all the radios and aerials that had to be erected and checked out, were set up well in advance of the Rally getting under way. The service area and Supper Special Stage were also held at Mystery Creek.

We picked up some local AA Maps to get us to the stage positions for an early morning start and we were away calling into Base to let them know that that we were on the road, and heading to SS8C our mid point position. We entered our stage road from a mid road position and proceeded up the road against rally traffic direction as we had plenty of time before the rally started and road closures were in force. We found our position by the red disc on the fence. There was a farm gate into our position to get off the road. The farmer gave us permission to enter his land and we set up behind the gate. We got our mast up and fixed the dipole and pulled it up to the top of the mast. We fixed our 2-metre Antenna to the top of the pole and ran the

coaxial cable to be connected to the 2-metre rig. Then we checked out which repeater we could trigger. The HF set gave us some concern when we powered it up and checked our SWR. It was high and shut down the rig. We thought that we may have blown a fuse in the rig but that was okay. We checked out everything and then assembled again. This time it powered up perfectly with the expected SWR after tuning up and it ran okay for the next two days with out missing a beat.

The safety cars came through 000, Police, 00, and 0 cars 5km comms were good. Base faded a couple of times, but came back within minutes. The intermediate point was strong and good copy on 3.830 MHz USB. The first cars were away on time with no problem at our point, but a number of cars did not make it through the stage. Once the Sweeper had passed we dismantle the mast and dipole, packed up all the gear. The day had remained fine throughout all the stages.

We then headed South West to Raglan where we camped over for the night by the Airport (Kopu Camping Ground) where the Regroup and Service Park was set up and Ian ZL1AOX and myself ZL1VRR setup and transmitted times in and out of the service park area. The night changed and the rain set in and quite a bit fell, but after breakfast it cleared again and was fine while the service park operated. I was fascinated to see the quick service carried out by the four mechanics. This was all timed control with 10 minutes in regroup and 15 minutes in service. These times were recorded on driver's cards and passed onto us to transmit back to base. Then there was a refuel for the cars, where they could have either Shell or Caltex supplied from 40 gallon drums and pumped in by a small controller which had two pipe hoses. Then the cars were away again to do the three stages they had done in the morning to see if they could better the mornings run through the stage. Comm's was on 146.625 repeater and results were on 146.825 with good copy to Base. Once all the rally cars had passed through and refuelled we packed up and closed down and went across the road where we had been and had lunch and listened on HF whip to the stages that were running, before heading home and unpacking and clearing the Motor-home.

Ross ZL1VRR / ZK1EKR



