



# Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

## October 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

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

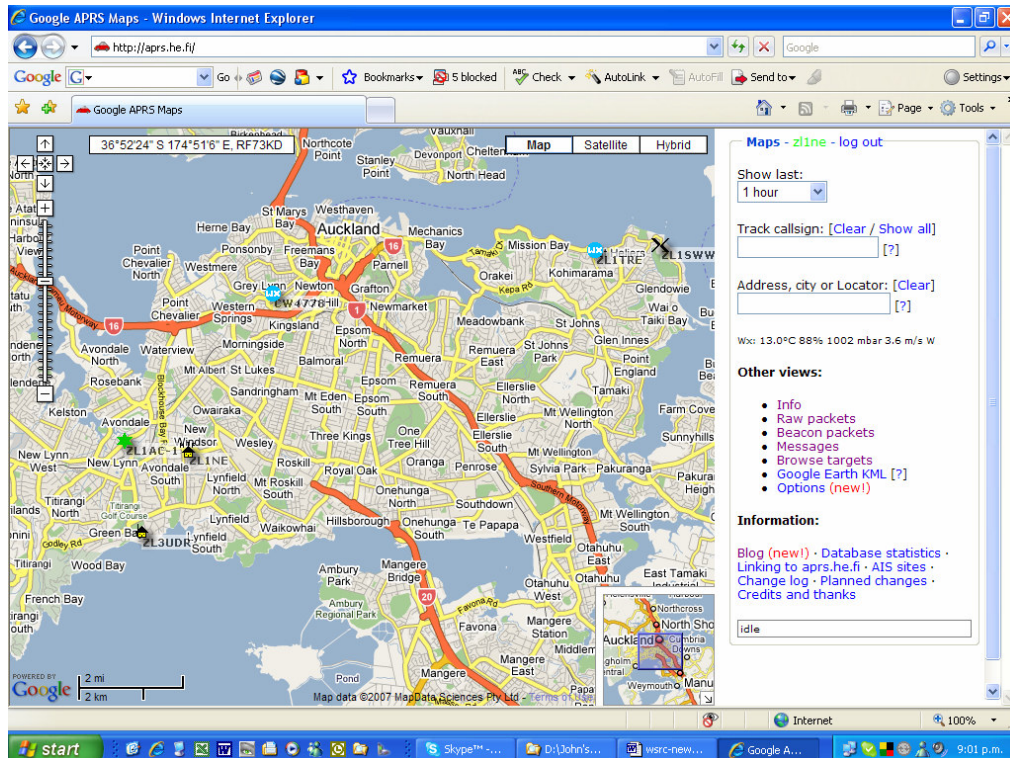
|          |                  |         |   |
|----------|------------------|---------|---|
| Monday   | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | October | Club Night – Programme to be announced. |
| Saturday | 13 <sup>th</sup> | October | WSRC Used Equipment Sale.               |
| Monday   | 29 <sup>th</sup> | October | AREC Meeting 7:30 pm Clubrooms.         |

### October Club Meeting

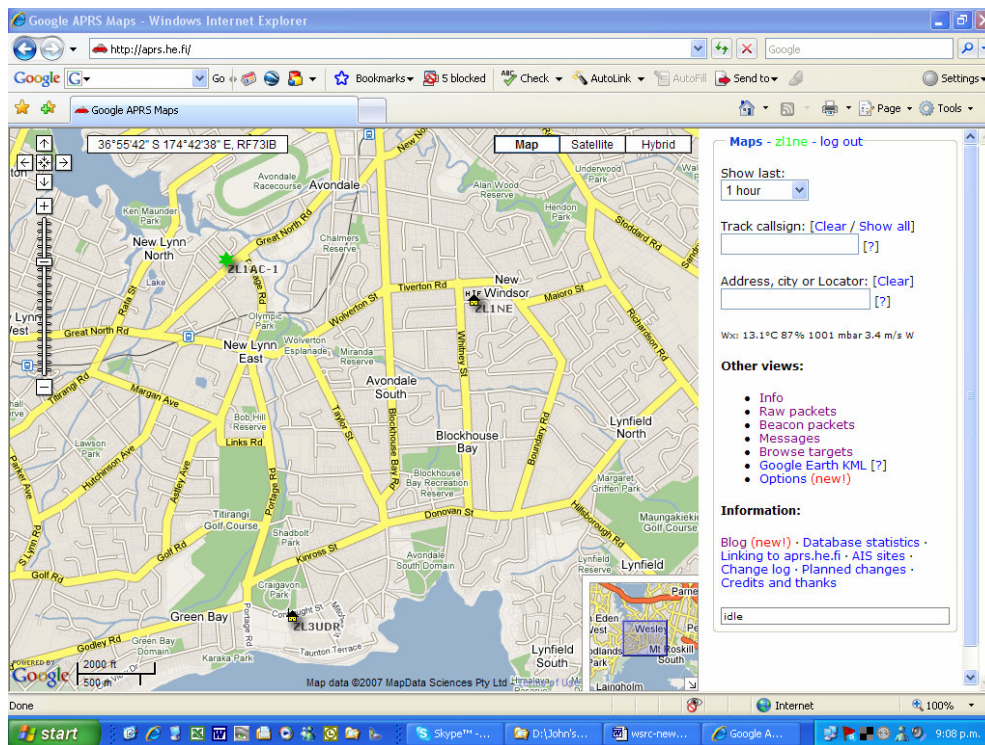
The next Club Night will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30 pm. The topic is yet to be advised.

### September Meeting

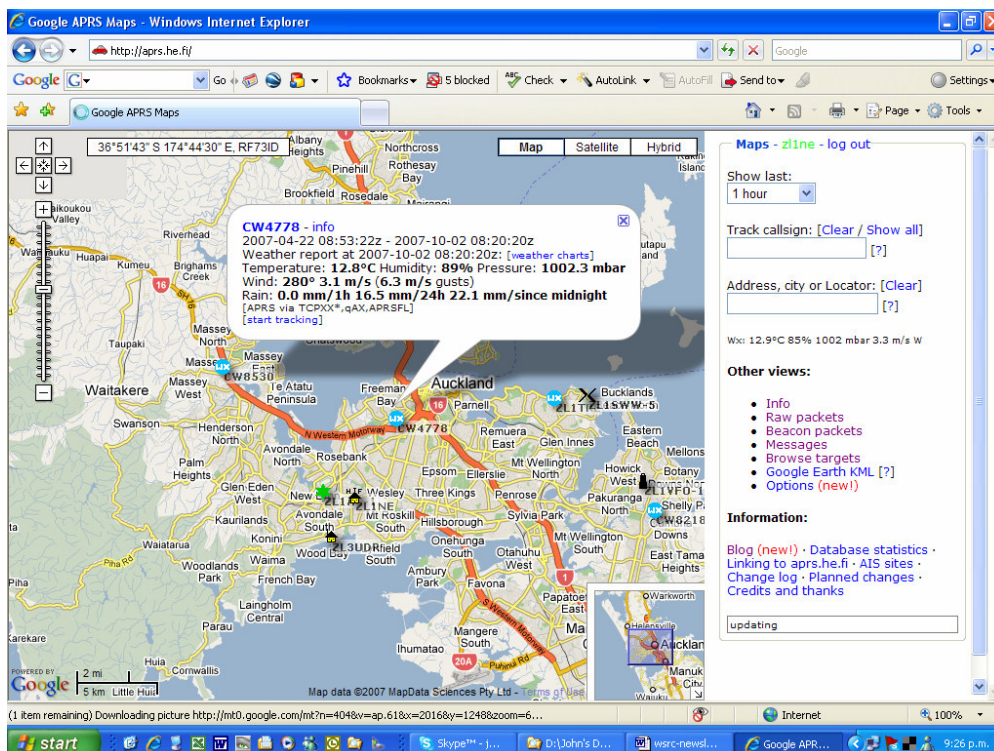
At the September meeting we had a talk by Andrew ZL2ALW on GPS, how it works, the NMEA 0183 protocols, and how to make sense of the data produced by the GPS receiving apparatus as it is transferred to a computer or other device. Andrew then went on to describe how to set up a mobile station using an GPS receiver through to a small device to convert the data to a sound that could be transmitted on 2 metres (144.575 MHz) to be received by a network of stations, including our own Digi-ned beacon, so that the path of the vehicle could be tracked. This data is also relayed to the website <http://aprs.he.fi/>. This interesting site has a wealth of information on it, on mobile and fixed APRS stations. Weather conditions at weather stations can be viewed or GPS equipped vehicles can be tracked. To log on just type in your Callsign and after a few seconds you will get a screen that looks something like this:



You can adjust the scale and the location by using the sliding scale to the left of the screen to your hearts content as indicated below:



This programme has links to Google Earth and by clicking on the Satellite button towards the top right you can bring up an aerial photo of the area. Right clicking on the Station Icon will bring up information on that station and if it is a weather station, all the data such as rainfall, temperature, humidity will be displayed as shown below.



## Western Suburbs Radio Club Used Equipment Sale

The used equipment sale will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

## AREC Meeting

There will be an AREC Section meeting on the 29th October 2007 for WSRC members. We will discuss plans for the upcoming Horse Endurance Event to be held at Bradley Rd Helensville for the weekend of 24th to 25th November 2007. The weekend will include a 100km, 80km, 2 x 40km and 2 x 25km races. Further details of the event will follow. Operators are required for this event so if you can assist please let Ross know as soon as possible. Ross can be contacted on Phone 629-0504 or E-mail [ross.reddell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ross.reddell@xtra.co.nz)

## 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>.

|           |        |       |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| 5-Oct-07  | ZL1NE  | John  |
| 12-Oct-07 | ZL1ACZ | Barry |
| 19-Oct-07 | ZL1WI  | Roy   |
| 26-Oct-07 | ZL1VRR | Ross  |
| 2-Nov-07  | ZL1MW  | Brian |
| 9-Nov-07  | ZL1JL  | John  |
| 16-Nov-07 | ZL1NE  | John  |
| 23-Nov-07 | ZL1ACZ | Barry |
| 30-Nov-07 | ZL1WI  | Roy   |

## A Field Trip to W6AM in 1986

The W6AM station was legendary both on the West Coast and East Coast of the USA, and all points between. Probably all points period. Don could smoke you in a pileup for some obscure African station no matter what band and even if you were on the east coast and him in Southern California.

Don was #1 on ARRL's DXCC Honour Roll, and you didn't argue. No matter where you were, no matter what you were running, Don had beaten you in a pileup. More than once. One summer afternoon in 1986, a bunch of us in the Southern California Contest Club were just wrapping up a club meeting at our usual spot in a pizza parlour. Jim Neiger N6TJ invited us to follow him to Don's place for an impromptu tour. Don passed away the previous summer (1985) and Jim was the caretaker of the place at the time. A few had other obligations but the rest of us asked, "are you kidding?!" And off we went, a caravan of SCCCers following them on the freeway from San Fernando Valley to Rolling Hills, where the king of Southern California DXing had lived. I had goose pimples all over as I drove up in my vintage 1967 Mustang fastback. On my own turf, I felt like I was half a somebody. In Rolling Hills, I felt like an ant. Microscopic. A nobody visiting a god. Or at least ham radio heaven.

The station was well beyond anything I had imagined. Radios, wires, awards, certificates, pictures and oh yes, antennas galore. It was well beyond the most amazing amateur radio installation I had ever dreamed of. I was obviously in the ultimate DX station of all time. Most of us can only dream of having a rhombic antenna. Don had 14 of these things! 61 telephone poles supported his antennas, scattered around 120 acres. Another 110 poles carried the feed lines to the antennas. The installation dwarfed all other amateur radio installations.



Visit the site at <http://www.qsl.net/ne6i/w6am/index.htm> to view more photos and more information on this station.

### New Civil Defence Headquarters

The Civil Defence Headquarters at Elcoat Avenue in Henderson has been rebuilt over the last few months and was officially opened last month. The pictures below show the new building from the street and the radio operating room. All the radios are mounted remote from the operating room and are controlled by the computers in each “radio” booth. Thanks to Bob ZL1GD for supplying the photographs.



Waitakere Civil Defence Headquarters



Radio Booths in the Civil Defence Headquarters

19/09/2007