



## Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

### December 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>



*Compliments of the season*

*The Committee of the western Suburbs Radio Club*

*wish to extend to all members a*

*Very Merry Christmas*

*and a*

*Happy New Year*

#### Club Calendar

Monday	10 <sup>th</sup>	December	Club Night – Christmas Social at the Clubrooms.
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	February	Club Night
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	February	National Field Day
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>		

#### December Meeting

Our annual Christmas Social will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December at our Club. Start time will be 7 pm. Please bring your own drink and a plate. The club will supply sausage sizzle, dips and nibbles. There will be a small gift for all who attend. The committee wish to thank all club members who have helped out in any way with club activities.

#### November Club Meeting

The November meeting was a visit from the Auckland Branch 02 **ZL1AA**. We welcomed a large number of members from Branch 02 and had a most enjoyable evening. Three of the Branch 03 members gave talks on topics of interest.

Wes ZL3TE talked on contesting and keeping computer logs for the contest. He stressed the importance to all who entered the contest, even if you only made a few contacts, to send a log to the organisers as this is the only way that contacts can be verified. He mentioned that MIXW is a very good software package for logging contests. Wes enjoys contesting because of the total concentration and the shutting out of everything else for a few hours.

Steve ZL1FS Spoke on vintage Radio Transceivers and particularly on the ZC1 and demonstrated one that he is restoring for Gwyn ZL1AAR. Steve mentioned the history of the ZC1, how and why it was developed during the Second World War and uses that it was put to after the war. John ZL1JT, from Western Suburbs, related constructing components for the ZC1 during the war.

Selwyn ZL1BRC, spoke on DXing. He particularly mentioned the contacts being made on 10 metres during the day at odd times. The secret to making contact here is listening for beacons around the word and when these are being heard, then it is

worth trying to make contacts with stations in that area. He mentioned that propagation was at a low point at the moment but that it should pick up soon. Grey Line Propagation, the time at dusk or dawn, can give some very good results. Selwyn also mentioned that with a bit of effort in getting a decent speaker and aligning it towards the listener can improve the quality of the contact to a large degree.

Western Suburbs Radio Club thanks Branch 02 for their visit and for the interesting talks given. We look forward to a return visit some time soon.

### **AREC Training Day at Br 65 Papakura Sat 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

This training day was run by Daniel ZL1DFA, AREC National Training Officer. There were around 50 present with four of these being from Br 03 WSRC AREC section. The day started early with administration then an overview of the day and presentation of our new Manual, now in A4 format. An introduction to AREC and management with how you should be prepared. Dave ZL1MR gave a brief review of CPR and the function and method to give this to a person suffering a heart attack. Quickness of action was pointed out. Following morning tea we were given an overview of the Radio spectrum and where the AREC frequencies fit into it. It was pointed out that all radios used for AREC or Civil Defence (CD) work, had to be type approved. It is also necessary to get permission from Police and CD before using their frequencies. Digital radio is being trialled by the police and other services at the moment and we were given a brief rundown on this new mode. The Police communications will be encoded and this will stop people from being able to listen in to their broadcasts. After lunch Richard ZL1BNQ gave a demonstration of SAR Radio repeaters and their application in the field. Daniel then gave a run down on CD and some of the new equipment that the local councils are using. A session on map reading and mapping software was carried out. A search for a helicopter that had gone missing in the Raglan area but covered a search area from Auckland to the South Island was described. The paths of all the searching aircraft were plotted on the mapping software. The area covered was extensive but it was not until dead foliage a fortnight after the crash lead searchers to the crash site. The helicopter had the emergency locator beacon destroyed in the crash and although the beacon was transmitting the signal was so weak it was not heard. Tony Case ZL1UD, then gave us a demonstration of another map software package. A photo session followed for our new ID cards which will be posted out shortly. A full on day and we learnt and up-skilled our AREC knowledge.



Western Suburbs AREC Member who attended the training session from Left John ZL1NE, Merv ZL1SK and Brendan ZL1OO. Ross ZL1VRR was also at the training day but was hiding behind the camera.

### **National Field Day**

National Field Day is on again next year. Do you want a team ? Think about it, as it is only a little over two months away.

## Silent Key Errol Davis



The Club is sad to record the death of Errol Davis. Errol passed away on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Errol's funeral was held at the Tilton Opie and Patterson Funeral Home in Great North Road New Lynn. There was a good number of Club members present at Errol's funeral. The club wish to convey condolences to Errol's Family.

## Working Bees

The Club is planning some working bees during the Christmas season. We plan to erect an ATV Transmitter Antenna, co-axial cable and carry out some internal wiring. Help would be appreciated. Working bee times and dates will be broadcast during the HF and VHF nets.

## National Horse Riding Endurance Event

The Woodhill Horse Endurance Club contacted us through Bob ZL1BBZ. It was agreed that WSRC Radio club could help assist them with Radio communications, on the weekend of 24/25th November 2007. They would be running four events on Saturday with two 25km and two 40km events, one a CTR and the other endurance, with the winner being the quickest time. On the Sunday there would be a 100km and an 80 km with quickest horse and rider the winner in both runs. We had three check points in the field, a start/finish team and a base station where all the messages were received and logged. Merv tried to set up a Computer programme but due to lack of information from the horse people it was unsuccessful. So only a manual log was kept. That evening we spoke with the organisers and they agreed to provide a list of entrants. This enabled Merv to manufactured a log which had all the checks and start/finishers entered on the sheet so it made things much easier to track the horses. There was a little rain on Saturday but on the whole the sun remained out. There was however a gale blowing and that made it difficult to keep the paper work under control. We worked in a barn from a table, but when it rained we had to erect a covering over us to keep the equipment and us dry. On the Sunday we worked from our motor homes, which made it much more comfortable. There were fewer horses on Sunday than on Saturday, which made for an easier day. On firing up our repeater we found that it was not transmitting so after a quick check we decided that we would work on simplex using the 146.9250 frequency. The check points reported in once they were in position, and after adjusting aerials with some height we were able to copy all. At base we raised a mast and fitted a whip to the top and this made the signals more reliable and strong. We had no problems with horses, though a few did get lost but recovered. A couple were vetted out but all that were left made the finish on both days. Those that assisted were ZL1VRR, ZL1SK, ZL1TO and ZL1LL, ZL2ALW, ZL1RCA and on Saturday and ZL1OO on Sunday. Thanks to Franklin Branch 0 who helped make the numbers, which was much appreciated. The organisers were happy, and all had a good time.



### Check point 1,

Check Point 1 was at the corner Temu Road and White Line North. ZL1RCA and XYL Elizabeth. Equipment; Radio Shack HTX212 2m transceiver, tractor battery and quarter wave whip antenna on a pole.



Merv, ZL1SK operating the Base Station.



The Base Station Antenna

Report from Ross ZL1VRR Section Leader ZK1EK / ZL1VRR.

### Club QSL Card

Next year there will be a competition to design a QSL card for the club ZL1AC. It should include the club call sign, ATV and WSRC (inc). Put your thinking caps on and come up with a bright and attractively designed card which we will be proud to send out. There will be a prize for the best one. Details will follow in the New Year.

### 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>. Club nets will run over the Christmas break as usual.

7-Dec-07	ZL1VRR	Ross
14-Dec-07	ZL1MW	Brian
21-Dec-07	ZL1JL	John
28-Dec-07	ZL1NE	John
4-Jan-08	ZL1ACZ	Barry
11-Jan-08	ZL1WI	Roy
18-Jan-08	ZL1VRR	Ross
25-Jan-08	ZL1MW	Brian
1-Feb-08	ZL1JL	John
8-Feb-08	ZL1NE	John
15-Feb-08	ZL1ACZ	Barry
22-Feb-08	ZL1WI	Roy