



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

April 2008 Newsletter

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

President: Andrew Barnett ZL2ALW, Secretary: Ragi Venkatesh

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	14 th	April	Club Meeting – 7:30 pm. Remits – Bring Your March/April Break-in
Saturday	11 th	October	Used Equipment Sale Rosebank School Hall

April Meeting

Our next club night is Monday 14th April. This will include voting on the Remits that are to be discussed at the June NZART Conference. Bring your Break-in as the remits are printed in there. If any member wants another copy then send me an email john.neill@clear.net.nz and I will send a word version to you.

March Annual General Meeting

There was a good turn out of 18 members at the AGM. The committee was elected during the evening, we welcome Grant ZL1GSM to the committee and thank the outgoing committee members who have made themselves available for re-election. The full committee is as shown below.

President	Andrew Barnett	ZL2ALW
Vice President	Ross Reddell	ZL1VRR
Treasurer	John Turnwald	ZL1JT
Secretary	Raji Venkatesh	
Committee	Ian Sangster	ZL1RCA
	Roy Sargon	ZL1LK
	Barry Williams	ZL1ACZ
	Grant Manning	ZL1GSM
	Fortuna Turnwald	ZL1TCZ
Web Controller / Newsletter Editor	John Neill	ZL1NE

Club Fees for 2008/9

These will stay as is at \$25-00 single and \$30-00 for family membership. There was a lot of debate about subs but the outcome of the voting was that they will remain the same. There is a provision that any member that would like to give a donation to help funds would be gratefully received. With Power going up and insurance increasing, we need all the income we can get. These are now due so please make payment to John Turnwald at the next club meeting

Monty Millar Trophy 2008

The Monty Millar Trophy 2008 was presented by Andrew ZL2ALW, to Ross ZL1VRR for his help in getting events organised during the last year 2007/8.

Used Equipment Sale

The used equipment sale will be held again in October on Saturday 11th 2008 at the Rosebank Primary School Hall.

ATV

The repeater in the Waitakere was down in power due to possible coaxial cable damaged between the transmitter to antenna. The VHF group are looking into this. We still need to erect our Antenna on clubhouse roof and run cable into clubrooms.

Merv ZL1SK wanted to know what he could do to help with gear and equipment to get us on the air. He can assist in copying VHS tapes to DVD format. To make programs to play at another time long as you were the person who videoed the pictures with no copy write!!

Club QSL Card

A reminder to all club members to come up with a QSL card to promote the club and it’s activities. Theree will be a prise for the best card presented.

Field Day Report For Jock White Memorial Contest

Work started on getting a team together at our committee meeting in January. There were a few keen members willing to assist on the weekend, so it was based round these Ross ZL1VRR, Andrew ZL2ALW, Roy ZL1LK, Grant ZL1GSM and Roy ZL1WI.. Paul ZL1JC joined the team at the last moment, after he was made aware of the contest during a contact on 146.625 as he travelled up from Stratford. Paul is soon to reside in Stratford. A suggestion had been made to go to a near-by school, or Moto-Moana. Moto-Moana was booked for a Scout mudslide, so the school behind Ross’s place was given the green light.

Saturday was darned wet and over cast, but it was agreed that we press on. We selected a site in the school grounds that was slightly more sheltered, and where we could run our feed lines and raise our antennae. These were thrown over some tree’s on the border of the school grounds. The tents were erected with their veranda’s facing each other in order to make extra area of shelter to keep things dry. The generator was placed under the awning of Ross’s motor home.

As 1500 hours approached we tuned up on both 80m and 40m frequencies on phone and CW and all resonated with good SWR. We ran the transceivers of Andrew’s Kenwood 2000 on 40 m and Roy’s Yaesu 687. The first couple of hours were a little slow but we picked up the pace as the afternoon turned to evening and the number of contacts increased. We continued through to mid-night when we shut down till 0545am on Sunday when we powered up the generator again.

The local shops kept us well supplied for lunch and tea. And we used the generator to boil water for tea and coffee. We operated Phone for the first ½ hour phone and CW for the next ½ hr each hour. On Sunday 40 m was slow for the first 3 hours while 80m was better with a good number of contacts made. Then 40m came alive but faded for the last 2 hours of the day. 80m had a late burst in the final 2 hours

A summary of contacts made:

Band	Mode	Contract	Branch Multipliers
80 metre	Phone	286	25
80 metres	CW	184	15
40 metres	Phone	151	19
40 metres	CW	48	10

We had 6 VK contacts on 40m with nothing on 80m. The final total score was 174, 639.





Report by Ross ZL1VRR

From Packet Radio - Today in History

March 18, 1937 Natural gas explosion kills schoolchildren in Texas

Nearly 300 students in Texas are killed by an explosion of natural gas at their school on this day in 1937.

The Consolidated School of New London, Texas, sat in the middle of a large oil and natural gas field. The area was dominated by 10,000 oil derricks, 11 of which stood right on school grounds. The school was newly built in the 1930s for close to \$1 million and, from its inception, bought natural gas from Union Gas to supply its energy needs. The school's natural gas bill averaged about \$300 a month. Eventually, officials at Consolidated School were persuaded to save money by tapping into the "wet"-gas lines operated by Parade Oil Company that ran near the school. Wet gas is a type of waste gas that is less stable and has more impurities than typical natural gas. At the time, it was not completely uncommon for consumers living near oil fields to use this gas.

At 3:05 p.m. on March 18, a Thursday afternoon, the 694 students and 40 teachers in attendance at the Consolidated School were looking forward to the final bell, which was to ring in 10 minutes. Instead, a huge and powerful explosion, which literally blew the roof off of the building, levelled the school. The blast was felt by people 40 miles away and killed most victims instantly. People rushed to the scene to pull out survivors; hundreds of injured students were hauled from the rubble. Miraculously, some students walked away unharmed; 10 of these were found under a large bookcase that shielded them from the falling building. First-aid stations were established in the nearby towns of Tyler, Overton, Kilgore and Henderson to tend to the wounded.

Reportedly, a blackboard at the destroyed school was found that read, "Oil and natural gas are East Texas' greatest natural gifts. Without them, this school would not be here and none of us would be learning our lessons." The exact cause of the spark that ignited the gas was never found, although it is now known that the gas could have been ignited by static electricity. As a result of this incident, wet gas was required to be burned at the site rather than piped away.

From Packet Radio

Nasa Launches Airborne Study of Arctic Atmosphere Air Pollution

WASHINGTON -- This month, NASA begins the most extensive field campaign ever to investigate the chemistry of the Arctic's lower atmosphere. The mission is poised to help scientists identify how air pollution contributes to climate changes in the Arctic.

The recent decline of sea ice is one indication the Arctic is undergoing significant environmental changes related to climate warming. NASA and its partners plan to investigate the atmosphere's role in this climate-sensitive region with the Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from Aircraft and Satellites (ARCTAS) field campaign. "It's important that we go to the Arctic to understand the atmospheric contribution to warming in a place that's rapidly changing," said Jim Crawford, manager of the Tropospheric Chemistry Program at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "We are in a position to provide the most complete characterization to date for a region that is seldom observed but critical to understanding climate change."

The campaign begins this week in Fairbanks, Alaska. NASA's DC-8, P-3 and B-200 aircraft will serve as airborne laboratories for the next three weeks, carrying instruments to measure air pollution gases and aerosols and solar radiation. Of particular interest is the formation of the springtime "arctic haze." The return of sunlight to the Arctic in the spring fuels chemical reactions of pollutants that have accumulated over the winter after travelling long distances from lower latitudes. "The Arctic is a poster child of global change and we don't understand the processes that are driving that rapid change," said Daniel Jacob, an ARCTAS project scientist at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. "We need to understand it better and that's why we're going."

ARCTAS is NASA's contribution to an international series of Arctic field experiments that is part of the International Polar Year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Energy also are sponsoring research flights from Fairbanks this month in collaboration with NASA.

The wealth of data collected also will improve computer models used to study global atmospheric chemistry and climate. This ultimately will provide scientists with a better idea of how pollutants are transported to and around the Arctic and their impact on the environment and climate.

"We haven't looked at pollution transport in a comprehensive fashion," said Hanwant Singh, an ARCTAS project scientist at NASA Ames Research Centre, Moffett Field, California. "We can see Arctic haze coming in but we don't know its composition or how it got there. One goal of ARCTAS is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the aerosol composition, chemistry and climate effects in the Arctic region."

The new aircraft observations also will help researchers interpret data from NASA satellites orbiting over the Arctic, such as Aura, Terra, and Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO). Interpreting satellite data can be difficult in the Arctic because of extensive cloud cover, bright reflective surfaces from snow and ice, and cold surface temperatures. For example, it's difficult for researchers to look at satellite data and distinguish between light reflected by clouds and light reflected from white ice cover.

"NASA has invested a lot of resources in satellites that can be of value for diagnosing effects of climate change," Jacob said. "Satellites orbit over poles with good coverage and good opportunity, but you really need to have aircraft observations supporting those to make good interpretations of what satellites are telling you."

The new airborne view of the Arctic atmosphere combined with satellite data will provide scientists with a better understanding of the atmospheric side of the climate question. "We're interested in data that will help models better characterize the current state of the atmosphere, to set a benchmark for them so we can gain confidence in their ability to predict future warming in the Arctic," Crawford said.

A second phase of the ARCTAS campaign takes place this summer from Cold Lake in Alberta, Canada, where flights will focus on measurements of emissions from forest fires. Researchers want to know how the impact of naturally occurring fires in the region compares to the pollution associated with human activity at lower latitudes. Understanding the relative influence of each is important to predictions of the Arctic's future climate.

For more information about the ARCTAS field campaign on the Web, visit:
http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/arctas

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>.

11-Apr-08	ZL1MW	Brian
18-Apr-08	ZL1NE	John
25-Apr-08	ZL1ACZ	Barry
2-May-08	ZL1WI	Roy
9-May-08	ZL1VRR	Ross
16-May-08	ZL1MW	Brian
23-May-08	ZL1NE	John
30-May-08	ZL1ACZ	Barry