



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

February 2009 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn,
 PO Box 15-122 New Lynn WAITAKERE 0640
 President: Ian Sangster ZL1RCA, Vice President Ross Reddell ZL1VRR.
 Secretary: Vacant. 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

Saturday	7 th	February	Working Bee at the Clubrooms
Monday	9 th	February	Club Night – Nostalgia Evening - Display of photos and Discussion from the Club Records
Wednesday	25 th	February	Committee Meeting
Saturday	28 th	February	HF Field Day
Sunday	1 st	March	
Monday	9 th	March	Club Night – FutureTech Demonstration of Equipment
Wednesday	25 th	March	Committee Meeting
Monday	13 th	April	Club Night - Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	22 nd	April	Committee Meeting
Monday	11 th	May	Club Night – Address by NZART Councillor Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC
Wednesday	27 th	May	Committee Meeting
Monday	8 th	June	Club Night – Video Evening on Radio Related topics.
Wednesday	24 th	June	Committee Meeting
Monday	13 th	July	Club Night – To be announced
Wednesday	22 nd	July	Committee Meeting
Monday	10 th	August	Club Night - To be announced
Wednesday	26 th	August	Committee Meeting
Monday	14 th	September	Club Night - To be announced
Wednesday	23 rd	September	Committee Meeting
Saturday	3 rd	October	Used Equipment Sale – Details to be announced
Monday	12 th	October	Club Night - To be announced
Wednesday	28 th	October	Committee Meeting
Monday	9 th	November	Club Night - To be announced
Wednesday	25 th	November	Committee Meeting
Monday	14 th	December	Club Night – Christmas BBQ and Social

February Meeting

The February club meeting will be an evening of nostalgia. It will be an evening viewing the photographic records of the club from the Clubrooms construction through to the present day. Grant ZL1GSM has put in a lot of work scanning the old records and these will be available to view. In some cases we are unsure of the names of the people in the photos. Any assistance in putting a name to the faces will be helpful.

Acting President

Ian, ZL1RCA, has stepped into this position and with the help of the committee and club members is working on a programme of activities for the year that we hope will have something of interest for all club members. The Club Calendar above gives an indication of what we hope to be able to deliver in the first half of the year. Do come along to club evenings and enjoy the company of fellow Amateurs and support the activities.

Monthly Meeting of the Auckland Branch of the NZ Radio DX League.

2008 was the 60th Anniversary of the NZ Radio DX League and the Auckland Branch of the League holds its monthly meeting at the Western Suburbs Radio Club. Come along and join us in our informal gatherings and chat about shortwave listening. Meetings are held on the last Sunday of the month at 2 pm; Western Suburbs Radio clubrooms, 3000 Great North Road New Lynn. The entrance is right next to the Whau Bridge between Avondale and New Lynn. For further details please phone Barry Williams, ZL1ACZ on 815 4126

Mini Auction

WSRC members should try and keep Sunday afternoon, 2 pm, 22 February clear, so you can attend a mini auction at the WSRC clubrooms. An invitation has been extended by the Auckland Branch of the NZ Radio DX League to attend their monthly meeting which will be an auction of radio related items bequeathed to the League Branch. This is a great opportunity to meet the DX chaps, perhaps buy something at the auction and look at the progress in revamping the clubrooms. The funds raise from the auction are to be donated to the WSRC so come along and have a fun afternoon. For further details phone Barry ZL1ACZ on 815 4126.

Field Day

The Jock White Memorial Field Day will be held this year on Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March. If you are interested in helping out then please give Ross ZL1VRR a call on ph 09 629 0504.

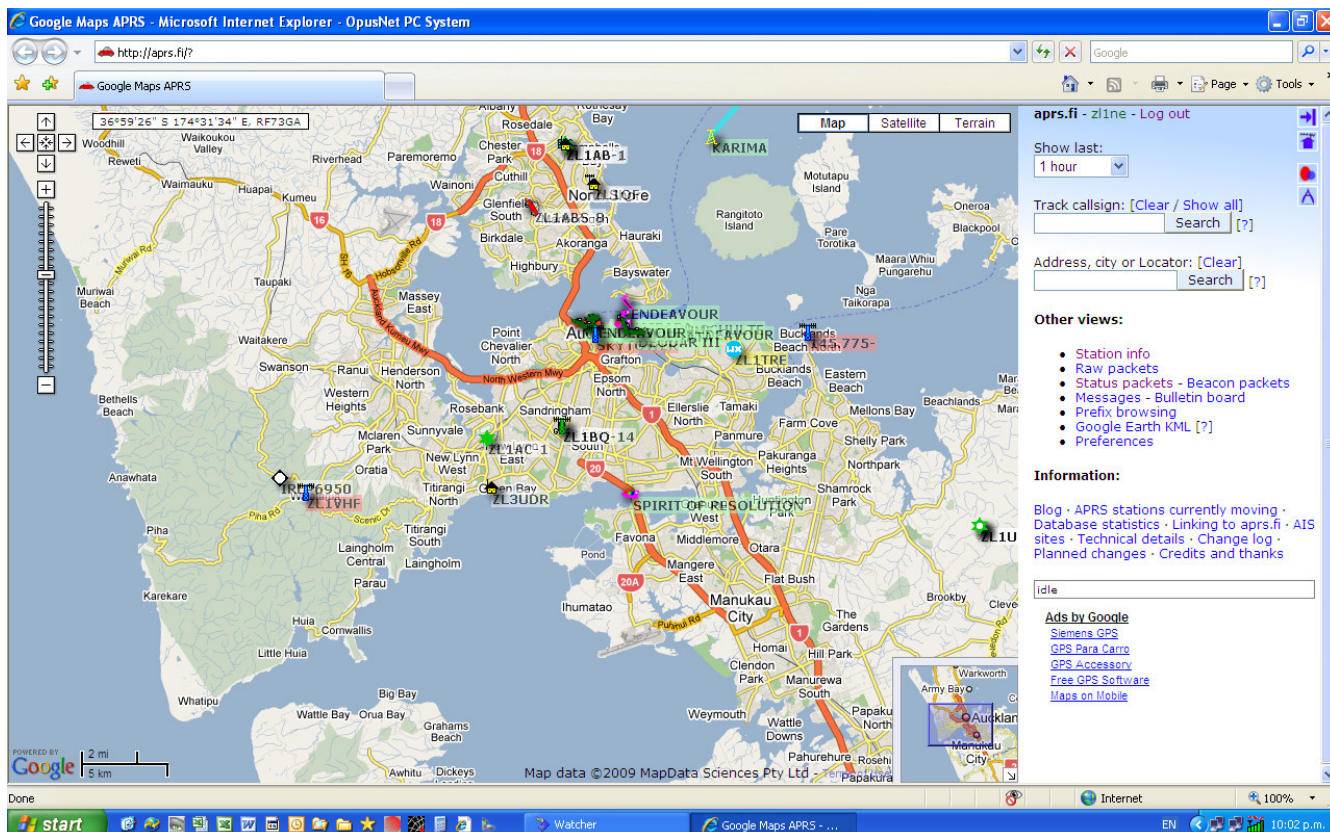
For Sale

Selling on behalf of ZL1FG, a 10 metre ground plan antenna, 6 metre long galvanised steel pole and 10 metre pager transmitter with some personnel paging receivers. The Antenna needs a little maintenance. Offers. Contact John ZL1NE 09 828 5891.



APRS Beacon

The clubs APRS Beacon is now operational. There may be a few adjustments still required to the settings in the programme but it appears to be receiving packets of information and relaying them on to other stations in a satisfactory manner. This is its sole function in life at the moment. You can monitor it if you wish and it can be found on 144.575 MHz in the 2 metre band. You will need to connect your computer to your radio either through your sound card using AGW Packet Engine software or a TNC and run software such as UIView or WinPack. Alternatively you can see beacon by looking at the following web site. <http://aprs.fi/> The picture below shows what you will see if you type in the website address correctly.



CQ Summer Sprint

The Papakura Radio Club is running the first summer sprints this weekend and the following. The Rules can be found at the the following web site <http://www.qsl.net/zl1vk/index.html> The contest rules are almost identical to the now familiar Waitakere Sprint so you should not have too much trouble catching on. The CW sprint is on Saturday 7th February and the Phone Sprint is on Saturday 14th February both from 0900 to 1000 UTC. Good Luck in the Contest!

Caption Competition



I cropped this out of one of the photos that Merv took at the Waitakere Civil Defence visit by the AREC group in January. Serious business this Civil Defence.

Anyway your thoughts on a good caption for the photo. Place your entry on the front desk at the February meeting.

AREC visit

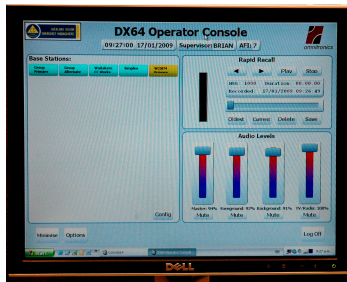
On Saturday 17th January 2009 a number of branch members and AREC section meet at Elcoat Avenue to check over the building, inspect the radio bay and see the improvements that have been carried out since the building was opened last year. Both Brian ZL1MW and Bob ZL1GD were there to explain some of the working, and also to familiarise us all if additional operators are needed when called upon if an emergency strikes in the western districts. The Civil Defence Officer for Waitakere City Council Carl, was also on hand to explain the workings.

If you are able to share duties at CDHQ if in the event of an emergency could you pass your name to Ross ZL1VRR, ZK1EK Section Leader WSRC AREC.

Each Wednesday morning there is a CD Out Post call when you would be welcome to visit and watch the proceeding there. Please check with Brian ZL1MW before turning up. Below are photos by ZL1SK of the CD Headquarters.



The Communications Room



The Operators Console



The radio racks in the communications room



The Main Operations Room



Rear View of the CD Headquarters



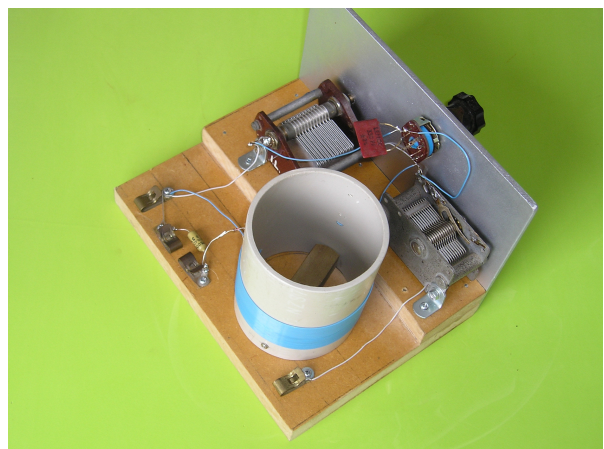
Solar Panels on the Roof

Shaan's Crystal Radio

Shaan with the help of Maurie ZL1xx has put together this fine Crystal Radio from the circuit diagrams that were printed in a previous Newsletter. Maurie reports.

Hi John...thanks for the info on the crystal radio you mentioned in branch 03 newsletter. I have attached a couple of pix to show the result. The selectivity is quite good and the sensitivity average I suppose. I just took a guess at the diode tap as the diameter of the coil is different from that specified. My grandson aged 7 was my willing assistant and here's hoping it will get him started on amateur radio. All the best to you and yours for Xmas and 2009.

73 Maurie



From Packet Radio – Today in History Compiled by N0KFQ

January 21, 1976 - Concorde Takes Off

From London's Heathrow Airport and Orly Airport outside Paris, the first Concorde with commercial passengers simultaneously take flight on January 21, 1976. The London flight was headed to Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, and the Paris to Rio de Janeiro via Senegal in West Africa. At their cruising speeds, the innovative Concorde flew well over the sound barrier at 1,350 miles an hour, cutting air travel time by more than half.

The flights were the culmination of a 12-year effort that pitted English and French engineers against their counterparts in the USSR. In 1962, 15 years after U.S. pilot Chuck Yeager first broke the sound barrier, Britain and France signed a treaty to develop the world's first supersonic passenger airline. The next year, President John F. Kennedy proposed a similar U.S. project. Meanwhile, in the USSR, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev ordered his top aviation engineers to beat the West to the achievement.

There were immense technical challenges in building a supersonic airliner. Engines would need to be twice as powerful as those built for normal jets, and the aircraft's frame would have to withstand immense pressure from shock waves and endure high temperatures caused by air friction. In the United States, Boeing tackled the supersonic project but soon ran into trouble with its swing-wing design. In England and France, however, early results were much more promising, and Khrushchev ordered Soviet intelligence to find out as much as possible about the Anglo-French prototypes.

In 1965, the French arrested Sergei Pavlov, head of the Paris office of the Soviet airliner Aeroflot, for illegally obtaining classified information about France's supersonic project. Another high-level Soviet spy remained unknown, however, and continued to feed the Soviets information about the Concorde until his arrest in 1977.

On December 31, 1968, just three months before the first scheduled flight of the Concorde prototype, the fruits of Soviet industrial espionage were revealed when the Soviet's TU-144 became the world's first supersonic airliner to fly. The aircraft looked so much like the Concorde that the Western press dubbed it "Konkordski."

In 1969, the Concorde began its test flights. Two years later, the United States abandoned its supersonic program, citing budget and environmental concerns. It was now up to Western Europe to make supersonic airline service viable before the Soviets. Tests continued, and in 1973 the TU-144 came to the West to appear alongside the Concorde at the Paris Air Show at Le Bourget airport. On June 3, in front of 200,000 spectators, the Concorde flew a flawless demonstration. Then it was the TU-144's turn. The aircraft made a successful 360-degree turn and then began a steep ascent. Abruptly, it levelled off and began a sharp descent. Some 1,500 feet above the ground, it broke up from overstress and came crashing into the ground, killing all six Soviet crew members and eight French civilians.

Soviet and French investigators ruled that pilot error was the cause of the accident. However, in recent years, several of the Russian investigators have disclosed that a French Mirage intelligence aircraft was photographing the TU-144 from above during the flight. A French investigator confirmed that the Soviet pilot was not told that the Mirage was there, a breach of air regulations. After beginning his ascent, the pilot may have abruptly levelled off the TU-144 for fear of crashing into this aircraft. In the sudden evasive manoeuvre, the thrust probably failed, and the pilot then tried to restart the engines by entering a dive. He was too close to the ground, however, and tried to pull up too soon, thus overstressing the aircraft.

In exchange for Soviet cooperation in the cover-up, the French investigators agreed not to criticize the TU-144's design or engineering. Nevertheless, further problems with the TU-144, which was designed hastily in its bid to beat the Concorde into the air, delayed the beginning of Soviet commercial service. Concorde passenger service began with much fanfare in January 1976. Western Europe had won its supersonic race with the Soviets, who eventually allowed just 100 domestic flights with the TU-144 before discontinuing the airliner.

The Concorde was not a great commercial success, however, and people complained bitterly about the noise pollution caused by its sonic booms and loud engines. Most airlines declined to purchase the aircraft, and just 16 Concorde were built for British Airways and Air France. Service was eventually limited between London and New York and Paris and New York, and luxury travellers appreciated the less than four-hour journey across the Atlantic.

On July 25, 2000, an Air France Concorde crashed 60 seconds after taking off from Paris en route to New York. All 109 people aboard and four on the ground were killed. The accident was caused by a burst tire that ruptured a fuel tank, creating a fire that led to engine failure. The fatal accident--the first in Concorde's history--signalled the decline of the aircraft. On October 24, 2003, the Concorde took its last regular commercial flight.

--- End of message #483293 to TODAY from N0KFQ ---

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 004.02
From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.

Western Suburbs Radio Club – February 2009

January 4, 2009
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: \$ANS-004.02
JAMSAT Announces Amateur Satellite to Venus

AMSAT has received news from Japan that JARL/JAMSAT are collaborating with the Japanese University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC) to send an amateur radio payload into a Venus transfer orbit with the primary JAXA Planet-C Venus Orbiter mission planned for May, 2010.

UNITEC-1, developed by the teams who have already launched cubesats such as University of Tokyo's XI-IV, XI-V, and Tokyo Institute of Technology's CUTE-1, CUTE-1.7+APD has the following engineering missions:

1. Onboard computers developed by several universities will be tested in the harsh space environment in the form of a competition; i.e., the computer which can survive to the last in the radiation-rich deep space environment will win the competition.
2. Technologies to receive and decode very weak and low bit rate signal coming from deep space will be developed and tested.
3. Technologies to estimate orbit and signal Doppler shift of the satellite based on the received RF signal will be developed and tested. These technologies are essential for tracking and receiving signals from a satellite in deep space.

The UNITEC-1 team invites the support of amateur radio amateurs all around the world to participate in the receiving and data capture experiments in objectives 2 and 3, above. They note that amateur radio operators working as individuals or in groups develop stations and techniques to relay their received signal reports and data to the UNITEC-1 control station. This is also a unique opportunity to propose amateur experiments or competitions to the satellite team.

UNITEC-1 will transmit a signal consisting of a CW beacon of about 1 bps speed. One experiment requiring the participation of several amateur radio earth stations would include the development of interferometric techniques to combine the received signals from several antennae to improve the received S/N ratio from the spacecraft out-bound from earth.

The UNITEC-1 website provides the latest mission information (such as orbit parameters, data formats and current status). UNITEC-1 will be the first university developed interplanetary satellite as well as the first amateur interplanetary satellite. The team sincerely hopes that UNITEC-1 will provide unique and exciting opportunity for the radio amateurs all over the world to enjoy reception of signals from deep space.

The UNITEC-1 website can be seen at:
http://unitec-1.cc.u-tokai.ac.jp/en/news_en

[ANS thanks Graham Shirville, G3VZV for the above information]

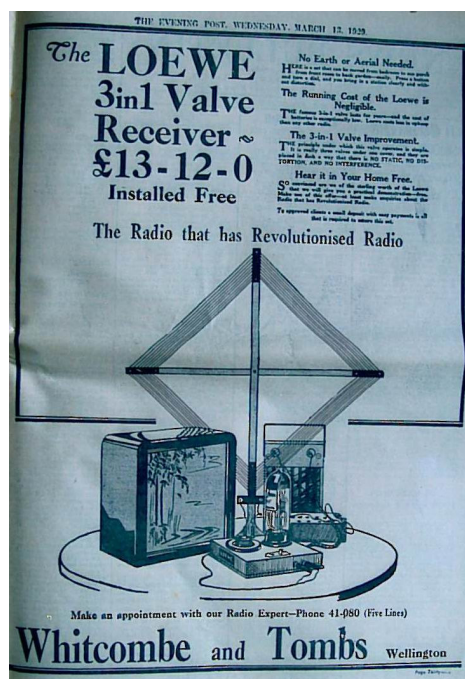
--- End of message #482779 to SAT from CX2SA ---

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>

Regards John ZL1NE john.neill@opus.co.nz

6-Feb-09	ZL1WI	Roy
13-Feb-09	ZL1VRR	Ross
20-Feb-09	ZL1MW	Brian
27-Feb-09	ZL1NE	John
6-Mar-09	ZL1ACZ	Barry
13-Mar-09	ZL1WI	Roy
20-Mar-09	ZL1VRR	Ross
27-Mar-09	ZL1MW	Brian



Western Suburbs Radio Club Branch 03, NZART Inc:

Nomination form for election of member/s as an officer of the above-mentioned club
at the Annual General Meeting - Monday 13th April 2009

Member nominated

Name:

Callsign:

Financial member: YES / NO

For the office of:

Date of Nomination:

Nominated by:

Callsign:

Financial member: YES / NO

Seconded by:

Callsign:

Financial member: YES / NO

Nomination accepted:

Signed by Nominee:

Date of Acceptance: