



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

June 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: Roy Milam ZL1WI. 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	13 th	June	Club Night – Social Morning and Clubrooms tidy-up.
Wednesday	24 th	June	Committee Meeting
Saturday	11 th	July	Club Night – To be announced
Wednesday	22 nd	July	Committee Meeting
Saturday	25 th	July	Waitakere Sprint – Phone - Date to be confirmed
Saturday	1 st	August	Waitakere Sprint – CW - Date to be confirmed
Saturday	8 th	August	Club Night - To be announced
Wednesday	26 th	August	Committee Meeting
Saturday	12 th	September	Club Night - To be announced
Wednesday	23 rd	September	Committee Meeting
Saturday	10 th	October	Used Equipment Sale – Note the New Date
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

Winter Meetings

The June, July, August and September Club Meetings will be held on Saturday mornings. This should be easier than turning out on cold and possibly wet winter Monday evenings.

June Meeting

The June meeting will be held on Saturday 13th at 10 am and will be a morning social activities and we will have a tidy up of the club rooms. Bring a few tools with you as these may come in handy.

May Meeting

At the May meeting we had an address by NZART Councillor Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC. Vaughan assisted us to understand the Remits that we needed to vote on and advised us how to have our votes recorded at the Conference in June. He then updated us on NZART issues and projects. It is possible that the Amateur Service will lose its use of Channel 39 for ATV sometime in the future. He spoke

Beacon and repeater fees will rise a small amount. Fees were introduced for these following the free radio licence as the MED needs some income from the Amateur service. Currently 670 is not operating and needs repair. The fault is proving hard to find but will be fixed as soon as possible. (Now fixed and operational again Ed.) 560 is working well but trees growing up around it may be an issue soon. Vaughan is running Radio Classes at North Shore and the four students that sat last year all passed. Some Councillors will be standing down at the Conference and there is some new people coming on. ATV will possibly lose the use of Channel 39. NZART will lobby for its continued use but reality is that Amateurs may not be able to pay the fees that commercial operators can which could be as much as \$40,000 - \$50,000 per annum nationwide. We could get the entire 6 meter band back without a special licence for part of it being necessary, following the relocation of TV One from Channel 2. Commercial operators are vacating the 40 metre band and we should be able to use all of it soon. The band plan is still to be decided for this band. The proposal for NZ is different to overseas and this needs thinking through carefully. It is not

very sensible for this to be different from our neighbours. He spoke on the MED's update to SMART, which is now SMART III. Access is via the internet but it is not easy to use. There is an 0508 number that can be used instead. This is on the letter that was recently received by amateurs. If you haven't received a letter then the MED probably doesn't have details that allowed the letter to be delivered. Do try and access the database and make sure you details are correct. Contact details below. Your Licence may be cancelled if the MED doesn't hear from you eventually. Vaughan also spoke on power line interference and what to do about it if it occurs and interferes with Radio reception. Basically the MED will not deal to interference to Amateur Radio receivers but will sort out interference to TV, AM and FM radios. Beacons are running remotely and this may be a problem as far as amateur licences are concerned that require us to be in control of the station. There will not be a call book published this year as the details from the MED's Database of call signs is still rather inaccurate and so it is not worth publishing until it is better.

Thanks Vaughan for an informative evening.

Ministry of Economic Development Contact Details

By Telephone 0508 776 463 or 0508 RSM INFO
By the net <http://www.rsm.govt.nz/smart/>

You will need your Activation Code before entering the website and this is on the letter or email that you have recently received.

Club Subscriptions

At the AGM the club subscription was increased to \$30. This is now payable to the Treasurer at PO Box 15-122 New Lynn WAITAKERE 0640, or make your payment directly to John Turnwald at the next club meeting. It has unfortunately been necessary to raise the club fees to cover the ever increasing cost of running the club and maintaining the clubs assets such as the building. Non payment by the end of June will be taken as an informal resignation from the club.

Used Equipment Sale

The western Suburbs Radio Club Used Equipment Sale will take place on the 10th October 2009 (note the change of date). The Club is currently collecting surplus equipment that can be sold to raise funds for the club. This sale is the clubs main fund raiser each year and ensures the continued financial viability of the club. If you have surplus equipment, or know of any other non-club people that may have surplus equipment, that could be donated to the sale then please contact a member of the committee.

Silent Key

It is with regret that the club records the passing of Roly Jury ZL1AMU. Roly was a Life Member of the club and served on the club Committee for many years. He was very active in all club activities including AREC, contests, morse code and construction tuition until he moved out of the district in the mid 90's. Roly died Peacefully at North Haven Hospital on 16 May 2009. He is survived by his Wife Janet and eleven children and grandchildren. A service was held for Roly at Orewa on 20 May. The club extend condolences to Roly's family.

Correction

In the April News letter it was reported that all the repeaters in Auckland were controlled and funded by the Auckland VHF Group. This is not the case as ZL1ZLD and 147.3250 Ponga are owned and operated by the Suburban Amateur Radio Club and the South Auckland Repeater Group (SARG) Branch 86. WSRC Apologises for this error. Full details of the Branch activities can be found at:

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/branches/SARC/index.htm>

Waitakere Sprints

The Waitakere Sprints will be held again this year thanks to assistance from the Papakura Radio Club. As usual the sprints are for a one hour duration from 10 pm to 11 pm NZ time. The Phone sprint will be on the last Saturday in July and the CW Sprint will be on the first Saturday in August. Full details will be available soon on both the Papakura and WSRC Websites. Dates of the Sprints are still to be confirmed.

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-Jun-09	ZL1MW	Brian
12-Jun-09	ZL1NE	John
19-Jun-09	ZL1ACZ	Barry
26-Jun-09	ZL1WI	Roy
3-Jul-09	ZL1VRR	Ross
10-Jul-09	ZL1MW	Brian
17-Jul-09	ZL1NE	John
24-Jul-09	ZL1ACZ	Barry
31-Jul-09	ZL1WI	Roy

Our Two Week Holiday to Palmerston North - By Ross ZL1VRR

Planning for the trip started many weeks before with where we would stop over night the arrange booking for accommodation for our Motor Home a Ford Transit and because of my Dialysis had to take over sixteen box's of solution in our trailer

After packing up the Motor home and trailer with an extra fridge on board packed with food and bread (frozen) we set off early Sunday morning on our holiday stopping on the way to see planned sites, and view the scenery. Our first stop was Waitomo for two days while we looked around and visited the tracks round the Black Caves, where the white water people go down in tubes through tunnels and rapids, a wild ride! We walked a bush track through farming territory, interesting scenery and back to the camping ground. We had installed a satellite dish that once erected hooked into the D1 Optus satellite that gave us a perfect picture on the TV everywhere we stopped and set up. Before we found that every area we went into the aerial polarity was vertical polarised and a very scratchy picture was all we could get.

The next day we headed for Owhango where we stopped in a POP (park over property) we had a planned trip on the Wanganui River by Jet Boat to The Bridge to Nowhere. It was an early start getting lunch and morning and after noon tea when we were picked up and driven to the river back in Taumarunui. The trip was run by Wades Landing Cruises. We were the only passengers this day with rain predicted the start proved fine with little sun. Once on the river we travelled past many banks of green fernery and the reflections were magnificent. On our travels we passed some 5 day canoe adventurers that stop off at given points for over night stops. After some 125km ride over small rapids and stops to view some water falls we arrived at the landing to the Bridge to Nowhere. We clambered up the bank to a bush stop to eat some lunch before walking a track through the bush and fernery. This takes about ¾ hour. We passed a couple of other tour party groups that had come up the river in two other jet boats from Pipiriki. There was unfortunately not much bird life that we could see, only a couple of Robins flying about. We passed an early settlers place where the immigrants tried to establish a farm and the bridge was built to get their products out to a road. This did not work out for them and after some time the settlements died and the bridge was left as a memorial to their lives. We had a time to be back at the landing so we returned the same way we came. There is a walking track if you are so inclined. It takes some 24hrs walking to the road.

Our boat was waiting for us where we were taken back to Wades Landing where a truck was there to pick us up. The boat was refuelled ready for the next cruise, and taken back through winding roads to our Motor Home at Owhango. A very exciting and exhilarating day. Highly recommend the River trip.

Next day we headed through to Ohakune where we went for a park walk, then in the afternoon we head up the slopes of Turoa where Betti went for an hour mountain walk. The clouds had come down and the temperature dropped but we ventured out at the roads top and saw the facilities the visitors use. Not much snow about yet.

Next day we left to travel to Palmerston North stopping at Raurimu to view the Tangiwai Memorial of the train disaster passing through Taihape and Mangaweka taking a short cut across land from Highway 1 to Cheltenham stopping at Fielding to buy

some food for us due to Easter. Palmerston North was our stop, for the next four days for Betti's family reunion. There we had a number of functions around Palmerston North on the Saturday as we took a coach through to Norsewood passing through the Manawatu Gorge. There we saw a rail car stopped between two tunnels. A couple we knew said that some cables had come off the wall of the tunnel and the carriages could not pass between the sides as the floor has been lowered for containers to pass, so they had to return to Palmerston North and go to Masterton by coach on an Easter trip to Wellington. At night we had a concert where family members spoke, sang, or did some musical items. A good night's entertainment and enjoyed by all. Sunday we visited the early family grave which had been erected for the occasion. Lunch and farewell completed the weekend. All parted and headed back to their home QTH.

Next day we pressed onto Masterton, stopping at the Manawatu Wind farm on top of the ranges. These consisted of two types of towers of lattice or fibre glass with the turbines revolving around in the wind. To get to the site we had to leave our trailer at a café and drive up a windy gravel road to the top of the ranges which had views of the plains around us. There were a number of sheep farms and property dotted between the towers. The slow speed of the turbines produced a small noise from the blades. The total Kiwi's produced from the turbines is enough to power Palmerston North and surrounding area. This is fed into the national grid system. Quite amazing to see them working. From there we headed to Masterton before heading out to Castle Point to a second cousin of Betti's who had a house on the beach. Feeling fit we climbed up the cliffs to the Lighthouse and took photo's and looked around. In the afternoon we took a car and travelled up the coast to Mataikona. Some unusual rock formations were viewed as laid steps unusual. Next day Betti climbed to the top of the mountain cliff at the harbour entrance where the fishing boats leave and enter the harbour. Some good photos were taken from the top. The next two days were taken in travelling back to Auckland. We stopped off at Pahiatua, then travelled back through the gorge bypassing Palmerston North with a road to Ashhurst to Bulls then up Highway 1 to Taupo where we stopped over night and saw friends living there. Had a good view of the mountains, as the sun was out showing off them to their best.

It was an early start next morning as we travelled north through the forest and by passing Hamilton due to the V8 street race to come out at Taupiri and joining Highway 1 to Auckland arriving home just in time for lunch, unpacking and clearing out the van and trailer. We Covered some 1550 kilometres filling with diesel only four times. No Problems and the trailer towed well behind the van.



Castle point Lighthouse from beach



Looking from Lighthouse. into the boat harbour



Taken from jet boat travelling down the River



Waitomo looking down black water hole



Reflections on the river as we travelled south



Bridge to Nowhere amongst the ferns



Mountains in National Park



Wind farm in the Tararua Range

Great Trip Ross (Editor)