



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

September 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	12 th	September	Club Meeting – Club Working Bee
Wednesday	23 rd	September	Committee Meeting
Saturday	10 th	October	Used Equipment Sale
Monday	12 th	October	Club Meeting - To be announced
Wednesday	28 th	October	Committee Meeting
Monday	9 th	November	Club Meeting - To be announced
Wednesday	25 th	November	Committee Meeting
Monday	14 th	December	Club Meeting – Christmas BBQ and Social

Winter Meetings

September will be the last Club Meetings to be held on Saturday morning for the year. Club meetings will return to Monday evenings from October on.

September Meeting

The September meeting will again be a working bee. Start time is around 9:30 am. Bring a few tools for a bit of basic outdoor maintenance.

August Club Meeting

We got a lot done around the grounds at the August meeting. The large ruts that had formed with vehicles driving over soft ground have been removed. Following the meeting Ian, ZL1RCA, bought in a trailer load of crushed concrete and filled up some of the soft spots so hopefully next winter the soft spots won't be so soft.

Used Equipment Sale

The western Suburbs Radio Club Used Equipment Sale will take place on the 10th October 2009. The Club is currently collecting surplus equipment that can be sold to raise funds for the club. This sale is the club's main fund raiser each year and ensures the continued financial viability of the club. If you have any 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.

Full details of the sale can be found on the web at <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/WSRC%20equipment%20sale%202009.pdf> or attached to this newsletter.

AREC

The WSRC AREC section met on Saturday 29th August. We did some message handling exercises after first checking the F3 Handheld radios and assembling the repeater. The equipment worked well but it does pay to assemble it from time to time to give the team experience and so that there will be no surprises if it is needed in an emergency.

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>. We may need to relocate to another frequency as the frequency we have been using is within the data section and although we have not heard data in this section we received complaints about using the frequency for voice. We will advise when the new frequency has been decided.

4-Sep-09	ZL1WI	Roy
11-Sep-09	ZL1VRR	Ross
18-Sep-09	ZL1MW	Brian
25-Sep-09	ZL1NE	John
2-Oct-09	ZL1ACZ	Barry
9-Oct-09	ZL1WI	Roy
16-Oct-09	ZL1VRR	Ross
23-Oct-09	ZL1MW	Brian
30-Oct-09	ZL1NE	John

Coordinate Conversion

We stumbled across this website recently and thought it may be of use to Club members

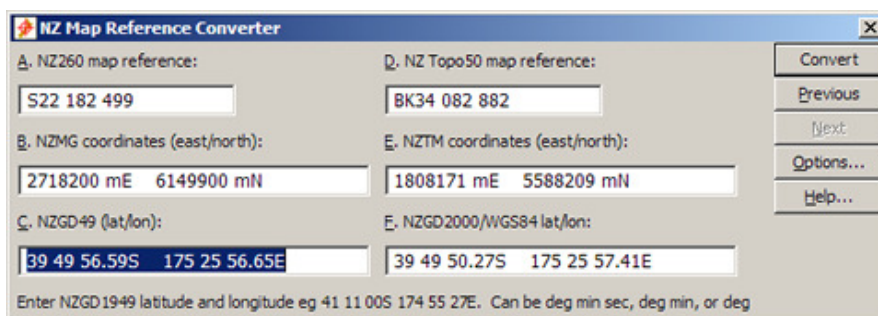
<http://www.linz.govt.nz/geodetic/software-downloads/nzmapconv/index.aspx>

Description

Map Reference Converter (NZMapConv) is software that LINZ provides to convert map references between the old NZMS260 map series and the new [NZTopo50 map series](#).

It can also be used for converting between [New Zealand Map Grid \(NZMG\)](#), [New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000 \(NZTM2000\)](#), and latitude and longitude in terms of the [New Zealand Geodetic Datum 1949 \(NZGD1949\)](#) and the [New Zealand Geodetic Datum 2000 \(NZGD2000\)](#).

NZMapConv is a Windows programme designed to convert individual coordinates entered manually. It does not provide any facility for converting coordinates in files. If you need to convert batches of coordinates you can use the [online coordinate converter](#), or, for NZMG, NZTM2000, and the latitude/longitude coordinate systems, you can download the [CONCORD coordinate conversion programme](#).



Screenshot of the NZMapConv programme

Download

Download and use of this software application is taken to be acceptance of the following conditions.

- Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) does not offer any support for this software.
- The software is provided "as is" and without warranty of any kind. In no event shall LINZ be liable for loss of any kind whatsoever with respect to the download, installation and use of the software.

- The software is designed to work with MS Windows. However, LINZ makes no warranty regarding the performance or non-performance of the software on any particular system or system configuration.
- To install the programme, download the zip file and extract and install the nzmapconv_install.msi file.

[nzmapconv20090428.zip \(zip 2.52MB\)](#)

Possum Borne Rally Held on Saturday 29th August by Ross ZK1EKR

Planning started for the rally after Richard contacted me earlier in the month to see if I would be available to assist at a regroup at Oparau 3A and 3B, 1st round and 7a and 7b 2nd round in a metal dump 1.7km from the road House on the Kawhai Harbour. I had fitted the radios into the motor home during the week and checked that all was operating. One of the VHF radios had a suspect fuse-link and that was replaced with a new one. The HF radio was also placed on board with a whip antenna placed on the back of the tow-ball. We had placed our food and provisions for the weekend on board as we planned to stay in the Waikato area to see a scenic reserve and the wild live in the area.

I picked up Betti from her work on Friday afternoon and we left Auckland round 3:00pm and travelled down the motorway turning off Highway 1 at Ngaruawhai travelling down the bypass to the Kawhai turn off. We reached the road house just before dark where we set up and had a prepared tea. We visited Bill the owner of the road house and spent time talking to the team, before heading for bed. The next morning after having breakfast we cleaned up and called into base and listened to the other radio operators set up and start recording times of the rally cars on the first 3 stages. We had to travel up the road about 1.8 km to the original position in the Metal Dump at the regroup. The Marshalls were setting up their timing gear in preparation of the first cars arriving. We had to place our VHF Antenna on an extended pipe to get some extra height to get a better signal back to base in Hamilton. We tried using the Waitomo repeater 146.8750 first to pass our messages of the time arrival into regroup and then after a 10-minute period they left to proceed to stage 4, the Waitomo stage. There were good coms to base. The only problem we had was that after the first 20 cars, having their 10-minute time in regroup, this gap slowly reduced with the cars as they checked in, were given their check-out time to proceed to the next stage. All the cars were cleared, some 65 cars, so we stood down to have lunch awaiting the second SS 5-8 to start.

After a break of 2-1/2 hour the first cars were again beginning to check in after their refuel at Oparau where the owner had marked out places for the service crews to park with their rally cars. That was a tight squeeze. We went green on time as car 1 checked in on time. There was just only room for all the rally cars to park before checking out on route to SS 8. There was a 10-minute buffer zone at the regroup. A driver's slip was passed onto us to transmit to base. These came as one slip of 3 cars, but as the cars arrived these got to the point of a page to transmit which were up to 25 car report times. We had no problems but the gap between in and out lessened as the cars were late in arriving and were going out in nearly the same minute as they arrived. So after the last car left we had 56 cars in and out. This was radioed back to Base where we were able to close down, pack up and head to a P.O.P near Kihikihi for the night.

Sunday was spent tramping round a forest park at Pukeatua which is ring fenced to keep predators out, like wild cats, rats, dogs and stoats that would eat the native birds eggs that have been placed in this area. We had our lunch at the Karapiro rowing venue before heading home to Auckland and unpacking.

Thanks to Richard and David at base who took our radio messages at the Working Men's Club in Hamilton

Regards Ross ZK1EKR



Hayden Paddon's Car



Entry to forest park entrance at Pukeatua



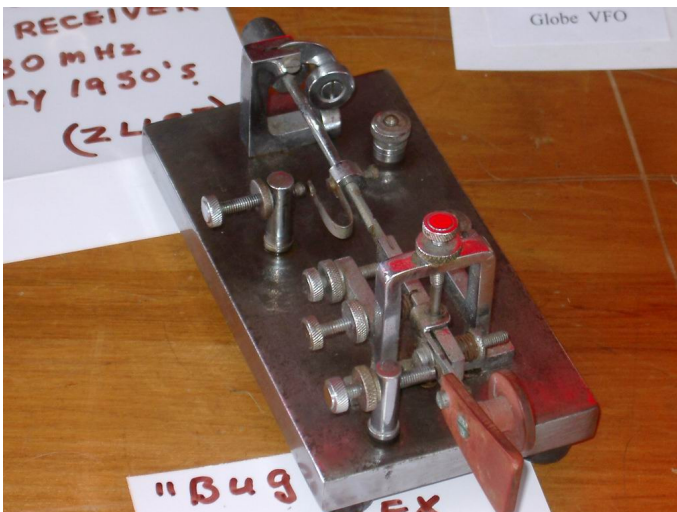
Viewing platform inside the park



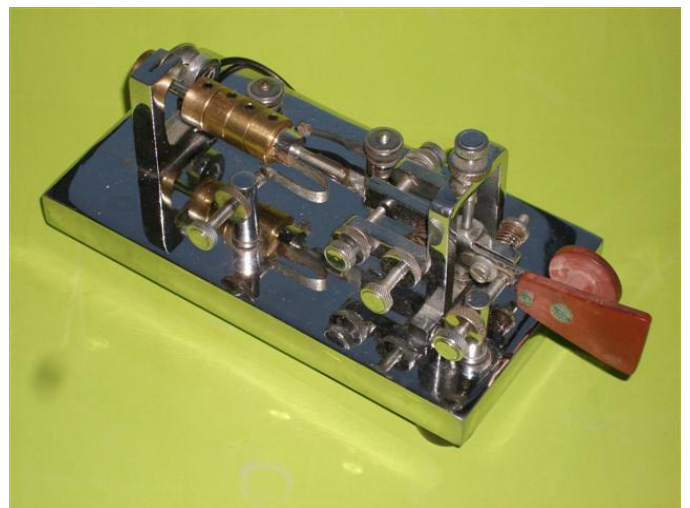
Close up looking up to the top deck 90 steps

Bug

The following pictures are we believe to be of Norm Smith's, ZL1ST (now a silent key) bug. The first photo is how it appears on the web site as it was photographed during the open day in January 2003 at Music Point. The Bug is currently in Maurie's, ZL1FK, care and he has restored it to its original splendour. Maurie says that it now works perfectly and I use it on CwCom on the net.



Condition before Restoration



Following Reconditioning