



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

December 2009 Newsletter

ZL1AC, Branch 03 NZART 3000 Great North Road New Lynn,
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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

Wednesday	16 th	December	Club Meeting – Christmas BBQ and Social New Lynn RSA 6 pm for 6:30pm <i>Note: this date is different from last month's newsletter.</i>
Saturday	27 th	February	HF Field Day
Sunday	28 th	February	HF Field Day
Saturday	20 th	March	Used Equipment Auction VHF Group – Date and time to be confirmed.

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*

December Meeting

The Christmas Social will be held at the New Lynn RSA on Wednesday 16th December meeting from 6:00 pm for drinks and dinner starting about 6:30 pm. Cost for mains is about \$10:00 to \$13:00. Partners are most welcome to attend. Note that the date is Wednesday and not Monday as reported in the last newsletter as the RSA is not open for meals on Mondays.

November Meeting

Interesting talks from Ian ZL1RCA on sourcing a replacement memory board for an Icom 745 transceiver and by Roy ZL1WI on his home constructed 2-metre antenna. Grant ZL1GSM demonstrated a high performance speaker designed for iPods and other music devices but equally useful when plugged into a transceiver.

AREC Meeting

The AREC meeting scheduled for Saturday November 21st did not take place. This was to discuss the Horse Trial but as it turned out, all the details were worked out via email and the telephone.

BRADLY RD HORSE ENDURANCE EVENT Sun 29th November

Planning started more than two months previously with an e-mail asking for help to assist with radio communications for the event at Bradley Road. The request was so far out it was difficult to get interest from those who could assist. We had no plan of the course or horse numbers. There was correspondence back and forth, with it all coming together in the last week. We had four operators Ian ZL1RCA with his wife, Brendon ZL100, and David ZL1ADR, a new amateur, who came on board at the last moment, when his Scout camp was cancelled. Merv ZL1SK recorded the horse's time to check yje horses progress and this made life much easier for those in the field. Thanks! Ross ZL1VRR and Betti ran the Base Station. We only had one check point in the forest, and a start / finish ststion.

Betti and I went up on Saturday night and put up our base Antenna before tea and settling down for the night in wet, wintery weather. Our report time for those travelling was Sunday at 05:30 am and we liaised on 670 repeater. On arrival of all operators we had a brief meeting before heading out to various locations.

At 6:00 am the first event was under way with the 80 km horses (white bibs with black numbers) we quickly wrote the numbers down as they rode into the distant mist. We then checked in on our primary frequency of 146.925 simplex. The repeater was not required as the centre of the horse trek loops were only up to 5 km away from base with the check-point only 1.3 km from base. It took the fast horses less than $\frac{3}{4}$ hour to complete the first loop. There was then a crossover figure of eight, where they travelled in another loop in the opposite direction to go passed our check point located at the intersection of Selwyn and Mission Roads. The route home was a little shorter and soon the first horse was home for a vet check before setting out on the second lap of the same loop. There then was a little time spare before the 40 km horses started at 9:30 am. The bibs were orange with black numbers for this event. They followed the same loop as the 80 km riders with a 10 km loop to finish. Some of these riders took a wrong turn, but after a short time came back to the check-point and resumed again on the correct track quickly making up on time on the leading horses with some quick riding.

A few of the 80 km horses were vetted out, so retired from the event leaving six horse to continue the full distance, another 30 km loop, and finish off with an 20 km loop run in the opposite direction to which they had ridden the first time. These were the last horses to finish, finishing at different times to the fast finishers, with the slower horses taking about an hour longer to finish.

At 10:00 am the 20 km event (yellow bibs and black numbers) took off on their ride using the 20 km loop. The 10 km loop horses left at 10:15 am and were out for a fun ride in (green bibs and black numbers). This was the shortest of all the loops to get them used to following flag markers round the track. Their course followed around a paddock and then a shorter course into the forest and C.P. before heading back to base.

In summarising the day, we had all weathers from rain and mist at the start of the day to a beautiful day with hot sun. No horses went missing, though some were vetted out due to their horses not being able to restart, after the vet check. 51 horses started and 47 finished. Radio wise we had good communication with all operators on simplex and our radios did not let us down. Once all the horse's were finish we were able to pack up and dismantle our Antenna systems and head home, locking the forest gates and passing the keys over to the horse people.

Thanks to all who helped and gave up the whole day to assist.



Horses Waiting to Restart



Base Station Radios



Base Station Operators Ross and Betti



Start/Finish Operators David & Brendon

Field Day

The Jock White Memorial Field Day Contest will be held on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th February 2010. If ZL1AC is to go on air for this contest, then we require operators to help out. We require both phone and CW operators. We will possibly be using the same venue as last year at the Vineyard at Steve's place in Henderson. If you would like to assist then please contact Roy ZL1WI ph 814 9550 or Ross ZL1VRR ph 629 0504 who would love to hear from you.

AREC Communications Exercise

A national communication and message handling exercise was held on 14th November from 1900 until 2100. The event went well with a number of Branch 03 members assisting with the exercise.

Grid Dip Meter

I have received a request from a person in Green Bay wishing to borrow a Grid-dip Meter. Preferably a good one that is in calibration. If you have one and would be prepared to loan it then give me a call and I will put you in touch. Ph 828 5891.

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/wsac-hf-roster.html>

4-Dec-09	ZL1NE	John
11-Dec-09	ZL1ACZ	Barry
18-Dec-09	ZL1WI	Roy
25-Dec-09	ZL1VRR	No Net
1-Jan-10	ZL1MW	Brian
8-Jan-10	ZL1NE	John
15-Jan-10	ZL1ACZ	Barry
22-Jan-10	ZL1WI	Roy
29-Jan-10	ZL1VRR	Ross
5-Feb-10	ZL1MW	Brian
12-Feb-10	ZL1NE	John
19-Feb-10	ZL1ACZ	Barry