



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

February 2011 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	February	Club Visit to MOTAT – Meet at MOTAT Main Gates at 9am
Wednesday	23 rd	February	Committee Meeting Clubrooms at 7:30 pm.
Saturday	26 th	February	Field Day
Sunday	27 th		
Saturday	12 th	March	Committee Meeting – Time to be confirmed Possibly 9 am
Saturday	12 th	March	Club Meeting - Vaughan Henderson on Coaxial Cables
Saturday	9 th	April	WSRC Annual General Meeting
Saturday	14 th	May	Paul ZL4AX on Packet Radio

February Meeting

The February meeting will be a visit to MOTAT in Western Springs. Meet at the main entrance at 9 am. There will be the usual entrance fee, which from the MOTAT website is shown below.

All tickets give access to both MOTAT sites. If you only have time to visit one site, keep your ticket and receive free entry to the other site on another day of your choosing. Valid for one month.
All activities and exhibitions come as part of your MOTAT admission fee.

Prices:

\$35 family pass (2 adults, 4 children)
\$14 adults
\$8 children under 16
\$8 students with ID
Under 5s free
\$7 seniors

Become a MOTAT Mate!

12 month adult pass \$35

12 month family pass \$65

12 month student/ senior citizen pass \$20

[Buy your MOTAT Mates pass online!](#)

Tram fares:

MOTAT admission includes a return tram ride.

Off the street tram fares:

Family pass \$5

Adult return \$2 Adult one way \$1

Child return \$1 Child one way 50 cents

Under 5s are free

GREAT GIFTS! \$10 and \$20 gift vouchers available. MOTAT Mates passes also make great gifts!

December Meeting

The December meeting was held at the New Lynn RSA. A good turnout and we all enjoyed a very good meal and a chance to chat.

Silent Key

It is with regret that the Club records the passing of long time club member Arthur Tom Duxbury ZL1CZ. There were a good number of Amateur Radio members present at Tom's funeral on Saturday 8th January at the Chapel of Tilton Opie Patterson in New Lynn. And a large Family presence. Tom was a great family man, served with the Air Force during the war in the Pacific and had a number of close calls, but survived and returned back to New Zealand to be involved with electronics during his working life. He will be sadly missed at club meetings with his ability to give off the cuff talks on many interesting subjects.

A number of Tom's younger family gave tributes to Tom as well as war friends and the RSA and the Celebrant Norm Murray. Tom is survived by his wife Joyce and many family members.

Tom will be sadly missed by all.



AREC

The WSRC AREC Section met at the Club Rooms on Tuesday 1 February at 7:30pm. The future service we can give to the new Auckland Council was discussed as was the possible amalgamation of the various AREC Sections to better serve the new Council. The new AREC ID Badges were distributed during the meeting.

HF Field Day

We have a booking at the vineyard again this year for the Jock White Memorial Field Day. Both phone and CW operators are required for the Club Station ZL1AC. Contact Ross 09 629 0504 or Roy 09 814 9550 if you are keen to participate. The field day contest is the 26th and 27th February 2011. The skills of the volunteers will decide the type of station that we enter.

Committee Meetings.

Committee meetings are to be held before the Saturday club meeting during winter. This will commence from the March Committee Meeting.

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>

4-Feb-11	ZL1VRR	Ross
11-Feb-11	ZL1RCA	Ian
18-Feb-11	ZL1MW	Brian
25-Feb-11	ZL1NE	John
4-Mar-11	ZL1ACZ	Barry
11-Mar-11	ZL1WI	Roy
18-Mar-11	ZL1VRR	Ross
25-Mar-11	ZL1RCA	Ian
1-Apr-11	ZL1MW	Brian

Satellite Receivers

Did you know that you can now get 18 free view TV channels with a basic setup consisting of a dish with a single LNB and a basic set top box?



Typical Satellite Dish Capable of receiving Free to Air Channels
Aligned to the Optus D1 Satellite

Channel	Programme	Name	Notes
1	TV1	TVNZ 1	
2	TV2	TVNZ 2	
3	TV3	TV3	
4	TV 3 + 1	TV3+1	TV3's programme 1 hour later
5	Prime	Free Sky Channel	
6	TVNZ 6	Kidzone/Family	
7	TVNZ 7	News	Hourly news updates
8	Stratos	Triangle Stratos	Has overseas items etc.
9	Cue	Southland Tech Institute	Sports, Educational etc.
10	Maori	Maori	Sometimes has films etc.
11	Te Reo	Maori Language	
12	Shine	Religious	Some good concert items etc.
13	Parliament	Parliament	When the House is sitting only
14	Four	Popular music	Music and films. - Was C4.
15	C42	Alternative Music	
16	SBS 1	Special Broadcasting Service	Aust. News etc.
17	SBS 2	Special Broadcasting Service	Similar to SBS 1
18	Trackside		Horse Racing

World First Antenna

Hirschmann Car Communication has launched what it claims is a world first - an Iridium/GPS/ mobile communication antenna combination able to meet the needs of growing requirements in global asset tracking as well as remote monitoring applications.

The device provides secure voice and data transmission where a terrestrial mobile communication connection can only work to a very limited extent. The housing of the low power consumption device is made from a particularly robust material in order to withstand all weather conditions as well as rough handling and knocks.



Morse Code still dashing through the Cordillera

By Desiree Caluza

Inquirer Northern Luzon

First Posted 04:17:00 12/23/2009

Filed Under: Technology (general), Computing & Information Technology, mobile phones, Internet, Holidays or vacations
BAGUIO CITY—There is no mountain high enough to block a Christmas greeting because highland communities that have no mobile telephone signals can still be reached by Morse Code. In this day and age, the Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT) in the Cordillera Administrative Region is still operating a telegraph system that serves clients here. Nothing beats the old technology, according to telegraph operators working at the Baguio City Post Office, never mind that each word transmitted costs a customer P2.40. (Mobile or landline telephone calls cost P10 a minute.)

Customers who use the telegraph to send Christmas greetings use “broken English” to shorten their messages, rather like today’s text messages, according to samples obtained by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Remarkably, the Baguio telegraph station still earns P3,000 a month, said Aurea Bilag, acting chief operator at the CICT. Bilag said the station’s profits used to reach P10,000 a month - until almost every resident in the Cordillera acquired a mobile telephone. But the highlands are not always hospitable to Internet satellite or cellular phone signals, so the CICT continues to maintain 80 telegraph stations in Benguet, Ifugao, Abra and Kalinga, said CICT operator Helen Damasco. The telegraph machines were purchased way back in the 1960’s but the government has kept them working, Damasco said. To facilitate communication among these towns when mobile telephones are inaccessible, local officials reach each other by Morse Code using these machines, she said. According to Damasco, the machines are also active during typhoons, when more sophisticated facilities fail to operate.

This Christmas, the telegraph office offers straight holiday message packages. “Our Christmas telegrams are categorized [as] social telegrams,” Damasco said. She said they used to send out telegram cards as their special Christmas message package, except that these had been phased out. “Our visitors from Manila would see our [old technology] and they would laugh. And then they’d ask, ‘You still use CW (continuous wave) machines?’” she said. Continuous wave is the most common medium for transmitting messages to telegraph stations by Morse Code - a sonic alphabet composed of dots (shorts) and dashes (longs). The code was named after its inventor, American artist Samuel Morse, who developed the first successful electric telegraph in 1838. The telegraph offices in the mining town of Itogon in Benguet province still use a World War II telegraph model called the “straight key,” which is known in the United States as J-38.

Damasco, a telegraph operator for the past 39 years, said the telegram began to descend into obscurity in the 1990s because of the mobile phones and the Internet. But vocational schools continue to keep Morse Code courses alive because the demand for the telegram has not disappeared completely, she said. “Other operators learn Morse Code from the Internet” or by enrolling in the Telecommunication Training Institution in Valenzuela City in Metro Manila, Damasco said. Christmas card sales are also brisk, indicating that the postal service remains busy during the Yuletide season. A Baguio bookstore has sold 200 cards daily in the run-up to Christmas Day.