



# Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

## July 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

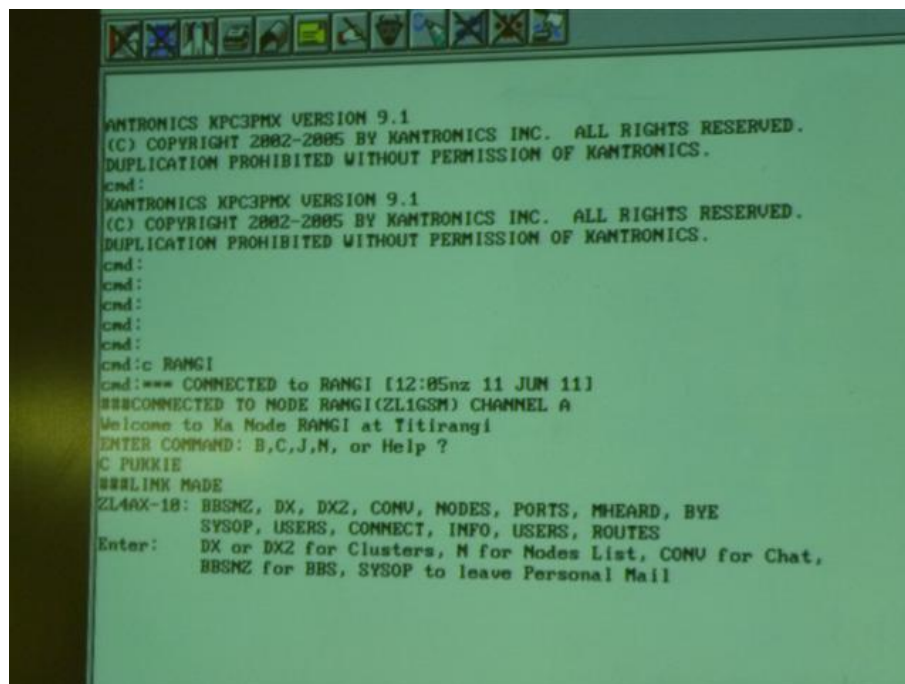
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	July	Committee Meeting 9:30 am
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	July	Club Meeting- Vaughan Henderson on Coaxial Cables
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	August	Hamilton Market Day
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	October	Jumbo Challenge Indoor Bowles

### July Meeting

The July meeting on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> will be a talk by Vaughan Henderson on Coaxial Cables. Vaughn has extensive knowledge of this subject from his work and the talk will be informative on this subject that is so important to us all in transmitting and receiving a good signal.

### June Meeting

The June meeting was a talk by Paul ZL4AX on Packet Radio. Paul talked on the history of packet Radio and its close association to the internet and email. He talked about his Packet Station in Pukekohe and how to access it. For ease in our western suburbs area Grant ZL1GSM also has a packet station also and you are able to access Paul's station through Grant's station. Simplex 432.675 MHz, a Terminal Node Controller (TNC) and a computer with appropriate software is all that is needed to get you into the packet world. Connect to Grant's packet radio with the command **c Rangi** and then to Paul with **c Pukkie**.



Connection from the Clubrooms to Pukkie (ZL4AX) via Rangi (ZL1GSM)

## AREC

No AREC activities are planned this month. Recently the section members with all other Auckland sections were invited to tour the CD Headquarter in Hopetown Street. Unfortunately it was at short notice so very few were able to make it. However those who could, had an interesting tour.

## Rally New Zealand

Planning for the event started a week earlier, with getting the gear we needed. For me this only required to take VHF as we were only required to report using 2 metres. I did take my HF to listen to the start/finish results and 5km Safety Radio information. Saturday we were up early and were on the road before 7:30am. We had a good trip down to Hampton Downs, which would be a first for me and Merv ZL1SK who also was assisting over the two days the rally was running. We had all types of weather thrown at us over the weekend. The race track at Hampton Downs still has more work to be done to it, but is up and running with a numbers of races had since it opened last year. A lot of time in planning and design has gone into the track to make it an international race standard racetrack. The first stage has large accommodation blocks to stay in, and the race information and pit areas are completed.

A good field of cars were on show with group N class Rally NZ Seeded List, and a Smartwood Possum Bourn Memorial Rally division running on the first day only. Most of NZ's best rally cars were present, so a good weekend was on, with good stage times recorded. On arrival we radioed into base and were directed to our Radio point. As Regroup out we had regroup Marshals to give radio report sheets to us as the cars departed the circuit. Merv had stayed overnight and was able to get power to charge his batteries over night, before the start at 08-00am. The cars did three stages and a refuel before returning to Hampton Downs for a service and regroup. A stage at Hampton Downs and then a further three stages before returning to the park for another stage on the track. We were not required further for the day we headed to Raglan for the night, to stay at the Motor Park overnight.

We got up a little latter than the previous day as we were not required till 11:45am for the arrival of the first Cars. We checked in with Base and then changed frequencies onto the STSP repeater on 146.8250. We had good copy from Raglan and my regroup out was a local operator was Fred Gilbert ZK1EDF. Once we had established our positions in the park. The service crews started arriving to set up for their team cars. The Marshalls set up and waited for the arrival of the rally cars. The cars had done three stages since leaving Hampton Downs. Once we had the paper work from the arrival driver's card we radioed base with the time. This continued for the remaining cars, refuelling and regroup out, with their departure times relayed to base. The cars then completed two more stages before a service in, regroup in and regroup out. These times were relayed to base, to be entered into the Master computer with total elapsed time for each car. This continued for all those still remaining in the Rally.

About 3:00pm most cars had departed back to base to finish, with a stage round the race circuit. A good time was had with the weather remaining fairly fine for the day. And a good trip home. We topped up with fuel before arriving home and ready for tea. Thanks to all the operators who assisted, and the Base operators who took many 100's of Messages over the weekend. Thanks Richard, David and the team at base for being there on the microphone to accept our messages.

## 73's Ross ZL1VRR



NZ Rally at Raglan



NZ Rally at Raglan



NZ Rally at Raglan Control Group Out 3C



NZ Rally at Raglan Radio Car HF whip



NZ Rally at Raglan Rally Cars in Regroup Hold Area



NZ Rally Cutting New Tread Patterns

## Hamilton Market Day

**Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Hamilton Table Tennis Club Rooms  
Edgecumbe Street, Hamilton**

**Vendors from 8.00 am  
Buyers from 10.00 am**

**Table space at \$20 per metre pre-paid  
\$25 per metre on the day  
Refreshments available on site**

**Mail enquiries to: Market Day, Hamilton Amateur Radio Club,  
PO Box 606, Hamilton**

**E-mail: [harcmday@nzart.org.nz](mailto:harcmday@nzart.org.nz)**

**Web: [z11ux.tripod.com/market\\_day.html](http://z11ux.tripod.com/market_day.html)**

## New Q Signals for Old Timers Only

QAR: Is your arthritis acting up today? My arthritis is acting up today.

QBP: How many bypasses (or stints) do you have? I have \_\_\_ bypasses (or stints).

QDF: Does (or did) your ICD (implantable cardioverter-defibrillator) zap you when you key down? My ICD zaps (zapped) me when I key down.

QDN: Are you wearing dentures? I am wearing dentures.

QFO: Do you fart often? I fart often.

QGC: How many grandchildren do you have (or do you have a new grandchild)? I have \_\_\_ grandchildren (or I have a new grandchild).

QGM: Are you operating golf cart mobile? I am operating golf cart mobile.

QID: What kind of incontinent diapers do you use? I use \_\_\_ diapers for incontinence.

QJR: How many joint replacements have you had? I have had \_\_\_ joint replacements.

QLO: Do you know what LOL (or IMHO, ROFL, etc.) stands for?

QLW: Do you watch Lawrence Welk reruns? I watch Lawrence Welk reruns.

QMD: Who is your geriatric physician? My geriatric physician is \_\_\_ ..

QOT: Are you an Old Timer and were you licensed before no-code licensing? I am an Old Timer and I was licensed before no-code licensing.

QPA: What is your PSA level (or have you had your PSA level checked)? My PSA level is \_\_\_ .

QPG: Was that QRM or did you just pass gas? No, that was QRM.

QPJ: Do you drink prune juice? I drink prune juice.

QPM: Did you just pull a muscle? I think I just pulled a muscle.

QPP: Do you need to take a bio-break? I need to take a bio-break.

QRX: What medications are you taking? I am taking the following medications \_\_\_\_ .

QSS: Have you gotten your social security check? I have received my social security check.

QVC: Do you know how to program your VCR? I can program my VCR.

QWH: Do you think Betty White is hot? I think Betty White is hot.

*and of course, my favorite.....*

QSH: Do you have a sense of humor? I have a sense of humor.

## 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>

8-Jul-11	ZL1ACZ	Barry
15-Jul-11	ZL1WI	Roy
22-Jul-11	ZL1VRR	Ross
29-Jul-11	ZL1RCA	Ian
5-Aug-11	ZL1MW	Brian
12-Aug-11	ZL1NE	John
19-Aug-11	ZL1ACZ	Barry
26-Aug-11	ZL1WI	Roy
2-Sep-11	ZL1VRR	Ross



Hi All,

Last week I made enquiries of the new Auckland Council to try and find out what the timetable was for amalgamating all the various District Plans currently operative into one common plan for the new city.

After a little delay, I managed to contact Mr. Phil Reed, Unitary Manager, Auckland Council. He was quite informative:

1. Council has formed a number of “Streams” each of which is tasked with looking at specific aspects of each of the current District Plans. (I take it in this context a “stream” is a working group formed of Council employees).
2. All the Streams are to have completed their preliminary reports, identifying where there are “issues” which will need more work by the end of this year. These reports go before the Auckland Council.
3. Beginning 2012, if everything goes to schedule, work will begin on formulating the new Unitary Plan which is the name being given to the new Auckland Council’s equivalent of the old District Plan.
4. During 2012, as sections of the new Unitary Plan take shape, there will be a process of notification and an opportunity for “stakeholder” consultation and input to the provisions of the new Unitary Plan. Yes – that us, we are now “stakeholders” - exciting eh?
5. Sometime in 2013 or 2014 or later... depends on how long step 4 takes and how many objections are received and if there are challenges taken to the Environment Court, etc. the new Unitary Plan will be adopted and become the new rules under which Auckland City will operate.

Mr. Phil Reed said that they were interested in identifying “stakeholders” who would have an interest in the new Unitary Plan and invited me to write to him with my contact details. I have done so expressing interest in anything to do with antennas, aerials, masts, poles and their positioning on a property and also radio frequency emissions. Hopefully that about covers the field! I am advised that the new Council will contact me with information on the relevant section(s) of the new Unitary Plan in time for submissions to be made.

In the mean time – whatever rules currently apply to your location under the old City Council’s District Plan are still operative – i.e. if you want to get a new mast up now might be a good time to do it!

Best regards

Vaughan Henderson ZL1TGC

26 June 2011.

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## AREC/LandSAR Operation West Christchurch Earthquake February 2011

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This is an account of my time, John ZL2HD in Christchurch with LandSAR.

During a Wellington LandSAR search for an elderly gentleman in the Kapiti area, news of the 2nd Christchurch earthquake started filtering through to us in the search incident management team (IMT), based at Wellington Central Police Station. By mid afternoon our IMT had been moved from the large incident room we normally get to use as this was required for the Police response to what was happening in Christchurch. We carried on with the search and successfully found the missing person, after three nights in the bush. A number of AREC personal had helped out over the search, which was the second call-out that week.

On Thursday the call went out for a team to go to Christchurch. Each team going to Christchurch was directed to be self contained and self sufficient. This meant field teams, IMT and communications, logistics and everything we do in LandSAR. To make a complete team I was "invited" on Saturday night to be part of the IMT/communications section, and to be ready to go in the next 24 hours "somehow". I spent Sunday getting a kit together of cables, connectors, soldering iron, tools, DC power supplies and test gear (many thanks to Tim ZL2RST for his assistance), as well as food, clothes, tent, documents and forms. Soon the "somehow" became a RNZAF flight from Ohakea around midday on Monday. Carpooling was arranged and we meet up at the transport room at the airbase. Around 80 LandSAR volunteers boarded the 757 flight, many having to put their wet wether leggings on, as shorts are not permitted clothing on an Airforce flight! And of course you can't take batteries on planes, so all the VHF handhelds had the battery packs removed, put in a plastic bag each and boxed up with the safety certificates and sealed for the flight. I had a can of WD40 removed from the tool bag, but they swapped it for a few rolls of tape.

In Christchurch we were taken to our camp at Halswell Park. AREC/CD/LandSAR cars and caravans were in full attendance, as most LandSAR units from the South Island had brought these to use as bases and accommodation. We setup our tents in the tent city which housed around 200 people in small pup tents through to large marquees and caravans with awnings. The operation had around 350 LandSAR Volunteers.

We arrived on Monday evening, 6 days after the quake, and the operation was in full swing and getting bigger day by day. A large mobile art gallery was being set up as the IMT, comms were being run from the Christchurch AREC bus, and other services such as logistics were in a sports hall. Communications were being run by Richard ZL4FZ, with Don ZL3DMC and Daniel ZL1DFA working closely with him. Other South Island AREC members were rostered in from out of town and worked for a day each.

The first job for me was to get all 80 radios back in the correct cases, with the correct batteries and checked, charged and inventoried ready to be issued. Communications from Halswell to the Earthquake Operations Centre were on VHF, and a single VHF repeater was being used to cover Christchurch to the team leaders, with simplex channels being used in the teams. Team leaders had two radios issued to them for this purpose.

LandSAR had been tasked with visiting all the homes that were outside of the two highly impacted areas. We did not get a good insight to how the cordon (red zone) and eastern suburbs were being run, but from my understanding it was like this: The central city area was being covered by the emergency services with assistance from groups such as Urban SAR and Rural Fire and being run under Civil Defence control. The areas outside of this to the East was covered by Operation Suburbs, run by Civil Defence and using similar resources.

LandSAR was visiting the rest of the city to provide "reconnaissance and re-assurance" in Operation West. The teams of 16 searches and a leader were allocated an area to cover each day, and Wellington LandSAR were put into teams and put to work! I ended up in Hornby where we covered a few hundred houses in the first day. We worked in pairs or singly in a leap frog manner and every door was knocked on. If people were home we introduced ourselves and asked how they were, were they ok, did they have everything they needed and were their family ok. Was their house safe and could we be of any help. Lastly we asked about their neighbours. This was an introduction to get those that had not checked on their neighbours to do so (often we already had), and to help them if needed. Many people had minor damage, but problems such as running out of food and not having transport (public transport was not operating at this stage) was an issue. We sent many people next door to offer a ride to the shops in cases where this was required.

Although I didn't see any major damage or desperate need, our teams were calling on emergency services around 10 times a day, and collecting a large number of requests for help. Emergency calls were made via the 111 network and less urgent items documented and radioed or returned to the IMT at the end of the day. Many people were very happy to see us as we were the first contact with any authority they had had since the first earthquake last year! I meet people that had gone home after the quake and had not spoken to anyone since! They wanted to talk and were happy to have a friendly face checking on them. Watching the TV all day, they thought the entire city was ruined and were not asking for help or going out in case they got in the way of the emergency recovery.

As Operation West got to about 350 LandSAR staff, it became clear that we would cover the 70,000 or so homes very quickly. The large SitReps being sent to the EOC each night showed Civil Defence the picture in the West and what was required there. The operation was then expanded to cover Banks Peninsula and some other outlying areas. To provide comms in Lyttelton and Akaroa area, AREC were deployed to setup repeaters and forward bases as the search teams moved "over the hill". I was dispatched with Lindsay ZLAKS and a SAR member to setup in Akaroa for the search of that area.

We departed with a portable repeater and installed this on the hill above Akaroa town. We then setup a base in the sports pavilion with a radio each on the Halswell channel, our local SAR repeater and 5680 HF.

Being good LandSAR IMT staff we created our status boards, allocated out the IMT tasks amongst the three of us. The status, tasks and communications plan was documented on the whiteboards and we spent the afternoon arranging free wi-fi internet and setting up the base. We visited the local Civil Defence centre, LandSAR manager and local Police to introduce ourselves. All explained that the area was 100% and had been checked already but were happy that we were following through and doing it in a formal manner.

A few teams called in and checked out our forward base and all commented that they were pleased to see it was being run properly. It turned out that taskings had changed and the search teams we were expecting that day were coming the next day and only the 4x4 teams going to very remote areas were out our way. This explained the lack of radio traffic and why the teams that visited us were all only two people!

After a fine meal and lights out we were loudly awoken at 10:45 by the local policeman. He was very disappointed to see only three people in the hall- he had a real missing person and wanted help, and seeing the setup during the day had expected to see 40 LandSAR staff in the hall! We sat him down and went through the normal search start up. Missing person details, last known position, intentions, associates, fitness, clothing, etc. We provided the maps of the area and the officer showed us the lay of the land. He tasked us to do a hasty search of the roads near the last known position and we gave him a radio to talk to us on. He headed to the informant's to get more info and we headed off in the dark to do a road search. Later as we drove the very dark roads and stopped and called and shone our torches, we received a radio message: person found, stand down and return to base. We headed home and were joined by the policeman. A farmer had found the person, 7 hours after separating from his group, wearing a t-shirt and shorts in the middle of his farm, lost!

A very relieved policeman came to our base and thanked us for our support and explained that all the staff that would normally organise a search and assist him were on duty in Christchurch and not answering their phones or not available. He didn't normally have to arrange a search or allocate tasks, so our experience had been very valuable to him. Pleased to be of service!

The next day we received taskings for the local area search and 6 teams of varying sizes swarmed the area, covering every house and firm. Not a lot of radio work required except for some overlapping taskings to be sorted out and we played hosts to the teams for lunch and when new taskings were required. We used HF to see how well it worked to Halswell and when the last team was safe on the road home we shut down, cleaned up and headed up to remove the repeater. The Akaroa area had had no damage in this quake but the search had been a good public relations exercise for the City.

Later that night I went to the Marly's Hill national system site to help remove the LandSAR repeater. A number of (non-ham) portable repeaters were scattered around and I wondered about the intermod implications of these repeaters in such a highly RF populated site. Ham STSPs need to be distanced from other fixed stations for this reason but this was a declared emergency so anything goes. The site has great coverage and is out of the public's way so I could see why all the emergency providers had gone there.

The LandSAR operation was stood down on the Thursday evening. Operation West had been completed in three days; much faster than Civil Defence had expected and even with the other areas added in, we were done. By 10am Friday the Halswell domain was empty. I lead a convoy to return a number of DoC trucks to DoC and the LandSAR teams from the North Island headed to the airport to fly home. They were given a lift on a Singapore Air Force Hercules- a slow, noisy flight home I hear.

Rowena ZL2ROW and I were asked to help return some Wellington City Council vehicles to



Wellington. We were sent to a camp in outer Christchurch where teams working inside the cordon (Urban SAR, Rural Fire, Volunteer Fire Brigades and others) had been staying. We joined them for the next day and saw a completely different view of what had been going on. They had been searching and clearing building and houses inside the cordon, working in very rough, hot conditions with considerable danger. We were very impressed with their abilities and attitudes and how they got things done. We did notice a major difference in their management style and big picture organisation, with them reporting searching homes that had been visited and searched 4 times already! Dealing with major destruction is very different than looking for a lost person in so many ways- we could not do what they do and they would not do what we do on a regular basis. AREC of course needs to cover both so we can learn from each organisation.

With the Urban SAR team from Wellington we got to see inside the cordon area and visited parts of Operation Suburbs. These are very large operations that were setting up to run for a long time, with large numbers of people, and are still going now.

We drove in a convoy of nine WCC vehicles back to the ferry and delivered the cars. It was interesting to meet other people leaving Christchurch who had been through two earthquakes and wanted a break away. One person I meet had decided to go for a long tramp in the hills, just to get away. He was clearly not thinking as he had forgotten his shorts (he was going to cut down his jeans to go bush), his water bottle and his cup. I gave him what I had and dropped him off in Kiakoura where he was going to buy some tramping food and head into the hills. He had lost his job and was going to have to move because of the quake, but nothing was happening and he was sick of sitting and waiting.

I was very impressed by the AREC team working with LandSAR for Operation West, and everyone who was there helping. A big thank you and well done. The lessons we learnt will be valuable and the experience shows what works and what doesn't. The challenge of scale is new as never before has LandSAR worked with over 350 people! The standard practices of fixed operational periods and careful handovers proved to be needed, people after 5 "days on" deserve a break and there are plenty of capable people to step up.

The Christchurch earthquakes are on going and their effects will be felt for a long time. My thoughts go to those that lost family and friends, and those with damaged homes and businesses. I was glad to be able to help and hope that it is a long time before we are called out again for a major disaster like this.

Meanwhile, searches go on and we find missing trampers and hunters around Wellington, better and faster thanks to the experience we gained in Christchurch.

**Club Fees**

Club Fees are Now Due. If you have not already done so please send your payment to:

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Western Suburbs Radio Club  
3000 Great North Road  
PO Box 15-122  
New Lynn  
WAITAKERE 0640

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Please Tick	Standard Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30.00
	Family Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00
	Rural Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00
	Total Paid		_____
			_____