



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

December 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 - Vacant.
 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	7 th	December	Dinner – At the New Lynn RSA 6 pm (No Saturday meeting this month)
		January	No Meeting
Saturday	11 th	February	Committee Meeting 9am
Saturday	11 th	February	Club Meeting 10am

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 December meeting will be dinner at the New Lynn RSA at 6pm on Wednesday 7th December. All welcome. There will be no Saturday meeting this month.

November Meeting

At the November meeting Ian ZL1RCA entertained us with a talk about his recent trip to the USA. During the trip Ian visited two Ham Fests. Ian hired a car and drove himself across a number of southern states with the trip planned so that he was in the correct locations to visit the Ham Fests. Below are some of the many photos that Ian took during his trip. Ian was interviewed for the Shelby Amateur Radio Club newsletter and was reported to be from the NZART Oak Tree Branch Radio Club. Well this has got a better sound than Branch 03 I guess. The Shelby Radio Club Newsletter SHAMRAC Newsletter is at the club if you would like a read. Ian's brief account is below.

November Meeting - TWO SOUTHEASTERN U.S. HAMFESTS IN 2011

This year we decided to visit the USA. Since I like to visit Hamfests, I searched until I found two within driving distance and occurring over a 3 week period. The first was in Huntsville Alabama on August 20-21. The second was Shelby in North Carolina on 3-4 September. These were at the start and finish of our holiday, between which we drove 2400 miles and visited lots of places in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, North and South Carolina. We enjoyed both hamfests, Huntsville was inside a large convention centre building and Shelby was outside in a fairground. The people we met here were friendly, and we were accompanied at Shelby by W4EE, a friend of ZL1GSM's.

Ian ZL1RCA



Shelby Ham Fest 2011 – Interesting Mobile Antenna Array



Shelby Ham Fest 2011 – One of the More Impressive Motor Homes W1XS



Shelby Ham Fest 2011 – The Camping Area



Huntsville, Alabama 2011 – Showing some Collins Equipment and the Sale Area

Fresno, Calif. – iPhone, Beware?

The newest trend in American communication isn't another smartphone from Apple or Google but one of the elder statesmen of communication: Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the United States, according to the Federal Communications Commission. Ham radio first took the nation by storm nearly a hundred years ago. Last month the FCC logged 700,314 licenses, with nearly 40,000 new ones in the last five years. Compare that with 2005 when only 662,600 people hammed it up and you'll see why the American Radio Relay League -- the authority on all things ham -- is calling it a "golden age."

"Over the last five years we've had 20-25,000 new hams a year," Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the group, told FoxNews.com. The unusual slang term -- a "ham" is more properly known as an amateur radio operator -- described a poor operator when the first wireless operators started out in the early 1900s. At that time, government and coastal ships would have to compete with amateurs for signal time, because stations all battled for the same radio wavelength. Frustrated commercial operators called the amateurs "hams" and complained that they jammed up the signal. People like John Pritchett have used the slang term ever since.

"It takes an inquisitive mind that wants the challenge to speak with the rest of the world," Pritchett told FoxNews.com. "I meet a lot of people as a result amateur radio. It's a fascinating experience to meet somebody who you've talked to for years -- when you finally meet them and go, wow, that's you."

Pritchett has been a ham for over 35 years. He sits in his ham shack slowly turning the dial on his amateur radio and listening attentively for a voice through the high radio frequency. But he's not looking for aliens: Pritchett is dialling in to make contact with someone around the world. "W6JWK, This is John in Fresno, California," he says. Pritchett can communicate with people around the globe or even astronauts in space by talking through his microphone or using Morse code.

With more people joining the hobby, local ham radio businesses are growing as well. Amateur Electronics Supply in Las Vegas sells everything to do with ham radios, from transceivers, amplifiers and antennas to handhelds. "We have clientele from all walks of life," manager Luke Rohn told FoxNews.com. "We have church groups who are interested in ham radio for a viable source of communication in times of natural disaster. We have young kids that find ham radio interesting. Maybe they've heard about it through their father and grandfather and it's a lot of fun for them."

According to the American Radio Relay League, retirees and emergency groups are among the main reasons for the nearly 30,000 new hams that pick up the hobby each year. Ham is a boon for safety as well as a fun pastime: When normal communications methods fail and cellphone towers are jammed, ham radios will still work and can help out in disaster situations, because they don't require towers to relay the signal. "Amateur radio came into play very much during the major earthquake in the Bay Area in 1989. The only thing I had was a little handheld radio. Nothing else worked, telephones didn't work, cellphones didn't work, amateur radio just kept right on working," Pritchett said.

Looking to ham it up a bit with some friends? Try a fox hunt -- the radio equivalent of ham-to-ham combat. In a fox hunt, local amateur radio clubs search for a transmitter (called the fox) using their homemade antennas. "The fox hunting is really fun -- the thrill of the chase, the competition of being the first to find the transmitter," said Rob Mavis, president of the Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers club in Clovis, Calif.

Ham radio is inexpensive fun, as well: All you need is a couple hundred bucks to get started and a FCC license -- which is free, but requires a \$10 to \$12 fee to cover expenses. So join the latest craze -- no iPhone app required.

2-metre USB Net

A few of us are having a 2-metre single side band net on 144.200 MHz on Sunday evenings following the VHF Group News and Net. You are welcome to join if you want. Initially quite a few stations came up and it was surprising the distances that were achieved however numbers have dropped to two or three most Sundays. A few additional stations have been active on this net in the past month. Keep it up team.

Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz 7:30pm every	2-Dec-11	ZL1RCA	Ian
Wednesday, HF Net 3623 KHz +/- QRM/QRN	9-Dec-11	ZL1MW	Brian
7:30pm every Friday. All are welcome to check	16-Dec-11	ZL1NE	John
in on the nets. The full HF Net Roster can be	23-Dec-11	ZL1ACZ	Barry
found on http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/wsrc-hf-roster.html	30-Dec-11	ZL1WI	Roy
	6-Jan-12	ZL1NE	John
	13-Jan-12	ZL1RCA	Ian
	20-Jan-12	ZL1MW	Brian
	27-Jan-12	ZL1ACZ	Barry
	3-Feb-12	ZL1WI	Roy
	10-Feb-12	ZL1NE	John
	17-Feb-12	ZL1RCA	Ian
	24-Feb-12	ZL1MW	Brian
	2-Mar-12	ZL1ACZ	Barry

We need more club members to take a turn at running the Friday evening HF Net. If you are available and would like to give it a go then please send me an email. With enough people to run the net you will only be rostered on about once every six weeks. Please consider helping if you can. I will be putting next year's roster together soon. john.neill@opus.co.nz I haven't had any members put their hands up yet!