



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

April 2013 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 – Grant Manning ZL1GSM.
 Secretary: Roy Milam ZL1WI. Newsletter Editor – John Neill ZL1NE
 VHF Club Net Wednesday 07:30pm 146.525 MHz,
 HF Club Net Fridays 07:30pm 3.650 MHz
 Website <http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac>

Club Calendar

Saturday	27 th	April	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	27 th	April	Annual General Meeting at 10:00am followed by Club Meeting
Saturday	20 th	April	Auckland Branch 02 Inter-Branch ARDF Competition Scout Hut, Churchill Park Kinsdale Ave, Glendowie BBQ 12 Noon, Briefing 1245, Starts from 1300
Saturday	4 th	May	Wanganui Used Equipment Sale Wanganui Intermediate School Hall, Dublin Street.
Saturday	11 th	May	Radio and Electronics Group Equipment Sale Glenview Club 211 Peacocks Road Hamilton Doors open 10:00am.
Saturday	25 th	May	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	25 th	May	Club Meeting 10:00am – NZART Remits + ZL1RCA On His Recent USA Trip
Saturday - Monday	1 st – 3 rd	June	NZART Conference - Masterton
Saturday	22 nd	June	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	22 nd	June	Club Meeting 10:00am – John ZL1NE On Traffic Engineering
Saturday	27 th	July	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	27 th	July	Club Meeting 10:00am – Guest Speaker - To Be Confirmed
Wednesday	31 st	July	Mid-Winter Dinner at the New Lynn RSA
Saturday	24 th	August	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	24 th	August	Club Meeting 10:00am – Bring and Tell
Saturday	21 st	September	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	21 st	September	Club Meeting 10:00am – Vacant
Saturday	26 th	October	Used Equipment Sale
Saturday	23 rd	November	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	23 rd	November	Club Meeting 10:00am – Vacant
Wednesday	18 th	December	End of Year Dinner at the New Lynn RSA

April Meeting

The April meeting is to be the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Do come along and support the club. We have volunteers for the committee positions so there will be no need pressure anyone into a committee position. However there is room for additional help if you would like to volunteer. The meeting agenda is below.

March Meeting

We checked over the equipment used on field day and stowed it safely until next time it is needed. We also erected the AREC STSP repeater and tested it. This repeater is for communication use on AREC exercises and emergencies. The repeater worked as expected. Soon we will set it up and use it for a few days to give it a decent workout. Nothing worse than having it fail when it is really needed and a test for a few days will give us the confidence that all is well.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 27th April at the Clubrooms, 3000 Great North Road New Lynn at 10:00 am. The agenda is as follows

Agenda	Election of Officers
1 Presidents Introduction	1 President
2 Apologies	2 Vice President
3 Minutes of 2012 AGM	3 Treasurer
4 Treasurers Report	4 Secretary
5 AREC Report	5 Four Committee Members
6 Presidents Report	6 Auditor of Accounts
7 Election of Officers	7 Newsletter Editor
8 General Business	

Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz 7:30pm every Wednesday,
HF Net 3650 KHz +/- QRM/QRN 7:30pm every
Friday. All are welcome to check in on the nets.

The HF Net roster is opposite. The full HF Net roster
can be found on:

<http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/wsrc-hf-roster.pdf>

Note – until Tony has his station up and running, see
below, it will be necessary for one of the other people
on the roster to step in for him.

19-Apr-13	ZL1MW	Brian
26-Apr-13	ZL2ATZ	Tony
3-May-13	ZL1WI	Roy
10-May-13	ZL1NE	John
17-May-13	ZL1RCA	Ian
24-May-13	ZL1MW	Brian
31-May-13	ZL2ATZ	Tony
7-Jun-13	ZL1WI	Roy
14-Jun-13	ZL1NE	John
21-Jun-13	ZL1RCA	Ian
28-Jun-13	ZL1MW	Brian

AREC

The STSP Repeater was tested at the last club meeting. A longer test is planned shortly.

National System Interference

The VHF Group is trying to identify the source of some interference getting into the Auckland Node of the National System. The interference is often heard between 1400 and 1600 on 434.860MHz. This frequency is close to the Auckland node frequency which is 439.875 (output). If you hear this interference please obtain a bearing towards the source of the interfering signal and also note your current position. This will assist the VHF Group in tracking it down. Any information to John, ZL1JD, please.

CW

From Eric

About the Morse

Over the years I have seen many clock projects in magazines. They are all the same, where are the clocks that caterer for daylight saving? It seem so simple, press a button it puts on one hour, press it six months later it adds on 11 hours (or takes off an hour) and what about a clock that if it gains 6 minutes during the year why not automatically take off a 30 seconds each month.

So this is when I started my own clock project the month Jaycar started selling Arduinos from <http://www.freetronics.com>, but it came to a halt as I studied for the amateur radio exam. As a young lad I often spent the weekend with my grandmother who lived a couple of kilometres away, she had a clock in the kitchen that chimed each quarter of an hour, I would often hear the chime to tell me it was 45 minutes past the hour, but to what hour? This is where my clock gave a long beep for 1/4 past the hour to 4 beeps at the hour, always followed by shorter beeps (after a gap) to give the hour, so now if I am in bed at say 3:45am and hear my clock I

know what the time is and can go back to sleep. After 10 o'clock and before I got into bed, it got on my wick hearing 10 beeps every 1/4 of the hour, so I changed it to give a group of very fast 5 beeps after 5 o'clock to 2 groups of five beeps after 10 o'clock. Since passing the amateur radio exam I have often wondered about changing all the beeps to give out Morse Code, but still be handy enough for someone like me at the moment who has not passed the Morse Code exam.

This is when I started to search at Google for "Morse Code" and often saw "all you need is 10 minutes practice a day" to learn Morse Code. So I downloaded a program and quickly found myself cheating to spend half an hour some nights when I see my performance getting better with each 5 minute session and now I have given up on those Su-do-ku puzzles on Internet.

Since the March New Lynn meeting I tried the ETANIM on the <http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com> program using the PDF file found at http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf it was terrible, the code is too short (for that program) by the time you can think what the letter it is and pressed the key, it has moved on to the code about three letters away. Then I went to the NZART website and found the link broken to download a program from ZL1AN, but that was no drama I used Google to get it. While it seems a good program I found it harder for someone like me, it seems to teach you all the characters all at once.

There is just one thing wrong with the justlearnmorsecode program, in place of showing the letter (I never look at the output, I am fused on the keypad, even then I might press L instead of K) like when it shows U I think it should show the current code been sent in big font size** = .

Web Links

(I will put these links on my own web site at <http://www.dubdubdub.net.nz/qst/> before the next meeting, and anymore unless you want them for you web site as well)

<http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com>

http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf

<http://www.muscatinehams.org/morse.html>

<http://www.findthatfile.com/search-22651451-fEXE/software-tools-download-instal-teach4-exe.htm>

Footnote from Eric after using the Programme:

Hi John

I think www.justlearnmorsecode.com program is a bad program, it goes too fast to learn, if you hear one letter and press another letter it is teaching you to make mistakes. So this is when I decided to make my own program I did it with spreadsheets it is not finished yet but I have learnt a few letters from it J, F & Y (Y is not listed in the PDF attachment) While this spreadsheet is not the answer to learn Morse code it could get you ready to go to another program like the one on www.nzart.org.nz web site. If you would like me to finish off the letters and send you the spreadsheet for open office program yet me know.

From Eric

From the editor

Thanks for all that Eric. The spreadsheet appears to be a visual representation of the code (I may be wrong as you only gave me a pdf version of it) and it is actually better to learn the sounds by ear rather than with the eyes. It is also better to learn to recognise the individual characters at a reasonable speed with large gaps between. This is known as the "Farnsworth" system. Say a character speed of 18 words per minute with the overall speed at 1 to 5 words per minute. This makes it far easier to build up to a reasonable speed later when you are ready to move on to a higher speed. Not that I am any expert on CW.

Civil Defence

The following was spotted in a recent edition of the Western Leader. It may be of interest to club members who may be called upon to provide communications in times of disasters. It is reproduced below in case you missed it in the Western Leader.

Sounds like a real disaster

WESTERN LEADER, MARCH 12, 2013

Aucklanders should be very afraid. You could be in real danger if a major disaster hits Auckland.

That's the worry of long-serving Civil Defence worker and firefighter Gary Westbury.

A volunteer firefighter while still an apprentice, he is a veteran of more than 20 years in Auckland and suburban fire brigades and 17 years with North Shore Civil Defence.

With a business partner he created a new Civil Defence network computer system installed in 12 centres in New Zealand (including three in Wellington) in Australia and the Pacific. And he helped establish the well-equipped and run North Shore CD headquarters.

He first raised serious concerns about a revamp plan for Auckland emergency services in a letter published in this column in September, 2011. Now he has written to me again with new urgency and stands by that first opinion.

"You were concerned about Civil Defence when I first wrote. Well you should be very concerned now.

"All the Civil Defence centres [41 on North Shore alone] have been discarded, along with the prepared CD 'welfare centres' which had trained teams of volunteers.

"The sole CD official at Henderson has now resigned. Two more [from North Shore and Orewa] have also already left with no indication they will be replaced. Places for two Civil Defence officers are advertised – one sole position for North Shore. But without an operational centre.

"The other is for South Auckland

Off Pat by Pat Booth



– none for West Auckland. Henderson's CD HQ, which cost \$5 million five years ago, closes in June 2013.

"All local reporting centres and welfare centres will close or disband. There will be no fulltime staff at North Shore or at Manukau Civil Defence.

"All Civil Defence rescue response teams no longer belong to any organisation and now operate alone.

"The recently proposed local 'Community Response Groups' are a con. They formed but cannot function without any communication facilities, resources, operational bases or training.

"All communications must now go direct to the Auckland city HQ – where they do not have the ability, staff or resources to cope with any multi-incident emergency.

"The 'put all their eggs are in one basket' saying has come true. Heavy reliance is being made on cellphone networks and emails which are very subject to overload. Emails are not instant and can be hours in arriving. The previous locally based radio networks have been discarded and wouldn't reach their new 'super-city' base [with limited operators] at the greater distance."

He quotes one community group chairman: "It was an excellent introduction for our budding new 'hams' and highlighted the difficulties of passing even relatively simple

messages accurately, in what would likely be a chaotic situation.

"We all learned some valuable lessons. The most important of which is that we as a community do not have our own radio."

Gary Westbury: "Community Response Groups don't have operational bases ready to work from and nearby previous Civil Defence centres are now closed or are closing. They have not been given equipment, radios or identification to work with.

"They have no authority and are very limited in what they can do in emergencies. Nothing to identify them if they have to knock on front doors and urge sleepy families to evacuate immediately.

"Communications and/or warnings now in time of emergencies are very limited, particularly in darkness if the power is off.

"The city council are saying how much they expect the super-city population to grow in the future - but they are not making any extra provisions for emergencies or disasters. The top level of this super-city council and emergency management are putting all citizens further at risk and must be held accountable.

"Another concerned citizen tried out the civil emergency system. He rang at 4.55am and got a message: 'All our customer service representatives are busy'.

"Regular messages then came about the high volume of calls and the availability of the internet.

"At 5.08am when he called again,

he at least found himself speaking to a human being. The caller asked her where was the nearest report centre for Jaemont Ave, Te Atatu, in an emergency.

"There was a pause, she then came back: 'Report centres will be finalised in the event of an emergency and advertised to the public.'

"He said: 'What if the power's out?'

"Her reply: 'You can use your emergency kit.'

"Like hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizens of the far-flung super-city, he hasn't got one!"

Gary Westbury, the critic, goes on: "The closing of the North Shore Civil Defence centre as a response operations centre on East Coast Rd means nobody will be there in an emergency. Plus no skilled CD officers and teams of volunteers who were trained for early emergency response.

"No emergency radio communication links - to the 11 emergency welfare centres and 41 local reporting centres on the Shore alone.

"There could be long delays in actual responses to calls for assistance due to all responses coming from a Pitt St HQ in Auckland city which covers all of Auckland region at regional level and local level at the same time!"

Just as bad, he goes on to list: "Loss of urgent assistance to large complexes like rest homes, retirement villages, schools and medical establishments. Emergency services will be overwhelmed and cannot be everywhere at once.

"Probable communication failures to the new super-city response centre because of networks overload or sheer staff work overload in only one centre. Long delays in emergency response times (especially at night or on any weekend) due to the time to activate both the super-city centre and then any other support organisation. Distances to travel will be longer and riskier.

"Lack of urgent support for those living near the water in cases of a tsunami. Complete loss of emergency support or assistance if the bridges and or motorways are damaged and out of action.

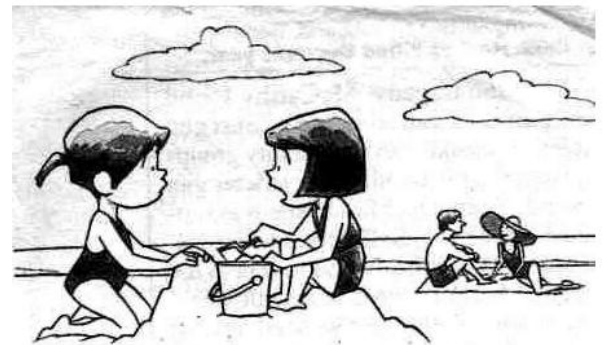
"In theory, a centralised operations centre may be good for business coordination and report compiling. But in reality, a decentralised disaster response system means faster and better action from people and those with local knowledge and practical solutions.

"Since all fire engines, ambulances, or police cars are not based in their HQ, why have our CD operating from only one place?

"In the Canterbury earthquakes a decentralised system – like we used to have and lost – worked well.

"Planners took this system away from us and now hope their unproven system will cope."

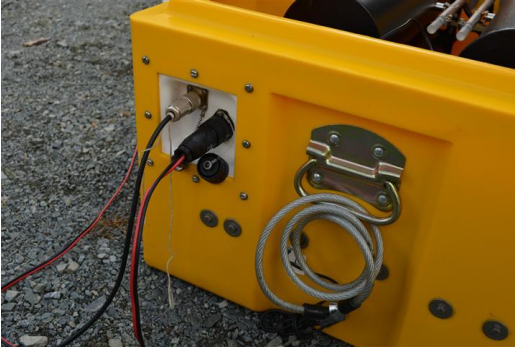
So now, after 35 years in emergency work – in Christchurch, Nelson and Auckland Civil Defence – Gary Westbury has hung up his gear and left. Other Civil Defence workers have also given it away. Which leaves the rest of us where – when The Big One strikes?



"I'm never having kids. I hear they take nine months to download."



The Clubs STSP Repeater



The power and antenna inputs to the Repeater. Always have the antenna connected before the power is connected.



The filters are the long cylinders and repeater is contained within the box to the left.



The erected antenna on its pole. Looks close to the power pylons but there was adequate clearance.



The antenna on the pole. Output frequency is 146.925MHz.