



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

May 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	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
Wednesday	19 th	June	Mid-Winter Matariki Dinner at the New Lynn RSA - Note change of date.
Saturday	22 nd	June	Club Meeting 10:00am – John ZLINE On Traffic Engineering
Saturday	27 th	July	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	27 th	July	Club Meeting 10:00am – Guest Speaker - To Be Confirmed
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 – e-Book Presentation
Saturday	26 th	October	Used Equipment Sale
Saturday	23 rd	November	Committee Meeting – 8:00am Working Bee
Saturday	23 rd	November	Club Meeting 9:00am – Working Bee at the Club – Proposal is to paint the outside of the Clubrooms.
Saturday	30 th	November	Working Bee Rain Day
Wednesday	18 th	December	End of Year Dinner at the New Lynn RSA

May Meeting

The May meeting will be a talk by Ian on his recent trip to the USA. Ian will show the pictures that he took and talk about the trip.

April Meeting

The April meeting was the Annual General Meeting (AGM). There was a good turnout of members. The outgoing committee was re-elected with the addition of one new committee member.

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>

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
5-Jul-13	ZL2ATZ	Tony
12-Jul-13	ZL1WI	Roy
19-Jul-13	ZL1NE	John
26-Jul-13	ZL1RCA	Ian

AREC

No AREC activity during the month other than the weekly radio checks carried out for Civil Defence at the Elcoat Avenue CD Base.

NASA Successfully Launches Three Smartphone Satellites

April 22, 2013

RELEASE : 13-107

WASHINGTON -- Three smartphones destined to become low-cost satellites rode to space Sunday aboard the maiden flight of Orbital Science Corp.'s Antares rocket from NASA's Wallops Island Flight Facility in Virginia. The trio of "PhoneSats" is operating in orbit, and may prove to be the lowest-cost satellites ever flown in space. The goal of NASA's PhoneSat mission is to determine whether a consumer-grade smartphone can be used as the main flight avionics of a capable, yet very inexpensive, satellite. Transmissions from all three PhoneSats have been received at multiple ground stations on Earth, indicating they are operating normally. The PhoneSat team at the Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif., will continue to monitor the satellites in the coming days. The satellites are expected to remain in orbit for as long as two weeks.

"It's always great to see a space technology mission make it to orbit -- the high frontier is the ultimate testing ground for new and innovative space technologies of the future," said Michael Gazarik, NASA's associate administrator for space technology in Washington. "Smartphones offer a wealth of potential capabilities for flying small, low-cost, powerful satellites for atmospheric or Earth science, communications, or other space-born applications. They also may open space to a whole new generation of commercial, academic and citizen-space users."

Satellites consisting mainly of the smartphones will send information about their health via radio back to Earth in an effort to demonstrate they can work as satellites in space. The spacecraft also will attempt to take pictures of Earth using their cameras. Amateur radio operators around the world can participate in the mission by monitoring transmissions and retrieving image data from the three satellites. Large images will be transmitted in small chunks and will be reconstructed through a distributed ground station network. More information can found at: <http://www.phonesat.org>

NASA's off-the-shelf PhoneSats already have many of the systems needed for a satellite, including fast processors, versatile operating systems, multiple miniature sensors, high-resolution cameras, GPS receivers and several radios. NASA engineers kept the total cost of the components for the three prototype satellites in the PhoneSat project between \$3,500 and \$7,000 by using primarily commercial hardware and keeping the design and mission objectives to a minimum. The hardware for this mission is the Google-HTC Nexus One smartphone running the Android operating system. NASA added items a satellite needs that the smartphones do not have -- a larger, external lithium-ion battery bank and a more powerful radio for messages it sends from space. The smartphone's ability to send and receive calls and text messages has been disabled.

Each smartphone is housed in a standard cubesat structure, measuring about 4 inches square. The smartphone acts as the satellite's on-board computer. Its sensors are used for attitude determination and its camera for Earth observation. For more about information about NASA's Small Spacecraft Technology Program and the PhoneSat mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/smallsats>

The PhoneSat mission is a technology demonstration project developed through the agency's Small Spacecraft Technology Program, part of NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate. The directorate is innovating, developing, testing and flying hardware for use in future science and exploration missions. NASA's technology investments provide cutting-edge solutions for our nation's future. For more information about NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/spacetech>



An example of the pictures taken and sent back to earth.

Editor: the Smartphone Satellites have since crashed and burned but keep an eye on the websites for any more of them

Radio Society of Great Britain Centenary Day



2013 marks the Centenary of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) the 20,000 strong body that represents Britain's radio amateurs. The RSGB is pleased to announce that its Patron, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT will be joining the Society for Centenary Day at the National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park on 5 July 2013. He will meet with Members and invited guests before unveiling a plaque to commemorate the Centenary.

A number of activities, talks and displays are planned in which RSGB Members and members of the public can take part during the day.

Background

Starting life as the London Wireless Club in 1913, the RSGB has since its inception brought together people with an interest in radio communication. The Society provided the framework within which the pioneers and experimenters of radio technology have thrived.

RSGB members have been at the forefront of many of the major contributions made to radio technology. For example, the development of Radio intelligence, television, radar development, re-designing the Iron lung and the discovery of Pulsars all involved radio amateurs. The influence of amateurs across science, technology, medicine and the communications industry has been huge.

One hundred years later, the RSGB still provides a platform for the exchange of ideas amongst experimenters and, although the technologies may have changed, the amateur spirit has not. With this background the many thousands of radio amateurs in the UK are proud to celebrate the Centenary of their organisation, the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).

History

The London Wireless Club started after Rene Klein had a letter published in English Mechanic on 6 June 1913. He expressed surprise that there wasn't a wireless group in London when other major cities had such gatherings. A meeting of interested parties took place on 5 July and the London Wireless Club – with a membership of four – was born. Just ten weeks later the membership had increased to 40 and by the end of the first year there were 151 Members and 11 Associate Members – 69 of whom held transmitting licences

Through two World Wars the Society was justly proud of its Members war service. Its younger members, ready trained, flocked to the wireless units of the Navy, Army and Air Force. Here they served with distinction. Many of those who stayed at home during WWII were recruited to become Voluntary interceptors used to monitor enemy radio signals and pass them to Bletchley Park for decoding and analysis.

Since WWII and into a new Millennium, the RSGB's membership have taken part in propagation experiments, pushed the boundaries of radio and electronic knowledge and shown what international amateur radio relations is all about. Whether it's proving that VHF communications is more than line-of-sight, showing the world how far radio signals can travel or putting satellites into space, radio amateurs have been involved in it all.

Future

Whilst Centenary celebrations are a time to reflect on our past achievements, there can be no question of "resting on our laurels". Amateur radio today is as relevant and vibrant as it has ever been and the RSGB takes very seriously its responsibility to work with partners around the world in providing leadership to safeguard and develop amateur radio over the next 100 years.

Worldwide

There are around 4 million amateur radio callsigns worldwide, with 78,000 on issue in the UK. Radio amateurs around the world are required to pass an examination before gaining their licence. There is an international body governing amateur radio called the International Amateur Radio Union. The RSGB is a founder member of the IARU, which was formed in 1925.

Further details from Elaine Richards elaine.richards@rsgb.org.uk

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Club Fees

Club Fees are Now Due. Please send your payment to:

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

Or pay the Secretary at the next meeting.

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		_____
