



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

October 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	19 th	October	Committee Meeting – 9:00am
Saturday	19 th	October	Club Meeting 10:00 am – Subject to be confirmed
Tuesday	29 th	October	AREC Section Meeting at 7:00 pm – All club member welcome to attend.
Saturday	2 nd	November	Used Equipment Sale
Saturday	23 rd	November	Committee Meeting – 8:00 am Working Bee
Saturday	23 rd	November	Club Meeting 9:00 am – 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

October Meeting

The October meeting is on the 19th October 2013. This is a week earlier than the normal date as normal 4th Saturday in the month meeting date clashes with Labour Weekend.

At the meeting we plan to do preparation for the Used Equipment Sale which is on the 2nd November 2013. There is some equipment coming in in the next few days for the sale and this equipment needs to be sorted and possibly priced. It should not take too long to sort out, so we plan to run a video of a radio related topic as well.

September Meeting

We had a very successful working bee, managing to get most things done. The weather forecast was not promising but the rain held off for the morning for us. We managed to wash the outside of the building, repair the hole in the front wall, secure some loose cables and trim the trees that were encroaching onto the building. We still need to spray the outside of the building prior to painting, however we will review this as the water blasting did a very good job.

There was a very good turnout of club members which was made the tasks easy. The committee gratefully thanks all who helped.

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:

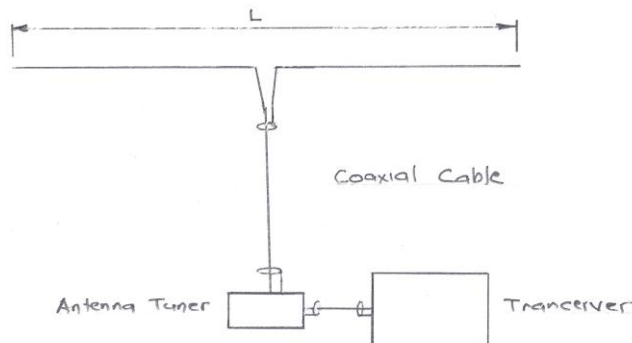
<http://www.qsl.net/zl1ac/wsrc-hf-roster.pdf>

25-Oct-13	ZL1WI	Roy
1-Nov-13	ZL1NE	John
8-Nov-13	ZL1RCA	Ian
15-Nov-13	ZL1MW	Brian
22-Nov-13	ZL2ATZ	Tony
29-Nov-13	ZL1WI	Roy
6-Dec-13	ZL1NE	John
13-Dec-13	ZL1RCA	Ian
20-Dec-13	ZL1MW	Brian
27-Dec-13	ZL2ATZ	Tony

Antennae

From time to time there are enquiries about home built antennae. While there are many books on the subject giving all sorts of complicated designs that may do better or worse than other designs, there are some very simple solutions that will extend the usefulness of your radio. Below is the humble dipole and a formula for calculating its length.

The Basic Half-Wave Dipole Antenna



The electrical length of a half-wave dipole can be calculated by the following:

$$\text{Length}_{(m)} = 150 / \text{frequency in megahertz.}$$

This is the theoretical length of a dipole in free space. However there are effects on the antenna due to its proximity to the ground, the electrical properties in the wire and the diameter of the wire.

A practical length can be found by reducing the length of the dipole by about 5% and so the formula becomes:

$$\text{Length}_{(m)} = 145 / \text{frequency in megahertz.}$$

This gives a figure to start at when building your dipole but you need to adjust the length to get the best standing wave ratio (SWR) that you can for the frequency that you are intending to use. A dipole cut to length for use at the middle of a band can generally be made to work over the whole band by using an antenna tuner.

It probably pays to have a balun inserted between the dipole and the feed line if the feed line is unbalanced coaxial cable. However good results are possible without.

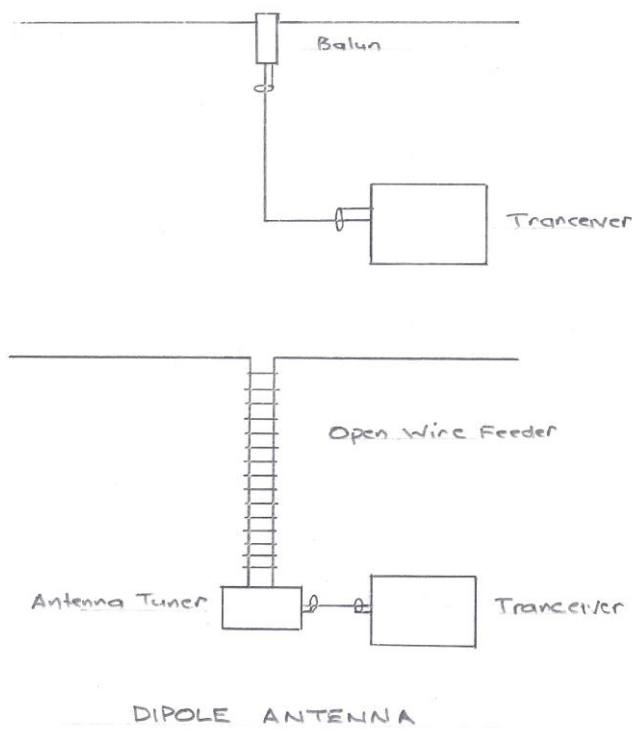
If you are using an open wire feeder then you may need an antenna tuner before the connection to the transceiver.

Rule of thumb would be if you are wanting to build something to use on the 80-metre band then the half-wave dipole will be somewhere around 40-metres long.

For instance if you are building an antenna to use on the WSRC Friday HF Net frequency then the dipole will be around:

$L = 145 / 3.650 = 39.726$ metres. And each piece of wire will be half that at 19.863 metres.

A SWR meter between the transceiver and the Antenna Tuner is always a useful addition.



AREC

There will be an AREC section meeting on Tuesday 29th October 2013 at the club rooms at 7:30 pm. All club members with an interest in AREC are invited to attend. We intend to review what the section does, and plan where we are going. We have a reasonable amount of equipment and we intend to check this out during the meeting to make sure it is all still functional.

The repeater and some of the handheld radios were used for the Breast Cancer Awareness event the "Pink Ribbon" fund raising Run/Walk on Saturday 5th October 2013. The repeater was set up on top of the Auckland hospital building and from there all the portable radios were able to communicate with each other. The repeater worked extremely well and I can report a 5/9+10 using a collinear antenna at New Windsor which is on the wrong side of the hill for working towards the city. It was still audible but possibly not workable using the handheld radio with a rubber ducky from the lounge. A good workout for the repeater and it performed well. The WSRC Section's repeater and handhelds were also on display at the Civil Defence meeting on the 7th October at Wesley Community Centre and gained some attention from the audience.



The repeater and Antenna.



The repeater installation team, Merv,ZL1SK, Vaughan ZL1TCG and Laurie ZL1ICU



The repeater battery box, stand and battery charger.



Views from where the repeater was located.

WESTERN SUBURBS RADIO CLUB: BRANCH 03

P.O BOX 15-122 NEW LYNN 0604 AUCKLAND

Branch03@nzart.org

To past sellers and buyers at our previous equipment sale, just a reminder of this year's sale. An invitation to all to our very entertaining and social function.

EQUIPMENT SALE

SATURDAY 2nd November 2013

At the ROSEBANK ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL
217 ROSEBANK ROAD, AVONDALE
(THE SAME PLACE AS PREVIOUS YEARS)

It's a lovely big hall and there is plenty of parking.

TABLES ARE \$10.00 each PRE PAID BEFORE SALE DATE
Or \$15.00 each ON THE DAY OF SALE
SELLERS: 0800HRS BUYERS: AT 0900HRS

NB: ONLY SELLERS IN HALL BEFORE 0900HRS

TABLE BOOKINGS - Please contact

ROY, ZL1WI (09) 814 9550

JOHN, ZL1JT (09) 827 3538 jbt.greenbay@xtra.co.nz

**Cheques to reach PO box 15,122 or 29 Cliff View Drive on or before
Friday 1st November 2013.**

NOTE: All unsold equipment must be removed by vendor at close of sale.
Come and discover in person some of the new or changed call sign holders.

Entry fee to sale of \$2.00 payable by all visitors.

SALE CLOSSES AT MIDDAY

Cafeteria with hot sausages, biscuits, tea or coffee available on site, tables and chairs available to sit down and have a rag chew.

Even if you are not buying or selling come along for the fun and meet fellow electronic enthusiasts.

All N.Z.A.R.T branches, private and commercial vendors are more than welcome.

Sellers Note: There are limited power outlets available, so please bring your own power boards and leads if required.

NOTE: to assist buyers a 12 volt 30 amp power supply with power meter and dummy load will be available on site to test any prospective transmitter purchase.