



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

December 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>

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*

Club Calendar

Wednesday	18 th	December	End of Year Dinner at the New Lynn RSA 6:30 – Note change of time
Saturday	15 th	February	Committee Meeting 09:00 am
Saturday	15 th	February	Club Meeting – Unitary Plan Presentation 10:00 am
Tuesday	25 th	February	AREC Section Meeting WSRC 7:30 pm – Date may change
Saturday	22 nd	February	HF Field Day
Sunday	23 rd	February	HF Field Day

December Meeting

There isn't one. Instead we are having dinner at the New Lynn RSA on Wednesday 18th December at 6:30 pm. Arrive any time after 6:00 pm for dinner around 6:30 pm.

November Meeting

The November meeting on the 23rd was a very successful working bee. We painted the outside of the club rooms as planned. Work got underway at 8:00 am. There was a really good turnout of club members and this made the job very easy. We had a coat of paint on by the outside wall by lunchtime and in some places two coats. We did some repairs to the roof, scraped loose paint from the windows and some further repairs to holes in the external walls. The sausage sizzle at morning tea was a welcome break and allowed us a short meeting and chat. We can all be very proud of the effort. The committee says thank you.

AREC

We had an AREC section leaders meeting at Papakura Club on Thursday 28th November. A good turnout of branches. Minutes from this meeting can be made available to those interested.

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>

22-Nov-13	ZL1NE	John
29-Nov-13	ZL1WI	Roy
6-Dec-13	ZL1NE	John
13-Dec-13	ZL1RCA	Ian
20-Dec-13	ZL1MW	Brian
27-Dec-13	ZL1WI	Roy
3-Jan-14	ZL1NE	John
10-Jan-14	ZL1RCA	Ian
17-Jan-14	ZL1MW	Brian
24-Jan-14	ZL1WI	Roy
31-Jan-14	ZL1NE	John

Copper Wire

Eric is after some copper wire for a project he has under construction. He needs:

*200 mm of 0.25mm (30 B&S, 33SWG) Diameter
1 meter of 0.3mm Diameter (not sold by Jaycar they have 0.315mm 28 B&S 31 SWG)
100mm of 0.8mm (20 B&S, 21SWG) Diameter*

The project he has under construction uses a TV receiver dongle, and some electronics to alter the receive frequencies, to make a wide band radio receiver. The TV dongle connector that he is using is a MCX. Eric may give us a talk on this sometime in the future if the project is successful.

Six Metres

Six metres can be used again. With the close down of analogue TV a few days ago we have been given permission from the Ministry of Economic Development to use the frequencies. Previously a separate permit was required for parts of the band. Below is an extract from a recent NZART Infoline bulletin:

Further to the item in InfoLine 260, the last Channel 1 Television transmitter is due to close down at the end of November and RSM has advised that from 6th December 2013 onwards (just in time for the annual VHF/UHF/SHF Field Day Contest) Amateurs throughout New Zealand will have access to the bottom end of the 6 metre band (50 to 51 MHz) without needing to apply for a permit.

Note that the management right under which the channel 1 television transmitters operated does not expire until August 2015 so 50 - 51 MHz can not appear on the Amateur General User Radio Licence until after this date. Instead RSM are putting in place licence No 4122 which will say that "*Persons who hold a New Zealand General Amateur Operator's Certificate of Competency and a callsign issued pursuant to the Radiocommunications Regulations 2001 may operate an amateur radio station under this licence*". The power on the licence will be 30 dBW (1 kW) to bring it into line with the power on the General User Radio Licence for Amateur Operators.

When Management Right 47 expires on the 30 August 2015, 50/51 MHz will be added to the General User Radio Licence for Amateur Operators.

70 Centimetres

Recently there has been proposal to change the 70 cm band plan. This is reproduced below:

70 cm Band Plan

This version of the plan has been arrived at with the help of the many submissions and comment made on the previous drafts. It also includes clarification to the APRS and Packet Digipeater allocations. It is intended that this become the operational plan with a caveat concerning a possible change to one area. The Working Group has received submissions regarding the provision of a 1.90 MHz wide allocation for DATV in the band plan. Rather than delay release of the band plan any further we have decided to release this plan with the understanding that there may be a further allocation change between 430.000 MHz and 431.900 MHz once the possible DATV allocation has been resolved. Inevitably not all the initial suggestions could be incorporated within the one band plan. In the paragraphs appended to the plan we have endeavoured to set out some of the decisions made.

70cm Band Plan

430.000 to 431.900	Repeater links
431.900 to 432.000	Guard Band EME
432.000 to 432.100	EME
432.100 to 432.600	Narrow Band modes (BW 6kHz or less)
432.100	National Calling Frequency Primary (Narrow band)
432.200	National Calling Frequency Secondary (Narrow band)
432.250 to 432.300	Beacons (horizontal polarisation)
432.300 to 432.400	Spare
432.400 to 432.600	Guard Band Australian Beacons
432.575	APRS (current) (note 2)
432.600 to 432.800	FM Digital modes (5kHz or less deviation)
432.650	Packet digipeaters
432.675	Secondary packet digipeaters
432.700	VOIP Simplex
432.725	VOIP Simplex Secondary
432.750	P25/Dstar/DMR Simplex
432.775	APRS (note 2)
432.800 to 432.975	FM Simplex (5 kHz or less deviation)
433.000 to 434.795	Repeater Inputs/Outputs (note 1)
434.800 to 435.000	National System Repeaters (note 1)
435.000 to 438.000	Amateur Satellite Operations
438.000 to 439.800	Repeater Inputs/Outputs (note 1)
439.800 to 440.000	National System Repeaters (note 1)

Note 1: Repeaters in this band are normally negative 5 MHz offset but where there are problems with SRD/LIPD devices on the repeater input a suitable positive offset repeater frequency pair can be obtained from FMTAG. (reference the FMTAG paper “The Impact on 70cm Repeaters of the General User Radio License (GURL) for Short Range Devices (SRD)” issue 2 which may found at <http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/fmtag/srd-impact-on-repeaters/>)

Note 2: It is envisaged that APRS will need to migrate over time from 432.575 MHz to 432.775 MHz. The continued use long term of 432.575 MHz would clash with the Australian Beacon allocation.

Decisions and Comments

The existing allocation for repeaters including the National System repeaters was not changed as the cost and difficulty of re-engineering all of these repeaters was not felt to be offset by a significant benefit. The availability of positive repeater offset pairs, even though this also requires reengineering, along with selective use of CTCSS on repeater receivers should address a lot majority of the problems with SRD/LIPD interference. Some submissions proposed a change of the repeater band or a change in the offset to 7.60 MHz which is used in some countries. Beacons would also need to be re-engineered if we wished to move them. Our beacons and the Australian ones should be offset from each other so that at times of enhanced propagation there is no mutual interference. In any event we have provided a guard band for the Australian beacon frequencies in the same way as the Australians have for ours. The allocation of 435 MHz to 438 MHz to the Amateur Satellite Service is an existing International allocation and by International agreement should be kept clear of terrestrial transmissions. This protects both satellite outputs which are frequently in the weak signal category at the earth’s surface, and satellite transponder inputs. Allocations were confirmed in the space between the beacon band and the repeater band for Packet digipeaters, APRS SX, VOIP SX, Digital voice SX, and FM SX. These partly reflect existing usage. Some submissions proposed a wideband allocation for DATV. The Australian band plan has such an allocation but it is in the 440 MHz to 450 MHz area which is not available to us.

Proposal:

A suggestion has been made that we make an allocation at 430.000 MHz to 431.900 MHz for Digital ATV. This would be only 1.9 MHz wide and would probably only permit one program source but would be useable as an uplink to a DATV repeater or for station to station experiments. There are currently some repeater links using this group of frequencies and such an allocation to DATV would have to be on a non-interference basis. There are only two repeater links licensed at present in Smart with a third one pending. At least two of these cannot be shifted out of this area of the band except at very significant cost. If this DATV allocation were to proceed it would have to be on a non-interference basis to repeater links.

Please send comment on the DATV proposal to either NZART HQ for attention of the 70 cm Band Plan Review Group or by email to <70cmreview@nzart.org.nz . Please make any submissions to this promptly as the band plan needs to be finalised as soon as possible.

Phil King ZL1PK
Chairman, 70cm Band Plan Review Working Group