



## Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

### March 2014 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	22 <sup>nd</sup>	March	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	March	Club Meeting 10:00 am Finalise the Hillary Challenge, tidy-up, Rag Chew.
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	March	Hillary Challenge Communications
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	April	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	April	Club Meeting 10:00 am – Annual General Meeting
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	May	Radio And Electronics Group Junk Sale – Peacocks Road Hamilton
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup>	May	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup>	May	Club Meeting 10:00 am

### March Meeting

To some extent a workshop meeting. We need to make the final arrangements for the Hillary Challenge, check over and stow the gear that was used on Field Day and have a general tidy-up. In amongst all this there may be some time for talks and definitely time for catching up on gossip.

### February Meeting

The February meeting was a presentation by Douglas Birt ZL1BFS on the proposed Auckland Council Unitary Plan and how it will affect amateur operations if left unchanged from the consultation version when the Unitary Plan becomes operative.

### ZL1MW

Brian ZL1MW has just had a short stay in hospital and is recovering well after an operation. We wish Brian all the best for a speedy recovery.

### AREC

We have been asked to provide communication for the Hillary Challenge. This is a running race through the Waitakere Ranges. It starts at the Arataki Information Centre at 6:00 am and then proceeds to Muriwai via Huia, Whatipu, Karekare, Piha, Bethels and Constable Road. Around 80 kilometres in all. There are shorter runs starting at Piha and Bethels later in the day and all ending at Muriwai. The event is on the 29<sup>th</sup> March and we need operators to help out. We have nearly all the assistance we need but two more people would ease the burden on the others, so if you can help it would be appreciated. If you are able to help, please contact Merv on 09 828 7174 or John on 09 828 5891.

We carried out radio checks from all the check points recently and this went well. From Huia and Whatipu we only have contact to 6625 so we will use that repeater for those two sites. The STSP repeater situated on Te Ahuahu Point at the end of Log Race Road just south of Piha has communications with all the other sites. Our base will be situated at Muriwai but unfortunately we cannot hear 6625 from there so we will need to relay communication from Huia and Whatipu to base.



The STSP repeater set up at Te Ahuahu Point.



Testing the link at Muriwai.

The results of the tests can be seen in the table below. The exercise was most successful and demonstrates what can be achieved if we are ever required to help out with emergency communication up and down the west coast.

Hillary Trail test reports						
Wednesday 26 Feb: 2014						
Western Suburbs Radio Club A.R.E.C Group			L/C = Loud & clear		ZL1MW Horsmans Road	
Location	Operator/s	Rptr 146-625	Rptr 146-700	Rptr 146-925	Simplex 146-525	Mobile phone
Huia	ZL1GSM/ZL1LK	OK	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whatipu	ZL1GSM/ZL1LK	OK	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Karekare	ZL1RCA	Nil	Nil	L/C	Nil	Nil
Piha	ZL1RCA	L/C	Nil	L/C	Nil	OK
Bethells	ZL1SLO	L/C	L/C	L/C	L/C	Nil
Constable Rd	ZL1KAT	L/C	L/C	L/C	L/C	Nil
Muriwai	ZL1NE	Nil	L/C	L/C	L/C	OK
Te Ahuahu Rptr site	ZL1SK	L/C	L/C	N/A	L/C	OK
Horsmans Rd site	ZL1MW	L/C	L/C	L/C	N/A	OK

## HF Field Day

Again we had the Field Day station at the Sapich Vineyard at 150 Forrest Hill Rd for the Field Day.

The field day competition enables amateurs to set up a remote radio station powered by batteries, a generator or any other means other than mains electricity. The importance for this is being prepared for communications duties should a national disaster occur and mains electricity not be available and amateurs needing to pass messages for the general public.

Communications were good for most of the time on phone and CW. We made a good number of contacts and the log sheets are still being compiled. We participated in the QRP section (low power) which did result in more difficulty in being heard by the more distance stations. Sometimes we needed to try a few times and wait for other traffic to pass.



The 40-metre transmitter site.



Frank ZL1SLO operating on 40 metre.  
Ian ZL1RCA log keeping.



General view of the field day site. Yes, that is Rangitoto in the distance.



ZL1DOG (Toby) Good 5/9+60 at times.

### 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>

21-Mar-14	ZL1WI	Roy
28-Mar-14	ZL1NE	John
4-Apr-14	ZL1RCA	Ian
11-Apr-14	ZL1MW	Brian
18-Apr-14	ZL1WI	Roy
25-Apr-14	ZL1NE	John
2-May-14	ZL1RCA	Ian
9-May-14	ZL1MW	Brian
16-May-14	ZL1WI	Roy
23-May-14	ZL1NE	John

## AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 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	8 AREC Section Leader
	9 AREC Section Deputy Leader

### Random Thoughts for the Month

Why is everything faulty? A small collection of Eric's faulties.

On my cheap \$120 phone, you can talk into it and it will convert what you say into text. I said into the phone, "in circuit monitoring." It displayed "Been sick it I'm on a train" (how does it work that out so well? I blame it on the newest train fares). I wonder if I said "in circuit monitoring" on the net what you people would make of it.

After I wrote this story I tried it again, I got "Been sick it might rain" and again "Good morning train" a good game to play instead of watching people playing with food on free-to-air TV.

Then of course there is no technology to data connect my cell phone to my lap top, or at least the manufactures are not interesting in using it. If I want to dictate a message to make a story and want to transfer it to the laptop to fix the story up I have to email it to myself to get it to my laptop, then would you believe it, after trying it twice the Email gets lost in my Email program, I do not know where it goes, I have to use the Email program find function to find it. After all that, I think it is faster using two finger typing on the laptop.

If you go to a bus stop around Auckland there is a four digit number. Also around Auckland, they have a very large number of electronic displays that display when the next bus is coming, it shows the bus number (very handy) and where the bus is going and most often how many minutes to wait for the bus to get there.

I was at Wellesley Street between Queen Street & Lorne Street bus stop. On the electronic display it showed that buses come every quarter of a hour (on the quarter hour) displayed as "outer" short for "Outer Link bus" that does a continuous loop around the city to Manukau Road & Greenlane Road to Point Chevalier and back to the city. All it showed was scheduled times, not the true time. I got to the bus stop just before quarter past the hour, I waited five minutes, still no bus. So I put the bus stop number "5727" into my cell phone free Auckland transport "Auckland buses" app (cell phone program) all it showed was "149" buses that goes to New Lynn. Incidentally, while that electronic display does not show the "Due" times like most other displays do, it can come as much as five after the given times. By the way I have reported this and they may have it fixed by the time you read this.

There is someone I know that works out in East Tamaki factory, I could not think what the factory name was, so while I was waiting for subconscious memory to try and work out where my brain had put the name of the factory, I put "Electronics factory East Tamaki" into google the top result was, a website for a shop that new mothers would go to buy items for their baby called "baby factory"

I love (or is it hate, one of the two, maybe both) ringing a large business corporation on the phone and I get programmed voice normally a female voice that starts off saying "Just talk into the phone, I can understand everything you say" sometimes before long with their stupid menu and they don't get what I ask for, it makes

me do a big sigh into the telephone mouth piece, then the voice says "I don't understand that." I prefer the other system when they give you a number options and you press a key button is better. It goes to prove, if it works good, invent something had has bugs with it. From Robert Sled (Going downhill with the brakes on.)

Early this new year holidays the time of my 1980's digital bed side clock suddenly took off, gaining something like a hour one evening, after I took it apart found the electrolytic ESR in the power supply had gone a lot higher, replacing that brought the time back to normal. What a great repair that was not only saved money not having to buy a new alarm clock and did not have to buy in a replacement electrolytic as I had one in my tool case.

More recently my stereo amplifier Fountain AF1550 (manufactured just around the corner from our New Lynn radio club building from the early 1970's) died. It was OK when I turned it off to leave home, dead after I got back home latter that day. Bit of a nuisance when the amplifier is used for the sound on the TV, but I quickly re-routed one channel of the sound back into my NZ made CRT TV, (I hope the TV does not fail I might not be able to get some of the parts for it). First I thought maybe the fuse had just suffered metal fatigue, from all the times I had turned it on & off, but a quick post mortem on the fuse revealed the worn out fuse wire had a small melt down, the two of the four diodes in the bridge rectifier had gone short circuit. After checking the ESR on the filter capacitor, I found that had gone from the suggested 0.05 ohms of a new one to over 100 ohms that the ESR meter limit is. The day before the amplifier blew its fuse, I had never noticed more than just a slight hint of hum on the sound, mind you there was a leak from the positive lead of the electrolytic, the time before a few years ago when I took the amplifier apart. This 2200 $\mu$ fd 50 volt electrolytic was okay. I changed all the electrolytics on the Printed Circuit Board. That maintenance job showed that the electrolytics were so bad the volume control was scratchy, I never heard a thing when I adjusted the volume control before replacing the electrolytics. The amplifier output transistors has two 2N3055 per channel, back in the 1980's a driver transistor died, and for some months the amplifier ran on just one channel while I finally made up my mind what replacement transistor to use and went haunting for it.

What a great couple of items, been able to keep them going and not contributing to wreck the environment dumping them and wrecking the environment more manufacturing replacement items, by the way the colour (grey scale) is rubbish when I first turn the TV on, but after about quarter of a minute, think it is just as good as a new CRT TV, and better than some of the new TV's I have seen that looks like everyone on TV has had plastic surgery and the surgeon has used same colour tone plastic all over the face, due to lack of colour depth.

From Eric