



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

April 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	26 th	April	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	26 th	April	Club Meeting 10:00 am – Annual General Meeting
Saturday	10 th	May	Radio And Electronics Group Junk Sale – Peacocks Road Hamilton
Saturday	24 th	May	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	24 th	May	Club Meeting 10:00 am Programme to be announced.

April meeting

The April meeting on the 26th will be the Annual General meeting. 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

March Meeting

The March meeting was almost completely devoted to details for the Hillary Challenge. The gear that was used on the Field day in February was also checked over and stowed until the next outing.

ZL1BVK

It is with sorrow that the Club records the passing of Alex Learmond, ZL1BVK, who became a silent key on the 3rd April 2014 aged 84 years. Alex had been suffering from Parkinson Disease. Before Alex became sick he was a very active club member. He was a keen contester and introduced the Waitakere Sprint Contest. This was a very popular one-hour phone and CW contest. Alex was first involved in amateur radio as a youngster in Scotland where he built his first radio from junk that he had collected from the local tip. A service was held for Alex at Morrison Funeral Home on the 8th April 2014. Alex is survived by his wife Helen his children and many grandchildren. The club extends their sympathies to the family.

AREC

The AREC section of the Club was involved recently in communications for the Hillary Challenge running race. This was a race through the Waitakere Ranges starting at the Arataki Information Centre at 6:00 am and then proceeded to Muriwai via Huia, Whatipu, Karekare, Piha, Bethels and Constable Road. Around 80 kilometres in all. There was shorter runs starting at Piha and Bethels later in the day and all ended at Muriwai. Radio checks from all the check points were carried out prior to the event so we were aware of the coverage of the clubs STSP repeater that was installed at Te Ahuahu Point. On the day it worked better than expected. We expected to use 6625 for communications to Huia and Whatipu and then relay messages to the STSP repeater and then on to base at Muriwai. However, on the day we managed direct communications to the STSP from Whatipu and this left only Huia requiring to pass communications through 6625. The event went really well. The race organisers were appreciative of our efforts. To some extent we were a back up to other communication systems that they had but they particularly wanted our radio back-up as they recognised the lack of coverage of other systems in the Waitakere Ranges. In the end they were relying on us to get messages between the check points. We had installed radios in the organisers cars and they were able to listen into our communications and that gave them up to date information on the progress of the runners. We managed to provide all the operators needed from within the club.



Setting up the repeater at first light.



Mid-afternoon at the repeater after the arrival of comfort.



Huia .check point.



The radios at Huia.



The radio and antenna set up at Whatipu.



Roy, ZL1LK, comfortable set up before the swam of wasps arrived.



The check point at Karekare.



Timing mats at Karekare.



Ian's, ZL1RCA, Ute at Piha with radio and other equipment.



Piha was so close to the STSP that a mag-mount on the van roof was all that was required.



Muriwai Base. Merv's, ZL1SK, bus was the nerve centre of the whole communication effort.



The finish line at Muriwai waiting for runners to appear.



A welcome sight no doubt to all the competitors.



Shaun Collins (in the blue T-shirt) welcoming home one of the 16 km race competitors.

In summary, it was a top effort from all of the WSRC members who so willingly gave their time to the event. Thanks to all. John ZL1NE/ZK1EK AREC Section Leader.

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-Apr-14	ZL1NE	John
2-May-14	ZL1RCA	Ian
9-May-14	ZL1MW	Brian
16-May-14	ZL1WI	Roy
23-May-14	ZL1NE	John
30-May-14	ZL1RCA	Ian
6-Jun-14	ZL1MW	Brian
13-Jun-14	ZL1WI	Roy
20-Jun-14	ZL1NE	John
27-Jun-14	ZL1RCA	Ian

Assistance Required For ZL1IA Antenna Installation

Ivan requires assistance to install a beam antenna on his existing mast. Phil ZL1KAT went and had a talk and look at Ivan's (ZL1IA) mast and setup. There will have to be some pruning or cutting of trees before the mast can be lowered. Ivan will have this done. The antenna is a hexagonal beam. Details of this antenna can be found on <http://k4kio.com/home.html>. The antenna takes around 1 hour to assemble. There are three coaxial cables going up the mast. The VHF/UHF antenna up there now will have to be relocated, maybe onto the pole which has the, now not used, TV antenna. Some tools will be required. There is room for 6 cars. If you are able to assist please let Grant know at the next club meeting. Thanks Phil for your effort.

Grant ZL1GSM

Random Thoughts for the Month

You could add in that a club member (not me) could offer a good home to an unwanted and rejected 6B6b valve (has a octal base on grid is connected to the top cap). http://www.radiomuseum.org/tubes/tube_6b6.html

By the way I heard some years ago one version how valves became invented.

The early electric light bulbs deposited black soot on the inside of the glass as the lamp aged, (and maybe because light bulb recycling was not a trendy thing in those good old days) they tried putting a extra element (we now call "Anode") inside the tube hoping the black soot might be attracted to that extra element instead of going on to the glass. I take it that it did not work or the old light bulbs would have three wires going into it) They noticed when they made the extra element (Anode) positive in respect to the filament - current flowed Anode to filament, but when they made the extra element more negative there was no current flow. It took them a few years latter to think up an application which would have made this the first diode valve. Funny that I always thought they invented the diode before the triode.

Brought to you from WordWeb 7.03 is a very useful electronic dictionary download free from <http://www.wordweb.com> (21 Kilobytes file size to download) if you don't have it already.

From Eric

What is it?



This was photographed during the Hillary Challenge. What is it?