



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

April 2020 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: Andrew Mitchell, ZL1AF, Treasurer Merv Thomas ZL1SK,
 Newsletter Editor – John Neill ZL1NE.
 VHF Club Net Wednesday 08:30pm 146.525 MHz,
 HF Club Net Fridays 08:00pm 3.650 MHz
 Website <http://www.amateurradio.co.nz/>

Club Calendar 2020

Saturday	18 th	April	Committee Meeting 9:00 am –Cancelled due to Covid-19
Saturday	18 th	April	Club Meeting 10:00 am Programmed for the AGM but Cancelled due to Covid-19. The AGM will be the first meeting when we resume.
Saturday	25 th	April	ANZAC Day Cancelled due to Covid 19
Wednesday	29 th	April	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms Cancelled Due to Covid 19
Wednesday	6 th	May	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms Cancelled due to Covid 19
Sunday	10 th	May	Mother's Day – Have a Zoom or Equivalent visit!
Wednesday	20 th	May	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms Cancelled due to Covid 19
Saturday	23 rd	May	Committee Meeting Cancelled due to Covid 19
Saturday	23 rd	May	Club Meeting Cancelled due to Covid 19
Wednesday	27 th	May	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms Cancelled due to Covid 19
Saturday	30 th	May	NZART Conference Cancelled due to Covid 19
Sunday	31 st	May	NZART Conference Cancelled due to Covid 19
Monday	1 st	June	Queen's Birthday
Wednesday	3 rd	June	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am To be confirmed
Wednesday	10 th	June	Midwinter Dinner – Date and Venue to be confirmed
Wednesday	17 th	June	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Sunday	21 st	June	June Solstice
Saturday	27 th	June	Committee Meeting 9:00 am to be confirmed
Saturday	27 th	June	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined to be confirmed
Wednesday	1 st	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Wednesday	15 th	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Saturday	25 th	July	Committee Meeting 9:00 am to be confirmed
Saturday	25 th	July	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined to be confirmed
Saturday	29 th	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Wednesday	5 th	August	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Wednesday	19 th	August	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Saturday	22 nd	August	Committee Meeting 9:00 am to be confirmed
Saturday	22 nd	August	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined to be confirmed
Wednesday	2 nd	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Sunday	6 th	September	Father's Day
Wednesday	16 th	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Wednesday	23 rd	September	September Equinox
Saturday	26 th	September	Committee Meeting 9:00 am to be confirmed
Saturday	26 th	September	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined to be confirmed
Wednesday	30 th	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Wednesday	7 th	October	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am to be confirmed
Saturday	17 th	October	Committee Meeting 9:00 am – One week early due to Labour Weekend
Saturday	17 th	October	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined One week early due to Labour Weekend
Wednesday	21 st	October	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am

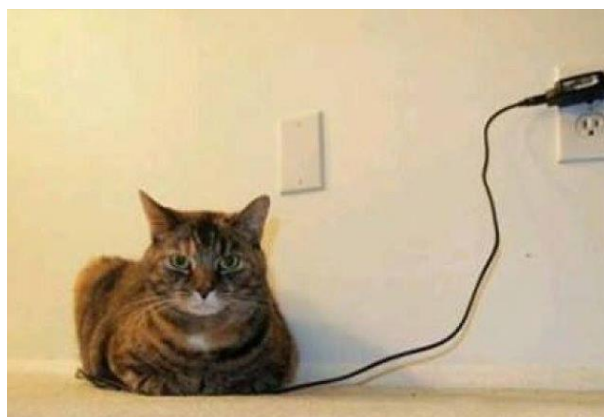
Monday	26 th	October	Labour Day
Saturday	7 th	November	Used Equipment Sale – Rosebank School Hall – Date and Venue to be confirmed
Wednesday	4 th	November	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	18 th	November	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	28 th	November	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	28 th	November	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined
Wednesday	2 nd	December	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	9 th	December	Christmas Dinner - Date and Venue to be confirmed
Wednesday	16 th	December	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Monday	21 st	December	December Solstice
Wednesday	30 th	December	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Monday	21 st	December	December Solstice
Thursday	24 th	December	Christmas Eve
Friday	25 th	December	Christmas Day
Saturday	26 th	December	Boxing Day

Meeting Agendas

If you have a topic that you would like to present at a club meeting, could you please contact the President or Vice President prior to meetings so that the item can be programmed for a future date.

Club Meetings

All future meetings, including Wednesday morning coffee meetings, have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus Pandemic. The committee will constantly review the situation and resume meetings as soon as possible. The decision was initially taken because many of our members are older and in the age group where contracting the virus is likely to have significant effect on them. Since that decision was taken the Government has put the whole country into lockdown at emergency level 4. We will resume meeting just as soon as the Government allows us to. The HF net on Fridays on 3.650MHz at 8pm and the VHF Net on 164.525MHz at 8:30pm are continuing and the STSP repeater is on most days so that club members can keep in touch with each other.



Cats on Charge

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was to take place in April. This will not happen due to the lockdown. We will advise when the Annual General Meeting will take place. It is likely to be the first meeting when we are allowed to resume meetings.

Club Fees

Club fees are due in April. The preferred method of payment is by internet banking. The Club's Bank Account is **020184-0030318-00**. If paying online please add your "Call Sign" or "Name" and the words "Club Fees" as a reference. Please email the Treasurer at mervthomasmusic@gmail.com stating that you have payed online, who will then reply with a receipt number via an email.

Alternatively, use the payment slip at the end of this newsletter if you prefer to pay by cheque. Please send your payment to the Treasurer at PO Box 15-122, New Lynn. If you require a receipt, please email the Treasurer at mervthomasmusic@gmail.com and he will email the receipt number to you. Please note that the PO Box is only cleared once a month at the moment so there may be some delay in processing cheque payments. A payment slip is included at the end of the newsletter.

Given the Covid-19 Pandemic and the cancellation of club meetings in the foreseeable future, cash payment is discouraged this year.

The fees are as follows:

- Standard Membership \$30.00
- Family Membership \$35.00
- Rural Membership \$10.00

Please note that the fees are reviewed each year at the Annual General Meeting. Paying before the AGM may save you a small amount if the fees should be adjusted upwards.

Many thanks to the Club Members who have already paid for 2020.

Informal Wednesday Meetings

The Wednesday morning coffee meetings have been cancelled due to Covid 19 virus until further notice. The committee will review the situation and the meetings will start as soon as the threat of contracting the virus has passed.

Club Nets

HF Net 3.650 MHz at 8:00pm every Friday.
+/-10 KHz if QRM/QRN is a problem.

All are welcome to check in on the nets.

The HF Net roster is opposite.

The full HF Net Roster can be found at:

<http://www.amateurradio.co.nz/>

17-Apr-20	ZL1BAK	Graeme
24-Apr-20	ZL1NE	John
1-May-20	ZL1AF	Andrew
8-May-20	ZL1RCA	Ian
15-May-20	ZL1BYI	Ian
22-May-20	ZL1BAK	Graeme
29-May-20	ZL1NE	John
5-Jun-20	ZL1AF	Andrew
12-Jun-20	ZL1RCA	Ian
19-Jun-20	ZL1BYI	Ian
26-Jun-20	ZL1BAK	Graeme

The Clubs STSP repeater will be set up for Club Members to keep in touch with each other during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Frequency is 146.925 –ve split. The repeater will not be operating all the time, but put out a call you may find it on and a Club Member/s to have a chat with.

A little Bit of History

This was sent to Merv recently from one of his musical colleagues. The article was written in 1962. Enjoy.

AROUND THE TOWN

Here is the gossip column again! Some more news of the bands, who's in them, where they play and some social notes in general.

The first band I would like to mention is the Merv Thomas Dixielanders. Merv Thomas, Leader—Trom and vocals; Clive Laurent, Trumpet and Vibes; Tony Ashby, Tenor Sax. and Clarinet; Jim Allison, Guitar; Birnie Hansen, Bass; Bruce Davidson, Drums.

At the time of writing the band is without a regular pianist.

This band has made a big hit at the Crystal Palace every Wednesday and Saturday—so big in fact that the Management do not advertise their dance any more and still get capacity houses. The boys play a good rousing Dixie style with plenty of gimmicks for good measure (not enough gimmicks in our local music these days). It is very refreshing to see the band

looking happy about playing and instilling their mood into their customers. Merv hales from Wanganui—home of a lot of good musicians—Pem Shepherd and Nev Blanchett to name two more) coming here three and a half years ago. He formed the present band twelve months ago and after doing a spell at the Trades Hall moved to the Crystal. The band backed rock singer, Johnny Devlin, in some of his top selling pop records.

All members who were at the Ball this year will remember the great show Merv and his boys presented. Merv's hobby and (livelihood) is radio and electronics. Country members who are radio hams could contact Merv sometime —call-sign ZLISK.

6-metre Vertical Antenna

By John ZL1NE

I first built this antenna in Easter 2011. I finished the construction but struggled to tune it to a suitable resonant frequency and SWR. It has been sitting in the shed ever since waiting for inspiration. The purchase some month ago of the NanoVNA and the Covid-19 lockdown was the catalyst that was needed.

The antenna design was out of a Practical Wireless magazine September 1991 which fortunately I still had access to. It is constructed of 2.740 metres of 16mm outside diameter aluminium tube. This is insulated from the 250mm x 100mm x 6mm base plate with a plastic tube. Inside a weathertight plastic box there is a 9-turn coil with an inside diameter of 20mm constructed with 2mm diameter copper wire and a trimming capacitor of around 50PF. The active antenna element is attached to the top end of the coil. A choc-block connector bolted to the base plate through the plastic box formed suitable connections and physical mounting for both the coil and capacitor. The centre core of the coaxial cable is connected to the coil at an appropriate location to get the desired frequency and SWR. The bottom end of the coil is attached to the braid of the coaxial cable via the SO239 connector.

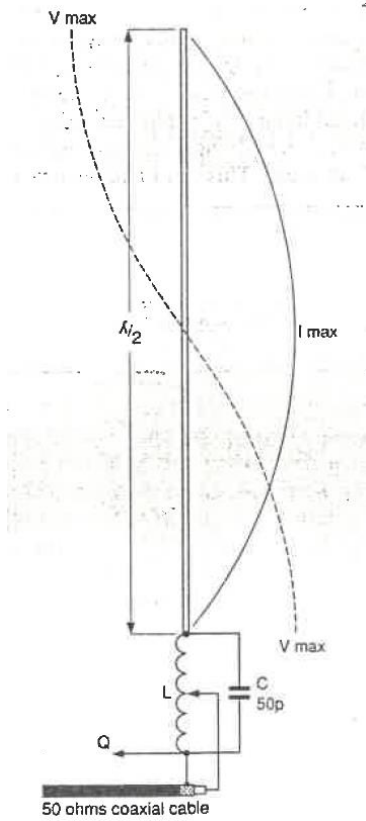
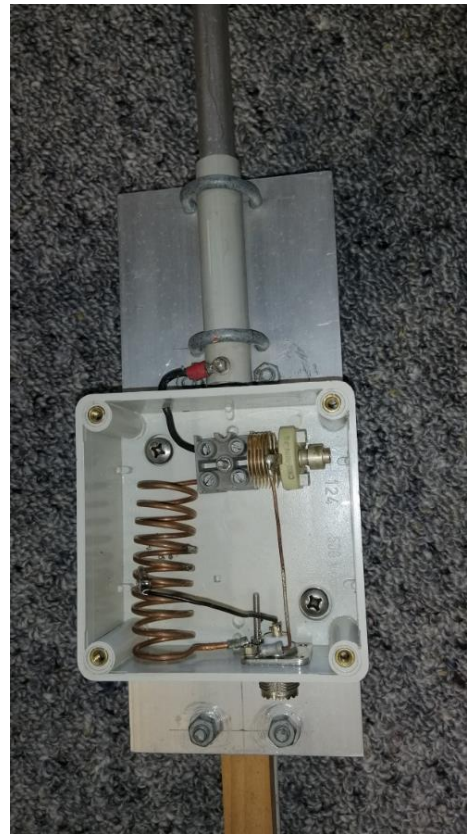
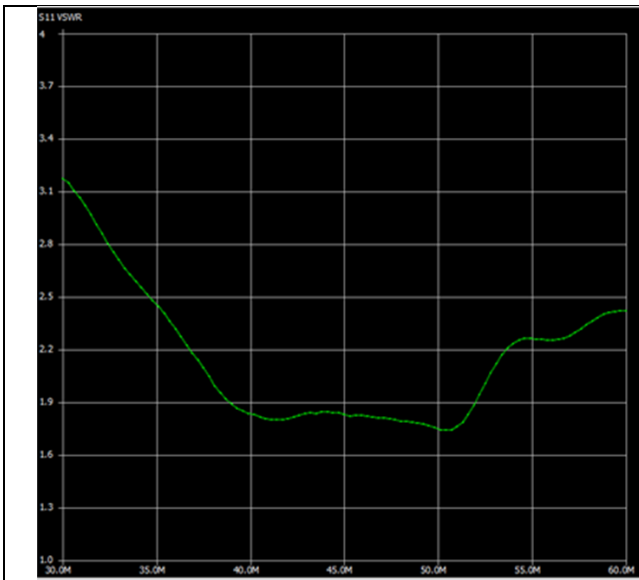


Diagram of the 6-metre Vertical Antenna

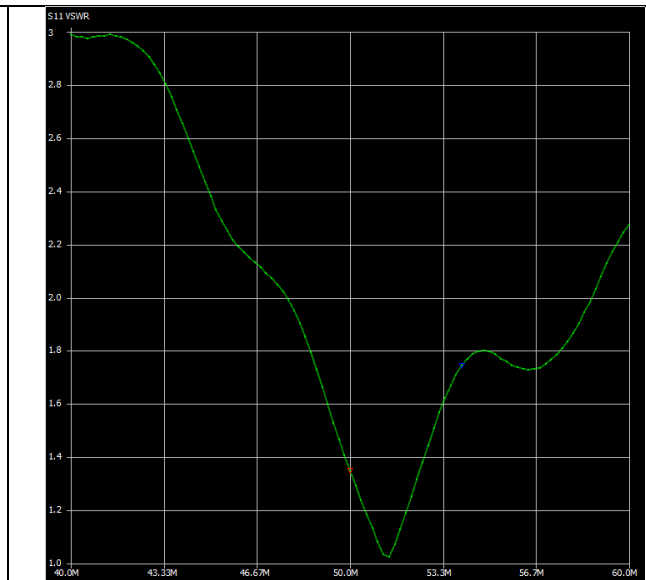


The Completed Antenna Without the Plastic Box Cover

With the test equipment I had back in 2011 I thought the SWR was reasonably good, however the antenna didn't perform and when I analysed it with the NanoVNA I could see that the SWR wasn't good at 1.8 and the resonant frequency was lower than desirable. See the left hand graph below.



SWR Graph after Tuning with and SWR Metre



SWR Graph after Tuning with the NanoVNA

I started to improve this by moving the location of the tap on the coil. I found there was a sweet spot which lowered the SWR to much more suitable value. I then adjusted the trimmer capacitor which brought the frequency and SWR to just where I wanted it and a final tweak on the coil tap location had it completed. I set the NanoVNA to a "continuous sweep" and watched what happened as I adjusted the coil and capacitor. I needed to make an adjustment then stand back as my close proximity affected the capacitance. At this stage the whole antenna is mounted on a wooden broom handle and I fully expect to have to make further adjustments when it is permanently mounted on a steel pole. At the

moment I have a SWR of 1:1.029 at resonant frequency 51.4 MHz. SWR is 1:1.35 at 50MHz and 1:1.745 at 54MHz. See the right hand graph on the previous page.

I'm well pleased with my efforts and have had contacts using USB with Scott, ZL1KB, in Green Bay and Andrew, ZL1AF, in the next street. Both gave good signal reports. I have the Practical Wireless article on the antenna and this can be made available on request.

The only problem with the antenna so far was my wife letting me know that when the wind got up on Monday that the antenna was making a knocking noise. With the logic of "Happy Wife, Happy Life" I immediately investigated. What I found was the door onto the terrace where I had the antenna temporarily mounted was rattling in the wind as it tends to when the wind is from a certain direction, it just hadn't been noticed before. I folded a bit of cardboard, jammed it in the door and the problem went away.



Supplied by Simon ZLIHMD

From the BBC – by John Cleese -- March 17, 2020 HYSTERICAL

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent virus threat and have therefore raised their threat level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, level may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out. The virus has been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's Get the Bastard." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a

recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

Italy has increased the alert level from “Shout Loudly and Excitedly” to “Elaborate Military Posturing.” Two more levels remain: “Ineffective Combat Operations” and “Change Sides.”

The Germans have increased their alert state from “Disdainful Arrogance” to “Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs.” They also have two higher levels: “Invade a Neighbour” and “Lose.”

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

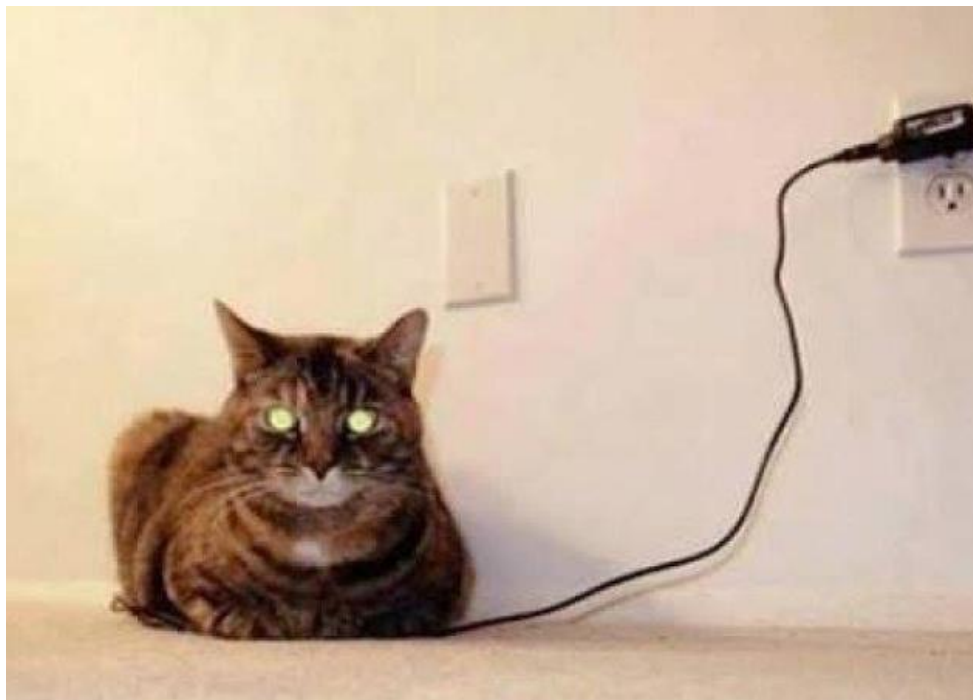
The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its alert level from “No worries” to “She'll be alright, Mate.” Two more escalation levels remain: “Crikey! I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend!” and “The barbie is cancelled.” So far, no situation has ever warranted use of the final escalation level.

The Russians have said “It's not us.”

Footnote from Ian, ZL1BYI, who found this.

Gotta Love John Cleese. Wish we still had Monty Python as we could use them now.



Cats Charged

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

NAME _____

Callsign _____

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		_____
