



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

June 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

Sunday	21 st	June	June Solstice
Saturday	27 th	June	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	27 th	June	Club Meeting 10:00 am Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	1 st	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	15 th	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	22 nd	July	Mid-winter Dinner Bricklane 6:30pm.
Saturday	25 th	July	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	25 th	July	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined
Saturday	29 th	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	5 th	August	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	19 th	August	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	22 nd	August	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	22 nd	August	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined
Wednesday	2 nd	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Sunday	6 th	September	Father's Day
Wednesday	16 th	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	23 rd	September	September Equinox
Saturday	26 th	September	Taranaki Junk Sale - Mangorei Memorial Hall, corner Kent Road and SH3
Saturday	26 th	September	Committee Meeting 9:00 am
Saturday	26 th	September	Club Meeting 10:00 am Program to be determined
Wednesday	30 th	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	7 th	October	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
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 – 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.

June Club Meeting

The June meeting will be on the 27th and will be the Annual General Meeting. Details below.

We are now in Covid-19 Level-1 which means there are no restrictions on meeting sizes. We are still being advised to practice social distancing and to observe strict hygiene standards such as thorough washing of your hands. Wear a face mask if you like. The rest of your club members won't be offended. If you are over 70 or have an underlying health condition, then it may still be advisable for you to stay away from meetings for a little longer even though the restrictions have been eased.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting which was originally scheduled to take place in April will now be held on Saturday 27 June 2020 at 10:00am at the Clubrooms, 3000 Great North Road New Lynn. The move to Covid-19 Level-1 has allowed for nearly normal life to resume and so we can hold all our meetings again without restriction. The meeting will be chaired by the Vice President as the President is visiting his Daughter on Stewart Island and will not be back in time for the meeting. The Agenda for the AGM is as follows:

Agenda

- 1 Presidents Introduction
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of 2019 AGM
- 4 Treasurers Report
- 5 AREC Report
- 6 Presidents Report
- 7 Election of Officers
- 8 General Business

Election of Officers

- 1 President
- 2 Vice President
- 3 Treasurer
- 4 Secretary
- 5 Four Committee Members
- 6 Newsletter Editor
- 7 AREC Section Leader
- 8 AREC Section Deputy Leader

The meeting will commence with morning tea or coffee as usual and the AGM will start a little after 10:00 am.

Mid-Winter Dinner

The mid-winter dinner will be held on the 22 July 2020 at the Bricklane Restaurant at 6:30 pm. The menu is as follows:

TO START

A selection of bread & dips for the table

MAINS

Southern Fried Chicken

with maple glazed bacon, potato mash, Cajun corn bread, coleslaw, gravy and chipotle aioli

BBQ Pork Spare Ribs

smothered in smokey Louisiana rib sauce, served with fries and slaw

Market Fresh Fish

cooked with prawns in a garlic white wine cream sauce accompanied with sautéed baby potatoes and salad

Lamb Shank (GF)

Braised with a red wine and rosemary served on creamy mash, and steamed veges

DESSERT

Banoffee Pie

caramel sauce, maple & walnut ice cream

Chocolate Frangelico cake (GF)

white chocolate & raspberry ice cream

Rolled Pavlova (GF)

berry coulis, cream, fresh fruit salad & berry sorbet

(A vegetarian option is available by advance request)

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.

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.

Most Club members have already paid for 2020 and we thank you for this. This will be the final reminder.

Informal Wednesday Meetings

The Wednesday morning coffee meetings have recommenced. With the move to Level-1, there is no restriction on numbers. Come along and enjoy a pleasant morning chat with fellow Amateur Radio operators. Remember to keep washing your hands as we don't want to see a second wave of Covid-19 infections. The events of the past week have demonstrated that we are not in the clear yet and the rest of the world is still in a sorry state.

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/>

26-Jun-20	ZL1BAK	Graeme
3-Jul-20	ZL1NE	John
10-Jul-20	ZL1AF	Andrew
17-Jul-20	ZL1RCA	Ian
24-Jul-20	ZL1BYI	Ian
31-Jul-20	ZL1BAK	Graeme
7-Aug-20	ZL1NE	John
14-Aug-20	ZL1AF	Andrew
21-Aug-20	ZL1RCA	Ian
28-Aug-20	ZL1BYI	Ian



Ian, ZL1RCA, found this on display in a communications shop window in Invercargill. It is an older valve PYE repeater.

Taranaki Junk Sale

New Plymouth, Branch 27, will be hosting their annual Junk Sale on 26th September 2020. The venue once again is Mangorei Memorial Hall, corner Kent Road and State Highway 3, New Plymouth. Buyers will be admitted to the hall at 10:00am, sellers from 8:00am.

Tables are available for \$20 each. To book yours, contact secretary@zl2ab.com

We plan to provide light refreshments for sale before and during the event. This year, it coincides with the start of the Taranaki Award which runs from 26th to 30th September. Club Station ZL2AB will monitor the local 720 repeater and National System from the event, with every QSO worth 3 points towards the required 25.

The hall is adjacent to Taranaki Aviation Transport and Technology Museum (TATATM). This is well worth a visit and has a good display for the radio enthusiast among many other items. Further details of both the Junk Sale and the Taranaki Award can be found on the zl2ab.com website or by contacting Doug (ZL3DUG) on secretary@zl2ab.com

Exam Success

Congratulations to Lance Hope on his recent Amateur Radio Exam pass.

The Search for 6 metre Signals by ZL1AF

When John (ZL1NE) told me he'd resurrected an old 6m vertical built about 10 years ago, he peaked my interest. We were still in the midst of Level 4 and something new to do would be great. Looking at my options I thought a 6m $\frac{1}{4}$ wave ground plane might be best, so looking at my aluminium store I found a length of 10mm tube. Blast, it was just over 3m long so not enough for all the elements needed. Ah well, make a start on it any way. Mr Google provided a few options for construction, the main issue being isolating the driven element from the radials, all being over 1.3m in length. This design used a piece of \$2 breadboard mounted on a right angle bracket I had. The radials would attach to the horizontal surface in the picture, while the driven element is held in place by the nuts and bolts in the breadboard. I was able to cut the driven element to length, leaving enough for only one radial, with no stores open! I decide to mount the single piece vertically to the driven element, thus creating a simple dipole. I mounted this on an old broom handle, on top of a 4m length of 50mm box aluminium I had. This gave me sufficient height to talk to John as well as trigger the 6m repeater.



Talking about my construction on the following Friday net, Wally (ZL1JLM) mentioned he'd built a 6m J-pole antenna. I thought, now that's an idea, I think I have more aluminium that would make that possible. So over the next few days, I set to work out what I could do to create this antenna. I had



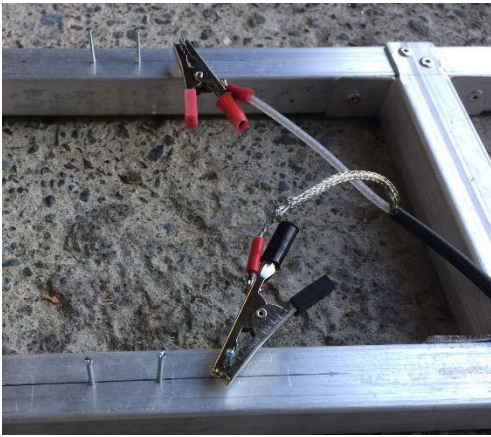
plenty of 25mm and 30mm box and a length of 25mm tube. First issue was matching the tube to the 30mm box. This I did my cutting down the corners of the tube, and then grinding extra metal off so that they would meet tightly against the tube. Ensuring enough overlap and some appropriate sized rivets made the joint perfectly rigid. The length of the long side of the J-pole was 4.1m. As the combined length of tube and box once joined was about 4.6m this gave me a length for mounting later on. Next was to construct the bottom of the J-pole. Cutting a piece of the box aluminium to the appropriate width, I cut and bent the side to create a method of mounting. This seemed to be going according to plan. I've learnt to think long before cutting and always



measure twice. It's only taken 6 decades, but it's embedded now.



I fixed the bottom of the J-pole to the longer element first which made it easier to get the right position and then fixed the shorter (1.37m) second. My thought turned then to putting the feed points in the right place. I decided to drill a series of small holes in both elements, into which I could put small panel pins. I would then attach a temporary feedline with alligator clips to each pair, and see where the best SWR was achieved.



The picture shows 3 pairs of holes, I eventually doubled this to achieve what I wanted with matching. The tuning process was carried out by attaching the antenna to a support pole and then roping that to the bike carrier on my tow bar. I guess you could go mobile 6m like this, but power and phone lines might become an issue, as the top was close to 6m off the ground. I set myself up on a small table just out of picture and

using the FT817 and the NanoVNA set about finding the best location for the matching. Taking my time and making notes about SWR at both ends of the band, I decided which pairing I would use. I also wound an appropriate choke to go immediately under the feed point.



As the picture shows, I also used copious amounts of sealer to protect the coax at the feed point. Toward the end of the short element I decided to fit a spacer to ensure that the elements stayed parallel. I have since noticed that this is common on commercial 6m J-poles. (Yes you can buy them in the States). I should note that the picture shows the spacer glued with extra strength Araldite. This lasted all of 6-seconds when I picked it up, so it is now held in place with duct tape. Not pretty, but very effective. Next was mounting the antenna somewhere on my antenna farm, known by the rest of the family as the



outside deck. First attempt to prove it all worked, was very dangerous and consisted of the 4m aluminium box, with the broom handle taped to that and the antenna taped to the broom handle. This arrangement lasted just long enough to so that I was getting a two S-point improvement in repeater reception. As the picture shows this was not a long turn solution to mounting this antenna.



Over the next few days I put some right angle brackets on the 50mm box, as well as some mounting brackets for the J-pole. This proved a sturdy but temporary permanent mounting solution, and it now sits firmly in one corner of my deck. Since finishing the mounting, and the COVID-19 levels being relaxed, the 6m repeater has gone silent again. Are there any other club members who have 6m capability? We could try a brief net and John and I wouldn't feel so lonely!

Next project seems to be shaping up to be a dual 10m and 6m Yagi, to see whether joining the 10/10 net on Saturdays can be more successful than at present. Watch this space.

Club Fees

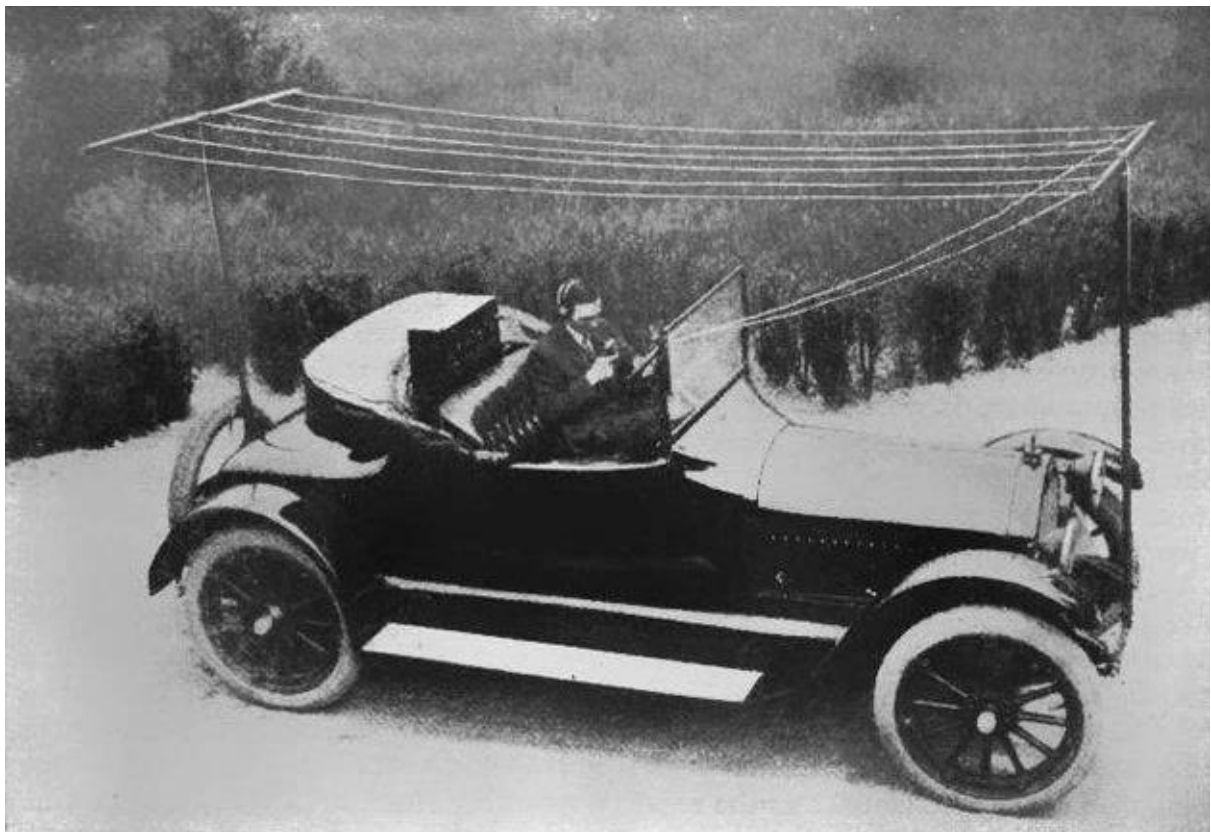
Club Fees are Now Due. Please send your payment to:

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		_____



Going HF Mobile? Then how about this for an idea?