



Western Suburbs Radio Club Inc.

March 2018 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. Newsletter Editor – John Neill ZL1NE
 VHF Club Net Wednesday 08:30pm 146.525 MHz,
 HF Club Net Fridays 08:30pm 3.650 MHz
 Website <http://www.amateurradio.co.nz/>

Club Calendar

Wednesday	21 st	March	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	24 th	March	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	24 th	March	Club Meeting – 10am. ZL1RCA on his Recent trip to the USA
Friday	30 th	March	Good Friday
Sunday	1 st	April	Daylight Saving Ends
Monday	2 nd	April	Easter Monday
Wednesday	4 th	April	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	18 th	April	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	25 th	April	Anzac Day
Saturday	28 th	April	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	28 th	April	Club Meeting – 10am. Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Wednesday	2 nd	April	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	16 th	April	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	26 th	May	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	26 th	May	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Saturday	2 nd	June	NZART Conference
Sunday	3 rd		
Monday	4 th	June	Queen's Birthday
Wednesday	6 th	June	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	13 th	June	Mid-Winter Dinner – Venue and Date to be confirmed.
Wednesday	20 th	June	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	23 rd	June	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	23 rd	June	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Wednesday	4 th	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	18 th	July	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	28 th	July	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	28 th	July	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Wednesday	1 st	August	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	15 th	August	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	25 th	August	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	25 th	August	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Wednesday	5 th	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	19 th	September	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	22 nd	September	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	22 nd	September	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Sunday	30 th	September	Daylight Saving Starts
Wednesday	3 rd	October	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	17 th	October	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	27 th	October	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	27 th	October	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced
Monday	22 nd	October	Labour Day
Saturday	3 rd	November	Used Equipment Sale – Venue and Date to be confirmed
Wednesday	7 th	November	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	21 st	November	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Saturday	24 th	November	Committee Meeting – 9am
Saturday	24 th	November	Club Meeting – 10am. Topic to the Announced

Wednesday	5 th	December	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Wednesday	12 th	December	Christmas Dinner – Venue and Date to be confirmed.
Wednesday	19 th	December	Informal Meeting at the Clubrooms 9:30am
Tuesday	25 th	December	Christmas Day
Wednesday	26 th	December	Boxing Day
Tuesday	1 st	January	New Year's Day
Wednesday	2 nd	January	Day After New Year's 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.

March Meeting

The March meeting will be a talk by Ian Sangster ZL1RCA on his recent trip to the USA and his trip home on a ship.

February Meeting

The February Meeting was a Video on “The Story of the Enigma,” History, Technology and Deciphering. This proved to be very interesting. The videos looked at many machines that were used in earlier times in coding and decoding messages.

Field Day 2018

Unfortunately, we could not get enough operators to put together a full Field Day Station. Roy, ZL1WI and Paul, ZL1JC, put together a limited CW Only Station from Roy's QTH in Waiatarua. They used Roy's generator for their power supply and worked from the back of a vehicle with shelter from a tarpaulin. Roy's field day antennas were erected in time for the start. With only two operators they did not work all the time that was available. This limited set-up gave them a lot of enjoyment and many contacts were made.



Roy, ZL1WI, Listening for Stations



Paul, ZL1JC, Logging a Contact

Shu Chun (Mary) GAUN

It is with sadness that we record the death of Shu, wife of Roy ZL1LK. Shu passed away on the 23 February 2018 after a short illness. Our thoughts are with Roy and his family following their sad loss.

Club Nets

VHF Net 146.525 MHz **8:30pm** every Wednesday, HF Net 3650 KHz +/- QRM/QRN **8:30pm** 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.amateurradio.co.nz/>.

We regularly have three operators on the VHF Net and six on the HF Net. More would be good. How about joining in.

23-Mar-18	ZL1LK	Roy
30-Mar-18	ZL1BAK	Graeme
6-Apr-18	ZL1NE	John
13-Apr-18	ZL1AF	Andrew
20-Apr-18	ZL1RCA	Ian
27-Apr-18	ZL1LK	Roy
4-May-18	ZL1BAK	Graeme
11-May-18	ZL1NE	John
18-May-18	ZL1AF	Andrew
25-May-18	ZL1RCA	Ian

Know Your Ropes



KNOW YOUR ROPES, TIP No. 15

New rope comes to you either in a coil or on a spool (i.e. a drum). When unspooling new rope, a *coil* should be placed on its end and the rope drawn from the *centre* of the coil. The partly unspooled coil should be treated carefully, since if it collapses, a nasty tangle could result. *Spools* should be suspended on a bar, and the rope carefully unreeled. If these procedures are not followed the rope will be twisted, and a kink or 'hockle' will result, decreasing the rope's strength by up to 30%.

KNOW YOUR ROPES, TIP No. 16

Inspect your rope frequently, especially synthetics. Natural fibre rope shows obvious signs of old age: discolouration, bleaching and parting of the outer fibres all indicate that such a rope is past its prime. Synthetic ropes however, by their very longevity, may lull the user into a false sense of security making their failure unexpected and dangerous. Look for flattening of the fibres and powdered fibre inside the strands. If you are in any doubt about the safety of your rope, have it tensile tested before using.

KNOW YOUR ROPES, TIP No. 17

If a rope shows signs of abrasive or other external damage, *do not wait* until it parts under tension before splicing a repair. Splice it immediately. The compressive effect which a rope undergoes when it breaks under tension will distort the lay and could cause kinks and other damage. If you wait until it breaks, you may be too late to save the rope . . . or you could be using a rope with its strength seriously reduced.

KNOW YOUR ROPES, TIP No. 18

No doubt you pride yourself on your nautical knowledge . . . and this will naturally include a knowledge of knots. But just a point to remember:— synthetic ropes are much more slippery than their natural fibre counterparts and can sometimes slip undone. Allow plenty of extra 'tail' in synthetic rope knots to compensate for this. The most secure common knot in synthetic cordage is the bowline . . . the least secure the reef knot. Polypropylene is the fibre that shows least slippage, and polyethylene shows the most.

"Duzall" Equivalent

Those of us "of a certain age" will remember Duzall as a very useful liquid flux for making difficult solder connections – for example soldering coax braid to shiny nickel-plated PL259 connectors.

Duzall has not been available for some years from the original manufacturer.

But a claimed equivalent is currently available.

See: <http://www.arcweld.co.nz/itemdetails/Comweld-965---Soldering-Flux/3521.aspx>

I believe I have seen this product on the "soldering" shelf of my local Mitre 10 Mega, although I've not yet tried it myself.

Tony ZL1TS

Informal Wednesday Meeting

The Club has decided to try Informal daytime meetings. These are to be held fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. There will be no programme at this stage. Just turn up for morning tea and a chat. Bring with you the project that you are having trouble with and perhaps others will be able to point you in the right direction. At the first meeting on 7th March, six people attended and nearly managed to solve the problems of the world. If you can attend please do so and have an enjoyable couple of hours with other radio enthusiasts. Tentative dates of the informal meetings have been added to the Club Calendar but these could change as the year progresses.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) April Meeting

The April meeting will be the annual general meeting. This will be held at 10:00 am on the 28th April 2018. The agenda is as follows:

Agenda

- 1 Presidents Introduction
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of 2017 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 Auditor of Accounts
- 7 Newsletter Editor
- 8 AREC Section Leader
- 9 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.

I have published this agenda early so that amendments can be made in the next newsletter if needed. If you consider any changes necessary then please let the newsletter editor know.

Dimensions of a 433MHz Slim JIM Antenna

