

# THE MUSE



-----November 2024-----

The newsletter of the MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP (INC.) NZART BRANCH 86  
*Incorporating* The Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation (SPAM)  
and **Green Radios On The Air (GROTA) News.**

Musick Memorial Radio Station, Bucklands Beach, Auckland. Call Sign-ZL1ZLD.

BRANCH 86 NZART NET- TUESDAYS, 7.30PM, 145.775 MHz, Musick Point Repeater. All welcome!

SPAM WEB SDR Remote Receiver - <http://spamnz.zapto.org:8901/>

SPAM KIWI SDR Remote Receiver- [musickpoint.ddns.net:8073/](http://musickpoint.ddns.net:8073/)

Musick Point Website- <https://musickpointradio.org> Webmaster-Neil ZL1NZ.

SPAM ZL6AM or ZL1ZLD AM Nets- Fridays 8.30PM, 3.850MHz, Wednesdays at 11.30Hrs, 7.125MHz

Museletter Editor- Martyn, ZL3CK.

Meeting- Second Sunday of the Month (Except May-Third Sunday, to avoid Mothers' Day)

NEXT MEETING- **Sunday November 10 th at 1pm. Coffee and tea provided. Talk next meeting-** Steve ZL1FS will bring along a visiting speaker who will tell us about SETI- the search for extra-terrestrial life. It's bound to be interesting!

**Don't Forget!!! "H" NIGHT CONTEST SUNDAY Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> coming up! Details inside...**



Seen in the Berlin Communications Museum- GROTA in the first WW

## From the Chair

Well, I missed doing my piece for the October newsletter due to a hectic time with “My Kitchen Makeover”. Actually, if it was a series on TV, it might have to be broken into seasons (hihi). So, the kitchen and scullery (ex laundry – no, we don’t wash our clothes ☺) were re-gibbed in all the appropriate places, including skilful patching of the ceiling where walls had been removed. The painter spent about 9 days gib-stopping, plastering, sanding, **sealing**, skim-coating, sanding, undercoating, touches of filling where needed then three coats of paint. What was the worst was the sealer that was applied on a Friday before he left for the weekend. I say that he left – he left us to suffer the terribly strong fumes that had us leave the windows open, in that part of the house, for the whole weekend. An extra blanket was applied to the bed for the duration.

The kitchen cabinets were installed last Thursday and the benchtops should be installed this Thursday. On Friday, all being well, the plumber will be in to install the tapware in the kitchen and scullery, including the dishwasher piping, etc. the electrician will install the wall oven, cooktop, ‘dust’ extractor and all the light switches, power outlets and appliance isolators. Phew!

My wife called to tell me that she had seen a fox on the way to work. I asked her how she knew that it was on it’s way to work. She hung up on me.

On the Monday following that flurry of activity, The flooring team will be in for three days – I have no idea why so long. It must be that they have to lay board to the whole area before they lay the vinyl planks. The day after they finish (Thursday) the builder will install the skirting boards and several other areas needing finishing trim. Then the carpet laying team visit for the day on Friday to do the obvious - that’s right – lay the carpet throughout the upper floor. That gives us the Saturday to clean up – again – and get ready for the whole family to join us to celebrate our 30 years in New Zealand.

When I was a child, I wanted to sing really badly. Now, after years of hard work, practice and dedication... I can sing really badly.

It has been a little quieter at Musick Point for a couple of weeks, the September General Meeting only just achieving a quorum after we waited for a latecomer, who shall remain nameless but his callsign begins ZL3, so that we could proceed.

The meeting was short and sweet, as are most General Meetings, and was followed by a very interesting presentation by Neil, ZL1NZ. The subject was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first trans-world QSO from NZ to Britain on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1924. It was a very well prepared and thorough analysis of all the intrigue and back-story behind the amateur radio scene in New Zealand and the remarkable story behind the actual lead up and achieving of such an historic event. It really was worth hearing. Thank you Neil for sharing this great story with us.

This last Sunday, we managed to do a few things between coffee breaks. We were graced with a visit from Charles and Nikki from Waiheke, who made a special, expensive trip over to spend some time with us. Dave, Martyn and Harry spent a lot of time walking around with portable SW receivers, trying to trace a recent spate of ‘noise’ on the bands, without success, although Dave found one source that followed him wherever he went – it was in his top pocket and can be used for making phone calls, that was quite funny, but you had to be there to really enjoy it.

Instead of a sign that says: “Do not disturb”, I need one that says: “Already disturbed, proceed with caution”.

When I was young, I was poor. Now, after years of hard, honest and painstaking work, I am no longer young.

Until next month:  
73, and call CQ  
David, ZL1DRV

## MPRG News-

Recent “visitors” to the Station have included some unwelcome ones who appear to have had a bonfire of old picture frames and unknown electronic devices at the front door. The Wednesday team had the doubtful pleasure of cleaning up their mess, encouraged by the fact that the broken glass was placed where we usually park our cars. On the same day we had a couple of technicians installing some more fibre from the road, they can blow the fibre ‘wires’ up the old conduit for up to a kilometer.



Harry ZL1BK cleaning up some other people’s mess.



Investigating the sump (ZL1DL shovel feeding-er-supervising...)



Fibre 'straws' -Potential capacity for ??000000's of phone lines.

### **Repeater News-**

The two 12v deep cycle repeater batteries have been replaced . They run in series at 24V through a down convertor. This is to allow a greater voltage drop before the repeater becomes inoperable and of course double the capacity of a single battery. One of the cells has been at zero volts for a while, so the batteries have been on 'borrowed time' for a while. **Keith ZL1BQE** has kindly donated a new pair of deep cycle SLA batteries. These have now been installed. This is another small step to improve the station's resilience in the event of a catastrophic event. Thank you very much Keith, we are most appreciative!

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### **SPAM News-**

Welcome to Two New Members!

**Roy Bicknell ZL3TDE** of Nelson, and **Hugh Anderson ZL2ASB** of Seatoun, Wellington. We hope you both enjoy all the AM fun we have with the group and do join us on one of the nets when you can. Roy was on AM 80 meters last night-well done!

On Friday 12 October we broke the record (in recent times anyway) for attendance at an AM net- 16 stations in all, what a great evening it was. Conditions were better than usual which undoubtedly helped. Several came on later when invited. Those checking in were- **Gavin ZL1GAM, John ZL2J, David ZL1BOA, Gary ZL3SV, Rob ZL4ROB, Wally ZL1JLM, Ross ZL2FN, Dave ZL3JE, Wally ZL1WE, Gavin ZL2XP, Steven ZL2UV, Ken ZL2KJT, Chris ZL4AV, Stan ZL3TK** (new to the net) and **Lyell ZL1BJN**. Whew! Also listening were **ZL1DL, ZL2MOH** and no doubt others. We heard from the Far North (Kaikohe ZL1GAM) to the South (Pareora, Dave ZL3JE) and East (Opotiki, Lyell ZL1BJN) to West (New Plymouth, Steven ZL2UV) and even a ZC1 (Basil ZL2XP) so well done all. We were actually lucky as there have been several recent solar events causing blackouts, including earlier on that Friday.

**From Dennis, ZL1UET A recent traveller in Australia-**

Photos attached of my recent trip and visit to the Kurrajong Radio Museum.

The Museum is open by appointment and please check on the web site and phone to make arrangements to visit, I was privileged to have a one on one visit. The Museum is located between Penrith and Richmond North, near to the Richmond Air Force Base.

I also paid a visit to the Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour and visited the radio room of the HMAS "Vampire" in which the local Manly ham group have set up a ham station. Unfortunately on the day of my visit the Ham bands were dead so I did not get to operate the station. (Probably another solar flare see SPAM news above-Ed.)

Photo 1- entrance. Photo 2- early radio 1926. Photo 3- radio made for the Tiger Moth manufactured by AWA, Photo 4- the radio room of the Pong Su, that was donated to the Museum after the ship was seized by Australian customs for drug running. The radio room was donated before the ship was destroyed by the Australian GOVT.

Cheers,  
Dennis





Early Radio receiver from 1926



Radio taken from a prisoner at Parramatta Jail in 1954.



Early Aircraft radio receiver from Tiger Moth made by AWA.



Radio room from the "Pong Su", built 1979, a North Korean ship seized by the Australian government.

## GROTA Report from Des ZL3AK-

The November clubroom meeting had a large number of members attend, all discussing their projects and purchases and things that they had achieved in the past month.

The evening started with a talk by Des ZL3AK on the tuning procedure of the ZC1 MK2 and the problems you can have if you are new to this set, and what to look out for if you find you have problems. The GROTA group have written a one page instruction sheet to get you through.

The next part of the evening we had a very interesting talk by Bryan ZL3BHS on a new purchase he had made. Withdrawing it from its own backpack he produced this amazing bit of kit complete with the antenna and all the accessories. He sat on the table a very nice Clansman PRC 320 manpack, manufactured by Plessey in the 1980s which operates 2-30MHz on 3 or 30 watts USB-AM-CW . This radio is believed to have replaced the Larkspur A13 set , of which the GROTA group owns, and comes complete with a manual matching unit to match a wide range of antennas, including the 2.4 meter man pack whip and dipole or vehicle mount. It also comes with a clip-on power pack for portable use and power cables for external batteries and vehicle use. The frequency selection is done by a band switch and decade knobs. The set is fully waterproof and claimed to be submersible.

Well done Bryan - thanks for that interesting talk.



We then discussed the next GROTA Sunday activity, and Mike ZL3MWD submitted three suggestions. It was decided we would set up locations to test the ground wave over Lake Ellesmere, with Leo ZL2LEO and Noel ZL4OW to Kaitorete Spit on the south side of the lake, Ray ZL3RAM took the Western side at the Lake side camping ground and Des ZL3AK went to Yarrs Flat Wildlife reserve at the Northern end of the lake. Peter ZL3IA and Mike ZL3MWD chose Motukarara Camping ground on the eastern side.



**Map of GROTA Lake Ellesmere trials, October 2024.**

On the day, all stations ran a WS48 set and ZC1 Mk2; most had the full 34' vertical aerial, but Ray chose a wire up a tree. We were on air at 12.45pm with Peter/Mike QSO'ed on ZC1s with Des ZL3AK ZC1s at Yarrs reserve location. Peter/Mike and Des then transitioned to both WS48 sets later in the day, with excellent signal strength from Des with his set positioned at ground level at a distance of 11.5 Kms. This distance is astounding for ground wave over land and may be something to do with the water table there.

Mike managed a ZC1 strength three contact with Ray ZL3RAM located at Lake Ellesmere Lakeside Camp, a distance 18.7 kms from Motukarara, mostly over water. I guess we can't say Lake Ellesmere is FRESH water!

Noel ZL4OW had a little trouble with his ZC1 antenna tuning but his 48set operated by Leo ZL2LEO worked well.

I think Des ZL3AK was the only one that managed to work all stations including the Noel/Leo team.

So to draw some conclusions on ground wave propagation, we found the path between Yarrs Flat and Motukarara was better than average mud, whereas the lake water paths were nowhere near as good as a previously experienced salt water sea path.



**Noel ZL4OW** on his W.S. No. 48, at the Kaitorete Spit, Lake Ellesmere.



**Leo ZL2LEO** with ZC1 at Kaitprete Spit.

The day's activities finished with a social debriefing and experience discussion at the Tower Junction "office". So another successful month, with some interesting propagation to ponder, in the meantime happy GROTARING.

Des ZL3AK.

Used and New Equipment Sales



(With thanks- I think!- From Gary ZL3SV)

Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Western Suburbs Branch 03 Annual Equipment Sale

Rosebank Primary School Hall, 217 Rosebank Road, Avondale. Auckland (usual place)

Tables \$10 each, prepay or on the day. Sellers 0800, buyers 0900hrs.  
Cafeteria on site with tea, coffee, soft drinks, biscuits and hot finger food.  
NZART Brances, Private and commercial vendors welcome,  
RWB Icom will be there, and the QSL Bureau also will be at the sale.

Bookings- Tony ZL1TLC [wsrc@outlook.co.nz](mailto:wsrc@outlook.co.nz) or Ph 02102510059

This is **NEXT WEEKEND** folks, hope too see you there!

**Saturday March 8th 2025, Te Puke Amateur Radio Club Market Day branch 53 NZART**

**At Paengaroa Community Hall 4 Old Coach Rd. Paengaroa.**

Venue opens for vendors 6.30 AM. Table (1.8 Mt) prices- presale \$20. On day of sale \$25 .  
Half table \$12.00 or \$15 son day of sale.

Sale time 9:30 AM. Door charge \$2.00 per person.

For further information contact **Syd Rowe ZL1LWR** (07) 533-1029 or 0272488664

E-mail – [sydrowe@extra.co.nz](mailto:sydrowe@extra.co.nz)

Breakfast available from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM at reasonable prices.

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**Free Amateur Radio Buy, Sell and Wanted website-**

See “ZL Ham Ads” on “The Machine” the **MPRG Blog-** <https://MPRG.zlham.net-->

-----**WANTED**-----

**By Noel Andrew, ZL4OW-**

I'm keen to get a set of F sections to go with a ZC1 base I have for them as a short mobile antenna. I would also be definitely keen if there is any full antenna for the zc1 available.

Noel. [pennyfarthing1870@gmail.com](mailto:pennyfarthing1870@gmail.com)

**By Phil Lewton ZL2HF-**

Hi Martyn can you please advertise that I am looking for a 30-50 watt modulation transformer for a repair job that is on the bench as the original one was removed from this set before I got it.

(It's “shocking” what hams do to good radios!)

Phil. ZL2HF 0274463233



## "H" NIGHT CONTEST, DECEMBER 8.

**Band-** 80 METERS

**Mode-** Amplitude Modulation Phone only, that is a carrier and sidebands.

**Time-** 7.30 to 10PM, 5 half-hour periods

Work individual stations once in each period, unless they are able to change radios and operate in another category, Eg. use a ZC1 for 15 minutes then change to a modern radio for 15 minutes. There will be a special event station ZL6H.

### **Transmitting Categories-**

Vintage- radios of all valve, WW2 or earlier.

Hybrid- Radios with valves, at least in the finals stage.

Modern- solid state, DSP etc.

SDR- Radios that are fully software defined, Flex, K3 etc.

Home Brew- where Tx , Rx or both have been fabricated in the home workshop

QRP- less than 5 watts carrier power.

Exchange a signal report and type of equipment you use, Eg. '59 ZC1' (An unlikely combination!).

Suggest you use the following extensions when calling, and claim the points for each station worked-

/V = vintage 3 points

/H =Hybrid 2 points

/M= Modern 1 point

/S= SDR 2 points

/w=Homebrew 2 points

/Q=QRP 3 points

Working ZL6H 5 points

Points will be awarded for each station contacted, based on the equipment THE STATION YOU CONTACT uses.

### **Suggested calling frequencies-**

QRP 3750 and QRO 3850, giving older receivers a chance to hear weak signals.

### **Short Wave Listeners (SWL) section-**

Points awarded will be the same as for transmitting stations, i.e. determined by the type of transmitter the station you hear is using. Use the appropriate multiplier for your style of receiver. Remote receivers please use 'Modern' category.

### **SWL Categories-**

Vintage: All tube line up in receive path. Multiplier 2.0

Modern: Any solid state receiver. Multiplier 1.0

SDR: software defined receivers e.g. Soft Rock, SDR play etc. Multiplier 1.5

**Please send logs to Rob Carter, ZL2IW** at [rob.zl2iw@gmail.com](mailto:rob.zl2iw@gmail.com) with a summary of your equipment used, and category you wish to be in. A photo of your log will suffice. There will be a certificate for the winner in each category.

Good luck on the night, and most of all-have fun!