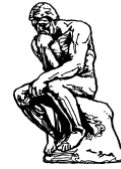


THE MUSE



-----JULY 2025-----

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 Signs ZL1ZLD, ZL1ZLF.
BRANCH 86 NZART NET- TUESDAYS, 7.30PM, 145.775 MHz, Musick Point Repeater (ZL1HK). All welcome!
SPAM WEB SDR Remote Receiver - <http://spamnz.zapto.org:8901/>
MPRG KIWI SDR Remote Receiver- <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 July 13th @ 1pm. Coffee and tea provided. Graham ZL1TOF will tell us about how to read circuits (something along those lines- sorry graham couldn't recall exactly what you said!)



A recent clear winter's day at Musick Point. The Radio Station is peeking over the trees on the right.

From the Chair

Well, I thought that the venue for the NZART Centenary Conference had been decided. I did get the dates correct, being King's Birthday weekend, 2026. I am not sure exactly when things changed and I am not sure about the final decision on the venue, so I will not say any more on that subject. A lot of great ideas have been put forward with the intention of making it a memorable weekend. We are all hoping for a really outstanding attendance to help celebrate 100 years of NZART, and to look forward to the next 100 years of exciting amateur radio in New Zealand.

I spotted an albino Dalmatian today..... it was the least I could do.

As the cooler (colder?) weather moves in, often with rain pouring down as well, my thoughts and activities turn to things that I can do indoors. On the odd dry day, it is usually a mad time outside with lawn mower, blower, rake, yard broom, and of course the weeding tools. I find that the latter need to be considered only when the soil is not soaking wet and, as that is seldom, there is not much weeding that takes place unless the offenders are sufficiently well grown that they can be pulled out without the need for digging. I have noticed that a relatively small area around my multi-band vertical seems to be a particularly attractive spot for many plants, especially weeds. Vigorous growth can be noted all year round, and especially in the winter months when the soil is wet. I wonder if there is a reliable scientific explanation for this, or whether I have just sited the antenna in a particularly fertile area of the garden. It might be something to do with RF, and I often wonder if there is an amateur-legal band and power level that could be used to discourage plant life nearby.

Why did the capacitor kiss the diode? He just couldn't resistor.

Friday night opening at Musick Point continues, usually from about 7pm until later near (my) bedtime. On most nights, either Martyn ZL3CK or Rob ZL4ROB run the AM Net on 80m at 8:30pm. For this, the old RCA transmitter is fired up in the transmitter room, and the Collier and Beale receiver is used at the East operating desk. It is quite interesting to hear calls coming in from all over the country, although some stations can only be heard clearly with the use of a suitably positioned remote SDR. It takes a bit of skill and knowledge to operate the C&B, and I have watched Martyn regularly twiddling this knob or that one, trying to get a clearer signal. Quite fascinating.

Shortly after arriving at the club, we often attempt to spend about half an hour tidying or cleaning some area. There is no cleaning service that comes in to do it for us, so we need to try and keep the place respectable. We also want to spend some more time checking and repairing, if necessary, some of the donated/accumulated equipment that we have in storage, so that we can put it on the 'ZL HamAds' website. You can find it at <https://zlham.net.nz/> and sales of this equipment brings in funds for the club.

100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today, everyone has cars and only the rich own horses. The stables have turned.

Today, Sunday brought a good turnout. Martyn, Neal and Graham (ZL3CK, ZL1NZ & ZL1TOF respectively) spent time in the "museum" room, inspecting and discussing the relevance of each item in terms of Amateur Radio and/or Musick Point. I am not sure how well it went, but I know that I saw a few items outside the door which have been awarded the order of the boot. I am not sure whether they even finished but perhaps by next week, things will be clearer, pun intended.

For a while, Dave ZL1DL and I worked on his new 50m loaded dipole, trying to finalise the assembly of fittings so that the dipole can be easily mounted atop his 6m telescopic pole with a bit of a standoff. We had previously messed about with all sorts of PVC pipe fittings and adaptors with some success. Since Dave had acquired the few bits that were still needed, all that we needed was a bit of time and patience to get it all assembled satisfactorily. Finally, the whole thing looked to be quite successful and ready for portable operation.

Today, the Sun continues to fuse hydrogen atoms to make helium in its core. It fuses about 600 million tonnes of hydrogen every second, yielding 596 million tonnes of helium.. The remaining four million tonnes of hydrogen are converted to energy, which makes the Sun shine.

That's it for now, until next month:

73, and call CQ

David, ZL1DRV

Musick Point News

At the recent monthly meeting it was noted that a number of our members have not paid their subs for 25-26. **Sub are now OVERDUE!** So please pay the treasurer -if you want to continue as a member with voting rights and privileges such as access to the remote transceiver. Also, please fill out *and sign* the membership form even if your details have not changed- this is because you now have to "agree to the rules of the club" as required by the new Incorporated Society Rules. (This is NOT our idea, it's been forced upon us like all other Inc. Socs. that you may belong to).

NZART 100 years Conference 2026

We hope to have a good turnout of Auckland amateurs. It will be a special once-in-a-lifetime event.

More demonstrations and displays than usual are planned.

WE expect to be asked to make the Radio Station available for visitors. We will need as much help as we can get to make the event a memorable centenary. The MPRG is working steadily to make the Station as presentable as possible with **Graham ZL1TOF** and **Dave ZL1DL** leading the charge. Graham has repaired curtains and regluing flooring where it is starting to lift. Dave is scrubbing walls to remove years of mould!

AND Talking of anniversaries, these notes were discovered the other day in the archives at the station-

Minutes of inaugural meeting to discuss formation of new club held at 51 Caronia Cres. Lynfield on 19th May 1996.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m. after a pot luck dinner.

Present: Kevin Mitchell ZL1UDD, Jim Edwards, John Mitchell ZL1VBT, Fred Bain ZL1SP, Peter Morris ZL1QT, Bill Verhoef ZL1WVH, Kevin Rutter ZL1ABP, Dennis Seymour ZL1UET, Fred Johnson ZL1BUP, Ann Walker ZL1TRH, Eileen Bain ZL1BRX, Barbara Shephard, Graham Moss ZL1TTX, Phillipa van Kuilenberg ZL1CAV, Phil van Kuilenburg ZL3JD, Phil Callaghan, Ian Walker ZL1BFB, Hazel Rutter ZL1TDY.

Apologies: Annette Bain ZL1UOO, Ingrid Morris ZL1URA, Wally Edlin ZL1WE.

Ian gave a brief history of the South Auckland Repeater Group (SARG)

John ZL1VBT asked what the position of the repeater group was at the moment and what were the objectives in forming a new club. This was discussed and it was generally felt that the idea was to form a new club for social activities and (?moral) support for SARG. Fred ZL1SP clarified the position of NZART over Insurance- this covers personnel going onto commercially owned sites to service and maintain amateur equipment housed on these sites. These persons must be members of NZART for this cover to be effective. Jim pointed out that a club would have a better chance of receiving funding than a small group of individuals. A draft constitution was circulated and some points discussed. Fred ZL1SP said that NZART would need to approve a constitution if the club decided to become a branch of NZART. Jim said that releasing details of membership to the NZART could contravene the privacy act.

Fred ZL1SP moved that a club be formally established and that it consist of a group of interested supporters. Fred ZL1BUP seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

New Constitution

This is progressing and we will shortly call for a **Special General Meeting** which will be on one of our usual meeting days to approve this. The clause regarding membership of Non-NZART members has been added, and has been sent to NZART for their approval (as required) and if that is ok'd it will go to the registrar of Inc. Soc. for their approval. The latest version is attached.

Museum Room Matters

A start was made last week on a general clean up and tidy of the "museum" room. Many treasures have been stored here since the Club was established, and much else has been added (or dumped) there since. After due discussion the 'overflow' is to be moved in a tidy manner to the back office where much archival material is stored as well. Decisions have to be made about what to display, what to keep in storage, and what to dispose of. **Neil ZL1NZ** came along for the day and was a great help both with lifting heavy objects as well as his knowledge about many of these items.

After a bit of a clear out of the top of the centre display cabinet, an enormous transmitter valve was revealed. An effort to identify it was called for. Rumour had it that it was from the Himatangi transmitter station and looked to be of many kilowatt size. A very small trace only of a painted label remains, the letters "ML8?8A" and a logo ending in a T or I was visible.

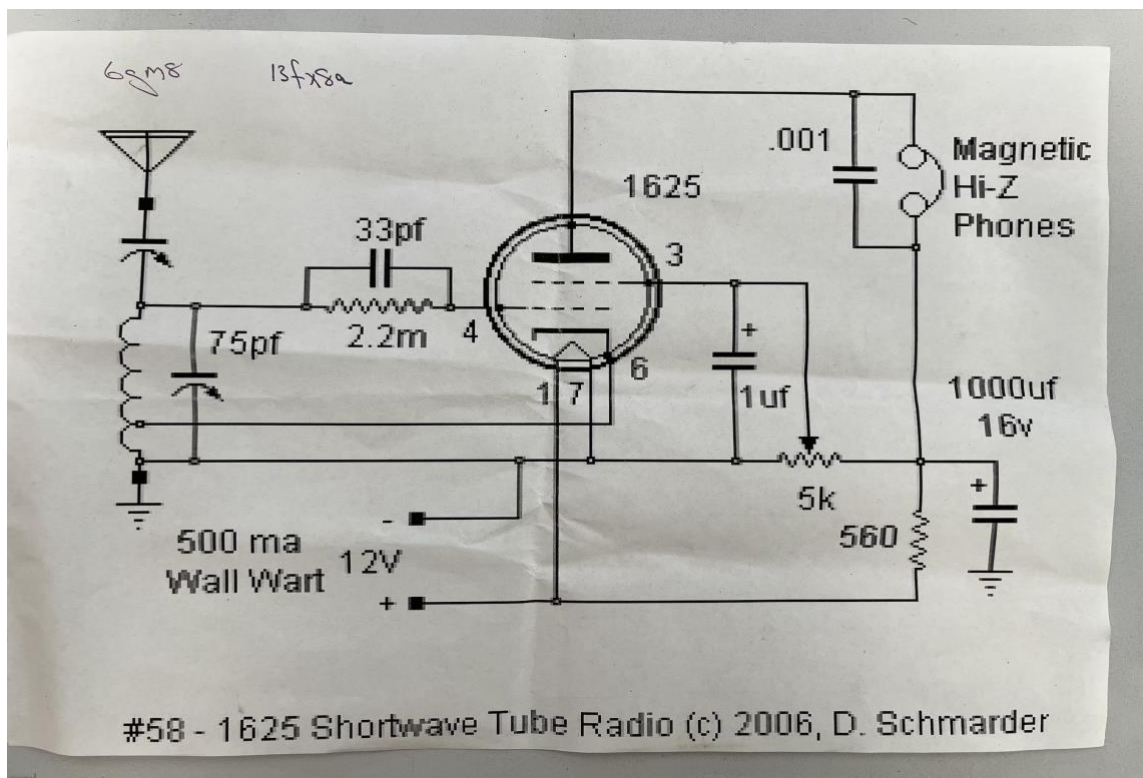
Not much to go on. Various manufacturers were researched on Google, particularly Marconi but their transmitting valve numbers were not ML.



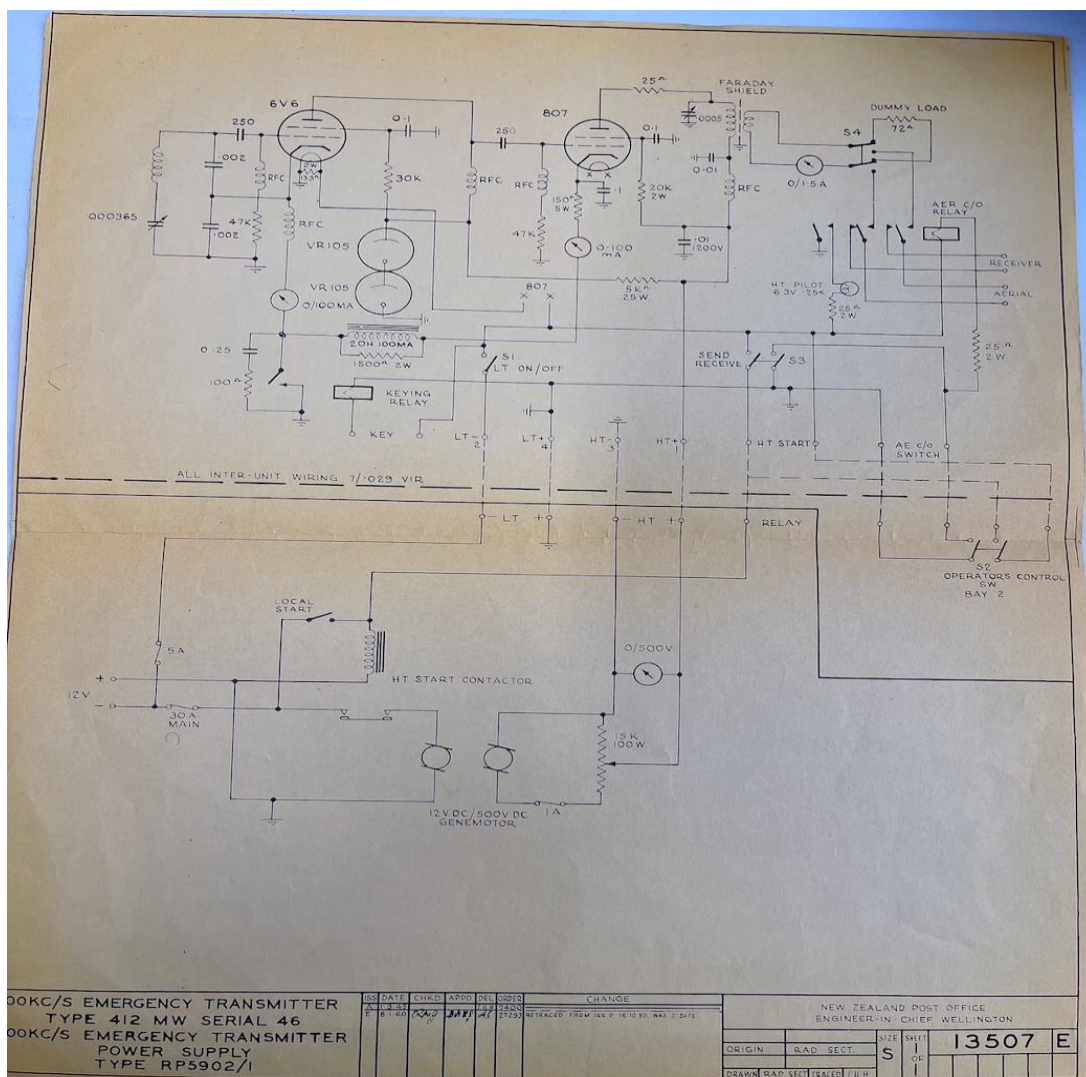
Not much to go on with this monster valve's identification..

Finally, an article in the Vintage Radios Society's newsletter from February 2007 solved the mystery. The valve is a "Machlett" Type ML 893A. Used in the Himatangi's GE Co. Transmitter TBC4 used for high speed telegraphy to London. This beast was rated at 50Kw and used two of these valves. They are rated at 50Kw so were 'loafing' along at only 25! The filament is 20 volts at 185amps! And the HT 20,000 V. They cost in 1953 300 pounds. This, in today's money is \$21,757.58 according the RBNZ's inflation calculator. Not one to drop!

Two More from the MP Archives..



The heater consumption of a 1625 (807) would seem rather heavy for a one-valve receiver.



Not very clear, but the circuit for an emergency 500KHz Transmitter at ZLD.

GROTA update for June 2025 from Cath ZL3CATH via Kelvin ZL3KB-

The bitter weather we have experienced in June forced the GROTA team into a café for 'indoor communications' over coffee, with local QRM. So, no field trials this month. However, we still held the clubroom meeting, and thanks to our club president ZL3CATH for these notes recorded.

It was a dark and stormy... No, I can't remember what the weather was, because I am not your weather reporter. It was almost mid-Winter and it was dark. I got there first and turned the heaters and kettle on. People trickled in to the GROTA evening and eventually we had enough of a crowd to start.

John ZL3LL started with his **Paratrooper Generator set.**



Some of us had seen it at an earlier Vintage meeting. There was discussion about how a cunning but poorly thought-out design made this difficult to build in the first place and even harder to restore when it was old and rusted out in places.

John then showed off his Comfort or Amenities receiver. Made by Hallicrafters for use during WW2, this received from Broadcast band up through HF. Intended to run on batteries or America's 110 Volt system, with either a whip or long wire antenna. Curiously the valves were 2 volt heaters only, but worked via a dropping resistor.

Aidan ZL3APB brought in his WS1 “**number 1 set**”, now incredibly rare. Officially a “portable field radio” it is considered a one-man lift, but at 20kg a strong man is needed for sure. Originally designed in the late 1920’s this one is believed to have come to NZ about 1936. AM only, TRF with Regeneration, and according to Aidan “beautifully built”. CW and with 400 mW output it was apparently, the iPhone 15 Pro Max of its day. Aidan is desperately looking for a AR6 valve to complete the transmitter.

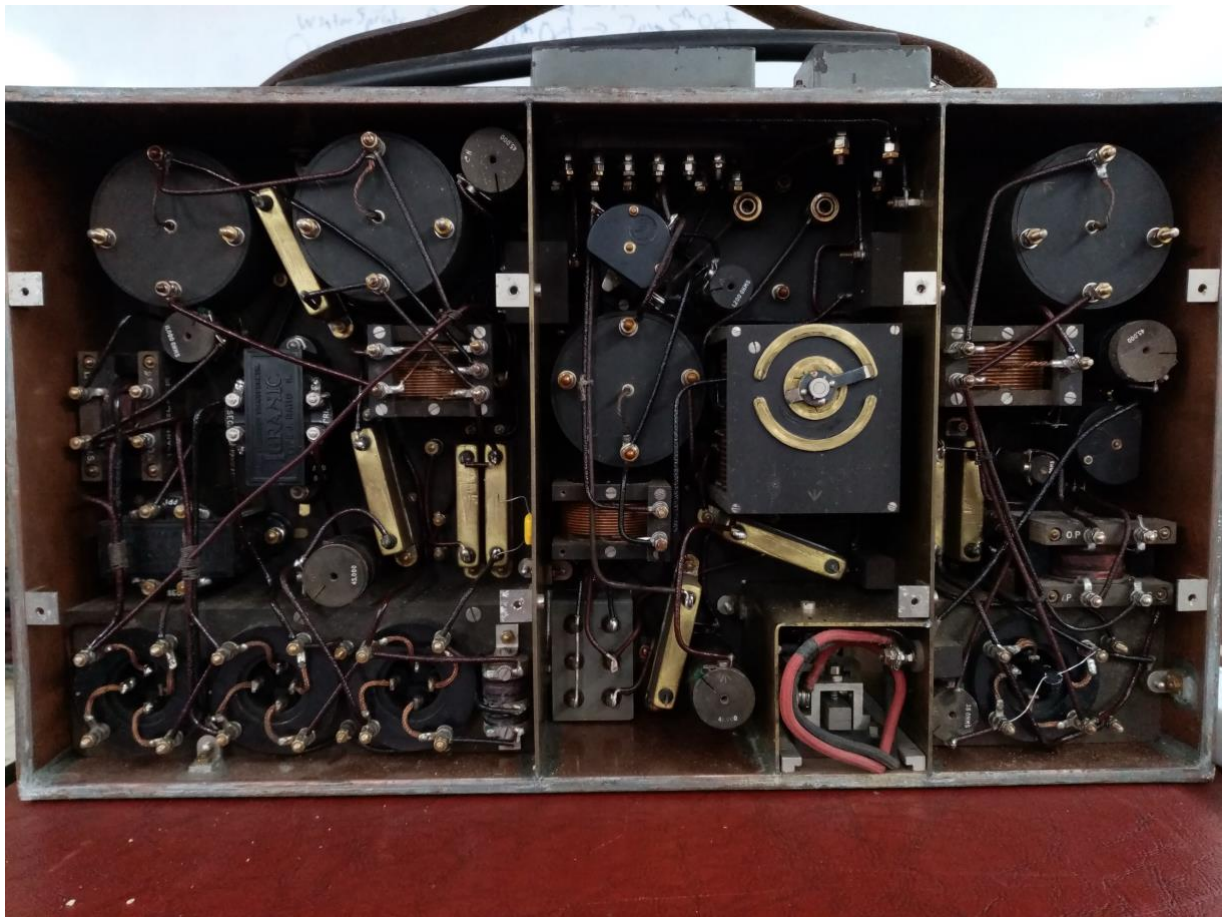
There followed a discussion on the efficacy of Counterpoise wires and their effect on directionality of the broadcast signal. ...followed by Supper. **ZL3CATH**



Aidan ZL1APB extolling the virtues vintage radios.



Incredibly Rare- the WS. No.1 set



Inside the amazingly well constructed WS. No.1

Free Amateur Radio Buy, Sell and Wanted website-

See "ZL Ham Ads" at- <https://ZLham.net.nz>

Recently listed items for sale include a BC211 frequency meter, a genuine No. 19 set linear amplifier, an RCA Type 77 receiver, dynamotor, and many other vintage items.

"The Machine", the FAMOUS MPRG Blog is found at- <https://MPRG.zlham.net.nz>



The **TK11** Quadband Handheld
from Quansheng - available now
(Special pricing available to MPRG members)

from **QUANSHENG**
intelec™
Integrated Electronics
<https://intelec.nz/quansheng>

Your Advertisement Could be Here!

Contact the editor if you have something you need to find a new home for.