

THE MUSE



-----OCTOBER 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.
AM Nets- Fridays ZL6AM (SPAM) net at 8.30PM, 3.850MHz, Wednesdays ZL1ZLD 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 OCTOBER 12th @ 1pm. Coffee and tea provided.



ZL4ROB testing his "CrankIR" -type multiband portable aerial. The elevated, tuned counterpoise is shown, which gives directional gain in the direction it is pointing. (See previous MUSE for the GROTA group's field tests with No. 48 WS). Elevating the counterpoise can double (3dB) the near-field signal strength compared with lying on the ground. The vertical component is a ¼ wave wire loop going over the "squid" pole, the length is adjusted with a fishing reel winder at the bottom. The vertical is held away from the pole to avoid loss in the conductive carbon pole.

From the Chair

The usual old suspects continue to turn up at Musick Point on a fairly regular basis. This brings about quite a varied range of activities on a Sunday, in particular. There are regular experiments with antennae, usually being carried out in one of the fields, repairs being made to equipment or issues being investigated so that repairs can be made. A recent repair and upgrade was undertaken by Graham, ZL1TOF, who replaced the old nixie-tube display on our RF generator with a LED display. Many thanks are owed to Graham, who took it away, made the necessary measurements (physical and electrical), designed the circuitry and built and installed the replacement unit. Testing and adjustments followed with the apparatus being returned recently. See the blog for more details as they are published.

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

When I was a young boy, many years ago, in a previous century, and another country far, far away, I was a Boy Scout, as we were called then. Once a year there is an event held all over the globe called "Jamboree On The Air" when Scouts gather around willing Amateurs and get familiar with radio communications.

In our city, Scouts were spoiled in that they had a wonderful camping ground in the bush, surrounded by granite hills (kopjies). The grounds were set aside by Cecil John Rhodes, in the Rhodes Matopos National Park and were in a wide valley with a river (usually dry) to one side.

Usually on JOTA weekend, groups of Scouts from up to a dozen Scout Groups would arrive and set up camp on a late Friday afternoon and leave on a Sunday afternoon. I think that I attended about five or six weekends before I was "aged" out of Scouts. It was a great weekend and a few of us would have our gear packed and ready for us to arrive home from school. Our school days ended at 1pm, so we would grab a quick lunch, change clothes and meet at a pre-arranged spot before we cycled the 25km to "Gordon Park", our campgrounds.

We were usually the first to get there, as other groups usually came by car/van with parents after they returned from work. We would usually help with the assembly of the five band cubical quad used for most contacts. This was on a mast about 15m high and had a human rotator. Yes, when a change was required, two bigger Scouts were sent out to make the necessary change.

What do you get when you cross a joke with a rhetorical question?

Due to our location in Central Africa, JOTA started officially at 2am on Saturday morning (midnight UTC), and we had our Hams tuned up and ready well before midnight, and making contacts anyway. There was no competitive intention to JOTA, the object being to expose boys to radio, so we were there and roaring to go. With so many groups in camp, a roster system was in place, but most groups elected to sleep through the night. This meant that I could be there all night with a few others, and always took advantage of this opportunity. Often, when we made contact with a DX JOTA station, Doug, ZE1JBY, would hand it over to me to have a few words. Our official callsign was ZE1GPS (Gordon Park Scouts). This didn't influence my wish to be an amateur at all, yeah right. It just took me forty odd years to get there.

'I' before 'E' except after 'C' is disproved by science.

JOTA, this year is on the weekend of 18th and 19th October. We have been in touch with the local Scout group, and will most likely have a visit or visits from them over the weekend. We are waiting for things to be firmed up on their plans. If this comes off, we are going to need a few 'volunteers' to be there and help during their visit.

Einstein, Newton and Pascal are playing hide and seek. It's Einstein's turn to count so he covers his eyes and starts counting... Pascal runs off to hide but Newton moves a few steps, turns around and draws a one metre by one metre square on the ground in front of Einstein and steps into the middle of it. Einstein reaches ten and uncovers his eyes. He sees Newton immediately and exclaims: "Newton! I found you! You're it!"
Newton smiles and says: "You didn't find me. You found a Newton over a square metre. You found Pascal!"

That's it for now, until next month:

73, and call CQ

David, ZL1DRV

Musick Point News-

New Constitution- It appears that the new constitution has been accepted by the registrar of incorporated societies, and we are once again an incorporated society!

NZART 100 years Conference 2026- The club's role in providing visits after the conference appears to be accepted, they will probably only be on the Monday (the actual King's birthday holiday). So we will need a few volunteers to staff the station to do the conducted tours, and also possibly to provide some transport. Waipuna lodge is 12 Km from the station and it will be a holiday Monday, so traffic should hopefully not be a problem. We anticipate maybe 15 visitors at a time maximum, taking 7 around the station and the others can explore the outside surroundings before going in.

There is a display planned for the Sunday and historical items such as ZC1's and the like are anticipated for some of it. There will be a GROTA presentation (as a replacement for a SPAM AGM!).

There will also be displays from other groups like SOTA and POTA. AREC and commercial displays are also anticipated. We will need more volunteers to help run these displays.

Details are being worked on now and regular zoom/teams meetings are happening.

Green Radios On The Air- September report from Kelvin ZL3KB-

A social 'get together' was held at Spencer Park in Christchurch on 21st September, organised by Greg ZL3GUD as a social event for all local hams. Of course, the Green radio team had to make their presence known, so Peter ZL3LTP, Aidan ZL3APB and myself took along some GROTA sets for show, tell and operate. Peter had his ZC1 and WS48, Aidan was up for a challenge with his WS38 and I took my WS58 because I had a sore back and wanted a light set! Once we all found each other, geographically and in frequency, we had some good contacts across the park, and maybe introduced some new converts the Green Radios!

The September field trial was aimed at 'Getting over the hill with surface wave' Further to our surface wave trial last year of a 1.5km path over Mount Cavendish in Christchurch, our September trial aimed to extend the experiment with longer linear distance but similar height gain. Of course we could unknowingly be using NVIS, but our vertical rod antennas should minimize that (?).

While Bruce ZL3TFM (WS48), and Ray ZL3RAM (WS48 and ZC1) setup on top of the summit road, Des ZL3AK (WS48) operated from Pony Point near Rapaki, Aidan ZL3APB (WS62) was at Bowenvale track base and me (WS48) at Gondola base. Result? The 3.2km hill path between me and Des was "good to marginal" phone copy, whereas the 4.2km hill path between Des and Aidan was "marginal to nonexistent". However, Aidan had some problems with his WS62 set, so maybe we need to try again when all things are equal. So, we start to conclude when you have a 400m high lump of rock in the way, the limiting range is less than half of the flat ground distance. Then again, the hills are very poor ground, just a thin scraping of soil over rock. Our Wellington chapter, Hugh ZL2ASB (WS48) was listening on the beach at Tarakena Bay Wellington, and heard some of our morse, so we plan for a separate Sea Path surface wave trial when the weather improves.

Having entered this trial into our log, I notice this was the 102nd trial we have done, and also noticed we now have 19 working WS48 sets in the GROTA group!



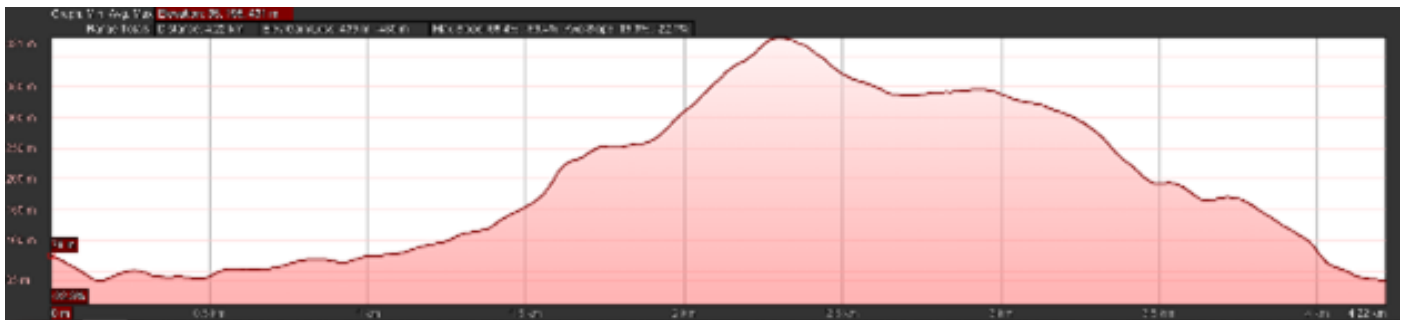
Bruce ZL3TFM's WS.48 at Mt Vernon



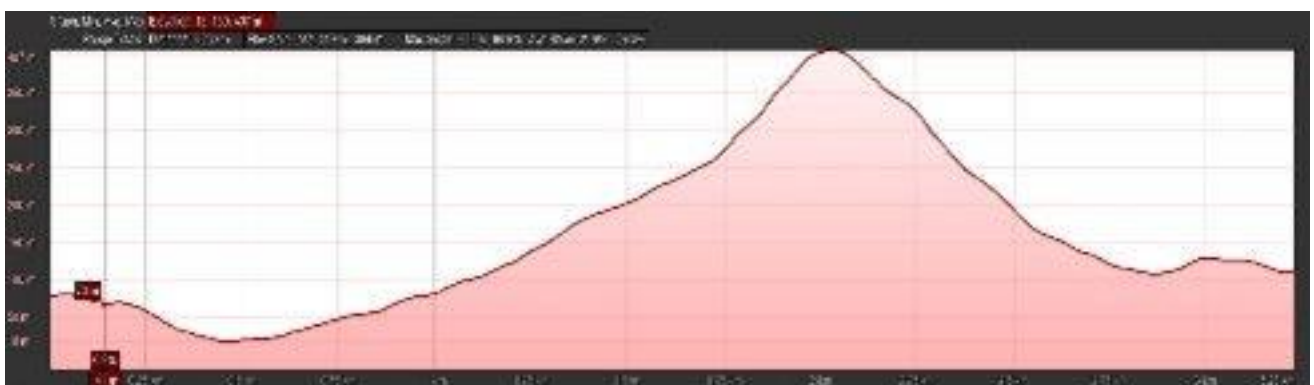
Aidan ZL3APB's WS.62 set up on the Bowenvale track.



Hugh ZL2ASB WS.48 at Tarakena Bay on the Wellington coast



Profile- Rapaki to Bowenvale Base Height 432 Mt, distance 4.2 Km.



Profile- Rapaki to Gondola Base. Height 407Mt, distance 3.2Km.



Aidan at Spencer Park- ever hopeful with the WS.38..



Kelvin ZL3KB and WS.58 at Spencer Park



Spencer Park- Peter with ZC1, Aidan and Kelvin



Kelvin and WS.58 at Spencer park



Kelvin at Gondola Base with WS.48

Free Amateur Radio Buy, Sell and Wanted website-

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

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



Ferrite & Iron Powder
cores available at:
intelec.nz/passives

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the Musick Point Radio Group
September 14th, 2025** Commenced at 1301.

Present- ZL1DL, ZL1DRV, ZL1MPU, ZL1MRT, ZL1EC, ZL1OJ, ZL1TOF, ZL2DSG, ZL2MOH, ZL3CK, ZL4ROB.

Apologies- Nil

Minutes of August 2025 G.M.

Accept as distributed-

Moved-ZL2MOH. Seconded-ZL1TOF.

Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising- Nil

Finance- ZL1DL-

Financial Statement for July as attached.

Accept financial statement -

Moved-ZL1DRV Seconded-ZL1TOF.

Carried, unanimously.

Correspondence-

From Debby (NZART) confirming that the amended version of our new constitution has been reviewed and accepted by Council.

General Business-

Jaguar club visit- This has been approved by Spark and confirmed to ZL3CK to be on Sunday 22 Feb with about 25 members.

2.Liability Insurance has been paid.

3.JOTA request-ZL1DL to follow up the club that is interested as nothing heard back.

AREC activity-

ZL4ROB- Batteries- in progress. Planned AREC exercise in November- preparation underway. Last weekend AF net ZL1DL at Crawford park, ZL4ROB and ZL3CK also participating portable.

New Constitution with amendments as per last month's minutes was circulated and the paper original copy was formally signed and sealed by the 3 officers. To be submitted to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies online.

Meeting concluded at 1320.

Minutes taken by ZL3CK.