

THE MUSE



-----NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 9th @ 1pm. Coffee and tea provided.



Musick Memorial Radio Station (ZLD) in 1943.

From the Chair

There has been a lot of activity at the club, recently, with things being moved around and others removed to more suitable storage places. Harry ZL1BK has been 'playing' with our new batteries and the circuits that they feed, for emergency power, workstation auxiliary lighting and transceiver and USB power for 'whatever'. Dave ZL1DL procured a new time-switch to replace the defective one that was unable to maintain correct time, which resulted in a few dark Friday nights, outside when we arrived. With help from Maurice, our 'tame' electrician, we located, the correct fuse with lots of trial and error, and set about getting the old one out and the new one in. Now we should not have to use the override switch at all in future. Thanks to Harry, Dave and Maurice for having all this fun. The place is slowly beginning to 'work' and look better with all the efforts of everyone involved in the big tidy up.

My wife just turned to me and said: "I was talking to you and you yawned six times, am I boring you?"
I said: "Those were not yawns, those were six unsuccessful attempts to speak."

With Dave and Harry also having so much fun flying kits, lately, I was inspired to pull out my old hexagonal kite, only to find that the bits of pipe into which the carbon fibre struts plug, were 'crispy' and unsuitable for use. I am not sure what they were made of but felt rubbery but now hard and brittle. Off to the shops I went and found some 5mm irrigation or fish-tank tubing which I then attached in all the right places. Over a period of three days, I searched all sorts of places, knowing that I had seen the spool of line recently, but it was hiding. I went to Musick Point on Sunday without the kite as a result, only to return home and have my wife ask me to get something out of the garage. I walked into the garage and the first thing I saw was the spool in the shelves I had checked several times. I took the spool and the article that I had retrieved for my wife and when she saw the spool, she told me where I had found it. Note that she had also checked in the garage a few times without finding it.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people sound bright – until you hear them speak.

Last month, I devoted my whole column(?) to Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) with an expectation that we might have a few interested Scouts visit us over the JOTA weekend to experience Amateur Radio and perhaps talk to other Scouts in far distant, or not so distant, places. Unfortunately, that did not happen, as the leadership were unable to get anything organised in time. Hopefully, they will be a bit more organised next year. We would welcome showing off our club and the radio gear, not to mention the wonderful history of the building and the reason for the name "Musick Memorial Radio Station".

If ignorance is bliss, then there should be more happy people.

To finish, I wish to, again mention the NZART 100th Year (Centenary) Convention being held right here in Auckland at the Waipuna Conference Centre over King's Birthday weekend 2026.

The organising committee are working towards having a wonderful weekend of celebrations, activities and, of course a slap-up celebration dinner. We are expecting to host visits to MPRG over the weekend and expect there to be quite a bit of interest in the building and what we have here to offer in terms of equipment, our museum collection and our activities. Please make a note of it. I hope our club will be able to make a good showing at the Convention. We will not need to worry about the expense of travel or accommodation as it is in our back yard.

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: H I J K L M N O

Teacher: No that's wrong.

Donald: But yesterday you said that it is H to O.

That's it for now, until next month:

73, and call CQ

David, ZL1DRV

Musick Point News-

Congratulations to our two new Licensed Radio amateurs Alex ZL3XJ and Grant ZL1KGD. They recently passed the exam at the station and are well on the way to obtaining their 50 calls. They are already regulars on the ZL1ZLD Tuesday net, well done gentlemen.



It is understood that **Mark ZL1MRT** was the instigator of a rearrangement in the meeting room the other day. "Lets move the desk around" he said. "Why don't we move the old marine radio cabinet to where it belongs in the museum room?". One thing led to another, and very soon they were all tearing up the floor panels off the cable trenches to rewire the 12V system as well.



The new 120AH batteries have arrived and are now in service. They will increase the capacity of the 12V “mains” supply throughout the station. **Harry ZL1BK, Mark ZL1MRT Ed ZL1EC and Dave ZL1DL** (among others) have investigated the current carrying capacity of the old existing 12V system. There was about a 1 Volt drop when the old Kenwood transceiver was turned on so improvements were indicated.



After much huffing and puffing the marine set was dismantled and carried downstairs to be reassembled in the museum room. It looks quite good there and has replaced a not-very-exciting looking transceiver which now resides in the “Manager’s Office” along with all the other museum overflow items.



Mission accomplished! **ZL1EC** and **ZL1DRV** recovering after their exertions.

NZART 100 years Conference 2026-

Planning continues apace with the provisional program, with historical items given special emphasis. **Craig ZL3TLF**, the NZART historian, has written a book on the 100 years of NZART and this will be provided as part of your registration for the conference. **ZL3CK** is to be responsible for coordinating the displays at the venue (Waipuna Lodge). So if you want publicity at the conference, here's your chance!

Green Radios On The Air- Getting the WS 48 set going



Getting the No.48 WS On the Air.

We have had many people ask how the Green Radios On The Air group get these old radios working 'on the air'. I will first cover the WS48 manpack radio, a low power (300mW) portable radio covering 6 – 9MHz on AM and CW.

After eighty years most WS48 sets are in remarkable condition, and need very few component replacements. This reflects the "land of plenty" (US) where it was made, compared to its poor British cousin the WS18. The transformers and iron core chokes sometimes fail, but we are now setup to rewind those.

The battery

Of course, these radios need a power source, so we have developed a battery pack that is the same size as the original, with the same power socket. The pack supplies 3V for filaments, -12V for PTT relay and 150V HT. The filaments-supply is derived from a 3.8V lithium cell through a current sensor dropping 0.7V, but more of that later. The +150V HT is generated from a 12V lithium battery switching MOSFETs at 100Hz into a backwards mains transformer and rectifier. The low frequency switching and steel core transformer suppresses the harmonics in the HF band, which is essential for our maximum range, minimum signal trials. The -12V is supplied directly from the 12V lithium battery, which in the case of the WS48 set can be either polarity, but for the other sets using this battery (WS18, WS68, WS46) it must be negative. As this battery is hidden away inside the set, it has the feature of not needing a power switch. An internal current sensor on the filament supply detects the radio being turned on and automatically turns the HT generator on. Another feature is, unlike modern regulated switch mode inverters, the HT output voltage reflects the state of charge of its 12V supply. This allows the user to see the state of the battery using the radio set test meter.

Getting on frequency

In their wartime use the set operators would align their transmit frequency (net) to a control station, but we are too disorganized for that! Sometimes they could net their transmitters to a local frequency meter (BC211) so we developed a crystal calibrator that emits a low signal on 3579kHz and we net to its 2nd harmonic of 7158kHz. We call this unit the "Grotette" box, as the big brother variable frequency version "GROTA box" was too expensive for mass pro.

Accessories

Many sets are now without their accessories. The twelve 1' section **antenna** can be made from ¼" aluminium tube; brass tube can also be used but it costs more and is a bit too bendy. The **microphone** is easily substituted with a No8NZ ZC1 carbon microphone, but the PL068 plug is a special 0.206" dia and can be bought from Amazon, and note the PTT is on the tip! The WS48 can take low Z (100ohm) **headphones** (short plug) or Hi Z type (standard long plug). Standard ZC1 type headphones can be used as long as they have the No9 plug with the collar.

If anyone is interested to get their WS48 set going, we hope to have more tune up info available soon. We have some batteries and Grotette kits available, just email me for more info.



WS 48 Battery box



"Grottete" Frequency standard calibration unit

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>



H Night 2025

This year's "H Night" contest will be on Monday, December 8th and will follow the same rules as last year.

The contest marks the return to the air of amateurs after WW2, which was on December 8th 1945. It is also the (NZ) anniversary of the 1941 Pearl Harbour attack, and commemorates all the amateurs who served, and especially those who gave their lives for our freedom during WW2.

There are 5 x 1/2 hour sessions, starting at 7.30PM NZDT and concluding at 10PM. All stations are to use AM mode on 80 meters, points are awarded depending on the equipment used by the station you contact.

There is also an SWL section, with points awarded according to the type of receiver used.

The contest was reactivated a few years ago by Rob ZL2IW who is the coordinator. Rob will use the special call sign ZL6H for the evening. Extra points are awarded for contacts with ZL6H, and for vintage (valve) stations.

The rules are to be found on the NZART website under "contests"- look for "H night contest". See also "SPAM"- the Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation- under "activities". The SPAM section of the "MUSE" (Musick Point NZART Branch 86) newsletter can be found at- <https://museletters.zlham.net.nz/> Information about the AM Nets is also to be found here.

Drag out those old rigs- but if you don't have a vintage, no problem, points are awarded for moderns too. Have a look at your modern 'black box' to see where the "AM" switch is...you'll be surprised how well the latest rigs work on AM.

The most important thing is- have fun on the air!

"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 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!

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Musick Point Radio Group October 12th, 2025 Commenced at 1302.

Present- ZL1DL, ZL1DRV, ZL1MRT, ZL1EC, ZL1NZZL1OJ, ZL1TOF, ZL2MOH, ZL3CK, ZL4ROB.

Apologies-ZL1OJ

Minutes of September 2025 G.M.-

Accept as distributed-

Moved-ZL2MOH. Seconded-ZL1TOF.

Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising- Nil

Finance- ZL1DL-

Financial Statement for July attached.

Noted Insurance paid, increased since last year “admin charge”, data cost (Spark) increased again also.

Accept financial statement as presented -

Moved-ZL4ROB Seconded-ZL1MRT.

Carried, unanimously.

Correspondence-

Registrar of Inc. Soc- discussion re. ‘are we actually re-registered or not’ – Sec to email to check. (This has been done and received reply confirming we are indeed correctly re registered under the new rules.)

Scouts/JOTA- -ZL1DL- not coming as they haven’t got organised this year.

General Business-

AREC activity- ZL4ROB-

Re VARA- our station is ok with VARA. Checked last week.

“H” Night coming up, will be on Monday December 8th this year.

100Y Centenary NZART Conference- progress of organizing ctte discussed.

Meeting concluded at 1326.

Minutes taken by ZL3CK.