

-----THE MUSE-----

-----For DECEMBER 2023-----

-----“H” Night coming up on FRIDAY DECEMBER 8th. Details attached! -----

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

Musick Point 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 Remote Receiver - <http://spamnz.zapto.org:8901/>

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

SPAM A.M. (ZL6AM or ZL1ZLD) Nets- Mondays 11.30AM, some Wednesdays 11.30 AM, Fridays 8.30PM ,
on 3.850MHz. A.M. Calling frequencies- 3.850MHZ, 7.125 MHz

Editor- Martyn, ZL3CK.

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

NEXT MEETING- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th BBQ from 11am. BBQ, coffee and tea provided!

Reminder- “H” Night coming up- put it in your diary- FRIDAY December 8th 2023.



Lowering the towers at ZLD, 1993. The end of an era.

Photo from- Neil ZL1NZ, See more at - maritimeradio.org

From the Chair

If you have ever seen videos or heard about Geochron World Clock, you will know what a terrific utility it is, and you might also know that it costs considerably more than an arm and a leg. Whilst it is very good, it does lack a few features that could be considered important to the amateur radio operator. A couple of years ago, I discovered "Simon's World Map (Google it) which cost the time it takes to download it and set it up to your liking. In essence, it does what Geochron does and is quite interesting to play with.

Just this week, I came across a video, where else but YouTube, of course. It shows off "HAMClock" for free. HamClock is a kiosk-style application that provides real-time space weather, radio propagation models, operating events, and other information particularly useful to the radio amateur. Oh yes, it is also free. I think that it looks a lot like the kind of thing that I have already mentioned earlier, however, it does or can do many radio specific things that make it quite desirable to the serious amateur.

A bit of an issue is that it has been written for Linux BUT: it does run quite successfully in WSL, which is the **Windows Sub-system for Linux**. If you feel put off by this, have a look at the video first and maybe feel encouraged to give it a try. The video is at: <https://youtu.be/nxhw-HNIIYo?si=FSTB5tzz7QZOUbQw>, and you can find out more about and download HamClock here: <https://www.clearskyinstitute.com/ham>. If that appeals you and you are feeling adventurous, you can find out more and download/install WSL from: <https://w4cae.com/wait-a-hamming-minute-hamclock-and-windows/> Enjoy!

Why do people use a big word when a diminutive linguistic expression will satisfactorily accomplish the task admirably?

Not much has happened at the station since the last Museletter. Last Sunday we managed to hold our Monthly General Meeting, albeit a bit late, when a latecomer made up our quorum. The good news is that our bank balance is satisfactory. Dave, ZL1DL and Martyn, ZL3CK had some equipment on a table at the Western Suburbs sale on the Saturday. They managed to sell a couple of items and had a good morning out.

My boss asked me why I only ever get sick on workdays. I explained to him that I had a weekend immune system.

A while ago, on a quite Sunday afternoon, Dave and I went in search of another "project" to check and repair. Dave spotted a Collins receiver which, I believe is or was a sought after piece of equipment owing to its quality. When we set about checking it, we had pink smoke and a mini-blowtorch effect that emanated from a tiny tantalum capacitor. A few weeks later, after Dave had obtained a replacement, we soldered it in and then slowly wound up the voltage input until a few more leaked more smoke. The project was shelved for a while until Dave recently had another go at it and discovered arcing burns on a couple of larger capacitors in the power supply. Either he gives up, which would be a shame, or he keeps going at it until the receiver works reliably or he has replaced all the capacitors, and it then works reliably. We'll see.

The World Tongue Twister champion has been arrested. I'm sure he'll be getting a very tough sentence.

Don't forget the BBQ on December 10th! See you there.

Until next month:

73, and call CQ
David, ZL1DRV

"H" NIGHT CONTEST, DECEMBER 8- RULES-

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, E.G. use a ZC1 for 15 minutes then change to a modern radio for 15 minutes.

There will be a special event station **ZL6H**, first contact is worth 5 points.

Transmitting Categories- Vintage - radios of all valve, in the signal path. Hybrid - Radios with some valves, at least in the final 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, or equal to 5 watts carrier power.

Exchange a signal report and type of equipment you use, E.G. '59 ZC1'. 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 (first time worked only : then claim points as for type of station ZL6H is... for example 1 point for a modern 6H)

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 Category multiplier:

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 rob.zl2iw@gmail.com with a summary of your equipment used and category you wish to be in.

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

MPRG News-

BBQ! Next Meeting is our Annual Barbeque! Mark ZL2MOH has once again volunteered to be the chef and he'll ensure you will be well fed come rain or shine. Come along for a fun Sunday's social meeting! Note- An RSVP to Martyn (Editor) would be appreciated in the interests of having enough-or too much food!

Visit from Vintage Car club-

By kind permission of Spark, the recent visit from the Auckland Veteran and Vintage Car Club motorcycle group was very well attended. The Auckland branch of the NZ Vintage car club is the largest in the country with about 600 members, of whom at least 100 are classic, vintage and veteran motorcycle enthusiasts. Veteran is pre-1919, Vintage is pre-1930, and Classic is any vehicle over 30 years old. The "Classic" groupings include pre-war classics, postwar classics, pre-1960, etc., you get the idea, so as the years roll by, more classes are added. Yes- your Mini and 120Y are eligible to be VCC vehicles. With 'modern motoring conditions' (read impatient/inconsiderate drivers) there are now few true veterans on the road, and sadly many NZ veteran vehicles have been sold overseas to sit unused in a museum somewhere collecting dust and monetary value.. but here we like to use them, regardless of the difficulty. So they have a very similar philosophy to the Musick Point Radio Group-'use it or lose it'..

Below is the report from Martin Spicer, AVVCC Club President reproduced here by his kind permission.

Riley (Martin's grandson) was obviously interested in the morse code sounder in the front hall, he soon tapped out his name with a little help and I hope we have fired his interest in old radios!

OCTOBER MOTORCYCLE RUN TO MUSICK POINT

Sunday morning dawned sunny but breezy, but it was a sad morning for we had just watched the All Blacks loose to South Africa in the world cup by one point.

Anyway, grandson Riley and I set of from Pokeno and headed up to the Jolly Farmer Drury for the start of the October motorcycle run. We arrived just after 10.30am, assembled were 10 motorcycles, 5 club cars and 5 modern cars. We had a moment in silence in respect for the AB's. I then told the usual joke to brighten things up. We then set of, I and Riley led the way in the car followed by the bikes. We travelled down Sutton road, Opaheka, Settlement, Dominion, Papakura / Clevedon, West road, Brookby, Whitford Park, Picton Street passing through the Howick shops, Ridge road, Bleak House, Macleans road, Lains road and onto The Parade with the Tamaki river on our left, we then turned left onto Musick Point road which took us through the middle of the Howick golf course, and at the end of the road we came to the Musick Point Memorial Radio Station. One of the Musick Point radio group was there to let us into the driveway up to the station. Once we had all arrived, Auckland branch member Martyn Seay who is part of the radio group welcomed us into the building.

Martyn then told us the history of the building, which was built as a memorial to American Captain Edwin C Musick, for his flight in the Pan American Sikorsky flying boat ' Samoan Clipper' in 1937 on its inaugural flight across the Pacific. Sadly in 1938 the plane exploded in mid air off Pago Pago with the loss of all on board.

Martyn then showed us around the building.

In 1938 the building of the Musick Point memorial station commences.

1942, the building was officially opened by prime minister Peter Fraser, it was utilised as a major communications centre for messages from the Pacific war Theatre during WW2, it was run by the Americans. After the war New Zealand took it back for shipping and aircraft communications.

In 1966 all aircraft long range communications was transferred to the newly opened Auckland International airport.

In 1993 all marine services from Musick Point was discontinued, and the building was mothballed by the owners Telecom, (Previously known as The NZ Post Office)

1999, the Suburban Amateur Radio Club, later renamed Musick Point Radio Group, were granted a lease for \$1 a year, by now owners 'Spark'.

2002, US Ambassador Charles Swindell unveils plaque rededicating the memorial to Captain Edwin C Musick, in the presence of Musick's granddaughter and family.

The building is now recognised as a significant historic place with a plaque in the entrance way.

I thanked Martyn and his radio group for letting us see and hear all about The Musick Point Memorial Radio Station.

Martin Spicer





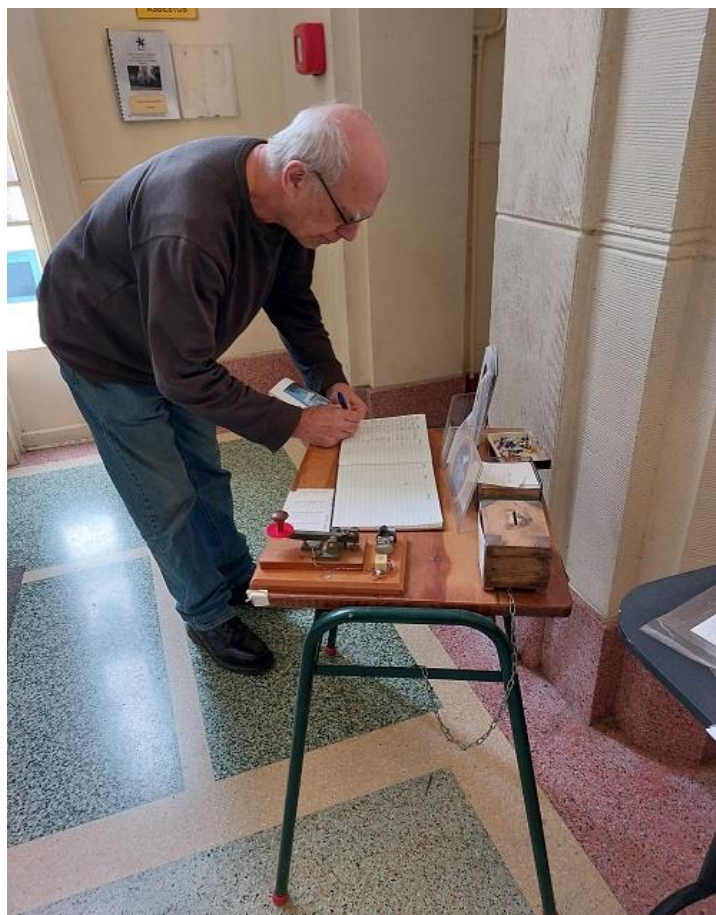
Some of the visitors. That's Riley on the steps far right.



Classic 2, 3, and 4 wheeled vehicles in the car park.



The assembled group hearing about the story of the building, and Auckland Radio ZLD.



Paul Downey (once a Radio Technician) writing in the visitor's book.

Clock Fault

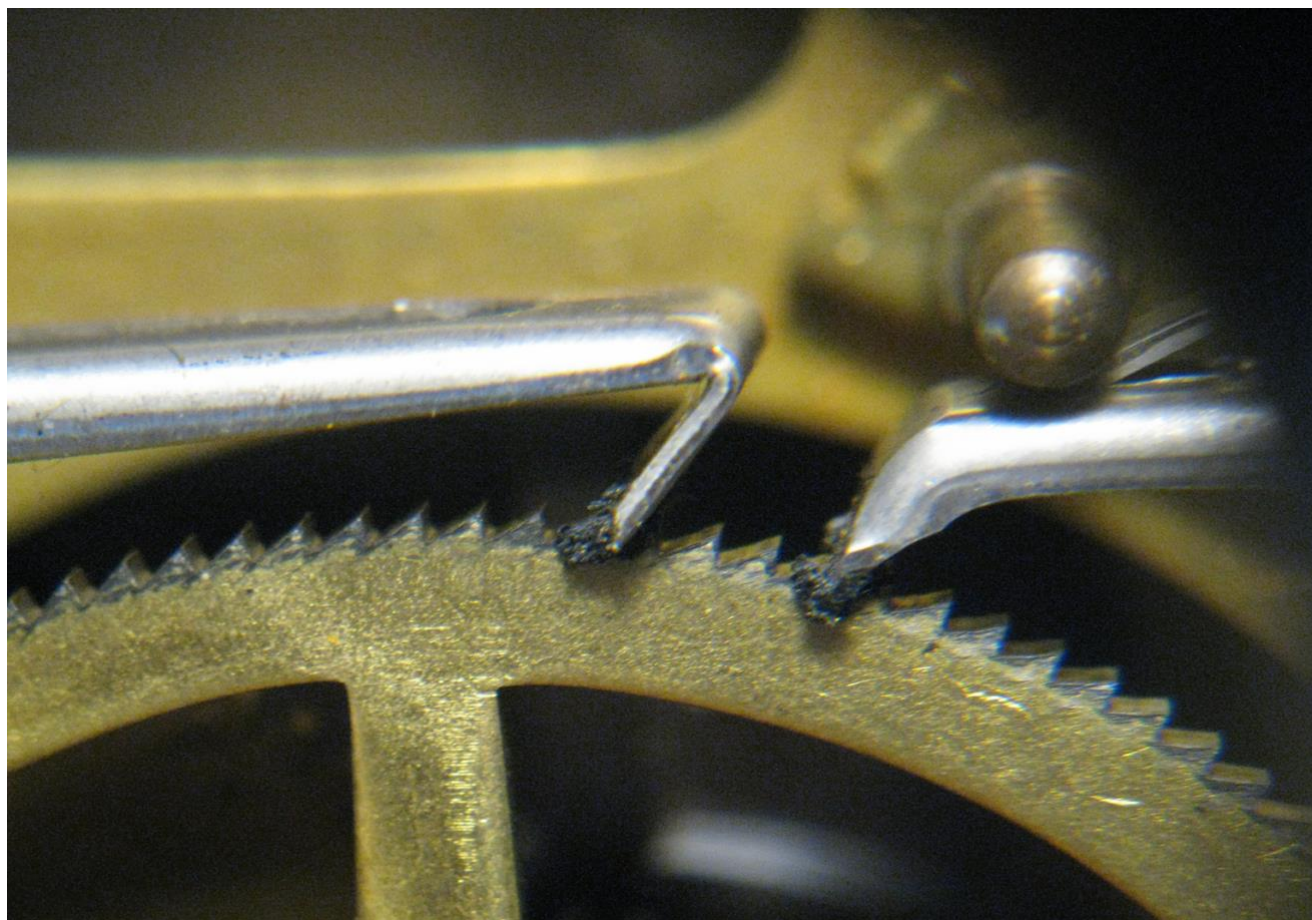
Graham ZL1TOF

Last September the clock was advanced and set for summer time. All the dials were checked that they showed the correct time. The battery voltage remained the same at 12.6 volts. The following Sunday I noticed the meeting room dial was 5 ½ minutes late. I checked the other dials, all on time. I took the meeting room dial out of service and found a label that Alan, ZL1AUW, had serviced it in September 2009.

Over the summer of 2021-22 I serviced the Smiths dial in the clock case and the Gents Dial in the Transmitter room. I spent some time reading through the manuals to remind myself of what was required. In the Gents Service manual I found two lines that said to oil the pivots with light clock oil and leave the click, pawl and 120 tooth ratchet wheel clean and dry. The Synchronome Maintenance and Set-up had a couple of lines that said much the same. The minute hand was touching the glass, so, I made a small adjustment there. I cleaned the bezel and glass, but, found the paint on the dial face delicate when I tried to clean off a smudge. Later I found the back flexed and when hung on the hook the hand alignment was a little different. In the final position the minute hand was just clear of the dial face.

Why had it lost 11 steps? In the photo you can see a big build up of dirt on the back-stop click (left) and pawl (right). The back stop is held down by gravity. The solenoid moves the pawl to the right and at the end of the power pulse the pawl is returned by a spring to advance the hands. Dirt holds the backstop up away from the teeth and allows the ratchet wheel to move when the solenoid is energised. Lost the pulse, now late. The dirt appeared to be gritty and slightly sticky, old oil, who knows.

I checked in the clock log books that Alan had left and found where he serviced the dials. He just said he cleaned and lubricated them.



Incandescent Lamps

Graham ZL1TOF

They have been about for a while. I read in the latest ElectroLink that the U.S. has removed the incandescent lamp from legal sale as of 1st August. The EU have removed most old forms lighting from sale, including fluorescent tubes and halogen lamps. That means less bulbs being made, lower quality and higher prices. There were almost no incandescent lamps in the light bulb section of a local hardware store when I visited recently.

I was looking at the 1938 Lamphouse Annual and saw the price of standard GLS lamps. There were more expensive ones like the "daylight" with a blue coating and carbon filament lamps. Using the RBNZ Inflation calculator I find the cost of these lamps in today's money would be as below. It makes LED bulbs look not so expensive.

Size	40 W	60 W	75 W	100 W	150 W	200 W
Price L/s/d	1/11	2/-	2/11	4/-	6/6	10/6
Today \$	\$11.97	\$12.49	\$18.22	\$24.99	\$40.60	\$65.59

OSRAM
Gas-filled
PEARL

Just like the lamp above except that the inside of the glass is frosted just sufficiently to keep sharp light beams from the eyes, without impairing the efficiency of the light. Ideal for "close work" in offices or where work under artificial light is constant.



Cat. No. Each

EL215—40 w.	1/11
EL216—60 w.	2/-
EL217—75 w.	2/11
EL218—100 w.	4/-
EL219—150 w.	6/6
EL220—200 w.	10/6

Thanks Graham for both these articles- apologies- I forgot to put them in last month's "Muse" ..

GROTA News-November Grota day.

Everyone gets busy, especially this time of year, so we had quite a small turnout for the November field trial. As low-key affair, there were just three stations setup in the Port Hills. I was on Mt Pleasant as I realised I had not activated that SOTA summit this year. Mike and Peter setup the 48 set at Sugarloaf carpark, about 6km away from me. Noel ZL40W, with his 48 set setup near Cass peak a further 6km away.

These distances sound like a stretch for a 48 set, but I had almost line of sight to Noel across the harbour. Mike ZL3MWD and Peter ZL3AI had trouble with the 48 set not behaving. It is fixed now, but they had to revert to the ZC1 and full mast, which attracted plenty of interest from passing tourists and locals, even an ex-Signals army guy. It wasn't until a few days later we realized we had started transmitting that day at 11AM, on 11th day of the 11th month.

Communication between all stations was not a problem, and I achieved my SOTA activation, even working ZL3DRN in Arthurs Pass, over 100km away. Not bad on my 20mW EIRP, and AM to boot.

The next GROTA field trial of 2023 will be Sunday 10th December, so find that AM button and listen out on 40m, or come and join us. We will probably be up around North Canterbury. We may have a new GROTA loan set on the air, a 'Station Radio A13'. Nearly all solid state mid 60's manpack, which punches out a massive 2Watts on AM, or 10 Watts with the PA turned on. We might even be heard at Auckland's Musick Point. (Ed's. NOTE- this is MPRG's BBQ day so we will be at the station)

Till next time, 73s Kelvin ZL3KB



ZL3AI in contact with ZL3KB.



ZL3KB on Mt Pleasant

Fiinal Final From Merv ZL1SK-

An old physician, Doctor Gordon Geezer, became very bored in retirement and decided to reopen a medical clinic.

He put a sign up outside that said: "Dr. Geezer's clinic. Get your treatment for \$500 - if not cured, get back \$1,000."

Doctor Digger Young, who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000.

So he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic.

Dr Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"

Dr Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth.",

Dr Young: 'Aaagh! -- This is Gasoline!"

Dr Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

Dr Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."

Dr Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth.

Dr Young: "Oh, no you don't -- that is Gasoline!"

Dr Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500"

Dr Young (after having lost \$1000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Dr Young: "My eyesight has become weak --- I can hardly see anything!"

Dr Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so, "Here's your \$1000 back" (giving him a \$10 bill).

Dr Young: "But this is only \$10!" Dr Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."

Moral of story -- Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an "old Geezer"

Remember: Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to tick us off.

Thanks Merv, we won't be going back in to practice any time soon- Ed..

For Sale, Wanted to buy, Give Aways-

From **Herman, VK2IXV-**

I am still chasing the **Ultimate Handkey.**

Happy to exchange for a Simplex Auto bug.

If you know anybody that would be willing to part with their Ultimate hand key, please let me know.

73, **Herman VK2IXV** email- hermanusw@gmail.com

That's all for this month.

73 from ZL3CK

