

# MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP (INC.) NEWSLETTER

--NZART BRANCH 86--

-----For FEBRUARY 2023-----

-Incorporating The Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation News-

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

BRANCH 86 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) Nets- Mondays 11.30 AM, **(NOTE: CHANGED!)** Fridays 8.30PM , 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, February 12th at 1PM.**



500KHz Transmitter aerial mast at Oliver road Transmitting site- the area is now covered with houses.

More at- [www.musickpointradio.org](http://www.musickpointradio.org)

## From the Chair

We are into the new year full on, starting on New Year's Day, we had a sort of Parks On The Air in the grounds at Musick Point which was quite fun and enjoyed by the few who came along. It is a difficult day for many, what with family and all sorts of other issues – like lack of sleep and hangovers to contend with. We might try to do something like it, later in the year, in the form of a picnic/POTA day, or similar, when family commitments are less of a burden for many. For more on the day, read on.

I came upon this rabbit hole a little while ago, which many might find very interesting, although those entering might not come out of it for days or even weeks. It is a site which has set about scanning in searchable format, just about every magazine or publication to do with radio that they can lay their hands on. I don't want to exaggerate, so I dare you to go and have a look at: <https://worldradiohistory.com/> If we don't see you at the next general meeting, we might guess that you got stuck there.

For those with a bit of interest in antennas (aerials in English), Callum (DX Commander) recently put out a video on a loooong wire receive antenna that he created and then tests during the video. He is fortunate to lease a warehouse/office business space on a farm, where he also has exclusive use of a small field which he uses for testing his products. He ran the line from his feed point distribution box in the field, along the fence line as far as he could go along the adjoining wooded area. For those who can find a 160 metre straight(ish) line, or more, you might like to give it a try too. The results are definitely interesting. The link to the video is: <https://youtu.be/bkXLJ-bslns> enjoy. I wish I had the room ☺.

In other news: I hear, again from the tube, that the Government of the good old US of A is looking to reign in the HOAs (Home Owners Associations) who seem to “control” a very large proportion of the country's residential properties. Most HOAs have very strict controls over radio amateurs and their activities and: most important – their ‘antennas’, almost to the point of banning them altogether. I think that the ARRL has finally decided to do something useful for “Hams” in the US and has somehow got the ears of some pretty influential members of Congress. There is talk that great support is now obvious, amongst all parties, for a bill which will give all HOA Hams the same rights as those who are not in those “Hell Opposed to Amateurs” areas. In the USA, amateur radio is considered a service, in fact, it is called “The Amateur Radio Service” because of the great use that is made of Hams in times of trouble: tornadoes, floods, wild land fires, etc. Good luck to those ‘fortunate’ to live in a HOA. I hope it works out for them.

We haven't had a proper general meeting for many months now due to lack of a quorum, so a reminder that our next general meeting is on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm. Please come along and we will most likely have a talk after the meeting on a subject that is unknown to us but Graham has had it ready for a while. The meeting itself will not take long and, if you really cannot stay for long, you can skip the talk at the end.

We also have a few aerials/antennas that are in trouble at the moment. Dave ZL1DL and I completed repairs to the trap antenna on Sunday, and intend to erect it on Sunday coming and see if it works as it should. That will be one done and two (that I know of) still to repair.

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

I told my wife that she is painting her eyebrows too high. She looked surprised.  
My doctor said that I have the peek-a-boo virus..... He sent me straight to the ICU

## Music Point Radio Group News

On New Year's Day we held a very successful **"Portable Day"**. The station was open by 0800 and a happy group soon gathered. The new club gazebo was erected without any difficulty and served well on a perfect hot summer day. **MERV ZL1SK** although unable to be there himself, loaned us his portable 5 meter collapsible aerial pole and it worked well-once the portable dipole was extended to the correct length for 40 meters! The club should consider the purchase of something similar for more POTA activity.

Attendees included -President **David ZL1DRV**, Secretary **Dave ZL1DL**, **Simon ZL1SWW**, **Harry ZL1BK**, **Mike ZL1MJB**, **Graham ZL1TOF**, **Jim ZL1TGS** and **Martyn ZL3CK**. Needless to say 'local QRM' caused some difficulty at times especially on the ZC1! The GROTA contribution was the ZC1 (Graham ZL1TOF) working the No.18 and No.48 sets across the park!

**Jobs to be done at the Musick Point Memorial Radio Station** include rebuilding the 40 meter aerial, recommissioning the Collins 30K5, sorting out and tidying the museum, workshop and office rooms. All offers of help please apply at the station!

A recent visitor was Tony Rigden, who worked for many years in the Aviation radio field.

### **Portable day photos-**



Aerials- ZC1 (by gazebo), 10 meter vertical, 40 meter vee, and Mike's vertical on the right. The top of The Musick Point Memorial Radio Station tower visible above the trees.



Dave ZL1DL, Graham ZL1TOF and Jim ZL1TGS with ZC1 and No. 48 set



Mike ZL1MJB looking very pleased with his Racal B25 having just had a chat with Charles ZL1CNB who was portable on Motutapu Island.



Harry ZL1BK with portable 20 meter beam, DF'ing the gazebo! (or was it water divining HF style?)



Harry- Darn! Now there you are-found you at last!!!



Merv ZL1SK's portable extendable 5 meter pole set up with portable 40 meter dipole.



David ZL1DRV—"Cut it there for 40 meters!" Dave ZL1DL – "No, no- it's for 10!"

## **SPAM News-**

A successful net was held on the “new” daytime 11.30 AM net last Monday. There were 8 participants despite poor conditions. ZL1ZLD acted as net controller with **Keith ZL1AVO** (Te Atatu) **Steven ZL2UV** (New Plymouth) **Wally ZL1JLM** (Howick) **John ZL1AUB** (Hamilton) **Phil ZL1FTH** (Howick) and **Jason ZL2JDH** (Epsom) all making QSO’s but most of us assisted by one or other SDR receivers around the country.

It was interesting to compare the various different aerials we all use. Phil tried his vertical aerial and we compared it with his horizontal dipole which had more QRM on receive, but the horizontal was better on transmit to Musick Point at least. John has a folded dipole, Jason an end-fed wire, Bruce an off-centre fed dipole, and Wally, inverted Vee. The inverted Vee appeared to be the best for sky wave of the Auckland stations using similar power, going by the received signal on the Waikato SDR. Ground wave to Musick Point showed little difference between the local stations. Except of course Keith who has an enormous signal across town with his high-powered linear.

## **GROTA News from Kelvin ZL3KB**

THE latest activity for the Christchurch Green Radio Group is to ‘activate’ old WW1 and WW2 gun emplacements, pill boxes and forts, of which there are a suprisign number in the hills behind Christchurch. This new GROTA activity is to be called “COTA” for Castles On the Air. Naturally military radios of the era (48, ZC1 etc) are to be promoted! Kelvin has contributed the article below to give you a better idea of what they are up to.

In my years of tramping over the Christchurch Port Hills , I have often come across the remnants of the coastal defense system setup in WW2. These include pill boxes, guard posts and gun emplacements, and recently I have created a survey of these into a map, just for my own interest.

Following on from the successful forming of the military radio GROTA (Green radios On The Air) group, we decided to enhance the historical aspect and include these costal defenses into an social exercise, where we try to “activate” each site with a green radio. After discussing this with our BI editor Phil ZL1PSH, I decided to copy the name of the European exercise “Castles On The Air” (COTA), as these WW2 artifacts are as close as we get to “Castles”!

Recently Des ZL3AK and myself carried out a trial run with two sites, both involving some heavy work carrying our WS48 sets up long and steep hillsides. The radio contact was achieved with ease, and we also gathered a few contacts from the locals too. Some of the other sites will be more challenging, both electromagnetically and physically!

There are some rules of course; similar to a SOTA activation, such as private property permission, no vehicles, radio <10m from COTA structure, etc.

We have created a points score for each site, based on 1point/m from road and 10points/m height gain, and multipliers for AM/CW/TX power/Green versus non Green radio etc.

So, we will see how it goes. I haven’t got time to open this up to ‘the nation’, but if anyone wants to survey their own patch, I would be happy to share our thoughts on the rules.

If you have an interest in NZ WW2 history, a useful book, obtainable from the library, is Cooke, Peter (2002). Defending New Zealand: Ramparts on the Sea 1840s–1950s , and Wikipedia ‘Coastal fortifications of New Zealand’

Kelvin ZL3KB

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ZL3KB's W.S. No. 48 at the Mt Pleasant battery site.

They had a bit of a shaky start with one of the group falling into a manhole (yes, he's a man) and ending up in hospital, and another who's set gave up shortly after being hauled up to the selected pill box. However, perseverance will pay off. One thing that's certain is that vintage green radio QSO's on AM with ¼ watt to a short whip aerial will be difficult.

Perhaps a **"COTA Group North"** might consider joining in the fun, as we have many excellent sites in Auckland which would work well-and probably have easier access. Examples include the Musick Point air raid bunker, North Head, Mt Victoria, Mt Eden, Potters Park, and the old Teachers' Training School bunker to name just a few your editor is aware of.

**Wanted by Steven ZL2UV** (New Plymouth)

I am still wanting to buy a high power modulation transformer, with a view to making Big Bertha (T1509 converted to a 1KW linear by the late Eric Duffy) a dual mode amplifier, Class C as well as a linear amp. The power transformer in it looks to have plenty of current available. I think it may be a pole transformer.  
Email- [steven.prout@gmail.com](mailto:steven.prout@gmail.com)

**Wanted-**

No. 38 set Mk 1 or Mk 2 Headphones.

By Editor, ZL3CK. [martyn.seay@gmail.com](mailto:martyn.seay@gmail.com)

That's all for this month! All contributions to the newsletter are welcome.  
Best 73 to all, Martyn ZL3CK