

MUSICK POINT RADIO GROUP (INC.) NEWSLETTER

--NZART BRANCH 86--

-----For JANUARY 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.

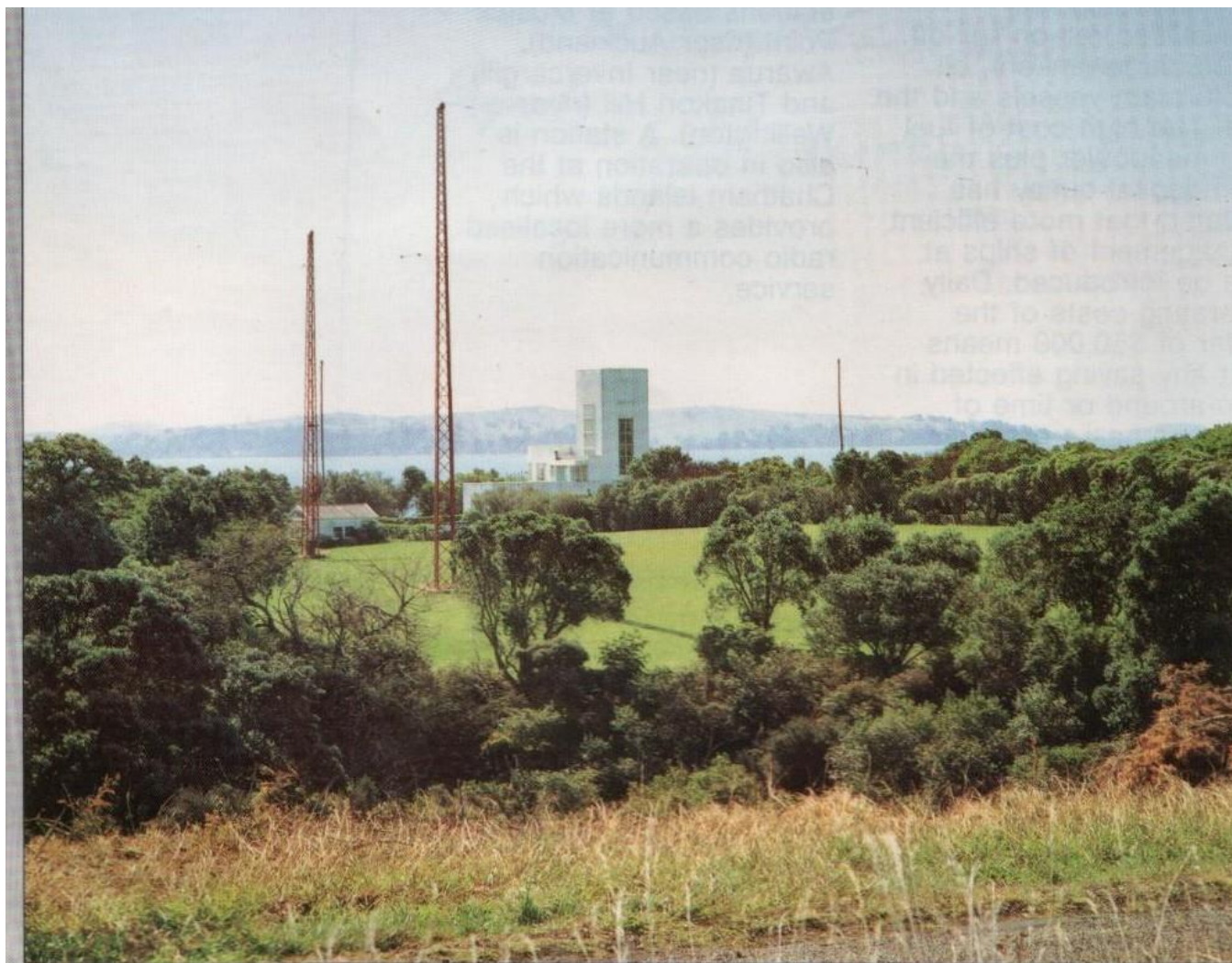
SPAM A.M. (ZL6AM) Nets- Mondays 11.30 AM, **(NOTE: CHANGED!)** Fridays 8.30PM , 3.850MHz.

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 MEETINGS- Sunday JANUARY 1st for POTA, SOTA and ? GROTA in the Musick Point reserve
Sunday JANUARY 8th for the MPRG monthly meeting.**



The Musick Point Radio Station in the 1970's as seen from the road. Nowadays you can see only trees and the tops of the tower and beams.

-From the Musick Point Archives of ZL1BFB (SK)

More at- www.musickpointradio.org

From the Chair

My last column dealt with Christmas and a few things leading up to that, but last week, I watched a great little video by Dave Casler, KE0OG on the subject of Christmas, and thought that it would be a good idea to share it as we get very close to the day. The link is: <https://youtu.be/PdiCh2ZJN0Y>

Enjoy it, I think it is a reminder of what this time of year is all really about.

Martyn wanted to get the newsletter out early this time so that he can promote activities in the period shortly after Christmas, so here it is – see you next month 😊 No, I can't do that, I have to bore you with a bit more, yet.

Our December 'General Meeting' brought a fair number who had hoped to barbeque a bit of meat and share in a meal together. The weather gods had other ideas of course, but we had them flummoxed when we fired up the old stove in the kitchen. A little earlier, we had Shawn sit his exam, and pass, so he is now Shawn, ZL1STK. Congratulations mate.

After a bit of a meal and chat, we sprung a General Meeting, for real, on the assembly. The last time we had a quorum was in August. There was no pressing business to attend to, but we wished to approve two new members while we had a quorum assembled, just. This goal which was achieved and we now do have two new members. They are David, ZL2DSG and the aforementioned Shawn, ZL1STK. Welcome to the club guys.

That brings us to the weekend before Christmas when I had intended to turn up on Sunday as usual, but started a bit of a cold on Thursday which worsened on Friday, and kept me lying low for the whole weekend. So, it is going to be a couple of weeks before I will be able to get there because of family commitments, and the very real fear of death from she who will be obeyed 😊

So, once again, my best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Drink but be wise about it, and drive carefully (not after drinking). I'll keep you filled in next month.

Until next month:

73, and call CQ

David, ZL1DRV

And from the Dad Jokes Dept. we have received the following transmission....

"My son kept chewing the power cords, so I had to ground him. He's doing better, currently, and conducting himself properly."

Newsletter News-

Welcome to the new combined MPRG and SPAM newsletter. As both organizations are for Amateur Radio and many of us belong to both, it seems appropriate to combine the newsletter. There is a separate SPAM column to which your articles about any AM subject or activity will be gratefully received by the editor. There is also to be a GROTA section for our small, but enthusiastic band of Green Radio enthusiasts.

January 1st 2023-

On New Year's Day NZART have again promoted a "**Portable Day**", now in its fifth year. If you can't be out and about on Jan 1st, how about set up portable in your back yard or a nearby reserve? It's a good way to test out your emergency capabilities, you never know when it might be needed. The SOTA gang will be very active around Australasia as they get double points for a contact in 2022 and 2023, the change over being UTC 2400Hr. i.e. 1PM our time.

If you are a Green Radio fan you can combine all these activities with a portable Army radio. At Musick Point we plan to try out our new gazebo and set up some vintage "green radios", as well as some modern portable rigs. We hope you can join us in person or on the air on the day.

So for **Musick Point Members**, and all others interested in participating who are most welcome, suggested time to turn up is **before 0900!** This will allow time to set up the portables, tables, gazebo, aerals etc. in order to be on the air before the HF comms fade away-usually about 11.30 AM (just as the AM net gets started!).

The station will be open by 0800. Any portable radios (vintage or modern) will be of interest to the public too, and good publicity for our hobby and the Radio Station.

Don't forget to bring drinks and a picnic lunch!

So -drag out your portable HF/VHF/whatever gear, charge your batteries, check it all out at home first, and let's have a great POTA day to start 2023.

SPAM News-

AM Nets over the holidays- **ZL6AM** may be otherwise occupied for the next few Fridays and/or Mondays, so if there's no net call on the above times, don't sit in silence, go right ahead with your own net. ZL6AM (unlike ZL1ZLD!) is a 'club net call' and may be used by whomsoever is the net taker. So feel free to use it, it's there for that purpose, i.e. to run an AM net. Just be sure to take a log when using the ZL6AM call.

MPRG Club News-

The 'H' night gathering on Thursday December 8th followed by the annual BBQ and meeting on the Sunday were highly successful . Despite the wet weather about a dozen club members and visitors gathered to enjoy sausages and other delicacies cooked up by our expert chef Mark ZL2MOH. We were able to approve a couple of new members too.



David ZL1DRV with Graham ZL1TOF enjoying some fresh air while the rain stopped..



Visitor **Mike ZL1MJB** with his Green-ish Radio. Yes, he knows about GROTA now!



Ethan ZL1EK, Mark ZL2MOH, Steve ZL1FS, Dave ZL1DL and Shawn, who's just passed his AREX and now has his call **ZL1STK**

GROTA News (with thanks to Kelvin ZL3KB)

Mega GROTA SO-TA activation, Christchurch

Kelvin ZL3KB

13/11/22

Kb.ew@xtra.co.nz

Some of our "Green Radios On The Air" (GROTA) group also have a desire to climb tall hills and operate from the top. Unfortunately, combining these interests does involve uphill walking with boat anchor radios on our back, but that just shows our dedication, or maybe insanity?

One of our younger members, ZL3APB, wanted to try his WS108 MK2 set on a SOTA hill, so the team rallied around to give lots of contacts, including summit to summit points.

The WS108 was Australia's first army manpack of WW2, filling a role equivalent to the 48 or 18 set. It was designed in 1941 and manufactured by Radio Corporation Pty. Ltd. in Melbourne. The case contains the radio and battery, and the headphones/microphone are stored in the lid. Unusually for the time, the antenna was a 4' telescopic type. Despite many hours of work, I could not get more power out than 130mW, with half of that sucked up by the antenna base capacitance alone! After the 4' antenna gain, it is probably radiating no more than 8mW! The radio covers 6-9MHz so we use them on the 40m band. The day of activation dawned blue and sunny, so up the hill we went. Des ZL3AK and Tony ZL3TVP drove up to Mt Pleasant with a WS48 and ZC1. Bryan ZL3BHS and Dave ZL3TRX setup in Victoria Park with two WS48s and two ZC1s, while the author sweated his way up to Coopers Knob with a WS48. Aidan ZL3APB and Will ZL3WC walked the WS108 up to Sugarloaf, which was 4 miles radio range from Des and I.

Eventually we all got into position and netted to the same frequency, and despite the warm weather causing the WS108 to drift, we found acceptable copy was had by all.

We were pessimistic about the signal to be received from the WS108, but in the end the original 4' antenna gave better signal reports than the 16' vertical we supplied them as an alternative! Go figure. The WS108 is a very tricky set to use, as the frequency setting is very coarse, but the "young" operators did a great job. The guys in Victoria Park were much weaker to Des and I on hills as they were behind some ridges, but enough signal found its way through to everyone, giving the Sugarloaf team a total of 6 contacts, 4 of them Summit to Summit. Probably the first SOTA peak activated solely by green radios? Onwards and upwards, like a mountain GROTA!

Thanks Kelvin for that report !

More recently, there has been a massive effort to extend the range of ground wave signals with the No.48 sets (with only their 10' whip) from Sumner beach, Christchurch, to Kaikoura. This is an across-the-water path of 91 miles, not bad for a set that's said to do only a few miles. Recently good comms were had over the 400 meter high Port Hills where VHF is useless, despite 5 times the power being tried!

Kelvin is assembling a stack of data for this research; it seems that the slightly crazy hobby is turning into a genuine scientific project. The concept of ground wave propagation with HF hasn't really been developed much as VHF seems so reliable- but only line of sight.



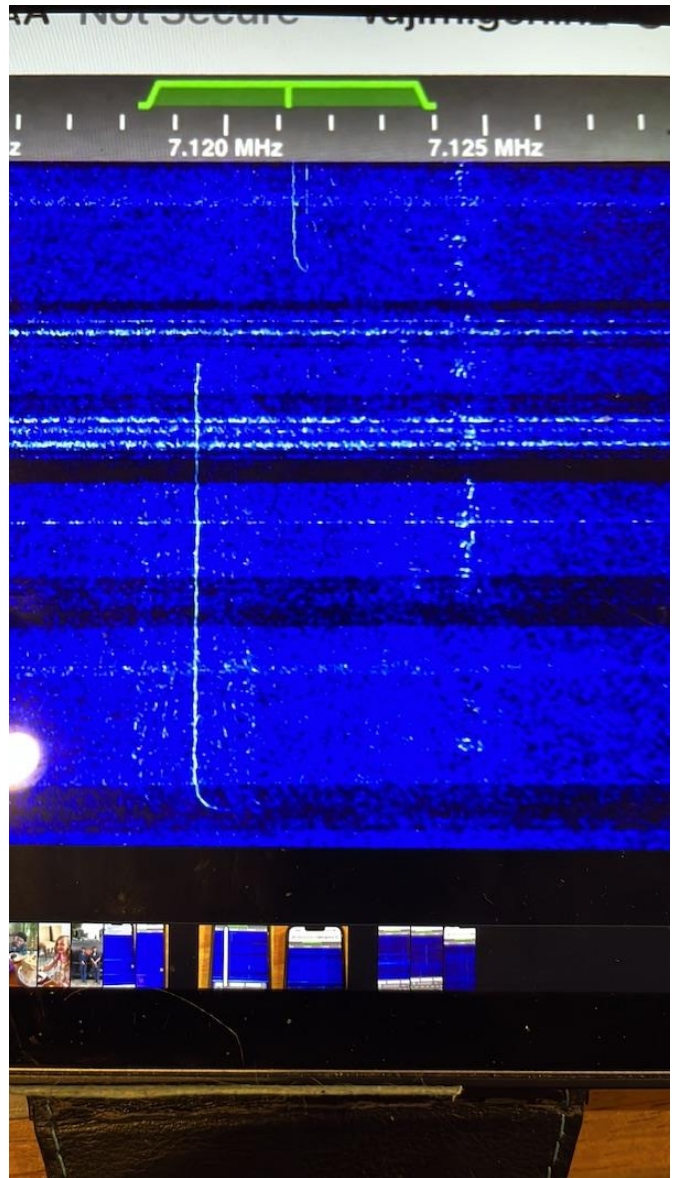
Kelvin ZL3KB's No. 48 W.S. on Coopers Knob overlooking Lyttleton Harbour. Plenty of height gain here..



Dave ZL3TRX's beautiful Landie with '48 set comms..



Aidan ZL3APB's No.108 set in action



Des ZL3AK's carrier with faint touch of AM on Marahau

Wanted

No. 38 set, Mk 1 or Mk 2 Headphones.
By Editor ZL3CK.

That's all for this month!

Best 73 and a Happy New Year to all.

Martyn, ZL3CK, Editor