

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

-----For JANUARY 2024-----

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 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- **Wednesdays** 11 AM, **(Note changes-again!)** 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, JANUARY 14th at 1pm. Coffee and tea provided!

Reminder- Portable Day in the Reserve- New Year's Day MONDAY January 1st 2024, from 10AM



Pohutukawa in full bloom at Musick Point-the Tuis are busy.

From the Chair

As I write this, we are flying towards Christmas and I have an editor breathing down my neck so that he can get the newsletter out. No problem, we all want to have a good time.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a tooth make itself known with an infection before the weekend of our December barbeque and couldn't get a Dentist appointment until the Monday morning. On the Sunday, I turned up at the station and tried to enjoy myself but started to feel quite off-colour and departed for home after a couple of hours. What a pity because there was a good turnout of fifteen, I think, and the food was plentiful. On the Monday, the Dentist and I agreed to try and save the tooth, so I went onto antibiotics for five days. It seemed to work, reducing most of the swelling but by the middle of this week, it was still a bit tender to bite on. Back to the Dentist, I went, for 75 minutes of drilling, reaming and then on to a potent antibiotic with strong warnings to stay off alcohol until at least two days after finishing the course. So, I will be drinking fruit juices and celebrating with sparkling grape juice. What fun! At least I can have a beer at New Year.

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What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!  
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Last week at the station, while others did various 'jobs' around the place, I had a second go at doing some assembly of the Collins which has been languishing in the transmitter room for a few years. So far, assembly has consisted of tightening the mains and secondary connections to the transformer and getting it in position over the alignment pins which hold it in place. Then each of the racks was installed, starting from the bottom. The higher racks are lighter, which I think is quite clever from a "centre-of-gravity" point of view. Each rack has a number of wires which need to be connected. They are in looms positioned at the rack level, and each wire is tagged, which is brilliant and makes it easy to get it right.

Besides all the obvious aids to correct connections, Martyn took a series of photos before he disassembled everything. These have been helpful and give reassurance when doing something with unfamiliar equipment.

Soon, it will be on to the valves and other loose parts wrapped up in protective stuff. That will be fun, because I haven't seen photos or drawings to help with getting those correct. Here's hoping.

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What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claus-trophobia!  
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Last month, I wrote about the Harris receiver which Dave and I started letting smoke of at odd intervals. Well retirement has meant that Dave, ZL1DL has managed to find the time to persevere and get it going again. I think the last thing he did was replace the battery pack. I cannot remember what was in it, but I think they were an odd size. Dave decided to modernise it and installed the new battery holder last weekend. Perhaps it will be ready to go to a new home soon. Thanks Dave.

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I had a date last night and I really enjoyed it. Tonight, I might try a fig.  
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Do not forget that there will be portable day in the West field at Musick Point on New Year's Day. Bring your portable rig, antenna and accessories. See you there.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Take care out there.

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

MPRG News-

"H" Night was another successful activity night with quite good conditions with stations on from all over New Zealand. I haven't heard if our Australian reader Greg copied anything but I'd be very surprised! No doubt you will have emailed **RobZL2IW** rob.zl2iw@gmail.com your logs!

At Musick Point **Dave ZL1DL** and **Maurice ZL1MPU** were kept busy operating both vintage and modern rigs, the vintage being the faithful RCA 1309 with Collier and Beale 941 receiver. The modern rig is the Icom 7700 with linear into the Vee beam aerial. Both can produce over 200 Watts of AM. The Vee beam receives well but it's not as good as the plain old 80 Mt dipole transmitting. Maybe after 25+ years its time to investigate the matching box on the tower roof...

Recently came across a DVD copy of **"The Longest Day"** an epic black and white movie from a way back. It's very well done, the director was a 1st WW participant. The British forces were shown frequently using No. 18 WS in action, the US troops using the BC611 "Handy Talkie" the world's first hand-held radio, made by Galvin Corp in 1943 otherwise known as Motorola. The movie therefore goes way up in estimation of its truthfulness and accuracy! The Germans speak German and the French speak French. (no subtitles either). Well worth the 2hrs plus-a long movie about what must have been a very long day for some, and the last day for many. Lest we forget.

The stuck rotator on the West beam seems to have magically come right...for now. Must have been your gentle touch Maurice! We had fun listening to US truckers ("they are more interesting than the hams" says Maurice) on 27 MHz CB yesterday so 10 meters continues to be rewarding in the middle of the day. Not the same can be said of 40 which is totally dead most days.

At least **Kelvin ZL3KB** and his merry band of GROTArians will be happy as all the Green Radio contacts are designed to be by 'ground wave' only with no contribution from the Ionosphere.

The **End of Year BBQ** was very well attended by most of the Musick Point crowd with several visitors too. A great effort from all! A fine day this year so the MPRG barbeque was out on the roof and **Mark ZL2MOH** did a great job once again as chef/cook. Much delicious and healthy (mostly) food was enjoyed by all. Thanks to those who helped to set it up and to all who made the effort to attend.

Steve ZL1FS came all the way from Whatwhata near Hamilton, and probably wins the "farthest travelled" prize for the event.

We even managed one contact across town on 40Mt vintage AM, with **Keith ZL1AVO**, but reception was very marginal despite Keith's 800 watts! The grey C & B 941 receiver in the picture seems to have a lot of noise and will be investigated shortly.

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There is a New Repeater at Musick Point!

Most have noticed we have lost the friendly "welcome to..." etc on the 5775 repeater tail. That's because we have a brand new repeater, installed recently thanks to Jim ZL1TGS and Dave ZL1DL. After initial adjustment, it is performing well, better than the 40year old Tait repeater which remains in place as a standby. The repeater aerial on top of the tower is due to be replaced but this is quite a task as it's not easily accessible. The new repeater has CW identification only, recently a 'seasonal' message was added- and this has been picked up by Neil ZL1NZ and featured in his last "News and Net" for his CW group. Guess what the message was? It has gone now!



ZL's 4ROB Rob, 1FTH Phil, 1FS Steve, 1TOF Graham and 1DRV David enjoying Mark's cooking on Dec 10th.



Mark ZL1MRT, Maurice ZL1MPU and Simon ZL1SWW looking replete!



Meanwhile, **Rob ZL4ROB** couldn't resist a play with the 40 meter Collier and Beale 914.

Valve of the month- from Steve ZL1FS



The Raytheon 723 Klystron. A top secret invention in 1940, it oscillates on 5GHz. Just the thing for Bluetooth?

The tuning is by that square nut on the left (bit hard to see in this photo) which physically pulls the upper 'turret' in and out of the lower Valve case, the metal 'roof' simply bends up or down as required thus no special seal is needed. The output is the long 'pin' below, which is a solid coaxial tube with Perspex insulator, the clear bit at the bottom. The valve is mounted right on a waveguide and the RF is injected by the 'tube'.

GROTA News

Its December, and the GROTA team were keen to get back out into the field again, so it was decided to setup a trial “on the flat” for a change. I set up as “net controller” near the Waimakariri river, then the others chose sites five miles away around North Canterbury plains. Five stations were using WS48 sets, the rest were ZC1s and WS21 sets. This event was notable as it was the first official outing of GROTA’s SR-A13 set, operated by Aidan.

Despite the recent wet weather, ground wave was not terrific that day, and the net control and my WS48 struggled to QSO with some stations.

However, we had a strange phenomenon occur, which we can't fully explain. As mentioned, Bryan and I were near the Waimak, Mike was at Ohoka five miles away and Aidan halfway in between. Bryan and I couldn't copy Mike but we could copy Aidan OK, which is understandable.

However, on two occasions when Aidan was talking, Mike doubled with him, and came through so strong and clear we could easily tell it was Mike. Bryan also heard this, two miles away from me.

So how can a signal so weak that we can't normally copy, be enhanced by another carrier? Hardly cross modulation with these flea power radios, I think. I did try copying Mike with the BFO on, but no improvement, I just detected his carrier.

Was it just a coincidental NVIS burst, twice? It will have to remain a mystery, and maybe we just blame the “GROTA witch” again.

Merry festive season, Kelvin ZL3KB



GROTA new boy, the SR-A13



Bryan's Dual Radio setup



Mike's elusive ZC1 at Ohoka with Grotette



Aidan's 48 set, relaxing with a T17 beer...

Stop Press! Rob ZL4ROB wins the AREC Shake-out ComEX trophy!

Given the importance of this international preparedness exercise, AREC encouraged amateur radio operators across New Zealand to activate their HF stations and use their communications and technical skills between 0900 and 2200 hours to practice passing emergency messages during the world's largest virtual earthquake drill on 7.100 Mhz and 3.900 Mhz. It was also a fantastic way for existing and emerging Amateur Radio operators to learn or strengthen new skills.



Recipients of the 2023 ZL AREC ShakeOut ComEX Awards

The recipients of the AREC ZL ShakeOut ComEX trophy and certificates of recognition are as follows:

Recipients	Call Sign	Name	Regions	Award
1 st	ZL4ROB	Robert Patterson	Auckland	AREC ZL ShakeOut ComEX trophy
2 nd	ZL2ATH	Wynne Morgan	Wellington	Certificate of Recognition
3 rd	ZL2DEV	Liam Cottle	Gisborne	Certificate of Recognition

Well done Rob, congratulations from us all at the Musick Point Radio Group ZL21ZLD.

AND That's all for this month.

73 from ZL3CK