

-----THE MUSE-----
-----For SEPTEMBER 2023-----

**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)**

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 or ZL1ZLD) Nets- Mondays 11.30AM, some Wednesdays 11.30 AM, 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, SEPTEMBER 10th at 1PM. Snacks, coffee and tea provided.



Auckland Radio NZK, later VLD, then ZLD, at the Chief Post Office, Queen Street, Auckland, in 1912.
Photo sent in by Neil, ZL1NZ. See more on- maritimeradio.org

From the Chair

Our General Meeting for August turned out to be a small social occasion with only five members turning up. This was just short of our new(ish) revised quorum figure of six and I am disappointed that so few of our members could be bothered to turn up, if even just for an hour. We do try to have a radio related talk or presentation for each meeting, but there is little point when nobody turns up. To quote the old philosophical question: "If a tree falls in the forest and there is nobody there, does it make a sound at all?" We are trying to make the meetings at least a bit interesting, but sometimes have to ask ourselves why should we bother.

It blows my mind that NASA is able to receive data from 4.67 billion miles away, but I lose the WiFi signal in my kitchen

Dave, ZL1DL recently managed to get some equipment set up in the station with surround sound and a HD television screen. The idea was to have the occasional movie viewing. Realising that this was not a private dwelling, he thought to seek permission from the right places to avoid copyright infringement.

Unfortunately, when he was told the fee for this, the idea lost its gloss. All is not lost, however, as we can make use of it for demonstrations and talks, with sound and HD pictures and video. The idea for the first video was that we play the original and unadulterated "2001, A Space Odyssey", which features Dave and a rather overcooked AI computer, HAL, which gets a bit over-the-top. After Dave (the ZL1DL Dave) mooted the idea of showing it at the station, I came across an interesting video from the YouTube channel "Dave's Garage", YES! ANOTHER DAVE (Plummer)! In the video he describes his quest to discover more about this "HAL". It turns out that HAL was programmed using a number system that preceded 'hexadecimal', called 'sexadecimal' (I kid you not) which is also a base-16 numbering system, however, where hexadecimal uses the letters A to F to represent the base-10 numbers 10 to 15, sexadecimal uses another six letters to accomplish the same thing. Watch and enjoy here: <https://youtu.be/15pGjS3jrT4>

The institute of unfinished research has concluded that 6 out of 10 people

Little work has taken place with the network equipment migration project. We need to have a coffee break occasionally. For a few Sundays, recently, we have continued to tidy and get rid of heaps of recycling; mainly ancient magazines which nobody will ever read. It makes taking out the home recycling bin an exercise opportunity and gradually declutters some of the station areas which are in dire need of a clear out. For the last couple of weeks, we have turned our attention to checking and attempting to correct issues with radio equipment which has been given to the club. The idea is that it will be put on the website: "ZL HamAds" on <https://zlham.net.nz/> and the funds from sales will be a useful income for the club. The challenge is that, we only have a couple of hours on a Sunday, and sometimes it might take two, or even three weeks before we are happy to advertise the item, or not when we realise that we are not going to succeed. Before we can 'advertise' any equipment, we feel it necessary to be able to declare its condition and known 'features'. We do not want to be accused of misleading anyone.

I have a fear of very intricate buildings. I have a complex complex complex

I keep mentioning Betelgeuse but it is of interest to some, I hope. If you are an early riser – say around 5am, before it gets too light, the constellation, Orion, of which Betelgeuse is a member, is to be found in the Eastern sky. Too much earlier than that and it might not be visible and, as warmer months draw nearer, too much later and it will be too light to see any stars

Until next month:

73, and call CQ
David, ZL1DRV

Other MPRG News-

The Monday morning **80 meter AM net** from ZL1ZLD continues, with a regular few participants, always appreciated to have someone to talk to, especially if the operator is on his own in a rather cold Musick Point Memorial Radio Station! **Steven ZL2UV, Bruce ZL1BLB, Jason ZL2JDH and Gary ZL3SV** are among the regulars, **John ZL1AUB** made a surprise check-in recently as well. We could go back to Wednesdays if the group so wished!

Our work on the troublesome drains at the station has paid off; after the last rains the car park stayed almost dry and the small piles of fallen leaves showed that both gratings were working. A few minutes on the rake and shovel by **ZL1's DRV & DL** was all that was needed.

The August meeting was down on numbers as a few (including this scribe) were away and as a result we had no quorum. So-no minutes to write up!

Fox hunting has been given a small boost by **David ZL2DSG** as he's donated the receiver and transmitter 'chips' with the article by the late **Fred Johnson ZL2AMJ (SK)** from Break-In of 2005. The plan is to get these working and try them out in the reserve. We can then think about encouraging the building of a few more of both Rx and Tx to make it more interesting. Watch this space!

Regarding *that portable station* using SSB on the AM net (shock horror)-



ZL3CK/P at Castle Hill- that's the (very light weight wire) aerial running across if you look hard..the other end is to the right -you can just see the ski pole holding the far end.



RNZ National AM 675 KHz at Gebbie's Pass as seen on recent trip to Akaroa. Yes, it's still there, but no more the two big towers with flat top pushing 10 (or was it 20) Kw like it used to be. Another tower is to the right out of the picture, presumably 963 parliament radio/"Star" network.

This is close to where Kelvin ZL3KB and his merry band of GROTArians play- see below.

GROTA and SPAM News- from Kelvin ZL3KB-

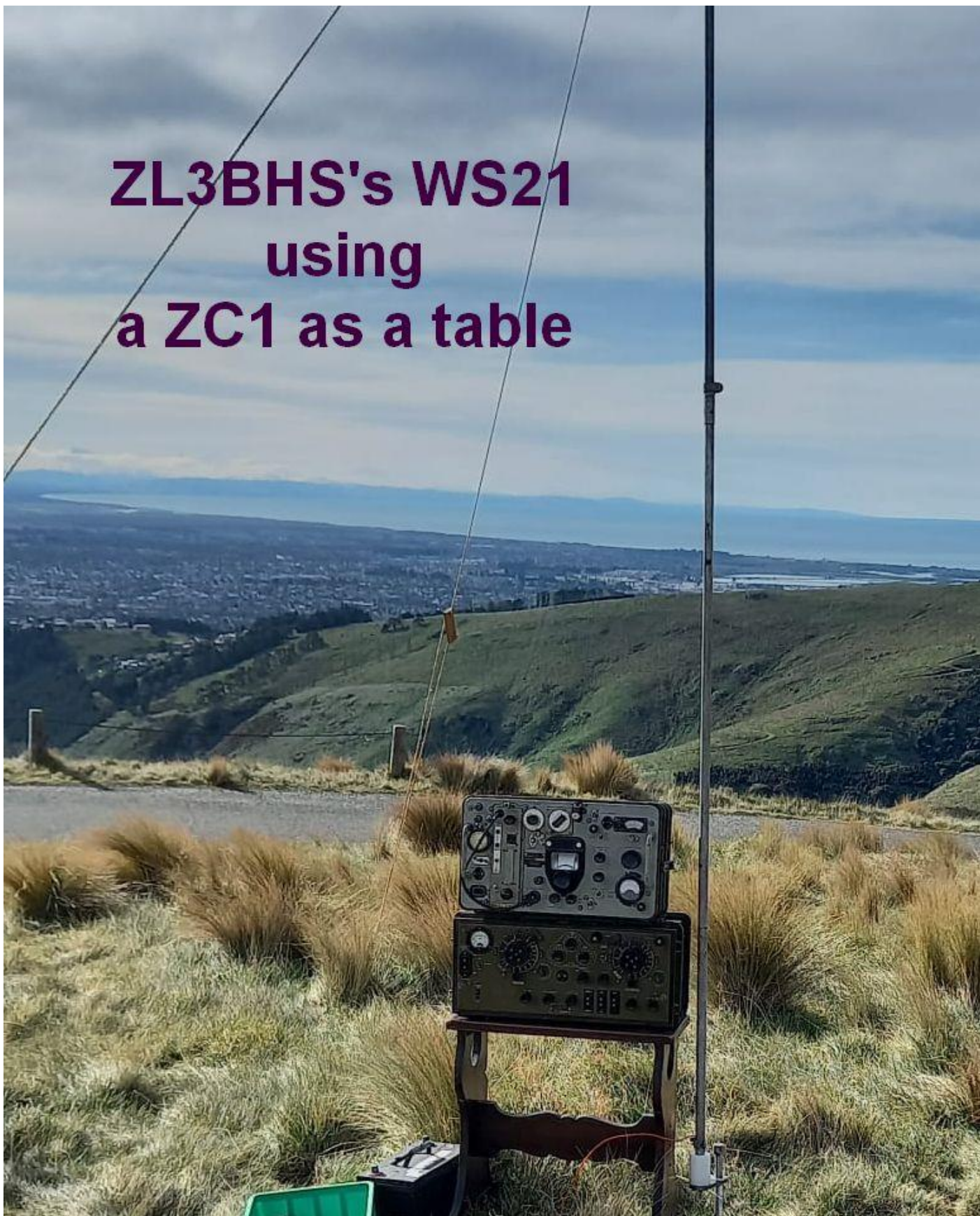
The GROTA team struck it lucky for their August field trial, the preceding days were very cold with snow on the port hills. However, Sunday 13th saw blue skies and 16deg so no complaints there. The object was to give the military sets and their owners a mid-winter airing, and the day coincided with the Australia Remembrance Day contest, with special provision for military radios.

The team managed to activate five sites on the port hills, spread over a 10km line of rocky peaks. All five operators had WS48 sets, in addition to three ZC1s, a WS21 and a Racal Comcal. As we were in semi contest mode, we had various contacts with stations in the city and beyond, all on 40m AM. The "phone fun" was so intense we totally forgot to QSY to the morse key. Due to the short distances, signals all round were very comfortable. Dave had problems with his WS48, so we only heard his ZC1 and a 59++ signal from his Comcal. Even Bryan's Very Gorgeous WS21 was heard occasionally! Aidan did his usual fine effort to get young blood (under 30) involved with the day's operations. Predictably, we have no hope of being leaders in the contest results, but logs were submitted to spread the GROTA word.

Many thanks to the team for a 'grand day out' – **Des ZL3AK, Bryan ZL3BHS, Aidan ZL3APB +Gina, Dave ZL3TRX**, with **Mike ZL3MWD** and **Peter ZL3IA** in support.

Kelvin ZL3KB

**ZL3BHS's WS21
using
a ZC1 as a table**



ZL3APB



**Aidan's helper Gina
ZL3NotYet**





ZL3KB

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Stop Press! Last but not least...

We have a new SPAM Member, **Reuben, ZL1AJC** of Nelson. Within an hour or so of his emailing that he'd like to join, true to his word he was on the air on AM from Nelson on the Fiday net.

Well done Reuben! You were quite copiable up in Auckland, and good strength on the SDR too.

We hope to hear you again soon, and that you get lots of enjoyment from AM activities. Your certificate is on its way to you.

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Crystals-now available from AF4K

AF4K is a US-based ham who has a very useful website, and is offering to sell crystals and associated hardware, now becoming hard to find. He does offer international mailing.

<https://yhst-172765969-1.store.turbify.net>

For Sale, Wanted to buy, Give Aways-

Hi Martyn,

I have available free to a good home a Heathkit DX 60 Transceiver. I have made this offer through club newsletters but to date have had no takers.

It comes in 3 parts, the transmitter, receiver and a separate VFO. All in working condition. Full documentation available.

I am reluctant to courier as I suspect it may not survive the journey, so would prefer pick up.

If any of your members are interested they could email me.

(These are very good AM transmitters, a great opportunity for someone wanting to get into vintage radio)

Cheers, Wayne ZL2OZ

waynezl2oz@gmail.com

From Leith, ZL1BCJ Whitianga.

I have a Beacon P03 power transformer. I will never use it and its too good to scrap. It looks new.

Pri 230 V

Sec 900, 1180, 1460 volts assuming using 866 rectifiers.

Sec current 350 mA.

Size- 300 x 200 x 150, Weight Approx 10Kg.

If anyone is coming past Whitianga, contact Leith to collect it. (We can keep it as a spare at Musick Point if no-one else wants it.)

Contact Leith at- seacom@xtra.co.nz

That's all for this month.

73 from ZL3CK