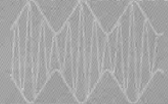


**ROY SYMON
ZL2KH**



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Nets:

3.850 MHz (AM), Friday nights
at 2000 hr local time.

There are no new members to welcome this month and there are also no Silent Keys to announce. The next major event (apart from some junk sales) is the NZART Conference in Hastings. This will, as usual, incorporate the SPAM annual general meeting.

Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation (SPAM NZ) will be held on the Sunday afternoon of Queen's Birthday weekend (31 May 2009) at the NZART Conference in Hastings. The business to be conducted will include the election of officers and other usual AGM matters. If you are unable to attend and would like to nominate someone for a position please send your nomination to me. Nominations will need to be seconded, and the permission of the person being nominated will also be necessary. I am looking forward to seeing some of you there.

3850 crystals available

There has been a great interest in the 3850 crystals. Thanks to the advice of Barry ZL1AAA there are still plenty left in stock. They are HC48/U. The price is \$15.00 each (this includes postage). Please send either cash or cheque with your order to:

R. Symon, ZL2KH
25 Annandale St
New Plymouth.

Cheques should be made payable to: "SPAM (NZ)".

ZC1's on the air

I received this welcome e-mail from Brent Bevan ZL2FFR about an expedition that was planned for the weekend of Waitangi Day: "Hi Roy, Phil Lewton (ZL2HF) and I are going over to Brookfield's Scout Camp this Friday (6th) evening

through to Saturday (7th) afternoon to set-up our ZC1 stations. We shall be erecting the original antennas and using both ZC1 MkI and MkIIs.

We also shall have an original ZA1 MkII amplifier (thanks to George ZL2GM) and a replica ZA1 MkI. The original concept was to try and replicate the field station photograph as per the user manuals utilising our original kit. This concept has grown into an "on air" evening and photographs the following day. I shall forward any good images and a write-up to you. Would you please advise the SPAM members that we shall be on air Friday evening/night from about 2000hr (8.00 pm-ish) till late and again on the Saturday, though we don't expect too much from the gear during daylight hours. As we are camping, this is all weather related, so if it's really miserably down here we shall postpone. We shall have a ZC1 Mk1 on 80m at 3.80 MHz +/- and a ZC1 MkII on 40m at 7.09 MHz +/- . I shall try and log the contacts.

No points awarded but smiles all round!

Brent Bevan ZL2FFR.

I was, naturally, delighted to receive this and waited for the resulting copy with eager anticipation.

"Hi Roy, I doubt if we have much to contribute to the SPAM section as the overnight with ZC1s was a technical disappointment. Phil ZL2HF had power supply issues with his ZC1 MKI, turned out to be dirty power supply terminals on the set. Although George ZL2GM gave me operating instructions on his ZA1 MKI, I was loath to 'play' with it as it's such a rare beastie so didn't achieve much there either.

The weather and signal conditions were excellent for us; plenty of AM signals booming in. We monitored the 2000 AM net and the VK AM net at 2330. On the downside we got no signals out - nothing - nada - nix! As many much more experienced hams have often said to me: 'Antenna, antenna, antenna.'

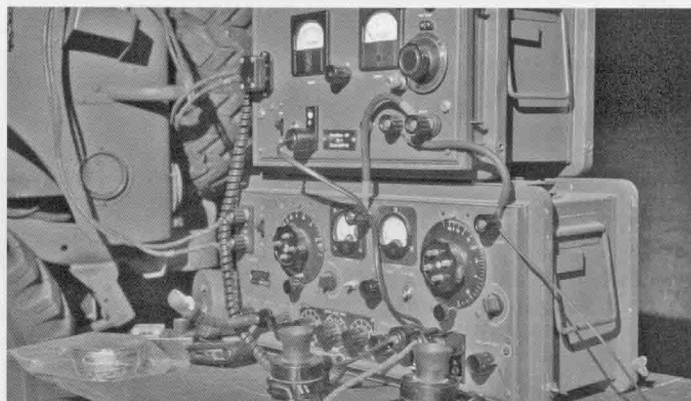
It's not good enough to have the original and correct antennas, you have to know how to erect and site them. Next time we try this exercise we shall better prepared, antenna-wise, utilising the correct number of sections and some tuned long wires.

This is definitely a case of bigger isn't necessarily better.

Brent Bevan ZL2FFR



Moonlight with antenna.



ZC1 Mk II and replica ZA1 Mk I amplifier.



George McLean ZL2GM doing the tuning up tutoring.



Revvng up the radios, showing the jeeps.

Well, Brent may have been a bit disappointed that the gear didn't work as well as when it was built over 60 years ago; but I was delighted with the marvellous photos he sent me. Some of them are reproduced here. The

moral of the story is (I suppose) that there is always a silver lining to every dark cloud. Thanks very much Brent.

*Roy Symon, ZL2KH
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