

IO CLUB

SUBURBS AMATEUR RAD

WESTERN AND NORTHERN

WANSARC NEWS

June 2004

Incorporated Number A7611

Which antenna to use today? (2)



Not as spectacular as Mick VK3BBA's antenna's with a roof attached, nonetheless, the tower of Mark VK3PI caused quite a stir for some time, even though it was less than 8 metres high.

DELIVER TO:

If not delivered within 7 days, please return to:
WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR Victoria 3073

NEXT MEETING Friday June 4 2004—it's a mid year Pizza/Pasta night so bring your friends, bring your family, bring your BYO liquids. See Page 3 for full details.

Around the Shack	2
Well done Jim VK3DBQ	2
Next WANSARC meeting	3
No need to worry about morse	4
ACA review outcome highlights	4
2 metre loop	5
Laughter is a medicine	6



CLUB FREQUENCIES

146.450Mhz FM and
28.470MHz USB

Around the Shack

- Congratulations to Bill VK3KBL and his XYL who have recently celebrated 36 years of marriage! Given the average length of marriage today it is a safe bet that milestones like these will be few and far between in the future.
- Good to hear Ian VK3XIJ on the club net in recent times. And a fine signal from Fitzroy—good one Ian!
- Our good friend Ken VK3YXC has improved his signal no end! One reader said that he could hardly hear Ken even though Mick VK3BBA seemed to have him S5—then out of the noise popped an S9 signal. What tweaking have you been doing Ken?
- Grant VK3HFS has been trying out his new toy on 2 metres and 70 centimetres. Seems to be working quite well as a crossband device, so



look out for Grant on 439.175MHz FM and/or 146.450MHz FM.

- Sound like a happy bunch down south on the Latrobe Valley repeater. Mark VK3PI can access VK3RLV on a vertical from home and reports that the weekly Q-news relay by Dennis VK3ZUX is a friendly affair.
- Great to hear John VK3AJI on air recently via VK3RSR down at San Remo. John has been licenced since April 1949 and in his own words is getting “ancient”.

- And speaking of ancient, congratulations to Alf Chandler, VK3LC, who turned 99 during the week. Denis VK3BGS advises that Alf has held his licence for something like 80 years!!
- Graeme VK3NE notes that Reg VK3LS has held the same call since 1923—that’s right folks—that is 81 years holding the same call. Congratulations Reg! Reg can still be held from time to time on 146.000MHz with Jack VK3BKN, Len VK3BYE and Allen VK3SM most mornings around 0830.
- 1st June was a bumper club net with AA8YE, VK3BGS and the ZL1VK Auckland repeater new stations participating. Great to hear Reg VK3KK back up on air, and Hal VK3EKF was the shock of the night appearing as 2nd cab off the rank behind Graeme. 11 stations on the net—not bad!!

WELL DONE JIM VK3DBQ

Congratulations to Jim VK3DBQ, on his wonderful presentation at our May 7, 2004 meeting. Jim had obviously put many hours into his presentation for the night, describing with the aid of a power point presentation a number of software programs available to play “digital” modes. This includes PSK31, SSTV, FAX, RTTY, and many more. Jim also explained e-QSL’s—QSL’s via email. Unfortunately for DX’ers like Jim, e-QSL’s are not accepted for many awards so the “paper trail” of QSL’s must suffice at great expense. Jim also gave an overview of his work with the Wireless Institute of Australia in his capacity as Treasurer. All in all a great presentation—check our www.wansarc.org.au to see a copy. **Well done Jim and many thanks from WANSARC.**

ATV GEAR HAS NOW ARRIVED!!!

All ATV gear ordered by members has now arrived. The kits arrived earlier this month, however Mark VK3PI has been waiting for the completed transmitters to reach the shores of Melbourne prior to contacting members and a couple of NERGS to advise of costs.

The ATV 1250MHz transmitters have been fully build and tested by Mark VK5EME. All

other equipment is in kit form with original packing and instructions.

For those who have ordered equipment expect a mail from Mark VK3PI to arrange delivery and money.

As WANSARC has funded the purchase of all kits all payments will need to be made to WANSARC.



Looking to join a vibrant and active club?

Contact the Secretary, WANSARC, PO Box 336, Reservoir, 3073.

WANSARC CLUB MEETING FRIDAY JUNE 4 2004

No normal meeting this month so don't go down to NMIT.....head to Tina's Pizza and Pasta, 445 Plenty Road, Preston. (West side Plenty Road north of the intersection of Murray and Plenty Roads—can't miss it!

Tina's is BYO and the WANSARC gang will infiltrate the house of pizza any time after 1900 hours.

Bring the family, friends, or anyone.... come on down for a social night. Talk in on 146.450MHz for those who are lost or just plain lonely. C U 4 June!!

FILM @ ELEVEN

by Geoff Hassing



NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT MORSE NOW.....

Dear Sir,

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that country listeners have been considerably interrupted by the Morse code from various stations. Now I know you will say straight away that it is through the set not being selective. I have been working a Magnavox 5, which for selectivity is as good as the next, and one night during last week the programme of each station was interrupted by Morse Code.

It appears the morse comes from several stations. One night 3AR and 5CL were continually interrupted by a dull buzz, and 3LO was subject to a continuous whistling and a far away speech which was unintelligible. Farmer's 2FC are subject to interruption from morse code, and it considerably hampers country listeners, as you might admit that while listening to a programme of music, it is very annoying to have to hear morse, morse, morse.

I write this in good faith and not as a

sarcastic complaint, and for the betterment of radio. The country people I find are just beginning to become enthusiastic to wireless matters, and it seems a pity that something cannot be done to rectify this annoyance.

I might state that the transmission from the two Sydney "A" stations is not all that could be desired. This, of course, is subject to discussion, but my own personal experience is that of the two stations, 2FC is somewhat superior, but even then is not very good.

In conclusion, I might add that Morse at times is so loud that it is almost impossible to hear any other items at all, and it seems to be on occasions on all wavelengths

Yours, etc,

SYDNEY BROOKS LLOYD, Mosman

From Wireless Weekly, Friday 9th September, 1927

The WANSARC club net via VK3RTL-R, VK3HFS-L, VK3NE-L and on occasions ZL1VK-R Auckland . With many listeners and links, the WANSARC net is unique.

Call in 1930 hours local time via 146.450MHz FM simplex, or via echolink.....

WANSARC—ham radio word for FUN!!!



ACA REVIEW—OUTCOME HIGHLIGHTS

The Australian Communications Authority, in concluding its inquiry into Amateur Service regulation, has decided to introduce a new entry level licence giving access to the six amateur bands, but only using phone or Morse code. It will introduce a three-tier licence system. All licence syllabuses are to be overhauled to provide greater emphasis on interference resolution, electromagnetic radiation (EMR) exposure requirements and RF safety.

In the future all new radio amateurs in Australia will be required to undergo a practical assessment in addition to a written examination or continuous assessment by a credited institution. The new entry level licence called the Foundation licence was supported by more than two-thirds of those who responded to the ACA's inquiry that began in August 2003.

The Foundation licence will have the access to the 3.5, 7, 21 and 28 MHz bands, plus 2m and 70cm, with a 10-watt transmitter power limit. The majority of survey respondents were in support of the new entry level licence being introduced with access to parts of the amateur HF, VHF and UHF bands, 100W PEP power output, and all modes. The ACA chose 10-watts because it felt that was needed due to the relative skill and technical level of the new licence.

The Foundation licence will require the passing of an examination with emphasis on the safe operation of amateur radio equipment, and a practical element involving the operation of transmitters and receivers. Unlike the British Foundation licence, the Australian counterpart will not require attendance at a prerequisite training course. There will be no age limit nor tenure limit for this licence. It requires the use of commercially made transmitting equipment.

Some 39% of survey respondents wanted a two-tier structure while 24% favoured a three tiers. However the ACA appears to have been convinced by the arguments presented by a group wanting a three tier structure. The ACA has decided on a three-tier licence restructure - Foundation (new entry level), Standard (Novice-Limited and Novice) and Advanced.(Limited, Intermediate and Unrestricted). None of these licences will require the passing of tests in Morse code telegraphy.

Good news for those who qualify for the Standard licence. When it is introduced those currently with a Novice-Limited or Novice licence will get all the six bands of the Foundation licence, plus 20m, 6m and microwave bands. The Advance licensees will gain access to 2-letter suffix call signs if available. On the controversial issue of the proposed "no interference" policy for amateur stations, the ACA has decided to strengthen the existing interference management arrangements. It proposes that the responsibilities of those affected by interference and the ACA's method of dealing with interference be published as an Advisory Guideline under the Radiocommunications Act.

The ACA also intends to document the responsibilities of radio amateurs for resolving interference in the Amateur Licence Condition Determinations, and is further considering exercising its powers to apply additional conditions to amateur licences for unresolved interference. Some 10% of respondents to the survey wanted the maximum power for the top licence grade to be increased from 400W to 1500W PEP. The ACA has rejected that on the grounds that in most circumstances the higher power would exceed the electromagnetic radiation (EMR) limits in urban areas.

The ACA will however more widely publicise to the amateur fraternity the availability and conditions for higher power permits.

The ACA will leave current call sign arrangements, to enable ready recognition of licence type and geographic location. It will introduce four-letter call sign suffixes in 2005. Some rearrangement of call sign blocks will be required when the new licensing options are introduced.

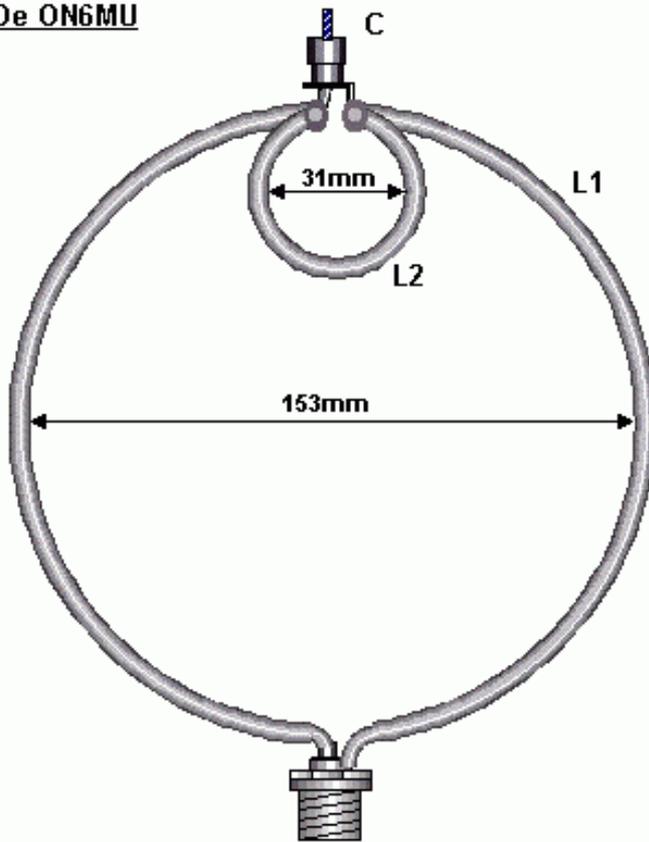
The ACA has decided to keep amateur licences as apparatus licences for the time being. It will outsource the issuing of amateur certificates of proficiency and the management of call signs. No mention has been made of outsourcing amateur licensing. In early 2005 overseas radio amateurs visiting Australia who hold a licence recognised by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) are expected to be able to operate in Australia without the need to take out a temporary VK licence.

The ACA will free up the use by amateur stations of the public telecommunications network and Internet linking. But it will still require amateur licensees to take responsibility to minimise the possibility of non-amateurs gaining access to the amateur bands via a telephone or the Internet. The involvement by radio amateurs in providing emergency communications will include all disasters, not just natural disasters. WICEN or similar networks of radio amateurs engaged in emergency service operations will have reduced station identification requirements.

(Summary by Jim Linton VK3PC)

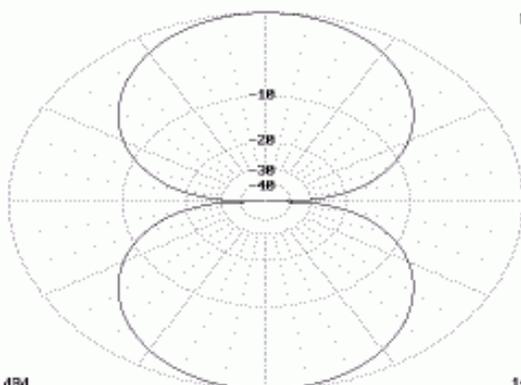
VHF Magnetic Loop

De ON6MU



C = air- or vacume capacitor of 0...20pF
 L1 = 1/4 wave: for 145MHz use a copper or brass wire with a length of 49cm and at least 3mm in diameter.
 L2 = is 1/5 of the length of L1: for 145MHz use the same material as L1 and has a length of 9.5cm

A magnetic loop has a very small bandwidth but unsensitive to man made noise. It is much smaller then a conventional antenna for the same frequency and has a gain that can be compared to a quarter wave antenna even if the loop is mounted a meter from the ground. All in theory ofcourse. It has a bi-directional radiation pattern like a dipole and is very selective. This means that you need to tune the antenna using 'C' about every 0.5Mc on VHF for maximum reception and 1:1 SWR. Ideal for portable use or as a repeater antenna. 'C' has to be an air- or vacume capacitor because of the high voltages that can ocure on the capacitor when transmitting! I tested the antenna using my VHF portable in my garden and the loop had about the same results as my quarter wave mounted 6 meters higher. The 'Q' of the loop depends on the quality of the material, size and 'C'.



Note: maximum power depends on the capacitor used. In this example the maximum power is around 10watt
 Tune 'C' very carefully until SWR is 1:1. A few pF over or under and you'll get a high SWR. Don't tune the capacitor while transmitting!
 Can be tuned in any part of the entire VHF band.

Laughter is a medicine



A woman was shopping in her local supermarket where she selected 2 litres of milk, a carton of eggs, two litres of orange juice, a head of lettuce, 2kg of coffee and 2kg of bacon.

As she was unloading her items on the conveyor belt to check out, a drunk standing behind her watched as she placed the items in front of the cashier.

While the cashier was ringing up her purchases, the drunk calmly stated "You must be single."

The woman was a bit startled with this proclamation, but she was intrigued by the derelict's intuition, since she was indeed single.

She looked at her six items on the belt and saw nothing particularly unusual about her selections that could have tipped off the drunk to her marital status.

Curiosity getting the better of her, she said "Well, you know what, you're absolutely correct. But how on earth did you know that?"

Photograph 2 in the "quit complaining about your job" category.....

The drunk replied "Cause your ugly."

Two women are new arrivals at the pearly gates and are comparing stories on how they died.

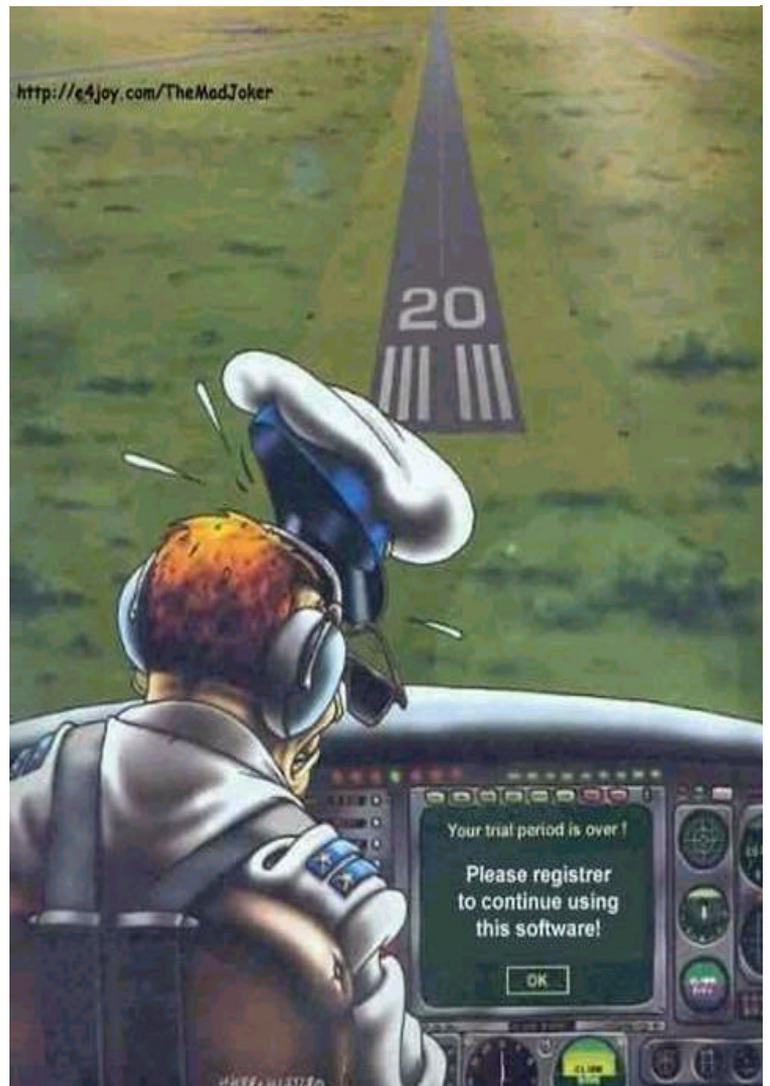
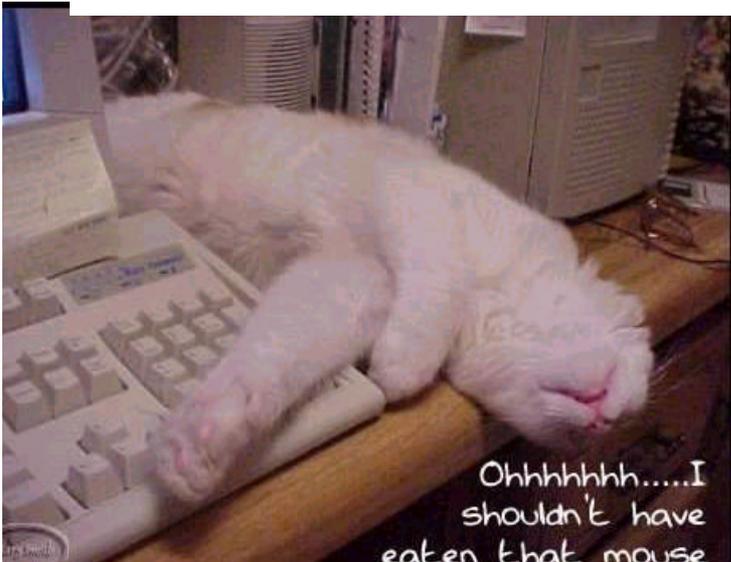
1st woman "I froze to death"

2nd woman "How horrible"

1st woman "It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold I began to get warm and sleepy—finally I died a peaceful death. What about you?"

2nd woman "I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead I found him all by himself watching television. I was so sure there was another woman in the house there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking—I ran up the stairs, went through every closet, checked under the beds and finally I was so exhausted that I just keeled over and had a heart attack."

1st woman "***Pity you didn't check the freezer—we'd both still be alive***"



Please register to confirm using this software.....

Profile of the late Ray Bedson VK3ZEB

Often you can know people for years, but not really know them well at all. Recently Graeme Page, son of Tom VK3AGH, was kind enough to provide you Editor with a copy of the July edition of Amateur radio—from 1963. In this edition former member and silent key Ray VK3ZEB, was highlighted. Here is information on Ray VK3ZEB which many of our club members will not have known.....

Ray Bedson, a 25 year old Ham, earns a happy living at a Preston electrical repair shop fixing radio and repairing television sets, tape recorders and record players. He laughs and jokes with his workmates.....but he never sees them. He has been blind since a fall at school when he was 12. Ray's constant companion when he is doing electrical repairs is a 50 pound (value) test meter with a Braille scale.



When he wants diagrams of electrical circuits he draws them on aluminium foil. Soon he is "finger familiar" with their every detail. "I can do most jobs in radio repairs," Ray said, deftly pinching a wire bare of insulation. "Sometimes when a lot of leads are closely grouped, others might sort them out for me."
"But you get to know most of the sets. Anyway, we have all the makers' books here and if I'm not familiar with something, I take the book home and my parents read me a passage.....or someone here will read the section."
Ray said he began taking radio as more than a hobby about 1957.

Three years ago he got the job in Mr. Maurie Grimwood's repair shop, in Plenty Road, Preston. He found other firms wary of employing him because of the risk of electrocution. "But if you take normal care and safety precautions, there's not much chance of an accident", he smiled.

"A lot of the boys here have helped me", Ray added. "My knowledge of television has improved 100 per cent." "I keep up-to-date with tape recordings and Braille technical magazines from America."

As Amateur Radio operator VK3ZEB, Ray can be heard on two and six metres most nights.

It took almost three hours of oral examination before Ray was granted the Limited licence, but now he talks to people from Rockhampton to New Zealand and South Australia.

"You've got to prove yourself in this game," Ray said. "It will be a while before I start much television repair work. I've already had a few shocks from the set at home."

Boss Maurie Grimwood admires Ray's grasp of electrical theory, "Try him with anything—you'll never toss him. It's easy to see he's an expert, you only have to talk to him."

A shining example of one of amateur radio's – and our club's—best. Thanks to Graeme Page.

DX-TUNING IN YOUR STUDY OR SHACK

I know, you've tried the audio streaming caper and enjoyed listening to radio stations, aircraft and public service stations from someone else's streaming box. But what about controlling someone else's computer receiver remotely? Well you now can.

www.dx-tuners.com is a website which allows you (after registering) to manipulate, monitor and control a number of computer receivers located around the world. Some receivers allow free range frequency input for you to search for elusive stations, others have lists which enable you to focus on the area or stations which you may wish to listen to. As an example, listening to air traffic controllers in England makes our ATC folk appear to be on a holiday. I counted 40 seconds in a five minute stint where no radio traffic existed for an English approach controller.....interesting listening to say the least.

For those wishing to have a wider range of receivers to play with from a larger geographic pool, then payment is the name of the game. This may be appealing to you, but for my money (or lack thereof) the free samples are fine and with sample (free access) receivers in six countries or so, the choice is ample.

Oh, by the way, the system allows for you to chat live to other listeners who have logged in.....this can be interesting as many of those playing with the system are amateurs themselves!

WANSARC VK3AWS

PRESIDENT: Grant Stowell VK3HFS

Telephone: 0419 007 718

SECRETARY: Mark Stephenson VK3PI

Telephone: 0425 768 320

Email: wansarc@wia.org.au

All correspondence to be addressed to the SECRETARY:

PO Box 336

RESERVOIR 3073



WANSARC CLUB PROFILE

History

The Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club (WANSARC) was first formed in 1969 and since then has served the needs and interests of amateur radio operators, short wave listeners and those interested in hobby radio and electronics. The club is not gender specific, having both female and male members. Members come from all walks of life with a mix of experience, young and mature, novice and technical. The most important aspect of the club is the willingness of all members to share their knowledge for the benefit of others. Members mainly reside in the west and north of Melbourne, however membership is encouraged from all interested.

Meetings

From September 2003 Building K, Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology (NMIT), St. Georges Road, Preston (western side between Bell Street and Cramer Street) Melway 18 E12

Meetings held on the 1st Friday of each month (excluding January) commencing at 7.30pm local time. Talk in on 146.450MHz FM—call club station VK3AWS.

Benefits

Free technology and related presentations, sponsored construction activities, discounted (and sometimes free) equipment, network of like minded radio and electronics enthusiasts, excellent club facilities and environment.

Club Nets

146.450MHz FM each Tuesday evening commencing 7.30pm local time. Linked to Echolink for intrastate, interstate and international stations participation.

More Information

Website: www.wansarc.org.au

Committee: Bob VK3EL, Tony VK3JED, Gordon VK3YOD, Grant VK3HFS, Mark VK3PI
Dan VK3DWH

Email: wansarc@wia.org.au

Secretary: Mark Stephenson VK3PI vk3pi@optusnet.com.au

Postal: WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073

VK3AWS

A proud tradition of supporting hobby radio and electronics enthusiasts since 1969