

VK3AWS



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Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club
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News and views from the Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club VK3AWS—FEBRUARY 2008



With the rain and the low cloud cleared away, those attending the WANSARC 2008 Family Day had every reason to smile.

Over 50 amateurs and their families attended the day, enjoying the camaraderie of amateur radio. Some ate, some drank, some played with radio whilst others “ragchewed” and reminisced about past contacts, equipment and challenges.

No matter what the favourite pastime on the day, the Family Day was again a great success and a fine way to start 2008.

More pictures and comments inside this edition.

NEXT MEETING
Friday FEBRUARY 1, 2008.

The first formal meeting of WANSARC is nearly upon us, so why not point your motor vehicle, bike, trike or feet in the direction of NMIT, Building K, this coming Friday night.

1930 hours is the start time for the meeting—look forward to seeing old and new members at the meeting.

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AN EASY-BUILD 160 Meter ANTENNA FOR PORTABLE and HOME USE *by BOB VK3EL*

Recently while browsing the internet I came across a design for a relatively small and compact 160 meter antenna that I thought might be worth investigating.

An article describing this antenna was published in the October issue of the WANSARC magazine and I felt it might be interesting for some to read a brief rundown of my experiences both building and testing it , firstly at home, and then portable at Bundoora Park .

Initially I have to say I was more interested in trying it out for portable use, and the idea of having an antenna for 160 that wasn't too big and bulky and could be quickly and easily assembled appealed to me . If you read the previous article you may have noted there was a mention of using 1 1/4 inch fibre glass tubing. I used 40mm PVC water pipe as the former for the wire wound section of



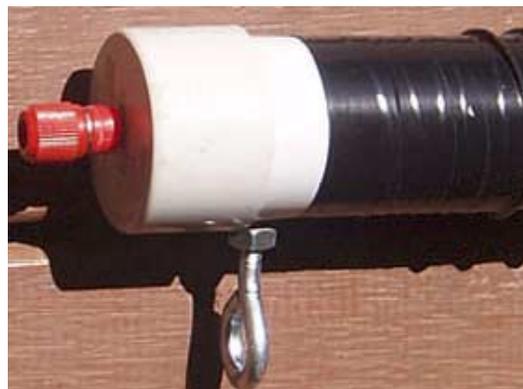
the antenna and a couple of PVC cap fittings for the ends so that I could attach terminals etc. The first 70 feet of insulated wire was obtained at Jaycar at \$4.50 for a 25mtr roll. The other 70 feet for the 'long wire' portion of the antenna was made up of some odd lengths of "Figure 8" wire (from my scrap box) which I split and joined to make up the length and a visit to the local DIY store to get some PVC tube and cap fittings completed the shopping list .

I added a screw terminal to the top cap for the 'long wire' and another terminal near the bottom of the pipe to accept the earthing and radial connections, then mounted a SO-239 chassis socket to the bottom cap to accept the coax cable feed .

All that remained to do then was to wind and terminate the first 70 feet of wire on the PVC pipe. That part of the job was a bit tedious but is do-able with a bit of patience and the odd rude word used when trying to keep the .5 inch turns spacing even ! Now for the big test. Having what I thought was a "non-160m" friendly backyard, I set up the device on a small tripod and ran out the 'top' wire wherever I could find a spot in the clear, then laid out a counterpoise wire underneath the top wire as best as I could. Very rough and ready, but amazingly the first test with the antenna coupling unit showed promise. Even more amazing when I switched out the coupler, the SWR was 1.5:1 . Surprised to say the least , I re-checked and the readings were the same. I later found by varying the counterpoise position and length there were some variations in those readings and decided it would be better to conduct any further tests in an open area away from trees and buildings.

Next morning it was off to Bundoora

Park and set up the antenna and IC-703 and after laying out three 20 meter radials , a short earth stake attached to the tripod legs, and connecting the 70 foot 'top' wire, it was time to do some more measurements. This time I was very surprised to find the SWR was down to 1.2:1 with the 'top' wire about 5 meters at its highest point and tethered to a friendly tree branch and NO antenna coupler. Tests are ongoing, but since conducting the first portable tests, I have been able to take part in a session of the 160m Morning Coffee group (thanks Gentlemen) on 1843 khz using 5 watts AM and managed some contacts around Melbourne, and on the day of the "Oceania" contest I was able to QSO using SSB with Ken VK3YXC down at Little River , and Laurie VK3AW and brother Colin VK3LO . (Thanks Ken , Laurie & Colin)



I think Laurie may still think I was using an amplifier at the time, as the 5x9 report he gave me seemed to be a lot more than the little Icom IC-703 deserved ! More to come later, as I have plans for a couple of mods to the existing antenna and also some ideas for another design using similar construction techniques but hopefully a little more efficient and still OK for portable or home use



Pictured clockwise from left are the ends of the wound coil showing the antenna and earth terminals .

Next are two photographs at Bundoora Park with the almost completed 160m antenna .

I say almost complete , because I had to add a small eye bolt later for guying, to avoid the weight of 70 feet 'long wire' putting too much of a bend at the top of the PVC tubing . In the [pic at lower right](#) the 'long wire' went from the top of the coil, to the tree just left of centre in the picture and was attached to a branch about 5 or 6 meters up the tree .

Finally if required , here's the link for the original 160m antenna article to copy and paste in your browser :

<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=7481>

******Footnote: Bob is continuing his experiments and may have updated information in the future.***

CLUB WANTS OLD PHOTOS

WANSARC thanks **Laurie VK3DPF**, for his kind donation of three photographs of members who are now, regrettably, silent keys.



The late Fred, VK3CFT, is pictured at the 20th Anniversary WANSARC meeting, a night where old equipment was on display.

More photographs will be published leading up to WANSARC's 40th anniversary, however **do you have some old photographs of club members, their gear, their shacks etc?**

If so, please contact **Mark VK3PI** as WANSARC would love to borrow photographs to scan for the WANSARC archives.

Vale Tom Page VK3AGH Silent Key

It is fair to say that Tom Page did not do anything half right, because it had to be completely right. And these were the sentiments expressed by family and friends at a service held to commemorate the life of Tom VK3AGH.

Tom was a stalwart of WANSARC, serving as President on 5 occasions and as a long term Secretary, producing minutes of general and Committee meetings in superb longhand. Tom ran the VHF net on 146.450Mhz and the HF net on 28.470MHz for many years, never failing to be on air at 1930 hours on VHF and continuing at 2030 hours on 10 metres.

And in the very early days of WANSARC, Tom painstakingly produced the club magazine using a spirit duplicator, collating the magazine then posting same, all by hand. A far cry from the electronic age of today.

Tom appeared quite and unassuming, but was a man of strong resolve and of uncompromising integrity. Tom was married to Betty for 56 years and worked for the same organisation (Mackay Rubber) for 50 years, passing away at the age of 87.

WANSARC members were well represented at Tom's service, with Graeme VK3NE, Bob VK3EL, Gordon VK3YOD, Mark VK3PI, Gayle (XYL of Mark), Tony VK3BZT and John VK3FMPB.

To Betty, Graeme and Rae, club members mourn the loss of Tom but remember the contributions of Tom in making WANSARC the solid, friendly and active club it is today.

Mark VK3PI



Don't forget the WANSARC club net, each TUESDAY evening on 146.450MHz FM. The club call VK3AWS is activated by Bob VK3EL. The net commences at 1930 hours, so please check in and have a natter.

Interest in a 10 metre "net" is increasing, so tune your 10 metre box to 28.470MHz prior to or after the VHF net and let's make 10 active again locally.

WANSARC CLUB DINNER REPORT

The 2007 WANSARC Club Dinner was very well represented again by members and their families.

Members reported a fine night was held by all, with good food from the 3 course meal, refreshments available on demand and of course the excellent company of amateurs, their wives, girlfriends and supporters of WANSARC.

The NMIT restaurant proved to be a congenial venue for the final club activity for 2007 and a great place to commence the "season to be jolly".



It was great to hear of old and newer members enjoying their time together and also fantastic to have Lyn Walsh continuing to support WANSARC following the passing of well known and respected member, Jock VK3UB.

Frank VK3ZO tries to convince his **YL Jo** that Santa really is on the radio, Top right **Allen VK3SM** and **Gordon VK3YOD** catch up for a chat, middle right **Helen** (XYL Dan VK3DWH), **Dan VK3DWH** and **Alex VK3XLC** share some conversation and Bottom right **Trevor VK3FTDX** and **Rod VK3MRT** pose for the camera man.

Thanks to Bob VK3EL for the captioned photograph and to David VK3FXDX for all others.



QSL CARDS AND PHOTO'S WANTED.....

In 2009 WANSARC will celebrate its 40th birthday and your Secretary Mark VK3PI is collating information to produce a history of WANSARC.

This history will focus on the people who have made WANSARC what it is. To assist in compiling this history 2 blank QSL cards would be appreciated (one spare in just in case).

So if you have a QSL card, please provide a couple to Mark VK3PI.

Similarly if you have any photo's from WANSARC of old, we would love to see them and scan these for the history.

Email Mark VK3PI at VK3PI@optusnet.com.au

Thanks to Alan VK3SM and Laurie VK3DPF for their contributions.

2008 WANSARC Family Day—observations John VK3FMPB

We had everybody who was anybody there on Sunday. We had it all.

We had various radio people and radio clubs present, visitors from the Philippines, the customs dogs, police, radios, beams, masts, boy did we have radio and masts, we had ATV. Most of all we had rain and mud. Best of all, we had food too.

First to arrive at Bundoora park Mick (CH) who was already well into setting up his gear when I, (FMPB) got there followed closely by Bob (EL). This would have been around 0700 hrs and the rain was falling lightly but steadily. Did I say lightly? I didn't even consider taking my equipment out of my car in those conditions. Hmmm electricity and water, sounds like a dangerous combo to me. We were pushing water from the radio table all morning with no effect. More appeared as if by magic.

The rain was a bit scary but not really too bad, but hey, what's a radio club with no radios? It's like an army with no soldiers, or a dog with no bark, or a tree with no bark. One of the two. I just wish we had more cloths to wipe the water up with. (Memo for next year)

The ATV demo went ok at times, we were able to pick up a signal but apparently the water logged trees didn't help much..



A couple of people used the radios and most of us ate the food. Not too many of us did too much out of the confines of the rotunda for long.



When the weather did finally clear up a bit we took the WANSARC class of 08 photo. It is encouraging to see new heads in our photos all the time. Even if some of them do have four legs woof woof.

Postscript from Mark VK3PI

The heavens certainly opened up in the early AM, however one could not knock the rain given we need more of it. Thanks to Mick VK3CH for braving the elements to set up gear and to Bob VK3EL/John VK3FMPB for keeping company. Members had the opportunity to see ATV in action and various pieces of equipment, including D-Star.



We certainly had a very healthy roll up of members, their friends and family, with the weather clearing towards lunchtime. In fact the last of attendees adjourned well after 1700 hours.



Well done to all for making the day a success and let's all make the 2009 Family Day as good as this one. Photographs from top, clockwise

"Are you sure transistors secrete water when they are stressed?", Mark VK3PI tending the BBQ (no, at 22kg lighter these days he was cooking not eating, Nick VK3FNIK tests the snags, Mick VK3CH's ATV and amateur gear setup and Ian VK3JQ (left) in discussion with Dallas VK3EB.



Thanks to **John VK3FMPB, Dave VK3FXDX and Trevor VK3FTDX** for photographs.

**JOCK
VK3UB
SHACK
NOW QRT**



WANSARC thanks Lyn Walsh (XYL of the late Jock VK3UB) for her kind donation of radio "stuff" to the club. The "stuff" consists of bits and pieces to be available at the next club meeting.

Lyn actually painted Jock's shack door and it was fitting to be able to take one last photograph of this piece of history.

Best wishes for the future, Lyn, from all members and families of WANSARC.



GET TO IT !!!!

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION OR AN ARTICLE YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH MEMBERS?

Why not write it up for the magazine in word format, with pictures, and send to the club:

WANSARC,
PO Box 336,
Reservoir 3073.

It's your magazine!!

Your magazine contributors this month include—

- Trevor VK3FTDX, ,**
- Dave VK3FXDX,**
- Graeme VK3PGK, Dan VK3DWH, Bob VK3EL, Tony VK5ZAI, Peter VK6YSF, John VK3FMPB.**

Thanks folks!

WHAT ABOUT THIS ? Contributions from members

Okay, so this is how I imagine this conversation went:

Walmart Employee:

'Hello 'dis Walmarts, how can I help you?'

Customer:

' I would like to order a cake for a going away party this week.'

Walmart Employee:

'What you want on the cake?'

Customer:

'Best Wishes Suzanne' and underneath that 'We will miss you'.

I'd bet that they go to a REAL bakery next time they need a cake.

From Graeme VK3PGK



From Dan VK3DWH

"Did you name it after me, like you said you would?"

The SERG (South East RadioGroup) in Mt Gambier have been experimenting with TV on 1250 MHz and we have found that old B-MAC Satellite receivers without the LNB make excellent receivers for ham TV. There must be a lot of these receivers in junk boxes and provided they can be adapted to follow the doppler shift could be used for receiving TV from the ISS on 1250 MHz. in the future.

From Tony VK5ZAI

We now have a 1250 MHz antenna installed on the Columbus module which will soon be launched. Just a thought!!! Look up SERG at the following website

<http://serg.mountgambier.org/>



WANSARC is at
www.wansarc.org.au
Or www.wansarc.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Danielle, daughter of Dan the Man VK3DWH, “hams it up” for a photo at the recent WANSARC Family Day.

Danielle not only excelled in front of the camera, but also was a winner in her designer jacket, courtesy of the mob the family are supporting in motor car racing.

Good on 'yer Danielle, and yes, the good photo will be published...later.

WANSARC VK3AWS

PRESIDENT: Graeme McDiarmid VK3NE vk3ne@wia.org.au

SECRETARY: Mark Stephenson VK3PI Telephone: 0400 443 218
vk3pi@optusnet.com.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

Building K, Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology (NMIT), St. Georges Road, Preston (Western side between Bell Street and Cramer Street) Melway 18 E12 *PARKING at NMIT- Members please note that parking adjacent to the club room building K is illegal and NMIT staff WILL book any cars which are parked in that area. ALL members must park cars in the main car park to the WEST of building K. Just look for vehicles with lots of aerials!* 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 plus an informative monthly newsletter for members to post articles, news, classifieds for all radio, test equipment, etc, featuring Amateur Radio news from WANSARC, WIA, ACMA, Melbourne Clubs, VK and Worldwide.

Club Nets

146.450MHz FM each Tuesday evening commencing 7.30pm local time. Also monitor 28.470MHz on 10 metres USB.

More Information: **Website:** www.wansarc.org.au **Email:** wansarc@wia.org.au

Postal: WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073

Friday February 1, 2008

AT NMIT Building K, 7.30pm

**Australia Post
stamp here**

If not delivered within 7 days please return to

WANSARC PO Box 336 Reservoir 3073