

VK3AWS



WANSARC NEWS

June 2008

Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club
(WANSARC)
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A WIA Affiliated club

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



Every amateurs dream—NOT!! A NASA photograph of lightning hitting a tree—but note the antenna is hit on the left by a rogue bolt!
The power of nature, at its best, or worst!

NEXT MEETING JUNE 6 2008

Been awhile since we have had a General meeting, so amble along to NMIT, St. Georges Road, Preston for our JUNE meeting.

Come along and discuss your latest project with some of your friends, gain some tips and/or some cheap equipment and bits and pieces.

C U at 1930 hours.

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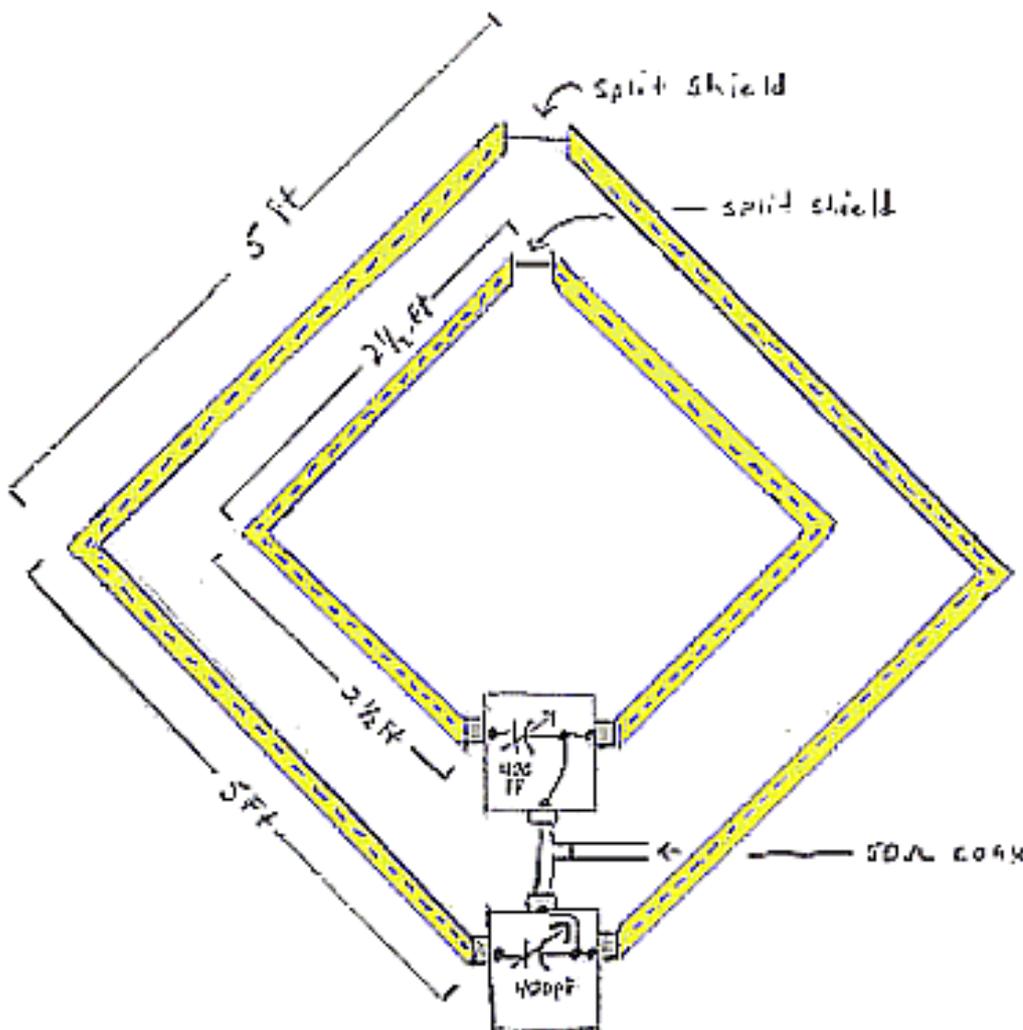
80/160 m coax receiving loops *By Spencer F. Ritchie*

Editors note— Many members of the club are showing a great deal of interest in “top band 160metres”, thanks to promotion by Dallas VK3EB and transmissions on 160 metres during our club net each Tuesday evening. Now Rod VK3MRT is experimenting with a loop antenna at his QTH and hopefully in the near future we will have some words from Rod on his experimentation.

In the meantime it is timely to provide information on construction of a simple loop for 160 and 80 metres, using coax.

Several years ago a friend of mine (W7AE) and myself became interested in low band DXing. Lacking room for a beverage receiving antenna, we constructed several loop receiving antenna to see if we could find a suitable low /lower noise receiving antenna.

W7AE built the first loop for 160m following plans laid out in the ARRL Antenna Handbook. Encouraged by the results I built one for 80m.



I found that with a proper pre-amp, such as the Palomar series, or Ameco's PT-3 there was a significant lowering of noise, but the signals that I was unable to hear on my sloper now were quite workable using the receiving loop.

For the past several years, we experimented with several different configurations, including a circular, and square loop. We found that the diamond configuration worked the best.

The 80m version requires a pre-amp to bring the signal up to an acceptable quality.

We've found that there is a one to two S unit difference (depending how high you set the gain on the preamp) in the lowering of noise.

There have been several times that the loop has made the difference between working a DX station or not hearing him on my sloper.

Though the antenna is not a beverage, we've found it to be a good alternative.

For the 160m loop

To construct the 160m loop you'll need 20ft on RG-59.

Fold the RG-59 in half. On the 160m loop, it would be about 10ft from the end. On the 80m loop, it would be about 5 ft. from the end.

You then mark the centre, then measure 1/2 an inch on both sides. Strip away the outer cable, the braid, and then the foil covering the centre conductor insulation.

I then usually use heat shrink to weatherproof what I've cut away. Then cut some schedule 40 2 inch pvc pipe into 3 lengths. Each should be 45 inches long. Cut one to 56 inches. That one will be the mast. Assemble the lengths you cut into a "T" configuration. Measure from the centre 43 1/4 inches on the three 45inch lengths. Drill a hole large enough to pass through the RG-59.

For the 80m loop

Drill three holes 20 1/2 inches measured from the centre of the "T". Loop the 20ft RG-59 through the holes drilled at 43 1/4 inches, then loop the 10ft length through the holes drilled at 20 1/2 inches. Install the male type "f" and weather boots on the RG-59 you just looped through the "T".

Attach the 20ft cable to the 160m matching box. Also do the same with the 80m box.

I find it easier to aim the 160m box with the SO-239 down. And the 80m box with the SO-239 up. That way the it will keep the harness short.

Drill the mounting holes through the box, once you pull the loop tight. To tune the loops attach each loop separately to your transceiver. Do *not* apply RF to the loop. This will damage the components, and probably your transceiver.

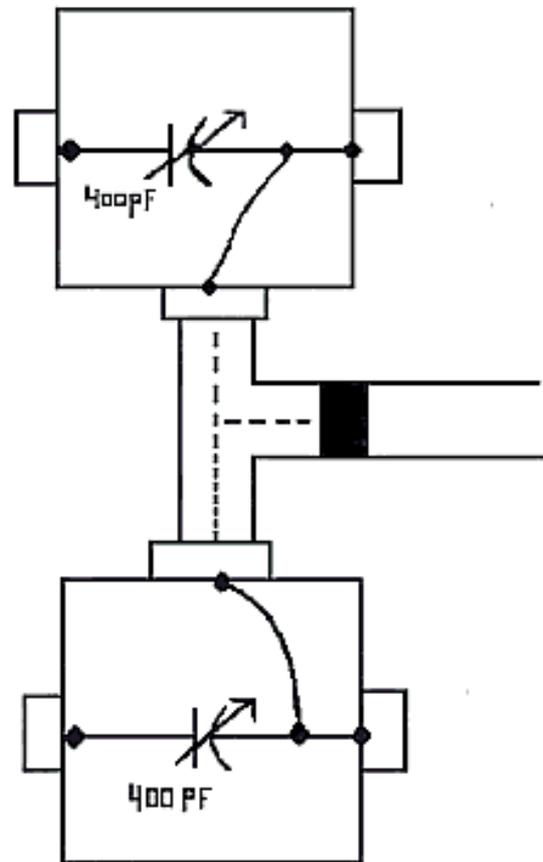
Place the dial of your transceiver to the part of the band you want to use the loop on. Then adjust the trimmer capacitor for maximum noise. Do this for

Both loops.

Then attach the harness. The loops should be ready for use. I usually weatherproof the boxes and frame. And I add a wood dowling to strengthen the mast.

Construction of the boxes.

The trimmer values are approx. the values shown in the drawing right. However I've used ARCO 468 for the 160m loop and ARCO 467 trimmers for the 80m loop, with great success. RG8X can be of random length. I usually cut them to fit between the boxes. The lead to the receiver can be of any length.



A PHOTO FROM THE WILD WEST

What should lob on your editor's email system just before magazine completion—a lovely photograph of our western correspondent Peter VK6YSF (he is the one on the right) with wife Colleen and new edition to the family, Andrew Hudson Miles.

The Northam environment is obviously treating everyone well. Question is— with all the excitement of the new addition to the family, how is the construction of the shack going? A man must have a haven and a baby must have a Kenwood or Icom to play with! Great to hear all are well and thanks for keeping in touch, folks.

IMPRESSIONS OF AN MDRC HAMFEST

John VK3FMPB

The Moorabbin hamfest held at Brentwood Secondary college in Glen Waverly was held on the 10th of May. Funny thing, it looked very similar to what it looked like last year. The only difference being that where Rod MRT and I FMPB won the first and second prizes in the raffles last year, the best that we (Wansarc) could do this year was Wayne, VCL and I winning 3rd and 4th prizes, a pair of Icom hats. First prize was a Yaesu radio so it was a touch disappointing not winning that and only getting a hat. Some may say, however, that a hat is better than nothing.



John VK3FMPB giving ICOM a free plug to sell their wares—in fact by a new radio you get John for free.....90 day money back guarantee!!!

This year we (Wansarc) had a great turn out, 13 members as far as I can make out were there.

VK3- PI, MRT, FXDX, FTDX, DWH, VCL, EB, KBL, XIJ, XYC, CH, HGX and myself, **FMPB** were the attending members this year. Not too bad for a club who are about 30 kilometres away from where the hamfest

was taking place. If I have left anyone's callsign out profuse apologies.

I found myself chatting to the blokes from FAMPARC and EMDRC - they were telling me that EMDRC run antenna building classes— now that is something I reckon we could be doing around our own club, especially when we get the new club rooms. Just a few of us on a day or night building an antenna or something similar to give us some experience. What do members think?

The gear on sale all looked very similar to last year. Come to think of it the sausages out the front on sale also looked very similar.

We all did a lot of walking around the hall, funny seeing that the hall was not overly large. I bought a \$2 ammeter and a \$2 Volt meter. I wonder if the things will work. Would you expect anything you paid \$2 for to work?

Rod VK3MRT

Made my way down to Glen Waverley for the MDRC Hamfest on Saturday 10 May. Caught up with the usual suspects - Johnno, Trevor and Dave. Was also great to see many other club members there as well, as Johnno mentioned in his article. Was great to catch up with Chris (HGX) and Dallas (EB) gave me a few pointers on meters.



VK3PI networking Eric 3AX (right) says to Steve 3HK: " Why is this guy wearing sun glasses ? Maybe he's on a special mission and wants to remain anonymous ? Should we tell him his callsign is on the cap ! Photo and caption Dallas VK3EB

This Hamfest was very well attended by both Traders and Hams. The first hour or so was very busy indeed. As always there seemed to be a lot of junk that appears at each Hamfest, however there were several good bargains to be had and a lot of interesting equipment as well.

I wasn't planning on any major purchases, just wanted a few bits and bobs. However, I did manage to pick up a power supply and a power lead for my HF rig. Also picked up a couple of cheap meters and a fan to keep it all cool.

Afterwards, a bunch of us - **Trevor (FTDX)**, **Dave (FXDX)**, **Greg (UT)**, **Ron (FTFN)**, both from Warrnambool, and **Yuri (JUZ)** - met up for coffee at a nearby restaurant to go over our purchases and swap radio stories. Trevor and Yuri were engrossed in an in depth conversation about antenna design. I reckon they should start up an antenna workshop! Check out Dave's photo of Yuri and Trevor designing an antenna- AutoCAD has been replaced by TrevCAD!



Trevor VK3FTDX and Yuri VK3JUZ doing some antenna design with local restaurant implements.....rare DX on VHF. Photograph Dave VK3FXDX.

All in all it was a great day

Dave VK3FXDX

An enjoyable day once again, It was great to see many of our WAN-SARC club in attendance, including Mark VK3PI and Bill VK3KBL.

I picked up a few \$2 homebrew items like a signal tracer and some small project boxes, and found an old mic with the old 4 pin style connector to suit my valve CB -that alone was worth the trip.



Now here is a treasure.....valve 27MHz transceiver purchased by Dave VK3FXDX.....don't anyone tell you that valves are not making a comeback!!! You never know—we may get 11 metres back one day!!!

We were still there when most stall holders were packing up, and then I lashed out and bought that monster variac - I'm sure everybody had seen and pondered that one!? Where am I going to put that thing? I was a few seconds too late to grab an old Heathkit condenser checker for % 5—always next year!!

73 de **Dave VK3FXDX** (The tube man)



WANSARC big spenders

Gee I didn't realize a Hamfest could be so much fun. Dan VK3DWH has no money for a snag from the barby so he asks his friends for a dollar or two - like true blue mates they just laugh at him.

Left to right Chris VK3HGX, Dan VK3DWH, Wayne VK3VCL and Bill VK3KBL. Photograph and caption Dallas VK3EB

WANSARC May 2, 2008 MEETING—AUCTION NIGHT WASH UP by Mark VK3PI

Congratulations to all club members on their generosity during the Auction night in support of Hal VK3EKF's family. Despite a slow start to the auction proceedings Bob VK3BU got the ball rolling with some bargain purchasing and then things got better and better. Amateurs can be notoriously tight fisted however we are all "magpies" at heart and it was great to see some of Hal's treasures go to good homes. Mind you



What was that you bid? Man with paper is auctioneer Mark VK3PI. Photograph courtesy Rod VK3MRT.

VK3BZT scored some bits, so too did Russell VK3BMR. The "Yaesu" clock found a good home in Ian VK3XIJ. Well done to everyone for dipping their hands into their pockets and more importantly obtaining something to remember Hal by. The night raised **\$853!!** A marvellous effort for Elva!

some of the items needed a little tender loving care, but I guess this was part of the fun of purchasing a box of tricks with some tricks up its sleeve. It was great to see so many of our members at the club for this night—Frank Ruzzene braved a cold, Bob VK3BU made it over and good to see Brian VK3RA back from his touring. Tony



Standing L-R Bob VK3EL, Ian VK3XIJ, seated L-R Russell VK3BMR and James VK3FRES review goods on auction. Photograph courtesy of Rod VK3MRT.

NEW SQUID POLES AVAILABLE

A Sydney fishing crowd have contacted the club via President Graeme VK3NE, advising that they have a special deal on at the moment for quantity buys of poles. Lengths on special and prices quoted are as follows:

- 3m pole - \$7 each**
- 6m pole - \$14 each. 7m pole - \$17 each**

Stocks are limited, so if you want one of these please contact Secretary Mark VK3PI at the club meeting this Friday night, or via email at vk3pi@optusnet.com.au to place an order.

The club is very close to obtaining a box of 25 so be early so that you do not miss out. For those with some experience with these poles we are advised that this is a good price! **73 de Mark VK3PI**

BITS AND PIECES

Congratulations to James VK3FRES and Joan on the safe arrival of their 3rd bundle of joy (read future consumer of money) during this week. Baby and mother doing well, father still picking up microphone. Weight a healthy 3.8KG— all the very best from your club colleagues.

Bob VK3EL sounding very melodious with his new acquisition for 2 metres, an AWA RT85. An oldie but a good one!

A reminder that Reservoir Rotary Club raffle tickets are required to be returned NO LATER than Friday June 6 2008. Please bring tickets, sold or unsold WITH MONEY, to the club.

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY 2008 SUCCESS!!

Congratulations to WANSARC on again being 1st in the 6 hour Multiple Operator All Band section of the competition. Second year in a row—a club record! Now let's aim to have more food, sorry, contacts, in 2009!





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. or via email to vk3pi@optusnet.com.au

It's your magazine!!

Your magazine contributors this month include—

Dallas VK3EB, Dave VK3FXDX, John VK3FMPB, Rod VK3MRT, Trevor VK3FTDX, Mark VK3PI,, Peter VK6YSF, Graeme VK3PGK, Amateur Radio Victoria, Rod VK3MRT and Anonymous

Thanks folks de Mark VK3PI, Editor/Producer.

WHAT ABOUT THIS ? Contributions from members

THE ORIGINAL COMPUTER

Graeme VK3PGK

- Memory was something you lost with age
- An application was for employment
- A program was a TV show
- A cursor used profanity
- A keyboard was a piano
- A web was a spider's home
- A virus was the flu
- A hard drive was a long trip on the road
- A mouse pad was where a mouse lived

And if you had a 3 inch floppy.

You just hoped nobody ever found out!?!

BEIJING GEARS UP FOR THE OLYMPICS

From Amateur Radio Victoria

Sunday May 18 saw the start of a month long activation of five 'ring' special event callsigns to celebrate the Beijing Olympic Games.

Each station will represent one of the five rings on the Olympic flag. **BT10B (Beibei Blue), BT10J (Jingjing Black), BT10H (Huanhuan Red), BT10Y (Yingying Yellow) and BT10N (Nini Green).**

QSL manager for all stations is **Zheng Feng BA4EG** with both bureau and direct cards being accepted with reply QSLs after October.

The stations will be **QRV until 17 September** and supported by an online log at www.bj2008ses.com.cn

From Anonymous



WANSARC Club message pads will be available soon. Messages for all occasions all on a handy piece of paper. Also WANSARC encouragement notes (below) will be available in the near future





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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month's featured "member" is the WANSARC Committee, shown here meeting at a "covert" location.....not really, just a wrap up in a carpark before dispersing home.

Your Committee welcomes your input in how the club can improve in its service to members, so, if you have something to contribute contact any one of our Committee members and have your say in how your club runs in 2008. Incidentally many thanks to Rod VK3MRT, our webmaster and Committee member—Rod is doing a fine job with the website.....keep it up, Rod.

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

Next meeting Friday June 6, 2008 at NMIT

If not delivered within 7 days, please return to
WANSARC, PO Box 336, Reservoir, 3073

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