

# WANSARC NEWS



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Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club VK3AWS  
Incorporated in Victoria A7611S

## VK3EB—a man on a portable mission



One of our most experienced portable operators is Dallas VK3EB. This year on the John Moyle he was our “20 metre” man, but many would argue that his real interest on HF lies on 160 metres.

So here is just a “teaser” of an article which will be presented in next month’s humble journal on Dallas and his portable operations during the past summer.

Dallas is seen here operating his Amalgamated Wireless FP-1 Forestphone, a low power AM crystal locked transmitter used in the past by Forests Commission Victoria (now known as Department of Sustainability and Environment). Also in the photograph at right is his homebrew antenna matching unit.

Club member Greg, VK3CN, also has a working FP-1.

So watch out next month for some salient words on portable operations, the FP-1 and 160 metres from Dallas VK3EB.

### Inside this issue:

President’s May 2009 Message GraemeVK3NE	2
Vale—Bob Goulet VK3BU	2
Club raffle, FOR SALE item	3
WANSARC coming attractions	3
<b>FEATURE ARTICLE</b> —Radio Extremes— OKALA OH8X—Peter VK6YSF	4
Fishing Beacons on 160 metres	6
Member contributions—VK3PGK and James Taranto	7

### Calendar for MAY 2009

- **Friday May 1 2009** —“FOXHUNTING” presentation Don VK3HDX and Brian VK3YNG
- **Tuesday May 5, 12,19,26** - CLUB VHF NET 146.450MHz 1930 hours local time call Club station VK3AWS
- **Sunday May 17**—Club day at clubrooms with Foxhunt equipment construction and SYNTRX project work

## Presidents May 2009 Message—YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT!!



WANSARC continues to grow as a club, with renewed enthusiasm from old and new members alike.

And it is pleasing to note that the move back to the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion has provided a stable reference point for the club and its activities.

Recently the club ran another of its "programmed" Sunday club days, with a Committee meeting preceding discussions on a foxhunting day for the club. The attendance was very pleasing, the company good and the weather quite pleasant

enough to have the balcony doors open to take in the excellent view of Edwardes Park Lake.

Members will be acutely aware that being back at the Lake comes at a cost and it is for this reason alone that your participation in the Reservoir Rotary Club raffle is all the more important.

\$1.45 of every \$2 ticket is returned to the club and if we were to sell all tickets allocated to the club, enough money would be received to pay at least 1/2

of our annual rental fee to Council.

So if you have already received a raffle ticket book of 10 tickets, please assist the club by selling as many as possible.

This is our major, and only club fundraiser for the year.

And if you feel lucky, buy some yourself—remember that old saying that "**You have to be in it to win it!**"

## Vale Robert (Bob) Goulet VK3BU by Mark VK3PI

Club members were saddened to learn of the sudden passing on Sunday, April 21, 2009, of Robert Edward Goulet, to us **Bob, VK3BU**.

Although 77 years of age, Bob showed a continued enthusiasm to assist all members of the club in sharing his radio knowledge with young and old.

How many members of the club have benefited from Bob's ability to unearth information on a particular rig, amateur radio program, operating manual or service manual?

And then, without any thought of anything in return, said information was presented on a CD disc or multiple copies distributed to a swag of club members. Such was Bob's unselfishness in sharing information amongst his colleagues.

On the air Bob was, as in person, a true gentleman.

And in his professional career Bob was noted for his resourcefulness and problem solving.

As a member of the Department of Biochemistry at University of Melbourne, Bob received accolades from his superiors when experts had failed to rectify issues with a specialist piece of equipment.

This is what was said of Bob— *"the machine, as delivered, had been incompletely assembled and had defective electronics. You completed the wiring and rectified all the electronic problems very speedily. Thereafter the machine was plagued by a series of mechanical defects and breakages. None of the experts, either here or at C.S.I.R.O were able to overcome these problems. Indeed, the drive assembly was believed to be damaged beyond repair. You completely repaired the damaged drive assembly and re-assembled it and made all the necessary additional alterations and repairs. As you know, the machine is now running satisfactorily and according to its original specifications."*

For 52 years Bob was the much loved husband of Norma. Bob was a father to Rodney, Wendy and Phillip. He was a grandfather to Chris, Tyler, Alyshas, Caleb, Aidan, Imogen and Kane and a brother to Gwenda.

And at the club he was a friend to all—a gentlemen with a keen sense of principles, right and wrong. And never short of some sage advice for dealing with life's issues.

**We are all poorer in Bob's passing, but richer in having shared part of Bob's life.**

## Club raffle—how are you going?



Many thanks to those members of the club who have returned sold raffle tickets with money.

It is very pleasing to have quite a number of tickets returned already and WANSARC appreciates members support in assisting the club and Reservoir Rotary in this mutually beneficial fund raising event.

Remember \$1.45 of every \$2 ticket sold is returned to the club.

As this is our only major fund raising activity for the year, support from all members is required.

The raffle will be drawn in the second week of June and as such members have until the June meeting as the final date for the return of tickets. However if you have sold all of your tickets please bring your ticket stubs and money to the next club meeting.

If you require any more tickets because of your outstanding selling abilities, please see Mark VK3PI.

**SALE.....SALE.....SALE.....SALE.....SALE.....SALE.....SALE**

**Icom IC-T90A 6mx/2mx/70cm** 5W Wideband RX AM/FM/WFM 500kHz to 999MHz (Dynamic Memory Scan) bank scanning, DTCS and CTCSS tone squelch, PC Programmable, 5.5 - 11V DC operation, Split operation, Wide/narrow transmit capability Includes **Box, Manual, Wall Charger, Original & FA-S627UD Antenna** Original Radio – No Mods, ACMA Approved Little use, Mint Condition New Currently \$395 – **Asking \$195 O.N.O.**

Contact Mick [vk3ch@wia.org.au](mailto:vk3ch@wia.org.au) or 0434 149 045

## WANSARC Coming club attractions

**FRIDAY MAY 1, 2009**— Don VK3HDX will present on “Foxhunting for Beginners or Beginners Foxhunting”. This will be an essential presentation for those wishing to participate in a **WANSARC club foxhunting day**, likely to be run at the end of **May or early June**. So come along and learn a little about this fun amateur activity. You will then have a better chance of winning a major prize on the day. More about the foxhunting day later.



**SUNDAY MAY 17, 2009**— Yes, it is time to convert the **SYNTRX** boxes to UHF amateur frequencies. We have the **EPROM conversion boards**, a handful of components and now it is your chance to convert one of these robust units to UHF. The conversion board is **\$15**, payable to the club on the day. For those not participating in the SYNTRX project come on down anyway and build or see some foxhunting equipment in preparation for the **WANSARC Foxhunting Day**. Club rooms open at **1000am until 4pm**.



**FRIDAY JUNE 5, 2009**— Come down to the club-rooms with all of your preloved gear for a “**FIVER NIGHT**”. What is this you say? Members are invited to bring down equipment for disposal, however nothing for sale is over \$5! It's amazing how much you can enjoy picking up some real bargains with a handful of “**FIVERS**” in the pocket.

So start saving your small change and FIVER notes, or get that shack cleared of your little nick knacks and bring them down to the club for a great night. And you never know, an auction or two

of some other items may provide a pleasant surprise!!

**FRIDAY JULY 3, 2009**— “**CHRISTIMAS IN JULY**” family night. More details soon.

## RADIO EXTREMES—OKALA OH8X By Peter VK6YSF

I'm always inspired when I see my fellow humans operating at the extremes, whether it is climbing K2, sailing solo around the world or walking on the moon. The ability of humans to push the boundaries is what got us out of the trees and opened up all the possibilities before us.

Radio amateurs are not normally associated with operating at the extremes though I would argue that this is not always the case, but an amateur radio project near Finland's Arctic Circle is at the extreme in every sense of the word and is certainly pushing the boundaries of what most of us believed was possible.

**Arkala OH8X**, possibly the most advanced radio DX sports station in the world, is located at 65.18°N, 26.24°E near Finland's Arctic Circle. The site is a cluster of some of the largest amateur radio antennas in the world.

Radio Arkala OH8X was the inspiration of **Juha Hulkko (OH8NC)** and **Veijo Kontas (OH6KN)** after a discussion back in 2001 which resulted in the procurement of land near the Northern Taiga forests known as Arkala estate in June 2003. The site located about 60km from the city of Oulu with near by access to power and roads, but far enough away as they put it; from TVI customers.

By late 2003 the ham shack and three antenna masts known as M2, M3 and M4 were constructed.

The stations mission statement established in 2007 is to provide an alternative way to promote amateur radio activity among young people by establishing a team of skilled participants. Targeting and conducting competitive activities at extreme level as their way of self-education and self-satisfaction to boost interest among those who seek and value competitive amateur radio as an option.

The mission statement has resulted in the following aim.

- Create the ultimate dream station.
- Capitalize on the innovative amateur radio heritage of Finland.
- Utilize the technical, conceptual and competitive strength of OH8X team.
- Attract young people through extreme concepts at Radio Arcala
- Share the Arcala experience throughout the amateur radio community

Support the academic world with propagation and other post graduate studies

### Target Audience

- Young people seeking a meaningful passion
- Related interest groups
- Competing radio stations/operators and general amateur radio operators.
- Sponsors and media.
- The community at large



**RADIO EXTREMES—OKALA OH8X (continued)**

By 2008 the station was fully automated with use of a touch-screen cockpit style presentation and was being acknowledged as a major player within the world amateur radio community.

If all this was not challenging enough, in December 2008 the final work was being completed on a monster 3 element 160m band steerable yagi antenna. The so called M7 100metre mast supports not only the 160m band 3 element yagi, but also has a 5 element yagi for the 80m band.

As mentioned earlier the antenna mast is steerable and here is **Martti, OH2BH** standing next to the rotator's 7kW motor and gearbox.

Each of the four guy wires extend 120 meters from the tower – representing an area of almost three hectares. The structure has approximately 450 meters of heavy duty tower sections. And finally 600 litres of paint!

The idea of a forty metre band yagi used to impress me, now that seems more like a TV antenna.

The information contained in this article has been obtained with permission from the Radio Arkala OH8X web site.

For more information on Radio Arkala OH8X. See:

<http://www.radioarcala.com/>

Arkala OH8X presentation on Youtube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Rth8FWBJFY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Rth8FWBJFY)

OH8X a station to listen out for!

Cheers from the Wild West. *Peter Miles - VK6YSF*

<http://members.optushome.com.au/vk6ysf/vk6ysf/main.htm>

**80M AND 160M YAGI ANTENA DETAILS****Height and weight of the system**

*Tower height 100m—80m yagi antenna attached at 90m 160m yagi antenna attached at 80m Total weight 39600 kg*

**Elements, gain and take off angles**

*160m 3 elements yagi, 12.9dBi, 26° 80m 5 elements yagi, 15.7dBi, 12°*

**Operating frequencies** 1810-1845, 1845-1880 kHz (SWR < 1.6) 3500-3560 kHz (Lmatch) 3700-3800 kHz (50 ohm / current balun)

**160 m elements** Weight 1600 kg each. Length 59m and all elements have 12m capacitive hats.

*Each of the elements uses 700m of tubing. Tuned with 06 µH coils at the centre*

**80 m elements** Length 46m (longest) 10m above the 160m antenna

**Yagi boom dimensions** 160 m length 71m 80 m length 60m  
The triangular 160m boom (2.2 m) comes with a rail for walking inside it.



*A view along the walk way within the 160m yagi boom. What can one say!*



## **BITS and PI-eces**

**Wayne VK3VCL** continues to experiment with 40 metre antennae. Seems broadcast stations have now all but disappeared from 7.100—7.150 so more DX is being heard.

Well done to **Trevor VK3FTDX** for his continued help for Alex VK3XLC. Trevor has been spearheading work to improve Alex's signal from his new location, with great success. Alex was 5x5 on the net recently and being heard by all.

**Ian VK3QL** is getting closer to having his satellite system up and running.

And best wishes to **Laurie VK3DPF, Bob VK3EL and Don VK3HDX** for their speedy recovery from illness. Keep in touch on the club frequency folks.

**73 de Mark VK3PI**

## **FISHING BEACONS on 160 metres— info from Dallas VK3EB**

Dallas VK3EB has a passion for 160 metres and many club members may recall his sterling efforts to "capture" some stations during the 2008 John Moyle Field Day.

In between the 160 metre "dogpiles" the topic of intruders became a discussion point and "fishing beacons" were mentioned as being able to be heard on 160 metres from time to time.

This was met with a little disbelief, however, a quick tune across the band at sunset revealed some very "odd" beacons with varying signal strengths but quite audible.

The following is an extract from the **IARU REGION 3 Monitoring System Report To The 12<sup>TH</sup> Regional Conference:**

### **1.2.5. Low power beacons:**

1.2.5.1. Long line fish net beacons (also called Mutant beacons) with Morse identifications, in low power levels, are operating in the South China Seas and the Pacific area. There are several types of identifications using "alpha-numeric" and "numeric-alpha" combinations. The identifications are given either continuous or thrice every 4 minutes. The "3XYZ" series is famous with more than fifty beacons operating during the fishing seasons. The owners and the licensing authorities are not known



### **And the following from W8JI—Drift Net or Fishing Buoy Transmitters**

These transmitters send periodic identifiers that repeat along with a carrier and long pauses. They generally have numbers in the identifier, repeat the identifier in groups of three, and then have long silent periods. They are battery powered and low power, but they can be heard for hundreds or thousands of miles. They are most frequently found between 1.8 and 3.6 MHz, and are very common on the 160-meter band. The identifier has nothing to do with the location, it is something programmed by the manufacturer, installer, or his technical support. They often contain a receiver and can be turned off and on remotely by the owner. **So have a listen again on 160 and see what you can hear—now where do I send that QSL reception report??**

## **FREE BBQ GRILL submitted by Geoff VK3AVJ**

### **TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS!**

This is not a joke.  
You can get a **free BBQ grill** from any of the following stores:  
BIG W  
BI-LO  
BUNNINGS  
COLES  
COUNTDOWN  
FOOD FOR LESS  
FOODTOWN  
NEW WORLD  
PAK N SAVE  
TARGET  
WOOLWORTHS

**I especially like the higher shelf which can be used for keeping things warm!**



*Every man's nail gun dream from Graeme VK3PGK*



*New Nail Gun, made by Dewalt. It can drive a 16-D nail through a 2 X 4 at 200 yards. This makes construction a breeze, you can sit in your lawn chair and build a fence. Just get the wife and kids to hold the fence boards in place while you sit back, relax with a cold drink, when they have the board in the right*

*place just fire away. With the hundred round magazine, you can build the fence with a minimum of reloading.*

*After a day of fence building with the new Dewalt Rapid fire nail gun, the wife will not ask you to fix or build anything else.*

*Generations throughout the ages explained— from James Taranto*

**The Silent Generation...**  
people born between 1925 and 1945.

**The Baby Boomers...**  
people born between 1946 and 1964.

**Generation X...**  
people born between 1965 and 1982.

**Generation Y...**  
people born between 1983 and 1997.

Why do we call the last group of people Generation Y?  
I had no idea until I saw this caricaturist's explanation! A picture is worth a thousand words.

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*Editors comment—I thought I was a baby boomer until I saw this.....!!!!!!*



**SQUID POLES**, brand new, 6 metres long \$18 for club members, \$22 for non-club members, some still left, see the Treasurer Gordon VK3YOD or mail [vk3pi@optusnet.com.au](mailto:vk3pi@optusnet.com.au) to order

## 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

FIRST Friday of each month except January at the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, SEAVER GROVE, RESERVOIR. See map).

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](http://www.wansarc.org.au)

Email: [wansarc@wia.org.au](mailto:wansarc@wia.org.au)

Postal: WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073



**Don't forget the "club" meets on air regularly on 146.450MHz FM. Give a call— someone is always listening!!!**

**Next meeting Friday May 1 , 2009**

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

**Australia Post stamp here**