

WANSARC NEWS



Wansarc is an affiliated club of the Wireless Institute of Australia

Volume 40 Issue 9—October 2009



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

AS SUMMER DRAWS NEAR



A sunset shot of VK3AWS portable, Mount Disappointment, to the north of Melbourne. The club has a proud tradition of operating on field days. With an influx of new members over recent years this enthusiasm to “play portable” has increased. So much so that plans are underway for the club to be active in November for another field day weekend. Many of our members continue to experiment with portable antennae and field equipment—a credit to all. If you are going portable for a few hours, a day, a weekend or even longer, why not document your experiences and take some photographs for inclusion in the WANSARC newsletter. Many of your ideas and experiences can be shared with others. The level of contributions from club members has never been higher, so send your words and pictures for all to share.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Next meeting activities | 2 |
| BITS and PI-eces—Mark VK3PI | 2 |
| The Power of the Mind from Gary VK3FGAR | 2 |
| A Portable Antenna Stand —Martin VK3FMJP | 3 |
| ATV Beam club project—Don VK3HDX | 4 |
| JOTA and JOTI 2009 | 5 |
| Alternatives to Microsoft Office—from Rod VK3MRT | 6 |

Calendar for OCTOBER 2009

- **Friday October 2009**—It’s a general meeting night with a twist. Bring your gold coins to snap up some more preloved equipment. Boards, bits and pieces.
- **Tuesday October 6,13,20,27** - CLUB VHF NET with re-broadcasts on 80 metres (3.647MHz) and 10 metres (28.470MHz), when available. Come on and join in and catch up with the latest member projects and news.

NEXT MEETING ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, 2009 — General meeting, natter night and some more great bargains in the pre-loved equipment department. Graeme VK3NE has sourced some bits and pieces for club members and these will be on display for people to touch and determine that they really, really need the gear in their shacks. And having decided that this is the case members can then part with some gold coins or even more, the club is happy and our punters walk away with some goodies. Likewise Martin VK3FMPB has secured a number of commercial boards littered with transistors, relays, toroids, caps, resistors etc etc. Each board is a goldmine for those who wish to stock up on commercial grade components for those rainy day projects. Note each board will attract a gold coin donation so bring your piggy bank money along.

A reminder to members that Christmas is fast approaching and one agenda item for the General meeting is agreement on the venue for our final meeting. In recent years this has been the NMIT Restaurant, so if you have other ideas then please raise your ideas at the meeting.

BITS AND PIECES by Mark VK3PI

Your scribe is finally putting the shack back together again so plenty of time to listen around of late. Firstly congratulations to **Jess VK3FJPM** and his YL **Melissa** on the announcement of their engagement. Very best wishes to Jess and Melissa for the future and time to educate Melissa on the merits of amateur radio as this will hold you in great stead in the future for birthday, Easter, Christmas presents!! **Margaret**, XYL of **Don VK3HDX**, has taken up her new role with the Channel 10 Master Chef series. Margaret is now based in Sydney and Don is now bound for the VK2 capital as well. Don's enthusiasm and drive has been a bonus for WANSARC and members will certainly miss Don when he makes the move. Technical plans are being hatched to have Don access the VHF net each week—more when known. Best wishes to Margaret and Don for this exciting period of their lives and rest assured we have them both back in Melbourne in the near future. Whilst Don is organising his move the re-broadcast of the weekly 2m net continues on 3674KHz. **Don VK3HDX** has been doing a sterling job rebroadcasting the VHF net. On a recent net night nearly every call area in Australia responded either on email or on air to provide a report on the broadcast. Don has spent considerable time and effort in ensuring that the broadcast quality is exceptional and this is reflected in the positive reports from listeners. So WANSARC members remember that your comments are truly going national! **Mick VK3CH** advises that the digital television repeater system at VK3RTV is nearing commissioning—another month or so before the official cutting of the ribbon. Keep watching....it will happen soon. Mick has been able to access the device with 150mw at 30 kilometres or so....not a bad effort. Who can beat that? The 4pm net on 146.450MHz has a very healthy turn up these days, chaired by elder statesman **Max VK3ZCW**. Aside from some very stimulating discussions it is one of the only nets that regularly tells you what time it is! Many of the operators continue to count down to 5pm so you have no excuses if you miss the 5pm news services!! And finally the writing of the **club history** is well underway and I would encourage any members of the club who have not yet contributed their thoughts on the history of the club, including some of their own details, to do so immediately. Contact me directly at the club meeting or alternatively email me at vk3pi@optusnet.com.au. As it would be fitting to include your details as you are part of WANSARC! *73 de the PI*



THE POWER OF THE MIND from Garry VK3FGAR

C n a y u o r a e d t i h s ? O l n y 5 5 p l e p o e o u t o f 1 0 0 c a n .

i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hman mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt! if you can raed tihs forwrad it

A PORTABLE ANTENNA STAND by Martin VK3FMJP

As an inveterate 'fiddler', I can't stop myself having a go.

Apparently my heritage goes back to saddle-makers so perhaps that explains things. Anyway, having seen some interesting setups from time to time, I thought I could have a go at a portable antenna mount to use a couple of squid poles sourced quite reasonably from the club (WANSARC).

The unit is capable of adjustment from an 'L', 'V' or horizontal. The mount is different to some I have seen in that the arms are easily adjusted or removed for transport. That way, the squid poles don't need to be removed each time from their brackets.

How is it made? Well standard plumbing fittings are a great source. The dimensions are not critical. This is my second attempt at the head. The first version had insufficient friction though for the arms and the threaded rod rotated in the 'T' and that required 3 hands to set up. I was also keen on the plastic agricultural fittings but realised that poor friction could also be an issue – although I have another idea to try out some time. I like brass as the cast iron end-plug fittings are not as robust as the copper.

So, what I used:

- 1x brass 3/8" or 1" 'T'.
- 2x brass end-caps.
- 1x Length of 3/8 threaded rod / studding – about 5" to 6".
- 4x 3/8 nuts.
- 1 x adapter for 'T' to fit mast – if required.
- 2 x 'tri-nuts' 3/8 to suit rod.
- 1 x length of shelving bracket (cut in half, drilled 3/8 and notch cut out to clear the 'T'. (This is relatively light weight and slotted).
- 4 x 3/8 washers & some epoxy .
- Length of webbing with buckle

Construction

What I found worked was drill the brass end caps 3/8 clearance. Drill out from the inside as the internal face is already tapered so will self-centre. I epoxied a nut to the outside of the brass to provide a better surface as I think brass is a little 'slippery' (I might rough up the surface with some emery paper if needed-paper washers are also good for arresting slipping). Four nuts tightened at the mid-point of the studding. Insert the rod/nuts into the 'T' piece then screw on the brass end-caps. Spanner tight will probably be fine and that stopped the studding from moving. I could always drop a spot of epoxy on later if needed. I cut the length of shelving bracket in half, drilled a 3/8 hole between the slots and epoxied a washer to the outside to add a bit of extra support to the r/angle bracket. Assemble and check the studding length.

Too long and I could damage the tri-nuts (I could use standard nuts with a spanner I guess). On this unit, I added a 3/4-1" adapter for attaching the poly pipe mast and used a large split-ring on the shoulder. That will attach to guys later.

For height, the poly pipe (Moxon) has an internal diameter that will slip over the extendable camping poles I bought from a number of places – will have a play. I use an ex-army dumpy level tri-pod that seems ok in no- wind in the back yard so far. If there is any wind or in public, I would guy it.



A PORTABLE ANTENNA STAND by Martin VK3FMJP (continued)

Assembly

At this stage during testing the assembly, I taped the 6mtr squid poles to the angle bracket. I will experiment with some 'python' clamps and a bit of support/sleeving for the squid poles as I am unsure if they could be damaged at this stage by the 'leverage'/ moment of the fixed poles. I then attached the poles and put them at right angles – one vertical. To support the arms when under load, I added a length of webbing, wrapping it around the metal brackets and squid-poles where the meet. I found it easiest to extend the horizontal pole first, then loosening the tri-nuts and rotating the extended pole vertically, I then extended the other pole. Once done, I moved the unit back to a 'V'. So far, so good.

Next test will be to add an antenna and try it out for real. Not sure how I will manage attaching the wire but probably just after extending each pole. I will need to watch the uneven weight so I will guy it first. Any extra wire could probably hang down into an 'M'. (Hopefully not a set of 'golden arches' in shape.)

Will this stand up to the rigour of use – I have no idea. There is obviously a fair bit of windage in the poles so I will be cautious how I use it with wind around. Experimenting will be fun and I will be interested in any thoughts on how I could improve this.

What would I try next version?

Maybe 1" 'T' piece to provide a broader bearing surface for the 'clamping'. I guess if I had 9m poles, the extra surface area would be useful. Of course, this article is written for entertainment purposes only. What was the cost? Ex the poles & tri-pod, about \$30.



73 Martin VK3FMJP

ATV U.H.F BEAM CLUB PROJECT

Members attending the September meeting of the club were privy to a sample kit beam organized by Don VK3HDX.

At the meeting Don suggested members may be interested in a kit beam project and a number of members expressed verbal interest in obtaining a kit.

Don has now provided the following details for the consideration of members.

"The project is to build a 12 Element Yagi cut for 446.500Mhz which is the output frequency of the new VK3RTV digital Television Repeater, soon to be commissioned.

This antenna would be suitable for those members who recently obtained a Set Top Box from the club to watch the new repeater.

The antenna will be supplied in kit form, and you will be able complete it in around 1 and a half hours.

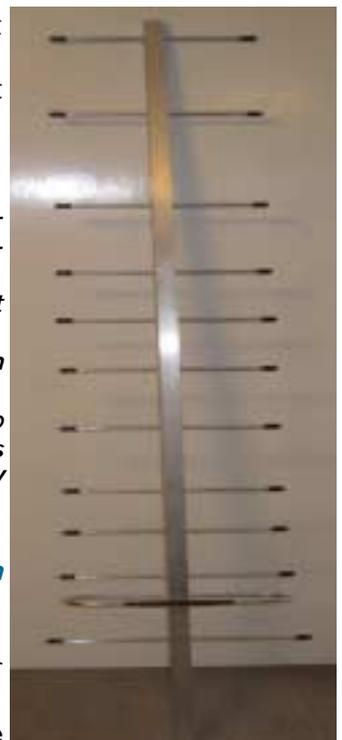
While we tested the prototype antenna, (which many of you saw at the last club meeting) on TX as well as RX and it performed well, it should be noted that this kit is being made available as an RX only kit suitable for connecting to 75ohm TV coax and to a set top box."

Should you decide to use it for any other purpose you do so at your own risk.

The kit comes with everything you need to complete the antenna, and is rear mounted, The cost of the kit is only **\$50.00**

If you would like to participate in a construction day and order an antenna, **please e-mail me at vk3hdx@gmail.com with your order.**

An agreed date and time for construction will be determined by the club Committee given adequate orders.



Note this offer is only open to club members."

JAMBOREE OF THE AIR 2009—Be in it!!!

Dear Wansarcians,

Get your ears on, and your gob too, for Jamboree of the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree of the Internet (JOTI) 2009.

This year's event will be held over the weekend of 17 – 18 October 2009. Over 500,000 scouts, guides, cubs and venturers will participate from all over the world and WANSARC will have at least two club members participating.

Ian VK3JQ is the co-ordinator for a JOTA effort at Riddells Creek and John VK3FMPB will be assisting Ian again this year.

WANSARC members are encouraged to participate, either on site or by chatting to participants on air.

If WANSARC members wish to assist Ian and John on site during the JOTA, a "Working with Children" check will be required. More information on the criteria and process for checks can be found at:

<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/Working+With+Children/Home/>

Ian and Johnno will travel to Riddells Creek to set up a number of portable stations and have the kids chat to other scouts, and hopefully some people from our club. In previous years Rod (VK3MRT) has shouldered the whole load and sat by his radio all day and all weekend and chatted to hundreds of scouts for hours on end.

So this year it would be ideal to get a few more people from the club involved to help share the load. If you only participate via radio you don't need a working with children check like Ian and John do but you need to be aware you are talking to children aged between 8 – 18 or so and you will need to keep your language and ideas appropriate to that age group.

*If you are interested in assisting with this year's JOTA/JOTI, please contact **Ian VK3JQ** at i_mclean@yahoo.com, or on telephone **54287364**. You can also contact **Johnno VK3FMPB** on **9372 5062** or on VHF 146.450MHz.*

2009 Theme: Climate Change Challenge C3

World Scouting's communication theme for this year is environment, given our work and the worldwide focus on the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference \(COP 15\)](#) in Copenhagen 7 - 18 December. Therefore the "C3" is an excellent opportunity to show to the world the efforts of millions of Scouts to protect the environment and take positive action against climate change. JOTA is a real testimony to the international dimension of Scouting, where young people not only learn about new technologies, they can understand that there are millions of Scouts all over the world sharing the same vision: creating a better world!

The radio and Internet discussions that will take place during the JOTA will contribute to enhancing the participants' awareness of environmental issues. The educational tools will be based on the content of the [World Scout Environment Programme](#) and a special kit for JOTA is currently under development.



52nd On the Air
Sur les Ondes
JAMBOREE On the
13th Sur Internet
17-18 October / Octobre, 2009



Thanks to this month's magazine contributors—Martin VK3FMJP, Rod VK3MRT, Mark VK3PI, Gary VK3FGAR, John VK3FMPB, Dan VK3DWH, Geoff VK3AVJ, Don VK3HDX

JAMBOREE OF THE AIR 2009—Be in it!! (continued)

Already available topics that can be used related to your JOTA programme:

- [natural disasters](#)
- [prepare for disasters of any kind](#)
- [alternate energy for your JOTA station](#)
- [the carbon footprint](#)

For this year we are promoting "green" JOTA radio stations. During the celebrations of the centenary of Scouting in 2007, a JOTA radio station was set up on Brownsea Island, running fully on solar, wind and human energy. In order to complete the Climate Change Challenge ("C3") a JOTA participant should:

1. 1) Help your JOTA radio station to become a "green" radio station. Is your radio station environmentally friendly? Can you reduce the carbon footprint of the radio station?
2. 2) Discuss with 2 different people from 2 different countries about what actions can you do to reduce your environmental footprint
- 3) Learn about an environmental problem found close to the JOTA radio station and write down a possible action to improve the situation.



When the points above are completed the JOTA participant will receive the certificate produced by WOSM.

World Scout Frequencies

Several amateur radio bands have designated frequencies where Scout stations can meet. Of course, the whole authorized band can be used for Scout contacts, however, to easily find Scout stations, listen in on the following Scout frequencies:

| BAND | SSB (phone) | CW (morse) |
|------|-------------------|------------|
| 80 m | 3.690 & 3.940 MHz | 3.570 MHz |
| 40 m | 7.090 & 7.190 MHz | 7.030 MHz |
| 20 m | 14.290 MHz | 14.060 MHz |
| 17 m | 18.140 MHz | 18.080 MHz |
| 15 m | 21.360 MHz | 21.140 MHz |
| 12 m | 24.960 MHz | 24.910 MHz |
| 10 m | 28.390 MHz | 28.180 MHz |
| 6 m | 50.160 MHz | 50.160 MHz |

ALTERNATIVES TO MICROSOFT OFFICE from Rod VK3MRT

Looking for an alternative to Microsoft Office? Here are a few free alternatives:

Google Apps - any platform, web based <http://www.google.com/apps>

Open Office - any platform <http://www.openoffice.org/>

Lotus Symphony— <http://symphony.lotus.com/software/lotus/symphony/home.nsf/home>

Zoho <http://zoho.com/> - any platform

And for a different operating system try Linux— <http://www.linux.org/>

Some interesting comments on the Linux home page on rejuvenating old PC's.

IRISH VASECTOMY from Dan VK3DWH

After having their 11th child, an Irish couple decided that that was enough, as they couldn't afford a larger bed. So the husband went to his doctor and told him that he and his wife didn't want to have any more children.

The doctor told him there was a procedure called a vasectomy that would fix the problem but it was expensive.

A less costly alternative was to go home, get a large firecracker, light it, put it in a beer can, then hold the can up to his ear and count to 10.

The husband said to the doctor, "B'Jayzus, I may not be the smartest guy in the world, but I don't see how putting a firework in a beer can next to my ear is going to help me with my problem."

"Trust me, it will do the job", said the doctor.

So the man went home, lit a cracker and put it in a beer can. He held the can up to his ear and began to count: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5," at which point he paused, placed the beer can between his legs so he could continue counting on his other hand.

This procedure also works in New Zealand and Tasmania, and Queensland!!!

Smart answer awards 2008 contributed by Geoff Eley VK3AVJ

4th Place—A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at a Woolworth's store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family.

She asked a passing assistant, 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?'

The assistant replied, 'I'm afraid not, they're dead.'

3rd Place—The policeman got out of his car and approached the boy racer he stopped for speeding.

'I've been waiting for you all day,' the policeman said.

The kid replied, 'Yes, well I got here as fast as I could.'

2nd Place—A semi-trailer driver was driving along on a country road.

A sign came up that read 'Low Bridge Ahead.'

Before he realised it, the bridge was directly ahead and he got stuck under it.

Cars were backed up for kilometres.

Finally, a police car came up.

The policeman got out of his car and walked to the semi-trailer cab and said to the driver, 'Got stuck, eh?'

The semi-trailer driver said, 'No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of petrol!'

1st place—A teacher at a TAFE College reminded her pupils of tomorrow's final exam.

'Now listen to me, I won't tolerate any excuses for you not being here tomorrow.

I might consider a nuclear attack or a serious personal injury, illness, or a death in your immediate family, but that's it, no other excuses whatsoever!'

A smart-arsed guy at the back of the room raised his hand and asked,

'What would happen if I came in tomorrow suffering from complete and utter sexual exhaustion?'

The entire class was reduced to laughter and sniggering.

When silence was restored, the teacher smiled knowingly at the student, shook her head and sweetly said,

'Well, I suppose you'd have to write with your other hand'.

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.

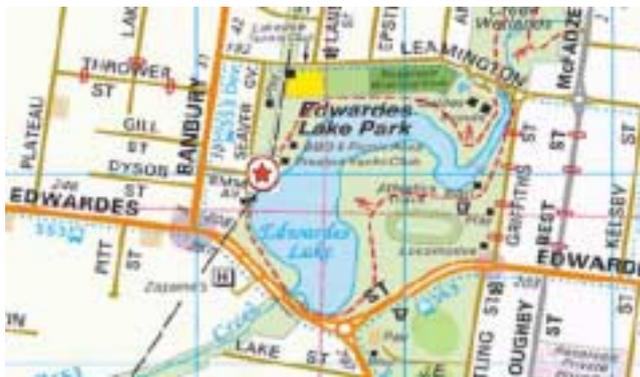
Meetings

FIRST Friday of each month except January at the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, SEAVER GROVE, RESERVOIR. See map). 7.30pm local time start.

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



Don't forget the "club" meets on air regularly on 146.450MHz FM. And now rebroadcast 3674KHz and 28.470MHz USB.

Next meeting Friday October 2, 2009 AT the clubrooms 1930 hours SHARP Talk in 146.450MHz FM.

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

Australia Post stamp here