

Incorporated in Victoria, 1985 Registration Number: A0007611S

The monthly magazine of the

Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club Melbourne, Australia



www.wansarc.org.au



146.450 MHz FM

VK3AWS

28.470 MHz USB

Volume No: 44

Issue 7

July

2013

Next Meeting Friday 5th June 7.30pm

A reminder that we have a really cool door prize at the next meeting, it's something that any member would want, worth a few hundred dollars, but you can only win it if you're there!



Photograph by Mark VK3PI

Ian, VK3QL, a modern day Crocodile Dundee, mesmerizes the local cattle with his portable Arrow VHF/UHF antenna. Learn more about portable operations when Mark VK3PI and Ian VK3QL present to the club at this Friday nights WANSARC club meeting. Visitors welcome.

Assistance to track high altitude balloon with image payload - Saturday 6th July

Around the Shack

Up, Up and Away... ~ Mark VK3PI

Winter VHF-UHF Field Day at Bundoora Park

VK3ZO JMFD - March 16, 2013 ...reflections

Product Review - Diamond CP6-10 Combined 10m and 6m Vertical

A New Toy

Comics

For Sale - Icom R-10 Communications Receiver / Handheld Scanner

WANSARC Club Profile

2

3

5

6

8

9

10

11

12

12

Assistance to track high altitude balloon with image payload

Saturday 6th July

Our project team is planning to release a high altitude balloon from Bendigo this coming Saturday 6th July 2013 at 11am. We will have an onboard camera sending images back via SSDV (<http://ukhas.org.uk/guides:ssdv>), which is basically broken up JPEG with some extra headers. RTTY will be used for radio transmission.

We do not expect to recover the balloon, and will need assistance with getting data from the payload along the path, in Victoria, Southern NSW, ACT, and Tas.

All you need is a radio capable of receiving SSB at 434.650MHz, and a Mac/Windows/Linux computer with sound card input and access to the internet. High gain antenna is highly desirable.

See instructions here: <http://projectspaceballoon.net/ssd/>

The other details are:

- Frequency 434.650Mhz (+-10Khz), USB
- RTTY with 460Hz shift, 300 or 110 baud (we are still deciding), 8 bit ASCII, no parity, one stop bit.
- Hardware is a Rev A Raspberry Pi, with a 25mW UHF transmitter module.
- Antenna is a quarter-wave with radials.
- Expected "cruising" altitude is 20km.

You will be able to see the images on your computer if you can receive the RF signal directly. If Internet access is available the images can be uploaded to the Internet for others to view.

Tracking (from distributed listeners like yourselves) will be available at <http://spacenear.us/tracker>
Images will be available at <http://ssdv.habhub.org>

The call sign for tracking and SSDV is PSBPI.

We plan to have someone in #highaltitude chatroom on irc.freenode.net on the day to co-ordinate.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Regards, PSB Team, from Peter, VK3XCO

Expected Path



Around The Shack

LAST MONTHS MEETING

A very well attended meeting at the TAA Museum last month.

A lot of love and passion has been put into the running of the museum. From small beginnings, the Trans-Australia (Aviation Heritage) Museum is now a collection of over 130,000 items, - the first credit card, simulated cockpit(s) of the Airbus A300B4, Boeing 727-200 and DC9-30, the internal workings of the ROLLS-ROYCE DART engine, to every TAA / Australian uniform style from 1946 to 1993. For many the film we saw, in the seats of an old aircraft was a real history highlight. Thanks to the staff for an interesting night.

FRANK VK3ZO ~ ANOTHER CLUB JMFD WINNER

Congratulations to Frank **VK3ZO** who achieved 3rd place in the 6 hour, Portable operator, Phone Mode of the recent John Moyle Field Day, with a certificate awarded to him from the WIA. See Frank's article in this issue.

CHANGES TO THE OUTWARDS QSL SERVICE

Two changes have been made to the Outwards QSL Service. New Outwards QSL Address - Outwards QSL Service PO BOX 66 Boolaroo NSW 2284

QSL Service Guidelines for Special Event Stations

A WIA Member is entitled to a free outwards and inwards QSL service. The QSL service is free for special event stations, Dxpeditons, IOTA's etc operated by WIA members or by WIA affiliated Clubs. However, all operators need to be WIA members or the operation needs to be sanctioned by a WIA Affiliated Club.

Inwards QSL cards will continue to be available for non-members at the convenience of the QSL service. ~Phil Wait - VK2ASD

FOUNDATION LICENCE WEEKEND COURSES

August 24-25, November 16-17

<http://www.amateurradio.com.au/licence/foundation>

Courses are held at the Amateur Radio Victoria office 40G Victory Blvd, Ashburton. The study and operational practice guide book for the Foundation Licence.

Mail orders \$26.00 - delivery Australia wide.

To enrol or obtain the Foundation licence manual contact - Barry Robinson VK3PV 0428 516 001

NOT A TYPICAL HIT AND RUN...



UPGRADE OF VK7RST 6 METER BEACON

VK7RST 6 meter beacon is located on Mount Nelson in Southern Tasmania near Hobart and has been operating continuously since 1978 providing a signal for 6 meter DX chasers for 35 years. The beacon was designed and built by Peter Cox VK7KD, David Copper VK7ZDC, & Alan Ruthven VK7ZAR.

It was completely constructed from available components and completely home brew including the antenna on a budget of \$100.00

It started life on a frequency of 52.370 MHZ and had a frequency change to the present frequency of 50.297 MHZ in 1998/9 when Australian radio amateurs were allocated the bottom 2 MHz of the 6 meter band and antennas were retuned to take advantage of the better DX opportunities. In recent months distant stations reported reduced signal from the beacon and there has also been a move away from frequency shift keying to CW keyed beacons across Australia. At present over half of our beacons in Australia are now CW keyed.

During the past week VK7RST has had a makeover and while still on the frequency of 50.297 MHZ it is now CW keyed and has been upgraded to 20 watts of output power. It also has a new location in the building providing for a shorter cable run to the antenna and where it can spend the next 35 years.

Our thanks go to Bob VK7RX, and Alan VK7ZAR, for their effort in undertaking and completing the upgrade of VK7RST. So you can use this beacon to test both your antenna or receiver and see how propagation is on the 6 meter band - you may get to work some DX. 73, Alan VK7ZAR (WIA News)

WANSARC NET



TUESDAY NIGHT

Note the New Club Net Starting Time of

8.00 PM

146.450 MHz FM

NET CONTROL STATION

VK3AWS

Join the Net, Keep up to date with news from club and members



It took 35 years for 25 per cent of the US population to adopt the telephone, only 13 years to adopt mobile phones.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Real estate agents are notorious for talking up their properties in order to make a sale. Here are some of the lines used by real estate agents, and their translations:

Estate agent speak "The property has excellent transport links"
Translation "There's a motorway and or busy railway line right next to it"

Estate agent speak "In need of modernisation"
Translation "This property hasn't been updated since the 1970s and needs a complete refit"

Estate agent speak "An ideal purchase as your first three-bedroom home"
Translation "You can barely fit a bed into the third bedroom"

Estate agent speak "Set within a purpose-built residential development"
Translation "This property is in the middle of a large housing estate"

Estate agent speak "A cosy property in a rural location"
Translation "This property is small and the nearest shop is 20 minutes' drive away"

Estate agent speak "Easy-to-maintain living space"
Translation "It's really incredibly small"

Estate agent speak "Conveniently located"
Translation "Next door to a busy main road and above a take away"

Estate agent speak "Unexpectedly re-available"
Translation "The previous buyer pulled out at the last minute due to major problems or the surveyor revealed that the property was vastly overpriced"

Estate agent speak "Reduced"
Translation "Desperate"

Estate agent speak "Within easy reach of local schools"
Translation "Kids will congregate outside your house at lunchtime and drop litter all over your driveway."

Estate agent speak "Ideal for the first-time buyer or as a buy-to-let investment"
Translation "The property's small and in a terrible area"

Estate agent speak "Tremendous scope for improvement. A real blank canvas"
Translation "Derelict"

Estate agent speak "In need of some updating and offered with no onward chain"
Translation "An old lady has recently died in the house and it hasn't been decorated since she originally moved in 50 years ago"

Estate agent speak "A garden flat"
Translation "A dark and most probably damp basement flat"

Estate agent speak "Bordering the sought-after area of North Fitzroy"

Translation "The property is actually in Northcote"

Estate agent speak "The property has many character features"

Translation "The ceilings are extremely low"

Estate agent speak "Low maintenance rear garden"

Translation "The garden is concrete"

Estate agent speak "Situated in a stamp duty exempt area"

Translation "Situated in a deprived part of town"

Estate agent speak "New price!"

Translation "This property was massively overpriced in the first place"

Estate agent speak "Character...."

Translation "Dilapidated"

BANK EMPLOYEE FALLS ASLEEP ON KEYBOARD, TRANSFERS MILLIONS

A tired German bank employee fell asleep on his keyboard and accidentally transformed a minor transfer into a €222 million (\$311 million) order, a court heard.

The Hessen labour court heard the man was supposed to transfer just €62.40 from a bank account belonging to a retiree, but instead "fell asleep for an instant, while pushing onto the number 2 key on the keyboard" - making it a huge €222,222,222.22 order. The bank discovered the mistake shortly afterwards and corrected the error. The case was taken to court by the man's 48-year-old colleague who was fired for letting the mistake slip through when verifying the order.

The court ruled that the plaintiff should be reinstated in his job.

~Internet

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE - First Nobel Prizes Awarded (1901)

A pacifist at heart and an inventor by nature, Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel was the inventor of dynamite. Not wanting to go down in history for creating such a deadly device, Nobel created a will that left the bulk of his fortune to the establishment of five prizes (physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace). On December 10, 1901, five years after Alfred Nobel's death, the first five Nobel Prizes were awarded.

~Internet



GippsTech 2013 - July 13th & 14th
<http://vk3bez.org/gippstech.html>

JULY 20th
Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Hamfest
Cranbourne Public Hall
Corner of Clarendon St and High St,
Melway 133 K4
Open 10am Entry \$6

UP, UP and AWAY..... by Mark VK3PI

It was a very cold night in the surrounding streets, but inside the Trans Australia Airlines museum the environment was warm and the mood buzzing with anticipation.

30 members and friends of WANSARC had assembled on Friday, June 3, 2013 for a tour of the museum and those in attendance were not disappointed.



Photograph by Mark VK3PI

The members and volunteers of the TAA museum are to be congratulated on their magnificent efforts to sort, catalog and display a vast array of models, documents, paintings, equipment and artifacts representing the history of Trans- Australia Airline (TAA). Of particular note was the theatre presentation where, snuggled into



old aircraft seats, visitors were taken back in a wave of nostalgia, to the 1960's. A movie presentation depicting a day in the life of TAA showed a Lockheed L-188 passenger flight from Sydney to Melbourne, a Douglas DC-4 cargo flight from Melbourne to Darwin and a Douglas DC-3 doing "local" runs in outback Queensland. Also of interest were the flights in Papua New Guinea and the process of maintaining a then "modern" Vickers Viscount.

Trans Australia Airlines (TAA) was one of the two major Australian domestic airlines between its inception in 1946 and its sale to Qantas in May 1996. In 1986 TAA had a name change to Australian Airlines.

I have very fond memories of sitting at Essendon Airport with my grandparents watching planes including the Lockheed L-188 Electra, the Fokker F-27 Friendship and the Vickers Viscount. Who can forget the Douglas DC-9 twin engine jet and the Boeing 727 with its distinctive third engine high on the rear of the aircraft forward of the swept "T".

With over 130,000 items available for view, the TAA museum not only focuses on TAA, but also has information and models relating to Ansett and Qantas. It is a fascinating place to tour with its diverse of the small and not so small items. And you have to marvel at the variety of aircraft models, in the livery of mainly TAA aircraft together with the more obscure items such as board games, uniforms with dummies in them (or is that on them?), radio test equipment and even a weather radar.



The museum is a testament to the hard work, over many years, by many former members of TAA and now museum members. Their pride in having been employed by this great Australian airline is evident in the passion demonstrated by their volunteers in explaining TAA history to visitors, such as our members.

This is a museum worthy of visit again and all of our members are encouraged to visit the TAA museum as it is a wonderful insight into an era which is far removed from today. The museum is located at the Qantas building 7 York Street, Airport West and is open Tuesday 10am-2.30pm, Wednesday 10am – 2.30pm and Thursday 10am – 2.30pm. More information visit the museum website at: <http://www.taamuseum.org.au/AbouttheMuseum/>



Winter VHF-UHF Field Day at Bundoora Park

Having never participated in the Winter VHF-UHF Field Day, portable, Mick VK3CH suggested that the club have a go at it. Email notice was sent out by Mark, VK3PI and Mick, Jhonno VK3FMPB and John VK3FEZZ made the trek to Rotunda 6. To secure the rotunda, Mick as usual got out of bed at 4.30am. Only when opening the front door to pack the rest of the gear to the car was it discovered how cold it was, the car covered in frost. Even the dog did not want to go outside. It was a struggle to leave the comfort of the coffee machine and the hot brew at 5.30am. Arriving at the park at 5.55 to locked gates, no replies to CQ calls were to be heard. It was zero degrees but rose to one degree by the time the gates were opened at 6.04am arriving at Rotunda 6 at 6.09am and securing the WANSARC claim to the site, by the light of a silvery orange full moon. Difficult to see what was being done as it was really dark, but dawn came and the station was on air at 7.30 and our first contact for the Winter Field Day was made under the VK3AWS callsign at 7.40am. At 8.11, 8.14 and 8.16 three sets of cars drove down hoping to get the site, but left empty handed. Jhonno's car was not working, so getting the tram, arrived just as Mick finished erecting the last antenna and commenced cooking.



Unpacking by moonlight ↑
6mx Vertical & VHF/UHF



The moon over the rotunda roof ↑
Lots of frost on the ground



7.30am, all ready to go ↑
BBQ ready to go with Bacon, Snags and Chook Wings



Dedication, even not having the car won't stop him.... Jhonno working 2 meters ↓



Jhonno covering 2 meters as the food cooks ↓



John VK3FEZZ operating as VK3AWS on the 9100 ↓



Contacts were few and we worked most of them in the first hour. Don VK3HDX gave some good tips as to where most of the SSB activity was. Stations from Geelong, Melton, Bayswater and Bentleigh all heard 9++.

The majority of 2mx/70cm/23cm contacts were on USB, with a few on FM. A lot of Foundation calls were heard contesting very well skilled, good to see.

6 meter "pipe" tuned OK, but no stations able to be heard on 6 meters, need a 'real' one next year .

Despite the offer of cooked food for any visitors, only the three operators were at the park.

We were going to stay longer, but there was a footy club clinic/training day, lots of kids (*about one hundred*) running about the place screaming and kicking footy's, so we decided to quit a bit early.

When the sun came out it was warm, with 25 contacts, over three hours logged.

~Mick VK3CH

Hickory-Bourbon-Garlic Smoked Wings →



A crude attempt at a 6 meter vertical, using ATU, VSWR was OK, but heard nothing, need a proper one next time, or a dipole... ↓



VK3ZO JMFD - March 16, 2013 ...reflections

When the BOM website anticipated rain, rain then more rain it's fairly obvious that the day's solo contesting was going to be somewhat a wet affair. I packed up the car and headed out to the 'Newfoundland' or call it boring, square, grid square out Neerim North way in West Gippsland for a bit of fun.

I constructed a new attachment for the towbar of the Hyundai that would support a Diamond tri-band multi collinear for 2m/70cm/23cm on top of a swimming pool cleaning pole, great stuff at \$36 for a telescopic 5m pole at Bunning's, ...and rugged. 6m was a quarter wave on the car roof. Radios: ICOM 910H and 706 MK2.
Height above sea level a mean 1000 ft.

I packed of course the necessary food n stuff including fresh Italian coffee in a thermo and picked up a great coffee scroll at the Neerim bakery. It was dry and cold but not freezing.

Set up by 1pm and started off with some good 2, 70cm and 6m contacts but no 23cm.

By about 3pm all hell broke loose and I turned blue, not by envy, but by being illuminated by the blue tarp I hid under for the next hour.

But the weather Gods were angry and in anticipation of getting all my radio gear soaking wet and dying of hypothermia I decided to pack it in and head back home.

The trip was quite eventful with absolute zero visibility on the Princess and Monash and dangerous at that.

Radio assessment for the day?

Victorian state participation was a bit down, no doubt due to the weather conditions.

Furthest was VK3ER in Mt Cowley in SW VIC with a good 200km+ contact on 2 and 70.

A few 6m back to Melbourne.

Managed to earn, and hard earned at that, 3RD place in the VHF / UHF 6 Hour Single Operator Portable category.
Very pleased with that considering the circumstances.

The JMFD is a great iconic contest amongst the Ham fraternity and a great weekend to cut your teeth in World contesting. ...and yes I'd do it all over again.

Best regards, Frank VK3ZO QF22LG





The 10m sloper was looking a bit sloppy DX wise so the opportunity rose to co-buy with Frank VK3OP a high gain vertical for 10m and 6m. The CP6-10 is a single 5/8 on 10m and 2x 5/8 on 6m, providing 3.4 dB and 5.5 dB respectively.

The sloper had provided some good success into Europe and VK6 over past summers.

I had nothing on 6m and for that matter had never in 33 years operating.

10m yes, and many can remember working the world while pedestrian or bicycle mobile in the late 70s' early 80s'.

My sloper was fixed at bearing NW. The CP6-10 went up in October of 2012, at 5m above ground, and from the start had presented itself with fantastic DX results on 10m.

Frank VK3OP had assisted me with 'pre-cutting' the length of the active vertical and the install.

First station was a JA1KNY, Yo in Tokyo on 29.300 FM with brilliant signals both ways.

Mark VK3PI and Frank VK3OP were listening at the time but with marginal ability to receive Yo.

Working Yo in Tokyo has been a regular contact with a recent QSO at 9+20 solid for 30 minutes.

I have since worked many JAs' and global stations since the install which I know compared to the sloper which would've not produced the same results. Switching between has proved that.

There is at least a 2-4 S points difference in receive signal.

I must admit I have not been that active on 6m but the first contact I had was with a VK4 on FM Simplex with regular local stations since. The 6m VK3RMH beacon rocks in.

This antenna also proves to be a phenomenal AM broadcast band receiving antenna! Mechanically the antenna is robust.

The future? My 5 element yagi on 10m is on the horizon,in addition to a high gain yagi for 6m.

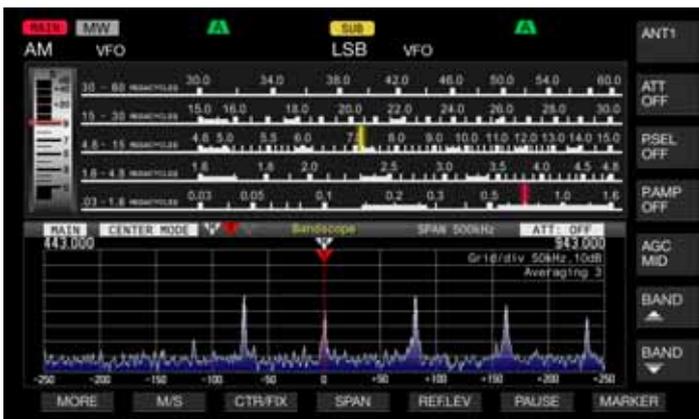
But that is for another day, ...or sunspot or two.

~ Regards Frank

VK3ZO

A New Toy

A view of Don VK3HDX, new Kenwood TS-990S, HF/6m Flagship Base Station, just setup in his shack. The transceiver seen below the table, with screen information ported to monitors above. Just a recent purchase, Don will enjoy mastering its features, maybe a "user review" by him will be seen later in future... Packed with 200 watts (200 W SSB/FM/CW/FSK, 50 W AM), all mode, remote internet control, dual independent receivers, DSP, real time scope, full computer control option... you name it...!



New VSWR / Watt Meter, that is good as a "Bird" ↑

COMPETITION BREEDS EXCELLENCE!



Sidewalk Bubblegum ©1998 Clay Butler

DOCTOR, DOCTOR, GIVE ME THE NEWS!



Sidewalk Bubblegum ©1997 Clay Butler

FOR SALE



ICOM IC-R10 Handheld COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER/SCANNER

\$450

EXCELLENT CONDITION - HF/VHF/UHF - AM/FM/WFM/USB/LSB/CW - 0.5 – 1300 MHZ Continuous Power 4.8VDC – 4xAA Batteries (Rechargeable - included) or External DC SUPPLY 4.8 – 16 V DC. Standard ICOM Charger Included. Antenna 50 OHM – BNC. Includes additional Telescopic antenna.

Weight 310 Grams, 1000 Memories, Band scope

Original owner. Original manual. Original packaging.

****Great for fox hunting and satellite work or portable short wave listening****

Contact Frank Bonotto VK3ZO

vk3zo@aanet.com.au

0418888038

94785679

Reservoir

WANSARC VK3AWS

PRESIDENT: Frank Petrowitz

VK3OP

vk3op@hotmail.com

SECRETARY: Mark Stephenson

VK3PI Telephone: 0425 768 320

vk3pi@australiaradio.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. **WANSARC** is an affiliated club of **The Wireless Institute of Australia**.

Meetings

Meetings held at the **Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, SEAVER GROVE, RESERVOIR** (Melway Map 18 D5) 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 likeminded 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, ARV, WIA, ACMA, Melbourne Clubs, VK and Worldwide.

Club Nets

146.450MHz FM each Tuesday evening commencing **8.00pm local time**. Net Control Station - **VK3AWS**

Website: www.wansarc.org.au

Postal: **WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073**

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

All editors' comments and other opinions in submitted articles may not always represent the opinions of the committee or the members of **WANSARC**, but are published in the spirit in which they were submitted; in any case anything stated is to promote interest and active discussion on club activities and the promotion of Amateur Radio in general. Contributions to **WANSARC** are always welcome from any part of the world. Email attachments of Word™, Plain Text, Excel™, PDF™ and JPG are all acceptable. You can either post material to the Post Office Box address at the top of this page, or email your submission to the editor direct at vk3ch@wia.org.au

Email attachments not to exceed 5 Mb in file size. Attachments of (or thought to be) executable code or virulently affected emails will not be opened.

Other persons or radio clubs may edit or copy out such as they like from the magazine but a reference to **WANSARC** is appreciated, except copyrighted (©) material or as otherwise indicated. Other articles that are credited to outside sources should be asked for their permission if they are used.

While we strive to be accurate, no responsibility taken for errors, omissions, or other perceived deficiencies, in respect of information contained in technical or other articles.

Any dates, times and locations given for upcoming events should always be checked with a reliable source closer to the event – coming up on the **WANSARC Tuesday evening NET** on **146.450 MHz** starting at **8:00 pm Local** is recommended to discuss and confirm information and any dates.

The club website has current information on planned events and scheduled meeting dates. **WANSARC** News written with Word™ 2007, published with Adobe Acrobat™ 10.

You can get the WIA News sent to your inbox each week by simply clicking a link and entering your email address found at www.wia.org.au. The links for either text email or MP3 voice files are there as well as Podcasts and Twitter. This service is FREE.