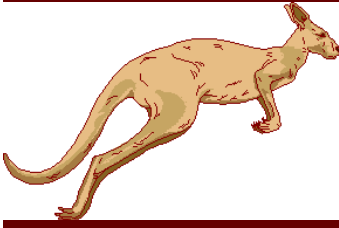


Volume 35 Issue 4

May 2004



IO CLUB

SUBURBS AMATEUR RAD

WESTERN AND NORTHERN

WANSARC NEWS

May 2004

Incorporated Number A7611

Which antenna to use today?



Looks more like a testing ground for commercial antenna's, or perhaps the "not so secret location" for a very well known intelligence organisation rather than a suburban house.

Find out on Page 7.

DELIVER TO:

If not delivered within 7 days, please return to:
WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR Victoria 3073

NEXT MEETING 1930 Hours sharp Friday May 7, 2004. Join Jim Baxter VK3DBQ for a session on "Digital DX'ing—using modern technology to snare rare DX".

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CLUB FREQUENCIES

146.450Mhz FM and
28.470MHz USB

Around the Shack

- So who can shed light on the strange signals on 10 metres? Heard recently in the early evening continuous wave transmissions on 28.000.6 and 28.016. Pulses were spaced at around 2 per second, with various periods of continuous tone. Interestingly enough when one frequency ceased transmission so did the other. When one returned, the other also returned with the same pattern of transmissions. Any clues??
- Are all of the past amateur conventions being challenged by new breeds of HF amateurs? Heard recently by one of our members a net on 40 metres where the stations were all using USB which



caused some confusion for those accustomed to LSB transmissions. Perhaps it was an attempt to stir up those who believe that they "own" frequencies for regular nets and expect every other station on the eastern seaboard to QSY when they come up and interrupt stations already having a QSO. What ever happened to advertising nets as Frequency +/- QRM?

- Great to hear the club net kicking on from strength to strength. And what an international affair it is becoming. Tony VK3BZT has been "house swapping" in recent times and hooked into the club net via Echolink from London, while Grant VK3HFS travelled to the land of the great white cloud for work purposes and managed to access the net via a portable and Echolink. Seems the signals in Auckland were marginal, but great to hear club members making EVERY effort to come up on the net. Great to hear Laurie VK3DPF pop up from time to time and the word is that Jack VK3BKN is listening most nights on his portable.

Moorabbin Hamfest on again

The Moorabbin and District Radio Club VK3APC will be holding its annual Hamfest on **Saturday May 8, 2004**.

Claimed to be VK3's largest Hamfest, the venue will be **Brentwood Secondary College, Watsons Road, Glen Waverley Melway Reference 71 D7**. Entrance is via Heath Street.

Doors will open to the public at

10am sharp but entry tickets will be on sale prior to this time.

Entry is only \$6 which includes a free draw in the major door prize.

If you wish to sell items tables are available at \$18 each (1.8metres long) which includes a lunch voucher.

Further information may be obtained from Lee Moyle VK3GK Telephone (03) 9705 1051 Fax:

(03) 9705 1054 or email lee@noremac.com.au

You may alternatively contact Graeme Lewis VK3GL on telephone After hours (03) 9702 1199 or Mobile 0418 289928 or email vk3gri@net2000.com.au

Talk in will be via the VK3REC repeater on 147.175 or via VK3RSE on 70cm—439.900.

Looking for an oldie.....

All units, all units.....keep a lookout for a 7 pin valve going by the name of a 6AR5.

Bob VK3EL has been humming along repairing an old piece of test equipment and was travelling beautifully until he struck a snag—one dead, defective, deceased, defunct 6AR5 valve.

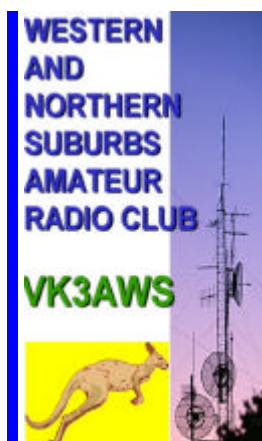
The 6AR5 was generally used as an output tube in receiver applications, and within its maximum ratings can

be replaced with a 6K6-GT.



So do you have one, or do you know of someone who has one of these relics gathering dust??

If so contact Bob VK3EL as he would love to hear from you with some good news.....



Looking to join a vibrant and active club? Contact the Secretary, WANSARC, PO Box 336, Reservoir, 3073.

DX'ING THE DIGITAL WAY—NEXT WANSARC MEETING FRIDAY MAY 7, 2004

If you want to catch fish, then best talk to a fisherman. Similarly, if you want to be successful with DX—talk to a DX'er.

Now chasing the elusive DX may not be everyone's cup of tea, however **Jim Baxter VK3DBQ** will give club members and associates a chance to understand the "Digital" tools available to amateurs to make it easier to find the "DX big fish".

Jim is often heard on 146.575 simplex with his good mate **Dave VK3JNB**—both casting the DX rod into the HF waters to see what comes back to them.



Jim VK3DBQ is pictured, with **Dave VK3JNB** (right). Both use digital technology to enhance their ability to work the DX, from PSK31 modes to DX clusters. What are these tools? Come and find out at our next WANSARC meeting, **Friday May 7, 2004 commencing at 1930 hours**. Venue as always is the Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology, St. Georges Road, Preston. Enter via St. Georges Road between Bell Street and Cramer Street, drive past the security box, follow the driveway around to the carpark and enter Building K. If you really get stuck, call in on **146.450MHz**—sure to find someone to help you out.

Thanks Jack and Laurie

Jack, VK3BKN, often listens to the club net and rarely comes on, but we know he is listening. Thanks Jack for renewing your membership of the club and all noted regarding the problems you are having with Outlook.

Laurie VK3DPF has been a regular on the club net of late and it is good to hear him on air. Thanks, Laurie, for renewing your membership and an additional thanks for your donation to the club.

Have you renewed your membership? If not, please do so. \$10 for pensioners/concession/students, — \$20 for all others.

Preston Rotary Raffle Tickets to be re- turned.

Members holding raffle tickets for the Preston Rotary Raffle should return these to Mark VK3PI at the next club meeting.

If tickets have been sold our Treasurer Gordon VK3YOD will gladly accept the monies.

WANSARC support for the Preston Rotary Raffle has spanned over many years with considerable funds having been raised by the club for Rotary. Similarly WANSARC has certainly benefited from

Preston Rotary and we are grateful to have the opportunity to assist Rotary and in turn our own group.

So, if you have not sold all of your tickets please try to do so, if not return all tickets with ticket sales money to the club on Friday night.

Those unable to make it to the

In brief—WIA Victoria

- The WIA Victoria Annual General meeting will be held on 26 May 2004. The venue is St. Michael's Community Centre Hall, Corner Victory Boulevard and High Street, Ashburton. The meeting kicks off at 8pm.
- The proposed re-structure of the WIA is proceeding slowly. This involves chang-

ing the current Federal structure of the WIA to a national organisation.

- The main energy authority in Hobart will trial power line communications in a small pilot to provide broadband internet to its own office and four nearby houses.

VK3RFY UPDATE

Chris VK3FY advises that his **VK3RFY** system is up and running, as follows:

VK3RFY-R 438.400 Input and output X band to 2metres 147.425.

Echolink node is #3037 and IRLP node for the above is #6079.

The WIA Grid Square award

Grid squares are fresh in the mind of many a John Moyle contest amateur and on a whim your editor went searching for information on grid squares. Lo and behold, what does one find, a grid squares award on offer from the Wireless Institute of Australia. So here are the details:

Applicants require contacts using the (IARU) three regions "Maidenhead" Locator grid square system.

Grid square fields are designated by combination of 2 letters (AA-RR), the squares by 2 numbers (00-99), and 2 sub-squares letters (aa-xx). i.e. QF56od is the location Sydney, Australia.

The applicant must also quote the location or field where the contact was made from i.e. (home base station, portable or mobile).

"All contacts must be from the same location".

QRP, Mobile or portable operations are encouraged to allow such operators to work 100 different locators.

Only contacts made on and after the 1st January 1990 qualify for this award and must be land based.



Applicants may apply for any mode, combined or single Certificate. Minimum requirements are:

- 100 contacts for H.F.
- 1.8, 3.5-3.8, 7, 10, 14, 18, 21, 24, 28, 29 Mhz. (100 different locators)
- 50 contacts for V.H.F. 50-54 Mhz. (50 different locators)
- 30 contacts for V.H.F. 144-148 Mhz. (30 different locators)
- 25 contacts for U.H.F. 420-450 Mhz. (25 different locators)
- 10 contacts for U.H.F. 1240-1300 Mhz. (10 different locators)
- 5 contacts for 13cm and above
- 2300-2450 Mhz, S.H.F. – E.H.F. 248-250Ghz. (5 different locators)



The ATV gear is arriving!! Mark VK3PI will be contacting club members and associates in the VERY NEAR FUTURE to extract funds from those who ordered ATV equipment. The 1250MHz TX units are currently being built and tested prior to arrival.....so soon, very soon, ATV will be alive with new calls!

John Moyle Field Day 2004—Update from Mark VK3PI

The final logs for VK3AWS have been submitted to the WIA contest Manager after some late nights cross referencing locations, latitudes/longitudes and QF locator numbers.

The club's claimed total of **1356** points from **174** contacts in the **6 hour multiple operator section** is a very creditable effort, given our club has not competed in the John Moyle contest in 10 years or more.

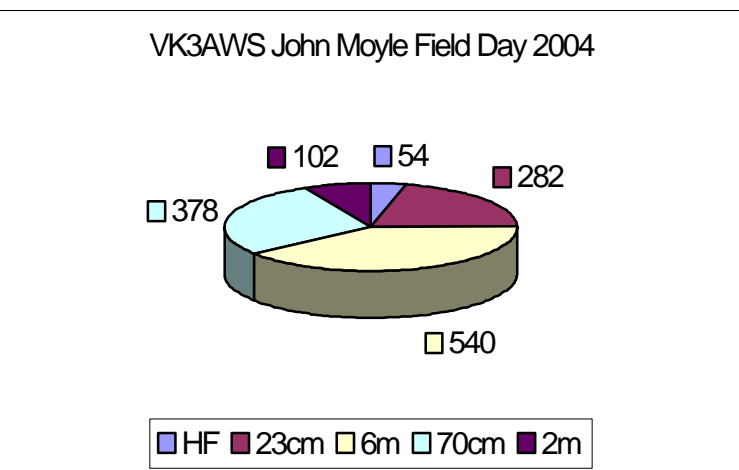
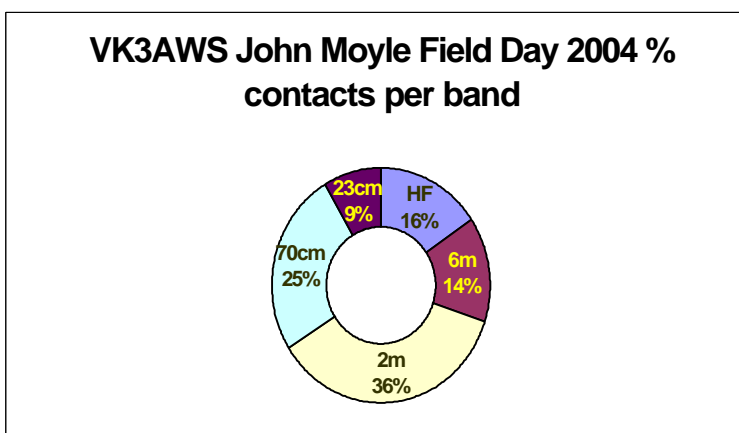
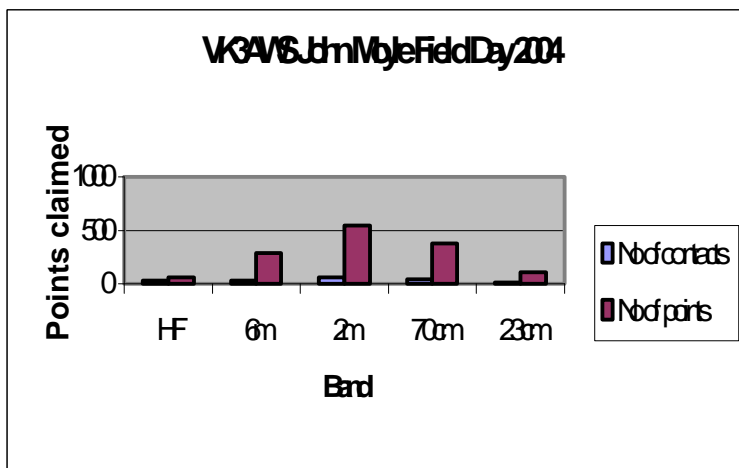
By far our most prolific contact band was 2 metres, with 63 contacts and 540 points, however it is interesting to note that 25 contacts on 6 metres earned 282 points. Given our club 6 metre antenna this year consisted of only a vertical antenna we are assured of better results next year with some type of rotatable antenna.

The longest distance contact was our very last for the contest with Chris VK3FY snaring **VK5SR** near Mount Gambier on 2 metres—a distance of some 398.3 kilometres. **Ken VK3YXC** was also a great point scorer for the club, being 267 kilometres away from our club portable location just west of Kinglake. **Brian VK3ZEO** was the club's best effort on 23cm—86km away.

In the true spirit of the competition it was great to catch up with club members, associates and friends of the club. **Geoff VK3KAS** in Frankston South was worked on 6m, 2m and 70cm while club members **Reg VK3KK**, **Jock VK3UB**, **Russell VK3BMR** and of course **Bert VK3BH** bolstered our club scores. Club stations worked included our friends of NERG, **VK3CNE**, at Mount Macedon, with **John VK3ZRV** ably representing the NERGS. **Gavin VK3HY** was making many contacts on the bands together with **Ray VK3ACR** and **Colin VK3LO**.

And it should also be mentioned that VK3AWS was in the log of that well known VHF-UHF moonbounce man, **Doug VK3UM**. Doug was a relatively "local" contact being over the hill in Glenburne—great to catch up with Doug.

Many of our field portable members experienced the John Moyle for the first time and it is certainly hoped that based



On this year's efforts these members and others will be back for more in 2005.

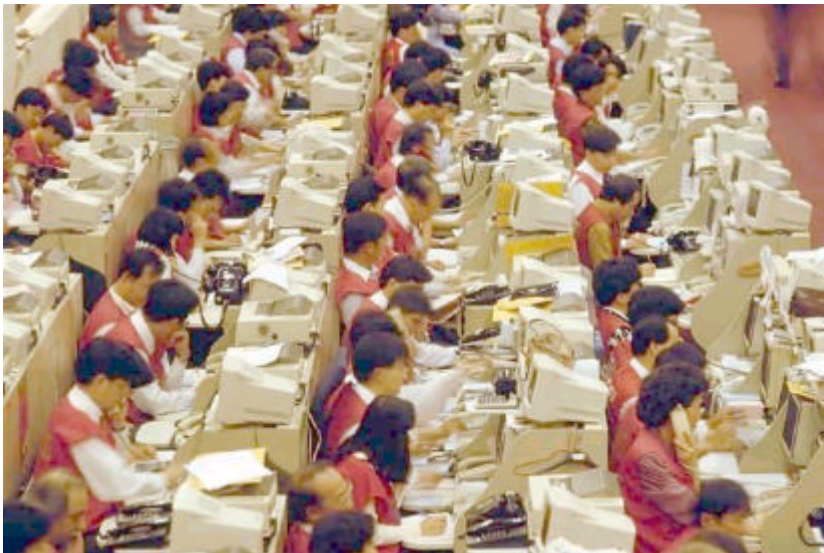
Congratulations to **Dan VK3DWH** and **Helen, Graeme VK3NE**, **Bob VK3EL**, **Mark VK3PI**, **Mick VK3BBA**, **Gordon VK3YOD**, **Chris VK3FY** and **Nikolas**, plus **Ian VK3XIJ** for their support in making the field day a great day.

To our many colleagues and friends, thanks for calling the club station VK3AWS—we look forward to meeting up with you again next year in the memory of John Moyle.....**de Mark VK3PI**

Laughter is a medicine

The following are not new or original—but they are funny.

- A jumper lead walks into a bar. The bartender says “I’ll serve you , but don’t start anything.”
- Phone message “...If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key.....”
- A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet and says “My dog is cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?” “Well,” says the vet, “let’s have a look at him”. So he picks up the dog and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth. Finally, he says “I’m going to have to put him down.” “What?” says the man, “because he is cross-eyed?” “No”, says the vet, “because he is too heavy.”
- Two aerials met on a roof, fell in love, and got married. The ceremony was rubbish but the reception was brilliant.
- Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other “Does this taste funny to you?”
- Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.
- Apparently 1 in 5 people are Chinese. And there are 5 people in my family, so it must be one of them. It’s either my Mum or my Dad, or my older brother Colin. Or my younger brother Ho-Cha-Chu, but I think it’s Colin.
- I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn’t find any.
- My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. He was pulled in by a strong currant.
- A man had a strawberry stuck in his bum so he goes to the Doctor. The Doctor says “I’ll give you some cream to put on it.”
- A man walks into a bar with a roll of tarmac under his arm and says “Pint, please, and one for the road.”
- Two elephants walk off a cliff.....boom boom!



Photograph 1 in the “quit complaining about your job” category.....



Take your son to work day.....

THE LUCKY AMATEUR.....



The man without a greenthumb

Once upon a time, in the sleepy town of Northcote, a bearded man purchased a typical modern town house. Neighbours noticed nothing unusual about the man and the house.

Now this man was not known as a greenthumb, and as such it was never intended that a lush garden would be created, however over time and with careful cultivation, the roof began to blossom. From the flat plains of galvanised metal came vertical "flowers" arcing to catch the rays of the sun.

The man fed the roof more coaxial cable and miraculously antennas began to spawn, so much so that now no roof space is available for antenna offshoots.



The photograph (left) shows the view of Mick VK3BBA's roof. Those technocrats amongst us can speculate at any interactive influences amongst the antenna's. As many club members know, Mick runs the VK3AWS club net with a booming signal on 2 metres courtesy of a commercial diamond antenna and 100 watts output .

All of the antenna's on Mick's roof are commercial antenna's,

including 2 x 2 metre, 2 x 2/70cm, 2 x 23cm, VHF/UHF discone, ATV receive, television and UHF CB antenna.....almost forgot—and 6 metres.

Mick runs a mixture of equipment from his well equipped shack (pictured right) including from left to right an Electraphone TX3400 CB, Icom IC706 MK11 G, Icom IC910H, Kenwood TM514A 23cm FM box, IC207H 2/70 cm FM box, Yaesu FT231R 23cm FM box, an IC22A rock bound 2 metre box and a 40A switched mode power supply. Mick also has another IC706 MK11 G for the car, and will no doubt be heard on the bands in the near future whilst mobile.



Mick is realising that his current QTH may be too small (or is that the roof space is too small!!). Good luck, Mick, if you make a move as the local hardware store may not have enough silicon to plug the roof!!

DX-TUNING IN YOUR STUDY OR SHACK

I know, you've tried the audio streaming caper and enjoyed listening to radio stations, aircraft and public service stations from someone else's streaming box. But what about controlling someone else's computer receiver remotely? Well you now can.

www.dx-tuners.com is a website which allows you (after registering) to manipulate, monitor and control a number of computer receivers located around the world. Some receivers allow free range frequency input for you to search for elusive stations, others have lists which enable you to focus on the area or stations which you may wish to listen to. As an example, listening to air traffic controllers in England makes our ATC folk appear to be on a holiday. I counted 40 seconds in a five minute stint where no radio traffic existed for an English approach controller.....interesting listening to say the least.

For those wishing to have a wider range of receivers to play with from a larger geographic pool, then payment is the name of the game. This may be appealing to you, but for my money (or lack thereof) the free samples are fine and with sample (free access) receivers in six countries or so, the choice is ample.

Oh, by the way, the system allows for you to chat live to other listeners who have logged in.....this can be interesting as many of those playing with the system are amateurs themselves!

WANSARC VK3AWS

PRESIDENT: Grant Stowell VK3HFS

Telephone: 0419 007 718

SECRETARY: Mark Stephenson VK3PI

Telephone: 0425 768 320

Email: wansarc@wia.org.au

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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

From September 2003 Building K, Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology (NMIT), St. Georges Road, Preston (western side between Bell Street and Cramer Street) Melway 18 E12

Meetings held on the 1st Friday of each month (excluding January) commencing at 8.00pm 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.

Club Nets

146.450MHz FM each Tuesday evening commencing 7.30pm local time. Linked to Echolink for intrastate, interstate and international stations participation.

More Information

Website: www.wansarc.org.au

Committee: Bob VK3EL, Tony VK3JED, Gordon VK3YOD, Grant VK3HFS, Mark VK3PI
Dan VK3DWH

Email: wansarc@wia.org.au

Secretary: Mark Stephenson VK3PI vk3pi@optusnet.com.au

Postal: WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073

VK3AWS

A proud tradition of supporting hobby radio and electronics