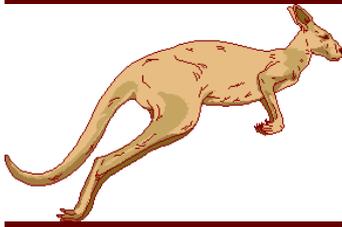


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IO CLUB

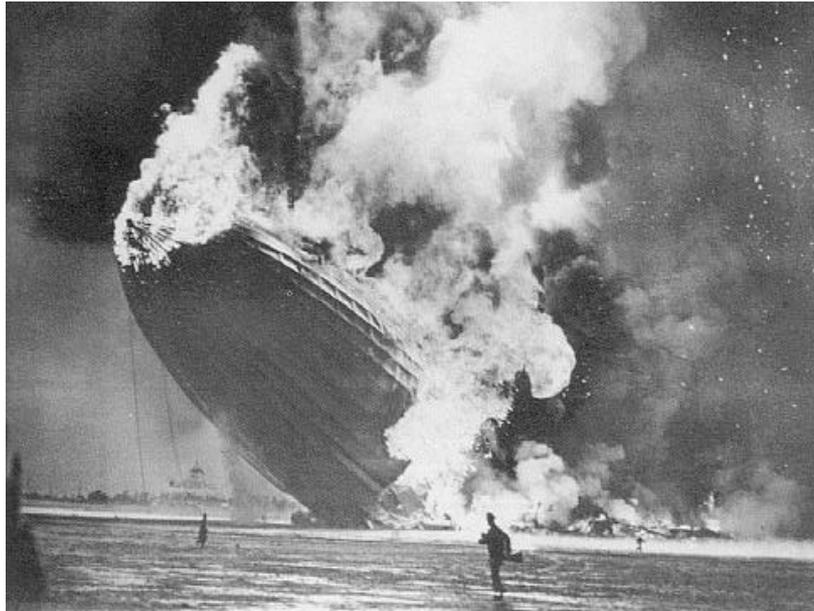
SUBURBS AMATEUR RAD

WESTERN AND NORTHERN

WANSARC NEWS August 2004

Incorporated Number A7611

Full cycle for airships



On the 6th of May, 1937, at Lakehurst, New Jersey USA, LZ129 Hindenburg burst into flames and was destroyed. So too seemed the airship industry for many decades—until now. Airships are making a comeback—see Page 3.

DELIVER TO:

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

NEXT MEETING Friday August 6 2004—Whipping up a STORM will be Andrew McDonald presenting on Severe Weather and Storm Chasing. Commences 1930 hours. Bring a new member!

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CLUB FREQUENCIES

146.450Mhz FM and
28.470MHz USB

Around the Shack

- Sorry to hear both Bert VK3BH and Tony VK3JED have been ill of late. Bert is reported to have been under the surgeons knife for an ailment and Tony has suffered a bout of glandular fever . Best wishes from all club members to both for a speedy recovery.
- Did someone say that 40 metres was the "Gentlemen's Band"? Not any more after one of our readers listened to an exchange between stations recently. Readers may recall last month's "Around the Shack" note regarding QSO's being interrupted by a less than disciplined amateur, however this month the gloves have been taken off. If a prospective amateur had been listening to the kind of dribble being discussed on air they would surely have checked their dial to see if they were on 27MHz.



And any concerns for being polite and showing mutual respect for other amateurs comments were thrown out the window. Maybe it is time that the "self policing" aspect of our hobby surfaced again and some tape recordings of the conversations and callsigns of those involved are passed to ACA for some disciplinary action. 7.050 or thereabouts could then return to a frequency shared rather than abused by our fraternity.

- Chris VK3FY is forging ahead with his very own repeater network/s. Latest news is the future operation of: VK3RBM Mt. Bacchus Marsh on 438.700 negative offset and VK3RBM Mt. Bacchus Marsh 1273.150 negative offset. Look out for VK3RGH at Green Hill (where is this?) on 146.875, 439.325 and 1273.250, all negative offset. Is it a case of Chris found a male and female repeater and the beasts are proliferating?
- On a similar topic a reminder that the Hillside VK3RFY link on 147.425 simplex has a 123Hz CTSS access tone, and VK3RFY on 438.400 (simplex and repeater negative offset) also has a 123Hz CTCSS applied. Remember to set up your radio's for the correct CTCSS tone if you are thinking of accessing VK3RFY.

WESTERN
AND
NORTHERN
SUBURBS
AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB

VK3AWS



August 6, 2004 will be the next WANSARC club meeting with our guest speaker **ANDREW McDONALD**. Andrew is a "storm chaser" and a representative for the Australian Severe Weather Association (ASWA) and with a foot in each camp he will be able to give us all a great understanding of the role of ASWA, the Bureau of Meteorology, severe storms plus storm chasing. It is clear that our global weather is changing around us and that the extremes of weather from cold to hot are becoming larger. So come along to our next meeting to hear a subject matter expert give us all a view of the weather together with tips on how we can assist as active observers.

QNEWS CHANGE from Grant VK3HFS

The popular QNEWS amateur radio broadcasts from the Queensland Division of the WIA has undergone a change to produce the new National WIA News broadcast under the callsign VK1WIA. As of 25 July 2004, National WIA news can be heard on the frequencies used by the Victorian WIA Broadcasts (under VK3BWI) and also around the nation. Frequencies are:

- 147.250—VK3RMM Mt. Macedon
- 146.700—VK3RML Ferny Creek
- 147.725—VK3RWG Mt. Baw Baw
- 438.075—VK3RMU Mt. St. Leonard

WANSARC SUPPORTS VK3RHF

The Committee and members of WANSARC have pledged \$100 to assist with the repair of the repeater controller for VK3RHF. The club recognises the efforts of Steve VK3JSR to provide linked repeater services between 10m, 6m, 70cm and 1.2GHz and hopes this donation will assist in repairs.

Airships return to popularity as aerial observatories.

You may have noticed on the news that the Greek Olympics has a new eye in the sky—no, not a helicopter or satellite, but a large surveillance airship. And don't be surprised to hear, or not hear, of many more of this technology from the past to become quite popular. Low altitude airships are quite obvious and can act as a deterrent to criminal activity but long term plans for the current crop of airships is to produce an aerial vehicle which can float around at high altitudes. Lieutenant Commander John Kurts of the US NORAD defence unit wants to see these 500 feet long and 150 feet wide airships hovering at 65,000 feet. NORAD believes that there are strong advantages to using airships, based on estimates that the logistics in terms of personnel and facilities required to run an airship is much less than even using unmanned aerial vehicles. Consideration is also being given to joint agency funding of airships to



share the cost, installation and maintenance of surveillance and communications gear, together with the considerable intelligence gathered from these aerial platforms.

The US Navy is already testing a low altitude airship with Cyber Aerospace and it is expected that successful trials of the SA-60 airship will result in full design of a future range of airships for military and law enforcement agency use.

So, when next you see one of those “cute” balloons in the sky—it may be doing more than you thought—just look up and smile!!

Mark Stephenson VK3PI



“DEAD” MORSE CODE ADDS ANOTHER CHARACTER

Some might say that morse code is dead, however as of May 3, 2004, the International Morse Code includes the @ symbol. You can now send full email addresses in continuous wave mode!

The new character is the first to be added for several generations, and was the result of amateur representation to the ITU from those that want to keep the code active and modern.

The new character is di-dah-dah-di-dah-dit - AC run together—an abbreviation for “at commercial”, the meaning of the @ symbol.

Thanks to Ian VK3XIJ and Monitoring Time July for this piece.

APOLOGY

An apology for last month to our members who receive a hard copy magazine—a network problem at the premises which prints our magazine precluded it from being printed. A process has been put in place for your editor to be notified if the newsletter is unable to be accessed and printed.

RIVERINA FIELD DAY

The Riverina Field Day will be held on 8 August 2004 in Albury. The Murray High School on the corner of Kaitlers Road and Kemp Street Lavington is the venue. Tables will include commercial firms with new and used equipment together with amateur club and individual tables. Further information can be obtained on the web www.tcrec.org.

The WANSARC club net via VK3RTL-R, VK3HFS-L, VK3NE-L and on occasions ZL1VK-R Auckland . With many listeners and links, the WANSARC net is unique.

Call in 1930 hours local time via 146.450MHz FM simplex, or via echolink.....

WANSARC—ham radio word for FUN!!!



MAN BEHIND THE MICROPHONE—RUSSELL VK3BMR

He was first licenced as VK2ZGR in 1958 but ever since he can remember he has been interested in tinkering with radio and electronic bits and pieces—our Man Behind the Microphone is Russell VK3BMR.

Russell was for many years the “boss” at the Sydenham transmitting site of 3LO and 3AR. The tower and all facilities were the responsibility of Russell and it is fair to say that he knew his job and equipment better than the back of his hand! A yarn comes to mind on how well he knew his patch—on a club visit to the Ansett Flight Simulator centre some years ago Russell shocked a support engineer by telling him that he had a fault with his simulation program. The support engineer was “gob-smacked” when Russell said the 3LO/3AR tower on the simulator was missing one of two warning lights on the top!!! Needless to say this was fixed promptly!!



So you have a 4 wheel drive????

AERIALS

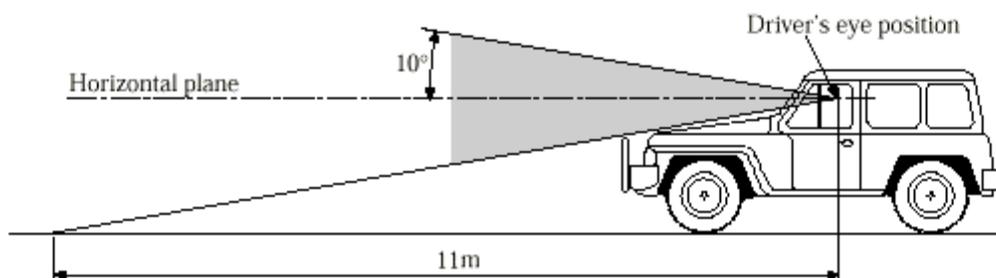
Aerials other than normal radio aerials are often fitted on a vehicle for the purposes of two way communication. In many cases these aerials are mounted on the front bumper or bull bar or other part of the front of the vehicle.

If an aerial more than 30 mm in diameter is mounted on the front of the vehicle forward of the A pillar the following guidelines apply:

- The aerial should be mounted as close as practicable to the left side of the vehicle.
- The aerial and mounting should be free of any sharp edges or protrusions which could or be likely to cause injury to any person.
- The surface of the aerial or any fittings more than 30 mm in diameter should be non reflective, matt black is preferred.
- No part of the aerial which is more than 30 mm in diameter should encroach into the driver's field of view as illustrated in fig. 1.
- The aerial or mounting should not obscure or otherwise adversely affect the performance or visibility of headlamps, parking lamps, turn signal lamps or any other mandatory lamp or reflector.

If these requirements cannot be met then the aerial should either be mounted on the roof or alternatively on the rear of the vehicle particularly if the vehicle has a boot or sloping rear area providing adequate clearance for the aerial to operate efficiently.

As a guide, the driver's field of view, shown as the shaded area in figure 1, is measured from the drivers eye position or a point 760 mm above the driver's seating position measured vertically from the centre of the rearmost point of the seat cushion with the seat located in the centre of its travel.



From the Vicroads website—for further information contact Vicroads. [Www.vicroads.com.au](http://www.vicroads.com.au)

WHILE WE ARE SLEEPING—ISS by Mark Stephenson VK3PI

The old saying of “out of sight – out of mind” certainly applies to the International Space Station. How many of us think of the work which is being done on this international platform while we are working or sleeping each day? Perhaps we have all become a little blasé about the wonders of technology – the time, effort, resources and dollars invested to develop this marvellous platform for science and technology.

The current crew of Commander Gennady Padalka and NASA ISS Science Officer Mike Fincke continue to conduct numerous biomedical experiments. They recently participated in a Russian experiment named “Profilaktika,” which was designed to measure Padalka’s cardiovascular condition while he pedaled on a bicycle in the Zvezda Service Module.

Fincke has been working with a Fluid Merging Viscosity experiment. This physical science experiment is studying viscosity, a property that causes fluids to resist flowing because of the internal friction created as the molecules move against each other. Understanding the viscosity of molten materials is important for everything from designing laboratory experiments to industrial production.

Fincke has also set up the Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle school students (EarthKAM) hardware for another run. EarthKAM is available for students who submit image requests and conduct geographic research. The requests are uplinked in a camera control file to a laptop computer. The computer activates an onboard digital camera at specified times and receives the digital images for subsequent downlink.



Details on Station science operations, managed by NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, can be found on the Payload Operations Center’s Web site at:

<http://scipoc.msfc.nasa.gov/>

Apart from the “glamour” of new scientific experiments, the crew need to concentrate on more mundane tasks, including putting out the waste!! Waste has been stowed in the Progress resupply craft docked to the far end of Zvezda. The uncrewed Progress will detach from the Station by Russian flight controllers on July 30 and deorbit to burn up in the Earth’s atmosphere.

A new Progress 15 cargo ship is scheduled for launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on August 11 for a docking to the Station on August 15. It will carry food, fuel, water, and supplies for Padalka and Fincke and for the Expedition 10 crew that is scheduled to launch to the Station in October.

The Progress 15 cargo will include two spare water pumps hopefully for the repair of two US spacesuits with cooling problems. Engineers are reviewing photos of the suits downloaded by the crew to assist in resolving the problem.

An “In Space Soldering Investigation” has been conducted by Fincke, using a soldering iron in space to melt solder on 18 experiment samples, documenting differences in the way solder melted and solidified in weightlessness. Scientists hope to learn how materials, such as solder, behave in orbit. This type of experiment will assist in developing processes for the electronic repair of instrumentation aboard future space stations.

The next spacewalk, using Russian Orlan suits, is planned for Aug. 3. During the spacewalk, the crew will retrieve science experiments, install others, and prepare the outside of the Zvezda module’s docking port for next year’s first flight of the ATV.

For the latest NASA news and views, check the NASA website of www.nasa.gov

Laughter is a medicine

TRADITIONAL CAPITALISM:

You have 2 cows.
You sell one and buy a bull.
Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows.
You sell them and retire on the income.

AMERICAN CAPITALISM:

You have 2 cows.
You sell 3 of them to your publicly listed company, using letters of credit opened by your brother-in-law at the bank, then execute a debt/equity swap with an associated general offer so that you get all 4 cows back, with a tax exemption for 5 cows. The milk rights of the 6 cows are transferred via an intermediary to a Cayman Island company secretly owned by the majority shareholder who sells the rights to all 7 cows back to your listed company. The annual report says the company owns 8 cows, with option on one more. Sell one cow to buy a new president of the United States, leaving you with 9 cows. No balance sheet provided with the release. The public buy your bull.

A CHINESE CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows.
You have 300 people milking them.
You claim full employment, high bovine productivity and arrest the newsman who reported the numbers.

A RUSSIAN CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows.
You count them and learn you have 5 cows.
You count them again and learn you have 42 cows.
You count them again and learn you have 12 cows.
You stop counting cows and open another bottle of vodka.

AN AUSTRALIAN CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows.
You sell one, and force the other to produce the milk of 4 cows.
You are surprised when the cow drops dead.

A FRENCH CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows.
You go on strike because

A GERMAN CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows.
You reengineer them so they live for 100 years, eat once a month, and milk themselves.

A BRITISH CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows.
Both are mad.

AN ITALIAN CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows, but you don't know where they are.
You break for lunch.

A JAPANESE CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows. You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce twenty times the milk. You then create clever cow cartoon images called Cowkimon and market them worldwide.

A SWISS CORPORATION:

You have 5000 cows, none of which belong to you.
You charge others for storing them

A NEW ZEALAND CORPORATION:

You have 2 cows.
That one on the left is kinda cute



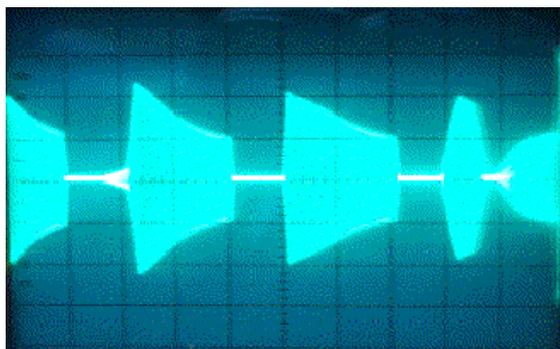
Don't you hate people who show off!!!



Parenting problems—are you with me, are you with me, where the hell are you???

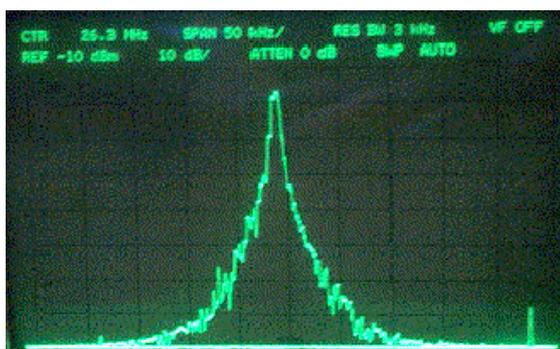
WHEN A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE IS DANGEROUS.....

The following yarn originated from the Gippsland Gate Radio and Electronics Club and was passed to your Editor with permission, from Geoff VK3KAS.

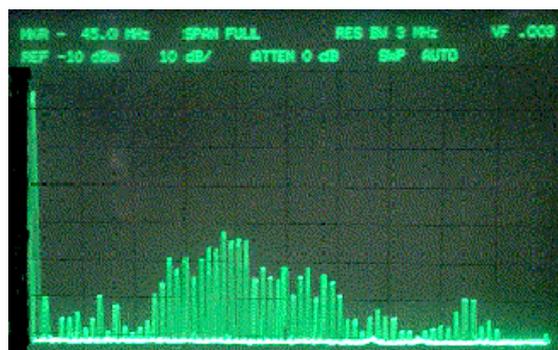


The story goes that the owner of a CB surfed the net to find information on how to "tweak" his radio. His mates had advised him that the radio didn't have much signal punch. So armed with information from a trusty source (?) he proceeded to "tweak" said radio.

Results of this manipulation of the radio were sensational—reports were received of his signal coming out of almost every electronic device for several houses away.



Test results on the radio revealed 200% AM modulation (above left), approximately 150KHz bandwidth (left) and a sweep test revealed the upper end of emissions as being 1.7GHz! (right).



Said operator was also looking for a linear amplifier.....let's hope he doesn't have a crack at winding that up !!

WIA UPDATE

WIA restructure adopted in Victoria

A well attended consultative meeting of WIA Victoria members was held recently. It heard options for the WIA Victorian Division in response to the disbanded WIA Federation being replaced by the new WIA National organisation. The recommendation to the meeting was that WIA Victoria continue as a state-wide organization, provide membership services, charge a membership subscription, and encourage its members to also join WIA National while remaining a member of the state-wide organisation.

The WIA Victoria Council is now also the Victorian Advisory Committee to WIA National. The assets of WIA Victoria are not affected. The Council of WIA Victoria, after very carefully considering the implications of the WIA restructure, honored its promise to consult with the membership prior to it making a final decision.

WIA President Michael Owen VK3KI, told last Wednesday's meeting that the WIA National Board supported the position proposed by the Council of WIA Victoria. He acknowledged that WIA Victoria has meaning to a lot of people including himself, having served it as an office-bearer in years gone by. The WIA President urged VK3 members to renew their WIA membership but not resign from WIA Victoria. As part of the implementation agreement, WIA Victoria intends to adopt a new trading name - Amateur Radio Victoria - and is permitted under various circumstances to continue using the names Wireless Institute of Australia Victorian Division and WIA Victoria.

It will remain a state-wide membership organization for radio amateurs.

A recommendation from the floor that the WIA Victoria Council take the necessary action to sign the agreement. The vote was 66 in favour and three against. The document has since been signed by the WIA National President Michael Owen VK3KI, Victorian President Jim Linton VK3PC, and Victorian Director Peter Mill VK3APO.

The 1,100 WIA Victoria members, when their memberships are due for renewal, will receive invitations asking them to agree to be members of WIA National and invited to continue their membership with WIA Victoria.

WANSARC VK3AWS

PRESIDENT: Grant Stowell VK3HFS

Telephone: 0419 007 718

SECRETARY: Mark Stephenson VK3PI

Telephone: 0425 768 320

Email: wansarc@wia.org.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

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 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.

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 enthusiasts since 1969