

WANSARC NEWS



Incorporated in Victoria, 1985 Registration Number: A0007611S

The monthly magazine of the club celebrating its 35th year,

Western & Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club

Melbourne, Australia

VK3AWS



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DELIVER TO:

If not delivered within 7 days, please return to: WANSARC P.O. Box 336 Reservoir 3073

NEXT MEETING Friday March 4th 2005 Commencing 19.30 hours

This months meeting features, general matters and planning for the next John Moyle Field Day, also with the club A.G.M. due next month, time to start thinking about dobbing yourself in, or a friend!!

This month in this picture packed magazine...



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WANSARC Family Fun Day at Bundoora Park, the day that was...



Here is a shot of the crew (with licenses) that was left when we got around to getting time out to take a photo, but the quality is a bit fuzzy, we have more shots next month of better clarity. Look at the next page to see what that frame is... At its peak there would have been twice the number here including wife's, friends, kids and some long time lost visitors, some of which were promptly snapped up for membership renewal by Gordon, good one!

Such was the sprit of catching up and having a chat, there was radio gear covering virtually every mode, AM, SSB, FM and CW, with key, from HF to 23cm – but most folk spoke to each other than the radios!! With a massive 240 Volt generator supplied by Chris 'FY', WANSARC could have had a field day, all day, even with 100 watts on 2 meters!! No problems with interference up here either. Great to see many long lost faces coming along. Thanks to all who supplied radios, food, cutlery, cooking expertise, seats, power and general organizing – some being Mark "PI", Chris 'FY', Gordon 'YOD', Jock 'UB', Graeme 'NE', Pam 'NK' and the many others I have probably forgotten to mention...



First VHF-UHF setup at 7.30am



All dressed up and nowhere to go...
Waiting for some DC power



Setting up coax connections
Graeme 'NE' and Chris 'FY'

Centre photo →
Mark 'PI' and Bob 'EL'
Attending to the all important duty
of feeding the troops

Erecting the inverted "V" antenna



A perfect day for it – just like last year
Melbourne at its best...





The bare essentials for 70 & 23cm
As Mt Cooper is quite high,
We got out very well, still a full blown
Vertical on the roof would be nice,
A job for Next Year!!



Bob's vertical for HF



Discone for the scanner attached to
water fountain via a tree branch!



Environmentally designed 70cm
Mounted on a tree branch mast



2 meter whip on a cake tin
still heard the Sunday broadcast at
S 9 + !!



YL's enjoying the sunshine...

Chewing the 'fat', members enjoy a lazy chat...



Chris 'FY' sending a CQ via Morse at a very high speed
Obviously he has done this before.... !



WANSARC 2nd PLACE IN JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY 2004

A very elated Mark, surprise to the crew with the VK3AWS for second op John Moyle Field Day



announcing the well kept certificate awarded to nationally in the 6 hour multi-2004.

CLUB SUCCESS IN THE JOHN MOYLE 2004 – WHAT CAN WE DO IN 2005? - By Mark VK3PI

Recently on the way home from the toil of work your humble Secretary detoured from his normal route home to clear the club post office box.

Initial examination of the fruits of picking the PO Box tree revealed nothing extraordinary, however buried upon the layers of assorted envelopes was a pure gem!!

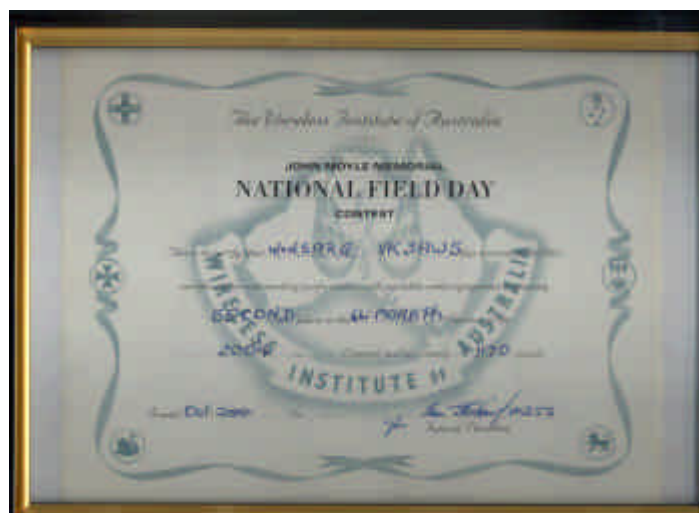
Imagine the surprise of your scribe when out popped a Wireless Institute Certificate proclaiming VK3AWS second nationally in the 6 hour multi-op John Moyle Field Day 2004!!

Without wishing to be seen as being wildly ecstatic this is an event that ALL club members can be proud of. Never in the 35 year history of the club has VK3AWS scored so well (1170 points) and the success of 2004 came after a near 20-year break from active participation in the contest.

Some of the intrepid crew is pictured – Graeme VK3NE and Ian VK3XIJ are missing, as they had to leave earlier in the day.

To our many club members and supporters who made the time to give our club many valuable contacts and on a variety of bands – THANKS!!

So what of 2005? Planning is already underway for a club effort again this year, perhaps in a more strategic location



Club members who participated in last years John Moyle Field Day would also like to thank their support staff – wives, girlfriends, daughters, and sons etc. who provided a leave pass, food or moral support.

Stay tuned for information on this years John Moyle Field Day – we would love to have **YOU** along for the day. And if you cannot physically be with the group on the day please consider any portable equipment, which could be of value (hint – 6 meter beam). If this is not possible, why not come up on air and give the club some points on various bands!

73 de Mark VK3PI

Pizza Night at Tina's, the night that was...

Last year club members enjoyed a night out at Tina's Pizza with much food and discussions on the year's events. Yours truly also enjoyed himself (probably too much) and now have photos to prompt my memory of the night!

Thanks to Bob VK3EL for capturing these.



WANSARC QSL Card Outward Policy for 2005

Members of the club receive their QSL cards via the club when in attendance. If not attending regularly, cards will be sent to their preferred address at least 4 times a year (cost \$2 + 4 envelopes) and the cost absorbed by the club. For non-members of the club, but WIA members on our "receive" list, they will each be asked to supply stamped, self-addressed envelopes for distribution of cards at least 4 times a year. This practice can continue for 2005 as I am happy to continue to pick up cards and distribute.

Mark VK3PI
Secretary

Editors Ravings – Mick VK3CH

After a 14 page issue it seems that it's a bit hard to put into the envelopes once its folded up so in future I will try to pack more into just 8-10 pages, sorry about that Gordon! So for now I'm using 8 point text – if its not printable at that size for those who print their emailed copies let me know and I will up it a bit in size – still trying to get the format right.

After much "fun" with my usual operating system(s) I have decided to give Linux (Fedora 3) a go. Always choosing to live dangerously I have decided to make a dual boot system to start off with. Hopefully one system won't go and fight the other one, but if next months magazine is late you can guess what happened...

Some interesting useless facts...

- Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market is built on a cemetery. There are still about 9,000 buried underneath.
- More than 17,000 pieces of plastic debris float on every square kilometers of ocean.
- The temperature of the Earths' interior increase by 1 degree every 18.3 meters down.
- Amish men shave until they are married, then they grow a beard.
- Melbourne had the first gay and lesbian radio station in the world, Joy FM Radio (Received its' full license in 2001)
- Lebanon is the only country in the Middle East that does not have a desert.

Quotable Quotes...

"24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not."

Programmer outsources own job...

For the programmer who claims he has found an Indian IT worker to take care of his work, outsourcing has paid off big time. "About a year ago I hired a developer in India to do my job," the anonymous US programmer said, according to *The Times of India* newspaper. "I pay him US\$12,000 out of the US\$67,000 I get. He's happy to have the work. I'm happy that I have to work only 90 minutes a day supervising the code. My employer thinks I'm telecommuting. Now I'm considering getting a second job and doing the same thing."

A moral to the story

The teacher gave her fifth grade class an assignment. Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it. The next day the kids came back and one by one began to tell their stories. Ashley said, 'My fathers a farmer and we have a lot of egg-laying hens. One time we were taking our eggs to market in a basket on the front seat of the car when we hit a big bump in the road and all the eggs went flying and broke and made a mess.' "What's the moral of the story?" asked the teacher. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket!" "Very good," said the teacher. Next little Sarah raised her hand and said, "Our family are farmers too. But we raise chickens for the meat market. We had a dozen eggs onetime, but when they hatched we only got ten live chicks, and the moral to this story is, "don't count your chickens before they're hatched." "That was a fine story Sarah. Little Johnny, do you have a story to share?" "Yes, my daddy told me this story about my Aunt Susan. Aunt Susan was an airborne trooper in the Gulf War and her plane was hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory and all she had was a bottle of scotch, a machine gun and a machete. She drank the scotch on the way down so it wouldn't break and then she landed right in the middle of 100 enemy troops. She killed seventy of them with the machine gun until she ran out of bullets. Then she killed twenty more with the machete until the blade broke, then she killed the last ten with her broken scotch bottle and bare hands." "Good heavens," said the horrified teacher, "what kind of moral did your daddy tell you from that horrible story?"

"Stay the f*** away from Aunt Susan when she's been drinking."

Miss out on the WIA broadcast?

Did you know you can read the last lot of the WIA weekly news on the internet at the WIA website at www.wia.org.au by going to the news link?

But an easier automated way is to subscribe to the news at the website.

Summer troppo fun

Seems a few WANSARC members have had the opportunity to snare some rare DX on the 6 and 2 meter bands, even on FM. Openings into VK4, VK5, ZL and others worked with no need for Echolink or IRLP!

Victorian Electronic Democracy Inquiry

The Victorian Parliament is holding an inquiry into electronic democracy, and wants you to be a part of visioning the future for our democracy.

For many of us, "electronic democracy" is a new term, highlighting how modern communications and computer technology has changed we live, play, and work. Mobile telephones, the Internet, digital television, and fax machines, have all made it easier to communicate with government and between citizens; and computers allow information to be processed and repackaged, searched, and analyzed on demand.

In other states of Australia, and around the world, governments and citizens have started to use these new technologies for political purposes. From the act of voting, to running election campaigns, community consultation, and forming community interest groups and alternative news services, new technologies may be of value to our democracy by allowing greater communication, government transparency, and empowering citizens to act together to have their views heard by decision makers. For these reasons, many suggest that we should embrace new technologies as integral to all parts of our traditional democratic process.

But there are also concerns about the impact these technologies may have. Some members of our community are unable to access new technologies, for a variety of reasons. There is also a fear that new technologies can be abused; distorting outcomes or excluding people from participation. Because of these concerns, some argue that the introduction of new technologies should be resisted, or curtailed.

To address these questions, in 2003 Premier Steve Bracks asked members of the Victorian Parliament to run an inquiry into the promise, costs, benefits, and risks of electronic democracy. Importantly, as a public inquiry, this process recognizes that what we accept as appropriate forms of democracy are defined by the public as a whole.

The Inquiry will report to the Parliament at the end of March 2005. <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/sarc/>

Above article found from the Victorian Parliament website

2005 WIA Call book available

Got a copy in December last year and have found it to be very useful. The searchable CD is handy – I copied the full contents to the hard drive and just put a link to it when I need to call up any details. The information section has been revised and is, to new amateurs, more reader friendly.

Available from the WIA office – Posted member/ non member \$25/\$33.

New Australian Amateur Radio Licensing System

The ACA are in the process of developing the regulatory framework for the new three -tier amateur licensing regime, according to WIA Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU. "Current indications are that there will be no changes to the timeframe - the new arrangements are expected to be implemented around May 2005" Glenn said. "For some time now the WIA has been working with the ACA on the syllabus development for the Foundation license." "The syllabus is being developed by a working group comprising Ron VK2DQ, Lee VK3PK, Carlo VK3PY and Fred VK3DRC. The draft has been forwarded to the ACA who have responded very positively" Glenn said. "We hope to be in a position to release the Foundation License syllabus shortly and are continuing to work on the Standard and Advanced level syllabi".

Farewell Tony – VK3JED

Tony is on the move from his previous QTH and by the time you read this should be well established at Laverton. As he is nearly 'across the road' from the RAFF William's Radio Club, he will be taking up membership with them. Sad to see you go from WANSARC, but certainly we will still be hearing you on air Tony and no doubt you will be converting a few of them to Echolink and IRLP. They certainly have gained a wealth of wisdom in their ranks. 73's Tony, Thanks for all your contributions, from all of us at WANSARC.

WANSARC in its 35th Year

WANSARC will celebrate its 35th year soon and Mark VK3PI is collating the clubs history. Anyone with memorabilia of days gone by or old photos, film, notes, QSL cards, back issues of the club magazine or a good memory of past events is welcome to contact him so he can put together a presentation on all the events of the club that have happened in 35 years. Contact details for Mark appear on last page.

QRA QRZ?

The FCC is asking a New York, ham why he has filed over a dozen call sign change requests with the agency in the past four years. Since August 29, 2000, Kiyoshi Nakamura of Buffalo has held the call signs K3DJ, KJ6UZ, AD1L, K3DJ again, KH6DJ, AD1L again, K3DJ for a third time, AD2R, AD1L for a third time, AD2R, WH7S, AD1L for a fourth time and AD2R for a second time. Then again he wants to give up AD2R and get back to K3DJ for the fourth time. In its letter to Nakamura, the FCC says that his numerous call sign change applications raise questions about apparent abuse of the licensing system. This says the FCC that with limited exceptions, each call sign would be blocked by Commission rules from being reassigned to another licensee for two years. So, the FCC gave Nakamura 20 days from the date of its inquiry letter to respond. He was told to state his intentions regarding the filing of these applications. He was also told to choose one and only one call sign that he actually wants to keep. Maybe he should choose *.*!

Found on WIA news website

Growth in mobiles and wireless broadband highlight year 2004 in telecommunications

Growth in mobile phone services and the emergence of wireless broadband technology were among telecommunications industry highlights last financial year, according to the Australian Communications Authority's Telecommunications Performance Report 2003-04. Tabled in parliament today by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan, the annual ACA report covers the performance of carriers and carriage service providers (CSPs), and reports on consumer satisfaction, consumer benefits and quality of service. ACA Acting Chairman Allan Horsley said mobile phone services grew by 15.4 per cent or 2.2 million to a total of 16.5 million at 30 June 2004. Growth was largely driven by prepaid services which accounted for 43 per cent of all mobile services, up from 38 last year. "The continued popularity of pre-paid services demonstrates the value consumers perceive in having more control over mobile service expenditure and the ability to avoid lengthy contracts," Mr. Horsley said. The ACA report had also found that wireless broadband and access to broadband services expanded during 2003-04. Wireless broadband had emerged as an alternative for providing broadband services to residential and business customers in metropolitan areas and selected regional centers. Broadband Internet subscribers reached over 1 million at 30 June 2004, an increase of around 103 per cent from 30 June 2003. Compared to the growth in mobile phone services, fixed telephone services remained relatively stable with approximately 11.7 million fixed telephone services operating at the end of June 2004.

Mr. Horsley said the report identified a significant change in the way services were delivered to consumers, with a number of carriers and CSPs announcing plans to provide fixed telephone services using Internet Protocol (IP) technology. "While IP-based telephony, often in the form of voice over Internet protocol, has been offered to corporate customers for some years, its availability was extended to residential and small business markets during 2003-04," he said.

The performance report also revealed that the trend to industry consolidation over the last few years showed signs of reversal. In 2003-04, membership of the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) scheme increased by 15 per cent. Consumer satisfaction with the performance of telecommunications carriers was mixed during 2003-04 with satisfaction higher for internet services than for fixed or mobile services. Mr. Horsley said the performance of the major carriers in connecting new phone services and repairing faults against the Customer Service Guarantee (CSG) timeframes had generally remained stable at or above 90 per cent of fault reports and service connection requests completed within CSG standard timeframes at a national level compared with previous years. Of those Telstra services that missed CSG connection timeframes during 2003-04, 93.5 per cent were connected within five days of the connection timeframe. Mr. Horsley said a particular focus of the ACA during the year had been on the remaining 6.5 per cent of services that missed this timeframe which were considered to be "extreme cases of failure". The vast majority of these connections were made within 10 working days of the CSG timeframe. The first full year of reporting by Telstra under the Network Reliability Framework, showed an average of 99.11 per cent of services on Telstra's network did not experience a fault for each month in 2003-04. On an annual basis, around 90 per cent of services were fault free during 2003-04. For services that did experience a fault during 2003-04, the monthly average time that services were unavailable was 51 hours. Telstra had also made improvements to 54 of the worst performing exchanges in 2003-04 at a cost of more than \$10

million. Mr. Horsley said while Telstra's performance in meeting specified timeframes for the repair of payphone faults improved in 2003-04, the ACA considered the performance was low in remote areas, where only 72 per cent of payphone faults were repaired within the required timeframe. "Telstra is working with the ACA on a strategy for improving its payphone fault repair performance," he said. According to the report, progress was made in the self-regulatory framework in 2003-04 with six new industry codes under development and four new codes registered. A total of 21 codes were registered at 30 June 2004. However, the number of code signatories declined in 2003-04. The ACA's report said that compliance with currently registered codes was generally satisfactory but raised concerns about a number of code breaches associated with advertisements for telecommunications products and services. This was the subject of an ACA review during 2003-04. The ACA requested that the Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) develop three new industry codes in 2003-04. The performance report also highlighted the rapid emergence of security and spam risks confronting users across a variety of services and applications and the ACA's role in enforcing new spam legislation. "By the end June 2004, three months after the Spam Act came into force, the major known spammers in Australia had stopped operating," Mr. Horsley said. The report also included a summary of a recent study commissioned by the ACA which estimates that the Australian economy is \$10.4 billion larger in terms of total production than it would have been without the reforms to the telecommunications regulatory regime since 1997. The primary driver has been improvements in the productivity of the telecommunications industry which have delivered ongoing benefits to consumers and small business including: creating around 29,000 extra jobs in the Australian economy, and real private consumption benefits of approximately \$5.5 billion for all households

Note: Some data was provided late by individual carriage service providers and for this reason was not included in the report. The ACA will follow up with individual companies on data provision processes and general compliance issues.

Above taken from Australian Communications Authority website

On the net: Nokia owners - beware of skulls

If you own a Nokia smart phone, this warning is for you. Be careful of what you download into the phone because a malicious wallpaper program that hijacks the main page of the 7610 handset is out there in cyberspace just waiting to be installed in your phone. Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, has more: "According to a British Broadcasting Company report, the program nicknamed Skulls is masquerading as software that creates new background images and themes for the main screen of the 7610 phone. It comes labeled as a file called 7610.extended.theme.manager.zip and the BBC says that it is thought to have surfaced on shareware sites where people can pick up free add-ons, such as wallpaper, games and ring tones". If you downloaded and install it, the software not only replaces all the icons on the 7610 phone with images of skulls, but also substitutes many of the 7610's functions like contacts, calendar and notebook with non-working versions. The infected phone can then only make and take calls but lose the rest of its functionality. Similar phones produced by Sony Ericsson, Motorola, and others are so far unaffected by the Skulls virus program.

Wireless broadband gets ACA new frequency issue

The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) has approved a new frequency band plan to increase opportunities for broadband wireless access in regional and remote areas. Wireless is an existing technology medium for broadband services in a market that broadband over power lines (BPL) is also hoping to enter and be competitive in 2005. The Authority's acting Chairman, Dr Bob Horton said: "The ACA is very keen to encourage greater competition and choice in the broadband market, especially in regional Australia."

The new frequency band plan will from early 2005 enable site-specific apparatus licenses in the 1900-1920 MHz band in regional and remote areas and in remote areas in the 2010-2025 MHz band. Other measures implemented by the ACA to assist the deployment of broadband wireless are new apparatus licensing agreements in the 5.8 GHz band.

!!

PARKING at NMIT – WANSARC Club Nights

Members are reminded that parking adjacent to the club room building K is illegal and NMIT staff WILL book any cars which are parked in that area. ALL members must park cars in the main car park to the WEST of building K.

!!

Laughter is a Medicine

These are notes that school secretaries have actually received

"Please excuse John for being absent Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33."
"Mary could not go to school because she was bothered by very close veins."
"Ralph was absent yesterday because of a sour throat."
"Please excuse Joey Friday. He had loose vowels."
"Please excuse Joyce from Jim today."
"Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. He fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip."
"Karl was hit yesterday playing football. He was hurt in the growing part."
"John was absent yesterday because he had a stomach."
"Please excuse Gloria. She has been sick and under the doctor."
"My son will have to get out of school as soon as I call the orthodontist, one of his wrie's is busted and sticking in his Gum's."
"Please excuse Sarah from being absent yesterday. She was sick and I had her shot."
"My son is under the doctor's care and should not take P.E. Please excute him."
"Irving was absent this morning because he missed his bust."
"Please excuse Johnny for being. It was his father's fault."

A South African doctor wrote about an epitaph he had seen in a local cemetery:

In memory of my father: gone to join his appendix, his tonsils, his olfactory nerve, a kidney, an eardrum, and a leg prematurely removed by an intern who needed the experience.

Did you hear about the baby born in the high tech delivery room?
It was cordless!

Late one night the doctor's wife was home alone, after her husband had been called to the hospital for an emergency. The doorbell rings, and she answers.

"Is the doctor at home?" asks the man at the door, in a very hoarse and quiet voice due to his aching throat. "No, c'mon in!" whispers the doctor's wife in return.

Patient: How much to have this tooth pulled?
Dentist: \$90.00.
Patient: \$90.00 for just a few minutes work???
Dentist: I can extract it very slowly if you like.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM REAL CHURCH BULLETINS

Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. there will be an Ice Cream Social. Ladies giving milk please come early.

The Ladies' Liturgical Society will meet on Wednesday. Mrs. Johnson will sing Put Me in My Little Bed accompanied by Pastor Bradley.

The memorial service will begin with a choral rendition of Amazing Grave The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The preacher for each of the next four Sundays will be found hanging on the notice board in the narthex.

The Young People's Fellowship will be entertained at tonight's meeting by the Rhyme-Tymers, a local rape group.

The new loudspeaker system is the gift of Dr. Charles Smith in memory of his wife.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is in honor of the birth of David Alan Belser, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Belser.

Last evening's parish pot-luck supper was like Heaven! Many we expected to see there were absent.

FOOTBALL CHRISTIANITY – USA STYLE

Quarterback Sneak: Quietly leaving immediately following the sermon.

Draft Choice: Selection of a seat near the door.

Draw Play: What many children (and a few adults) do with their bulletins.

Benchwarmer: One whose only participation is a physical presence at church on Sunday.

Fumble: Dropping a hymnal, singing the wrong verse, and general inattention.

Backfield in Motion: Making two or three trips out of the church during the sermon.

Stay in the Pocket: What happens to a lot of money that should go to the missions.

Sudden Death: What happens to the minister who preaches too long.

Blitz: The stampede for the door after the service.

GOOD HUMOR - BAD ADS

2 female Boston Terrier puppies, 7 wks old, Perfect markings, 555-1234. Leave mess.

Lost: small apricot poodle. Reward. Neutered. Like one of the family.

A superb and inexpensive restaurant. Fine food expertly served by waitresses in appetizing forms.

Dinner Special -- Turkey \$2.35; Chicken or Beef \$2.25; Children \$2.00.

For sale: an antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.

Four-poster bed, 101 years old. Perfect for antique lover.

Now is your chance to have your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home, too.

Wanted: 50 girls for stripping machine operators in factory.

Wanted: Unmarried girls to pick fresh fruit and produce at night.

We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.

For Sale. Three canaries of undermined sex.

For Sale -- Eight puppies from a German Shepperd and an Alaskan

Hussy.

Great Dames for sale.

Have several very old dresses from grandmother in beautiful condition.

Tired of cleaning yourself? Let me do it.

Dog for sale: eats anything and is fond of children.

Vacation Special: have your home exterminated.

Mt. Kilimanjaro, the breathtaking backdrop for Serena Lodge. Swim in the lovely pool while you drink it all in.

Get rid of aunts: Zap does the job in 24 hours.

Toaster: A gift that every member of the family appreciates. Automatically burns toast.

Sheer stockings. Designed for fancy dress, but so serviceable that lots of women wear nothing else.

Stock up and save. Limit: one.

For Rent: 6-room hated apartment.

Man, honest. Will take anything.

Wanted: chambermaid in rectory. Love in, \$200 a month. References required.

Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel.

Used Cars: Why go elsewhere to be cheated? Come here first!

Christmas tag-sale. Handmade gifts for the hard-to-find person.

Wanted: Hair-cutter. Excellent growth potential.

Wanted. Man to take care of cow that does not smoke or drink.

3-year-old teacher need for pre-school. Experience preferred.

Our experienced Mom will care of your child. Fenced yard, meals, and smacks included.

Our bikinis are exciting. They are simply the tops.

Auto Repair Service. Free pick-up and delivery. Try us once, you'll never go anywhere again.

Illiterate? Write today for free help.

Girl wanted to assist magician in cutting-off-head illusion. Blue Cross and salary.

Wanted. Widower with school-age children requires person to assume general housekeeping duties. Must be capable of contributing to growth of family.

And now, the Superstore--unequaled in size, unmatched in variety, unrivaled inconvenience.

We will oil your sewing machine and adjust tension in your home for \$1.00.

A Well Planned Life????

Two women met for the first time since graduating from high school. One asked the other, "You were always so organized in school, Did you manage to live a well planned life? " " yes," said her friend. "My first marriage was to a millionaire; my second marriage was to an actor; my third marriage was to a preacher; and now I'm married to an undertaker."

Her friend asked, "What do those marriages have to do with a well planned life?"

"One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."

Are you chatting on the frequency,
Or just listening?
Put out a call – you never know who is
on the band



The Darwin Awards

The Darwin Awards salute the improvement of the human genome by honoring those who accidentally kill themselves in really stupid ways. Named in honor of Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, the Darwin Awards commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it. If you like these, log on to <http://www.darwinawards.com>

Resistance is Futile

(1999) A US Navy safety publication describes injuries incurred while doing don't's. One page described the fate of a sailor playing with a multimeter in an unauthorized manner. He was curious about the resistance level of the human body. He had a Simpson 260 multimeter, a small unit powered by a 9-volt battery. That may not seem powerful enough to be dangerous... but it can be deadly in the wrong hands. The sailor took a probe in each hand to measure his bodily resistance from thumb to thumb. But the probes had sharp tips, and in his excitement he pressed his thumbs hard enough against the probes to break the skin. Once the salty conducting fluid known as blood was available, the current from the multimeter travelled right across the sailor's heart, disrupting the electrical regulation of his heartbeat. He died before he could record his Ohms.

The lesson? The Navy issues very few objects which are designed to be stuck into the human body.

August 2000 Dan Wilson elaborates:

I'm a former Navy petty officer, enlisted for six years as an electrician aboard a US Submarine. I got a lot of training. This story was used frequently during my training in the US Navy as an example of what can happen when procedures and safety measures are not followed. I considered the story an urban legend until I found the incident report referenced in the official Navy electrical safety guidelines. I now know it is true.

The actual event is slightly different than described above, and even more deserving of a Darwin award. This sailor stuck the sharpened ends of the probes through his thumbs intentionally. You see, he had just taken a course that taught a critical concept called "internal resistance."

Internal resistance is resistance to electrical power flow that exists inside any power source. It causes the terminal voltage to drop when load (current) increases. You can demonstrate this concept, if you're careful, by monitoring your car battery's terminal voltage, while someone starts up the engine. The reading will be ~13 volts while the engine is off, but during the period where the starter is cranking it will drop to 8-9 volts. The voltage drop is due to the internal resistance of the battery.

This sailor, like all other electricians in training, had already been through a safety class in which one of the exercises is to measure your body's resistance by simply holding the probes between your fingertips. (Most people read 500Kohms to 2Mohms.) Evidently, adding information from the internal resistance class, this sailor wanted to determine his own body's "internal resistance." So he intentionally pushed the sharpened probe tips through the skin to eliminate the rather high skin resistance and get only the "internal resistance". This, of course, caused his death.

How, you might ask, with only a 9V battery? Easy. One of the "rules of thumb" that the Navy teaches is the 1-10-100 rule of current. This rule states that 1mA of current through the human body can be felt, 10mA of current is sufficient to make muscles contract to the point where you cannot let go of a power source, and 100mA is sufficient to stop the heart. Let's look at Ohm's law. Ohm's law (for DC systems - I will not discuss AC here) is written as $E=IR$, where E is voltage in volts, I is current in Amps, and R is resistance in Ohms.

When we did the experiment in the electrical safety class to determine our body's resistance, we found a resistance of 500K Ohms. Using 9V and 500K Ohms in the equation, we come up with a current of 18 micro Amps, below the "feel" threshold of 1mA. However, removing the insulation of skin from our curious sailor here, the resistance through the very good conducting electrolytes of the body is sharply lower. Around 100 ohms, in fact, resulting in a current of 90mA - sufficient to stop our sailor's heart and kill him.

As my electrical safety instructor said, "The reason we now have to teach the electrical safety course to all electricians at least twice per year is because some Joe was bright enough to be the one person in the world who could figure out how to kill himself with a 9V battery."

The Winner Gets... a Post Mortem

(August 1999, Australia) Drinking oneself to death need not be a long lingering process. Allan, a 33-year-old computer technician, showed his competitive spirit by dying of competitive spirits. A Sydney, Australia hotel bar held a drinking competition, known as Feral Friday, with a 100-minute time limit and a sliding point scale ranging from 1 point for beer to 8 points for hard liquor.

Allan stood and cheered his winning total of 236, (winners never quit!) which had also netted him the literally staggering blood alcohol level of .353 grams of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, 7 times greater than Australia's legal driving limit of 0.05%.

After several trips to the usual temple of overindulgence, the bathroom, Allan was helped back to his workplace to sleep it off, a condition that became permanent. A forensic pharmacologist estimated that after downing 34 beers, 4 bourbons, and 17 shots of tequila within 1 hour and 40 minutes, his blood alcohol level would have been 0.41 to 0.43%, but Allan had vomited several times after the drinking stopped. The cost paid by Allan was much higher than that of the hotel, which was fined the equivalent of \$13,100 US dollars for not intervening. It is not known whether Allan required any further embalming.

Peepers Plummetts

(09 Nov 1999, Mexico) A Mexican jail guard died from an excess of zeal while supervising an inmate's conjugal visit. Raul Zarate Diaz was closely watching his charge from the roof of the prison when he tripped over an air vent, crashed through the skylight, and fell 23 feet to land beside the bed where the inmate and his wife were, against all odds, enjoying an intimate moment. The interrupted prisoner, offended by the intrusion, attempted to start a riot, but was squelched by prison security. Prisoners in the Tapachula facility reported that Diaz was in the habit of prowling the prison roof during conjugal visits, in search of prisoners to supervise. Local law enforcement reported that the guard was clutching a pornographic magazine, which was retained as evidence, and binoculars, whose sentimental value led to them being given back to the family of the deceased.

Power of Satan?

(November 1999) A church held a pageant that culminated in an exciting climactic battle between God and Satan. A stage actor was hired to play Satan, and encouraged to use any means necessary to make the role more realistic. A true professional, he used a voice shifter to make his voice sound dark and evil, and even gave a display of his fire-breathing skills. These theatrics proved to be too much for two members of the congregation, who had heart attacks on the spot, and were rushed to the hospital. One died and the other is in critical condition, which is certainly a dramatic way of saying, "The reviews are in and the show is a smash!"

Gun Safety Training

(28 February 2000, Texas) A Houston man earned a succinct lesson in gun safety when he played Russian roulette with a .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol. Rashid, nineteen, was visiting friends when he announced his intention to play the deadly game. He apparently did not realize that a semiautomatic pistol, unlike a revolver, automatically inserts a cartridge into the firing chamber when the gun is cocked. His chance of winning a round of Russian roulette was zero, as he quickly discovered.

Flames of Passion

(17 November 1999, Germany) Germany's long-held image as a peaceful Utopia has been tarnished by an acrimonious divorce. After bitter divorce proceedings, 40-year-old Uwe of Brandenburg found that he had lost everything but his lederhosen knickerbockers. Among other possessions, the settlement demanded that Uwe turn over ownership of his house to his newly-estranged wife, Verena. Enraged by his 37-year-old wife's unmitigated legal victory, the forty-year-old man decided to follow the sage advice of an obscure German proverb: "If life gives you lemons, burn them." Descending into the basement with his trusty drill, Uwe proceeded to bore several holes into a rather large oil tank. He then set fire to the fuel as it poured in erratic streams onto the floor. To his delight, the entire basement was engulfed in flames within seconds. His joy turned to ashes, however, when he realized that he was now in the middle of a Hindenburg-sized house fire. Despite a valiant effort to save himself, Uwe died in the flames of his own vengeance. Verena got the last laugh, which acquaintances described as "maniacal."

WANSARC VK3AWS

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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

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

PARKING at NMIT- Members please note that parking adjacent to the club room building K is illegal and NMIT staff WILL book any cars which are parked in that area.

ALL members must park cars in the main car park to the WEST of building K.

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

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

All editors comments are the comments of Mick, VK3CH and may not always represent the opinions of other club members of WANSARC. 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. Send text as ASCII, PDF, or Word, RTF, plain or HTML email, pictures in JPG format. 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@alphalink.com.au Email attachments not to exceed 4 Mb in file size. Attachments of (or thought to be) executable code 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 would be appreciated.

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

Any dates given for upcoming events should always be checked with a reliable source – coming up on the weekly Tuesday evening NET on 146.450 MHz starting at 07:30 pm AEST is recommended to discuss and confirm information.