

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

146.450 MHz FM

VK3AWS

28.470 MHz USB

Volume No: 36

Issue 8

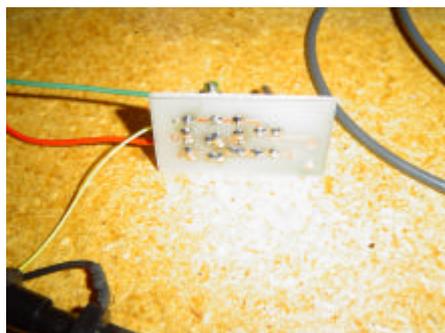
August

2005

NEXT MEETING Friday 5th August, Commencing at 19.30 hours.

General natter night, chatting about latest news, believe me there is quite a bit of it!

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



Bill VK3KBL has been busy making up an external 4MHz oscillator for the ATV PLL unit, photos show L-R, top view, bottom etched view and a nice 4MHz pattern appearing on the CRO. See page 2.

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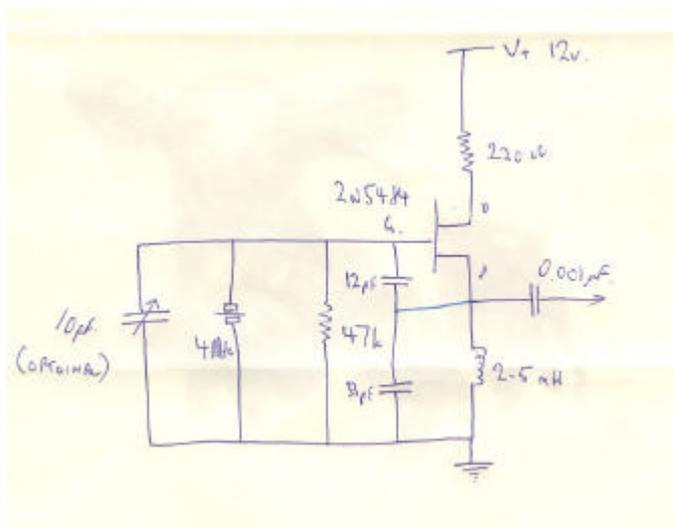
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Congratulations to WANSARC on the great results for the **2005 John Moyle Field Day** read more on page 6. Don't forget the **Remembrance Day Contest** for 2005, held on **August 13-14**, for 24 hours commencing **0800 UTC on the Saturday evening**.

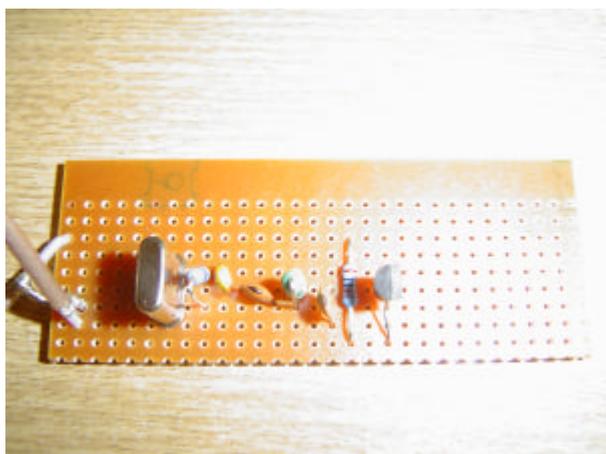
ATV EXTERNAL 4MHz OSCILLATOR

Some members have had problems with their PLL 4MHz oscillator boards not going properly or failing to go at all. You can either choose to not use it, that is let the unit operate "free running", or build an external one and remove the electronics off the current board and add your external 4MHz signal to pin 2 of the PLL chip as we mentioned last month. Here is a circuit and pictures of a unit designed by Bill VK3KBL, I am making one as well, but not ready yet. Bill is currently in testing phase and no doubt will let us know how it's going, listen on 146.450MHz most afternoons for any updates.

I don't have circuit drawing software so forgive my scribble attempt!



Just in case my writing is too bad, the values are 10pF trimmer (which may well not be required) across the 4MHz crystal with a 47K ohm resistor across it as well. This is fed into the Gate of a 2N5484 FET. From the Gate to ground the two capacitors are (top) 12pF and (bottom) 33pF. At the junction of these connect the Source and a 2.5mH choke, also tap off the 4MHz signal via a 0.001uF capacitor which will go to pin 2 of the PLL unit that we got from Mini Kits (if you ordered the PLL option.) Finally the Drain of the FET is fed via a 220 ohm resistor to +12 volts. Bill is not sure if the output is too high, either increase this value or even place a 100 ohm resistor across the output of the 0.001uF capacitor to ground. This is a photo of my oscillator unit which I made up on Vero board, too busy (read – lazy!) to etch up a proper board.



WIA RESPONSE TO ACMA 'BPL' DISCUSSION PAPER

The WIA response to the Australian Communications Authority discussion paper entitled "The management of Interference from Broadband over Power Line Applications" has been submitted to the ACA. The WIA submission replies to specific questions asked in the ACA discussion paper including:

- * The likely effects of BPL interference to the amateur service
- * The suitability of interim guidelines for BPL trials
- * The obligations of BPL operators to consumers
- * How to best manage and regulate BPL
- * Suitability of industry management of BPL interference issues
- * The adoption of BPL standard and other approaches
- * are codes or guidelines desirable
- * should licensing, conditions and fees be applied to BPL
- * And issues arising from access BPL

Some clubs and individuals have expressed a desire to forward their own submission to the ACA. The WIA board believes that an alternative course of action for those clubs, who wish to make a submission, but have not already done so, would be to submit a letter to the ACA supporting the WIA submission.

The ACA have indicated they will accept supporting letters for a short time after the closing date for submissions. People have sufficient time to review the published WIA submission and forward their comments to the ACA.

The WIA would like to receive comments on the submission; this can be done via e-mail at bplresponse@wia.org.au

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR WIA ASSESSORS

An expression of interest is being sought from interested people who are nominated by a WIA Affiliated Club and who wish to qualify so that they may become a WIA Assessor. Under the new licensing structure to be introduced very soon, an Assessor will be able to assess candidates for amateur licenses. Full details of the qualification and role of assessors may be found in the document "Assessment of Competency in Amateur Radio", March 2005, which may be found on the WIA website www.wia.org.au go to "Education", then "Foundation License", then "Assessment Criteria". Mr. Fred Swainston on behalf of a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) will conduct Amateur Radio Competency Assessment training on behalf of the WIA on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September 2005, from 8.30 am to 4 pm both days, in east suburban Melbourne. Unfortunately only 16 candidates can be accommodated, so only one candidate will be able to be accepted from each club for this initial training. It is desired to achieve as wide a geographical spread of Assessors as possible, and if the number of potential candidates exceed the number of places, this will be the criteria used to select candidates. To become an Assessor you must hold either an Unrestricted, Intermediate or Limited amateur license, and be a member of the WIA, and an Application Form must be submitted by each potential candidate, and submitted by mail, fax or email to the WIA office. After successful completion of the accredited training course the candidates will be qualified to apply for registration as an Approved WIA Assessor, and will then be able to assess candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced amateur licenses.

A light lunch will be provided on each day.

If any WIA Affiliated Club is unable to meet all the costs involved in respect of the attendance of their nominated candidate should contact the WIA secretary, Chris Jones VK2ZDD at secretary@wia.org.au as the WIA has set aside a sum of money for this purpose.

[Any attendee traveling over 350km to the venue should enquire regarding a partial reimbursement of travel costs.]

There will be similar Courses conducted in The Gold Coast, Melbourne and Adelaide. Forms may be downloaded from the WIA website. Enquiries: arv@amateurradio.com.au

Taken from WIA website, author - Jim Linton VK3PC.

VK3WIA STATION ON AIR FOR RD CONTEST

To encourage even more participation in this year's Remembrance Day Contest, the Wireless Institute of Australia intends to host a number of competing RD stations around Australia.

In Melbourne the call sign VK3WIA is planned to be activated from the Science works Museum in west suburban Spotswood.

VK3WIA will operate from the Science works car park on Saturday the 13th of August and move to inside the Museum building during the Sunday.

The venue will also enable amateur radio to put on a show for museum visitors who are predominately young people.

The WIA and Amateur Radio Victoria are inviting registrations of interest from radio amateurs who would be interested in operating VK3WIA at the museum.

To register, please contact Robert Broomhead VK3KRB via email vk3krb@wia.org.au or by phone on 0403 066 686.

- Amateur Radio Victoria.

"VK3 CAN WIN" THE RD CONTEST

Support has grown over the past week for the campaign to have VK3 as the winning state in this year's Remembrance Day Contest.

There's an enthusiasm about the contest not seen in Victoria for more than a decade, when VK3 last won.

Amateur Radio Victoria VK3WI is participating, although details are still being worked out as to where the station will be located and the involvement of members.

At least two radio clubs are indicating that they are keen to help their members who may not currently have a working home station, antenna or equipment problems.

Their idea and I hope it catches on, is to either open up their club station for use by members, or setting up a basic station that is available to members to join the contest under their own call signs.

The most important message is that for Victoria to win, we must have the highest percentage of participation based on VK3 radio amateurs in the call book, submitting log entries.

Here's a very important thing to remember. A valid log entry for this contest needs a minimum of 10 contacts - it could not be easier.

See you in the Remembrance Day Contest on the 13th and 14th of August

- Amateur Radio Victoria. Jim Linton VK3PC.

MICK VK3CH NOW AN "OLD TIMER"

After seeing the adverts in AR magazine and on the web at www.raotc.org.au I am now a member of the Radio Amateurs Old Timers Club of Australia. I will tell club members at the next meeting more about it and I can show you the magazine which comes with your membership. Some of the audio from some of their previous nets can also be downloaded from their website.



NEW ERA FOR AMATEUR RADIO IN VK

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) have made progress towards achieving the necessary regulatory and administrative processes to enable the introduction of Australia's new three-tier amateur licensing system. WIA National President, Michael Owen VK3KI said, "I believe that these processes will result in the first Foundation Certificates of Proficiency being able to be issued by the ACMA in September." The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) and the ACMA has been working closely on the introduction of the new entry level Foundation License and myriad license reform issues. These concern the amalgamation of the five current license types into two, to be known as the "Standard" and "Advanced", plus a new entry level Foundation License.

In response to the obvious initial dislocation resulting from the merger of the ACA and ABA (now ACMA) that has delayed progress, the WIA took a calibrated approach to work through outstanding matters with the ACMA.

The WIA Board in reviewing the situation this week committed itself to roll out weekend training sessions for accredited exam assessors in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide.

Those who successfully complete the course can apply for registration as an Approved WIA Assessor, and will then be able to assess candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced amateur licenses.

The WIA has previously said that the assessor system will run in parallel for some time with the current WIA Exam Service which provides written exam papers.

In other ongoing work, the WIA has been steadily developing the syllabuses and exam material. They will reflect required changes as Australia's licenses are closely aligned with current international standards.

The Standard License will be slightly lower in level when compared to the current Novice exam, including removal of questions on specialized techniques and vacuum tube technology.

This is good news and addresses concerns that the knowledge required to obtain an Australian Novice license had been bloated over the years putting it out of step with international standards.

In a three-tier license structure the Standard License should be very attractive to those who enter the hobby through the Foundation License.

The entry level license will require attendance at a two-day training session which concludes with a candidate assessment. The WIA is finalizing a study text for this license.

The Foundation License is expected to be identified by a four-letter suffix call sign in the VK*FAAA to VK*FZZZ series.

Also under the proposed new structure, existing Novice and Novice Limited licenses will become the Standard license, and Unrestricted, Intermediate and Limited licenses will be Advanced (full privilege) licenses.

The new licensing system follows recommendations from the ACA's review of amateur service regulation, begun in August 2003, resulting in more than 1,300 submissions and feedback from public meetings held around Australia.

- Amateur Radio Victoria.

ABC THUMBS DOWN TO BPL

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) strongly believes Broadband over Power lines (BPL) should not interfere with existing and future radio communication services.

The ABC in a submission to the Australian Communications Authority expresses fear that BPL interference is highly likely in some circumstances to annihilate broadcasting services.

The national broadcaster said the evidence available to it indicates that BPL is highly likely to interfere with existing broadcasting transmissions.

It said, "...permitted emission levels under all existing and proposed BPL standards would be of sufficient level to cause interference and loss of service to broadcasting signals in rural areas, and, under worse case conditions, in suburban areas."

Around the Shack, News & Stuff...

The ABC submission to the ACA discussion paper on the Management of Interference from Broadband over Power Line Applications, also notes that BPL interference with broadcasting services could potentially disrupt emergency information broadcasts. And has the potential to affect Digital Radio Mondiale services currently being considered as a way of delivering digital radio to rural and regional Australia. "Broadcasting is a protected service," it said. "The ABC is strongly of the view that obligations should be placed on BPL operators to alert the public when a BPL service is commencing and/or operational and that interference may occur." The ABC describes as "a major concern for HF broadcasting" the fact the BPL emissions are likely to propagate via the ionosphere and have the potential to interfere with receivers thousands of kilometers away. It told the ACA that "In such circumstances, it is likely to be difficult to identify the source of interference, let alone take action to have it suppressed."

The ABC also commented on In-house BPL and radiation from it causing interference to broadcasting. While such systems may work overseas, it said, they can cause problems to Australia's unique frequency allocations.

The bottom line is that the needs of radio communications services should take precedence over BPL with its unplanned by-product emissions.

- *Amateur Radio Victoria.*

A NOTE FROM PETER VK3PB-TV

For those unaware of my presence on ATV, I have been working for some time towards a regular film/video night through the vk3rtv repeater. This will be in addition to the occasional adhoc live broadcasts of stuff like the shuttle liftoff (if NASA ever get around to it) and possibly the transmission of Dutch language lessons during the week (Jonathan Marks of Radio Netherlands fame is sending me some Dutch video lessons for transmission). Finally, the time has come to fire the transmitter up on a regular basis.

The new presentation/show/whatever is called WWX (Wantirna Wireless Cross band) and will be screened at 9PM on TUESDAY nights through the VK3RTV repeater. Essentially it will consist of one or two educational/instructional videos with live cross band talkback thereafter. The input to the X-band will be via two outlets - simplex on 147.400 MHz and via VK3RHF which is on various VHF/UHF frequencies for those further west than Vermont.

Output will be via the repeater. If anyone has any problems with me using this timeslot please let me know and I will reschedule. (The ATV repeater has been quite busy of course of late!). If the repeater is in use at the time I will just hang around till it becomes free and then show the films/videos.

Of course, in keeping with Amateur Radio regulations all material transmitted will be of an educational flavor and will have absolutely no entertainment value whatsoever.

I have already done some adhoc xband stuff using the repeater. X-band is fun. I hope that VK3ASE eventually expands his Saturday night missions to include the ATV repeater too as I note he is already on 160m, 80m, Skype, Echolink, 2m, etc

David, VK3ASE put me on to the Prelinger archives which are a great source of films as is NASA TV and the European Space Agency. Most of you will already have seen me showing some of these videos including of course the infamous Century 21 video which you are probably thoroughly sick of by now!

Will it last? - Who knows but it will be fun trying!

Thanks also go to Peter VK3BFG who has helped me get my setup together (after Tuesday he may regret it!)

VK3RTV can of course be received on or about Channel 16 on your UHF dial (if Channel 16 ever existed that is). But hey you know that already don't you? Do have a look at my new website. <http://members.optusnet.com.au/vk3pb>

From Peter VK3PB-TV

Editors Note - I watched the first transmissions and found it very interesting. Hopefully it will be a regular thing so people get to know the timeslots for when to watch. For WANSARC members it's easy - same night after the NET turn on and tune to 444.250MHz at 9.00pm.

SPACE SHUTTLE AUDIO INFORMATION

The Nevada Amateur Radio Repeaters, Inc club retransmits shuttle Radio traffic via VoIP IRLP Western Reflector Channel 2 (9252) as a listen only 16 bit audio stream. All IRLP Nodes world wide are welcome to connect to 9252 to receive audio for localized broadcasts. In Las Vegas 447.000 is used.

During times of activity, connected local nodes are identified at <http://status.irlp.net/IRLPnodedetail.php?nodeid=9250>

Kent W7AOR, Nevada Amateur Radio Repeaters, Inc.
<http://www.narri.org>

NEW NERG CLUBROOMS

NERG have a new meeting place - the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Road, Briar Hill, Melways Ref 21 C3 (see map at www.nerg.asn.au)

I attended their last meeting where VK3PI Mark, gave a history of Victoria Police Communications and an overview of the new Metropolitan Mobile Radio (MMR). Mark is Project Director of MMR for the Victoria Police. MMR is the replacement system for the current UHF radio network and includes features such as digital audio and trunking technology with a full end to end encryption overlay. It was a very good presentation - especially the video of "A day in the life of an MMR Officer".

NERG hope to install a permanent station and workshop at the hall as well, along with a nice full mast of aerials. No doubt there will be more details in their monthly magazine, NERG News.

The complimentary pizza was also much appreciated and enjoyed!!!

LATEST ON THE FOUNDATION LICENCE

WIA President, Michael Owen, VK3KI, today made the following announcement: "The WIA has been in constant contact with the ACMA in relation to the introduction of the new Foundation license and the changed privileges for the existing novice licensees.

In order for the new licences to come into effect, it is necessary to amend a number of legislative instruments including the Amateur Licence Conditions Determination and the Qualified Operators Determination. A Determination is subordinate legislation and has the force of law. Amendments to legislation are subject to very strict procedures including the requirement that they must be placed before Parliament and may be disallowed.

The amendments are in the process of being drafted by the specialist legislative draftsmen in the Attorney Generals Department. When this process is complete, the amending Determinations will be submitted to the ACMA Board for its formal approval. The Determinations will come into force when registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

It is only when the Determinations are so amended that the ACMA will be able to issue certificates of proficiency to enable the issue of the new Foundation and other licences.

I believe that these processes will result in the first Foundation Certificates of Proficiency being able to be issued by the ACMA in September.

Only this week has the WIA received sufficient clarification on some issues from the ACMA to enable the Board to commit to the costs and resource involved in putting into effect the training of candidates for the accredited assessor system we have proposed.

We know that the ACMA will issue certificates of proficiency for the new licences on the basis of the submission of evidence of qualification by the WIA, in turn based on certification by WIA Assessors, qualified as described in the document "Assessment of Competency in Amateur Radio, March 2005" which can be found on the WIA website.

Fred Swainston on behalf of an RTO will conduct Amateur Radio Competency Assessment training on behalf of the WIA over a full weekend in each of Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide

Final dates and the venues for each training course will be announced shortly.

We are seeking applications for these training courses from suitable candidates nominated by WIA Affiliated Clubs, with a view to as broad a geographical cover as possible. The number of participants in each course must be limited.

Candidates must hold either an Unrestricted, Intermediate or Limited amateur license, and be a member of the WIA.

After successful completion of the course the candidates will be qualified to apply for registration as an Approved WIA Assessor, and will then be able to assess candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced amateur licenses.

Through various state and regional representatives, the WIA has already started to contact clubs right across the country to finalize these arrangements.

If a club is not yet affiliated, we will be able to arrange affiliation very quickly indeed, once we receive the completed application for affiliation.

If any Affiliated Club is unable to meet all the costs involved in respect of the attendance of their nominated candidate at the training course, the club should contact the WIA secretary as we have set aside some funds for assisting clubs in such circumstances.

It is now up to us, with the help of the clubs and their most qualified candidates to make the vision of a new license structure, with a Foundation Licence attractive to a new group of amateurs, a reality – a new world of amateur radio in Australia.”

WIA Website - July 2005

NEW WIA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES INTRODUCED

Following the WIA Board meeting in Sydney on 8 and 9 April 2005, it was announced that a new category of membership, “Family Membership”, would be introduced. A Family Member is a second or further person living at the same address as a Member or Concession Member receiving AR. A Family Member does not receive AR, and only costs \$40 a year.

Family Membership is a way the whole family can support the WIA. All new members joining in June will receive the June AR, but their membership will date from July. The new Membership Application Form is now on the WIA web site, with provision for not only Family Membership, but also 5-year membership.

WIA Website

2005 REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST – New Rules Apply

This article presents the formal rules for the 2005 Remembrance Day Contest, which appears in the contest section of this website and in the AR magazine for July. Along with a new Contest Manager for this year come new rules and, importantly, a new way of determining the overall winner. The RD Contest is an important event on the Australian amateur calendar, with heavy participation by individual operators and serious competition between states. But we felt that some of the spark was dimming a little, and this year's changes are aimed at restoring the drive and renewing the enthusiasm in the grand old lady. We specifically wanted to strengthen the RD without confusion, and hope the new rules will help the RD retain its rightful place as the premier Australian contest event.

The Remembrance Day Contest for 2005 will be held on August 13-14 2005, for 24 hours commencing 0800 UTC on the Saturday evening. Firstly, in essence, what won't change is the spirit of the thing. We haven't meddled with the basics which make the RD so very special. The winning state will be the one which stands head and shoulders over the rest. Those things won't ever change. Other things will. Our first presents are to HF operators, who can now claim double points for all contacts in excess of 1000km on any HF band. Contacts with any station within VK8, VK9 and VK zero will also earn double points for both sides of each contact. Logs for VK5 and VK8 will from 2005 be considered as coming from different states. Logs should still show sequential numbers starting at zero, with bonus points tallied at the end of the contest and added to the claimed score.

SSB and CW will continue to be considered separate modes on HF, and from this year, subject to license privileges, any operator who works stations using 10 meters FM above 29MHz will also have the opportunity to immediately re-log the same station using SSB or CW below 29 MHz.

On VHF, we'll forge ahead by going back to the days when VHF operators could work a station on FM and immediately rework them on SSB or CW, or, indeed, both. This provision was inadvertently changed several years ago when the then manager moved to ban completely automated exchanges between packet stations.

The effect it had, other than to remove the packet robots, of course, was to almost totally eradicate CW and SSB contest operation on the VHF and higher bands in one fell swoop. This year we redress the situation.

From 2005, your VHF log can include stations worked on CW, FM or SSB. You do not need to separate the logs according to mode, nor do you need to apply contact numbers according to mode. However, you will continue to need separate logs for HF and VHF categories, due to the different rules applying to the two categories.

Many operators concentrate exclusively on VHF and higher band operation, and many of them will have seen that stations which might be very strong on six or two meters could be substantially weaker on 70cm, and probably all but inaudible on higher bands. From 2005 we seek to address this imbalance by offering reward-based incentives for putting the work into higher band operation. Bonus points will be offered for both long distance contacts and higher band contacts.

All contacts on bands above 70cm will attract double points, irrespective of and in addition to any other incentives already offered. They join 160 meter band HF operators who have enjoyed double points for some years, as have all CW operators.

From this year onward, HF operators using either 10 or 160 meters will be able to work stations within their own state boundaries.

We did consider also allowing WARC band operation, but decided to restrict HF operation to the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands only. When polled for comment on a recent VK1WIA broadcast, a number of people asked about multiple contacts. Until now, dupes were not allowed on HF but were allowed on VHF after only two hours. The VHF arrangements will not change this year. However, from 2005, repeat HF contacts will be allowed after four hours. This will encourage both more and longer operation, and real participation in the fun.

What's more, there's a special time for all operators still on the air between 1am and 6am local time. All points scored during those wee hours will be doubled. If you work a station whose time zone means they are outside the 1am to 6am point, only your points will be doubled. Although the contest runs during UTC times, the special "night owl" loading is determined strictly by your time zone.

Until the 1970s ushered in substantial VHF operations, a very convoluted point-scoring system was in place for HF, in which more points were allocated for contacts spanning multiple call areas than ones to neighboring states. Even with computer technology, scoring such a thing could be a time-consuming process indeed, and very confusing for entrants.

However, it does seem appropriate to offer modest bonuses for better distances covered. From 2005 any HF contact in excess of 1000 km will earn double points, as will any VHF or higher contact which exceeds 100 km.

For scoring purposes, too, determining the overall winner is a different affair this year.

The RD has always been state against state, but determining the winner was a confusing process involving overall "improvement factors". From 2005 on, who wins is a simple question of how many people take part from each state and actually submit logs.

More than ever before, then, for your state to win, submitting your log is vital.

That's a basic summary of the changes.

Every one of them is designed to boost your scores without making the scoring too messy for either the competitor or the manager.

Good luck, and good contesting!

Taken from WIA Website - Chris Edmondson, VK4AA

A SLICE OF PI

Your magazine editor, Mick VK3CH, has graciously allowed me some space in the magazine and this may become a semi-regular occurrence. Keep up the excellent work Mick – the magazine takes a great deal of work to produce and the WANSARC magazine is an excellent monthly read.

- Caught up with **“old man Dan” VK3BCD** recently on the telephone and Dan sends his best wishes to all members of the club. Dan is now 93 years of age and has been married for over 60 years to his good lady. Thanks again, Dan, for your assistance in supplying some old club magazines and historical information.
- Congratulations to all club members for their enthusiastic support of the **Reservoir Rotary Raffle 2005**. Alas nary a winner was announced from our club, however WANSARC earned **\$269.70** for its efforts! This is an excellent result. Thanks again to Bob VK3EL and Graeme VK3NE for their efforts in selling tickets outside of the Mill Park Safeway – this was a great kick start to ticket sales.
- Imagine your scribes surprise when the **John Moyle Field Day 2005** results were initially released and no VK3AWS score was visible! A frantic search through the logs and emails confirmed that both had been sent to the correct email address and in the correct format. A casual enquiry to the JMFD contest Manager produced a rather negative response which intimated that your scribe could not follow simple instructions in submitting logs. Well all is well that ends well – it would seem that 20 or more other “simpletons” sent their logs to the right place and the logs were misplaced! AWS rockets from not on the board to 2nd in the 6 hour event – well done to all for their participation in this years event and yes, we are getting closer to winning!

This is the second consecutive year that WANSARC has ranked second nationally in the JMFD six hour sections. VK5ZR look out in 2006!

- Congratulations to the NERG on the acquisition of their new meeting venue at the Briar Hill Community Hall, **October 16, 2005 is the official opening and WANSARC is invited. More news on this soon.**

73 de Mark VK3PI



Left to right Bob VK3EL finds two pairs of glasses are better than one, the temperature at Kinglake peaked at 45.6 degrees during competition and Dan VK3DWH continues tuning for the “big fish”

Phone		Points Scored				TOTAL
160	Mtrs	Raw score	QRP Stations	4 x VK call areas	3 x ZL call areas	
Hour 1		42	0	40	0	82
Hour 2		0	0	0	0	0
Hour 3		9	0	0	0	9
Hour 4		24	0	20	0	44
Hour 5		0	0	0	0	0
Hour 6		0	0	0	0	0
		75	60			135
Lowest Hour:	Scoring	Hour 6	with	0	Points	
Best 5 hours		135	Claimed Score			

Results of Graeme VK3NE efforts in the VK Tasman 160 Phone competition, well done, shows the contesting spirit in the club is alive and well!!!

GIPPS TECH 2005

I attended the 2 day event at Churchill (near Morwell) this year. I met up with Ian VK3XIJ as well at the conference. A first time for me, but definitely not the last. Would have had over 100 persons present this year, they say that number is growing each year. I purchased copies of the technical proceedings since they started, as they like the income from selling these they were pleased with me! Any WANSARC member that would like to have a look at these, contact me – but they better return!

It was a buyer's delight and the quality of the talks and presentations was excellent. One of the best presentations was on the use of high power LED's to transmit speech more than one hundred kilometers apart using 2 units at each end for a duplex conversation. I can't wait for that whitepaper to come out, I would like to give that a go – don't even need an amateur license. This year's event was opened with an address by WIA President, Michel Owen VK3KI.

For those of you not familiar with GippsTech, it's a gathering of interested persons for 2 days to hear presentations on amateur radio items of interest in the bands of VHF, UHF, SHF and more. Talks on construction, tweaking, ducting, Earth-Moon-Earth stations, weak signal digital modes, noise measurements & Microwave operation. There was plenty of surface mount components in the gear I saw there. Many of the record holders for various feats with 6 meters and above were there along with many amateurs that have penned articles and technical construction projects in AR over the years.

Some of the topics discussed and presented this year were;

Microwave EME, Measurements of Elevated Ducts, Effects of Nearby Lightning strike on Radio equipment, Optical Communications, High Power Permits, Calculating Troposcatter Losses, 2 meter Foxhunting via a "weather balloon" type payload of radio and camera, Small Station EME setup, High Stability Crystal Oven, COFDM new modulation scheme, Simple 'S' meter calibrator, Noise figure measurements, Frequency measurements using modern transceivers and more.

As well as the dinners at night on Friday and Saturday, hence my weary (hangover?) looking face, it was a great weekend out and very entertaining. The quote of the day would have to be, when in the middle of a serious presentation of VHF ducting propagation the question was asked "what keeps the duct in its place?" to then a voice from down the rear of the room that replied "ducting tape!"

For more about GippsTech go to their website at <http://www.qsl.net/vk3bez/> or have a chat to me on air or at a club meeting.

Ian VK3XIJ has been to a few so he would be another one to ask and who also supplied these photos here, thanks Ian.

I look like death in this photo, not sure if its 10 years of a diet of pizza and beer, or too much exposure to high level RF at 23cm!



Mick VK3CH, Michael VK3KI, Ian VK3XIJ



All manner of SMD gear available for sale



Various connectors and microwave adapters



5.7GHz 20 watts Linear Amplifier



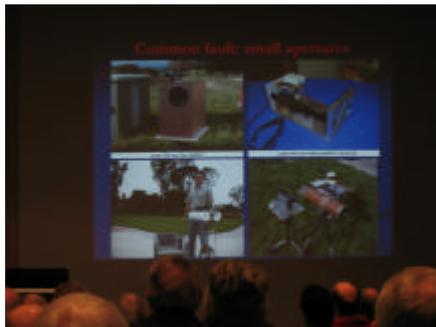
Past year Technical Proceedings, I took the lot



All you need for 70cm & above here



SMA & Microwave cables and adapters



Light communications using Luxeon LED's



A captivated crowd

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. Just look for vehicles with lots of aerials!

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. Sometimes transmitted on ATV via VK3RTV
Linked to Echolink for intrastate, interstate and international stations participation, Echolink VK3FY Node # 20928,
Repeater VK3RFY Echo IRLP Repeater Nodes Echolink Node # 3037, IRLP Node # 6079, 438.400MHz (-) offset,
PL=123Hz (coming soon) 147.425MHz Simplex (cross-band linked) currently being updated, not currently always functioning, check on the actual night. This link is only brought up on the frequency of 146.450 MHz during the running of the WANSARC Net on Tuesday nights and *only when VK3FY is present at his QTH.* <http://members.tripod.com/~VK3FY/>

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 is appreciated. 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 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.