

April 2007



A WIA Affiliated club

VK3AWS



WANSARC NEWS

Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club
(WANSARC)
Incorporated in Victoria
A7611S

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY 2007



News and views from the Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club VK3AWS—APRIL 2007

NEXT CLUB MEETING

FRIDAY
APRIL 13
2007

Conversion of Syntrex to UHF with Geoff VK3AVJ. Geoff will have a working box with him, channel plans and other details

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A FUN DAY FOR ALL

A record roll up of WANSARC members for the John Moyle Field Day this year meant a day of serious field day business but also a great deal of fun.

From top clockwise President Graeme VK3NE, Wilfred, John VK3FMPB (with mallet) and Peter VK3YSF master a portable pole for the 2 metre beam, “Dan the Man” VK3DWH cooks some scrumptious sausages, Chris VK3FY looks for power for his 23cm portable setup, Mark VK3PI settles in for some afternoon contacts on 6 metres, Bob VK3EL works on HF with his half size G5RV and Nik VK3FNIK wins the “best dressed amateur award” for the day with his super cool amateur wear. Finally the centre photograph shows Frank VK3ZO operating on HF during the day with a big signal on chosen HF frequencies and the bonus of giving our operators curry on VHF!!

Full report on the day in the May magazine, with anticipated scores.

THANKS

The club wishes to thank Mick VK3CH for his work as the club magazine producer for the last few years.

Unfortunately Mick has had to significantly reduce his amateur radio activities immediately and this has left a vacancy for a magazine producer.

In the interim Mark VK3PI has taken over the reins (for a short time) and as such the club is seeking the volunteer services of a member (or members) to co-ordinate this activity.

Please contact President Graeme VK3NE, Secretary Mark VK3PI or any committee if you are able to offer assistance.

Thanks to those members who have contributed articles for forthcoming magazines—well done and readers will certainly benefit from club members experiences.

QSL? By Mark VK3PI



Every QSL card tells a story.

And let's not underestimate the joy of receiving a QSL card, even if you are not a "DX" or "paperchaser".

Every QSL card received should be cherished, as it is a piece of history relating to all of the details of the contact you have had, the name, location and callsign of the station you worked plus all of the usual details of rigs, antenna etc.

For "DX'ers" and paper chasers it is all the more valuable in their world to confirm number of countries worked for award purposes.

And let us not forget Short Wave Listeners, who may not have the opportunity to come up on the frequency you are working and give you a report but are as keen as mustard in recording your every detail so that they can receive a "VK" card.

I owe a gratitude to the many amateurs who sent me a QSL when I was a humble SWL in 1977 as L30848, as such small acts spurred my desire to become an "amateur".

Often the notes made on the back of the QSL card were of most interest,

such as the 1977 card from Jim Davis VK7NOW, nowadays VK7OW and still active on 40 metres— *"Many thanks for your FB report and QSL. Reminds me of when I was a teenager in 1929. I would QSL ham stations. Used a homebrew 3 tube RX— 1 detector and 2 audio. My new console has 30 pieces of gear in it!"*

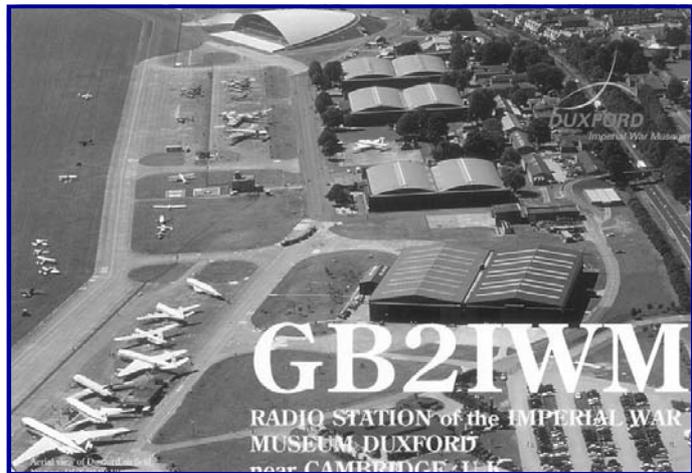
The variety of QSL card design is astonishing, with double sided and even four sided cards available, complete with glossy col-

our photographs of people, equipment, locations or a combination of all.

If you have a reasonable printer and purchase some card from your local stationary supplier an option is to produce your own cards. A number of free QSL card designs are available on the net.

In the words of Leonard K5OVC, a **"QSL is the final courtesy of QSO"**.

Must finish as I need to go and complete some QSL cards for contacts. 73



The Imperial War Museum's Radio Station GB2IWM is operated by members of the Duxford Radio Society every Sunday and some weekdays on most bands. The aims of the society are to acquire, research, restore, preserve and display working radio and electronic equipment used in World War 2. The Duxford Aviation Society's aims are to acquire, preserve and display aircraft and military vehicles. This society co-ordinates all the voluntary work at IWM and is one of the largest and most active groups of its kind in the country.

WHAT ABOUT THIS?? Contributions from members

Sub-Carrier ATV notes - Mick VK3CH

After completing the ATV 'hat trick' (3 -1250MHz units built) the main advice I have for others that were part of the **WANSARC** bulk purchase in 2004 concerns the Sub Carrier Output. In the earlier versions values of 47pF were used. I found that I could not quite get full quiet audio with these values. After talking to Tony **VK3AAZ** and Bill **VK3KBL**, I added 100pF across the 47pF, which can be identified as the capacitor on the centre wiper on the 200 ohms trim pot that feeds to the output of the Sub Carrier Board.

If you have yet to make your kit then just substitute a 150pF, or put a 100pF underneath the board across the exiting 47pF.

Mark from MiniKits advises "The new **EME154** kit requires only 47pF. Only the older **EME79** required the 150pF."

Remember also that the kits back in 2004 shipped with 5.5MHz (SFE5.5MB), but the **VK3RTV** repeater now needs a 6MHz sub carrier.

You will need to order a 6MHz ceramic filter (SFE6.0MB) filter, mine are a blue colour, only about \$2 or so, the club is probably better off ordering a few as a one purchase, but I have about 5 left here. **EME75** Circuit extract printed with kind permission of Mark © Mini Kits www.minikits.com.au

A half size G5RV— contributed by Bob VK3EL

Want to construct a cheap and effective smaller 40 - 10mtrs. wire antenna for your backyard or next portable operation ?

The following Internet link for a " **Half-size G5RV antenna** " gives a set of very simple easy to follow instructions and a no frills illustration that is clear and concise . I've tested this little antenna at home and in the field and it has given excellent results , however there is one catch !

The antenna **MUST** be used in conjunction with an "**ATU**" (antenna tuning unit / aerial coupling unit)

Click on this link and find out more . <http://www.jackclarke.net/g5rvhalf.htm>

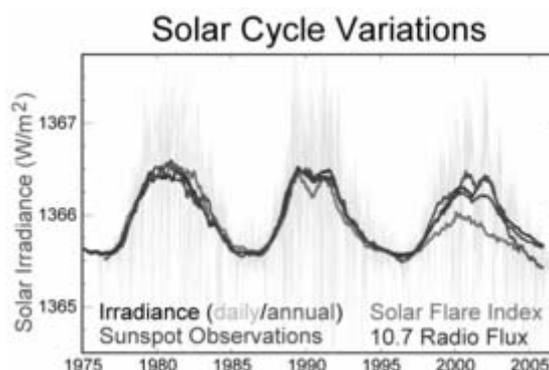
Solar variations—from Peter VK3YSF

If you are seeking simple to understand information on solar sunspot cycles and effects on the earth, including radio communications, go no further than the following URL—http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_variation

Schwabe believes that the solar cycle peaks each 11 years, however Hale is of the opinion that the cycle is 22 years. Gleissberg is of the opinion that the cycle varies from 80-100 years with an average of 87 years.

Whatever the theories this website makes interesting reading and may shed some further light (no pun intended) on a subject which has fascinated many radio, scientists and astronomers for many years.

What are your theories?



Now where did he want that additional antenna placed?

So you thought you might like to be a taxi driver??

By Jock VK3UB

Having spent almost 50 years in the industry, let me share with you some of the highs and lows of this much aligned occupation.

If you don't mind being dragged out of bed at 4am to do an urgent trip to the airport, only to arrive at an address in the back end of nowhere, to be told that the booking should have been for next week.

Or you arrive at an address and after hammering on the door for 10 minutes a bleary eyed character tells you Mr. Jones is not there!

By the amount of noise coming from inside, you can assume that Mr. Jones had been convinced that the party was just starting and he really should stay. Or that they can't wake him from his drunken slumber. Either way you are not going to be paid for the hour lost or the fuel wasted.

You pick up a fare and he spends 10 minutes saying goodnight to his lady friend, then he wants to know why there is 5 dollars on the meter. He refuses to pay so you pull up outside the police station and order him out. He refuses to go, so the po-

liceman books him into the cooler for the night on a drunk and disorderly charge. Next day his wife rings the depot and wants to know why her husband did not come home last night, where we picked him up and why he did not have any money left? You don't want to be involved in their marital problems, but she is going to make sure you know it all. I could not count the number of times a passenger, male or female, did not have enough money to pay the fare, but was prepared to swear on a stack of bibles they would send it to me the very next day.

These are just a few of the people and situations a driver has to deal with every day in this business. The following incidents are some of the more interesting memories that I recall from those years I spent behind the wheel.

There is a guy who puts his drunken friend into the cab, closes the door and walks off, leaving you to try and work out from his drunken ramblings where home is, and when you can't make any sense of it, you drop him at the police station. The next day his friend rings the depot wanting to know why the

driver dumped his friend at the police station, when all he wanted was to go home. He can't accept that he dumped his friend on me because he couldn't put up with him any longer.

Some passengers can get very stroppy when you won't agree with their choice of football team and they can become abusive and violent when the subject is avoided.

I have had some even try to strangle me with the seat belt and others who have started punching me while in heavy traffic. One forced me to give him a sharp karate chop across the wind pipe with my free arm to get him to back off.

I had a young drunk, who, after driving him to the front door, started to run down a narrow lane. I caught him within a hundred yards and gave him two belts across the back with a piece of loaded rubber hose which I kept beside me for just these occasions. I took him back to the house and woke his father to pay the fare. He accused me of carrying an offensive weapon but would not go to the police station to report it, but at least he gave me a back-

" have had some even try to strangle me with the seat belt and others who have started punching me while in heavy traffic".

Handed compliment by saying ‘ Geez you can run for an old bloke”.

About the funniest drunk experience was one I took to the Coburg Police Station because he would not pay. The massive Sergeant picked him up, turned him upside down and shook the money out of his pockets and told me to pick up what was owing.

Fighting insurance companies is always a problem. I had one who wouldn't accept a claim from a guy who ran into me, because they said they had not received the premium from the car dealer before the accident occurred. The ACCC soon convinced them they should

settle the matter quickly. Another fare evader was a soldier from the Watsonia Army Barracks—he spent thirty days confined to barracks for not paying the fare.

About the most frightening experience was a guy who pointed a gun at me and pulled the trigger. Fortunately the gun was only a replica. He walked off into the night leaving me wondering if I was shot or was it a dream. It did not take long to find him and he spent six months in jail for being in possession of a replica 9mm Luger and for threatening me with it. Then there is the passenger who throws up in the cab and doesn't want to pay a

cleaning charge. They are not too keen on cleaning it themselves.

Need I go on? I could tell you about the girls who offer themselves in payment for the fare and there are the people who want you to carry livestock. I have been asked to carry bloodied and muddied dogs to the vet. And another who wanted to get his greyhound to the track before the first race.

But the one to take the prize was the man who just wanted me to take his Shetland pony to a country market in the back seat of an FJ Holden!!

Do you still want to drive a taxi?

73 de Jock VK3UB

NEXT MONTH IN WANSARC NEWS.....

- + Operating portable at the John Moyle Field Day
- + Slow Scan TV—an excellent article by Peter VK3YSF
- + And more with your contributions!!

WHO HAS GOT THE BIGGEST?? You be the judge!

Sunday April 22 2007 will herald the “biggest amateur radio event” held south of the Murray River, when the Centre Victoria RadioFest is held at **Kyneton Racecourse**.

The RadioFest is aiming to be new and innovative and is seeking to be family friendly, with a children's playground, free face painting, a mini-bus visit to local tourist attractions and room to have a picnic.

Amateur radio enthusiasts are naturally being invited to attend, together with the general public.

All local major traders plus Bushcomm from Western Australia and Hamak Electri-

cal Industries of New South Wales will be under the one roof.

Feature presenters include WICEN emergency communications, VK3 IOTA DXpedition display, ALARA, Modern ATV, APRS and much more, together with traditional second hand wares.

Tickets costing **\$10** are on sale at 9am during breakfast and gates open at 10am.

Back in suburbia the Moorabin and District Radio Club will hold “VK3's biggest annual hamfest” on Saturday 12 May 2007, at the Brentwood Secondary College, Watsons Road, Glen Waverley.

(Melway 71 D7).

New and used sales will be a feature, together with demonstrations of ATV and packet radio.

Entry is only \$6 with doors opening at 10am. Entry includes a free draw in the major door prize.

Tables are available for \$18 each (1.8metres long), which includes a lunch voucher.

For further information or to book a table, please contact Lee Moyle VK3GK on 9705 1051(AH) or email vk3gk@aanet.com.au or Graeme Lewis VK3GL on 9702 1199 (AH) or vk3gl@aanet.com.au

John VK3FMPB will be attending the Kyneton RadioFest and has kindly offered a space in his car for others who may wish to attend. Contact John at the club meeting, via email at johnk162@yahoo.com.au, or on 146450MHz FM on 2 metres



WANSARC is at
www.wansarc.org.au

**CLUB
FACES**

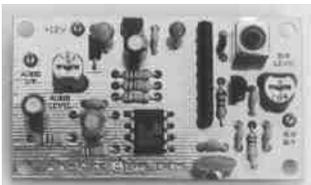


Left to right WANSARC members
Peter VK3YSF, Frank VK3ZO
and Graeme VK3NE
(President) at the WANSARC
Family Day.

For sale

ATV 6MHz audio sub-carrier
board, BUILT.

Mini-kits product, ready to
use, asking \$35. Contact Mick
VK3CH at vk3ch@wia.org.au



If not delivered within 7 days please return to
WANSARC PO Box 336 Reservoir 3073

WANSARC VK3AWS

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ERVOIR 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

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 aeriads!* 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 plus an informative monthly newsletter for members to post articles, news, classifieds for all radio, test equipment, etc, featuring Amateur Radio news from WANSARC, WIA, ACMA, Melbourne Clubs, VK and Worldwide.

Club Nets

146.450MHz FM each Tuesday evening commencing 7.30pm local time.