

VK3AWS



WANSARC NEWS

July 2008

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

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A WIA Affiliated club

News and views from the Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club
VK3AWS—July 2008



Blue skies, the rustle of gum leaves, and the thrill of climbing towers—Jim VK6CA is a picture of concentration as he works on VK6RAV. See Page 5

NEXT MEETING JULY 11 2008

Yes, we are finally back to our old premises. Come along to the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, Seaver Grove, Reservoir at 1930 hours for our next meeting.

Don't forget to bring along any items for sale or donation to the club, brick a brack and other odd bits and pieces for trade or interest.

Talk in on 146.450MHz if you are really lost!!

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The Not So Ugly Balun by Trevor VK3FTDX

We all know the ugly balun, and it has taken many shapes and forms over the years. For example, a large coil of cable, wrapped in PVC tape, around some Poly Pipe, placed inside a bucket for protection.

Well to me this still left a few questions like how do I stop the water getting into the coaxial cable and make it neat and tidy.

A simple solution is to put the coaxial cable on the inside of the poly pipe and hold it in position with hot glue. Caps are then placed on the ends of the Poly Pipe. Holes are drilled into the caps to accommodate the terminations, which are then sealed with Silastic.

Here are some pictures explaining the process—a picture is worth a thousand words!!



At left balun positioned for balanced line and at right position for direct feed.

For any further information contact me directly at the club or on the club frequency 146.450MHz.

73 de Trevor VK3FTDX

A NEW "RIG" FOR CHRIS VK3HGX

When Chris, VK3HGX, mentioned he was getting a new rig, naturally thoughts turned to the latest and greatest all singing and dancing radio box, perhaps with "D-Star". No, how wrong—his new rig is much more complex, as the pictures show! On the outside, it well, looks like a truck! But on the inside it is part space station part home away from home! Chris is aiming to fit some more dials



(radio) in the cabin soon so look out for him on his travels, frequencies and bands to be notified.

VK3AWS RETURNS "HOME" AFTER TEN YEARS.....by Mark VK3PI

Negotiations with Darebin Council commenced in August of 2007 to determine if WANSARC could return to the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion rooms, our former long term meeting place. Many club members have fond memories of barbecues on the balcony, Hamfests in the car park and balmy summer nights.



President Graeme VK3NE and Secretary Mark VK3PI met on site in September 2007 and since that time the wheels have turned slowly. However with the assistance of Darebin Council's Director of Properties, Geoff Glynn and Robyn Boardman, agreement has been reached on a 3 year licence for the club.

On Monday July 7, 2008, the WANSARC Committee agreed to accept Darebin Council's licence proposal.

Officially our first night will be **FRIDAY JULY 11, 2008** commencing at **1930 hours**.

At left is a map of the location and off street parking is available adjacent to the rooms. Entrance to the car park is via Seaver Grove.

The club has some flexibility in meeting arrangements, in that provision has been made for meeting nights between February to November inclusive, noting that normally the club has a Christmas Dinner meeting off-site and no meeting is held in January.

Additionally the club has a minimum of 48 hours over a year to utilize for other club activities, which may include construction afternoons, workshops or lectures.

Darebin Council has also assisted the club in the search for seating and tables and ironically it would seem that some of the chairs available to WANSARC appear to be those which we previously used so many years ago.

So the threat of having to bring our own chairs for the first night has dissipated and thanks to Bob VK3EL, Trevor VK3FTDX and Dallas VK3EB for following up on the logistics of acquiring the chairs and tables.

All that remains is to see you all at the next meeting, so come one all to our very own hall!!

73 de Mark VK3PI Secretary WANSARC

FOR THE D-STAR ENTHUSIASTS AMONGST US.....

Here is some interesting information for you to try:

How to access a DSTAR Repeater via Internet.

DV Dongle Video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z68aSuQnhDE>

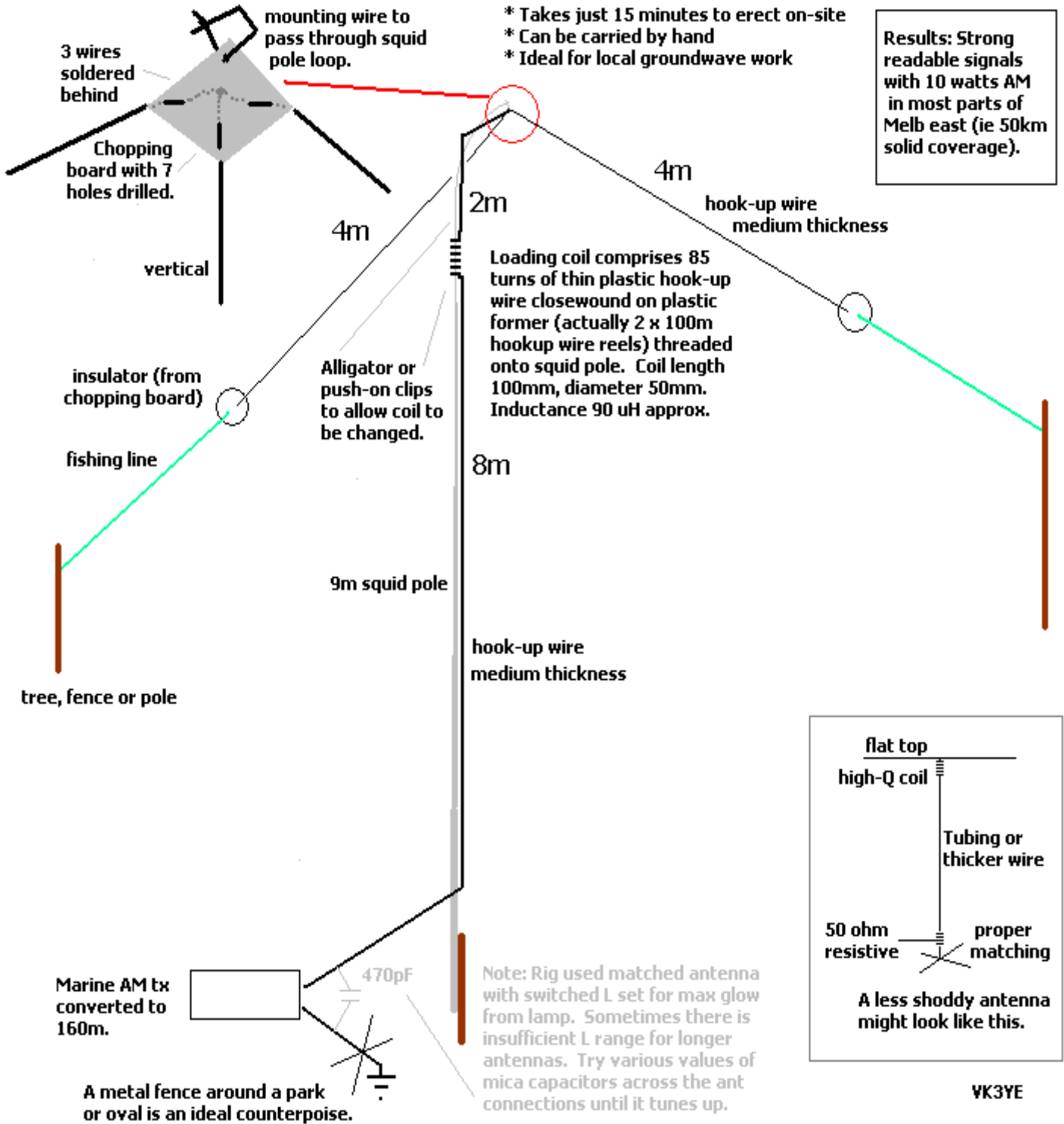
DV Dongle Information http://www.dvdongle.com/DV_Dongle/Home.html

DV Dongle Ordering Information <http://www.hamradio.com/cgi-bin/uncgi/ase?ITEM=dvdongle>

From yahoo radio newsgroups.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION FOR 160 metres from Peter Parker VK3YE

The Shoddytenna: A quick vertical for 160m portable use



Nothing like a simple, no frills idea for 160 metre operation, this one from local guru, Peter VK3YE. Certainly worth a try if you are looking to receive the club net on 160 metres via Dallas VK3EB. This seems to be a very good application for squid pole operation. Worth a try—if any members give this a go, please share your experiences with others in the club.

VK6RAV - Avon Valley Repeater Maintenance by Peter VK6YSF

From our home in Northam WA I have access to only one repeater, VK6RAV a simple converted Philips FM880 2mtr device located on Crowsnest Hill about 10km out of town. Ever since I have resided in Northam this has been my main access to amateur radio. Unfortunately the repeater suffers from periods of an odd RF feedback that holds the repeater open until it times out and produces a very annoying howling sound.

The repeater has good coverage of the Avon Valley including Northam and a half dozen other towns and is an important link for the sparsely scattered amateur community. But this intermittent fault means that it is often unpleasant to monitor the repeater when it throws one of its wobbles which can last for days, resulting in little activity on the device.

My first VK6RAV contact was shortly after moving to Northam, I was driving when I heard someone calling on the repeater on my Icon IC-W2A on the floor of the car. I quickly stopped the car and put out a call. The response came back VK3YE train mobile near Northam. My first contact was Peter Parker (VK3YE). I chatted with Peter for about twenty minutes as his train passed through the Avon Valley on route to Perth. It is a small world!

My first local contact was Jim (VK6CA) shortly after the Peter Parker contact. I was later invited by Jim to attend a repeater working bee on June 7, 2008 with the aim of replacing the antenna as this was the only part of the repeater installation that had not been attended to as a means to resolving the fault.

This job required at least six people to manage the guy wires and mast winch for the antenna mast is lowering, we had eight of the local amateurs there on the day.

I was there in a heat-beat as this was a great opportunity to meet some/most of the hams from the Avon Valley area.

The job was also fun as I did get to climb the tower and feel like I was contributing a bit to my new community.

While the antenna replacement was a bit of a long shot we gained some confidence when we found corrosion and oxidization in the antenna and antenna connection. The N connector at the antenna end of the coax rotated freely, not a sign of a good connection. The theory was that perhaps a strong local broadcast of similar signal was producing harmonics and or inter-mods within the connections and was then somehow affecting the repeater. What ever it was it was very marginal and very intermittent, the worst kind of fault.

Typically while the work went relatively smoothly it took a bit longer than anticipated and the tower was finally wound back into position well into the dark.

Unfortunately the antenna replace has not fixed the problem. We had about four days of faultless operation and then for about an hour on one afternoon the fault returned. It was always a long shot and its now back to the old drawing board!

There is antidotal evidence from Barrie (VK6ADI) that the repeaters coverage has been improved as he has noted that a number of weak coverage spots are now workable, so the work was not a complete loss.

This site is about 10 km North East of Northam, which is about 80 km East of Perth. The site is located on a wheat farming property on a small hill known as Crowsnest Hill about 90m above the average terrain.

The VK6RAV is operated by the West Australia Repeater Group. <http://warg.org.au/wordpress/>

Repeater details are: **Input: 147.875 Output: 147.275 Callsign: VK6RAV Location: Crowsnest Hill**

Power output: 20 watts height above sea level (HASL): 274

Cheers from the Wild West.

Peter VK6YSF vk6ysf@arri.net



BEWARE!!! Latest virus may effect you...fr0m Don VK3KDT

Thought you would want to know about this e-mail virus. Even the most advanced programs from Norton and McAfee cannot take care of this one. It appears to affect those who were born *prior to 1955*.

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice. ... *done that!*
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail! ... *done that, too!*
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person. ... *yep!*
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you. ... *who, me?*
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment. ... *well, foey!*
6. Causes you to hit 'SEND' before you've finished. ... *OH, NO, not again!*
7. Causes you to hit 'DELETE' instead of 'SEND.' ... *and I just hate that!*
8. Causes you to hit 'SEND' when you should 'DELETE.' ... *Oh, NO!!!*

IT IS CALLED THE 'C-NILE VIRUS.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST BUT WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO IN THE FUTURE?

WANSARC has always had access to some very interesting venues for tours, including the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway complex at Eltham. Here are some “flashback” photographs of that tour.....so where would you like to visit in the future, or who would you like to come out to the club to impart their knowledge? Tome to make suggestions so that arrangements can be made.....give the club Committee your ideas.

From left clockwise, old steam engine, Gordon and Michael have a turn at controlling the signals, an old “Red Rattler” with the destination of Eltham, faithfully reproduced and finally, members of WANSARC doing a track inspection of the miniature railway.



BITS AND PIECES

The amount of equipment being donated for club disposal or being offered at super cheap rates to WANSARC members continues. Last month Victor VK3DMK donated a heap of interesting bits and pieces—hard to get to the gear for people hunting a bargain. On behalf of the club, thanks Victor for your continued support!

Dave, VK3FTDX, has been busy acquiring some more valve gear! Excellent work, Dave. If you have any valves kicking around, Dave would have a very friendly home for them.

James, VK3FRES, has been heard on 10 metres recently, with Frank VK3ZO also testing at the moment. Why not keep them company on 28.470MHz—give a call.

Wayne, VK3VCL, is on often on 2 metres and even worked him on 439.000 recently. Signals will vary but watch out for his 20+++++ from his “secret” mountain top!!





GET TO IT !!!!

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION OR AN ARTICLE YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH MEMBERS?

Why not write it up for the magazine in word format, with pictures, and send to the club:

**WANSARC, PO Box 336, Reservoir 3073.
or via email to vk3pi@optusnet.com.au**

It's your magazine!!

Your magazine contributors this month include—

Peter VK6YSF, Trevor VK3FTDX, Peter VK3YE, Don VK3KDT, Chris VK3HGX, Graeme VK3PGK, Mick VK3CH, Mark VK3PI,

Thanks folks de Mark VK3PI, Editor/Producer.

WHAT ABOUT THIS ? Contributions from members "HAWAIIAN VOLCANO" COCKTAIL

From Mick VK3CH

So you want something to warm you in winter and cool in summer?

Here is my (previously secret) recipe for one of my favourite drinks. Looking at the list of ingredients you would think its rough in taste – but no – it's very smooth and slides down the throat nicely, don't leave out the Lemon and Lime – it's essential for the great taste. But make no mistake – it contains Alcohol! If you drink it in under 30 minutes you're sipping it way too fast!

Crush a handful of ice cubes into small pieces and place in a glass – I use a "450 ml brandy balloon" glass myself – looks really decadent!

Get a cocktail shaker; use the silver lid as a drink measure, it's about 60ml or 4 standard shots.

Ingredients, to be poured in to cocktail shaker;

60ml Southern Comfort 60ml Smirnoff Vodka

60ml Disaronno Liqueur 60ml Fresh Orange juice

**60ml Fresh Pineapple juice 30ml Grenadine, or use Rasp
berry cordial**

Juice of 1 whole Lemon Juice of 1 whole Lime

Add the lid and shake well and pour over ice in glass; the silver filter will catch the pips from the fruit.

Decorate the side of the glass with a slice of lemon, lime and pineapple and a glace cherry, if you want to impress, but if not it will still taste the same.

After 3 or more of these you may have trouble with your QSO and ***don't even contemplate driving anything once you start one of these.***

73 Mick (Hic!) VK3CH



FIFTY DOLLARS IS FIFTY DOLLARS!

From Graeme VK3PGK

Morris and his wife, Esther, went to the Royal Melbourne Show every year, and every year Morris would say to Esther, "I want a ride in that helicopter".

And every year Esther would say, "I know Morris, but fifty dollars is fifty dollars".

One year Esther and Morris went to the Show, and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance."

To this, Esther replied, "Morris, that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word, I won't charge you! But, if you say one word, it's fifty dollars."

Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy manoeuvres but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word.

When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!"

Morris replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know, fifty dollars is fifty dollars!!"



WANSARC is at
www.wansarc.org.au
Or www.wansarc.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Frank, VK3ZO, was first licenced in the late 1970's as VK3NWH. Frank excelled in building his own gear and many a contact was made on his AM homebrew valve gear. With his old QTH in East Preston, Frank had marvellous reception from the ATV repeater. Years later his gear is a little more modern but he still relishes the old equipment, which still takes pride and place in his shack. Frank's enthusiasm has been evident in recent John Moyle Field Days, particularly this year where he made over 100 contacts on HF. Keep it up, Frank!!

WANSARC VK3AWS

PRESIDENT: Graeme McDiarmid VK3NE vk3ne@wia.org.au

SECRETARY: Mark Stephenson VK3PI Telephone: 0400 443 218
vk3pi@optusnet.com.au

All correspondence to be addressed to the **SECRETARY: PO Box 336**

RESERVOIR 3073

WANSARC CLUB PROFILE

History

The Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club (WANSARC) was first formed in 1969 and since then has served the needs and interests of amateur radio operators, short wave listeners and those interested in hobby radio and electronics. The club is not gender specific, having both female and male members. Members come from all walks of life with a mix of experience, young and mature, novice and technical. The most important aspect of the club is the willingness of all members to share their knowledge for the benefit of others. Members mainly reside in the west and north of Melbourne; however membership is encouraged from all interested.

Meetings

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 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. Also monitor 28.470MHz on 10 metres USB.

More Information: **Website:** www.wansarc.org.au **Email:** wansarc@wia.org.au

Postal: WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073

Next meeting Friday July , 2008

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

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TO: