



WANSARC NEWS

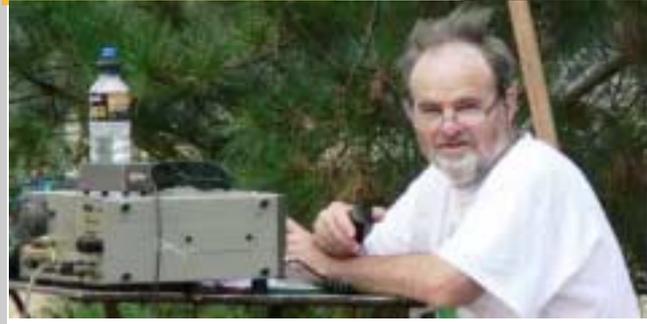
August 2008

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

Volume 39
Number 7



A WIA Affiliated club



**NEXT MEETING
FRIDAY AUGUST
1, 2008**

**Guest presenter
Dallas VK3EB on
“Noise by VK3EB
or Why I hate
Plasma TV”.**

**Club meetings
commence at 1930
hours.**

**Talk in on
146.450MHz FM—
call the club sta-
tion VK3AWS.**

**Come along and
enjoy this friendly
band of amateurs,
short wave listen-
ers, computer and
electronics enthu-
siasts.**

So what does an axe, a plasma television and Dallas VK3EB got to do with Amateur Radio? Hmm—it seems the television is saying “Don’t Axe me” meaning Dallas!!

Come along to the next meeting of the club on Friday August 1, 2008, commencing at 1930 hours to hear Dallas VK3EB present on the topic of “NOISE BY VK3EB or WHY I HATE PLASMA TV”.

It seems that two of the most favourite bands for Dallas is 160 metres and 40 metres. Since his next door neighbour installed a Plasma television, noise on both bands has made both bands “next to useless”

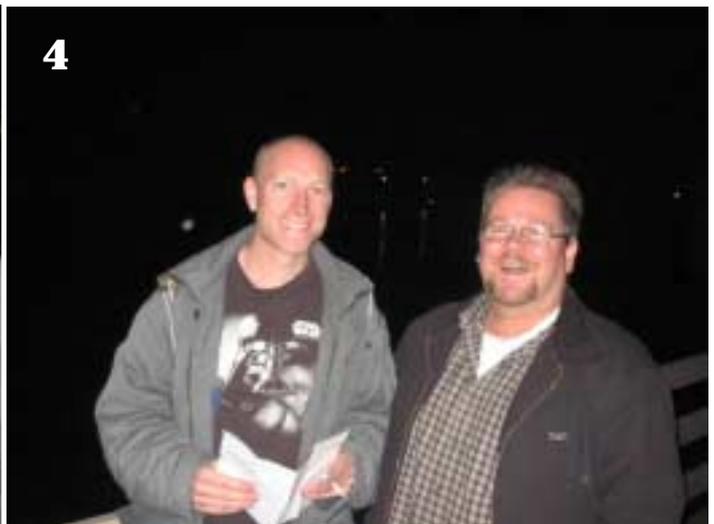
In true unselfish style, Dallas is prepared to “share his misery” with members and visitors to WANSARC. Come along, bring a friend.....but LEAVE YOUR PLASMA AT HOME!!

Inside this issue:

The “Homecoming”	2
A day of alignment - Trevor VK3FTDX	3
A Ready Reference Card—Rod VK3MRT	4
Solar Cycle 24? An Ice Age Cometh - Peter VK6YSF	5
FOR SALE—preloved goods	6

The “Homecoming”

Last month WANSARC came “home” to the premises it co-shared with other community groups until it was forced to go elsewhere in 1998. The “old” new place was buzzing with excitement. Here are some photographs of some of the 30 members and 2 visitors present on the night.



Clockwise from top left (1) **Dan VK3DWH** checking wind conditions in the hall while **Tony VK3BZT**, **Ben (visitor)** and **Trevor VK3FTDX** chuckle on. (2) The three wise men in conference—left to right **Dallas VK3EB**, **Russell VK3BMR** and **Wayne VK3VCL** talking technical. (3) **Brian VK3RA** and **Dave VK3FXDX** “rag chewing” while in the background **Greg VK3CN** fogs amongst the equipment for sale or for free on the night. (4) **James VK3FRES** and **Rod VK3MRT** brave the cool conditions to take in the fresh air whilst admiring the view over Edwardes Park Lake.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO WANSARC from Mark VK3PI

Over the last 18 months or so club members have continued to provide some great articles for the newsletter. This has been welcomed by your humble editor and particularly our members, so keep the articles and photographs coming.

To assist me when compiling the newsletter, it would be appreciated if members could submit articles to me either as a **NOTE-PAD** or similar **TEXT format**. Similarly photographs should be **COMPRESSED** and an ideal size is **640 x 480**. It is sometimes very difficult, time consuming or both to copy email text for the newsletter and manipulate photographs to fit in the newsletter.

So, keep the articles coming and please assist me by providing your articles in a ready made format for compilation. :) **the PI**

A DAY OF ALIGNMENT by Trevor VK3FTDX

On Saturday 27 July 2008, **Bill VK3KBL**, **Dallas VK3EB** and **Trevor VK3FTDX** spent 4 hours at Bill's QTH discussing the procedure of aligning a frequency counter. Bill has a Phase Lock Loop (PLL) frequency converter 15.625 KHz to 1Mhz—a very nice Home Brew device from a TV Horizontal sync pulse which generates a very stable signal, nearly as good as a Caesium standard.

Bill powered up his DSI freq counter, hooked it up to the frequency converter (both good quality units), the frequency counter fitted with a crystal oven, which he has had for many years.

Dallas also brought along his Digitech frequency counter he picked up from Jaycar, Dallas powered up the counter and hooked it up in line with the same signal, I also brought with me an Electronics Australia counter picked up at a Hamfest over a year ago. Likewise I powered mine up but did not hook it up to the signal at this stage.

Well, we talked and watched and waited while the counters warmed up, this brings me to the reason we were doing this in the first place— I wanted to realign my radio which just had a crystal oven installed (high stability crystal).

After all the warming up we checked the frequency readout on the counter— Bill's 9 digit readout showed 59.9999998 MHz , Dallas an 8 digit readout showed 60.000003 MHz—darn good effort wouldn't you say.



The radio required an alignment of 60.00000MHz—the top photograph shows the frequency meter and radio.

The radio was aligned and it's working well, thank you to **Bill and Dallas** and their efforts - job well done lads.

Then afternoon tea around the kitchen table we all enjoyed a nice hot cuppa complements of Jan, Bill's XYL.

A great way to finish off a great day!!

Left Bill VK3KBL checks his frequency meter with a CRO.

DON'T FORGET THE CLUB VHF NET, each TUESDAY NIGHT commencing at 1930 hours (that's 7.30pm) on 146.450MHz FM.

NET CONTROLLER is BOB VK3EL using the club call of VK3AWS.

So why not come up and say hello. The net welcomes members and non-members of the club. Have a say, tell us all of your doings and join in for a "ragchew".

7.30PM each TUESDAY NIGHT—146.450MHz FM.

Let's hear YOUR CALLSIGN on the net.



A READY REFERENCE CARD FOR THE AMATEUR OPERATOR by Rod VK3MRT

Foundation Licence			Advanced Licence			CITIZENS BAND RADIO FREQUENCIES		VK1WIA weekly broadcast
Radio Band	Frequency	Permitted Emission Modes	Radio Band	Frequency	Permitted Emission Modes	20 MHz Citizens Band	40W Citizens Band	Wellooane Sun 10:30 am & 9:00 pm
80 m	3.500 MHz - 3.700 MHz	Amplitude Modulation (AM) voice	160 m	1.800 - 1.875 MHz	Any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 8 kHz	1	26.965	476.425 *
40 m	7.000 MHz - 7.300 MHz	Single Side Band (SSB) voice	80 m	3.500 - 3.700 MHz 3.775 - 3.800 MHz		2	26.975	476.450 *
15 m	21.000 MHz - 21.450 MHz	Hand Keyed Morse Code	40 m	7.000 - 7.300 MHz		3	26.985	476.475 *
10 m	28.000 MHz - 29.700 MHz	Amplitude Modulation (AM) Single Side Band (SSB) Hand Keyed Morse Code	30 m	10.100 - 10.150 MHz		4	27.005	476.500 *
2 m	144 MHz - 148 MHz	Amplitude Modulation (AM) Single Side Band (SSB) Hand Keyed Morse Code	20 m	14.000 - 14.350 MHz		5	27.015	476.525 (Emerg 5/25)*
70 cm	430 MHz - 450 MHz	Frequency Modulation (FM)	17 m	18.068 - 18.268 MHz		6	27.025	476.550 *
30 watts output power AM, FM or SSB			15 m	21.000 - 21.450 MHz		7	27.035	476.575 *
Standard Licence			12 m	24.890 - 24.990 MHz		8	27.055 (Road Channel)	476.600 *
Radio Band	Frequency	Permitted Emission Modes	10 m	28.000 - 29.700 MHz		9	27.065 (Emergency - AM)	476.625
80 m	3.500 - 3.700 MHz	Any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 16 kHz	6 m	50.000 - 54.000 MHz		10	27.075	476.650
40 m	7.000 - 7.300 MHz		Any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 100 kHz	2 m	144 - 148 MHz	11	27.085 (AM Call Ch)	476.675 (Call Channel)
20 m	14.000 - 14.350 MHz		Any emission mode	70 cm	430 - 450 MHz	12	27.105	476.700
15 m	21.000 - 21.450 MHz			23 cm	1240 - 1300 MHz	13	27.115	476.725
10 m	28.000 - 29.700 MHz			11 cm	2300 - 2302 MHz 2400 - 2450 MHz	14	27.125	476.750
6 m	52 - 54 MHz			9 cm	3300.0 - 3425.0 MHz 3492.5 - 3542.5 MHz 3575.0 - 3600.0 MHz	15	27.135	476.775
2 m	144 - 148 MHz			6 cm	5650 - 5850 MHz	16	27.155 (SSB Call Ch)	476.800
70 cm	430 - 450 MHz			3 cm	10.0 - 10.5 GHz	17	27.165	476.825
23 cm	1240 - 1300 MHz			1.25 cm	24.000 - 24.250 GHz	18	27.175	476.850
13 cm	2400 - 2450 MHz			7.5 mm	47.000 - 47.200 GHz	19	27.185	476.875
9 cm	3650 - 3850 MHz	3.7 mm		76 - 81 GHz	20	27.205	476.900	
100 watts (PEP for SSB) and 30 watts (constant carrier modes). Note: Refer to Band Plans and LCD for more detailed information. Source: www.wia.org.au				2.5 mm	122.250 - 123.000 GHz	21	27.215	476.925
Call Channels			2 mm	134 - 141 GHz	22	27.225	476.950	
80 m	3.650 MHz	Quick Q Code		3 cm	10.0 - 10.5 GHz	23	27.255	476.975
40 m	7.150 MHz	QTH Location	What's your QTH?	1.25 cm	24.000 - 24.250 GHz	24	27.235	477.000
20 m	14.150 MHz, 14.195 MHz	QEZ Who is calling me?	Who's calling QEZ?	7.5 mm	47.000 - 47.200 GHz	25	27.245	477.025
15 m	21.150 MHz, 21.295 MHz	QRP Low Power	I'm running QRP from ... (<5 watts HF, 10 watts VHF)	3.7 mm	76 - 81 GHz	26	27.265	477.050
10 m	28.400 MHz, 29.600 MHz (FM)	QRY Change Frequency	Can you QRY up to 10 (kHz)?	2.5 mm	122.250 - 123.000 GHz	27	27.275	477.075
6 m	50.200 MHz, 50.110 MHz (DX)	QSO Conversation / Contact	Thanks for the QSO	2 mm	134 - 141 GHz	28	27.285	477.100
2 m	146.500 MHz, 144.150 MHz (DX)	QRN Man-made noise	I have a lot of QRN here in the car	1.25 cm	24.1 - 25.0 GHz	29	27.295	477.125
70 cm	439.000 MHz, 432.150 MHz (DX)	QRN Atmospheric noise		400 W (PEP for SSB) and 120 W (constant carrier modes).		30	27.305	477.150
Source: Level Crossing BBS, VK3VE's Online Pages, VKLogger Forums			QSL Acknowledge Receipt	Copy VK3MRT in Woop Woop. QSL? Response "QSL Woop Woop"	31		27.315	477.175
Further research required					32		27.325	477.200
Author: Rod Tealy, VK3MRT. Last updated 27/07/2008			Source: from American Bandplan chart		33		27.335	477.225
					34		27.345	477.250
					35		27.355 (2nd 800 Call Ch)*	477.275
					36		27.365	477.300
					37		27.375	477.325
					38		27.385	477.350
					39		27.395	477.375
					40		27.405	477.400 (Road Channel)
					* Generally accepted ?		* Repeater Channel	
					Source: www.wiafm.com			
								Formula
								Wavelength: $\lambda = c/f$
								Wave velocity = 3×10^8 m/s
								Frequency in hertz
								Period: $T = 1/f$

Solar Cycle 24: An Ice Age Cometh? From Peter VK6YSF



While surfing the internet to find out what's the latest info on solar cycle 24, I found this piece and number of similar articles.

This photo is causing a stir among some solar scientists. It's a photo of the sun today, and the sun displays a blank surface, devoid of sunspot activity.

Sunspot activity has been extraordinarily low, and some believe it's a sign we're entering a major cooling period, similar to or worse than "Little Ice Age," which ended about two hundred years ago. Scientist and former astronaut Dr. Philip Chapman called the image of a blank sun "the scariest photo I have seen on the internet."

Canada's National Post is following the story and writes "if Solar Cycle 24 becomes a household term, your lifestyle could be taking a dramatic turn for the worse." Canada, on the upper end of the North American grain belt, could see its agricultural output affected, and perhaps decimated, by another Ice Age.

There is a difference of opinion on sunspot activity, and I encourage you to do your own investigation. Search "solar cycle 24."

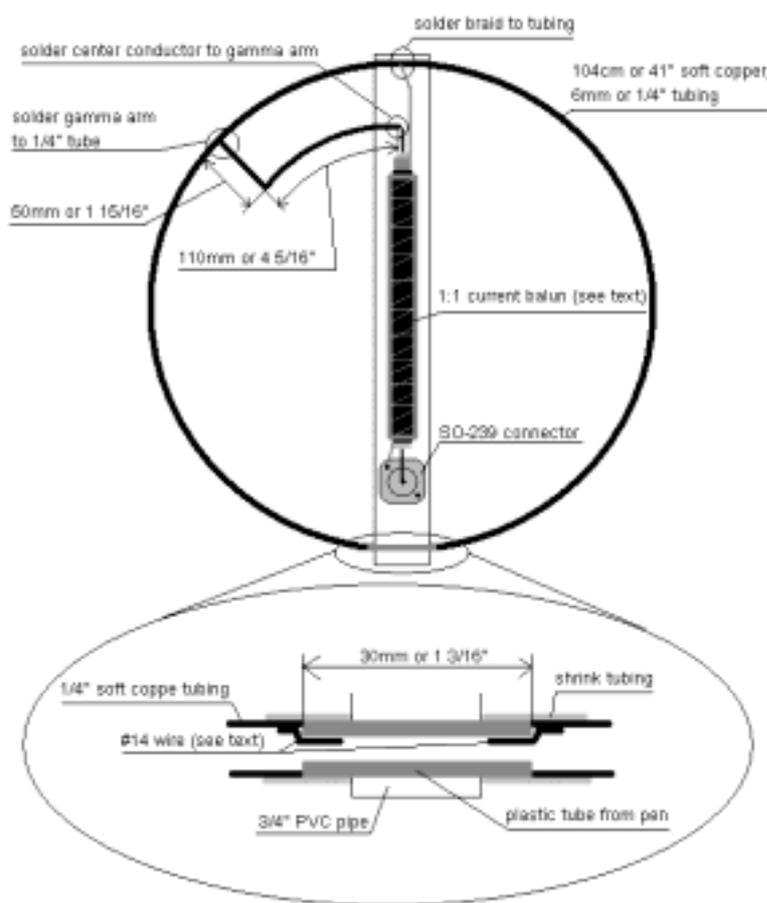
Also see related articles at these links;

<http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/385375.aspx>

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23583376-7583,00.html>

<http://wattsupwiththat.wordpress.com/2008/06/02/solar-cycle-24-could-be-13-years-long-cooler-times-ahead/>

TRY THIS—THE HALO ANTENNA



The Halo antenna, like many antenna designs, is not new. In fact it was first patented in 1943 in the United States.

The antenna consists of a 1/2 wavelength of copper (or aluminium tube) bent into a circle, but with a gap of around 30mm. This may vary depending on the conductor you are using.

The antenna is fed with coaxial cable through a gamma match. The gamma match is constructed from copper wire, bent into an L shape. The original design did not call for a balun, however the author chose to use one constructed by 12 x 1/2 inch ferrite beads which slide over a short piece of (6 inches) RG58 coax with the jacket removed.

Adapted from an article by Alex KR1ST.

P.S. A number of club members have build and used Halo antennae for mobile work, with very effective results.

Give it a go and report back to others with your results.





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—

**VK3EB, VK3MRT,
VK3FTDX, VK3FY,
VK3EL, VK3CH,
VK3PGK, VK6YSF,
VK3PI**

Thanks folks de Mark
VK3PI, Editor/Producer.

WHAT ABOUT THIS ? Contributions from members

VK3FNIK "SHAQ" MAKES A MARK

Chris VK3FY

Nik, VK3FNIK, is making his mark on the basketball court with the Keilor Thunders Under 14 Basketball team.

The Thunders recently claimed gold at the National Junior Classic, played at the Melbourne Aquatic Centre.

Nik's nickname is "Shaq" and at 182cm he is a solid boy to play around.

Thunder's coach Paul Ramondetta was quoted in the local Keilor Star newspaper as saying "When Shaq gets a screen the other kids know they have run into him—he's very solidly built. He's just started playing championship basketball but he is improving every week".



Well done Nik—keep up the great work from all members of WANSARC!

THE BROKEN MOWER

From Graeme VK3PGK

When our lawn mower broke, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed.

But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the truck, the car, playing with my computer, amateur radio - always something more important.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors.

I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house.

I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush.

I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

Moral to this story : Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is the husband.

STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS

The **SYNTRX** project is about to be born! Mark VK3PI has sourced some boards to assist in the conversion of these units from a PROM base to an EPROM. The cost of the boards is being finalised, but will be no more than \$15 each. With the club having some flexibility in the hours it can use at the new venue, it is anticipated that a number of SYNTRX days will be held to convert the units, test them and have them operational on UHF. So, stay tuned and get involved in this **CLUB PROJECT**.



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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month we salute all members of the club for “stoking” the club fire - assisting with the FAMILY DAY, JMFD portable operations, CLUB DINNER and regular meeting nights. Keep it up! The club is as STRONG as its MEMBERS and will continue to GROW with the able support of ALL.

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

FIRST Friday of each month except January at the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, SEAVER GROVE, RESERVOIR. See map).

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 1 August , 2008

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

**Australia Post
stamp here**

TO: