PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Christmas is almost upon us again, and another year has slipped past us. By the time you read this the Club will have had its last general meeting for the year and the Christmas lunch is imminent. This year has seen a full program for the Shack and the General meetings and I would like to thank all those contributors that have made their time and expertise available to give us lectures and other presentations at our meetings and the technical sessions at the 'Shack', hopefully this will be continued into the new year.

There are still some outstanding items to be resolved from this year, the web site was completely rebuilt by Paul VK5PAS (and a great job he did of it too !) but we seem to be unable to get it "on air", so we have some of our talented computer orientated people chasing up why this is so. The intended shack extensions did not happen, getting in touch with the GG group was difficult due to changing personnel and also partially delayed because of sustained attacks by vandals on the site and having to repair and clean up the mess. The last determined attack resulted in strengthening the doors of the Shack, repairing the storage shed and replacing locks and pad bolts with high security types. We also instigated security patrols over the Xmas and school holiday period. There has not been single attack or graffiti episode since then !

As per last year, we have had a few members go to 'silent key' status this year and we will be poorer for their loss, but on the brighter side, we have also added quite a few new members to our ranks during the year. Training continues, we have been successful at adding another 20 or so Foundation calls to our Fraternity, along with several upgrades to all levels, my thanks goes to Sasi VK5SN, Jim VK5TR and Paul VK5PH for their efforts in this task. This coming year will see the continuance of the training program, we plan to hold at least 3 sessions this coming year, so if you know of some one who is contemplating either a foundation course or upgrading to a higher level, please get them to contact Sasi VK5SN to book a spot, they will be most welcome.

The Buy & Sell in November went well this year, again with increased attendance figures being seen, this year we had a record number of trading tables, some 48 tables required, and several commercial vendors who attended were seen heading home with smiles of their faces and their trailers considerably lighter. The kits program is forging ahead, the release of the new VHF Analyser kit in December last year we have now sold some 200 kits, we are about to commence the build of the third 100 batch, really a remarkable result and this has considerably boosted the Club coffers.

A reminder that the next meeting and AGM will occur on February 16th 2017 at the Blackwood Community Hall in Young Street Blackwood, and it is also nearly the time for your membership dues to be paid for this coming year at the end of that month. The Club picnic will be held as usual at the Bridgewater Lions Park, at this time it is pencilled in for Sunday January 15th, and the event will be catered for by the Mt Barker Lions service club as we did last year. This was a great success and it should be again this year, we request that you please bring the usual salad / sweets to share and BYO drinks, all the plates, meats, burgers, sauces and serviettes etc, will be supplied. Further information will be made available as it comes to hand, by circular and Sunday broadcast, I have already put my request in for another good day for it ! Cheers for now & 73 from Barry VK5BW

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our bumper Christmas tome.

It's been a busy period for many of us, with activations of several stations relating to important historical events. We've had a well-attended working bee.

The state has suffered a massive power failure, with lessons for the future to be learnt from that (See page 10). Important reasons for communication failures in emergency events is discussed in pages 4 and 5.

VI4SEA - an important radio event, related to an important national event - is covered in pages 2, 8, and the <u>On-line Supplement.</u> John, VK5EMI, Editor. (--... ...-!)



VK5RA

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 A Big Occasion Spot The O.M. 	 Paul Lawson (VK5SL) Comms in Bushfires 	• DOC's V14SEA OPS	behind VI4SEA						

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4th Saturday		Mornings (TBC)	At The Shack	시시스ベ시
	20	17 Meetings & Special	Events	
JANUARY	Sunday 15th	AHARS ANNUAL BBQ & If Attending Please Phone - Roy 08 8278 2522 or Barry (Lion's Park Bridgewater
FEBRUARY	Thursday 17th 7.30 pm	AHARS - Annual General M	leeting	Blackwood Communit Centre (BCC)
MARCH	Thursday 17th	Regular Meeting T.B.A	\tilde{m}	Blackwood Communit Centre (BCC)
APRIL	Thursday 20th	Regular Meeting T.B.A		Blackwood Communit Centre (BCC)
MAY	Friday 19th Saturday 20th Sunday 21st	W.I.A. 2017 AGM Further Details on page 4		Hahndorf South Australia
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Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc A Big Occasion

Only Once in a Hundred Years

Twice a month, a select selection of AHARS members and friends meet at the Blackwood RSL for a meal and eager dispensation of knowledge.

November the 25 this year was even more salubrious than usual, with 26 turning up, and taking over most of the southern dining room.

As usual, the QRM was directly proportional to the number of persons (transmitters) present, and only the most powerful could be heard.

This same event was a celebration for our friend "Mac" (VK5FLEN), who quietly celebrated his 100th birthday on that day.

Happy birthday to Len. We others hope that we will be still as clear in the head when we reach 80, as Len is now!

> <u>QRM Alley.</u> Anyone with less than 100 Kw vocal cords is just doing QRP. →





Len (2nd from left), with another "oldish" timer, Bryan (VK5NOS) at the left; Jim (VK5TR, etc), and Roy (VK5NRG). →



SPOT THE O.M.

A gathering of former Antarctic expeditioners, featuring a famous 'AHARS' member.



Group photo from Aurora magazine March/April 2015.

> Photo by Ron Hann

Annual General Meeting, 2017. Hosted by the radio clubs of S.A.						
Friday	19 May 2017					
5 pm onward	Registration at the Haus Cafe					
6 pm	The Haus Pizza & Grazing dinner					
Saturday	20 May 2017					
8 am to 9 am	Registration at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre					
9 am to 12.45 pm	Annual General Meeting and Open Forum, Adelaide Hills Convention Centre					
1 pm to 2 pm						
2 pm to 5 pm	Technical Symposium (guest speakers being announced)					
6 pm to 7 pm	Drinks at the Deck at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre					
7 pm	Annual Dinner, The Deck at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre					
Sunday	21 May 2017					
11.30 am to 3.30 pm	Visit to the Birdwood Motor Museum					
5:30 pm	For those staying for Sunday night, BBQ At Hahndorf Football Club provided by the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society.					

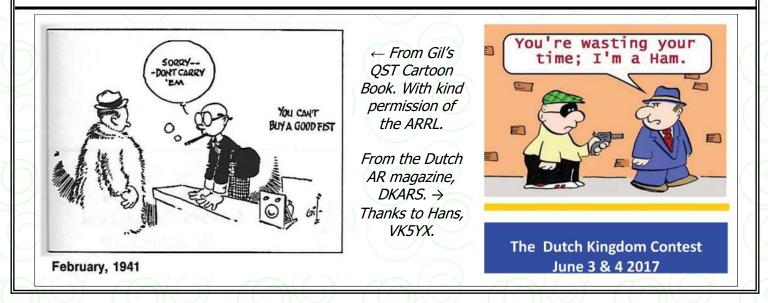
REGISTRATION and further details: http://www.wia.org.au/joinwia/wia/2017agm/

OPEN to all amateurs. (Note that only WIA members have a vote at the AGM.) If you have no Internet, phone the WIA Office (03) 9729 0400 to register. Events for non-amateurs: Choice of two tours on the Saturday - see the website.

LIASON

<u>2 Metres:</u> Use the hills 2m repeater VK5RAD 147.000 (-600 offset) <u>HF Travellers Net.</u>

A HF travellers net has been suggested by a number of people participating in the AGM weekend who will be travelling by road to Hahndorf. The 40m call frequency of 7070 +/- QRM is recommended for anyone with HF capabilities who would like to establish contact with other travellers during the days leading up to and after the event.



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc REPORT ON PAUL(VK5PAS) & JOHN (VK5BJE)

AT THE BELAIR NP - ACTIVATION ON... SEPT 11, 2016

Paul, John, and Marija (VK5MAZ) activated this park on the above date, with a very successful outcome.

During the day, John, Marija and Paul made a **total of 221 contacts** on 2m, 20, 40m, and 80m. This **included 24 Park to Park contacts**, and 7 SOTA contacts.

Plenty more information on this event, and our iconic park, can be found on: https://vk5pas.org/2016/09/12/celebrating-belair-national-parks-125th-birthday/ Belair National Park qualifies for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program – VKFF-0022, and the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award – 5NP-001.



Visitors to the park gathered around John, VK5BJE, who was operating on 40m.



The Belair National Park was proclaimed in 1891, the second in Australia, and 10th in The World.



Marija, VK5MAZ, operating on 40m.

More information on the day can be found at John's WordPress site at.... Belair National Park,VKFF-022 & 5NP-001, 11th September 2016

V14SEA

The Story Behind the Callsign.

VI4SEA commemorates Australia's first naval engagement of World War I, when HMAS Sydney engaged and sank the German warship SMS Emden.

SEA = Sydney Emden Action.

Several operators around Australia, joined in the radio exercise - see below.

More information can be found at **https://qrz.com/db/ VI4SEA**, and in this newsletter's on-line supplement.

VI4SEA OPERATORS - an impressive line-up!

Mike Patterson: VK4MIK. Es RAN, Chief Petty Officer Hydrographer Ewan McLeod: VK4ERM. ex Major, Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, Vietnam Veteran. Alex McDonald: VK4TE. ex RAAF, & ex Cooby Creek Satellite Tracking technician, 1960's. Peter Hewitson: VK4QC . ex Marion Radio Officer, ex Coast Station Operator David "Doc" Wescombe-Down: VK5BUG. (VI4SEA/5) ex Royal Australian Navy, Chief Radio Supervisor Glenn McNaill: VK4BG. Ex pilot and radio tech. Roger Crofts: VK4YB. Ex Cable and wireless, Page Comms Engineers Mike Chateris: VK4QS. Ex RAN, Able seaman electronic warfare systems operator. <u>QSL's:</u> Via eQSL or hardcopy. Send an S.S.A.E & your QSL card with details of the contact to 84 Banana St, Granville, Qld, 4650, Australia. Send your card before February 28, 2017.



HMAS Sydney sailing from Sydney Heads in 1914

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT

1. Tools for prediction of Propagation Conditions, and Antenna Design

2. Propagation of Radio Waves in the Vicinity of Bushfires

1. The meeting consisted of a talk by Paul Lawson VK5SL on the various computer programs that amateurs might use to assess LF, MF and HF propagation conditions and the use of such tools as "DosBox" to successfully run some of the older DOS based prediction programs in a Windows / Linux environments.

2. Paul prefaced his talk with some brief, and topical, comments regarding the propagation of radio waves in the vicinity of bush fires. He mentioned that since the nineteen sixties Fire Brigades across the world had made increasing use of VHF / UHF (rather than HF) spectrum to coordinate fire suppression work. However, the move to the higher frequencies has been accompanied by increased reports of problematic (including the catastrophic loss of) communications in the vicinity of intense bush fires. He also made mention of a number of "Australian specific" scientific studies that have been carried out in this area over the last fifteen or so years. Copies of these papers have been made available to AHARS.

This was a very appropriate in view of the recent communication trouble in the bushfires last summer. Once again the fire fighters had trouble communicating at the height of the inferno. The 400 MHz GRN (Government radio network) radios failed when attempting to communicate across the intense fire front.

It was an experience in the 60s that prompted the CFS to change from HF to VHF. During the day they could talk to Port Pirie or to Mount Gambier but not to the Adelaide Hills, where the fire was. At night they could communicate with the trucks quite well. It was WICEN who set up a station on Mount Lofty and several at the Fire and Police headquarters and on some of the fire trucks that saved the day. They passed messages between the WICEN stations in daylight hours. Their own systems worked at night.

However, as Paul pointed out neither HF, VHF or UHF systems will work in all cases. He did have some recommendations suggesting that a simple (near vertical incidence sky - wave) HF communications system cross linked into one or more of the current VHF / UHF state repeater systems could provide a far more robust communications network, especially where the safety of life was concerned.

FURTHER DETAILS

1. Tools for prediction of Propagation Conditions, and Antenna Design

ASAPS: Uses DosBox, which works well on Windows-based PC's. DosBox gives the appearance of a Windows environment. ASAPS goes back to the 1980's, but still works very well in the modern environment. ASAPS was originally developed for military use.

Members who are interested in this can enquire via the AHARS website.

4NEC2. Works well for Antenna Design. Available from the Internet. Input is via Excel.

2. Propagation of Radio Waves in the Vicinity of Bushfires

Several research papers have been written about this subject. They will be available via the AHARS website.(Note that some of these papers are copyrighted).

They explain and quantify the "catastrophic loss of communications" in intense bushfires. The GRN usually works well, but in serious fires, such as the Pinery Bushfire, loss of communications (put simply down to system overload), was most likely just a much due to the attenuation of UHF signals. 2.It appears to many that authorities need to take action to introduce a second system of radio comms, using HF. It would need to be integrated to some extent with the GRN system, of course. <u>PAPERS on the AHARS website:</u> these are listed in this newsletter's On-line Supplement. (Page 1) If you can't easily access the Supplement, please contact The Editor. 3.

[Apologies to Paul that I've run out of time preparing this article. Please direct any queries or comments to him or me. Ed]

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc Proposed HF Link, and the Effect of Bushfires on Radio Comms

VHF / UHF communications - in the vicinity of intense bush fires, with a proposal for an <u>HF link from the country to the metro area.</u>

From: Paul Lawson [mailto:<u>lawson.paul@internode.on.net]</u> Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2016 9:51 PM Recipients: (Removed).

Dear all,

Following on from my AHARS talk on mainstream LF / HF propagation tools last Thursday night, which I prefaced with a comment on problematic VHF / UHF communications in the vicinity of intense bush fires, I thought that Id circulate a proposal for a low cost HF to UHF repeater / internet linking system.

As background, since the nineteen sixties Fire Brigades across the world have made increasing use of VHF / UHF (*rather than HF*) spectrum to coordinate fire suppression work. However, the move to the higher frequencies has been accompanied by increased reports of problematic (*including the catastrophic loss of*) communications in the vicinity of intense bush fires. The attached paper **"Radio Experiments With Fire"** by Jonathan Boan, *is just one of many papers dealing with this subject from the Australian perspective.*

The proposal is that a surplus Codan 7727 or similar, crystal controlled radio *(operating on say eighty, and perhaps forty, metres*) be installed at one of Adelaide's UHF repeater sites and cross linked to that sites UHF repeater. The antenna for the 7727 would ideally consist of a near to the ground single frequency *circularly polarized crossed dipole facilitating both* near vertical incidence sky - wave *(NVIS)* propagation and, the minimisation of local electrical noise.

The HF outstation, or mobile would wake - up the repeater using the standard RFDS two tone alarm. Repeater triggering *(during any subsequent conversation)* would be facilitated by a Codan syllabic vox board having suitably adjusted time constants. *The Codan syllabic vox unit is considered to be highly reliable.* A second application of the RFDS tone would shut down the HF / UHF link. An Adelaide based UHF operator would wake – up, and shut down, the HF / UHF link via the input of say, a four digit DTMF code from a UHF hand held. Similar wake – up and shut – down facilities could be provided via IRLP.

Why do this, the uses are many. Firstly, such a facility would be an invaluable tool for WICEN in providing communications across intense bush fires where VHF / UHF systems have, on occasions, been shown to fail catastrophically and secondly, it would allow amateurs travelling in near country areas to make use of the Adelaide repeaters thus increasing the use and utility of our amateur bands and repeater facilities.

For interest I have attached a paper from Canada detailing the use of NVIS communications for emergency communications work.

Best regards Paul Lawson VK5SL 08 - 83442686

Note also that (inter alia) Paul was senior design engineer involved with the design of the ABC Pimpala broadcasting station. I've seen the design work (supplied by Paul) for Pimpala, and it's mind-boggling. [Ed]

Re the effect of a fire-front on radio communications.

It's well-known in many circles (including WICEN) that VHF, and to a much greater extent, UHF signals, are attenuated by the smoke from a firefront.

Unfortunately, most modern emergency radio networks operate on UHF, including the South Australian GRN (Government Radio Network). The failure of that system in a major bushfire this year was put down to "system overload", but is also due to the loss of radio signals by smoke attenuation.

The effect on radio signals is largely due to the carbon-plasma effect in the fire and the associated smoke.

In the 1930's, in The USA, HF comms were used for fire operations, and worked well. These were-hand-carried valve transceivers, operating in NVIS mode.

Note that WICEN, which usually uses the 2 metre band (VHF) for its operations has better success with comms under bushfire conditions, and that mobile phones also run on UHF.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc Report from Keith, VK5OQ

from the 2016 WIA AGM - Microwave operations on Norfolk Island.

I put this article "temporarily" aside when I was compiling the March newsletter, and it got overlooked. It's finally published, after only 9 months delay. [Apologies to Keith - Ed.]

Operating on the microwave bands on Norfolk Island

In the 1970's and 1980's I worked for IPS Radio and Space Services and one of my colleagues for a time was Roger Harrison VK2ZRH who is now a WIA director. Prior to going to Norfolk Island for the WIA AGM, Roger and I arranged to take some microwave gear. I took my 10 GHz transverter and FT817 IF radio plus Iain VK5ZD offered to lend me a self contained 10 GHz transverter complete with patch panel antenna. Roger said he could bring two 3.4 GHz transverters and his FT817 so we had the capability to operate on 2 bands.

Power requirements were met by Lithium Ion batteries packed in our carry-on luggage to satisfy airline requirements. Security screening of my luggage containing diecast boxes, cables and batteries brought no questions.

We did some testing of the two band set-up in the grounds of the hotel with assistance from AHARS member Hans VK5YX prior to separating and heading to the two chosen sites. All went well and Roger with a friend from VK2 set off to the old penal settlement of Kingston and I drove up to Mount Pitt with AR Editor, Peter Freeman VK3PF and Peter VK5APR. At 310 m ASL, Mt Pitt is the highest point on the island accessible by car. The close by Mt Bates is a metre or two higher but not accessible by car. Roger found a site in Kingston with line of sight to Mt Pitt, the separation being a shade under 5 km, not a challenging distance for experienced microwavers but that is about it on Norfolk which is about 8 km by 6km.

My 10GHz transverter consists of two die-cast boxes, one containing the 10 MHz reference oscillator and the other the transverter itself. Then there is an 18 dB horn folded up from tin plated steel with home brew waveguide and coax transition. The two sets of equipment were set up on a picnic table with a great view over the island and out to the adjacent Philip Island about 8 km away. It was a nice sunny afternoon but with a brisk breeze blowing on the mountain top.

We quickly established contact on 3.4 GHz with very strong signals. By this time there was quite a group of people around the table, interested in the goings on. The 3.4 GHz microphone was handed on and Roger had contacts with Peter VK3PF, Peter VK5APR, Shirley VK5YL, Luke VK3HJ, Bob VK2ZRE, Ewan VK4ERM and WIA president Phil Wait VK2ASD. 10 GHz was equally successful but with fewer people on hand to make contacts.

It was a very pleasing result that afternoon and a claim will be submitted for a distance record in VK9 on 10 GHz.

Keith, VK5OQ.



Keith operating the 10 GHz mike. The 3.4 GHz panel is on the left, held in place by a technically advanced rock. 10 GHz horn antenna is in front of my right hip and the FT817 IF radio is centred on the table. Our esteemed AR editor, Peter Freeman is on the right.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc Report from Keith, VK5OQ continued



The rare and endangered Green Parrot - only 200 estimated to be on the Island



Part of the old penal settlement of Kingston on the Island



Hans (VK5YX) holding up one of the huge old NI Pines



Note the locations of Kingston, and Mount Pitt, which were the end points for the record microwave attempt.

Down at The Shack

A big working bee was held on Saturday October 29th.

We had a great turn-up, and all put in plenty of elbow grease to address various important matters: Repair and strengthening of doors - Barry and Jim, and a few others, worked for some hours to discourage further vandal attacks.

Artistic painting - Trevor (VK5TW) put the worthless tags of an unknown "artist" to rest.

Brush cutting - the entire verges of the property were zapped, minimising the danger of bushfires and snakes. At the end of the day, we made the necessary halt for a cup of tea or coffee, and a wise chat (after all, we are amateurs!)

President Barry (VK5BW) and the CEO, Girl Guides (who turned up whilst we were all hard at work) were very impressed with the numbers present, and the results.

Thanks to all who were able to make it to this essential event.



 Robin (VK5ATT) making short work of the jungle.

Gerard (VK5ZQV) and Garry (VK5PCM) aspiring (perspiring?) post-work wisdom over a compulsory cup of coffee.→

Many hands made light work



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WIRELESS INSTITUTE CIVIL EMERGENCY NETWORK S.A. INC. WICEN SA PO Box 600 Modbury SA 5092 COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE



WICEN SA conducted a communication exercise on Sunday 2nd October 2016. The exercise was conducted as a result of severe weather activity across South Australia during the previous few days, including a state wide power outage.

A test for our call-out capabilities was called by the WICEN SA committee and was to be conducted in a way similar to a possible real event with little advance notice. Secretary Andrew VK5FMAC sent an Email for people to read on Sunday, and Charlie VK5KDK provided a segment on the local Sunday morning broadcast. The information was basic, to cover the popular HF bands and also the main Adelaide repeater VK5RAD commencing at 08.00 UTC which is early Sunday evening South Australian time.

Several interesting events were occurring. It was the first day of Daylight savings, the IPS reports indicated very depressed conditions on HF, in-fact 40 % depressed to the predicted levels with no NVIS support. A number of our committee are also involved with the State Emergency Service and the Country Fire Service so are aware of the very high number of incidents occurring around the State prior to and during the time of the test.

A number of WICEN members are also involved with relaying the WIA Sunday morning broadcast. Every Sunday morning we conduct callbacks on 160, 80, 40, 6, and 2, and 70 cm repeaters, including FreeDV. This provides a high level of knowledge of propagation distances, times, and frequencies along with Amateurs who are capable and available for communications. Amateurs who are involved with WICEN SA events such as the Rally of South Australia are also highly likely to be called as they have recently proved they are available, can operate portable, are flexible to changes in response needs, and Charlie VK5KDK has up-to-date contact details for all involved.

The plan was to make calls on popular HF bands and the Adelaide VHF repeater VK5RAD The calls were to commence at 08.00 UTC or 6.30 pm local time, and allow 5 to 10 minutes per band, with net control shared between VK5ATQ and VK5KDK. Calls were made to various geographical areas of the state such as the Riverland, Barossa Valley, Eyre Peninsula, and the South East, with greater Adelaide via the 2 metre repeater. There were about 20 stations worked on HF, and 20 on VHF.

I believe the exercise was very successful under the conditions. Sorry to anyone who missed the fun due to various commitments and it was done with little lead time to emulate a possible real time event. Lessons learnt include the difference in propagation for the time of day, and the solar activity at the time.

Thanks to all Amateurs who managed to make the test a success.

This is Charlie VK5KDK for One WIA.

Trevor Quick VK5ATQ 04 / 10 / 2016

[From the WICEN SA website]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S BIG POWER MELTDOWN - 28th SEPTEMBER, 2016

A series of storms brought down transmission towers in our state's north, caused flooding, and in general did no good to anyone. Thanks, Murphy. Armchair experts arose from the darkness to obfuscate the issue. Where would we be without them, I ask?

What I (and no doubt quite a few others) overlooked, was to wonder about what WICEN's response would, or should have been?

Amongst the many things that didn't work well, our own usually reliable 2m repeater went down too. The batteries failed and have now been replaced.

Savvy WICEN operators eventually made contact, via other methods (other repeaters, etc) and a practice call-back was arranged on HF for the following Sunday. This call-back worked well - see the On-line supplement to this newsletter.

Thanks to Trevor (VK5ATQ) and Charlie (VK5KDK) for arranging this.

[See also the article from Paul, VK5LS, herein, re an HF link from our country locations to the metro areas. Ed]

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc DDC'S VI4SEA DPS

Although VI4SEA was essentially a Qld operation, Doc (and some others) assisted in the running of this important station, to give as many operators a chance to work it. Doc was the only non-VK4 operator, enjoying the pleasure of operating down in the lower frequencies, as was the situation for our WW1 sailors.

Letter from "Doc" to The Editor

Please find a special callsign log sheet attached, John. It represents my 9 "analogue" evenings, 8-11pm LT, of operating 630m CW, 160m AM, 160m CW & 160m LSB, all in approx 20 minute cycles during each evening stint.

As you can see, it may not be for the quick-fixers, impatient or faint-hearted, and like QRP operation, requires persistence, commitment, hope & above all – listen, listen, listen!

MFers (630 & 160m), like LoWfers (2200m), have to work on air for a living!!

With MF, "good DX" may be a couple of hundred kilometres or perhaps a couple of thousand, particularly at night. Particular attention needs to be paid to the receiving antennae, with selectable options a big advantage for extracting the weak ones in the tough QRN building up at this time of year. Being able to narrow the bandwidth is also essential, as the goal in MF working is improving the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), **not** trying to simply bring in as much as one can.

FYI, on a 1200m² inner suburban block, I run 2 high quality receivers with 175 & 250Hz CW filters, a 170ft Inv-L transmitting wire aerial over 60 radials & six switched listening aerials: the Inv-L; a varactor-tuned 2m x 2m helical frame loop (*RadCom* Nov 2016): PK-Loops (VK3) 140-500KHz amplified loop; broccoli box loop, 13 turns & 1 link turn with 2 bcast cap sections; 160m DP (ex-VK5YX Hans) @ fence-top height as a low receiving wire; 1m long ferrite loopstick & an AMRAD active whip to come. All but 3 of these are inside the shed & the low DP runs around the top fence rail so is not really visible. I will find an inconspicuous elevated place outside for the active whip, as that is their preferred operating environment.

Having Japanese stations call me in a sequence during an otherwise silent penultimate session was very welcome, and I have sent this log along to you, in case it might be reproduced & illustrate to AHARS members that one does not have to engage in a competitive contest to attract some operating variety and success: just engage!!

The distance from Adelaide to the six JAs ranged from 7800 to 8200kms, achieved with 50W CW from the Codan Envoy SDR and all were between 10.30-11.00pm LT.

In addition, the Adelaide metropolitan area, Meadows, Lewiston, Clare, Balhannah, Mt Gambier, Booleroo Centre, Melbourne, Moe, Ballarat, Tasmania, Caboolture and Brisbane were all contactable with not particularly good conditions prevailing.

I always enjoy working our local stalwarts in VK2, 3, 4 & 5 in particular (they are the more regular contacts), and anything beyond that has to be a bonus.

According to the very pleasing SWL feedback (46 reports), the book "*MF Down Under*" has motivated more ops to begin listening, logging & in some cases building dedicated MF aerials and other items. That was of course, our primary aim of the compendium.

I hope that sharing this information will help interest or encourage others to "have a good go" on MF... there is plenty of room on 160m at least!!

73 de Doc VK5BUG/VI4SEA/5

Club Projects

HF/VHF Antennalyser kits. Saturday morning technical talks. Details from Roy Gabriel, VK5NRG.



Ph 8278 2522.

Amateur Radio Accreditations Study Courses and Examinations Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences. Please See Club Program For Dates Location: The Shack, Blackwood. Contact Sasi Nayar VK5SN - 0417 858 547 or email vk5sn@wia.org.au

Club Weekly Net on VK5RAD

Listen to or join in on Monday nights from 8 pm to about 9:30 pm local time. Receive frequency is 147.00 MHz, with -600 KHz offset. Net Controllers: VK5's Jim (TR); Dean (5LB); Barry (BW); Roy (NRG); David (LSB); Lyle (WL), Steve (AIM). All licensed amateurs are welcome.

VK5RAD (Crafers Repeater)

The Repeater Controller is Barry Williams. All enquiries, including requests for access, etc, are to be made through him. Phone 8339 5683 or email vk5bw@wia.org.au

Articles For The Club Newsletter

Projects, anecdotes, experiences, ideas, advice, etc, all make interesting and useful reading, and will be much appreciated.

Please forward directly to the Editor

- John Elliott VK5EMI phone 8278 1269

or by email (best) to vk5emi@wia.org.au Publishers - Michael VK5FMTR & Kaye Roden



Club President

08 8339 5683

Barry Williams VK5BW

Vice President Jim Tregellas VK5TR 08 8382 0504

Secretary

Jean Kopp VK5TSX 08 8322 0066

Treasurer

Peter Reichelt VK5APR 08 8352 5904

Licence Training Sasi Nayar VK5SN 0417 858 547

Meetings & Venue

AHARS meets on the third Thursday of each month, commencing at 7:30 pm at the Blackwood Community Centre in Young Street, Blackwood

Postal Address

A.H.A.R.S P.O. Box 401, Blackwood, 5051.

The address for our website is: www.ahars.com.au

Thanks to our new web-master Paul Simmons

Our Next Newsletter Will Be Published In March 2017

Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA) State Representative: Jean VK5TSX Phone: 08 8322 0066 http:/www.alara.org.au/

Encouraging women's interest and active participation in Amateur Radio.

ALARA was formed in 1975 by a small group of Australian ladies interested in Amateur Radio. Membership has now grown to over 200, with many Australian members sponsoring overseas YLs into ALARA. The term "YL" stands for "Young Lady" regardless of age.

The SA group meets at 12.00pm on the 2nd Friday of each month

in the Police Club, Carrington St, Adelaide.

They have a net on 80 metres on Mondays at 1000 UTC in winter and 1030 UTC during summer (day light savings time) at 3.570 MHhz. There are also EchoLink skeds.

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