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What on Earth is it?

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

March 2022 Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Extract from **The President's words** for March 2022

Please note, Phil is temporarily indisposed with a debilitating eye complaint, so, with his permission, I have extracted the following notes. (Ed.)

The AGM went well after a bumpy start : whoever had used the hall days before left a collection of bikes in the front of the hall, covered up with wood screens, and these covered up the screen that we needed for the AGM. Thanks to our members who moved the screens to one side and we could proceed with the AGM starting fifteen to 20 minutes late. (There is a group of people who meet at the church to recycle bikes and sell /give them to people in need.)

Friday lunches are booked for noon at the Blackwood RSL. If you wish to attend the lunch you should book with the RSL on 8278 6253 or via email at rsלבwood@bigpond.com. We will have to wait and see what Covid is going to do to our plans, keep an ear on the Sunday Broadcast and an eye on these emails

The threat of being evicted from the Shack has come up again and we are continuing our quest for a new venue. Geoff has made contact with the National Trust and they have two facilities in the Coromandel Valley area and we will be visiting them early next month.

We wish Phil a quick return to good health.
(Ed.)

EDITORIAL

AHARS is off to a slightly slow start for the year, with the need of more people to offer a presentation at a meeting, and the need for one more committee member.

Please offer your services for one of these activities—AHARS needs you!

Welcome to Umair, who turned up to our February meeting, and was promptly signed up for our next training session!

Welcome also to those others who will join him at the training session.

CTCSS tones: Note that there is now a requirement for a CTCSS tone to activate various repeaters in the Adelaide area.. Please see page 3 for the details.

The frequencies and offsets have been checked.

Thanks to Hans (VK5YX), and Lesley (VK5LOL) for proofreading this newsletter.
Cheers, John, VK5EMI, Editor. (--... ---!)

8/03/2022

AHARS Calendar

Month	Date/Day	Activity	What
MARCH	17th, THURSDAY	CLUB BUY AND SELL	At The Blackwood Uniting Church hall. = Details coming soon! =

At this date (5/03/2022), we only have one firm commitment for a presentation at a meeting
Please offer to give a talk or demonstration if you can do so!
 (It doesn't have to involve radio or electronics).
Contact Phil (see p3), or any other committee member.

Fortnightly Luncheons	2nd and 4th Friday of the month, at 12 noon.	See President's Column on Page 1 for more information.	Blackwood RSL
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SHACK MORNINGS: Difficult to predict, but please keep ears and eyes attuned to messages from our President. (In the short term, they will continue to be at The Shack.)

SNIPPETS

AHARS Direct deposit details

Pay your subs (or other debts) to AHARS the modern way, direct to the club's account.
 Name: AHARS, BSB: 105 186, Account no: 036 248 940

THE AHARS "SHACK"

Phil Storr and others have been busily looking for a new place for meetings, training, and storage of our gear. Hopefully their efforts will be rewarded soon.

There's now a good chance that we will find our new HQ in "Coro".

Please keep an ear on the Sunday morning broadcasts and the weekly email bulletins from Phil.

POSITIONS VACANT

SUPPER MEISTER NEEDED!

With the retirement of our previous Supper Meister, Christine, after about 15 years on the job, we urgently need a helping hand for Pat, who has offered to help out as best as she can in that role.

COMMITTEE MEMBER.

We are one member short in Ordinary Committee members.

Here's your chance to help our club and work with a truly erudite mob.

Please contact Phil or any other committee member.

AGM REPORT.

Our 2022 AGM on February 17 was well-attended, as usual.

The 2021 Committee members are continuing from last year:

They are:

Club President	Phil Storr	VK5SRP	0428 835 621	philstorr@adam.com.au
Vice President	Barry Williams	VK5BW	8339 5683	vk5bw@wia.org.au
Secretary	Glenn Moore	VK5GLM		
Treasurer	Pat Storr			patstorr@adam.com.au .
Ordinary Members	Jim Tregellas	VK5TR		
	Greg Weaver	VK5ZBD		
	vacant			
Training	Sasi Nayar	VK5SN	0417 858 547 or email	vk5sn@wia.org.au

WICEN SA NEWS

<http://www.sa.wicen.org.au/>

For more information or membership details please contact the

Secretary: secretary@sa.wicen.org.au

NB: AHARS member David, VK5LSB, is the Treasurer (and glamorous model for WICEN garments—worth a look!)



NEW REPEATER ACCESS TONES. (From November 2021 WICEN News).

"Important Central Adelaide Linked Repeater Network Update News

At the October 23rd WICEN S.A. social gathering Dean VK5HNV and Shane VK5NRV communicated that all of the Central Adelaide Linked Repeaters in the network are to have a CTCSS tone of 91.5Hz added to the Input Repeater Access Frequency and this change will occur in the very near future across all the repeaters in this network. If you want to continue to utilise this network and its repeaters I suggest that you add these tones to your saved memories in your Transceivers ASAP, otherwise one day you will find out that you can't access the repeaters. It was also communicated that there is a new repeater to come on line shortly which will be located in the Riverland at Waikerie that will also be linked to the network but frequency is unknown at this stage, so stay tuned for more information. "

LOCATION / AREA	CALLSIGN	OUTPUT	INPUT	CTCSS
Adelaide CBD	VK5RSA	438.025MHz	-7MHz	91.5Hz
Adelaide Region	VK5RAD	439.925MHz	-5MHz	91.5Hz
Adelaide NE	VK5RKW	438.050MHz	-7MHz	91.5Hz
Lobethal / Adelaide Hills	VK5RAH	146.775MHz	-600kHz	91.5Hz
Mt Bevor / Mur-	VK5RMB	146.875MHz	-600kHz	91.5Hz
Victor Harbor	VK5RVH	147.100MHz	-1.6MHz	91.5Hz

FROM DOC, VK5BUG.

Condensed from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artie_Moore

Arthur Moore (1887 – 20 January 1949)^[u] was a Welsh wireless operator who heard a distress signal from [RMS Titanic](#) before news of the disaster arrived in the UK. Following the notoriety of this feat he went on to a successful career in sales, management and development of early radio.

Early Life

Moore was born in [Pontllanfraith](#), Wales, the eldest son of local miller, William Moore. At a young age Moore was involved in an accident at the mill, which resulted in the loss of the lower part of one of his legs, and for the rest of and for the rest of his life, he wore a wooden leg. By the age of ten, Moore had developed an interest in amateur engineering and he adapted a bicycle to cater for his wooden leg, and locals recall him rattling around the village on it. As he grew, he became what is known as a "character" in the locality. At some point prior to 1909, most likely in his early teenage years, Moore, a keen amateur engineer, using a hand made lathe driven by the water-wheel at the mill, built a working model of a horizontal steam engine. He entered the model in a competition in *The Model Engineer* magazine. He received as his prize a book by Sir [Oliver Lodge](#) entitled *Modern Views of Magnetism And Electricity*, which awakened his interest in wireless.

Home-made wireless station

Working at Gelligroes Mill^[u] in [Pontllanfraith](#) near [Blackwood](#)*, he soon began erecting wire aerials and building his rudimentary radio station, consisting of a coherer-based receiver and a spark-gap transmitter. It was his engineering talent that enabled him to store electricity in his batteries via a generator coupled to the mill wheel itself. The same generator was also used to charge batteries for the local farms that were at that time not connected to the mains supply.

Moore was almost continually experimenting with wireless by this time, often defying his father and staying up into the early hours, sitting at his station listening to the signals emanating from ships, both naval and merchant, travelling the coastal waters around Wales, the south-west of England, as well as stations on the Continent.

Sometimes, in an attempt to improve reception he would relocate his station and set it up at a farm high up on Mynyddislwyn.

Using the contemporary although basic spark-gap# transmitter technology of the time, Moore together with his friend Richard Jenkins, an electrical engineer at the local coal mine, made what was probably the first use in Wales of amateur wireless for business purposes. Having set up a second transmitting and receiving station at Ty Llwyd farm, owned by Jenkins's father which was located approximately three and a half miles south of Gelligroes at Ynysddu in the direction of Newport, Moore received an order over the air for grain to be delivered from the mill to the farm.

Front-page news in 1911

A further exciting development took place when Moore made the front page of the London newspaper [The Daily Sketch](#) after he intercepted the Italian government's [declaration of war](#) on [Libya](#) in 1911.

In 1912, Moore was 26 years old and his wireless construction knowledge and skills had improved to such an extent that he was able to build more sensitive receiving equipment and he therefore began to receive transmissions on a regular basis, often relaying the information to the locals sometimes many days before it appeared in the national press.

Titanic's message

It was his reception of the [RMS Titanic](#)'s distress call which propelled Moore into a career that was to take him from that little mill in Wales and on to greater things within the realms of early wireless development.

In the early hours of 15 April 1912, in the loft of the 17th century Gelligroes Mill, near [Blackwood, Monmouthshire](#), Moore using crude radio apparatus received a faint signal in [Morse Code](#):

"CQD CQD SOS de MGY Position 41.44N 50.24W. Require immediate assistance. Come at once. We have struck an iceberg. Sinking....We are putting the women off in the boats....."

Moore continued to copy out the Morse signals he was receiving: "We are putting the passengers off in small boats" "Women and children in boats, cannot last much longer....."

Then came the final signal: "Come as quickly as possible old man; our engine-room is filling up to the boilers."

Moore relayed the news to the locals and to the local constabulary, who did not believe him. Two days later, the locals received confirmation through the local and national press that it was true. The newspapers also confirmed – as Moore had claimed – that the ["SOS" distress signal](#) (first practically used in 1909) had been used by the *Titanic*'s radio operators along with the standard British "CQD" distress signal, thus proving that Moore had indeed received the signals from the doomed liner.

In 1912 it was understood that the range of *Titanic*'s wireless was 400 miles in daylight, and possibly up to 2000 miles in darkness. It now became clear that Moore had received radio waves from 3000 miles using nothing more than his own crude home-made equipment.

It was (soon after) this time that Moore's activities, not least his reception of the *Titanic*'s distress calls, came to the attention of Guglielmo Marconi, the "father of wireless" himself. One local resident wrote to [Marconi](#) to inform him of Moore's achievement. Marconi then came to Gelligroes to meet Moore and to discuss his work and his experiments, and he invited Moore to join the Marconi Company as a draughtsman.

By 1914, Moore was transferred to the Ship Equipment Department of the Marconi Company, and on the outbreak of the First World War he was engaged as a technician in "special Admiralty fittings" – working on the armed merchant ships which operated clandestinely on the open seas and were known as Q-ships. He also supervised the installation of wireless equipment on the Dreadnought class battleships *HMS Invincible* and *HMS Inflexible*.

In 1932, Moore developed an "Echo Meter", an early form of sonar.

Legacy

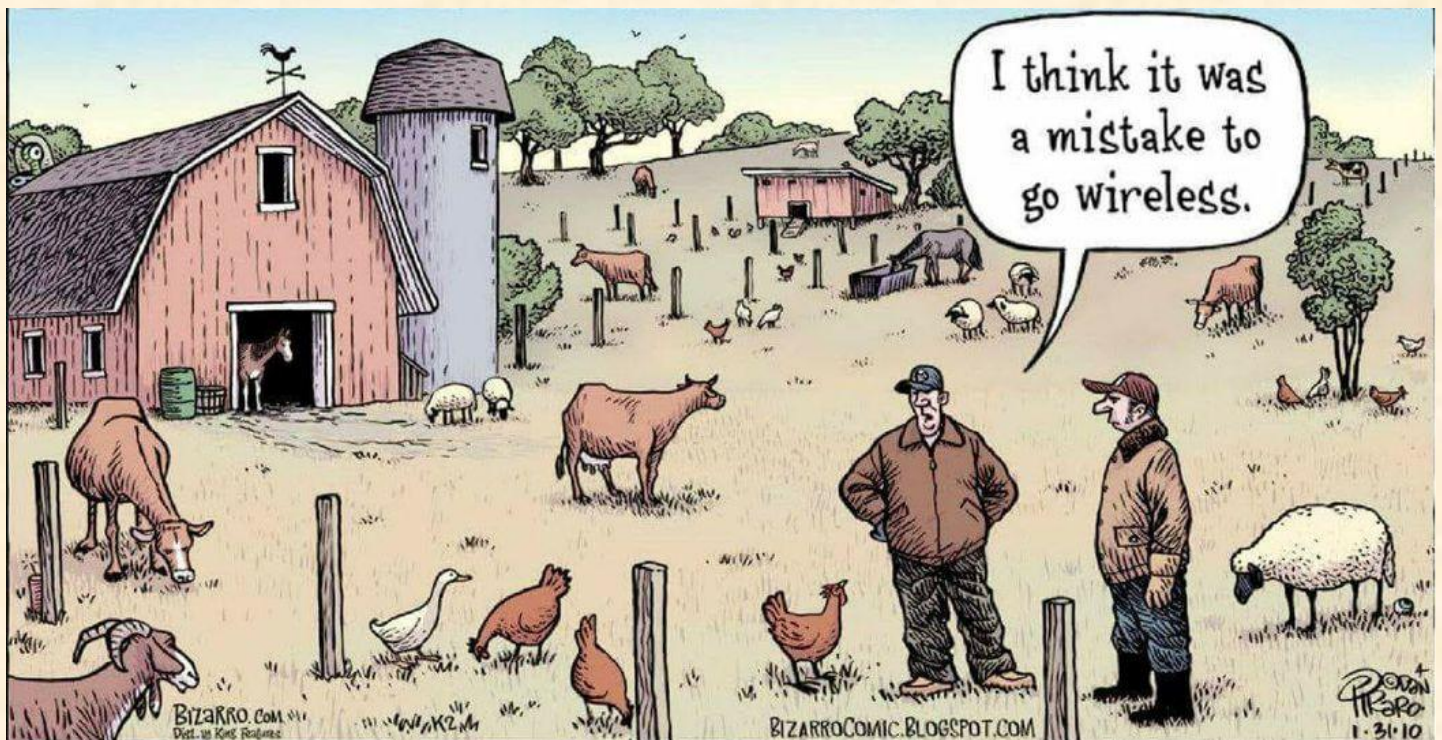
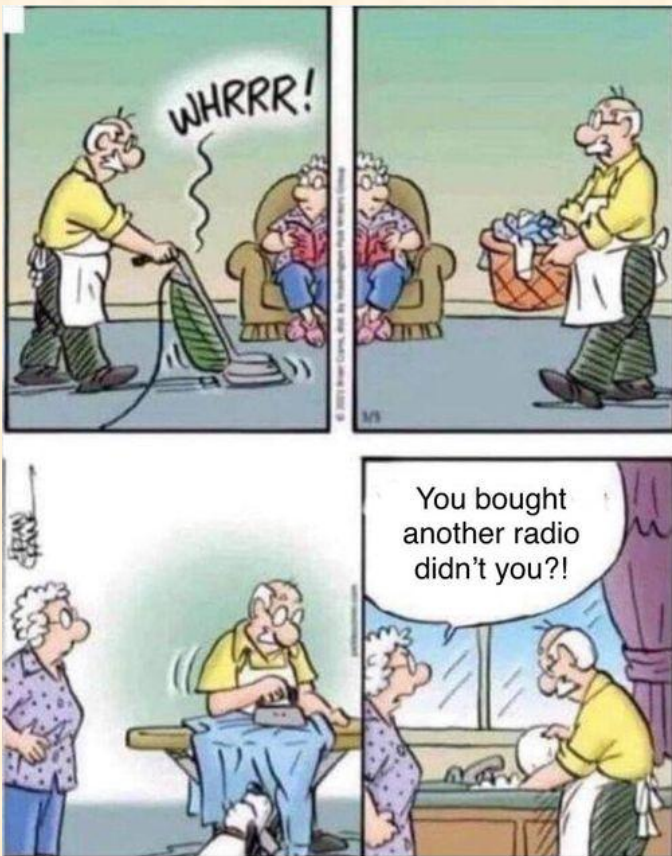
Despite contributing greatly to the advancement of radio in those early days, Moore's pioneering efforts in wireless communications remain relatively little known, even within his own locality. However, the inspiration he gave to budding wireless enthusiasts in his local area led to the creation in 1927 of the Blackwood Transmitters Club, which later became the Blackwood Amateur Radio Society, which still exists to this day.

By Ernest Thompson Seton - Downloaded 2021-11-03 from Ernest Thompson Seton (1917) *The Woodcraft Manual for Boys*, Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, p.125, fig.3 on Internet Archive, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=112323150>

(Thanks to "Doc" and his little group of Erudites for this most interesting article. Ed.)

SERIOUSLY, FOLKS

I've been saving up a few boredom-busting bits over the past few months, and now it's time to pass them on—Ed.



From the mad monk on the mount—thanks, JREM!

QSL REPORT

In February, I received 17 QSL cards from the National QSL Bureau, via AREG. Not all cards were for AHARS members, but I sent them on this time. In the future, I will ask those intended recipients to pay postage in advance. (At only \$25 for membership, who can complain either way?)

Thanks also to Shirley, VK5YG, for the cards she asked me to send to the VK Bureau.

ESTATE REPORT

We've had very little in the way of sales in the past 12 months.

We have managed to run a blind auction, with reasonable sales of gear, netting a fair return to beneficiaries.

If you are looking for a particular item, you can contact me, and I may be able to help.

At the moment, though, I have little in the way of good, modern gear.

With my two estate compatriots (partners in crime) VK5SRP and VK5BW, we have planned a blind auction for September-ish. More on that via email and the broadcast, once details are ascertained.

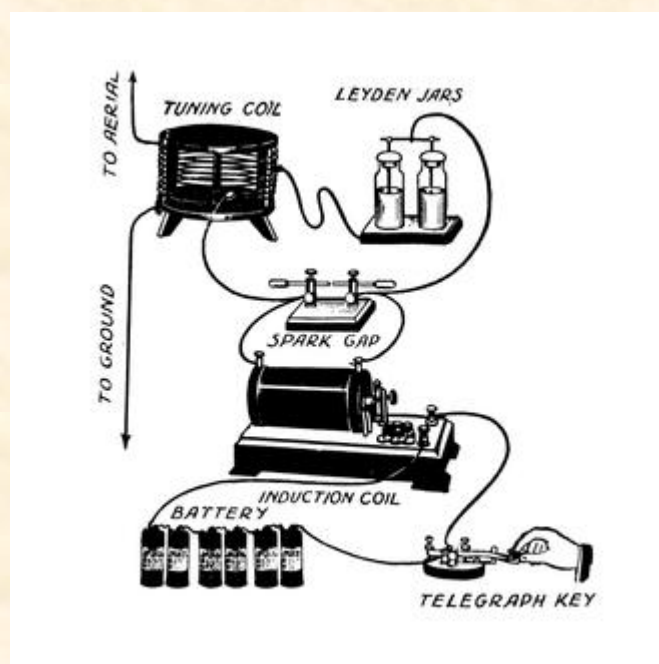
SIMPLE SPARK-GAP TRANSMITTER.

Pictorial diagram of a simple spark-gap transmitter from a 1917 boy's hobby book, showing examples of the early electronic components used. It is typical of the low-power transmitters homebuilt by thousands of amateurs during this period to explore the exciting new technology of radio.

By Ernest Thompson Seton - Downloaded 2021-11-03 from Ernest Thompson Seton (1917) The Woodcraft Manual for Boys, Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, p.125, fig.3 on Internet Archive, Public Domain,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=112323150>

[Ed](#)



Rotary Spark-Gap Transmitter

This Rotary Spark-Gap Transmitter once belonged to Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW then W1AW, an early Amateur (Ham) Radio pioneer and cofounder of the American Radio Relay League, ARRL for short.

Photo by VK5EMI at ARRL HQ, Connecticut, USA. Viewer is Eric, WB3IHQ (SK), who was once an AHARS member.



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

GENERAL INFORMATION, NOTICES & CLUB CONTACTS

Club Projects

Saturday morning technical talks.
Details from Roy Gabriel, VK5NRG. Ph 8278 2522.

Amateur Radio Licence 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 Wireless 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: VK5s' Jim (TR); Dean (LB); Barry (BW);
Roy (NRG); David (LSB); Lyle (WL), Steve (AIM).
All licensed amateurs are welcome.

VK5RAD (Crafer's 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

Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA)

<http://www.alara.org.au/>

**State Representative: Jean VK5TSX
Phone: 08 8322 0066**

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.

Luncheons are held monthly—contact Jean for
more details.

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 MHz.

8 There are also EchoLink skeds.

CLUB CONTACTS

Club President	Phil Storr VK5SRP 0428 835 621
Vice President	Barry Williams VK5BW Phone 8339 5683
Secretary	Glenn Moore VK5GLM
Treasurer	Pat Storr patstorr@adam.com.au
Licence Training	Sasi Nayar VK5SN See Opposite

Meetings & Venue

***We are again meeting, but subject to
current Covid-19 provisions.***

AHARS usually meets on the third Thurs-
day of each month, commencing at 7:30
pm., at the Blackwood Uniting Church
hall, just south of the roundabout.

A.G.M. February, each year.

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

Website Address & On-Line Newsletter

The address for our refurbished website is:

<https://www.ahars.com.au/>

Or ahars.com.au/

Thanks to Paul Simmonds, our
web-master.

Articles For The Club Newsletter

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

Please forward direct to the

Editor- John Elliott VK5EMI

phone 0411 610 106 or by email
(best) to vk5emi@wia.org.au

Publisher- John Elliott, VK5EMI

**The Next Newsletter
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