



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

Christmas 2018 Newsletter



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

G'day folks, this is Phil VK5SRP, with the President's notes for the Members Newsletter.

What, it is December already ? This year has just flown by and it is time to wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year. May 2019 bring you many rare DX contacts and perhaps a new radio toy as well.

The highlight of this year's activities has to be the refurbishment of the Crafers repeater site. The tower was in a very poor state and would have fallen down if nothing was done to repair it very soon. A massive effort was launched by Barry, VK5BW and Dean VK5HMY, Lofty Coaches who also share the site with AHARS, and a dedicated band of helpers who got down to the dirty work of cleaning the rust from the tower, repairing its many damaged sections and then applying very special protective coats of paint that will make it last at least another 20 years. Much of this work was carried out over the coldest part of the year, a very big thankyou to all the folks who carried out this work, too many to name.

We had a good mix of topics presented at the general meetings and at the Shack Technical sessions. Thank you to all the folk who did these.

The Social morning on the second Saturday of each month were well attended as was the technical sessions on the fourth Saturday. The social mornings are not just an excuse for a coffee and a chat. At each session, at least one attendee brings along something interesting to show and tell and I am pleased with the depth of technical knowledge there is in the AHARS membership.

Numbers are steadily growing at the second and fourth Friday lunches at the Blackwood RSL. Even though we have to travel from Modbury to Blackwood to attend, Pat and I have become a regular attendee.

Thankyou to the members of the committee for covering for me while Pat and I travelled round Europe for six weeks this year and spent some time in Hong Kong. Gerard, the vice president, was also away for much of this time and the rest of the committee had to take over the executive tasks running the meetings and other activities.

Hong Kong was very different to what it was like twenty seven years ago, the last time we set foot in this part of the world. Many years ago you could buy almost any electronic or radio related item from a vast complex of stores but this has changed and it is difficult to find even one store that knows anything about Ham radio. I found two that advertised they were ham radio stores but they did not stock the connectors and other items I was looking for. I came to the conclusion there was almost no local market for Ham radio equipment and radio parts. Any local who did dabble in Ham Radio construction bought their parts on line like most of us have to do now.

Again this year we seem to have been spared most of the Vandal attacks on the shack and the Girl Guides hall this past year. This being mostly confined to mindless "tag" paint attacks and rubbish strewn round the site. We have a kit of security cameras to discourage these attacks but have not had time to install them as AHARS has been pre occupied with repairing the Crafers repeater site, cleaning up the fire hazards and repairing the second shed.

Continued on Page 2

EDITORIAL

I always try to write something different for each Editorial, but seem to find that increasingly difficult with the passage of time (ie, as I get older).

This year has been particularly challenging to me, with a big trip (7 weeks) up to Queensland to tick off a few bucket list items; a lot of work for my other organisation (The Hills Choral Society), and the continuing work from my estate portfolio. These are all valuable activities, but they do take a lot of time and effort.

I am prepared to hand over my QSL Manager position to any reasonably competent person: the pay is poor, but the rewards are incalculable.

I acknowledge the fine support and encouragement in my AHARS activities from Phil, Barry, and Roy in particular.

John, VK5EMI, Editor. (--... ---!)





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PRESIDENT'S NOTES continued.....

The grass around the site did not grow any where near as much as last year and we are only now cleaning up the flammable material and disposing of it off the site. The first of these work bees was held on the 3rd and 4th of November and this included starting work on repairing the other shed as a secure storage site of the Girl Guides Association. We have another clean up day on the calendar for the 25th of November and there will be a number of work bees on Saturdays in the new year to finish the work on the second shed for the Guides association.

The deceased estate auction/disposal process is run by John VK5EMI and in spite of being over whelmed with stuff , he is doing a good job at this task. Barry VK5BW is still doing a lot of the testing of items. Thank you John and Barry for your dedication to the cause and I am sure you can do with some help with this important task.

Training and assessment sessions at the shack have been carried out throughout the year by our team of assessors. These include VK5SN, VK5TR, VK5PH, VK5BW and VK5ZQV. Thank you to our small group of assessors who carry out this vital activity.

I must also thank Jim VK5TR and his small band of helpers who put the Antenna Analyser kits together and then posted them round the world. The money raised from this activity has meant AHARS subs have been kept very low for many years. This happy state of affairs will come to an end as Antenna Analyser kit sales have been eroded by a hoard of inferior low cost kits and assembled items available on the web. The ever increasing cost of Australia Post is also making our offering less attractive to Hams all over the world. Thankyou Roy VK5NRG for your effort dealing with the local Post Office and seeing the parcels got off to a good start, on their journey, often to the far flung corners of the earth. We have made the decision not to assemble any more of these kits and once the small stock we have is sold there will be no more. We may will look at other alternatives for future kit sales.

I must thank Christine Southby who gets the supper ready at the general meetings. It is good to be able to have a coffee or a tea, and a cake or a biscuit while chatting with fellow AHARS members and visitors during the interval at these meetings. Christine, VK5CTY, has finally decided to "hang up her pen, put away her keyboard" and give away the task of writing the WIA's Amateur Radio notes after many years of doing this. Advancing years and the occasional ill health has forced this decision so thankyou Christine for many years of service to AHARS.

Let us not forget Paul, VK5PAS for his efforts keeping the AHARS web site operating and Trevor, VK5NIX who has taken over sending out the occasional mass email with urgent messages and item of interest to AHARS members. This is the only way we can send out our silent auction lists as these are only intended for financial AHARS members. As I have said many times, make sure we have your current email address and your current contact details.

I have enjoyed this year as the AHARS President and thank my dedicated committee for their efforts and the members who make the journeys to the general meetings, shack events and other social events each month.

Phil Storr VK5SRP President AHARS 2018 year.

Club Program 2018 - 2019

Regular Club Gatherings

2nd & 4th Fridays	Regular Luncheon (All welcome)	Blackwood RSL, Brighton Parade
2nd Fridays	ALARA Luncheons	Contact Jean, vk5tsx@bigpond.com
2nd Saturdays	Social Get-togethers	At The Shack
4th Saturdays	Technical Mornings (TBC)	At The Shack

Meetings & Special Events

Sunday 2nd DECEMBER 2018 – Noon	Christmas Luncheon	Belair Hotel
Friday 14th DECEMBER 2018 – Noon	Regular Luncheon	Blackwood RSL
Saturday 15th DECEMBER 2018 – 8.30am	Social Morning	The Shack
Sunday 20th JANUARY 2019 – Noon to Stumps		Marion RSL
Annual picnic (Main course supplied, Bring own dessert, Drinks from the bar)		Sturt Road, Marion

(No technical sessions in January)

Thursday 21st FEBRUARY 2019 - 7:30 to 10:00 pm	Annual General Meeting & Talk Blackwood Community Centre Young Street, Blackwood
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Thanks to Phil and the AHARS committee for the above information.



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

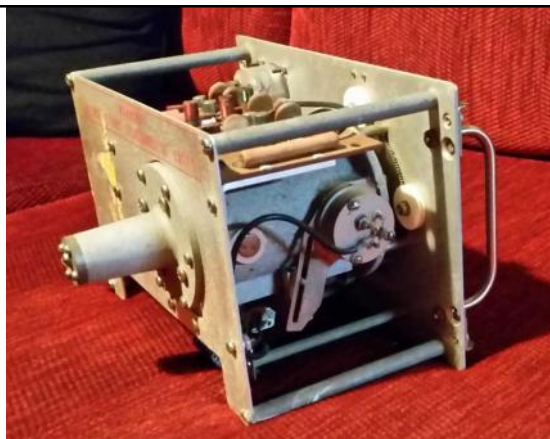
At The Shack, and Some Miscellanea



TRAINING SESSION REPORT

Weekend of November 17 and 18,:

The weekend was productive though tiring. Managed to get 5 new Foundation licences, 2 Advanced and 3 Standard through the ranks! Not a bad outcome for the weekend. Thanks to Sasi, Barry, Paul, and Gerard for running the show..



(Above)

1. *What is this?*

2. *What should you not do with this?*

First correct reply wins a Chinese Kit Kat.

WORKING BEES AT THE SHACK...

September 29:

A good turnout (about 12) for this activity. Cleaning up the grounds - to reduce the fire hazard (and snakes too). The latter have put in a formal complaint about loss of habitat.

November 3rd.

Repairs and upgrade to the security of the Guides' storage shed.

November 25th, there was a follow-up Working Bee to complete the fire hazard reduction.

Photo below - Phil, Barry and Brian at the shed



AND YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW!

Who invented Morse Code? Alfred Vial of course! Alfred worked under Sam, who claimed all the credit.

Who invented the telephone?: Antonio Meucci.

Meucci couldn't afford to take out a perpetual patent, so when his patent application lapsed, Alexander Graham Bell, took it out on in his own name. Bell needs to be thanked for giving the device an appropriate name ("telephone"), instead of Meucci's "telettrofono". The whole story is more complicated, of course, and there is much more on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Meucci.

Pi (p) is 22/7. Well, no it's not.

That's just an approximation for school children.

In the real world of engineering, science and surveying, it's not used at all.

PS: If you want to calculate pi for yourself, use:

$$1-1/3 + 1/5 - 1/7 + 1/9 - \dots = \pi/4$$

(Thanks to Gottfried Leibnitz for this clever derivation.)

How much do we really need to know? About 15 significant figures, (for , eg, geodetic surveying). More info on Wiki if you get the urge.)



ESTATE REPORT

AHARS has currently 20 estates in the books, dating from about 2015. Four of those are complete, two nearly complete, eight pending/in progress. The status of the remaining six isn't known at this moment, but probably pending (waiting). Thanks to those who have helped me with this time - demanding task; Barry (especially with testing and advice), Hans (testing), and Norm with sales.

The value of many estate items is reducing year by year, so it's not unusual for an estate beneficiary to have unrealistic expectations about financial returns, or just how long it takes to wind up an estate.

(see item on page 7)



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc



QSL CORNER

Historic QSL cards from Bill VK5HD (SK).

This year, I've been mainly involved with this estate.

Bill lived in Cumberland Park, and his tower is still visible above the rooftops in his street.

When I first met Bill, in 1973, he had his own SSTV station, built up from Home Brew gear.

He regularly worked his son Trevor (VK5TL(?)) when Trevor was on Macquarie Island (VK9).

Bill worked out in the desert with Lloyd Butler (VK5BR) doing mobile radio HF work for the Woomera Rocket Range from around 1955* (These people were genuine pioneers!)

Bill was in the Royal Australian Navy during the Second World War.

During the big cleanup, I found a shoe box of old QSL cards (yes, only one!).

NB: Bill was the brother of Hughie, VK5BC, who operated from near Berri for many years.

There were about 500 cards in the box. I scanned about 30 of them.

All of the cards are now in the hands of Peter Wolfenden, VK5PR, the WIA Historian. **

• MOBILE HF RADIO AT THE WOOMERA RANGE by Lloyd Butler .

(First published in the journal "Amateur Radio", January 1988 with the approval of Australian Department of Defence).

SOME CARDS FROM BILL'S COLLECTION

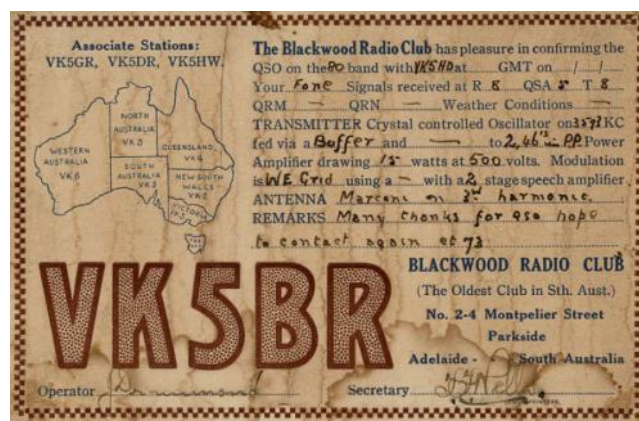
OH3OE - Tampere, Finland, 1935. Some AHARS members may recognise the name of the city..



D4ARR - Nurnberg, Germany, 1935.
Note the Swastika.



VK5BR - The Blackwood Radio Club, predecessor to AHARS.



EI4J - Dublin,
Irish Free State, 1937.



Cards Waiting :

I'm told by the current VK5 QSL manager that he has no hard copy QSL cards waiting for AHARS at this date (21-11-2018)

On-line QSL Service

AHARS (VK5BAR), uses only eQSL.

John Elliott, VK5EMI, AHARS QSL Manager





Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

2018 BUY AND SELL



AHARS' annual Buy and Sell day went extra well, with good attendance, sales, and the usual camaraderie. Estimated number of attendees is about ...???
Thanks to all who manned the stalls, and in particular, the commercial sellers.
Photos courtesy of Phil, VK5SRP.



Some old stuff here (the gear, of course).
Gerard (VK5ZQV), AHARS' VP; Rod (VK5ZRK);
and Colin VK5ACE.



Peter (VK3RV), WIA Historian, wondering "what is it?";
and Morris (VK5AMR), probably wondering the same!



Honest John's stall, where clandestine deals were
done under the table
(a darned awkward place to do them.)
The "Freebies" sign, with the offer of "two for one"
fooled nobody - again.
John (VK5EMI) was ably assisted by Norm (VK5GI),
who brought some semblance of sanity to the stall.



Tony, (VK5ZAI), from Kingston, SE, casting his wise eye
over someone else's "treasure".
Tony runs the Telebridge program.



Pat and Joy at the door - don't mess with these ladies
- just pay up and move on!



The RRL (Roving Replenishments Lady), Tina, (VK5TMC)
with her usual smile and goodies for exhausted stall holders.



I AM A SPINNER

Something a little different!
Thanks to my wife (Dee) for pointing
out this interesting article to me - Ed.

PAT MALEY

Teacher and ham radio operator

How did you become a spinner? Do you have other fiber hobbies?

I became a spinner when I was teaching in the Textiles Department at Edgecliff College in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the 1960s. I was able to take art classes, one of which was weaving. There were never enough looms, so we also did "off-loom" projects as part of the course. One that I chose was learning to spin. It was during this time that I learned of the Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati and joined. At the guild, there were study groups: spinning, lacemaking, rug hooking, backstrap and tablet weaving, kumihimo and ply splitting, and dyeing and surface design. I tried them all. I decided in the 1990s to work on the Handweavers Guild of America's Certificate of Excellence in Handspinning and passed both levels. I began teaching spinning at our guild, at conferences, and at fiber fairs. I also did a lot of demonstrating at pioneer and colonial festivals. Spinning had become my passion.

How did you become a ham radio operator?

"Ham" is the term for a Federal Communications Commission (FCC)-licensed amateur radio operator. My ham name is KD8PAT; it's my call sign. I have volunteered with the Red Cross as a disaster shelter manager for over 30 years. When we had a 100-year flood in 1997, I opened a shelter but had no ham operator. I had no communications with Red Cross. I decided that at the first opportunity I would become a ham. It was something I had wanted to do when I was in Girl Scouts and first heard of hams. I signed up for a license class, and within a year, I had upgraded to Extra, the highest level. I now volunteer not only with the Red Cross but also with our county emergency management agency in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Do your ham radio activities and your fiber/spinning hobbies ever overlap?

Oh, yes! I carry a spindle with me everywhere. I spin at meetings, including those for the radio clubs. It's fun to watch the guys watch me and try to figure out what I am doing. We string a lot of cable in radio work, and my knowledge of twist has been used many times to



Photos by Matt Maley

Above top: Mixing several of her interests, Pat Maley attends a pioneer festival and puts up an antenna for a propagation test run by the Red Cross. *Above:* Pat Maley.

keep kinks from forming when uncoiling heavy wire from big spools and stringing it through buildings. One of the weavers in my guild wove towels with Morse code messages woven into the cloth, as they did in WWI. Of course, I had to take one to the radio club. The code hams were fascinated trying to decode the towels. Then they wanted me to weave towels with their call signs. I just wish there was more time in the day for both hobbies. Each fiber has a unique potential that must be discovered to coax out the yarn within. ●

CQ CQ (which means "seek you")—are there any other ham/spinners out there?

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE whom we should feature in "I Am a Spinner"?

We're especially interested in spinners with unusual careers, locations, and perspectives. Drop us a line at spinoff@interweave.com. If we use your suggestion, we'll send you a treat from our stash of fiber goodies! Because of the volume of submissions we receive for this feature, we will only notify you if your nomination is selected.



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc



Twass the night before Christmas

Twass the night before Christmas
And all through 2 meters
Not a signal was keying
Up any repeaters
The antennas reached up
From the tower quite high
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky
The children, Tech-Pluses
Took their H-Ts to bed
And dreamed of the day
They'd be extras instead
Mom put on her headphones
I plugged in the key
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3
When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power
It smoked a small diode
And, I swear, shook the tower
Mom yanked off her phones
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX Packet Cluster
While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky
To see what could generate
RF that high
It was way in the distance
But the moon made it gleam
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight-element beam
And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean
So I thought for a moment
That it might be Wayne Green
But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands

He circled the tower
Then stopped in his track
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack
While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do
He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start
He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth till till
The station was grounded
He tightened loose fittings
Re-soldered connections
Cranked down modulation
Installed lightning protection
He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp
(Never worked right before;
Now it works like a champ).
A new, lowpass filter
Cleaned up the TV
He corrected the settings
In my TNC
He repaired the computer
That would not compute
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot
Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box
A new rig? I thought!
A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
That I worked Public Service?
He hooked it all up
And in record time
Quickly Worked 100 countries
All down on 160
I should have been happy
It was my call he sent
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!
He made final adjustments
And left a card by the key:
"To Joe, from Santa Claus. 73."
Then he grabbed his H-T
Looked me straight in the eye
Punched a code on the pad
And was gone with no good-bye.
I ran back to the station
And the pileup was big
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig
Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air
It was copied all over
It was heard everywhere.
The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect -
"Merry Xmas to all
And to all, good DX!"



ESTATE ITEM



Metal box in good condition.



(NB: Tools not included!)
From the estate of VK5HD.
Please contact John,
VK5EMI, ph 8278 1269.
With latch and carry handles
90 W x 55 D x 39 H cms.
Strong and light.
FREEBIE.

Humour ?





Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

GENERAL INFORMATION, NOTICES & CLUB CONTACTS



Club Projects

HF/VHF Antennalyser kits.
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

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
(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.

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 MHz.
There are also EchoLink skeds.

CLUB CONTACTS

Club President	Phil Storr
VK5SRP	0428 835 621
Vice President	Gerard Rankin
VK5ZQV	8362 3832
Secretary	Trevor Molde
VK5NIX	8235 0634
Treasurer	Peter Reichelt
VK5APR	08 8352 5904
Licence Training	Sasi Nayar
VK5SN	See Opposite

Meetings & Venue

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

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 website is:

www.ahars.com.au

Thanks to Paul Simmons, our new
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 directly to the
Editor- John Elliott VK5EMI
phone 8278 1269 or by email (best)
to vk5emi@wia.org.au

Publishers - Michael (VK5FMTR) & Kaye Roden

**The Next Newsletter Will Be
Published In March 2019**



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!