

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc - June 2015 Newsletter



Front Page

- President's Column

Page 2

- Club Calendar
- AGM Report

Page 3

- May Meeting Report

Pages 4

- WIA - AGM Reports

Pages 5

- *SMILES* - Tower Antenna

Page 6

- Farewells

Page 7

SNIPPETS

- USB OTG Charging Cable.
- Morse Practice Info

Page 8

- General Club Information
- Exams, Website
- Newsletter, ALARA, Etc.

On-line Supplement : Pages 9 to 11.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It seems like it was yesterday since my first report in March, but here we are well into winter and quite a bit has happened since then. The Shack program is well under way with the 2nd Saturday social gathering being popular and the 4th Saturday technical lectures have been well attended, particularly the session done by Graham Dicker on the Arduino series of micro-processors. This seems to have sparked peoples imaginations and there are several projects under way using these incredible devices, there have been several requests for Graham to run an advanced course on this subject.

The ANAN-100D SDR transceiver is now at the shack for members to use, the performance of this unit is really an eye opener to all that have had the opportunity to have a 'go' with it, but I believe we have only really scratched the surface of its capabilities with the software that is available for use with this device. We also held an open auction at the shack on the 30th May, the 5th Saturday of the month, this was well attended and saw the sale of lots of goodies and gear that had been left over from several deceased estate auctions, plus some unused test equipment and radios from the Shack. There were bargains to be had, and quite a few laughs as well as we made our way through the pile of gear to be moved and / or recycled, but I think a good time was had by all.

There will be more closed auctions of deceased estate coming up shortly, as we have again amassed a large amount of equipment from a recent passing, a lot of the gear is in prime condition, with much of it in its original boxes and in good condition. This will become available when safety testing and condition assessment has been completed and the lists are made up for circulation.

The kits program is still ongoing and is still popular with overseas Amateurs, our biggest problem is getting supply of components such as germanium diodes, unfortunately the offerings that are on the market are little better than junk and rejects from unscrupulous traders on the net. On the brighter side, the new Antennalyser project that Jim VK5TR has been developing is going well, this will be a more accurate unit and capable of operation to well above 2 metres, but it will probably be several months before it will become available to members and the public in general.

This month we have a visit and the Club Lunch happening, the Club general meeting is a visit to the South Australian Aviation Museum at Port Adelaide, we have been able to get several concessions for our visit, including access to the F111 cockpit and workshop areas with supper to be provided afterwards. The second event is the Club mid year lunch at Auchendarroch house, certainly a venue that is different from the previous places we have been. Your thoughts on a suitable location for the 'Christmas Lunch' would be welcomed, please contact any member of the committee or send your suggestion via email to the Club address of vk5bar@wia.org.au for our consideration. Another recent event was the presentation of a 'Certificate of Excellence' from the Committee and President (Pit YO3JW) of the World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF) organisation based in Rumania to Paul VK5PAS for his excellence in promoting the group and setting up much of the infrastructure for the WWFF awards here in Australia. It was my great pleasure to present Paul with this certificate at the general meeting, his enthusiasm and drive for this type of activity is enormous – well done Paul!

We have just recently completed another Foundation training course at the Shack, all the candidates were successful in obtaining their license, with a couple of them joining AHARS, I hope to be able to introduce them at the next general meeting. If you have considered upgrading your licence, please contact our training officer Sasi VK5SN at vk5sn@wia.org.au and book in, we have another Foundation and Exam happening in early October.

The WIA has just recently had its AGM in Canberra, one of the major lectures was from the ACMA on the subject of changes to the Licensing Determination Conditions and also possible changes to our bands. This could have major effects to the way we operate and what bands we can use, I urge all Amateurs to go to the WIA website and read the information relating to this subject.

I also recommend that all Members join the WIA as they are our representatives to the ACMA, and it is now we need to be strong to preserve our conditions and privileges and we need to present a united front to do so.

The repeater has been operating without problems, and we now have a set of new batteries to back up the power supply, my thanks going to David VK5KC for organising them, all we need to do now is haul away the oldies and install the new ones, I can hear my back starting to complain now! The Web site is still a 'work in progress' but is being updated on a regular basis, so the events calendar is up to date, and other corrections have taken place, but there is still much to be done. Volunteers are still needed for various jobs to be done, so if you feel that you could help, please contact me through the usual channels.

Cheers for now & 73 from Barry VK5BW

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc Club Program 2015

REGULAR MONTHLY GATHERINGS

2nd Friday	ALARA Luncheon - Contact Jean, vk5tsx@bigpond.com
2nd & 4th Friday	AHARS Regular Luncheon (All Welcome) - Blackwood RSL, Brighton Parade
2nd Saturday	Social Get-togethers Over A Cuppa At The Shack
4th Saturday	Technical Mornings At The Shack
JUNE Sat' 6th & Sun' 7th	Foundation Training Course & Exams & Upgrades - At The Shack
Thursday 18th - 7.00pm	Visit To South Australian Aviation Museum At Port Adelaide \$6 Per Person. Bookings Are Essential - Send Details Of Numbers In Your Group To vk5bar@wia.org.au
Sunday 21st - Noon	Mid - Year Luncheon - Auchendarroch, Mt Barker Reserve Seats With Barry, vk5bw@wia.org.au
Saturday 27th	Barry, VK5BW. Converting Codan Rigs To DDS - At The Shack
JULY Thursday 16th - 7.30pm	Display Of Members' Equipment: Bring Your Favourite Piece Of Gear - Blackwood Community Centre
Saturday 25th	TBA - At The Shack
AUGUST Thursday 20th - 7.30pm	Talk Re Foreign Office Comms By Bob Nut, An Ex British Foreign Office Officer For 45 Years - Blackwood Community Centre
Saturday 22nd	Phil Storr : Practical Testing And Measuring Of Valve Radios - At The Shack Bookings Needed: Email Either Roy VK5NRG or Barry VK5BW

JOHN MOYLE MEMORIAL FIELD DAY CONTEST, MARCH 2015

Six brave operators, with 2 brave supporters, ran the first JMMFD op from The Shack on March 21. Operators were Roy, VK5NRG; Patrick, VK5MPJ; Doc, VK5BUG; Jim, VK5TR; Shirley, VK5YL; and John, VK5EMI. Moral support was given by Graham, VK5GW, and Frank, VK5BF.

After some teething problems with menus in one of the more modern rigs (IC-7200), an older rig was located, and it responded immediately to Doc's dulcet CW tones. There wasn't much happening on CW, but Doc bagged two contacts for the contest, and created a musical treat for those who appreciate fine sending. After the CW segment, and some more (!) fun with menus, we finally got onto HF, SSB.

Patrick arrived, and headed for the VHF/UHF rig (again with a challenging menu, which didn't seem to challenge him!), ramped up the VKCL logging program, and bagged 6 VHF & 1 UHF contest in a short time. A summary of the use of the menus on the IC-7200 and the Icom 2m/70cm rig would have been very handy, as wading through manuals is a slow business.

Thanks to the operators, and their patience, and to Roy, who opened and closed up The Shack.
STATS—CONTACTS: HF (40m) SSB=19; CW=2; VHF (2m)= 6; UHF (70 cms)=1. Total = 28. Points = 57.

Perhaps we'll do this again in the next contest. We'll be better prepared next time! Note that we did get 1st prize in our section anyway!

John, VK5EMI, AHARS QSL Manager.



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

MAY MEETING REPORT

The meeting was a busy one in many ways:

1. President Barry Williams (VK5BW) presented Paul (VK5PAS) with an International Award for his work in VKFF (Australian World Wide Flora and Fauna Parks) activities.
The certificate came from WWFF Award manager - YO3JW, Pit, in Romania.



Barry presenting Paul with his Certificate of Excellence for Participating National Programs in the International FFWW arena.



Paul demonstrating some of the field operations certificates that he's received.

2. Paul (VK5PAS) gave a quick presentation on the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program and the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award. It was just a quick 30 minute presentation to introduce the group to these 2 great park portable programs.
Paul Simmonds VK5PAS also has received the WIA President's Commendation for outstanding achievement in the World Wide Flora & Fauna amateur radio program, nationally and internationally, drawing attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna.
Trevor Quick, VK5ATQ, received the President's Award for 10 years of service as an assessor.
3. After supper, at the formal meeting, the recent WIA AGM was discussed at some length. Speakers were: Peter (VK5APR), Trevor (VK5ATQ), David (VK5KC), and John (VK5BJE). The main item of interest is the foreshadowed changes to the Telecommunications Act. Will the Amateur licence become simply a Class Licence (= no "Home Brew" equipment), or will we be under a new class of licence, which permits Home Brew, and other essential aspects of our hobby? With the present Federal Government doing its best to prune costs in most areas, the other likely outcome will be the devolvement of the running of Amateur operations from the ACMA to either a private company, or (hopefully) the WIA. In order to protect our future, we need a stronger representation of amateurs within the WIA. At the moment, it's only 32%. If you are not a current WIA member, now is the time to join, to help protect our hobby and yours!
(See also See page 4 for more comments.)

SPEAKERS AT THE WIA AGM.



David, VK5KC



Peter, VK5APR,
our hirsute Treasurer



John, VK5BJE. "We won't
lose home- brew".



Trevor, VK5ATQ



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc 2015 WIA AGM REPORTS

From John, VK5BJE.

I enjoyed my visit to Canberra for the Annual General Meeting of the Wireless Institute of Australia. The meeting was held on Saturday 9 May 2015. It is the third AGM of the national body I have attended. I was in Canberra in 2010 for the 100th AGM and I also attended Mildura. All three have been great experiences. I was able to augment the AGM experience this time with some portable operations through my interest in SOTA. Paul, VK5PAS and I were kindly taken on Friday to two summits, also in National Parks, and we were able to enjoy very successful QRP activations.

This made the rich experience of the AGM even richer, with the Open Forum, with great presentations from active amateurs, and the Saturday evening dinner where the guest speaker, Mr Mark Loney, of ACMA, outlined broad changes in Government policy announced by Minister Turnbull and the impact these will have on ACMA.

Mr Loney spoke of the new software program being rolled out in ACMA, the benefits which will arise, the excellent work of the WIA in ensuring the the Deed of Agreement with ACMA has been properly administered. Under these arrangements the WIA manages training, assessments, accreditation and call-sign allocations.

Mr Loney mentioned that there have been failures in devolution of responsibility but not in the WIA, but in the commercial and educational world.

The major issue for celebration has been the ten years of the Foundation Licence. This new class of licence has introduced many people to amateur radio. Some have decided the hobby is not for them, but they had a chance to try it out, but more have stayed and some have moved into Standard and Advanced licence level. I am sure more will be written and said about the business of the AGM over the next few months.

John Dawes, VK5BJE



Items of interest at the WIA AGM 2015.

From Trevor, VK5ATQ.

World Radio Conference.

The WRC is this year. The WIA will provide a person to uphold Australian Amateur's conditions and Gilbert Hughes VK1GH is our representative.

Gilbert made a presentation covering the process of stating a requirement, then progressing via many other government committees to come to an agreement within Australia before the process of world agreement. World-wide there are 193 sovereign identities, and over 700 authorities to come to agreement.

Fred Swainston: The Foundation licence is now 10 years old, and the AR has turned around and improved. What do you wish to see for Foundation licences in the future? Please email me (vk5atq@wia.org.au) and give me your thoughts on where our Foundation licences can be improved for tomorrow.

Mark Loney ACMA Project HELM.

Project HELM is on the ACMA web. **H**olistic **E**ngineering and **L**icence **M**anagement. It is underway to meet the government requirement of ACMA reducing costs. At present the ACMA is processing 1,700 licences per day. This must be managed with reduced staff levels.

The new Spectrum management act will probably abolish the present Apparatus and Class licences. What we will have is yet to be announced.

Our licences will likely be emailed to us for renewal. It could be that for assessments to an Amateur licence if you have selected a callsign before your assessment, and pass the assessment, the assessor can enter the details on-line and print out your licence there and then.

Yes there will be new processes for our Licence Assessors to learn this year.

These are my words but Mark stated something like "Tell us your wish list, think it through, make sure you can manage it, and you may be able to talk advantage of these changes"

We hope that the WIA can retain the present examination agreement, and also expand to cover a much larger management of our licence administration. It would be dangerous and more expensive if another identity were to gain the control. We must ensure that we as members of the WIA can manage our requirements for our licences. If you are not a member please join now to help preserve our hobby. Remember this presentation from Mark will be made to every other body in Australia.

Trevor Quick, VK5ATQ

[Thanks gents, for these most worthwhile reports - Ed.]



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

SMILES SECTION

HOW TO PUT UP A TOWER ANTENNA

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my recent accident. In block #3 of the accident reporting form, I put "poor planning" as the cause of the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust that the following details will be sufficient."

"I am an amateur radio operator. On the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot antenna tower. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand. I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley which, fortunately, was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower."

"Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and hardware into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 pound load. You will note in block *11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds."

"Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say. I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly. I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley."

"Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain."

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out of it. Devoid of the weight of the tools and hardware, the barrel now weighed about 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block #11. As you might imagine. I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body."

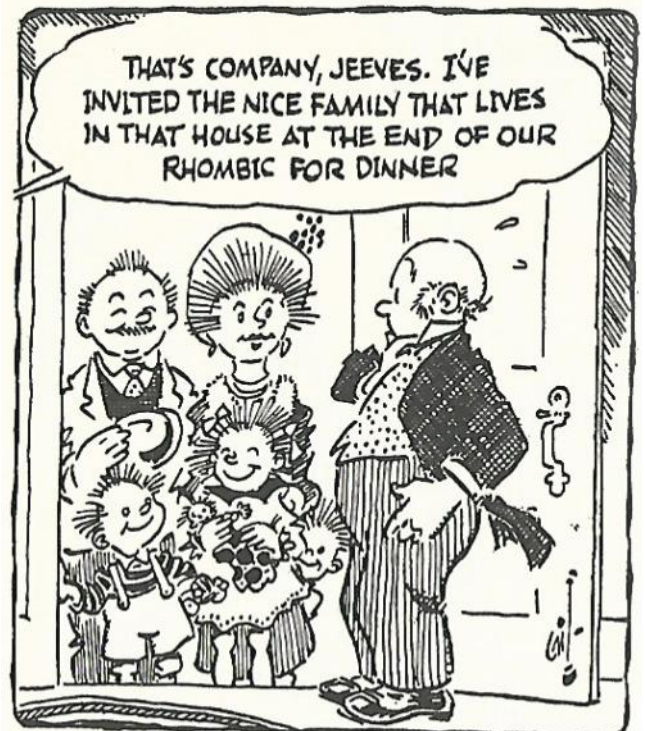
"The encounter with the barrel slowed my descent enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and hardware. Fortunately. only three vertebrae were cracked."

I am sorry to report. however, that as I lay there on the tools and hardware in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me.

.. I again, Lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope."

(This item has shown up in several newsletters. The original author is unknown). Thanks to the WPA DX Assn.

(An oldie but a goodie - Ed.)



June, 1949

GIL cartoon reproduced with kind permission of The ARRL

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

FAREWELLS

GREG McBRIDE VK5THA

Many will remember Greg, "The Midnight Monitor", as I at least called him. He seemed always to be there on RAD, to have a chat, give advice, or provide assistance.

Paul VK5PH, represented the Amateur Fraternity at Greg's funeral. *Thanks Paul - Ed.*

JOY CHARLES, VK5YJ



Joy was active in WICEN, ALARA, and many other activities.

Article to the right -

"The queen of the turntables retires", from Radio 5UV.

For many years she ran the WICEN 2 metre Net on RAD.

At the funeral, Amateur Radio was represented by three ALARA ladies (all AHARS members), and four OM's. Daughter Joyanne, VK5BJH, has applied for her mother's callsign. Joy was aged 90.

A former president of WICEN, member of ALARA, and AHARS, Joy was laid to rest on March 12th.

(Enjoy reading the articles to the right and below about this interesting lady - Ed.)



The queen of the turntables retires

After 23 years on air, one of our longest standing volunteers is hanging up the headphones. Joy Charles has been a member of Roundabout, presented by Radio for the Third Age, since June 1985.

At 84 she is living proof that there are many careers and lives possible in one lifespan. A mother of six and soon to be great grandmother of three, Joy's interest in radio extends way beyond the FM band, starting with a stint in the ABC radio newsroom in the 1940s.

In 1978 she qualified as an Amateur Radio Operator and by 1986 she was a key part of the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network. A highlight in that period was organising radio communications for the Olympic Yachting Trials at North Haven, where, she says 'for three wonderful weeks, I had 43 men in my life!' Other radio communications activities included Net Control for the inaugural Classic Adelaide Car Rally and assisting with communications for Great SA Bike Ride from Wilpena Pound to Nuriootpa.

'Radio has been a big part of my life since the days of crystal sets and catwhiskers!' says Joy, 'and though leaving Radio Adelaide and Radio for the Third Age, I will continue operating my amateur radio station from home.'

All at Radio Adelaide wish Joy and family lots of health and happiness.

From AR Magazine, May 2015

"Joy was one of Geoff VK5TY's students. She obtained her Novice call VK5NRQ in November 1978 and upgraded to VK5YJ a couple of years later.

Joy's OM, Ted was an amateur when they married. Ted was VK5YQ, and subsequently one of their daughters, Joyanne and their son Kym also obtained their amateur licences, they were a very well licensed family.

Almost as soon as she obtained her licence, Joy joined ALARA and was a keen member, and was State Representative for VK5 for a time. She attended the ALARA Birthday lunches each July but was not able to join the YLs on a more regular basis because of her other commitments.

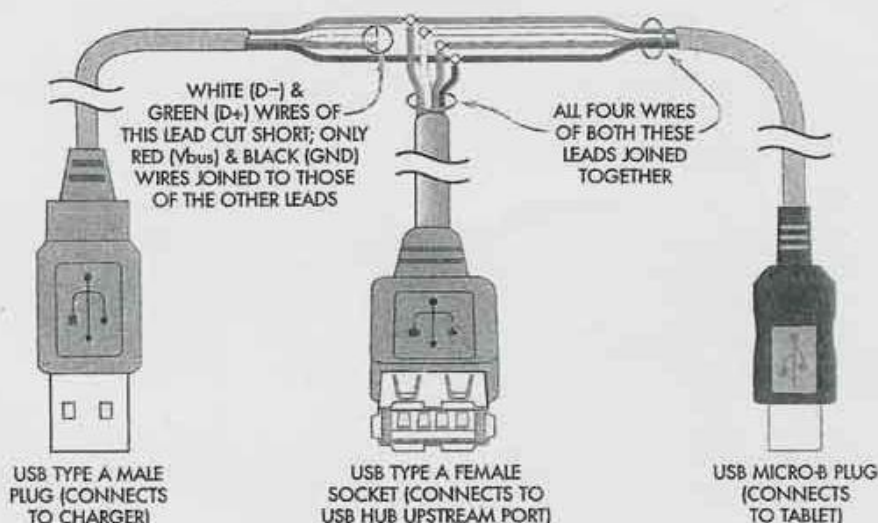
For many years she drove all over the state, with one of her daughters beside her, and became well-known at many of the National Parks and beauty spots where they used to walk.

For some years, latterly one of Joy's daughters brought her to the Christmas and Mid-year luncheons of the AHARS as there are a number of ALARA members who are also members of AHARS.

She was a lovely lady and will be missed by her many friends.

By Christine Taylor, VK5CTY."

Circuit Notebook



USB OTG charging cable

You can now purchase 8-inch Windows tablets at a very low price. Typically, you get a quad core tablet with Windows 8 and Microsoft Office for less than \$300. These are quite powerful and are capable of being used as desktop computers as they have HDMI ports that can drive 1920 x 1080 displays and they also have USB ports, allowing for expansion.

You can use a USB OTG (on the go) cable to convert the tablet's micro USB to a USB female connector and then use a range of USB devices. The USB OTG cable tells the tablet to stop behaving like a USB device and start behaving like a USB host. It does this by using the fifth pin on the micro-B connector to tell the tablet to use the USB OTG mode.

The big problem is that the micro USB is also the charging port, so you can either charge the tablet or use the USB port but not both at the same time. I spent a lot of time experimenting with cables and I found that while the tablet is in USB OTG mode it will not accept charge, so the tablet's battery will gradually run flat.

The solution is simple – don't use the OTG cable! It turns out that the tablets are quite happy to behave as a host when you use a non-OTG device cable and they will then accept a charge at the same time. This is done by making up a cable using the arrangement shown above.

You need to sacrifice two cables: a USB Type A male to USB micro-B (eg. Jaycar WC-7708) and a USB Type A male to USB Type A female (eg. Jaycar WC-7708). You should have the first cable already, as it came with

the tablet. The second cable is just a USB Type A extension cable.

Cut both cables in half and put the extra USB Type A male cable aside – it is not required. Connect the white and green wires between the USB micro B connector and the USB Type A female connector, matching the colours as you go. Now connect all three red wires and all three black wires between the USB Type A male, USB Type A female and USB micro-B connectors. Insulate all your connections and you are ready to go.

Plug the USB Type A male connector into your existing charger, the USB micro B into the tablet and the USB Type A female connector into a powered USB hub (it does not need to be powered but this allows higher power devices). You can then plug keyboards, mice, USB sticks, hard disks and any other devices into the USB hub, and use them all at once. I found my tablet initially said "plugged in – not charging" but after a minute or so it changed to "plugging in – charging".

I also found that I can use any spare 5V regulated plugpack (1A and above) to charge the tablet instead of using the USB type A plug. Just connect the four wires from the USB Type A female to the USB micro-B and connect the 5V regulator to the red and black wires. This saves the original cable and charger so they can be used when you want to use the tablet as a tablet.

Don Amos,
Ingleburn, NSW.

is this month's winner
of a \$150 gift voucher from
Hare & Forbes

Thanks to Silicon Chip for permission to publish this very useful idea,
and to Graham, VK5GW, for suggesting its inclusion in our newsletter - Ed.

Morse Practice Info

I am passing along the following Morse practice info in case you deem it appropriate for Newsletter inclusion. No recent "Doc's demented dabblings" articles though, as I have been too busy writing major articles for RadCom plus commencing the assembly of my new book, an edited anthology, *Low Bands Down Under*, pertaining to the 2200, 630 and 160m bands.

One of the RadCom articles (8 pages & 19 pix) features my new 630/160m Inverted-L aerial, which I am pleased to say "goes like a train". During the VI4AE2/5 HMAS AE2 Anzac centenary gig I was able to work VK3 & 5 out to over 1000Kms on 472.5kHz, and VK2, 3, 4 & 5 out to over 2000Kms on 1818kHz during poor propagation periods.

Here are some web sites containing their own links and/or MP3 Morse practice, off-air recordings of live comms circuits, W1AW practice sessions from the American Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL).

<http://www.swl754.it/files/Radio-Morse-code-from-3-to-60-MHz.pdf> for Russian, Chinese, Turkish, Indian

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule> for 5 to 35 wpm

http://vkqrclub.org/morse_practice_page.php for 5-15 wpm MP3 practice files = 3699kHz practice beacon

Doc, Australian Wireless Telegraphy Station VK5BUG

"Promoting Low Bands CW Down Under!"

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

GENERAL INFORMATION, NOTICES & CLUB CONTACTS



Club Projects

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
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 Controller: Jim (VK5TR);
Dean (VK5LB); or Barry (VK5BW)
All licensed amateurs are welcome.

VK5RAD (Crafrers 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 Grand Chancellor Hotel, 18 Currie 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	Barry Williams VK5KBW
Vice President	Paul Simmonds VK5PAS
Secretary	Jean Kopp VK5TSX
Treasurer	Peter Reichelt VK5APR
Licence Training	Sasi Nayar VK5SN
	08 8339 5683 08 8391 2397 08 8322 0066 08 8352 5904 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.)

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 Kim Hawtin,
our very able 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 & Kaye Roden VK5FMTR
email - visit01@bigpond.net.au

**Our Next
Newsletter
Will Be
Published In
September
2015**



ON-LINE SUPPLEMENT

CONTENTS

- WICEN SA
- SNIPPETS
- FOR SALE
- QSL's
- ERRATA
- First Non-Departmental-conducted Exam, 1989
- Mad Max 4
- Batteriser
- Flight of Fancy

WICEN SA

<https://www.facebook.com/wicen.sa>

Following the 2015 AGM, here is the list of current officers:



Member	Phone	Email	Call Sign	Role
Nic McLean	0417 822 728	president@sa.wicen.org.au	VK5ZAT	President
Louis Coleshill		vicepresident@sa.wicen.org.au	VK5VFO	Vice President
Trevor Quick		treasurer@sa.wicen.org.au	VK5ATQ	Treasurer
Michael Sadler-Burns		secretary@sa.wicen.org.au	VK5FMSB	Secretary
Arno Attema		vk5zar@sa.wicen.org.au	VK5ZAR	Member
John Elliott		vk5emi@wia.org.au	VK5EMI	Public Officer
Charlie McEachern		rally@sa.wicen.org.au	VK5KDK	ROSA Liason
Webmaster		webmaster@sa.wicen.org.au		Website Manager

For more information and membership details please contact the Secretary
WICEN SA [Facebook](#) group.



FOR YOUR DIARY.
Scouts Rally SA, Round 5
of the East Coast Bullbars
Australian Rally Championship
and will be held on
23rd - 25th October 2015.



SNIPPETS



◀ This will warm the hearts of tube lovers this winter!
A venerable 807 at work.

Coming next edition (September). ▶
The successful AHARS visit to the Aviation Museum.



FOR SALE

Windlight tower. 12 metre height.
3 leg, 1½" angle.

Dismantled, but no nuts or bolts.

\$100.

Contact Trevor, VK5TW
vk5tw@wia.org.au

Stock
SOLD



Stamp Collection:

From overseas QSL's.

Stamps on envelope faces.

About 100 in total.

Countries include:

USA, Australia, France, Hong Kong,

Mexico, Italy, Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, Portugal, Spain, and plenty more.

\$20 o.n.o.

Contact John, VK5EMI, 8278 1269.

SOLD



QSL's

At right: A rare birdie on a famous antenna.

QSL card from John, VK5BJE (via eQSL), to our club's occasionally active QSL Manager.

Don't forget to chase John and his wandering wireless minstrels when they are out and about (note his location). It's great fun for them, and for whoever calls them.



INCOMING QSL's: The VK5 QSL Manager, Stephan, VK5RZ, has informed me that he'll finish sorting, in a few weeks, through all the incoming cards that have come to him.

I'll let members know once I have them in hand. John, VK5EMI, AHARS QSL Manager.

ERRATA:

AHARS June 2015 Newsletter.

Page 7. CIRCUIT NOTEBOOK.

USB type A male to USB micro-B, Jaycar part number should be WC-7796

USB Type A male to USB type A female, Jaycar part number should be WC-7703

Note that other errors in the hard copy newsletter have been corrected in the on-line version.

FIRST NON-DEPARTMENTAL CONDUCTED EXAM, 1989

BACKGROUND: "I came across a copy of a letter from Marshall Emm (VK5FN - Life Member AHARS) to the then ACMA officer responsible for Amateur Radio Examinations, dated 26 November 1989.

It refers to the very first "devolved" non-departmental Amateur Radio examination held in Australia. The system now in use was instigated by Marshall representing AHARS, and has evolved from then. That was more than 25 years ago.

The "Education Officer" referred to was me.

Shortly after that Marshall became Examiner No 001, and I Examiner No 002.

We generated exam papers from a randomising program written by Marshall from the then question bank, administered the exams, marked them and provided certificates to the candidates who passed.

Morse Code tests were included too.

The candidates were then able to go to the ACMA office and were issued with a Licence!

The system has changed quite a bit since then of course, but it was Marshall Emm VK5FN, currently N1FN, foundation member and past president of AHARS who started it." 73,Hans VK5YX

GPO Box 389
Adelaide, S.A. 5001
26 November 1989

Communications Operations Division
Room 5, K4 Blue DOTC
GPO Box 594
Canberra, A.C.T. 2601
Attn: Mr. Keith Carr-Glynn

Dear Keith,

History has been made... Yesterday we conducted our first exams-- as far as I am aware the first external exams conducted in Australia-- and we actually had two successful candidates! Briefly, we had no passes in 3 NAOCP papers, no passes in 3 REGS papers, two passes in 6 AOCPP papers, and no passes in Morse (2 receiving and 1 sending in both 5 and 10 WPM exams). Not a glorious result, but historic nonetheless.

I have enclosed copies of the certificates, duly signed, but with date and place "To Be Advised" in the case of papers not yet offered. Copies will go to Bob Phoenix with the returns of successful and unsuccessful candidates.

There were some minor problems with illustrations, but as time permits my colleagues and I will review the question banks in their entirety, and seek clarifications or corrections before the next exam is held (expected to be early February).

Meanwhile-- *an appeal on technical grounds:*

One candidate failed the regulations exam by one question, and on review I believe that question 4 in Section 6 should be disqualified--

Below 50.0 MHz what is the maximum transmission bandwidth permitted?
a) 8 KHz b) 6 KHz c) 4 KHz *d) 16 KHz

After reviewing DOC-71 and -72, our Education Officer and I feel that the regulations as published are confusing, insofar as 16KHz FM is permitted only on bands *above 28MHz* (as stated) and it is not clear whether the 10M band is included. The next highest band above 28 MHz is of course 50 MHz, and if the rule is read literally then the answer must be 6KHz. The two of us couldn't in fact work out for sure whether the mode is allowed on 10M or not. And all of the above is aside from the fact that we have never heard of anybody using 16KHz FM, so the question is a bit rough anyhow.

I have played by the rules and advised the candidate that he was unsuccessful, but if you can advise me that the question should be disqualified, or that the correct answer should be 6 KHz, then I shall be delighted to advise him of a "win on appeal." At the same time, I would respectfully suggest that the terminology in DOC71/72 could be clearer, and perhaps could be scrutinised by the WIA if that hasn't already been done.

Regardless of the outcome of the above, everybody was pretty happy with the arrangements and a lot of favourable comment was received about the "more relaxed" atmosphere and the fact that time off work wasn't required.

My family and I leave for the States on the 8th, and will be back on the 26th January, so I will take this opportunity to once again thank you for your help, and wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,



Marshall G. Emm (VK5FN)
Examinations Officer
Adelaide Hills A.R.S. Inc.

THE MAKING OF MAD MAX 4 ("Fury Road").

The fourth in the Mad Max film series, this Australian iconic film follows in the footsteps of its famous (infamous?) predecessors, with one main difference—it wasn't filmed in Australia. Our grand Outback was uncharacteristically awash from recent rains, so the film had to be shot in the Namibian Desert. *(All deserts look the same to me, anyway—Ed.)*

Technically, the final product is a first class audio-visual presentation, despite the huge difficulties involved.

From our point of view, as people with a radio interest, RF was put to good use, with radio vehicles following the action, and monitoring the sound and images in real time.

The "film" was shot using digital methods, with several digital cameras running at the same time, recording the data to the vehicle that the camera was attached. In some cases, the camera was on the end of a long pole.

There is a full length talk on the making of the film on

<https://vimeo.com/127381179> .

Note that this video is 120 minutes long, but starting at 45m35s, an informative discussion on the use of RF begins.

Some other very interesting related links:

<http://www.studiodaily.com/2015/05/studiodaily-dossier-mad-max-fury-road/>

and

<http://cinescopophilia.com/sond-devices-goes-on-wild-ride-with-cast-and-crew-of-mad-max-fury-road/>

The team had available 42 channels of Lectrosonics radio mics, plus RF links to monitor (at reduced resolution) all the cameras in use.

Warning: If you get to see the film, don't look for deep meaning in the story. There is a story, but that's secondary to the audio-visual experience.

[Thanks to James Elliott for leading me into and through this time-devouring journey! Ed.]



The goodies' armada under attack by the baddies, racing across the desert in the film. Note the poles, which were also used for video and audio devices.



One of the comms vans. Looks like UHF comms, as one would expect.

"BATTERISER"

Many modern devices won't work with voltages much below 1.5. The Batteriser is claimed to convert voltages less than that up to 1.5, and keep doing that until the battery is truly exhausted.

It sounds like a very compact DC to DC inverter.

An earlier version of this appeared some years ago in a Silicon Chip article. The DC to DC inverter in that article was much less compact than this device.

A few questions remain to be answered: will it be useful?; how many milliamps can it handle?; how many times can it be re-used?

[Readers' comments welcome—Ed.]

For more information, go to <http://www.batteriser.com/>



Home / Gadgets

Batteriser is a \$2.50 gadget that extends disposable battery life by 800 percent

FROM John, VK5TD

"I think this might have appeal to a lot of AHARS members. Remember the Jetsons? Well try this one. Eat your heart out Harry Potter!! "

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Czy0pXRRZcs>

[More a flight of fancy than a radio/electronics snippet, but worth a look at! Ed.]