Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

March 2017 Newsletter

Front Page

 President's Column & Editorial

Page 2

- Club Program
- OSL Corner

Page 3

WIA AGM

Pages 4

Meetings Reports

 Feb' 11 - Shack Meeting (WIA Matters)

Pages 4 & 5 Reports Continued...

- Mar' 4 & 5 Training At The Shack
- Whistlers & VLF Talk

Page 6

- Whistlers & VLF Continued ...
 - Display From Spectrum Lab
- Antennapalooza 2017

Page 7

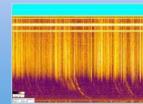
- Flux Capacitor. Future Training & Dates
- Doc's New Low Band Book

Page 8

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

For the On-line **Supplement Go To Our Website:** ahars.com.au

- Kym Newbery
- Picnic Photos
- Note Re Candidates for WIA Directors
- Details Of Doc's New Low Band Book



Don't know what this is? See pages 5 & 6

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

G'day folks, this is Phil VK5SRP, your new society president, with his first President's Column. Firstly I will issue a plea to members to volunteer for two, soon to be situations-vacant, and also a help wanted issue.

The AHARS conducts deceased estate closed auctions and open auctions at the shack. These are services we provide for our members in responsibly disposing of their equipment and returning monies raised back to their estate and family. This year the Club is looking for a new member to handle this function of the Society. Barry has decided he has been doing it for too long and he deserves a rest. Please contact me if you would like to follow in VK5BW's foot steps and keep this service going into the future.

We also have the problem of storing the deceased estate equipment until it is auctioned. Barry, VK5BW, and dedicated and hard working member John, VK5EMI, have been doing that for a long time and their storage space is being taxed to the limit. If you have a few cubic feet of spare space they will be very relieved. Contact me via email or at a general meeting, this is an urgent request.

Talking about people putting in far more than their far share of effort to keep the AHARS running, Barry is also looking for someone to take over as Repeater Manager this year. If you feel you have the technical expertise or can take on a technical challenge and developed the skills and knowledge required, I would like to hear from vou via email soon.

While I am talking about volunteers, we are also looking for more members to help assemble the Antenna Analyser kits at the shack whenever we need a new batch. Jim, VK5JST, has developed an impressive way to carry out this task with hardware and procedures to make sure each kit is complete and well packed. Please email me so I can add you to a roster when needed.

I will be away for the last half of June and all of July, Pat is taking me with her to Europe to carry the bags. As a reward I will be going to the radio conference in Friedrichshafen and may even come home with a "toy" or two. I am sure the rest of the committee will look after you well in my absence and I may be able to file a report or two during the trip.

Phil VK5SRP, President, AHARS.

EDITORIAL

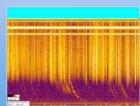
Only a few weeks ago we were saying "Happy New Year" to all we met, and now the year is in full swing.

Matters within this quarter's tome include the recent AHARS' AGM, and even more important, the upcoming WIA AGM. If you haven't yet registered, now's the time. There's information on registration, and other WIA AGM matters on Page 3, and our On-line Supplement. Congratulations to those AHARS' members who have done a major part in the organisation of this major event. (David, KC, Shirley (YL), John (BJE), Roy (NRB), Jim (TR) and Joy Clegg.)

I note the passing of Noel, VK5VT. Some details of him in the On-line version.

It's also time for me to thank my two publishers - Kaye and Michael Roden. In addition to tidying up the material that I send for printing, they do a quick proof-read for me (and thank goodness for that, as my keyboard often adds wrong words and dates.)

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



Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc Club Program 2017

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

Thursday 16th Regular Meeting Joe VK5WU to talk on "Fishing for DX" Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC) Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)

Thursday 18th Gerard VK5ZQV
Friedrichshafen Hamfest visit

Slackwood Community Ham
Young Street (BCC)

Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st

WIA Annual General Meeting - At Hahndorf

Details from the WIA website - http://www.wia.org.au/joinwia/wia/2017agm/

Blackwood Community Hall

Also see Page 3 for more details

Regular Meeting

JUNE	Thursday 15th	TBA	Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)
JULY	Sunday 16th	Mid Year Dinner	Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)
AUGUST	Thursday 15th	TBA	Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)
SEPTEMBER	Thursday 15th	TBA	Blackwood Community Hall Young Street (BCC)

Thanks to Jean, VK5TSX, for the above information.

QSL Corner

QSL Corner:

From VK5EMI - AHARS QSL Manager.

OF100FI.

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

Finland's 100th anniversary

In 2017, special jubilee call sign OF100FI/x is activated on their turn by amateur radio clubs around Finland. Here x is the number of the call area (0...9). Call OF100FI is part of the Finland 100 programme in 2017. The year 2017 will mark Finland's 100th anniversary as an independent state. Read more at: suomifinland100.fi

AWARDS: Run by Paul, VK5PAS, and John, VK5BJE.

Just before the AHARS AGM on February 16, Paul, conducted a check of QSL cards for the ARRL **DXCC**, and of documentation for registration for Logbook of the World...

Paul is an official card checker for the ARRL **DXCC** program, and the various CQ Awards. More information on this on: http://www.ahars.com.au/apps/search?g=dxcc

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc W.I.A. Annual General Meeting, 2017. Hosted by the radio clubs of S.A.

Friday	19 May 2017
5 pm onward	Registration at The Haus Cafè, Hahndorf
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
Just before lunch:.	Doc, VK5BUG, will launch his new book <i>Cellar-dwellers on the go! Operating 2200, 630 & 160m away from home</i> . See page 7
1 pm to 2 pm	Lunch
2 pm to 5 pm	Technical Symposium (guest speakers - see below)
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

Guest Speakers

David VK5KK and Iain VK5ZD Introducing Amateur Microwaves

David VK5DMC Getting into Digital Amateur Television

Paul Simmonds VK5PAS Operating Field portable in the great outdoors

Steve Adler VK5SFA Operating Low Band HF in confined spaces

Mark Jessop VK5QI High Altitude Balloon Tracking

David Rowe VK5DGR (of FreeDV fame) (FreeDV series of digital voice modes for HF)

Julie VK3FOWL and Joe VK3YSP Promoting Amateur Radio

STEM Practitioners (STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.) Grant VK5GR and Matt VK5ZM

Saturday Evening Annual Dinner Guest Speakers

Craig Edwards VK5CE Islands on the Air

Sue VK5AYL Sue will be launching an iPhone App that is specially tailored to the Parks and Peaks community linked with the Parks and Peaks website written by Allen VK3ARH.

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.)

Attendance at the Saturday Morning WIA AGM and Open Forum is freely available

for any member to attend at no charge on the day; preregistration . is not required.

Catering with morning refreshments will be available for those who have preregistered.

LIASON . 2 Metres: Use the hills 2m repeater VK5RAD 147.000 (-600 offset)

<u>HF Travellers Net:</u> 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 MEETINGS REPORTS

1. MEETING AT THE SHACK - February 11th

WIA Matters:

David, VK5WP and Marcus, VK5WTF, led a discussion on various matters of interest to WIA members. 13 AHARS members were present. David and Marcus are standing for positions of WIA directors, and had asked if AHARS' members might like to join in a discussion re WIA matters.

Matters discussed included:

A perception of need for re-invigoration of the running of the Wireless Institute.



Declining membership:

Concerns with money matters, including the cost of producing AR Magazine (most felt that despite the cost, that it was worth keeping the hard copy in production); possible re-use of the WIA premises with the need to keep the premises as an asset; as the purchase of the premises was bequeathed by a member.

(Comment by a Member: It was pointed out that we, as amateurs, do not overall, cost the Federal Government anything, as we provide technical training at no cost to the government.)

2. AHARS - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 16, 2017

We had our usual great turn-up for our AGM, with about 60 members present.

Visitors included VK5WTF, VK5XX, Joe 9V1CZ and Bea (YL of Allan).

John, VK5BJE conducted the "voting" for the 2017 committee. As there was an exact number of candidates for the committee, no voting was required, and John announced that the committee for the coming year was now appointed.

ETING - PEBRUARY 16, 2017

The new committee is:

(Left to right in the photo):

Roy, VK5NRG, Gerard VK5ZQV, Vice President)

Phil (President, VK5SRP), Jim (VK5TR)

Jean (VK5TSX, Secretary)

Barry (VK5BW, Immediate Past President)

Peter (VK5APR, Treasurer)

Trevor (VK5NIX, appointed/coopted).

The usual great supper was provided by Christine and Geoff Southby.

Guest speaker for the evening was Rod Spurrier, VK5ZRK,

who spoke on "Whistlers and VLF reception". See page 5, opposite, for a report. →

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc TRAINING DAY AT THE SHACK

Saturday and Sunday March 4th and 5th.

Under the guidance of Sasi VK5SN, Barry VK5BW and Paul VK5PH, assisted by Jim VK5TR and Gerard VK5ZQV, six persons attended the Foundation course, plus one each sitting for their Standard and Advanced upgrade. Missing from the photos is Mike (Advanced Aall exam), who left early.

[Photos by Sasi - many thanks - Ed.]



Kym, John and Hogan with Barry at centre. ←



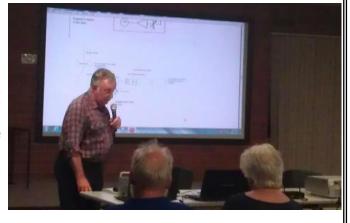
Paul (VK5PH)
demonstrating
the use of
a rig to Daryl
(Standard)
and Ari

↑ Jim at left, and Gerard at centre, with candidates Mark and Paul in discussion re each others' backgrounds.



Whistlers And VLF Reception A talk by Rod VK5ZRK

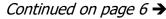
Many years ago in the early years of my interest in Amateur Radio I used a solenoid coil and a crude amplifier and searched all over the house to find a null spot for 50 hertz. I found one and all I could hear was some crackles and pings. Many years later I discussed this with Paul VK5SL and he suggested that I was listening to Sferics and tweaks. I decided to have a serious attempt at receiving tweaks and whistlers and built several high impedance input amplifiers with some success.



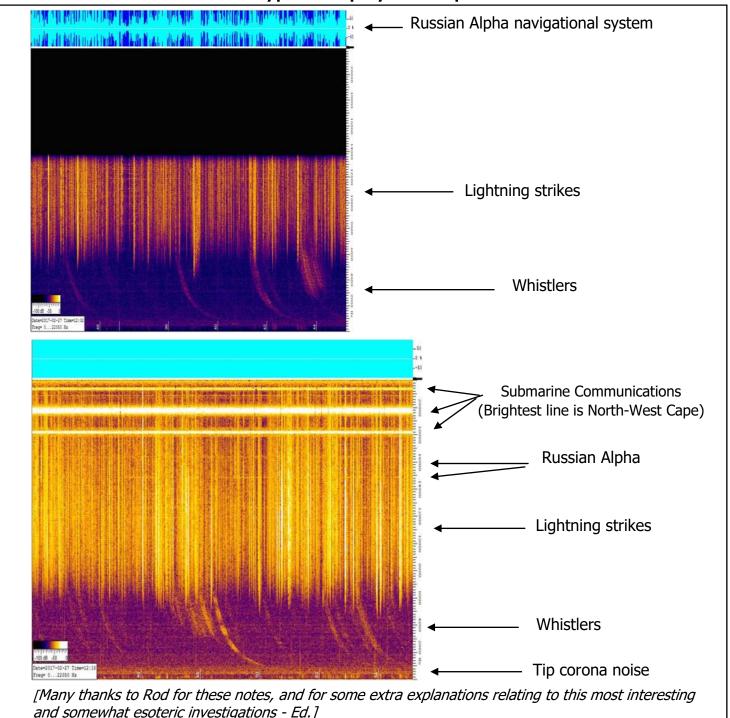
A portable amp with a telescopic antenna was used to asses the occurrence of whistlers.

With a reasonable number of whistlers I would set up my pole with a 9 foot whip and preamp on a 4 metre pole. I found the best location at / near St Kilda where my whip could be the highest thing. I recorded the unfiltered signal on my Olympus LS-10 linear PCM recording 24 bit WAV files, for later playback. I found that the best occurrence of whistlers was at the winter solstice with the help of Coronal Mass Ejection from the sun activating the magnetosphere. This is the setup within Spectrum Lab that I use to listen to whistlers and other signals below 23Khz.

- Launch Spectrum Lab
- Quick settings, Natural Radio animal voices, Sferics Tweeks Whistlers with filtered audio output
- PC>1Ghz (should be) click yes
- File, Audio files, analyse and play (with DSP)
- Select your pre-recorded audio file
- File analysis click OK
- Second file analysis window Not an I/Q signal Click NO
- File starts playing.
 - Note upper frequency displayed is 13Khz.
- To change Components, Filter control window, bandwidth. Change as required
- (For full bandwidth set to 30Khz)
- To set audio in/out go to Options Audio Settings



Whistlers And VLF Reception continued This is a typical display from Spectrum Lab.





7 - 9 April 2017

For further information: contact Chris at:-

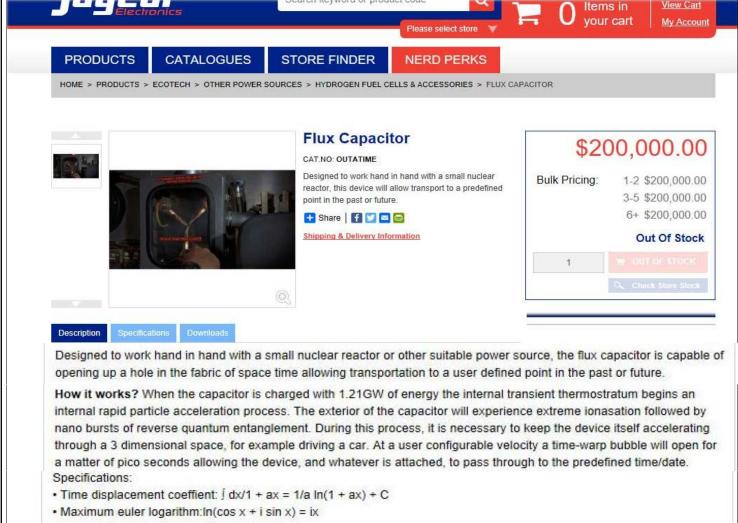
- vk3qb@hotmail.com
- mobile 0429 187 593
- www.antennapalooza.org.au

Antennapalooza 2017, hosted by the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club will be held in South Gippsland this year. The venue is in Foster, right on the doorstep to the Wilsons Promontory National Park, as well as having three SOTA peaks within 10-40 minutes and three beautiful beaches, all suitable for portable operations. Come along and put a face to the callsign. Renew old friendships; test and compare stations and antennae and general enjoy a great weekend in a casual friendly environment. Come for a day or come for the weekend.

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc Mortgaging The House

Offered by a far-sighted young amateur, the article below will help lift your sights to new levels.

Note that I can't allude to the company attempting to sell this ground-breaking technology, but can just suggest to forward-thinking amateurs (like me), that mortgaging the house for one of these is a great investment. Ed



- Heat dissipation rate: ∆Q/∆t = -K×A×∆T/x
- Wavelength refraction inversion: c / λ
- Total time differentiation error rate: 10 {g}
- Power usage: 1.21GW
- · Can be retrofitted to automotive vehicles or aircraft
- Dimensions: 450(H) x 300(W) x 200(D)mm

Assembly required

TRAINING SESSIONS

There was a course on the weekend of the 4-5th March 2017.
The ones following that viz.,
3-4 June and 7-8 Oct are currently tentative.
73, Sasi, VK5SN.

VK5SN / VU3SNM / 9V1SM (Ex)

Mobile: 0417 858 547

Email: vk5sn@wia.org.au

http://www.grz.com/db/vk5sn

Cellar-dwellers on the go! Operating 2200, 630 & 160m away from home.

(From page 3)

The book has been edited/authored by Doc/VK5BUG & contains relevant theory, diverse international experiences on the 3 low bands, projects & anecdotes from 12 international authors, over 200 pages in 15 chapters, plus References and an Index.

It addresses many aspects of transportable and portable operation, debunks more than a few urban myths about QRP & QRO operation in the field, & is intended to encourage, motivate and provide advice for amateurs to explore the exciting challenges and results of lower power LF-MF operating from battery (or caravan park mains!) power.

[Cont'd on Page 2, in the On-line section.]

Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society Inc

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

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).

VK5RAD (Crafers Repeater)

All licensed amateurs are welcome.

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

Club Contacts

Club President Phil Storr VK5SRP

0428 835 621

Vice President Gerard Rankin VK5ZQV

08 362 3832

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

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 wk5emi@wia.org.au Publishers - Michael VK5FMTR & Kaye Roden

Our Next Newsletter Will Be Published In June 2017

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 MHhz. There are also EchoLink skeds.

ON-LINE SUPPLEMENT AHARS Newsletter March 2017

CONTENTS

1	AHARS picnic photos.
<u> </u>	

2 Letter re voting for WIA Directors, from five candidates.

Doc's new book—continued.

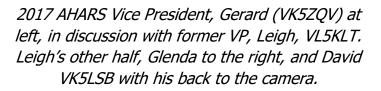
- 3 AHARS QSL Manager's Report
- 4 Ex– AHARS member Kym Newbery in The Antarctic

AHARS PICNIC.

Our famous picnic was held again at the Lion's Park, Bridgewater. Thanks to Barry and the team for organising both the picnic and the delightful Wx, once again.









Under the giant oak tree, wisdom is dispensed by the mouthful.

Old friends and new enjoying the ambience of the occasion.

LETTER RE VOTING FOR WIA DIRECTORS.

FROM: Greg Kelly, VK2GPK I http://goo.gl/2sXzKy
David Ford, VK5WP I http://goo.gl/mTKIOY

Marcus Berglund, VK5WTF / VK3TST 2 http://goo.gl/6h8EhB

Justin Giles-Clark, VK7TW ☑ http://goo.gl/WCVI30

Peter Clee, VK8ZZ I https://goo.gl/YXfaid

To WIA affiliated clubs and WIA members,

We as a group of candidates would like to invite all WIA affiliated clubs and WIA members to have a conversation around the people they would like to see leading the WIA into the future. We also ask that everyone take advantage of the opportunity, and make their vote count.

As a group of candidates we have a wide variety of experience in the hobby and in corporate management; and have been involved with change and future vision at a committee and organisational level. We all have strong beliefs in the way we want to move forward and have found common ground:
We want to see clear and open sharing of information, between the board, committees and members.
We want to build a clear member driven vision for the future of the WIA and Amateur Radio in Australia.
We firmly believe in keeping continuity with the current WIA, and working with whoever the members see fit to elect to the board.
We see a need for independent evaluation of the WIA's financial position, and for the WIA to live within its means. And most of all, we have nominated because we want a strong WIA going into the future.

How to vote: Make sure you read the instructions that come with your ballot carefully. If you choose to vote for the above five candidates, do not cross out their names. You still have the option to vote for up to another two candidates, and you should carefully consider the experience of the other candidates. At the top of the page are shortcuts to our bios, and a more extensive list of bios, which has been compiled by Trent Sampson, can be found at: https://goo.gl/ruZcFn

Yours Sincerely,

Greg Kelly VK2GPK, David Ford VK5WP, Marcus Berglund VK5WTF/VK3TST, Justin Giles-Clark VK7TW, Peter Clee VK8ZZ. 28-Feb-2017

[The Closing Date was March 27th. My apols for lateness of this edition.—Ed.].

<u>Cellar-dwellers on the go!</u> <u>Operating 2200, 630 & 160m away from home.</u>

[Cont'd from Page 7]

It has particular value to those interested in embracing aspects of amateur radio as a hobby without having to throw a wallet, purse or EFTPOS card at it. There are ideas for anyone interested in becoming involved in DIY at various levels, on-line links and referrals throughout, combining LF-MF operation with other outdoor recreational activities, using balloons, kites & drones to get those aerials up & out there, and even a "tinny" boat station, plus an entire chapter allocated to Resources.

Price, postage details & ordering information will be released later.

Thanks & 73, de Doc/VK5BUG

QSL Manager Report - VK5BAR/AHARS 2016-2017

Abbreviation of the full report to the committee.

The records for club QSL's are a mixture of filetypes—Excel (.xls & csv), text, images, & adi.

Recent QSL's received are loaded into a Log4OM file.

Most requests for QSL's now come via eQSL.

I have not received any hard copy QSL cards for more than 6 months. Incoming hard copy cards come in via AREG.

Quite a few logs have been lost over the years—see WIA Records below.

CALLSIGN	EVENT	EVENT RUN BY	CARDS OUT	CARD S IN	QSL TYPE
VK5BAR	JMMFD 2015, and 2016	AHARS at Womberoo (by EMI and AKZ.)			Hard copy & eQSL.
VK5BAR	JMMFD, RD, etc	Various			eQSL
VK5CWL	Cape Willoughby LH	VK5PAS, VK5EMI, etc			
VK5MGY	Titanic	Doc, VK5BUG	All QSO's acknowl- edged by VK5BUG	5	Hard copy
VK5BAR	SOTA NP WWFF	Run mostly by Paul, VK5PAS. Some by VK5BJE			
VI4SEA/5	HMAS Sydney vs Emden WWI action.	VK4's, and VK5BUG			
Members' QSO's	Various		n/a	31	

WIA Records: (From the WIA JMMFD Summary) **MISSING LOGS**

YEAR	CONTEST/ACTIVITY	COMMENT
2002,2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009	JMMFD	No VK5BAR log received by WIA.
2007	JMMFD	Certificate, 1st Place. Log missing
2010	National Field Day Eden Hills Primary School	Log Missing. With WIA?
2012	JMMFD	Missing. BAR not in WIA results
(2014)	(JMMFD)	(BAR did not participate)

SUMMARY:

I am prepared to continue as QSL Manager for a little longer, but would welcome anyone who would like to take over these duties. The person would need to be reasonably experienced in Dx'ing and contests, and comfortable with using PC software. I will happily provide training. John Elliott, VK5EMI. February 2017.

Kym Newbery down in The Antarctica:

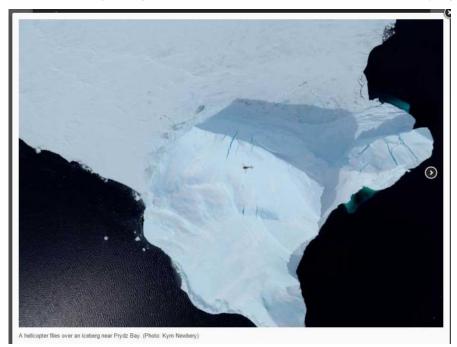
Kym Newbery is a former AHARS member.

[I can't find his callsign, but anyone who remembers it is encouraged to let me know—Ed.] Thanks to Rob, VK5RG, for sending this information to me.

This article is an extract from

http://www.antarctica.gov.au/magazine/2016-2020/issue-31-december-2016

"Kym Newbery has worked as an electronics engineer with the Australian Antarctic Division's Science Technical Support team for 17 years. He designs, modifies and maintains a diversity of electronic equipment for use by scientists and non-technical personnel in support of the Australian Antarctic Program (see Creative solutions to Antarctic challenges)."



← A helicopter flies over an iceberg near Prydz Bay. (Photo: Kym Newbery)



Kym close up and looking cold. Some members will recognise him.

"Kym says: This photo was taken using a Hasselblad 50 megapixel camera installed underneath a helicopter as part of the RAPPLS system (see Flying toolbox). The photo was taken on the return of a mission to the Prvdz Bay region near Davis, and is one of many thousands taken. The placement of the companion helicopter below the aircraft and the iceberg was an idea we had on the flight, to take an interesting photo showing the scale of machines and nature." The equipment Kym uses is either straight off the shelf, modified or built completely from scratch using mechanical and electronic computer aided design (CAD) software. Computer controlled temperature chambers are used to make sure that problems with the cold are discovered sooner rather than later. But even with the best preparations problems still arise, leaving Kym scrambling for his "McGyver hat" to work it out. "So far the only problem I haven't been able to crack is how to keep platelet ice from forming on under-ice instrumentation, without using excessive amounts of electrical power," he says. Fortunately, Kym has a range of McGyver quotes up his sleeve for inspiration. "Desperation tends to make one sort of flexible," he offers.

Article by Wendy Pyper



Kym (right) demonstrates a remotely operated penguin nest camera. The camera is mounted on a tripod, weighed down with rocks, and sheltered from the worst of the weather inside Pelican cases (black box under Kym's hand). (Photo: AAD)

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