The PROPAGATOR

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Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc.

The monthly newsletter of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc.
Registered by Australia Post publication number :- NBH - 1491.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm in the State Emergency Services building in Montague St, Nth Wollongong.

Visitors are most welcome.

Volume #90, Number 2 March 1990

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Looking back over the last couple of issues, I noticed there was a considerable lack of radio content. Sure, most, if not all of the material was pertinent and about The Club and it's members, but we are a Radio Club and I believe this Propagator should be about radio. It's surprising how easily we allow ourselves to be side - tracked! We know the desired or ideal path, but tend to veer off to one side or another at the slightest excuse, only to be brought back in line by some different event or action. I said earlier (last issue?) that we were in control of our own destiny, but I believe the control is very slack. There must be a moral there, but I can't think of anything suitable, as my mind is elsewhere!

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This space was vacant, but I'll use it to tell you there are no ads on page 2 so you can skip it and go to page 3.

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TIMETABLE

Or maybe program is a better title. This is list of the 'planned' events for the rest of the year.

MARCH Hopefully Roger Harrison (editor of ETI) will be down to give us a talk.

Possibly a quick talk by Tom VK2JTB MOBILE on .....

THE MONSTER.

(Sounds like a maybe month)

APRIL Auction night (with refreshments this time please Boss!).

MAY Technical night. Video's and discussion. Maybe a representative from the WIA.

JUNE Rag Chew. Discuss the future of the club, next year's committee, bitches. Also a wine, cheese and bickies.

JULY AGM. If you're not there, you've got the position!

AUCTION

Next month is the second auction for this committee. I hope it is as successful as the last, and you all get heaps of goodies. I expect these auctions will become smaller and less important as a fund raiser in the next few years as the amount of experimentation using individual components decreases. These days you can go and buy a chip that does everything except wash the dishes. (Why would you want it to? You've a wife for that haven't you?). There is still a lot of equipment in the club room that has to be disposed of if we are to have our Club Station. I know our President (look on the back cover if you don't know who he is) is keen to have the station up and going before his term in office ends; a nice finishing touch it will be for him.

One of the best workers in the club at present (Vic Hee) is the organiser for the club store. He is packing up all the loose components into $1 bags in an endeavour to tidy up. They should be a bargain. (Hey Vic, keep me a couple of extra special ones!). If you haven't looked lately, there are heaps of useful stuff like pots and rotary switches and transistors and led's and resistors and radio's and books and antennae and cables and plugs (How's that for wasting space! This is terrible, I don't have much news, How about someone coming to my rescue next month)

By the way Mr President, we don't have an auctioneer, but luckily, I held a secret poll and you were unanimously elected to do the dirty deed yourself!!

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GOSFORD

We've just had the Gosford Field day. What a day it was!! John VK2XGJ, Ken VK2TKE, Dave VK2YKQ and I left Wollongong about 7.00 am and had an easy 2 hour trip to Gosford. Our group had a fantastic time, and the other 1ARS members we saw there (names are not provided to protect the innocent) (also 'cause I can't remember them!) also appeared to be enjoying themselves. I purchased a TNC that does everything, and am now on packet so you can send me your Propagator articles

There were a couple of seminars there. I didn't enjoy the one on satellites, but the boys say the one on packet was interesting for the most part, although it got bogged down. It sounds like ROSE is going to be the salvation. Now it's hard to get through so everyone puts their retries up which makes it even harder. Catch 22.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the annual auction by ANDREWS COMMUNICATIONS. Two of our members purchased radar detectors for $200. They normally retail at $549, but can be bought for $399. Not a bad saving! Naturally, these had to be tried out on the way home. You should have heard the racket with them and me on at the same time! The unfortunate part was, we only passed two police cars, and they didn't have radar so our 10 gig receivers were only responding to automatic doors etc. Still, it was nice to know they worked. We finished off with a Pizza and a grape or two,arriving home at 8.30 pm, very tired and sore, but with memories of a great day and looking forward to next year.

B and B

That stands for bouquets and brickbats.

One of our members had to have a battery put in a radio (under warranty), and the batteries weren't available so he had to send the radio to Sydney!!!!). He left it with Dick Smith in Wollongong to be sent to Dick Smith in Sydney. The Wollongong staff were most helpful, but it took Sydney about 6 weeks!!!! Hey, Dick, that's no way to win friends.

One of our members purchased a TNC from Cooma (400 km up the road). It took KWIKASAIR 10 days!!!!! to deliver it. Guess who won't be getting his business again. Oh yes, this was before the truckies strike so that can't be blamed.

One of our members purchased a computer from Janson Computers (one of our advertisers). It was delivered within the promised time, but a problem developed soon after. He phoned up and was told to bring it back. They replaced the part immediately and our friend went away happy. Nice to know that there are still some firms that 'do the right thing.'

I had a lightning strike close to home that zapped my phone modem. I contacted the manufacturers (Maestro in Newcastle) and asked for speedy service as I use it for business. I mailed it up on the Thursday afternoon, and had it back on the following Wednesday. The cost was $58 including mail charges. They could have easily ripped me off but didn't! I sincerely recommend them.

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FEES

It's about time that next years fees are set. At the moment, our income is from fees and the Lotto. However, Lotto is very poorly supported and it's a burden for the few who do pay $1 per week. It makes their fees $64 a year instead of $12. There is a possibility dropping lotto. The Propagator is expensive. Each issue costs about 63c to produce and mail. With 80-100 issues 11 times a year, that's quite a bit. I expect fees to be $20 per year I suggest you attend the next meeting and have your say.

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SATELLITE

We've all heard about the new micro sat's. About 9" cube I believe they are. I tuned in the other day and heard DOVE 17 coming in loud and clear. I hope to get on to them one of these days. First I have to get my 70cm set back from Icom where it is undergoing a tune up. Harry VK2JHW and I were doing some cross band links using OSCAR 13; him on OSCAR and me on HF. Very interesting stuff tracking the satellites. Talking about satellites, I have a program called Instant Track. I bought it from AMSAT for $30, which was dirt cheap. If it was a commercial program it could sell for hundreds. It is THE BEST satellite program around. Rather than bore you with all the features, I am prepared to lend you my copy if you have an IBM with EGA or VGA. I know you could copy it, but I sincerely believe it is worth the money and if you like it, you should buy it. It has a multi colour world map and shows the footprint, rise and set time, sun and moon, 200 satellites, satellite view, satellite antennae location / direction. You enter your QTH latitude and longitude and it will say 'You are 80 km south of Sydney Australia It also says where the satellite is located relative to a city or island. You can go into fast forward mode or set the time for when you want it; either UTC or local. That's enough. There are other satellite tracking programs around, but for speed, ease of use and information, this one beats them all. Oh yes, you know what a job it is to type in caprioling elements ... with this one, you down load them from the packet BBS or John VK2XGJ's phone BBS and the program reads them in!!!! It's a fantastic program, so if you want to see it, either come around or I'll lend you my copy.

Here's an update, fantastic for me, but I would imagine it's boring for you, so skip the rest of this article.

On Friday 02/03/90, Harry VK2JHW and I had an authentic real contact on satellite. The fact he lives 2 km away and the signal had to travel 12,000 km has nothing to do with it!!!

I've used the satellites! Have you??

VK2RAW

Were you listening to the saga on the repeater on 24th Feb. Ken VK2TKE was up at the site (by himself, but that's another story) doing a bit of fine tuning. Ken was using the SIAS to tune the cavities. SIAS? Sorry, that means Suck It And See). He was quite successful with reports from VK2ZDM in Randwick and VK2XNH (I think) down south. Trouble is, it has desensitised the Packet repeater (I'm pretty dumb with repeater) (DON'T SAY IT OR ELSE!!!) My details are little hazy on this 'cause I had just got out of bed, and was busy working on Phred and not concentrating on everything that was going on. Peter VK2KHE had power supply problems and had to run on batteries. That reminds me of the time just before Xmas when he commented to John, our Treasurer, that VK2RAW was very quiet lately. John said rubbish! (or similar unpublishable wording). Peter then checked up and realised that for the past 3 days, he had been listening with flat batteries!!!.

Talking about 'You Know Who'. He and John VK2XGJ went to install the repeater after it's visit to Graham VK2CAG. He was mobile and said to John 'Suggest you bring your keys'. "Have you forgotten yours?" id John. 'No! No! NO! I just think it might be a good idea if you brought yours.' he said. "Are you sure you haven't forgotten yours?" said John. 'Quiet!! For heaven sake, don't mention it to HIM or he'll write about me in the Propagator again" he said.

Tell me Pete, what's the chance of you having the key to the Pearly Gates when your time comes?

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AUCTION

No, this is not ours, this is about the St George club auction. It's being held this Saturday, or if you get this next week, it's was held last Saturday! I suggest you go and see them and purchase lots of goodies that you can donate to our club so that htey come down and buy them to donate them back to their club so we can go there next year and buy them and donate them back to our club so that they can buy them and .....
(Aw! shaddup!!!!!!!!!!!!)

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ADVERTISER

The above ad has the wrong hours (unless I find time at work tonight to fix it!). Paul Janson now works regualr shop hours. His shop is located in Kanahooka opposite the lake in Lakeside Drive. There is a block of shops including a butcher, video, hamburgers and fruit shop. He's upstairs. The phone number hasn't altered.

I suggest you check out his computers if you are in the market for one. (This article is designed to entice him to pay for another 12 months advertising.)

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AR

To all you packeteers, this month's AR from the WIA has a very interesting article about packet, and why you shouldn't use it. (I hear my VK2XCC has purchased 200 copies for free distribution). I won't give you all the details, but basically, there is too much noise. The article suggests AMTOR is a lot better. Problem is, AMTOR doesn't have bulletin boards so I guess packet will remain popular. ROSE might/should solve the problems. Basically, ROSE has repeaters on one frequency and local stations on another.

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QSL CARD

Peter VK2KHE (he pays me $10 every time I mention his name!) was up at VK2RAW some time ago doing some testing. He had a call from a Sydney operator who had only just got his licence. After the contact, he asked Peter for a QSL card!!! We all had a good laugh, but it makes you think. Do you have the enthusiasm for radio that you had when you first started, or do you just accept that it's there and it's no big deal, Maybe you want a bit of spice in your life and try a new facet of out hobby.

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GOULBURN CLUB

The above club are seeking circuit diagrams and manuals for the following .....

PCM (Weston) 351 UHF

Willis Seaphone VHF

If you can help, please contact our secretary Phil VK2TPH on 70cm, 2m, packet, phone or pesonal and he will give you the address.

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WICEN

We had a visitor from SES at the committee meeting and he commented that during the Newcastle earthquake, the WICEN group were very impressive. They had comms going in no time at all while a lot of other services were hamstrung by lack of directive from above. Maybe we should involve ourselves just in case. We all know it could never happen down here, but .....

And, on a similar lines, maybe we should get more involved with SES. Let us handle the communications and let them handle the rescue. There have been a couple of packet demo's which were most impressive, but I don't think they have been followed up. Maybe some will step forward and volunteer ..... maybe pigs might fly?

Another thing we should have is a list of frequencies used by different service organisation. Yes! I know you have one, but how about the rest of us slack operators who don't have these things at our fingertips. How about passing your list along to us.

HELP

While you're looking for the circuit diagrams for the Goulburn club, Graeme VK2XLA wants a Circuit diagram and information for 'Build It' Home Brew 2M Rig of 15 yrs vintage. Phone him on (042) 56-1105 or see him next Tuesday.

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THE SECRETARY

With the elections coming up soon (the important ones, not the Federal Government), I thought I had better enlighten you as to what The Secretary's job entails.

Phil VK2TPH makes it look hard, but it's not. Each meeting night he has to leave home an hour earlier than everyone else so he can go to the Post Office to collect the mail. Upon arrival at the meeting, he sits down and casually opens each letter and determines which file it goes into. Luckily, there are only two ..... one for the President and one for the Treasurer. Next he has to make notes about what happened at the meeting so he can keep a true and faithful record. These notes take the form of .... Pres rambled on ... plenty cash in bank .... 809w87782309 (that's a doodle) rice, cheese, butter, milk,eggs (tomorrows shopping list) ... write to WIA ... phone Joe tomorrow (that's really Joanne, but don't tell the wife) ... etc etc. When he gets home, he sits down at the faithful computer, and typing at an amazing 65 wpm completes the minutes in 15 minutes. He can now forget about the rest of the business as it's not really important anyway. That takes care of another month.

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DOTC QUESTION

Last months question was about inductance, chokes and the results when used at a higher frequency. The correct answer was b. The build up and collapse of the magnetic field around the choke becomes more difficult at the higher frequency causing the reactance to increase.

This month, Keith VK2OB, asks .....

In a direct conversion receiver tuned to receive a lower sideband SSB signal on 3.5 Mhz the oscillator frequency is ...

a) slightly higher than the suppressed carrier

b) 455 kHz away from the suppressed carrier frequency

c) exactly the same as the suppressed carrier frequency

d) 10.7Mhz away from the suppressed carrier.

e) I haven't a clue.

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El PRESIDENTE

This month I'd intended to write a couple of articles for the Propagator to help remove some of the pressure placed upon our illustrious Editor, but alas, once again the problem of 'time' prohibits me from doing so. However, I shall be researching some technical items of interest with a view to publishing them next month. Until then, 73's.

Peter, VK2KHE.

(You didn't use all your allocated space Peter ..... ed)

Minutes of the committee meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc, held at State Emergency Services Wollongong Headquarters, Montague St, North Wollongong on 20th February, 1990.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.35pm. In the absence of the Secretary and assistant Secretary, Pat (VK2KEY) was appointed as minute Secretary for this meeting.

Members Present.

Peter Tomlin (VK2KHE), Peter Read (VK2FPN), John Simon (VK2XGJ), Graeme East (VK2XLA), Ray Ball (VK2XCC), Vic Hee and Pat Jordan (VK2KEY).

(1) Store Manager.

The name of the store manager is missing from the list at the back of the Propagator. Referred to Peter (VK2FPN) for attention.

(2) Correspondence.

Inwards from: (a) W.I.A. NSW Division re Conference of Clubs.
(b) W.I.A. NSW Division re ATV Forum , 4 March 1990.
(c) "What's new in Coommunications" Magazine and Advertising.
(d) "Smoke signals" from Central Coast Radio Club.
(e) D.S. Thompson, Goulburn Radio Club, seeking information and circuit diagrams for radio's owned by members.

Outwards to: (f) Mrs Vera Mess, via Brian Clarke (VK2KLH), re the arisings from deceased estate, (Waltham Dan Shop)

(3) ATV Forum.

The Secretary is to write to W.I.A. NSW Division, expressing our interest in ATV and apologising for non-attendance of representatives of the society at the ATV Forum, due to late notification of the Forum (received 16/2/90). The Divisions attention is to be drawn to the correct address of the Society, as the incorrect address contributed to the late receival of their notification.

(4) Correspondence from D.S. Thompson.

The letter from D.S. Thompson, ((2)(e) above) is to be published in the Propagator.

(5) Tower and other matters involving S.E.S.

Mr Jim Lyons, Controller, Wollongong S.E.S., was introduced to the members and addressed the meeting. After some discussion regarding the erection of a tower, Mr Lyons said he would speak to the City Engineers Department and obtain a letter giving us permission to erect an 11m tower, on the southern side of the building, between the entrance and the south-east corner. He anticipated that this letter would be received by next Friday week. He then spoke on the WICEN involvement after the Newcastle earthquake and said that the local Controller spoke highly of the Newcastle Amateurs. He anticipated that he would be seeking technical assistance from us in the near future as they reviewed their capabilities. Some discussion took place regarding emergency power supplies and Mr Lyons was assured of our assistance as required.

********** Continued on next page ********** Page 9 **********

(6) Membership.

An application for membership from Mr Peter Hughes, Vincentia was referred to John (VK2XGJ) for attention.

(7) Advertising in the Propagator.

It was noted that no accounts had been sent to advertisers in the Propagator for some time. The Editor was asked to provide the Treasurer with an estimate of fees due by advertisers (with the exception of Vimcom, who had donated power supply parts to the Society). The Treasurer would send accounts and explanatory letters to the advertisers before the AGM. It was recommended that in future, accounts be sent out after the AGM.

(8) Labels for mailing the Propagator.

John (VK2XGJ) is to complete the mailing list with new members from last meeting and to give the list to Dave (VK2YKQ), who will be asked to supply six months supply of labels.

(9) 70cm Repeater at Hill 60 (VK2RUW).

A report was given by the President of a discussion held with Mr Lloyd Mills of Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, last Sunday (18/2/90) regarding retention of our repeater at their site on Hill 60. It was stated that a donation will be requested. After some discussion it was resolved that the President be authorised to offer a donation of $50 on the basis of confirmation of tenancy for 12 months. This offer would be made on the basis that the Society is a non profit organisation, they have provided considerable technical assistance to Coast Guard and provide their services and equipment for emergency service use.

(10) Power Regulation Problems (VK2RAW)

After some discussion regarding power regulation in the equipment at Mount Murray, Ray (VK2XCC) and Graeme (VK2XLA) agreed to look at the problem and provide a solution.

(11) Storage of Store Stock.

When the Club Station is operational in April 1990, some difficulties will be experienced in storage of stock for the Store. Mr Lyons (S.E.S.) said he will allow a temporary shed or "container" to be located on the S.E.S. property.

(12) Distribution of the Propagator.

After some discussion of cost benefits, it was resolved that copies of the Propagator would be suppled to High Schools, local Newspapers and the Wollongong and Shellharbour Libraries.

(13) Packet Radio.

John (VK2XGJ) advised that the Society had purchased from A.A.P.R.A. a twin port digipeater and UHF Tranceiver with ROSE protocol included. After appropriate investigation and testing this equipment will be installed.

(14) Propagator - Fiji.

Ray (VK2XCC) spoke on difficulties experienced with delivery of the Propagator to Eric Fien in Fiji. Peter (VK2KHE) will discuss the problem with Graeme (VK2CAG) who is in regular contact with Eric.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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The End

Well, this is the end of the Propagator for another month. There is a lot of related info, but I wasn't aware the minutes were going to be put in, and since it's Saturday afternoon and has to be at out printers tomorrow, I don't have time (Great excuese eh!) to rewrite.

If you have any articles, I would greatly appreciate them, even if only the bare essentials are there, I can 'modify' it to suit. I'll mention you at last 6 times!!

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POST BOX All mail can be sent to The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at P.O. Box 1838. Wollongong. NSW. 2500.

Repeaters

VK2RAW - 146.850	Voice	VHF	Mt. Murray
VK2RAW - 147.575	Packet	VHF	Mt. Murray
VK2RIL - 147.275	Voice & RTTY	VHF	Sublime Pt
VK2RUW - 438.225	Voice	UHF	Hill 60
VK2RIL - 438.725	Voice & RTTY	UHF	Sublime Pt
VK2RAH - 29.520/.620	Voice	HF	

Broadcast is on Sunday evening at 6.45 pm. RTTY mode transmitted on 147.275 and relay on 3.562 Mhz +/- QRM. Callbacks taken immediately after. Voice broadcast held after WIA broadcast on 146.850 Mhz (VK2RAW) and 3.562 +/- QRM.

WIA Relay is on 146.850 at 10.45 am and 7.15 pm each Sunday.

Newsletter is published monthly to reach all financial members in the week preceding the club meetings. Articles and letters are welcomed.

Membership costs $12 per annum. Concessions are $9 per annum.

Lawrence Hargreave Award

VK stations require 10 contacts with IARS members. Overseas stations require 5 contacts. One contact with the club station VK2AMW is suitable. Details of contacts to be sent to secretary.

Store The club runs a store each meeting where the unusual and hard to obtain may be purchased.

********** COMMITTEE **********

President:	VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin	30 Kotara Cr Unanderra.
Vice Pres	VK2FPN - Peter Read	43 Bright Pade. Dapto.
Secretary	VK2TPH - Phil Howchin	12 Mawarra Ave. Dapto
Assist Sec.	VK2KCV - Pat Kennedy	
Treasurer	VK2XGJ - John Simon	14/42 Brownsville Av Bville
Assist Treas	VK2YKQ - Dave Henderson	
Gen Committee	VK2KEY - Pat Jordan	VK2KCV - Pat Kennedy
	VK2MT - Rob McKnight	any club member
Repeater Pres	VK2XGJ - John Simon	
Repeater Comm	VK2CAG - Graeme Dowse	VK2EXN - Ian Callcott
	VK2MT - Rob McKnight	VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin
	VK2JBS - Bill Stone	VK2XLA - Graeme East
	VK2FPN - Peter Read	
	VK2EMV - Morry van der Vorstenbosch	
QSL Cards out	VK2IU - Raffael Buono	
QSL Cards In	VK2JJJ - B Rewak	
Publicity	VK2MT - Rob McKnight	
Broadcast	VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin	
Cartoonist	VK2AXI - Brian Wade	
Propagator Ed	VK2FPN - Peter Read	Phone (042) 61-7148
Printers	VK2DSH - Dale Hughes	VK2XCC - Ray Ball
Social Dir.	VK2XCC - Ray Ball	
Canteen	VK2DYU - Bill Chadburn	
Store	- Vic Hee	
Tower Co-ord	- Vic Hee	
DOTC Liaison	VK2OB - Keith Cuple	