



The PROPAGATOR

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 6

June 1990.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

A big welcome to all the amateurs in the Illawarra. This is the official newsletter of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Club and is being sent to all local amateurs to give them a little more information about our club. We meet every second Tuesday in the SES building in Montague St North Wollongong at 19:30. Phone me (Peter VK2FPN) (042) 61-7148 for information.

New a message to all club members. Sorry about last month, but it shows what a lack of communication does. Firstly I had a computer malfunction and then my instructions to the copy operator (not our usual printer Dale VK2DSH) were not passed on, and you saw the result. As a communicator, I failed badly!

A BIG congratulation to Vic Hee VK2XSV who recently obtained his licence after several YEARS. That's perseverance for you. Vic would also be the hardest worker in the club at the moment. That's dedication for you. Thanks from all of us Vic.

PROGRAMME

This is list of 'planned' events for the last two meetings of the current committee.

JUNE That's next week!!
Rag Chew. Discuss the future of the club, next year's committee, bitches and whinges etc etc. Also a wine, cheese and bickies night.

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

Be Warned

The President, Treasurer, Vice President, Editor, Repeater Chairman and Broadcast Officer will not be standing again for a couple of years. I hope there are some members out there in never-never land who want to guide the club for the next 12 months.

QUOTE

Young men think old men are fools but old men know young men are fools.

Georger Chapman (All fools)

***** Page 1 *****

Ah! So that's it!

This article was submitted from another amateur. It might be best to omit his name in case DOTC read this!!!

Whilst going through some notes, I found an article which should clear up a few misconceptions about electricity.

- 1/ Most electricity is manufactured at Power Stations, where fuel oil is burned to set fire to a generator, which gives off electrical energy in the form of sparks, which in turn is fed into wires and sent to your home.
- 2/ Some electricity, however doesn't need to go in wires. That which is used in portable (hand held) radios for example. This kind of electricity is not generated, but just lies around loose.
- 3/ Electricity makes a low humming noise. This noise may be pitched at different levels for use in door-bells, electric organs and repeater idets.
- 4/ Electricity must be earthed. That is to say it must be connected to ground before it can function, except in the case of aeroplanes, which have separate arrangements
- 5/ Antennas likewise must be earthed. The act of transmitting through an aerial charges it up, to a point where it will discharge into any unsuspecting black rain cloud passing overhead. Contrary to popular belief, it is not the discharge that damages equipment connected thereto at the time of discharge, but the electrical vacuum left after the discharge that sucks the life out of any connected equipment. This condition can be picked up with any standard VTVM.
- 6/ Electricity is made up of two ingredients, positive and negative. One ingredient travels along a wire covered in red plastic, and the other along a wire covered in black plastic. When these two wires meet together in what we call a plug, the different ingredients mix to form electricity.
- 7/ Electricity may be stored in batteries. Big batteries do not necessarily hold more electricity than small batteries. In big batteries the electricity is just shovelled in, while in small ones, electricity is packed in flat.
- 8/ With the invention of coloured electricity, so also came a great easing of the traffic problem. Hitherto policemen were used at road junctions. Now the coloured electricity has enabled them to be replaced with three different coloured lights, although the red one seems much more persistent than the other two colours.

On the following page, there is a brief description on the functions of various electrical apparatus:-

ELECTRICAL DEVICES

- A/ The Light Switch: The lever controls a small vice or clamp which grips the wires very hard and thus prevents the electricity from passing that point when the switch is in the off position.
- B/ The PTT switch: This device is more clever than the above mentioned article, in that it actually changes the direction to the electricity in the apparatus connected thereto.
- C/ The Light Bulb: This is one of the very few times we can see electricity. This takes the form of a tiny spark which is magnified many hundreds of times by the curved glass of the bulb. Unfortunately these bulbs have a limited life, as any one can tell you, because the heat generated by the magnified spark causes the oxygen in the bulb to condense into moisture and this then quenches the spark.
- D/ The Thermionic Valve: The thermionic valve is in essence a light bulb that has failed the production line quality check where the glass is not curved properly and thus glows dull. In recent years the Japanese have stooped to lower depths by releasing a light bulb onto the market that doesn't glow at all called the F.E.T. (Failed Entirely and Totally) These however can be made to glow for short periods with a little perseverance and HEAPS of current.
- E/ The Fuse Box: This is where all the wires of the house come together and join (or fuse) with the wires from the power station. It is prone to failure due to the fact that the manufactures of this device put in wires too thin. (Note: There is a brand of thicker wire that is an excellent substitute for fuse wire and much more reliable. Use this and even though your linear bursts into flames your fuse box will not let you down.

An extract from modern day Grimm's Fairy Tails

VK2KWG BE (HONS) (he named himself. Don't blame me ed)



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DOTC

Last month we were asked about a carrier that is amplitude modulated by a 1kHz audio signal. The bandwidth of the modulated signal will be 2 kHz.

This month, Keith VK2OB asks :- If the resonant frequency of a tuned circuit is 5MHz and the capacitor is 220pF what is the value of the inductor.

- a) 0.46 millihenries
- b) 4.6 micro henries
- c) 0.000046 Henries
- d) 46 uH
- e) I haven't a clue.

AMATEUR CALLSIGNS

All Amateurs are reminded that they are obliged to renew their callsigns by the due date, whether they have been notified or not. Due to various slip-ups a number of callsigns have lapsed, and as such they are available for reallocation. There have been several examples of this lately, and for some reason this seems to involve two-letter callsigns, otherwise known as "dead mens callsigns", which appear to be particularly attractive within the amateur fraternity. We cannot understand this morbid fascination with two-letter callsigns, as they do not confer any additional privileges above and beyond those allocated to the AOCP, but perhaps there is some personal status involved.

The message is clear: if you think your allocated callsign is valuable to you, then please make sure you pay for it every year, whether you have been notified or not. Failure to renew may result in someone else gaining your hard-won callsign.

Taken from W.I.A. BBS. 11/04/90.

FOR SALE

For all of you wishing to 'Reach for the Stars', one of our members, Tony VK2ENX can help. He has 5 triangular tower sections for sale. They are 6 feet long and I think are 10 inches on each side. Tony wants the exorbitant price of \$15 per section, but I expect you could get the lot for \$90 if you asked nicely!!!!!!!!!!!!

His phone number is 27-0032 at work or 28-5296 after 5 pm. Don't be slow with these.

***** Page 4 *****

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
! ARE YOU A TWO METRE TERMITE !
! !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The following is reprinted from
the W.I.A. Call-Book.

~~~~~  
Operating conventions for users  
of Amateur Repeater Stations  
~~~~~

1. Purpose of Repeaters:

Repeaters are established
primarily to extend
communication range of mobile
stations in VHF and UHF bands.

Repeaters are also used as
calling channels to establish
initial contact, prior to the
users switching to a SIMPLEX
Frequency.

Repeaters also provide contact
facilities for amateurs in
remote localities, where a
simplex communication on VHF and
UHF is not normally possible.

2. Operating Conventions:

Each transmission should not
exceed two minutes.

Before replying, let the
repeater reset.

Ignore annoying transmissions.

R.T.T.Y. and other coded
transmissions are not
permissible on VOICE REPEATERS
unless designated in repeater
listings.

The use of repeaters for liaison
to establish a contact on
another band is permissible, but
cross band contacts using a
repeater are not encouraged.

(Continued in the next column)

NOTE: Department of
Communications Regulations
require that all frequencies in
use must be monitored and
announced by both parties.
Priority must be given to normal
repeater usage.

SUMMARY:

All operators should be
courteous and unselfish at all
times, and always be aware of
the needs of other people who
have equal right to SHARE THE
REPEATER.

If you hear an operator who is
new to repeater operation,
assist and educate him in a
courteous manner, but make sure
that you are correct first!
Always be aware that others,
including new amateurs, are
monitoring repeaters.

~~~~~  
THE IMAGE OF AMATEUR RADIO IS  
IMPORTANT.  
~~~~~

NOTES Recommended use is for
guidelines purposes only.

REPEATER

On Sunday 20th May, Peter
VK2KHE, Peter's son Paul, Ken
VK2TKE, Graeme VK2XLA and I went
to VK2RAW to replace the coax
cable with some heliax that had
been acquired at the right
price. It was a great day, but
bitterly cold for the first
hour. Naturally, all the
outside/up the tower work had to
be done first but it soon warmed
up and we had a pleasant day.
The cable is now perfect, but
one of the batteries was found
to have a dead cell, and was
only pumping out 4.24 volts.
Looks like another trip again
soon. Won't you join us?

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FOR SALE

R. Parton VK2KO has the following items for sale

PET/CBM 32k computer that needs some repairs. It has a built in monitor and dual disk drives. There is also a Commodore traction printer. Price is \$120 the lot.

Next he has 2 Centronics System 351 printers in good condition at \$85 each.

Give him a call on (042) 96-4365. I'm sure he'll negotiate on the price.

THANKS

I have had many articles this month from different people. Many thanks. Makes the Propagator a lot more interesting. Names and callsigns have been used when they were added to the message, and left out when I thought it necessary. I don't edit anything sent to me, and don't refuse anything just because I disagree with it; in fact, a bit of controversy often makes interesting reading.

No! I am not Ford Prefect. Although, naturally I know who he is.

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LAST MONTH

Last month we had a very interesting talk by Roger Harrison of ETI on sunspot activity and how it affects radio wave propagation. I learnt a lot and overheard several members commenting on how interesting it was.

I could write a book on the events leading up to and following the evening, but I won't. If you want all the information, just ask John VK2XGJ how his car behaved itself that night!!! I'll just mention a couple of points to show the good side of people.

Roger made a special trip from Balmain to us by train. When a fee was mentioned Roger said 'Forget it, I'll donate it to the club'. That fellows, is a sign of a committed gentleman. Thanks a lot Roger.

On the same subject, John (Boy Hoon in his V8 commode) VK2XGJ offered to drive Roger to Sutherland after the meeting to make it easier to catch a train back to Balmain. That fellows, is the sign of a committed amateur. Thanks a lot John.

Thanks also to Lyle VK2ALU for his assistance on the night. It was most appreciated by all concerned.

Thanks to our President Peter VK2KHE for staying back late and tidying up while everyone else enjoyed themselves. Next time you're going to be late home Peter, just let your wife know so she won't have to phone my wife at 23:30 and find out I wasn't home either. WHAT YOU TRYING TO DO???? GET ME DIVORCED??

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GOT HIM!!!

Our illustrious editor thought he'd do the right thing last month and took his wife out for her birthday. He also invited his daughter and his best mate. A good night was had, but when it came to paying the bill, he asked John VK2XGJ if he would 'put it on plastic' and he would fix him up in the morning. No problem. The next morning, he paid John and that would have been the end of the story, except he asked his wife for the money to pay John. She realised she'd bought her own night out!!!!!!

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A WORD FROM THE BOSS

Well, it's almost a year since the last election of our club committee and a lot of water has passed under the Bridge. One of our main objectives for this year was to generate more interest in our club and hobby, but unfortunately we seem to have fallen far short of this goal. However, we certainly aren't giving up and are still counting on your full support.

We managed to cover most of the topics that were printed in August 89 issue of the propagator with two main disappointments; those being the Kenwood, Yaesu and Icom product demonstrations. Despite the overwhelming interest shown by the members of our club and others, the suppliers of these products advised that they could not warrant such a venture unless something like a field day is held, (It appears there is not much of a market for Amateur equipment in Wollongong!!)

However, the year has still been quite successful with a number of projects completed and others well under way.

One of these projects being our club station VK2AMW is still far from being concluded, the main reason being a lack of interest from the membership in general. It seems that one member has at present done most of the work towards setting up and acquiring the necessary materials for the tower, that member being Vic Hee, VK2XSV. I think if we all took a bit more interest in our club, like Vic, perhaps our club would be that much more interesting.

A SPECIAL WELCOME

After some four years of intensive study, examinations and bitter disappointments, one of our members finally made the grade as of 15/5/90, and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire membership of the Illawarra Amateur Radio society Inc, to congratulate him on a very fine effort. Well done Vic, VK2XSV.

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***** Page 8 *****

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

17/4/90

Meeting opened 19.32.

The new 80 metre net frequency is to be conducted on 3.618 Mhz +/- at the times applied to the old frequency.

Advertisers in the Propagator to be sent renewal notices. Prices are: \$30 for a quarter page and \$50 for a half page ad p.a. with a \$20 fee for additional artwork if required.

John, VK2XGJ reported FRL6 was dead loss with many members being unfinancial and very little benefit for the club being gained. Committee voted to scrap FRL and look into better ways of generating revenue.

Complaints had been received from a few members that VK2RIL 70cm repeater was not working and why. Further discussion was deferred until a written report was obtained by John, VK2XGJ on the proposed installation at Point Perpendicular.

There was some discussion on increasing club membership fees for the next financial year. Committee finally agreed on \$15 full membership and \$12 concessional.

b, VK2MT reported on the degrading performance of VK2RAW. It appears that the repeater is in need of a major service. It was also mentioned that silver plating of the cavities could give better performance, or at least a longer life between services. The item is to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Meeting closed 21.25.

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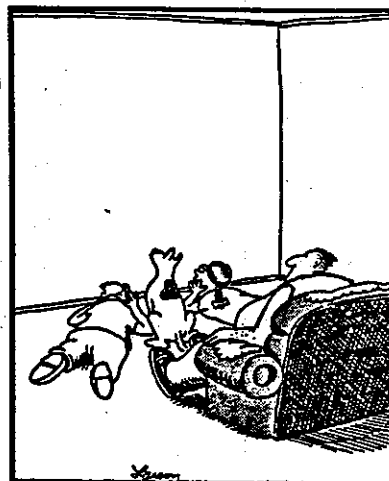
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***** Page 9 *****

SATELLITES

This is a continuation of the article written by Noel VK2ZNS on how he works the satellites.

My last report gave some ideas of equipment that is required to operate with high orbiting satellites. This report will deal with some of the aspects required to operate with the satellites.

When you have your antenna aimed in the direction of the satellite, you now have a little problem in making sure that the frequency of the uplink (70cm lower sideband) is correct to your downlink frequency (2m upper sideband). Note that the sidebands are reversed. A simple solution is to

SUBTRACT the RECEIVE frequency from 581.398.

This will give you the transmit frequency, +/- the doppler shift. At least it will get you in the same ball park.

The next operation is to get both uplink and downlink talking on the same frequency. I usually talk myself onto frequency. This at first, I found difficult, as the return transmission from the satellite is slightly delayed. Practice and you should have little difficulty in getting yourself on frequency.

You are most likely asking; where did I get the 581.398 from. For OSCAR 13, this is the sum of the transmit and receive frequencies so if you subtract either from 581.398 you will know the other frequency. E.g. If you listen on 145.900 Mhz you transmit on 435.498Mhz.

581.398 - 145.900 = 435.498 BUT don't forget about the doppler shift.

Next question; where can I operate? 145.812 Mhz is the general beacon frequency. 145.895 is the engineering beacon frequency. This beacon is turned on only when a control station wishes to check on the operating system in the satellite. Usually the 145.812 beacon can be heard when the satellite is in view. 145.890 to about 145.970 is the SSB mode section and below 145.890 is CW and other modes. NO FM. Most operation is from 145.89 to around 145.920.

The only difficulty with operating with the satellites is possibly the time of day that the satellite may be in view. Anywhere after midnight can be a deterrent to using the satellite for communication. I have in the past worked the satellite in the early hours of the morning but I must admit I didn't have to go to work the next day (I retired 15 months ago didn't I).

Well, I hope that gives you some idea in what is required to work satellites. I may also mention I only work mode B at this time. I will report on other modes in a later edition.

Peter VK2KHE has finally made it to the satellites. Hi Peter

o o --:--:-- o o

Many thanks to Noel VK2ZNS for his contribution. I have found it very helpful. Noel often listens to VK2RAW on Sundays and is glad to help.

Harry VK2JHW is another avid helpful satellite operator.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, 08/05/90.

CORRESPONDENCE IN: MID SOUTH COAST RADIO CLUB LETTER, LICENCES FOR VK2RAH AND VK2RUW, LETTER FOR TREASURER, QST, B.A.R.G. NEWS, AUSTRALIA POST LETTER, AND DRAGNET.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: RENEWAL NOTICES TO ADVERTISERS IN THE PROPAGATOR.

START: 19.50L

APOLOGIES: VK2's DFK, HQ, CDP, DTC, PZY, EWJ, EMI, EBI, ZDM, JHW, XDB

VISITORS: ROBERT BENALLA, ALEX BERKUTA.

BY ISSUE : PETER, VK2KHE SPOKE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS WITH THE PROPAGATOR. THE ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED EN MASS, INCLUDING SOME SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES. THE IDEA IS TO TRY TO GENERATE MORE INTEREST IN AMATEUR RADIO IN THE ILLAWARRA REGION.

PETER ALSO BRIEFLY READ THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING, AND ANNOUNCED TO THE MEMBERS THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD VOTED TO RE-START THE 80 METRE NET ON THE NEW FREQUENCY, PUBLISHED IN THE PROPAGATOR.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO VOTED THAT DUE TO RISING COSTS THE MEMBERSHIP FEE'S MUST BE RAISED IN ORDER TO KEEP UP WITH INFLATION. THE NEW FEES WILL BE \$15.00 FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP, AND \$12.00 FOR CONCESSIONAL MEMBERS.

MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED.

TREASURY AS AT 08/05/90 \$(edited).

DAVE VK2YKQ, REPORTED THAT THE S.E.S. ARE GOING TO DONATE A TELEX VDU TO THE CLUB, AS PART OF THE CLUB STATION.

KEITH, VK2OB ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT EXAM FOR ALL GRADES OF AMATEUR WILL BE THIS COMING TUESDAY AT NORTH WOLLONGONG TAFE COLLEGE. BUILDING "G".

BRIAN VK2KL REPORTED THAT THE VALVES FROM THE WALTHAM DAN STORE IN SYDNEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE ORPHEUS RADIO MUSEUM IN BALLARAT. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT SOME MEMBERS ASSISTING WITH THE CLEAN OUT OF GOOD FROM THE STORE, HAD TAKEN LIBERTY TO HELP THEMSELVES TO SOME OF THE GOODS. DONATIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTED AND NO MORE SAID.

BILL VK2JBS, REPORTED THAT THE DEEP CYCLE BATTERIES DONATED BY LYSAGHTS ARE STILL AT HIS QTH, AND MENTIONED THAT HE COULD USE THE SPACE FOR OTHER THINGS. ALSO BILL ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY DOCUMENTATION REGARDING MODIFYING THE C45 MILITARY RADIOS FOR OPERATION WITHIN THE 6 METRE BAND.

PETER, VK2FPN ASKED HOW THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF VHF AND UHF RADIOS WAS PROGRESSING FROM A SOURCE IN SYDNEY. KEN VK2TKE REPLIED THAT THERE STILL COULD BE A SNAG IN GETTING THE ITEMS.

LYLE, VK2ALU REPORTED HE HAD SOME OLD "A.R." MAGAZINES AND WONDERED IF THE CLUB WOULD LIKE THEM TO START A LIBRARY OF RADIO MAGAZINES. PETER, VK2KHE REPLIED THAT S.E.S. HAD GRANTED US SPACE FOR SUCH A PURPOSE, AND WE WOULD GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THEM.

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK ON THE CLUB STATION TOWER THIS WEEKEND. CLUB WILL HAVE TO SUPPLY THE PAINT, BUT ALLIED CONSTRUCTIONS WILL DONATE AIR POWERED TOOLS AND A COMPRESSOR, TO ASSIST.

A NUMBER OF MEMBERS FROM THE NOWRA AREA REPORT THEY ARE HAVING EXTREME DIFFICULTY TRYING TO ACCESS MT MURRAY, 146.850. THERE FOLLOWED MUCH DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DETERIORATION OF THE "Q" OF THE CAVITIES, DUE TO TARNISHING WITHIN THE ACTUAL CYLINDERS. SILVER PLATING WAS SUGGESTED AS A CURE, THOUGH EXPENSIVE IT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE. KEN VK2TKE SAID HE HAD A FRIEND WITH ACCESS TO A SPECTRUM ANALISER AND WOULD ASK HIM IF HE COULD DO SOME TESTS ON THE REPEATER, TO ASCERTAIN IF THE CAVITIES ARE OUT OF TUNE, OR THE PROBLEM IS ELSE WHERE.

ROB VK2MT REPORTED THE 10 METRE REPEATER NEED A WORK PARTY THIS COMING WEEKEND. THERE STILL APPEARS TO BE A PROBLEM WITH THE REPEATER SUPPLY VOLTAGE.

PETER, VK2KHE WELCOMED ROGER HARRISON, GUEST SPEAKER FOR TONIGHTS MEETING. ROGER GAVE A VERY INFORMATIVE SPEECH ON SOLAR ACTIVITY AND IT'S EFFECTS ON RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

CLOSE:21.55L

WARNING

In the April Propagator a power supply circuit was published for the C64/VIC-20. It must be an unusual design to have the common of the regulator chip and the negative side of the filter capacitor connected to the one side of the transformer. As everyone knows, inside all electronic components the manufacturers pack in a little bit of compressed smoke so that when the component blows up, the smoke comes out.

I'm not a betting man, but I'd like 20 cents on the smoke coming out of the poor little 7805. From Keith VK2OB.

(Ed's note. The article was copied directly out of a magazine!!! Just goes to show you can't trust the written word.)

DOTC QUESTION

Keith VK2OB would like to know the following:-

Frequency Multipliers are usually operated in class "C" for both AM and FM transmitters This is because :-

- a) Class A & B amplifiers cannot frequency multiply.
- b) It is the most linear and has no affect on the audio content.
- c) It is the most efficient and will not affect FM audio while in AM tx the audio will be added after frequency multiplication.
- d) It is the most efficient and will not affect AM audio while in FM tx the audio is added after the frequency multiplying

- e) I haven't a clue.

See Jack at

NEWTEC ELECTRONICS

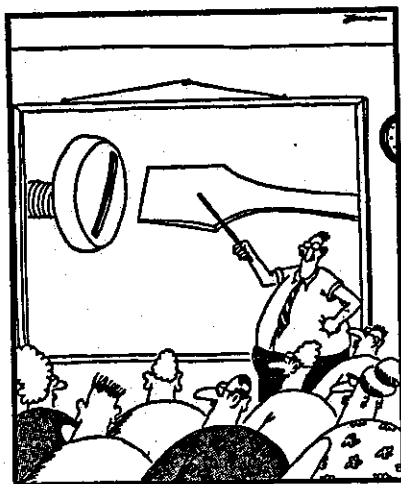
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FOR SALE

I don't think I mentioned it before, but Rob VK2MT has an AOR 2001 25-550 MHz scanner for sale. This is in good condition and Rob wants \$350 or a reasonable offer. No phone number given, but contact him through me if you don't know any other way.

SHUTTLE

I have received a tome of information from John VK2XGJ about the shuttle launch. It is far to much to enter here, and a lot of it is out of date since there are several updates. John gets all the information from USA and puts it on the phone Bulletin board he runs. It is usually only a few days old and contains a lot of interesting info. A lot is also available on Packet BBS. See our resident expert Ray VK2XCC for more information on running packet.

WARNING

I have just recently come back from a week in Melbourne. Beware! They are really serious about speeding down there. I picked up a fine for exceeding the limit on the expressway, which was fair enough, but about a week after I arrived home, there was a letter saying I had been recorded by a speed camera doing 75 in a 60 limit. I'm not disputing it, but I had no warning and didn't know that they were using speed cameras.

Guess who's going to be a good boy and keep his speed down to an unreasonable level!!

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ELECTIONS

Just another reminder that the club elections are on in July. A nomination form has been (I hope) enclosed for you. Please seriously consider assisting your hobby for 12 months. It's not hard, and the more there are to the job the better. Peter VK2KHE, John VK2XGJ and I decided to do our bit last year, and I believe we have done a reasonable job even though we didn't achieve everything we planned. We won't stand again this year, or next year, but maybe after that.

Actually, Peter was conned into being President!!! John and I decided to be on the committee and decided we wanted Peter as President. We jokingly said "Peter, we think you'd make a good President." He said "Yes! I would!!". So he did!!

I'm dreading one of those two deciding to take on the editors job cause I'd wear so much I'd have to leave town!!

Personally, I believe that all jobs should be swapped around every year to inject new blood, share the work and if you're not happy, it's great to know you've only a few months to do the job.

VK2RAH

In case you had forgotten, I'll remind you. We have a 10m repeater. The receiver site is located at Mt. Murray and the transmitter is at Knights Hill. Rob VK2MT and Peter VK2BIT would be pleased to have some reports from you about signal strength and any problems, comments, suggestion etc that you would like to pass on.

#####

Ford's Home Truths.

Well its that time again!!!!

How have all of youse lot passed the time since I last graced these pages with my elequent prose? Busy? Keeping out of the way of the YF or XYL? Doing your best to help a new comer to the Amateur ranks, or just slacking off in some corner telling all and sundry what YOU would do if YOU were in charge?

I noticed that the Editor didn't pull any punches when I last graced these pages and after he had a go at ME for getting too close to home for some of the members. Hah! Seems there are rules and there are rules. (Let's see if that goes into print!) (it will if you obey my rules ed) A few bods are still trying to pin a name on Ford Prefect, as I said once before, I am here, I am there, I am everywhere! Just like the Scarlet Pumperknickel! Anyway all it will take to find out is to listen on certain frequencies!!!! Work that one out.

Last week I was apathatetic, this week I just don't care!

Sound familiar? It seems that the IARS has been talking about getting its Club station on air at a permenant location for the last five or six years and now looks a lot closer than ever. The thanks should go the Vic Hee, newly licenced as VK2XSV, (good on yer mate!) anyway he has organised just about the whole ball of wax from the tower itself to the fixing bolts to go into the concrete base, the steel plate for the mounts, even the thingo to

dig the hole and the carbon-based life form to operate it. The IARS has had a lot of members like that, ones that go out of their way to get things done. While these Members have been working to improve the lot for the Club in general the rest of Youse have sat on your collective butts and criticised the way or length of time something took to achieve. Like the time when VK2*** (censored ed) was supposed to make up a bracket for an antenna on the Mt Murray repeater, it took eight weeks before the job was taken over and done at short notice by another member. And do you notice that whenever VK2*** (censored ... ed) ever comes to meetings it is only to complain about something! And so the list goes on, never do today what you can put off till tomorrow! Anyway as I was saying this new/secondhand tower need painting etc before it is erected, but can you find anyone willing to help? No! Apathy reigns supreme! I wonder, if when the station is fully functioning with the nice big HF yagi, VHF and UHF, will these Members still find excuses or will they hop in and help operate the station??? I know that many of the Members who have been in the IARS for a number of years have contributed in lots of ways over the years and they are too many to list here, have a look at your old Propagator and see who they were. Is your Call amongst the bods who built and erected the mast/cubicle at Mt Murray, Sublime Point, Hill 60. Do you even know where they are? Have you ever attended one or any of the working bees for maintenance of them. Or have you lent, donated, given a piece of equipment for Club use? I feel that that the older members, and I don't necessarily mean in age, should go along to give these new bods a bit of moral support if nothing else. I can't go along to these things I'm afraid as I'd stand out far too much and be recognised as the Wonderful Ford Prefect. Dressed in all my finery, a white sports coat, sandals with pink shoelaces and a polka-dotted crevat. I'm afraid I'm doomed to sit at my own little QTH and listen to youse all waffling on. Waffling on, do you WAFFLE? Have you ever had someone waffle on and on and on, just to hear their own voice. Have a listen to yourself when you next are in the middle of a QSO and see how many times you repeat yourself, or try to tell the other QSO'ee how to operate a certain piece of equipment, radio, computer. Are you trying to teach your Grandmother how to blow eggs?? Think about it. I'm afraid the good old IARS has its own built-in wafflers, have a listen when VK2*** (censored ... ed), VK2*** (censored ... ed) or VK2*** (censored ed) are in a QSO. Imagine what would happen if these Wafflers all got together in the same QSO! Each one trying to out-waffle the other! Well I see time is getting on and I do have a sched so I'll just bow out quietly and leave you in peace.

Or is your conscience just a little ticklish right now!

One last thing to always remember, DON'T PANIC!!!

Ford.

THE END

Well, this is the end of my second last Propagator and time to put it to bed. I hope some of you non-members take

the time to come to our meetings, especially the Rag-Chew next month and the AGM in July

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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	Mt. Murray

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.

Membership

costs \$15 per annum. Concessions are \$12 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

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
VK2MT - Rob McKnight
VK2XGJ - John Simon
VK2KCV - Pat Kennedy
any club member

Repeater Pres

VK2CAG - Graeme Dowse

Repeater Comm

VK2MT - Rob McKnight
VK2JBS - Bill Stone
VK2FPN - Peter Read
VK2EMV - Morry van der Vorstenbosch

VK2EXN - Ian Callcott

VK2KHE - Peter Tomlin

VK2XLA - Graeme East

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

VK2XSV - Vic Hee

Tower Co-ord

VK2XSV - Vic Hee

DOTC Liaison

VK2OB - Keith Curle

VK2OB - Keith Curle

Life Members

VK2CAG - Graeme Dowse

VK2ALU - Lyle Patison