

IARS Propagator

The monthly newsletter of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc. (IARS)

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday each month (except January) at 7:30pm in the State Emergency Services building Montague Street North Wollongong

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME

AGM This Tuesday

Editorial

This is my last propagator. Its been fun..... I took it on temporarily and had so much fun I did it all year.

If you have a flair for writing then may be you would like to have a go at it, put your hand up at the AGM.

cheers.....Ken VK2KWG.

Presidents Report

The editor has pulled out all stops and given me front page coverage. Thank you editor, I must say what a fine job you've done over the last year. Perhaps on a more serious note I should thank the participants in the club for their fine effort over the past year, some of this under less than favourable circumstances. I myself have had my share of diversions from both within the club and external so if I have seemed to be distracted at times well I apologise, I have decided to step down from the position of President and let some other talent have a go. In some respects it is one of the easier roles within the club so if you feel at inclined then put your name in.

cheers.....Ken VK2KWG.

Coming Events

July Annual General Meeting. Which job will you be taking on this year?

August. A talk from one of our members on one of his infamous trecks but we have not confirmed this yet so we wont give you his name.

September. Come in from the cold and see some of the action packed adventures from Dale VK2DSH from his stay on the continent way down south.

October. Watch this space for more action packed events.

November. Annual Club Auction. Bring all your unwanted goodies for recycling

December. Our Christmas get together party.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those held by the editor, committee, or members generally

Swineherd

Swill from the PIG Sty

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The Wollongong Packet Internet Gateway is an experimental facility run jointly by the University of Wollongong and the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society Inc.
 Specs: JNOS 1.10g ; 1200bps on 144.625 MHz.

This month I'm going to review NOS for the Macintosh - NET/Mac ver 2.3.44. If you are familiar with the functionality provided by other versions of NOS then you may be a little disappointed with the Macintosh version of NOS. What you get is a reasonably well functioned client version of NOS very similar in fact to the original NOS by KA9Q - those who prefer the full functioned JNOS versions which runs on the Intel PC platform will be disappointed with the Mac version - it is purely a client - similar to the commercial versions of TCP/IP available several years ago - there is no 'mailbox' available for users to connect to your machine. Why bother about a Mac? Well, it is has one of the better mailers that I have seen; it NEVER falls over, and because it runs on a Mac, you can still do other things (like edit files, etc.) while NOS is running. Also, it has a built-in callbook server - you just enter the callbook data or more likely, load the data in from another format. NET/Mac provides telnet, ftp, smtp, finger and callbook functions. However, because it doesn't provide a mailbox server a'la PC NOSs, if another station telnet's to your's, they will be connected to the ttylink (chat) server. NET/Mac does not provide a convers server. If all of this sounds negative - its not meant too. All in all, a Macintosh running NET/Mac has an excellent user interface, provides full GUI features, allows multi-tasking, has an excellent mail implementation and is extremely stable and reliable - but as a client workstation only. I would not recommend one of these for a server!

So what do I recommend? Well I've tried several NOSs over the last few years. Starting with KA9Q's original - NOS, then GRINOS (by PA0GRI - also sometimes mis-labelled NOSView because it was included on the distribution disk with Ian Wade's documentation package of that name), WNOS, TNOS and JNOS. I've come to the conclusion that it doesn't really matter if all you are doing is using it as a workstation - but it is better to pick one and stick with it - the minor syntax variations between different NOSs make changing from one to the other a bit of a pain.

Most of the 'complaints' people have about NOS functionality is not really with the NOS itself. Things like "my NOS doesn't support packet drivers" or "my NOS doesn't have convers". The problem lies in the

modules of the NOS which were compiled into the executable. Different people compile different executables of NOS to suit their particular requirements at the time - for example, when we compiled the JNOS for the PIG, we omitted the NET/ROM code. That means anyone else using the executable we made could get the mistaken impression that JNOS does not support NET/ROM. So unless you find an executable that suits you exactly, you really have to get hold of the full source distribution for the NOS and compile it yourself - now that is a bit of a problem for people who don't want to delve too deeply into computers.

The NOS flavour that I've settled on is JNOS. This NOS has received a concerted development effort over the past three or so years, and is without a doubt, the most documented and supported version around. Apart from the manuals, there is an Internet mail-group of interested amateurs, including the guys who developed it - and my archives of the past 12 months mail messages from this group is over 2 Megabytes. Even some of the nice GUI features of WNOS have now been included in JNOS - the only drawback is the size of the executable, and how much memory it requires - which is why people remove modules that they don't need when they compile it. The current version is 1.10g, and 1.10h should be available by the time you read this.

(this article is a little old, somehow it was misplaced but has resurfaced. With apologies.....Ed)

NEWTEK ELECTRONICS

*** New Location ***

JUST UP THE ROAD FROM THE BOTTOM
 ROUND ABOUT IN KEIRA ST.
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Reseller for:- Altronics, Arista, Jacar, Rod
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Stockist of:- Alarm accessories, UHF
 antennae, tools, computer
 accessories, test equipment, cables,
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 components for the professional,
 Amateur and Hobbyist.

Call in and see jack at:-
 348 Keira St. Wollongong
 Phone and Fax 271620

If we haven't got it
 we'll be happy to get it in.

ANNUAL REPEATER REPORT

(August '94 to July '95)

This is the first Repeater Report to be printed in the Propagator since the December '94 issue. (The Jan/Feb '95 Report would have made my 50th Report to have been printed since the July '90 AGM). I have felt rather guilty about not reporting to the IARS Members what has been happening to their Rptrs since last December, but our Editor Ken felt that he couldn't print the Reports, unless some of the content was edited out. Even though he agreed that there was nothing incorrect or non-factual in the Reports, the content could "upset" a particular reader. (As they say in the classics, the truth hurts).

Editor Ken & myself were & still are good friends. We discussed the matter at great length (till after 12 am one evening), but it came around to us agreeing to disagree. I refused to allow him to edit my Report & as he is the Editor, he has every right to have the final say on the Propagator's content, so the Jan/Feb & March Reports were never printed & I haven't submitted a Report since then, until now...

As the next meeting is the AGM, I felt that a Repeater Report should be presented to the Members for the past 12 months. I have to tread warily with my ramblings, so as not to incur the Wrath of Ken! Now on to our Repeaters.

(There is no Wrath Rob, we just have ideological differences. The wrath will probably be the other way around when you find I've put the choppers through your Report.....Ed)

VK2RAW (146.850)

The Rptr itself has performed almost faultlessly for the last 12 months, quite a credit to Graeme (CAG) who built the unit 15 or so years ago! Unfortunately, the antenna system has failed twice during the same period, due mainly to the extremely strong winds encountered at Mount Murray. We had a very successful working-bee on the 3/9/94 where 11 of us (& 2 harmonics), changed the damaged antenna, painted the tower & cubicle, "tuned" the Rptr & did general site clean-up work. Rptr coverage was restored to normal, but since May of this year, the coverage has again reduced. The antenna was once again suspected. Suspicions were confirmed on the

20/6/95 with an antenna VSWR of 8 to 1! Unable to rectify the problem at this visit and my be put off indefinitely at this time due to reasons I will cover later.

VK2RIL (147.275)

Well where do I start? The Rptr itself has performed almost perfectly except for a CMOS chip failing in September causing the Rptr to shut-down the RXer COR line output to the Control Board. Apart from that, the only problem has been the Telecom Pager intermod interference that the Rptr's RXer has had to contend with, (which has gone on now for over 5 years now). The level of interference was greatly reduced with the help from 2 officers of the SMA. The intermod level has been reduced to the legal requirement, but still causes varying amounts of interference to the Rptr. The SMA reps are aware of this remaining level of interference. In fact I discussed this matter with one of the reps at the beginning of June. The matter was left for the time being, because of future changes. The same gentleman then proceeded down to the Shoalhaven Club, to assist with the Pager interference on VK2RSD (147.200). To those people who have listened to 7275 & hear no interference, let me assure you the problem is still there. The level of interference varies from day to day. At the worst it will continually open the mute about every 7 seconds. At the least, it affects all but the very strong signals through the Rptr. The reason you don't hear more, is that the Rptr's RX mute is set as high as it can go & there is also a half to one second delay before the mute opens. If the mute were set where it use to be & the delay was removed you would most certainly hear it.

VK2RUW (438.225)

The Knights Hill UHF Rptr has worked well over the last year. Unfortunately at the moment, it is suffering from what appears to be, external noise being generated on it's RX frequency. Many visits failed to rectify the interference, we even tried a commercial passband/notch filter lent too us from Norm (VK2ZXC). Nothing has been continuously effective. As with 6850, we are leaving this one due to other reasons, covered later. Presently, 8225 is linked to VK2RGN at Goulburn, VK2RMU at Ulladulla & VK2RAT at Berowra. After years of waiting, the linking to VK1RGI Mt Ginini was due to start over Easter. Well, that never happened as the site was broken into on Easter Saturday night. The VHF Rptr 6950, Packet Digipeater & a UHF CB Rptr were apparently stolen. The only fortunate side of this was that the UHF Rptr was on the workbench, being interfaced to the transceiver to link back to VK2RGN. Hopefully, the system will be re-commissioned after the snow melts.

VK2RIL (438.725)

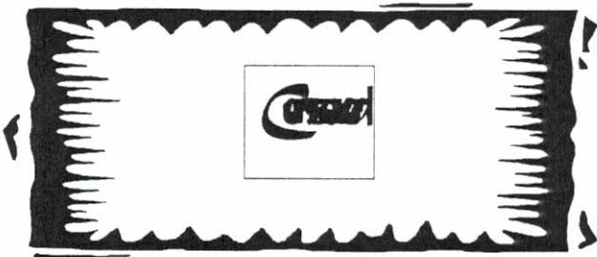
As has been the case for many previous Reports, no problems with this Rptr. Well actually there is one, the TXmit frequency goes low after about 15 minutes of transmission. Will be attended to next visit.

VK2RUW (29.620)

After the donation of the G-Band 828 from Jack (VK4JRC), the intention is to convert it from 43MHz down to 29MHz. This was to be a long-term project, but this may be reduced with the allocation of 29MHz FM to Limited Opts.

VK2RUW (Packet Digi)

This has been off the air several months now, but with the possible donation of a 4800Bd TNC & UHF radio from AAPRA, we may be restoring a ROSE digi system to Illawarra airwaves. There has been plenty of plans for other Packet systems, but requests for assistance to help build them has been met with rather ordinary response.



The next year promises to be very exciting & busy. After months of negotiations, the IARS has been given permission to install VHF & UHF Rptr systems at Maddens Plains & Saddleback Mt. These two sites will provide terrific added coverage. Maddens Plains covers up to & beyond the Central Coast & will fully cover the F6 to Sydney & Helensburgh. To the South, it will cover the Illawarra far better than Sublime Point presently does. Saddleback Mt. covers north to Stanwell Park (probably many parts of Sydney), right down the Princes Hwy. continuously to Milton/Ulladulla. This will fill in the large gaps of coverage that presently exist in the Jamberoo, Berry & Seven Mile Beach area.

What frequencies/Rptrs/services/links are going where, is still to be decided so as to take in future expansion & needs. This is why work on 6850 & 8225 has been deferred because it is felt it may be waste of our already limited time. Any input from readers will be appreciated.

As the next meeting of the IARS is the AGM, please consider taking on a position for the benefit of YOUR Club. Despite what you may think, it can be rewarding & fun (plus we get chocolate biscuits at the Committee Meetings!).

Lastly, a BIG thank you to those individuals that have freely given their time to assist in the maintenance of our Club's Rptrs.

RoB - VK2MT.

(Unfortunately Rob I have seen fit to edit out anything that I have seen to be negative. I am sorry, I cannot win. As the Fonz can't say that he is wrong, I find it difficult to being a party to bagging people whether they deserve it or not.....Ed)

Available in our junk yard.....

1. Electronics bits and pieces (millions!)
2. Meters, gauges, instruments, cables, wires etc.
3. Metal sections:- copper, brass, aluminium, s/steel
4. Motors, gearboxes, pumps, assorted machinery
5. Steel sections, sheet, planks, ladders, shelving
6. Scales, safes, compressors
7. We buy all metals including platinum and gold

Two acres jammed full of practical and valuable government disposals.

**Our regulars swear it is
the best place for value**

CAYIONS

**11 Moloy St,
Bulli
Ph (042) 846838**

LIGHTER SIDE

Some kindly words of advice for new and not so new members of the club (*take them as you like!*
For the grumblers in our midst's)

Procedures

From the rule of St Benedict, Sixth Century AD

If any pilgrim monk come from distant parts with a wish as a guest, to dwell in the monastery, and will be content with the customs which he finds in the place and not perchance by his labishness disturb the monastery, but is simply content with what he finds, he shall be received for as long a time as he desires.

If indeed, he find fault with anything or expose it reasonably and with the humility of charity, the abbot shall discuss it prudently lest perchance God has sent him for this very thing.

But if he have been found gossipy and contumacious in the time of his sojourn as a guest, not only ought he not be joined to the body of the monastery, but also it shall be said to him, honestly that he must depart.

If he does not go, let two stout monks, in the name of God, explain the matter to him.



POST BOX - "THE ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Inc."
PO Box 1838, Wollongong, 2500.

REPEATERS	VK2RIL	147.275	Voice/RTTY	Sublime Point
	VK2RIL	438.725	Voice/RTTY	Sublime Point
	VK2RAW	146.850	Voice	Mt. Murray
	VK2RUW	438.225	Voice	Knights Hill
	VK2RUW	029.620	Voice (off air)	Knights Hill
	VK2RUW	144.775	Packet(ROSE)	Knights Hill
	VK2AMW-1	144.625	Packet	Wollongong Uni
				(Packet Internet Gateway)

BROADCASTS - The Wireless Institute of Australia, N.S.W. Division broadcast is relayed to 146.850 and 438.225 at 10.00 am and 7.30 pm each Sunday. Local call-backs after the broadcast.

NEWS LETTER - The "PROPAGATOR" is published each month to reach all financial members in the week preceding the club meeting. Articles and letters are always welcome. Commercial advertising \$60 per ad per year, members classified free for one issue. See Ken VK2KWG for details.

MEMBERSHIP - \$20.00 P.A., concessions \$15 P.A., expiring immediately after the Annual General Meeting in July.

LAWRENCE HARGRAVE 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 are to be sent to the Club secretary.

COMMITTEE

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