

THE PROPAGATOR

June 1996

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JUNE 96

The newsletter of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

● If you are reading this, it means one thing and one thing only, Michael the Propagator editor has had work interfere with his hobby, and does not have sufficient time to compile the propagator. If this is the case I would like to thank Mike on behalf of all his many devoted fans for the fine effort he has put into past copies, and the enthusiasm that he put into it. Not bad for someone who doesn't hold a call yet eh fellers. This issue

**Yaesu FT7B
for as little as
\$5.00 . Is that
possible?**

is for me an experiment in desktop publishing as software is definitely not my strong point, so if you can do better "I WANT YOU" for the editor of this noble tome. The club is in danger of running in the black this financial

year, such has been the efforts of the committee.

Have you noticed the brilliant coverage that 146.850 now rejoices in. It is now approaching 1.00am as I type and Rob MT is going 1 12 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 tuning up 146.850 so that it will perform even better. He will still be working into the small hours of the morning, long after my head has caused the keyboard buffer to overflow as my head gently nuzzles the spacebar. To give you an idea of the dedication of this bloke, he constructed a new 146.850 so that the repeater would not be off the air for the few days he needed it for the tune and 100,000 over service. Next time you see him at the meetings, just walk up and say hi! your doing a great job mate.

Note the notice on this page about the raffle to end all IARS raffles. A Yaesu HF transceiver. 100 watter, is the prize. Tickets will be \$5.00 ea and will be able to be bought at each meeting till it is drawn at the December meeting. Nice Xmas pressie for yourself if you win. Lets say 6 meetinnngs till Xmas, 1 ticket a month could win you an HF radio for not much outlay. I know I'll be buying a few.



COMING EVENTS

● **JUNE** Another viewing of entries in the famous show us your shack video competition.

Don't forget that first prize is a short wave receiver. Do with the video as you will, it doesn't even have to be your shack. Tickets will be on sale for the major raffle to be drawn in December. \$5.00 a ticket, buy as many as you like.

JULY Finals of the show us your shack video competition and the awarding of the prize for best video. Annual fees are due. Make the Brian' job easy and get them in before time.

AUGUST Its the AGM. There will be a deceased estate auction. Amongst the goodies, a Yaesu FRG receiver



WHATS THAT ,WHO SAID 6M ON AN 828.

By the time you read this the club should have available some "E" band 828's. They go quite nicely onto 6m, with a little bit of work. Bring this up at the next club meeting so that we can gauge interest in the idea. Three possibilities present themselves :- 1. They are sold at reasonable price to club members or other amateurs as they are.

2. They are sold as they with instructions on modifications and possibly including a kit of bits required to do the mods.

3. They are sold modified, and you supply the crystals. Obviously this will make them more expensive, but not outrageously so.

Option 2 sounds like a good one to me to get us all active and thinking again. What do you reckon.

All of the "E" Band 828's are remote versions, but most of them have cables and remote heads available. If you have a chat to Denis VK2DMR and ask him about the multi control panel he built for a couple

of remote "A" Band 828's, so that he can control all his 828's from the one place, it may give you some ideas on how to set a few of them up in your shack.

FOR SALE

Bill VK2JBS has a home made TET HF antenna for sale. It is home made, but has considerable strength improvements over the original design. It is of the tri-band variety.

Contact Bill on 565196, as his address in the call book is incorrect.

F M

92's now available

For those 4 people who have asked for an FM92 when they became available, You will be able to purchase one at the next meeting. Price is \$120.00, tuned and ready to go. You may need to supply a mike though. There are 2 FM92 left for sale, these will be available at the next meeting also.

Ken VK2TKE has done a terrific job on these units getting them programmed and testing and tuning them, so next time you see him say thanks, or better still call on the rig. 6 units were all that were available, so if you missed out on one, then's the breaks. We are keeping our eyes out for some others or similar.

Deceased Estate

At the AGM in August, there will be an auction of a deceased estate from VK2JAC.

Goodies include:-

A micronta analog multimeter

A variable power supply 0-15 volts

A converted commercial rig to 6m believed to have been performed by VK2APG.

An Emtron SWR and antenna matching unit

A good looking dummy load

Various bits and pieces as well a YAESU FRG 7 that has an active antenna. According to Rob MT it works very well. Proceeds to go to his widow.

EME ON THE MOVE

Mr EME Lyle VK2ALU is on the move. No he's not going to another QTH, but rather things are moving at his current QTH. As you may or may not know, Lyle his EME dish mounted on a trailer that must be moved into position when he wants to call CQ. This is no mean feat as the dish is quite large.

Lyle would like expressions of interest from members who are interested in EME, or for what ever reason want to get away from the XYL for a while on the weekend, to give your name and phone number to him at the next meeting. He will then be able to give you plenty notice when the next party...um...er.. EME test is going to be, so he can show you how it all works.

Oh! by the way, he might need a hand putting the dish in position.

CAVIONS

AVAILABLE IN OUR JUNK YARD

- * **ELECTRONIC BITS AND PIECES (MILLIONS)**
- * **METERS, GAUGES, INSTRUMENTS, CABLE, WIRE**
- * **METAL SECTIONS, COPPER, BRASS, ALUMINIUM,**
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YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU..... OR RATHER YOUR CLUB NEEDS 2 3 ELEMENT YAGI'S FOR THE 2 METRE BAND FOR LINK ANTENNAS FOR THE REPEATER SYSTEMS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE OR SUPPLY ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ANTENNAS, CONTACT THE REPEATER COMMITTEE.

DON'T FORGET, THEY'VE GOT TO BE STRONG

REPEATER REPORT

(April & May 1996)

This Report has been typed quickly between packing bags to go on holidays for a couple of weeks. Keep an ear out for VK2MT Maritime Mobile...

Maddens Plains - VK2RMP
Voice VHF (6850)

All working well. Since moving the antenna to the 160' level, the coverage has improved & also the slight interference problem has reduced. The interference appears to be some type of mix of 2 other on-site TXers, combined with our Rptr's TXer. (All 3 TXers have to be up at the same time). The level also varies greatly. Mostly it is not even heard, but occasionally is very strong. From further investigations, it would appear the interfering signal is produced from something mechanical on the tower, not inside other eqpmt. It seems to vary intensity with weather conditions, being at it's worst during hot dry windy weather. Work to totally eradicate the problem is progressing slowly.

Coverage-wise, besides Wollongong the following areas have been heard on 6850:- Port Stephens, Cessnock, Newcastle, Gosford, Orange, Bathurst, Lithgow, Oberon, all over Sydney, Sthn Highlands, Marulan, Goulburn, Canberra, Nowra, Ulladulla. Not bad eh? (The Cessnock fellow listens to 6850 on his handheld, while out working in the paddocks of his farm.)

Last week on the 22/5, the 6850 Rptr, Broadcast RXer & link radio were all removed from the site for some "bench work". For the next 4 days, a standby/temporary 6850 Rptr was on the air. This Rptr was lashed together for this purpose & served well till the main 6850 was returned Sunday morning at Broadcast time. The experimental link to Ulladulla VK2RMU (146.700) appears to be well used & most welcome. A lot of conversations take place between our two areas. The link is "transparent" & is activated most of the time. Good mobile coverage from Gosford to Batemans Bay is now possible using the two systems. At present, the frequency for the UHF Rptr at Maddens Plains is still being decided. Will be finalised shortly.

Sorry for the delay.

Sublime Point - VK2RIL

At present still no gear at the site. The ROSE packet gear should have been installed months ago by the South Coast Packet Group, but a lot of — ongoing problems have caused considerable delays. To be installed are a UHF link radio, a VHF user radio & the dual port TNC. The site is intended to link Hornsby VK2RPH with Wollongong, on to Saddleback & down the coast. As I said last Report, it's all a bit disappointing.

Mt Murray - VK2RAW
Voice HF (29.520 RX)

The Club's 10 metre Rptr is about to be resurrected. The G-Band FM 828 has been converted to 29.520MHz RX & 29.620MHz TX. The converted radio has since been joined with a U-Band 828 & then split into two. One unit (at Mt Murray) receives on 10m then transmits to the 70cm link frequency. The other unit receives on 70cm & re-transmits back onto 10m (at Knights Hill). We have most of the necessary bits for installation, so it won't be long. The conversion of the G-Bander to 29Mhz required considerable work, rewinding coils, adding capacitors & changing resistors. As far as we're aware, we are the first to do this conversion. All work has been documented for other users or Clubs.

Knights Hill - VK2RUW
Voice HF (29.620)

Voice UHF (presently 438.725, changing back to 438.225 shortly.) The 10m Rptr TXer to be installed here soon. Antenna will either be a re-tuned "Stationmaster" or a side-mounted dipole. The UHF Rptr frequency is to be changed back shortly to 438.225. When it does, it will be linked back to Goulburn VK2RGN (438.325) as it used to be late last year. The link will be via a different UHF link radio. Previously we used a Fillips FM 747. This radio performed very well, it only had one unfortunate drawback. It's IF frequency was 29.800MHz. This didn't work well with the 29.620MHz 10m Rptr TXer. We have now obtained & tuned a Philips U-Band FM 828 onto the designated link frequency. (The IF frequency is now 10.7MHz). The latest

OCT
386SX-25

OCT.
optima home

news about the link from VK2RGN thru' to VK1RGI (Mt Ginini) is good. The Ginini UHF link antenna (a corner reflector vertically polarised to prevent snow & ice build-up) has been installed & tested. 50mW from Ginini to Mt Gray was full-quieting. 5W is the future power level. I've been told installation of the Ginini UHF Rptr & link is only a week or so away (hey, that's what I was told OK...) (Quiet Phil). So hopefully it won't be long & UHF to Goulburn AND Canberra will be happening. The VK2 WIA Broadcast will be sent to them Sunday mornings & they'll be sending us the VK1 Broadcast in the evening at 2000.

Saddleback Mtn - VK2RIS/VK2RSM
Voice VHF (146.975)
Voice UHF (439.275)

Due to problems & delays with the handling & processing of these two Rptr applications, they have come out the end of the pipe with different callsigns. (Most frustrating). The intermod interference on 6975 still continues. Michael (XCE) visited the site with reps from the SMA, only to have it unfortunately pour with rain & somehow stop the intermod from being produced. They were unable to make it occur. Later that day, after it stopped raining, the interference returned. A re-visit was planned for today (31/5), but has apparently had to be called off. Hopefully soon. With some spare gear, we look like experimentally linking the 10m Rptr into 6975 Rptr. That will allow 2m users to hear & be able to talk with 10m users & vice versa. This should prove to be rather interesting. (The 10m Rptr used to be linked to 8225, but this was no longer viable with the linking of 8225 with VK2RGN & VK1RGI.)

That's about it for another Report. As you can see still a bit of work to be done, but we're getting closer to a final result.

Till next time - RoB VK2MT.

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that old
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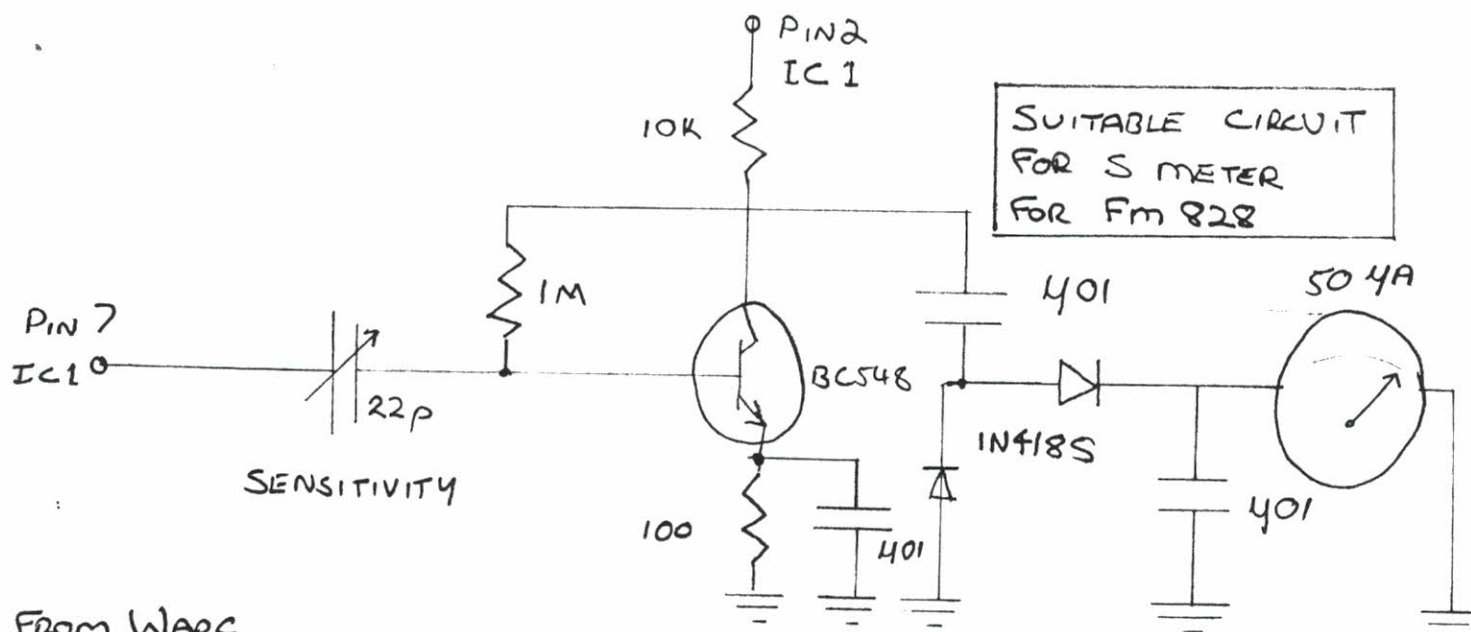
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