

GATEWAY

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO
AND ELECTRONICS CLUB

NOVEMBER 1998

Gippsland Gate Radio and Electronics Club Inc.

Club Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month
at the Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall in Grant Street.

The doors open at 8:15 PM & the meeting commences at 8:30 PM.

Visitors are most welcome.

Committee Members 1997/1998

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| President | Peter Pavey | VK3VB |
| Secretary | Pat Pavey | VK3OZ |
| Treasurer | Mike Ide | VK3KTO |
| Committee member | Ivan Blezzard | VK3ARV |
| Committee member | Reg Goddard | VK3UK |
| Magazine Editors & Printing and Dispatch | Robin Linn Ph. (03) 9807 3083 | VK3TFA |

Deadlines for articles is Thursday week prior to the Meeting.

Articles can be sent to robin@fox.net.au.

Club Station VK3BJA Located at the Guide Hall

Club Repeater VK3RDD Freq. in 52.575, out 53.575 Mhz

Call in Freqs. are HF on 28.325 Mhz, USB

VHF on 146.225 Mhz, FM and UHF on 438.850 Mhz, FM

Visit our internet site at:

<http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~ggrec/>

Current GGREC Inc Membership Fee Schedule

Full Member \$30.00, Pensioner Member \$15.00

Junior Member \$15.00, Extra Family Member \$10.00

Fees due after each April Annual General Meeting.

The Presidents Report

October has gone and with it some successful club events JOTA, The bike ride to Patterson Lakes and the weekend trip to Jamieson/Woods Point. My sincere thanks to all involved. We have received a letter of thanks from the Guides for our involvement in JOTA (Reprinted elsewhere) and are looking forward to the 1999 JOTA/JOTI event. While patting backs, my thanks too to those whose enthusiasm has driven the prac nights this past year. There has been quite a range of equipment worked on, projects such as ATV, SSTV, FM90s and many pieces of members gear seen with lids off and soldering irons in attack mode as various faults have succumbed to collective wisdom. The numbers attending these nights has increased over the year. It is also heartening to see the number of YLs and XYLs who join us on these nights is growing.

I have a feeling this is going to be a substantial issue of our mag, so I will try to be brief. This mag is both the November and December issue in one and, as November 20th is the final meeting for the year, take careful note of the event queue, or you may miss out on a club event. Australia Day falls on a Tuesday in 1999 and it is not intended to have an official time away as a club. This being the case, Pat and I hope that at least some of you will join us at our place for a BBQ. Usual BYO food and drink. Be here after 3pm on 26 January.

3OZ and I will be away from the 20th November for two weeks. With our family spreading out, we are doing a Christmas run catching up on those we will not see on THE day. Our first stop is to be Linton Vic, then across to Phils QTH in SA. A few days camping on the Murray River and across to Strathbogie for the final weekend. It will be a good trial run for our newly acquired caravan. While thinking about Christmas, you are all very welcome to carols in the paddock. As it gets dark on Christmas eve, a pageant about the events in the manger is presented with live sheep, horses and a donkey. Everyone is encouraged to bring torches or candles, blankets, groundsheets or camp chairs to sit on. A few nibbles and drinks might be a good idea too. Location??? In the paddock opposite Langwarrin Secondary College, Warrandyte Road, Langwarrin. Mel Ref 103 H6.

It only remains for Pat and I to wish you all a very happy Christmas, safe and incident free travelling and a restive, festive season.

GGREC Meeting 16.10.98

Chairman – Peter VK3VB

Minute Taker – Pat VK3OZ

Present – as per attendance sheet

Apologies – Colin VK3HR, Bobbie Doug VK3KMN, Peter VK3KCW, Albert VK3BQO

Correspondence Received – Commonwealth Bank Statement, FAM-PAC, EMDRC, WANSARC, newsletters, AR October, Camp Quality info.

Correspondence Sent - Booking for Cowes campsite for March, Steve & Maria Harding for camp fees.

Visitors – none.

Treasurers Report tabled VK3KTO – Sept income \$ 139.00

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Expenditure | \$ 254.69 |
| Capital Expenditure | \$ 122.55 |
| Present balance of CBA A/c & cash in hand | \$1749.60 |
| Cornerstone Bld. Soc Investment A/c | \$2500.00 |
| Total | <u>\$4249.60</u> |

Seconded VK3ARV, carried.

Minutes of last meeting as printed in magazine – Proposed VK3OZ, Seconded VK3ARV, carried.

Matters arising from previous minutes – none.

General Business – JOTA tomorrow. Deanne says girls will not be camping after all. Police Paddocks has been set up. ATV antennas, etc ready for use. All available operators needed please. Setting up station from 9.30 onwards. Bruno has not made a roster, but will use operators where needed.

Woods Point – campsite only 2-3 minutes out of Wood Point township. Plenty to see – old goldmining area. Fee should be approx \$2 (if collected). See map and info provided by Dave VK3XMF. Dave will check road conditions ith Ranger. Cycle ride Bangholme Sat 24th Oct. See details in mag. 11.30 assembly for cyclists. Ivan CK3ARV to bring club BBQ. Classes 1999. Guide Hall not available Wed nights. Have use of the meeting room at the Cranbourne Swimming Pool, Grant St. Special deal for Club - \$25 per night. Ian VK3BUF will make necessary arrangements. Plenty of advertising. Standard is full theory but novices catered for in syllabus. Labour Day weekend.

Club booking has been made, Ian & Dianne, Helmut and Dorothy will be making their own bookings. Christmas break-up at Mike and Narees home. Time – 1pm onwards. BYO everything. BYO Aero-guard!!! Map to be in this mag.

Pat VK3OZ suggested asking Guides if we can have use of meeting room earlier on meeting nights

Helmut and Dorothy have invited members for New Year subject to work commitments.

Request for donations for Christmas Hamper PLEASE..

Life members of GGREC are Kerry Clayton, VK3KFC & Lynne, Andy BEALS VK4KCS.

Call books available at \$13.80 each if club buys 5 or more.

Names taken and books will be available at next meeting (or prac. Night).

Bruno has donated batteries to club, decision made to auction these at Break-up.

Pat VK3OZ requested that all members accept responsibility for washing and drying of cups after meetings.

Meeting closed 9.15pm

Next meeting Nov 20 (Prac night preceded by Committee meeting 6.11.98)

VK3OZ/VK3VB Sked times while away.

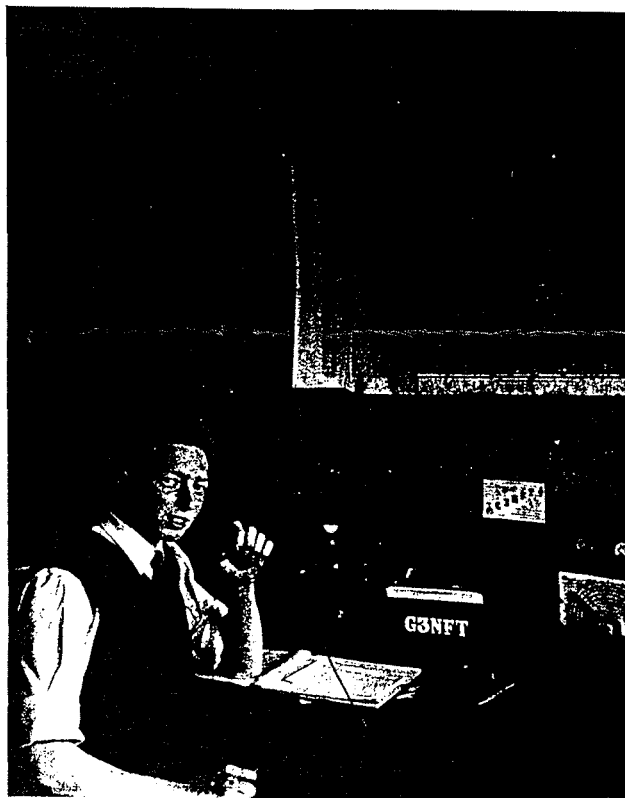
We will be on 3.640 Mhz + QRM at 2030 Vic time on Tuesday nights. While traveling, mostly listen 7.085 or 10.125 Mhz. Once on site we tend to be on 14 Mhz CW. From 20th to 22nd will be listening VK3RBA on 146.750 FM.

AMATEUR RADIO – HOW I BEGAN Cont'd

About one year later, I asked the radio apprentice (Tony) for help to build a portable amplifier for use on scout camps. It seemed like a good idea at the time. Tony invited me to his home to discuss possible circuits. Having met his Mum and Dad, we went to what he called his shack, and boy, did my eyes light up. The room was small, but it contained a work bench with soldering irons, test meters, a shelf with radio and TV text books. Opposite this was another bench with a large communications receiver (marconi B28 or CR100) and beside this a home made 3 stage rack with home made transmitter under construction. Around three walls just below ceiling height, a pair of lecher lines and feeder going out the window to a 20 metre folded dipole. We spent a little while discussing the amplifier idea, and a long time tuning and listening to short wave amateur radio signals. It's not good to envy other, but I was certainly envious of the things I had seen and heard this afternoon. I would have been full of the wonders of short wave listening when I went home. I had some encouragement from my father who did quite a bit of Short Wave listening prior to the outbreak of W2.

During the next 12 months, my interest in Amateur Radio increased as Tony gained his licence (G3LMT). I was introduced to portable radio when in June we visited the two sites the local radio club was operating for National Field Day. Each club was allowed two stations and then six bands (160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters) were split between them, three each. The transmitters were limited to 10 watts C input CW only. Power was not allowed from the mains, so it was generators or batteries and all antennas were restricted to wire. Accommodation was tents. The first station we visited, the closest to my home, was on about the highest point around on the fringes of the then city limits. I was quickly (being in the Scouts, and Scouts climb trees) given the job of shinning up various trees carrying ropes with me to haul up the ends of the dipoles. The other ends were supported by portable masts. The power here was truck and car batteries and by the end of the 24 hour period, even motor cycle batteries were ushered into service. The second station was about 10kms away and was on a flood plain, its antennas supported by poles, tents again used for accommodation. There was a loose roster

system with an operator and log keeper on together, both with earphones. In most cases the log keeper was not a licensed ham. Two hams rarely listened to the same station as it sometimes caused trouble, so it was more productive to give the log keeping to short wave listeners. The call signs used were as short as possible son in out club, we had a few two letter calls and these were used plus a /P i.e. G2FP/P, G3ID/P, G3JW/P, etc.



G3NFT Peter, With final form of H.F.station.
Minimitter 80-10 Mtr hamband receiver on left Home brew 80-10Mtr
transmitter on right. 120 Watts AM/CW (C1960)

Shortly after this weekend, I heard that ex government communication radios were on sale at a local radio shop and as I had saved up the princely sum of ten pounds, (\$20), I became the proud owner of a very

heavy Marconi CR100. From memory it had about 8 wave bands covering from about 100kcs to 30Mhz. The band spread was good with 2 speed tuning. It had noise blanker RF and AF gain, AVC on or off antenna trimmer. Its sensitivity was good to 20 metres, but not so good for 15 and 10 metres. Most people using these receivers would put a pre selector or converter in line on these two HF bands. I had Dipoles for 10, 15, 20 metres a half size G5RV for 40 metres and 132ft end fed wire for 160 metres. These tuned with a home brew antenna tuner. My study for work usually required one full day and two evenings a week plus homework. There were no courses for the Amateur exam around, so I did one years study of one evening a week of Radio 1 course. I bought a second hand Radio Handbook and small publication on transmitter put out by the RSGB. Then I asked lots and lots of questions. I must have used up reams of paper drawing circuit diagrams over and over until I could draw and electron coupled oscillator or complete transmitter or receiver in my sleep. At the same time, I was building and had tested various 160 metre transmitters and started work on a 5 band HF station too. I sat for the Radio Amateurs Exam mid 1958 and disappointingly failed to pass. This was held at the local Technical College. But there was a limited number of exams held in about 3 or 4 locations in the UK in September/October and with a good friend, took our bicycles by train to Cardiff in Wales for an exam on 4th October at which I passed, but my friend unfortunately failed. At this time and for many years, there was no limited License in the UK, so it was time to get down to Morse if I wanted to get 'on air'. I was fortunate in that I had learned Morse in the Scouts. Having used it with flags, lamps and buzzer, my speed was about 5wpm. I booked a CW exam for the end of November at a coastal radio station 45kms away and asked one of the local hams, Basil G3FLK, to tutor me up for the 12wpm exam. I called into his home after work for one hour every night for 2 weeks. I couldn't stay longer for his mother was a stickler for time and his meal went on the table as I went out the door. I had attained a competent 14wpm by then and on a very cold November day, took the train to the North Devon town of Ilfracombe and sat my CW. I was frozen when I arrived at the local Post Office over, which was located, and the offices for the ship to shore coastal radio service. The examiner was very kind, giving me time to warm up and 10 minutes or so to calm down and get used to the key provided for the exam. His sending was so smooth, it was superb and although he was not permitted to tell me the

result, he gave me a wink and said not to worry I'd be hearing soon, so my sending must have made some sense. The pass arrived at the very end of November. By this time I had acquired a modern Amateur band receiver manufactured by the London based Minimitter Company which was much smaller than the CR100 which I passed on to my sister who had a short interest in radio. My main transmitter was now complete. The RF stages were Geloso VFO and on B07 valve with a 6V6 clamp tube. In its phase one configurations, it was capable of 45 watts of CW and clamp tube modulated with an old carbon mic. All the cabinet was home constructed from second hand sheet aluminium offcuts from truck repairers. The power supplies and modulator in the final form were in a small 1 metre high rack and contained regulated output of 150v for VFO + 250v & 550v driver and power amplifier stage of two paralleled 807's. The modulator required 250 & 620 volts and, of course, the valves needed warming up and 6.3 volts AC was provided for this. The whole system was controlled by a bank of three relays. This gave me 120 watts of Plate and Screen modulated AM. The modulator had 2 push pull 807 valves in Class B zero bias.

From memory the license fee was ten shillings (\$1) and this with the pass documents were sent off as soon as the CW result was received. Then I waited, up to a month was normal. We used work 4 hours on Saturday mornings resulting in a 44 hour week. I arrived home about 12.30 for lunch and there was an official looking letter waiting, inside was a Radio Amateur license with the callsign G3NFT issued on 12.12.58. Received by me on 13.12.58. I was so excited I could hardly get up to the shack fast enough, and it took forever for those valves to warm up. I can't remember waiting that day, but I know my hands shook as I put out my first CQ.

Now not all the hams in the radio club believed I had a chance at getting a license and one in particular had been vocal on this point, so I was told later. Guess who was the first station to answer my calls – it was him! The contact made at 1340 on 20 metres and we were all of 2 km apart. On that first day, I had three contacts on 20 metres, two in the UK and one with DJ4CD and four contacts on 160 metres, three on AM and one on CW. The following day, Sunday, I had 16 contacts speaking to 5 countries. I was on the Air. I could now share in the fascinating

hobby of Amateur Radio. I will always be grateful for the patience of the many hams who listened to my questions and have answers, drew diagrams, loaned books or tested equipment I had made. Grateful to Basil G3FLK and his other who brought my CW up to scratch. I would never have got started at all if I had not been encouraged by an understanding family. So, the 12th of December 1958 is very special to me. There have been great changes in technology and techniques, of lifestyle, marital status and home country over the past 40 years, but that is another story save to say that G3NFT is also VK3VB and still enjoys the hobby of Amateur Radio.

73

Peter VK3VB

P.M.E. Pavey



Yours truly up the pole. G4ZU Minibeam. 10/15/20 Mtrs.
8 El Yagi for 2 Mtrs over. System rotated by ropes from bedroom
window. Height 30 feet. (C1960)

The Great Cycle Ride.

The great cycle ride. Reg prepared his bike over the last week or so. He had so much junk on it, I am sure it weighed more than the bike.

There were twelve of us who arrived at the start point and about six at the lakes where we all enjoyed a barbecue lunch, with great company and friendship.

By the time we all got back, Reg needed mouth to mouth, Helmut refused but Collin volunteered (Ha Ha!)

I am glad to say the two (old) young boys made it. Collin made it with flying colours.

The day was a great success. Many thanks to Ivan for transporting the barbecue and bags to the destination.

Jenny Goddard

AMATEUR OPERATORS CERTIFICATE COURSE – 1999

Conducted by the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club inc.(GGREC)

AIMS:

To assist persons in passing the necessary theory exams for an amateur radio operators license, by instruction in basic radio and electronics principles

SUBJECT MATERIAL:

Radio Theory...~syllabus as laid out by the Australian Communications Authority for

Novice and Full license examinations.

(See their web site at: <http://www.sma.gov.au/publications/info/amateur.htm>)

Radio Regulations...Guidelines for passing the regulations examination for amateur

station licenses.

LEVEL OF STUDY:

While the courses shall aim for AOCP (Full license) standard, persons studying for

NAOCP (novice) and Novice-Limited examination shall be catered for.

TECHNICAL REFERENCES:

The course is based largely upon reference material provided on each night, (approx 200 sheets) though students are encouraged to acquire additional reference books for home study.

SCHEDULE:

Classes commence each Wednesday evening from February 3 for twenty lessons.

Students will need to bring a notebook, an A4 sized folder and a pocket calculator.

FEES:

The fee for the course shall be \$125 plus a mandatory one year subscription to the GOREC Radio Club. (\$30) This fee includes regular newsletters Fees are payable on

the first class night. Discounts on the *subscription* portion apply to students

Pensioners & family members

LOCATION OF CLASSES:

The class shall be conducted **at** the hall associated with the Cranbourne Swimming Pool centre in Grant St Cranbourne. (Melway map ref 133 H6) This is near same venue that the Club uses for their regular meetings on the JS and ,r6 of each month at the Cranbourne Guide Hall)

Persons interested in enrolling on this course should contact the number listed below as soon as possible to confirm a position in the class, as here are only a limited number of positions available

Class Coordinator:

Ian Jackson VK3BUF..... 97765000



3 November 1998

Deane Crosbie
17 Tattler Street
Carrum Downs, 3201

Gippsland Gate Radio Club,

Bruno Tonizzo
273 James Cook Drive
Endeavour Hills, 3802.

Dear Bruno,

The J.O.T.A. committee would like to thank-you and the Gippsland Gate Radio Club for all their hard work and help in making this years J.O.T.A. such a success.

This year we had 97 people come through the door to take part in J.O.T.A. '98.

The reports I've heard so far are that everyone enjoyed the day and that many of the guides and scouts *particularly* enjoyed the Morse code with Pat, as well as the voice machine. As usual once past their shyness the Scouts and Guides very much enjoyed talking to other parts of the world as well as others more locally based.

We hope your members enjoyed the day, and we would be very interested on your thoughts / feed back on how you thought the day went.

We hope the Radio club will be able to help us again next year , and look forward to talking to you about next years J.O.T.A. closer to the date.

Yours in Guiding,

Deane and Brenna.

CHRISTMAS BREAKUP

GGREC CLUB BREAK UP AT THE QTH OF NAREE AND MIKE
VK3KTO

DATE - SATURDAY 12/12/98

TIME - 1.00PM.

QTH 94 RUTHERFOR PARADE, WARNEET. MELWAYS 142 G10.

SEE MAP

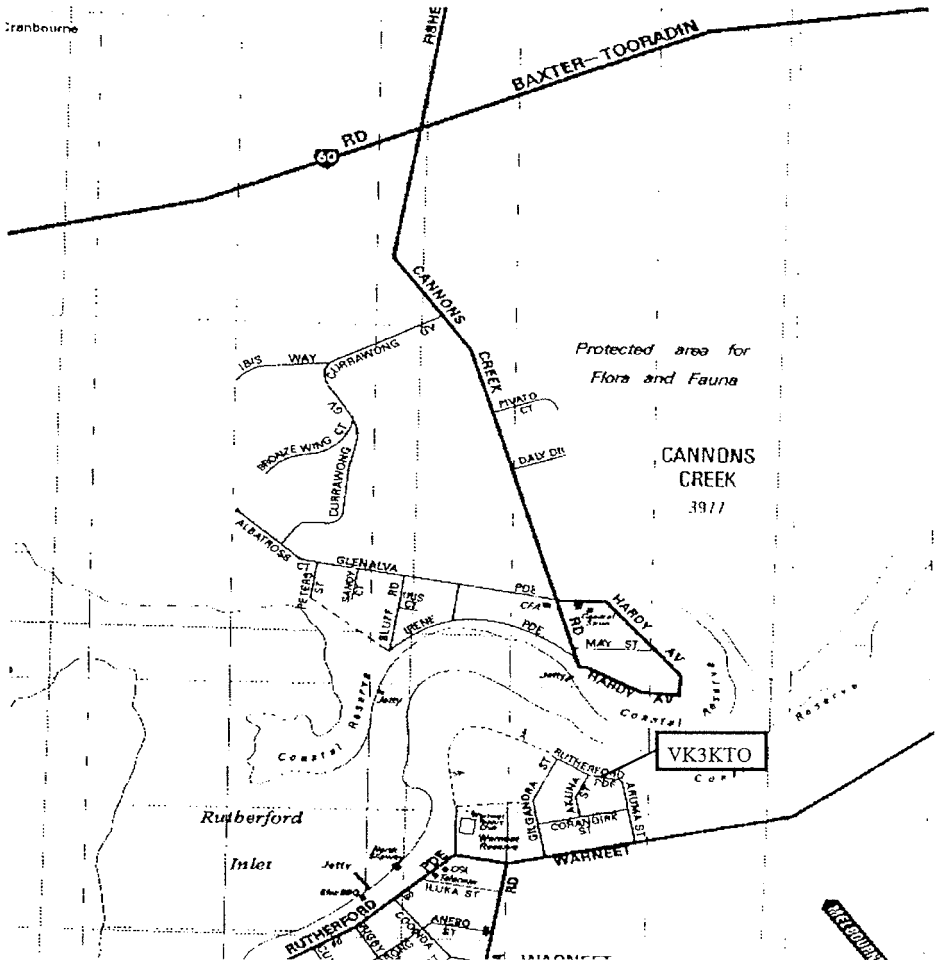
Call in on 146.225 if you get lost. BBQ facilities. BYO meat and drinks.

Eating and drinking utensils, salad and condiments provided.

Seating for about 25, so a folding chair or two would not go astray.

ACTIVITIES: Snooker and Pool competition.

An evening cruise around Rutherford Inlet and Cannons Creek with be con-



Event Queue From November

Fri 20/11/98...8.30pm General meeting followed by Equipment info
from Dick Smith Electronics. Colin
VK3NQS.

Sat 28/11/98...???
VK3XMF Visit to Imax Theatre. Details David
On 20th Nov.

Sat 12/12/98... Club break up. BYO Food/Drinks.
Details in this mag.

Thurs 31/12/98...7pm
VK3DHI New Years Eve Party at Pakenham of
QTH Club Directory. Call in on 146.225/438.850
BYO food and drinks

Fri 15/01/99...8.30 First meeting of year at Club rooms.

Fri 05/03/99... Labour Day Weekend 5th to 8th March. If you
Have not booked and intend camping, ring
The Cowes Caravan Park **NOW!**

If you have any ideas for talks or activities for the club,
please talk to a member of committee....