



GATEWAY

September 2008

NEXT MEETING Friday September 19 2008 at 8 pm

WHERE : Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall, Grant St off Sladen St.

SPEAKER : Paul Engler VK3XDE

“How I built my Pic-a-Star, computer-based HF radio”



At the Kyneton (VK3) Hamfest held in February, 2007, a large number of VK3 Star builders were in attendance. First, to find some elusive "goodies" for their Star build, and second, to attend a mini-lecture by Paul, VK3XDE. Paul, believed to be the first builder of a Star in Australia, gave a talk to all those who might be interested in building a Pic-a-Star and also to those who have already decided to build, either by etching their own PCB's, or using PCB's supplied by VK3PE. On September 19, Paul tells GGREC his story

GGREC DELEGATION TO ALARA MEET

Last weekend 70 YLs and some OMs, including five from GGREC, gathered not too far from the notorious Tamar Valley [think pulp mill] at Ulverstone [founded 1847] , on Tasmania's north west coast near Devon, for the biennial Alara Meet.

Pat VK3OZ braved Tassie's famous frost and camped, but the Vandeligts, VK3FSAT and VK3FHTV, and the Colemans, VK3YCG and yours truly VK3FXXX, stayed in style. Three of our group and the dog, took the [gulp!] Spirit while two chose comfort and speed.

Excursions were to now-famous Cataract Gorge, Platypus House [platypi and echidnae] at Beauty Point near the illfated Beaconsfield Gold Mine,



Boag's Brewery (since 1852), Moore's Hill Estate Vineyard, and the so-called 'town of murals', Sheffield's outdoor art gallery. Fifty five permanent murals by 21 artists tell the history of Sheffield. The group also visited the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame dedicated to wood chopping history sitting uncomfortably beside the mural town, which celebrates the formation of national parks to protect old growth forests. The Hall of Fame roof is supported by ten some now rare, due to over-logging, Tasmanian timbers, including huon pine, black heart sassafras and kauri. The Tamar Valley [without the pulp mill], *"is one of Tasmania's premium wine producing regions. The area is characterized by a cool climate, almost clean air, loamy soils and long ripening periods; 'ideal conditions for high quality grapes and distinctively flavoured wines'."* MORE next issue.

Susan VK3FXXX

WIA DOES VERY NICELY, THANKYOU, FROM 2-LETTER CALLSIGNS

WIA made a whopping \$19,000 by auctioning some freed up two-letter call signs by charging 315 valid applicants \$59.74 each for what essentially cost it nothing. The only benefit to members beside the vanity, was that some members shunned the deal on principle, meaning, in effect, almost every one of Victoria's 76 applicants was successful.

HAMS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL AID WITH HURRICANE EMERGENCIES

To streamline hurricane support operations at ARRL Headquarters, the League set up two e-mail addresses for hams to pose questions or relay information to HQ Staff relating to hurricane or named tropical storm events, hurricane@arrl.org or hurricane@arrl.net. These e-mail addresses were being monitored during each storm's descent on the US, as well as throughout the hurricane season.

Army Captain Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, who represents the Army Military Affiliate Radio System (Army MARS) in Iraq, appealed to families affected by the recent tropical storms and hurricanes to let their army member know all was well at home. *"There are a lot of soldiers from the Gulf States here in Iraq,"* Hammer said, *"and their families may not have a way to communicate with their soldier to let them know their status."* Those unable to deliver messages due to lack of communication assets or insufficient address information, sent them directly through an Amateur Radio operator or Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) operator. Army MARS said it could also handle messages to service members in Afghanistan, but delivery might be delayed.

The American Red Cross welcomed the support of Amateur Radio Operators in connecting friends and family members through its health and welfare programs. *"The grassroots, independent nature of Amateur Radio Operators in communities around the country make them well suited for this task."* As few as two hams could setup an effective registration process. A ham located in the disaster zone could use any mode to transmit the basic Safe and Well registration information to another ham located outside the disaster who would enter the information on the website.

According to IARU Region 2 President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH, the importance of having active and inclusive IARU Member-Societies is the ***"only way to ensure the future of Amateur Radio."*** The United States is a member of Region 2. Leandro reported on IARU's participation in the International Telecommunication Union, the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission, and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. The latter is aware of the importance of radio amateurs in emergency situations and requested the IARU for active Member-Societies in its region.

GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB

Club meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Cranbourne GirlGuide Hall in Grant Street. Prac nights are held on the first Friday night in the Peter Pavey clubrooms. Both nights commence at 8:00 PM. **Visitors will be made welcome.** Committee meetings are also held in the clubrooms.

President	Ian Jackson	VK3BUF (5625 2545)
Secretary	Phil Pavey	VK3YB (5995 7484)
Treasurer	Albert Hubbard	VK3BQO (5659 6562)
Committee Members: Max VK3TMK, Graeme VK3BXG,		

Magazine Editor: Susan Coleman VK3FXXX

Club Station VK3BJA located in the clubrooms.

6M Repeater **VK3RDD** : Freq. In 52.575, out 53.575 MHz
70cm Repeater **VK3RLP** Freq. In 434.475, out 439.475MHz
CTCSS 123Hz IRLP Node Number- **6794** (Using **VK3RLP**)

Call in Frequencies are: HF on 28.325 MHz, USB VHF [TBA] MHz, FM and UHF on 438.850 MHz,

Visit our internet site at: www.ggrec.org.au

Current GGREC Inc. Membership Fee Schedule

Full Member \$37.00, Pensioner Member \$22.00

Junior Member \$22.00, Extra Family Member \$17.00

Fees due after each April Annual General Meeting.

The deadline for articles is the third day of each month.

Please direct magazine correspondence to:
Susan Coleman email editor@ggrec.org.au

All other Club correspondence to P.O. Box 1098, Cranbourne 3977
or Email : secretary@ggrec.org.au

Disclaimer. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official view of the GGREC Inc and the GGREC Inc cannot be held responsible for incorrect information published.

Incorporation Number A0016893M

GGREC UPCOMING EVENT LIST

EVENT	DETAILS
Sept 05	Friday Prac Night at the Club Shack for re-programming FM900 radio's
Sept 13	Saturday morning Working Bee at Club Shack... Help Wanted!
Sept 19	3rd Friday General Meeting Talk on Microprocessor controlled radio.
Sept 29	Committee meeting at Club Shack
Oct 17	3rd Friday General Meeting Training on how to use the GGREC Video projector & Instruction on IRLP (Internet Linked repeater) operation.
Oct 18	Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) see Graeme VK3BXG for details.

The Guru Say

Slope detection, crude form of receiving frequency modulation, not to be confused Immigration Officers looking for illegal Asian immigrants

Mike Ide VK3KTO

HELP WANTED

At the Club Shack we have a bunch of antennas and masts that need maintenance or modification. On Saturday September 13 we will have a big working bee at the Club Shack, so that everything will be ready for JOTA in October. Bring basic tools, shifters, screwdrivers etc. There will be a barbecue lunch there for the workers.

Kick off at 9:30 am on Saturday the 13th of September

Experience our hobby at the Nuts and Bolts level and join the team!

From the president ... *Ian Jackson VK3BUF*

Electrical power is something we pretty much take for granted.

Light and dark is a matter of choice for most of our lives, the same for heating, cooking and cooling.

Flick that switch on the wall or push that button on the remote and we harness a colossal energy, produced many kilometres away to do work that we want, right in front of us.

We have been doing this now for a few generations and now take it completely for granted.

This is no accident. We have a huge infrastructure in this country to deliver this service.

Why raise this now? Well, I've been having a series of Skype contacts with India over the past couple of weeks and quality of power service there has been very topical!

Bluntly, there is not enough to go around and the power authorities routinely switch off one or two phases of power and re-direct them to other parts of cities, almost at random.

Traffic lights go out, elevators stop and small manufacturing businesses grind to a halt for seconds, minutes or hours. There, electricity is as fickle as a barking dog. You never know what you're going to get, or for how long.

This was driven home with a recent Skype contact (internet-based phone call) with 2-way video-conferencing.

The background lighting in this hotel room in northern India went bright and dull every few minutes, and occasionally disappeared entirely so the only light was coming from the portable pc screen.

The internet must have been on a UPS, [locally produced backup power, such as a bank of batteries called an Uninterruptible Power Supply] because at least that remained constant. When I look out of my window I can see the high voltage power lines snaking along the top of the next hill. Not a pretty sight, but they are more than a reminder of man's ability to generate electricity, those very same wires have been keeping a city alive for a long time now.

There is a high cost associated with this service, but sometimes we need to be reminded of what we have and how important it is to what we do every day.

For all the Philips FM900 users out there who were not at the last general meeting, the September prac night will feature an upgrade service for those who wish to



From the president cont'd

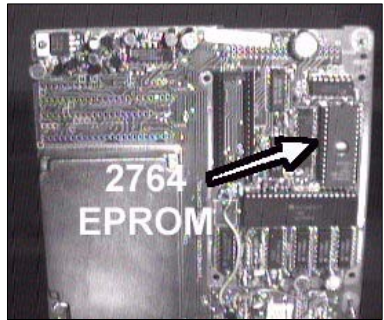


change their unit for operating on 145.450 Mhz, the new GGREC chat frequency. I have changed Channel 1 to this frequency and have moved the old 146.225 to channel 99, just a few clicks away.

Bring your FM900 (FM92) along if you would like your eeprom [read-only-memory] updated to this new frequency, or if you have missed out, I can exchange the eeprom by postal service.

One thing to bear in mind, my eeprom programmer will only support the 27C64 eeprom and not the original 2764 device. If you have one of the chips that I had provided previously, then this will be no problem, we simply erase the chip under UV light for 20 minutes and then re-program it on-the-spot at the Club Shack

We have Jamboree On-the-Air coming up again in October and we want to make sure all of our antennas at the Club Shack are ready to roll, so come along to our Working Bee on Saturday, September 13 and help out, for there will be plenty of jobs to do! See the advertisement elsewhere in this mag.



This coming general meeting night on the 19th of Sept we will be learning about a microprocessor [computer] controlled radio, designed by amateurs. See you then!

Cheers *Ian VK3BUF*

Thoughts of Chairman A-nony-mus

The guy who fell into the upholstery machine was
Fully recovered.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge
It.

PROFILE

Phil Pavey VK3YB

‘I attended a club event (horse trials) and ended up going to buggery with Peter Vatt VK3KCW, well Mt Buggery.’



My very first interaction with any type of radio including mantel or model/kit am radio or other electronic/technical activity, I honestly don't know, but I wouldn't have been very old. I am guessing it was months rather than years. (Runs in the family, my daughter did her first JOTA at 6 weeks old!)

How did I get involved in amateur radio - I grew up with it

Having my amateur licence helped me get into my career without a doubt.

My first exam would have been for the novice licence during 1982 at the Camberwell Civic Centre

I was a member of the Frankston Mornington Amateur Radio Club. When I was in Adelaide I got a little bit involved in the local scene (President of the Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club, Director of WICEN SA/NT and a councillor with the WIA (SA division)

I have built antennas for 160m - 23cm, mostly of questionable build standards but they all worked. The most complex was a lindenblad for 70cm satellite use. Last year I threw together an 80m QRP transmitter to use in the trans Tasman contest. Worked OK.

PROFILE CONT'D Phil Pavey VK3YB

My first radio was a KW2000B 160m-10m valve radio, with 22 valves all up. My first contact with my own call was on 80m with Ralph VK3BRF. As a novice I had access to 80, 15 & 10m.

My favourite radios are FT950 and FT817. The FT950 is a fantastic piece of technology and the FT817 is just such a compact radio with 160m - 1.2ghz! (well, when I connect the transverter I get 1.2ghz!)

My favourite aerial - I have a coaxial quarter wave sloper on 80m that is great for DX

I like 30m cw as well as the bottom end of 2m, 70cm & 23cm. 30m is great for local contacts during the day and also has plenty of DX. Working weak signal on the vhf / uhf SSB still presents a bit of a challenge. 6m SSB is also a lot of fun when the band is open.

Joining GGREC all comes back to monitoring the 146.225. I remember working Ian on 146.225 for the first time and inviting him to join the Frankston Club as he had just moved to Frankston. That led to a bit of a chat about GGREC. Ian ended up working with Dad at Telecom. I attended a club event (horse trials) and ended up going to buggery with Peter Vatt VK3KCW, well Mt Buggery. The rest is history!

I enjoy how diverse the hobby is, everything from morse code to working satellites. so much to do, so little time. I normally at least listen for a while most days. NB Probably, editor, best that you don't ask any more questions.

Phil VK3YB

Lord, Keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth...AMEN...!!

Birds of a feather flock together and crap on your car.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

He who hesitates is probably right.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are 'XL.'

If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs.'

Aging:

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not! me, I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've travelled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper. It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.

Today, it's called golf.

A-nony-mus.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 2008

Date: 15 July 2008

Start time: 08:00 PM.

Location: Guide Hall Cranbourne.

Chairperson: Ian Jackson VK3BUF

Minute Taker: Phil Pavey VK3YB

Present: See Attendance Sheet

Visitors and Guests: nil

Apologies: Grahame Coleman VK3YCG , Marianna & Paul Stubbs VK3TGX, Henry Vandelight VK3FHTV & Maree Vandelight VK3FSAT, NJB, Ross Jackson VK3ZAP, Elizabeth VK3FLIZ

Correspondence Received: JOTA email

Correspondence Sent: nil

Treasurer's Report: as tabled. **Read by:** Albert Hubbard VK3BQO **Moved By:** Albert VK3BQO **Seconded By:** Reg Goddard VK3UK **Carried:** Yes

Income: \$2848.05 **Expenditure:** \$202.90 **Balance:** \$ 2645.15 Total \$7326.93

Hamfest. Kitchen \$684.05 **Door** \$2079 **Tables** \$760 **outgoing estimate** \$1004

Vote of thanks to Albert Hubbard for coordinating

New Call signs: nil

Previous Minutes: As printed in Gateway.

Ian Jackson VK3BUF moved. Seconded Mike Ide VK3KTO. Passed.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

RD Contest. Mike reported on minimal interest. Decided not to participate as club.

Anyone who does come down please listen on 145.450

Brian Smith VK3NBS reported on Friday night prac sessions. Last Friday was wind-ing baluns. About 5 people attending (all Friday nights when no club meetings).

7pm start.

November long weekend. Pat Pavey VK3OZ has suggested Kilcunda. Info to be put in club magazine.

JOTA. Graeme VK3BXG attended meeting with Guides. Agreed to operate 2 stations from shack. No radio's in hall. Midday arrival for operators. 1pm – 5pm for guides. Cater for those who operate. Supply opening address at 2pm. October 18th? Possible evening session for any older guides – 6:30 – 8:30pm. DF hunting also.

New Business:

Shift from 146.225 due to repeater input.

Ian to program FM92's. Burning session for FM92's on next prac night. Paul will do FM900's at some stage.

Name badges.. see Albert if interested

Full Call Exam to be held. Discuss at committee re date

Club Banner – Brian VK3NBS to investigate making banner.

Brian VK3NBS reported he has now made a shorter aluminium mast. Brian to give a short talk after a G.M.

Meeting Closed at around 8:40 PM. Guest Speaker: Ian Jackson VK3BUF

Next Committee Meeting: Contact Ian Jackson. **Prac Night:** Friday 5th September
Next General Meeting : September 19th 2008.

GGREC
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