



GATEWAY

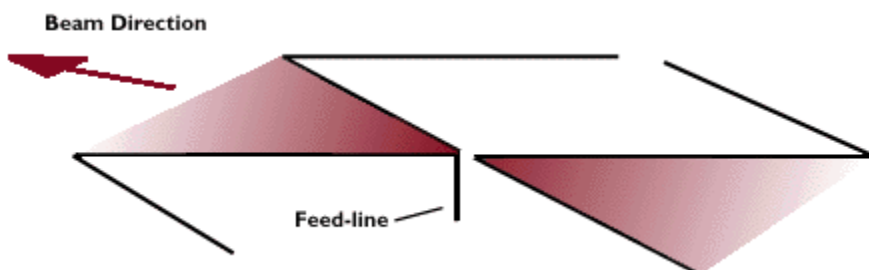
February 2011

NEXT MEETING: Friday February 18 2011 at 8 pm

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

TOPIC : Several

SPEAKERS : Chris VK3QB and Brenton on their DX-pedition to Vanuatu YJ0VK. And Chris VK3QB and Brian VK3BSN on the Hex-beam HF antenna project . *[More info on the latter in last month 's issue]*



GATEWAY MAGAZINE IS THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB inc.

A-NONY-NONY-MUS

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America .

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America ?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your maths multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with ' I .'

MILLIE: I is..

TEACHER: No, Millie..... Always say, 'I am.'

MILLIE: All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.'

STOP PRESS!

Tonizzo takes on Hamfest 2011

Bruno Tonizzo VK3BFT has generously offered his time again to lead the GGREC Hamfest slated for Saturday July 16 at 10am.

And Club secretary Steve Harding VK3EGD will look after table booking for the event.

Tonizzo organised the midyear dinner in 2010 and before that in 2008 he was club president.



Photo by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX

GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB

Club meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Cranbourne Girl Guide 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 Chris Chapman VK3QB (9708 8320)
 Secretary Stephen Harding VK3EGD (9791 3182)
 Treasurer Brenton Vowles VK3CBV (5944 4258)
 Committee Members: Nev VK3ADG and Bruno VK3BFT

Magazine Editor : Susan Coleman VK3UMM
 Magazine Photographer : Paul VK3TGX www.paulstubbs.pozzie.net
 Magazine Printer : David Wright VK3FW
 Distribution Snail Mail : Rosalind Wright
 Distribution Email : Stephen Harding VK3EGD
 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 : HF on 28.325 MHz, USB, VHF 145.450 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 magazine items is the third day of each month.

Please direct magazine articles 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 GGREC Inc and GGREC Inc cannot be held responsible for incorrect information published.

Incorporation Number A0016893M

HUGE INTEREST IN PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS COURSE

Ian VK3BUF has had an excellent response to his course teaching how to programme microcontrollers in electronics.

“At present we have 18 starters on the course, so it is getting close to capacity,” said Ian *“All preparations are on schedule for the commencement.”* The course which runs ten weeks includes an AVR development module [kit] used for testing out design programs, and a USB style programmer for home or portable PC.

The first lecture is on Tuesday [February 15th] — 7:15 p.m. for the first night but 7:00 thereafter.

Want to learn about Microprocessors?

From Feb 15 the GGREC will conduct a 10 week course in CRAN-BOURNE for people with an interest in basic electronics, who want to learn how to program and use microprocessors for their electronic projects.

Call 5625 2545 or view details at:

ggrec.org.au/education/avr

low prerequisite requirements apply.

From the president ... *Chris Chapman VK3QB cont'd from opposite*

Major initiatives on the card for this year so far include:

- Rollout of the new RDD Controller
- The Microprocessor Course
- Remembrance Day Contest in August
- ILLW Weekend in August

We'll hope to add some more contests and projects to this list early in the year, and of course, some good social events.

As usual, please refer to the Club's website for the most up-to-date calendar of events and news. I look forward to catching up with as many as possible at one of the events.

Til next month, vry 73 /Chris VK3QB -...- -.- . . .

A-nony-nony-mus

1. Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

2. Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

3. Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act

4. Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

5. Law of the Alibi - If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tyre, the very next morning you will have a flat tyre.

6. Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

7. Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

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From the president ... Chris Chapman VK3QB

Photo by Paul VK3TGX



The club got off to a flying start in January with the Summer VHF/UHF Field Day over the weekend of the 15th and 16th.

Our next club meeting for the year is on Friday 18th. Brian and I are planning to present members with the materials and design for a 5 band (20-10mtrs), 2 element Hexbeam HF antenna. This will be a club project, so anyone interested in getting involved please come along. Brian VK3BSN has made up the critical component, which is the spreader base plate. It will be a very short presentation just covering the components and a few design notes.

The remainder of the February meeting will be myself and Brenton describing our DX-pedition to Vanuatu YJOVK.

I'll rehash my words from the November newsletter: *"What would you like to be doing with the club in 2011? Please give it more thought and let a committee member know. We are also madly looking for topics and presenters for the monthly meetings. 2010 became a bit of a struggle – cast your net wide and see what ideas you can come up with."*

On the 26th January we had our traditional Australia Day BBQ at the club rooms. This was as always a fun day for the 25 or so members who came to celebrate outside our clubhouse.

At the November meeting the committee asked for a volunteer to co-ordinate the Hamfest, our main revenue raiser which always receives good feedback from buyers and sellers alike. But like all such ventures, it needs a coordinator/leader. So we are most fortunate to have Bruno Vk3BFT who has offered to lead the event. And Secretary Steve Harding VK3EGD will look after table booking.

Cont'd opposite

Continued from opposite page

"I should have final prices for the Adelaide Meet about April but the Ghan prices won't be released until June or July" said Clogg.

"Current estimates are on the website. An expression of interest from potential delegates would help with planning."

"I hope many of you will consider joining us for a great time in Adelaide and possibly on the Ghan."

CONTACT DETAILS

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SA, Australia 5158

Mob: 0447 812 822

Upcoming Events

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|------|---------|--|--|
| Sun | Feb | 13th | 10:00am | Cutting, cleanup & BBQ | Club Rooms |
| Sun | Feb | 13th | | Kyneton Field Day | Kyneton |
| Tue | Feb | 15th | 7:30pm | Microprocessor Training | Guide Hall |
| Fri | Feb | 18th | 8:00pm | General Meeting | Guide Hall |
| Tue | Feb | 22nd | 7:30pm | Microprocessor Training | Guide Hall |
| Mon | Feb | 28th | 7:30pm | Committee Meeting | Club Rooms |
| Fri | Mar | 4th | 8:00pm | Prac Night | Club Rooms |
| Fri | Mar | 18th | 8:00pm | General Meeting | Guide Hall |
| Mon | Mar | 28th | 7:30pm | Committee Meeting | Club Rooms |
| Fri | Apr | 1st | 8:00pm | Prac Night | Club Rooms |
| Fri | Apr | 15th | 8:00pm | Annual General Meeting | Guide Hall |
| Sun | Apr | 17th | | WIA National Field Day | |
| Mon | Apr | 25th | 7:30pm | Committee Meeting | Club Rooms |
| Fri | May | 20th | 8:00pm | General Meeting | Guide Hall |
| Sat | Jul | 16th | 10:00am | GGREC Hamfest | Cranbourne Public Hall |
| Sat | Aug | 13th | | RD Contest | Club Rooms |
| Sun | Aug | 21st | | ILLW | |

YL International Gets a Strong Response.

Sixty potential participants have already formally registered interest in the upcoming international meet of radio amateur women to be held in Adelaide in 2012.

Tina Clogg president of Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association ALARA, is the principal organiser of the event.

"The organization of the Meet is almost complete," said Clogg. "The meet dates are set with delegates arriving on or before 3 May 2012 staying at various venues in Glenelg."

"The next few days will see us tour Adelaide, Hahndorf, Cleland National Park, and Port Adelaide including a Dolphin cruise and a progressive lunch at 3 Barossa Valley wineries."

An optional Ghan tour provides either a 7 or 9 day adventure. The 7 day option allows delegates to leave the tour in Alice Springs after being out to Uluru while the 9 day tour finishes in Darwin.

Clogg has created a website with detailed up to date information at www.ylinternational2012.com.

The Meet is open to YLs and their OMs. Delegates don't need to be a member of any organization or even licensed but should be interested in amateur radio. *"Most participants are active on air but that is not a requirement for attendance"*. she stressed.

Those interested in attending are urged to complete the online expression of interest form, registration form or contact Clogg directly as soon as practicable. Contact details are opposite. Registration and deposits are due by September 2011. *Cont'd opposite.*

NEW FOR GGREC WEBSITE

Please note that a new page has been added to the GGREC website at <http://ggrec.org.au/reference/>.

The new page is a "Reference" page and is intended to contain items that GGREC members may need to refer to from time to time.

Please let me know if there are any other items you think should appear on the Reference page.

###

The website Event Queue on the Calendar page has been updated to show additional information.

Clicking on the "General Meeting" entries now gives information about any Guests or Member's presentations that are scheduled for that meeting.

Steve VK3EGD GGREC Webmaster
[webmaster@ggrec.org.au]

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8. Law of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

9. Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

10. Law of Bio Mechanics - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach..

11. Law of the Hockey Arena - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies, and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

A-nony-nony-mus

I dialed a number and got the following recording:

'I am not available right now, but
Thank you for caring enough to call.
I am making some changes in my life.
Please leave a message after the
Beep. If I do not return your call,
You are one of the changes.'

~~~~~

Aspire to inspire before you expire.

~~~~~

My wife and I had words,
But I didn't get to use mine.

~~~~~

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

~~~~~

Blessed are those who can give without remembering
And take without forgetting.

~~~~~

The irony of life is that, by the time  
You're old enough to know your way  
Around, you're not going anywhere.

~~~~~

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think
Of an answer for her first question.

~~~~~

I was always taught to respect my elders,  
But it keeps getting harder to find one.

~~~~~

Every morning is the dawn
of a new error.

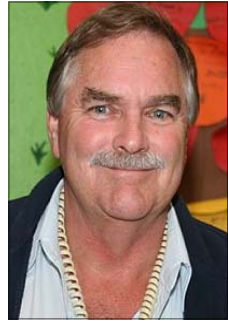
Power to the People.

By Albert Hubbard VK3BQQ

Several years ago (like about 2000) Ian VK3BUF wrote an article about coupling two surplus PC power supplies together to make a high current 13.8V power supply for shack use. Many members built these and found them very successful. Now many years later, one member has come up with a few leftover supplies that apparently would be suitable for performing this modification too. The original article is still obtainable and these power supplies are available from me as I said I would store them for a while to see if there was any interest shown by members. The power supplies are free as is a copy of the article so if you are interested in having a go, let me know and I will make them available to you.

Also Silicon Chip magazine printed an article on converting just one of these power supplies into a very useful bench supply as well. So here is a very useful project that may cost you nothing but some time. Contact me if you want to give it a go.

Albert VK3BQQ



What do a repeater and an AVR course have in common?

As members are well aware, Geoff VK3ZGW and I have been slowly making our way towards the finishing line of the new VK3RDD, 6 metre repeater controller. As a part time project, it has taken a lot of our spare time to produce something that will be talked about rather than simply something that would just "work". Many of you who use repeaters probably never give much thought to what makes the repeater do its thing. However without the use of microprocessors, the modern repeaters could not possibly do the fancy things that they do nowadays. In the quest for something different, we spent many hours dreaming up features that would be both useful and make this unit stand out from the others. Will amateurs use it because it has these features? Well, maybe not but it may generate a bit of interest. For those about to begin the 2011 AVR course with Ian VK3BUF, our project shows what you could achieve when you have gained some knowledge and believe that almost anything is possible; but you won't know until you try it. Some features of our controller are: built in maintenance routines with safeguards for mains failure, low battery voltage, and for antenna failures and lockups due to interference; maintenance commands that can assist administrators to diagnose problems within the repeater cabinet including temperature and processor lockups; a signal strength report that can be requested if you want to know how well you are getting into the repeater.

Cont'd opposite

MORE CHRISTMAS GAMES RESULTS

Correction The first "Put A Ball" competition was won by Albert VK3BQO with Naree a close second.

However the second game was won by Marianna Stubbs and Albert in a dead heat. Sorry Marianna!

Photos by Paul Stubbs VK3TGX



Cont'd from opposite **A Repeater and an AVR course**

The overall "Controller" consists of three modules apart from batteries, antenna and the radios. These are the CPU or processing unit, the interface unit and backplane which binds it all together with the outside world. Although progress has been slow, we are hopeful to have a fully working unit in a couple of months. Meanwhile we continue with bench testing and simulations to locate and remove any software bugs that may exist. Try to imagine a program with over 9000 lines of instructions and making sure they are all in the right order. It's a tough job but someone's gotta do it. Geoff and I look forward to the day when it all comes together and is installed.

Albert VK3BQO (also on behalf of Geoff VK3ZGW)

continues from page 2

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand....

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's.. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 2011

Continued from opposite

gave an overview of the advertising. Some suggestions were made about editorials.

Museums weekend – The request from the VVA to operate at San Remo was tabled. A **Consensus** to do the weekend there was achieved.

New business :

Digital TV receiver - was donated by Reg VK3UK. Some power supplies for projects from 2000 were also tabled.

Summer Field Day – Visit to Mt. Buggaree was cancelled due to weather. Albert VK3BQO hosted at his QTH instead. A fun and very relaxed day was had by all who attended.

WIA Field Day - 17th April – Chris asked members to consider do we want to have a go?

Kyneton field day – 13th February - car pooling through Secretary.

Meeting presentations – Chris requested any ideas from the members.

Displays – Russ VK3MWR spoke about the Casey Cardinia Library Corporation opening a new Pakenham library in April and suggested a display by GGREC. He can contact manager if interested.

Russ agreed to organise. Secretary to email Russ with Dave VK3XMF details.



Australia Day – BBQ will be held at 12:30 outside the Club rooms.

Meeting closed : 8:45 pm

Next Committee Meeting : Monday 31st January

Next Prac Night : Friday 4th February

Next General Meeting : Friday 18th February

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 2011**Date** : 21 January 2011**Start time** : 8:04 pm.**Location** : Club rooms.**Chairperson** : Chris VK3QB**Minute Taker** : Steve VK3EGD**Present** : Attendance sheet**Visitors**: Paul VK3TPM, Richard VK3TXD**Apologies** : Bruno VK3BFT, Ron VK3EXJ, Judy, Wayne VK3ZWC, Grahame VK3XK, Henry VK3FHTV, Maree VK3FSAT**Correspondence received** : listed and tabled**Correspondence sent** : listed and tabled**Treasurer's report** :**Read** : Brenton **Moved** : Brenton **Seconded** : Michael VK3GHM**Carried** : yes**Income** : \$475.00 **Expenditure** : \$353.22 **Balance** : \$121.78 **Total** : \$7,744.47**New Callsigns** : nil**Previous Minutes** :**Read** : as distributed **Moved** : VK3EGD **Seconded** : Michael VK3GHM **Approved**.**Business arising from the previous minutes** :

RDD - Albert reports – Controller is nearing completion. The last PCB is due next week. A question about voices to use for announcements. Some suggestions forthcoming. A possible demo next month. Interference is unchanged.

Xmas BBQ - a good time was had by all who attended. The hamper made \$169 .

Call books - confirming an order for 10.

Hamfest - no offers to coordinate have been received.

ILLW – Seven have confirmed their participation. **Moved** Chris VK3QB *that the club pay for 12 places @*

\$180 being \$2160 to be reimbursed as attendees pay - **Seconded** Pat VK3OZ – **Carried**.

AVR course - \$200 to be paid from Club funds for hall hire and \$223 for course advertising. Ian VK3BUF

gave an overview of the advertising. Some suggestions were made

Contd opposite