

QRM



Newsletter of the Wagga Amateur Radio Club (WARC Inc.)
Meetings held last Friday of the month at Small Street Club Rooms

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Presidents Words

Hello again. Firstly, I am an apology for this coming meeting as I have decided to attend Wyong Field Day and will be heading off by train on Friday afternoon, returning Monday. The meeting will be in the capable hands of Mike 2DAI and Yern 2KJJ as James 2NKJ is also an apology – and I will provide them with a report for the meeting.

This month seems to have flown past very quickly. This was in part due to the Foundation course that we ran earlier in the month. We started off with 6 candidates only to find 5 starters. The course commenced on the Friday evening with the first two modules followed by some prac work. Saturday saw the rest of the theory out of the road interspersed with further prac sessions. Jeff 2SW, Mike 2DAI and Bill 2KT presented the rest of the theory.

Great to have the club members present for the usual smoko session as the candidates also got to meet a few members as well. The afternoon finished around 5.30pm. Sunday we started at 9am with the rest of the prac and some revision sessions and then it was into the Theory exam followed by lunch. This time we welcomed Rob Mackie VK2QR who came down to assist with the Assessments. Rob is a new assessor for the club and once he has done a few more assessments we hope he will gain Nominated Assessor status and able to carry out special assessments. Once lunch was out of the road the practical assessments commenced and were all finished by 4.30pm. I am pleased to announce that provisionally, all candidates were successful and are now awaiting their certificates and callsigns.

It was a great weekend but quite long. A big thanks to all who helped out with lunch and of course, as usual a big thanks to Mike who not only presented and assessed but managed to get all the food and take the money. For those who wonder the club does not charge for tuition but instead recommend that candidates join the Club. We do however, charge a small amount for smoko and lunches. Thanks of course to the presenters and assessors. The Life Membership board has progressed to the point where very shortly it will be cut out and routed professionally. Once that is complete it will be stained and then sent back for lettering.

All repeaters are now working again with the fault on Square Nob traced to low level tone output on Wheel of Fortune. Thanks to Rod 2TRB for all his work in getting this completed. We have also received permission to install a system on Mt Ikes in the Tumbarumba region and as I write this, we will soon be having some on site talks with Tumbarumba Shire to finalise our access to the site. Discussions are also underway to return the UHF systems to Willans Hill and I hope to be in a position shortly to make an announcement.

John Moyle is approaching fast. Hopefully more discussions will be held on Friday night but at this stage all our usual bands seem to have someone mounting a station. IF you are interested in coming for a look please get in touch with me for directions. That's enough for now. Hope you are able to make the meeting. 73 de John VK2YW

FSQ

Late last year on the KX3 Yahoo group there was mention of a another new digital mode... it is called FSQ which stands for Fast Simple QSO, it was developed by Con Wassilieff ZL2AFP with the assistance of Murray Greenman ZL1BPU, and it was designed for HF use and is able to withstand wide variations in conditions even though it was designed for HF use it also can be used on VHF FM.

Now the interesting thing about this mode it work more like a computer chat client akin to sending a text message in say Skype et al, it can also send pictures at reasonably high resolutions, another of the interesting things is that because of the encoding method it is not reliant on sync between the two operators and the baud rate is also very tolerant, it allows for better operation across a wide variance in conditions.

FSQ is based on MFSK (Multiple frequency-shift keying) using the modification of IFK (Incremental Frequency Keying), which helps improve the reception of characters sent under difficult conditions (like the ones we have been having recently), also FSQ is light enough to be used on microcontroller based equipment which could make for some interesting projects.

As for software to use this mode you can use fldigi, which is well-known and fairly versatile digital mode software and can be used on many different platforms including Linux, windows and mac, I found it quiet easy to use for this mode, also you use FSQCall which only available on windows, it is a dedicated client for the mode which means there is extra modes so if you don't want lots of different software use fldigi, again I found FSQCall easy to use and setup.

If you would more detailed information about FSQ it can be found on ZL1BPU's qsl.net page, it covers the mode in more detail and has some picture that where transmitted on 40m at 15W. So if you are looking for another activity to add to your amateur radio have a play with FSQ.

What's on!!

February

26th Club Meeting

28th Wyong Field Day

March

19th – 20th John Moyle Field Day

18th Club Meeting

25th – 28th Easter

The Wagga Amateur Radio Club (WARC Inc.) would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsor EACOM for their continued support and assistance.