QRM

Newsletter of the Wagga Amateur Radio Club (WARC Inc.)

Meetings held last Friday of the month at Small Street Club Rooms

President: John VK2YW Secretary: Jorgen VK2KJJ Editor: Doug VK2ODD
March 16

Presidents Words

Hello again. Easter being early this year also happens to fall on our usual meeting night. At the last meeting it was decided to cancel the March meeting and therefore the next meeting will be in April.

Congratulations to all the new callsigns. Those I am aware of are Jacob VK2FNRS and Russ VK2FDPI. I haven't yet heard from the others at to their new callsigns. If you hear them on please go back to them and welcome them.

Last month, as I mentioned, I headed up to Wyong for the Field Day. I am sad to report that this year it was somewhat disappointing. What is arguably the premier Field Day in VK has deteriorated considerably to what it was. In its hay day upwards of 1500 people attended with all the major resellers present. Add to that many great displays and a vast flea market. It was a place you were guaranteed to meet up with a lot of people and hear and see the latest and greatest. This time, if there were 300 through the gate I would be surprised. Only one reseller of new Icom equipment was present but he had only one radio on display and little else. The Eastern and Mountain District Radio Club had, I believe, a very large show on the same day in VK3. Given it is much closer, I think I will seriously look at travelling down there next year.

Last weekend was of course the John Moyle Field Day and we again mounted a very respectable station. Weather conditions were markedly different to last year with heavy rain on Friday morning with it clearing by midday but it then turned cold and windy. Prior to the event Rod 2TRB and myself carried out some tests on the big generator as the previous year we (well some of us) were plagued with a very high noise level which rendered VHF and UHF useless. All our testing indicated that the generator was indeed again quiet and so it was again installed on the hill. We left it running overnight and around 9am Saturday, Jeff 2XD discovered fuel leaking from the under the engine. Poor Rod was dragged from his bed and had soon made a diagnosis, raced back into town for some parts and returned to have it operating again by just after midday. The unit performed flawlessly from then on. Well done and thanks Rod!

VHF and UHF is where the big points can be got but sadly there were few if any stations to our north like in Goulburn or Sydney and there was no tropospheric conditions allowing us contacts in to VK5 on Sunday morning. But despite that we did make some great contacts deep into VK3. The highlight for me was getting the log sent from the hill some 15 minutes after the contest had finished. Thinking back to when logs were handled manually and took up to a fortnight after to complete and send off, logging via VKCL is just a breeze.

Many thanks to Yern 2KJJ for running 20m and 80m with great scores; Wayne 2PDW for running 15m and 10m with a great score; Jeff 2SW with his voice recorder rig made a great 190 contacts, ably assisted by Bob 2VKV and James 2NKJ plus Winny the dog. On VHF/UHF thanks to Jeff 2XD and Marcus 3TST for all their work. Now we just have to wait for the results. Have a look here for Marcus' photos from the weekend.
https://goo.gl/photos/vbWXYnpbYsBKC76a7

Finally, there are some repeater problems we are currently wrestling with and may lead to major changes on the network. I hope to be in a position to report further at the April meeting where incidentally we will have Ken VK2GAA presenting on Spectrum Analysis and if time permits Software Defined Radio or SDR, so make sure you pop that in your diaries.

That's enough from me so 73 for now De VK2YW.

Raspberry Pi 3 ...

Well the Raspberry Pi Foundation has been busy lately firstly with the release of the Pi Zero a US$ 5 PC yes Ok it needs several peripherals to be usable and at about $ 25 for a PC is pretty good (they sold out of these nearly right away after release), and more recently they released the Raspberry Pi 3.

Now this little PC is full on especially because of it size and relatively low power requirements, and now it has a 64 bit processor (caveat here Raspbian OS is still 32 bit), and also built in Bluetooth and WiFi b/g/n, it has HDMI for video etc. and it also 40 pin GPIO header and direct camera and display connectors on board as well.

Now with some of these new features and the wide variety of software for general use and amateur radio use, this little PC would be a good shack PC, especially at the price of hardware the bulk of free software out ther

What's on!!

March

25[h]   Good Friday (No Meeting)

April

25th   ANZAC Day
29th   Club Meeting

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