

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
October 15

Presidents Words

Hello again. This month has been very busy for Club activities. We almost had three events on the one weekend and as it turned out was there were two – Wagga Fusion Festival and the BMSC Car Rally up in Bondo State Forest. The third event would have been JOTA. Then this last weekend the Club hosted the inaugural Parks n Peaks Seminar. More on these elsewhere.

Some of you are receiving Calendar reminders for meetings from Yahoo. If that's so you will notice that the time listed is for UTC + 10 hours and doesn't allow for Daylight saving. I have had a quick look on the site but nothing jumps out at me to change so you will just have to remember that all our general club meetings start at 8pm. Many years ago, I did try to bring the start time back to 7.30 but seems old habits die hard and 8pm it is. ☺

As you are probably aware, we try to give you all something of interest at club meetings rather than business that can be handled by the Exec and hence the meeting more runs as a 'brief' reporting mechanism on what we have been up to during the month. At this month's Exec nothing came to mind to run but just today I have been contacted by Mark Tell from the ACMA who is in town for the HF Radio Club meeting at Camp Kurrajong this weekend and who asked whether he might come along on Friday night.

I jumped at the chance and he will give us a short presentation at the end of the night so should be well worth coming along and hearing him. Next month, we are bringing Bryan VK3YNG up to speak about Surface mount components and working with them with ordinary shack tools plus he is going to do a Foxhunting workshop for us on the Saturday morning which should culminate in a Foxhunt and lunch for the rest of the day. He often pitches these sessions at kids so if you know of any kids (grand kids etc) who might be interested get them along as well...but more details closer to the day.

This coming Saturday, the Lapidary Club is organising an Open Day at the precinct. We will discuss this further on Friday night but given the Camera Club have asked to use the southern end of the rooms for a demo area and the Ulysses Club are doing a BBQ, I think we will just limit ourselves to answering any questions and having the station open for viewing. Whether we continue during the afternoon will be up to the meeting and suitable volunteers.

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Finally, don't forget the Christmas Party on 12th December. The previous weekend the 4WD Club have booked the rooms for their party and will decorate the rooms and leave the decorations up for us on the following week similar to last year. Again – more details on this event at the meeting.

That's it for now ...73 de vk2yw

Wagga Fusion Festival

Yern VK2KJJ and myself worked with The Wired Lab people again to help them out with their installation at the Fusion Festival held last Saturday week. I know both Yern and I were a little concerned at how this might work especially with HF radio conditions being very unpredictable. After meeting with the group the week before we started to put all the plans together. Yern was to operate the higher bands – 20m etc and I was operating 40 & 80m. We both built new antennas for the event.

Yern put together a dipole and I built a trapped 40m/80m dipole. I was very surprised at seeing very respectable SWR figures on first go as I have never had very good success with traps. We set up early in the afternoon and managed to get both antennas strung from available trees in the Memorial Gardens without incident and were operational by about 3pm. From 4pm until 8pm we had a steady stream of both adults and children through our respective 'shacks'.

The Wired Lab people had set up various tents to welcome people and tell them about the hobby and show various aspects. They also had atmosphere audio running in the background that consisted of various recordings of ham radio contacts and general noise running on a loop. Adding to the atmosphere was the linked repeater announcements every 15 minutes. Not sure how many people I had through my set up but it would have been around the 100 mark and Yern probably similar. The outcome was the Wired Lab people were ecstatic with the response. On the next are some of Yerns photos.



Above - Part of the Wired Lab's display and Below - my 'shack'



Inaugural Parks and Peaks event

Many thanks to the club members who both participated in this event and who also helped out with setting up and cooking. In particular, to Mike VK2DAI.

Also many thanks to James VK2NKJ for his work in getting Internet access and a **BIG THANK YOU to Advance Communications for the loan of the access point.**

From my point of view, the event was a success although I am quite disappointed in the attendance. Initial indications were that we could expect 40. That in fact turned out to be closer to 7 or so visitors and a couple of their Xyls. A number of the key players had prior commitments and have since indicated support for another event next year. We may or may not be asked to again host the event – it all depends on whether Canberra or Albury might also be interested in the interests of moving it around to include areas of most operators.

Despite the lack of numbers we heard some interesting presentations on operating portable, mapping, logging on both Mac and PC and antennas – all subjects that should have been of interest to everyone. Saturday evening we met up again for dinner at the William Farrer. Because of the reduced numbers and without any prior warning they relegated us to the Bistro which was much noisier. On the plus side though, the meal was great, as was the company.

To finish off the weekend we set out Sunday to do some multiple activations. Marcus 3TST and Dave 4DD went up to Wheel of Fortune; Yern, Peter 3PF, Warren 3BYD, Ian 5CZ and XYL and myself went up to Flakney; Allen 3HRA went up to The Rock and Paul 5PAS headed down to Livingstone National Park. On Flakney we ran two stations – Peter 3PF and Ian 5CZ. Most interesting to see the other people's setups and how they operate. Peter 3PF then went on to Mt Burngoogie and even later in the afternoon did another summit up towards Rosewood and then he headed back to Wodonga. Allen 3HRA left The Rock and went back and activated Flakney later in the afternoon as well. Paul 5PAS went on to activate Cocopara NP over near Griffith before heading to Balranald for his overnight stay. Seems his 'bug' has bitten deeply as I just worked him at Ngarkat NP this afternoon.

Copies of all the presentations will be available for download soon and I will let you know when this is available.

On the next page are some photos taken by Alan VK2KAW



Warren 3BYD speaking on CW Activations



Lunch



Where is that moth? Doug 2ZMP at Smoko



The group before activations



Pete 3PF hard at it on Flakney

What's on!!

October

30th Club Meeting
31st Lapidary Club Open Day

November

27th 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.