



BARC Newsletter – Volume 32, Issue 5, December 2008

Diary Dates

Sat 13th 2:00PM Christmas Breakup

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Club Net Frequencies

Due to interference to the HF net on 28.450 MHz the following procedure has been adopted.

If 28.450 MHz is not available, the first clear frequency in the following list will be used, 28.445, 28.440, 28.455, 28.460 (i.e. down 5, down 10, up 5, up 10). The starting time is 8:00 pm.

On Wednesday nights the normal frequency of 146.550 MHz will not be used, instead a trial on the Brisbane (Mt. Glorious VK4RBN) Repeater of 147.000 MHz will be used. The starting time is 8:00 pm.

Editorial

No business meeting minutes or treasurer's report... these will be published in the January edition of QSP. Merry Christmas to all.

What's New

In this month's issue, Bruce VK4TRS [informs us](#) of the dangers regarding milk products originating from China, page [3](#).

We are informed about some dodgy wireless headphones, that were recently [removed from service by the ACMA](#) for causing interference to the Mt. Glorious VK4RBN repeater, page [5](#).

Apparently the [cost of examinations](#) are set to increase next year due to increasing operating costs, details page [6](#).

The Queensland Museum is [holding an exhibition](#), showing off numerous radios from that early age of wireless broadcasting. The details of this exhibition are exhibited on page [7](#).

And finally, a [festive poem](#) to end the last publication for the year. St. Nick calls CQ on page [8](#).

Committee Members

PRESIDENT

Michael Cooper VK4MX

VICE-PRESIDENT

Harry Debnam VK4DFG

SECRETARY

Kevin Johnston VK4UH

ASSIST-SECRETARY

To be decided

TREASURER

Les Parker VK4S0
Keith Adams VK4XAK

LIBRARIAN

Peter Holtman VK4C0Z

PROVIDOR

Jim Kelly VK4HJK

REPEATER OFFICER

To be decided

STATION MANAGERS (VK4BA)

HF: Les Parker VK4S0
VHF: Don Johnman VK4DS

PROJECTS CO-ORDINATORS

Kevin Dalton VK4WA

AWARDS & QSL MANAGER

To be Decided

PUBLICITY & LIASON

Peter Holtham VK4C0Z

QSP NEWS EDITOR

Stuart Longland VK4MSL

CLUB EQUIPMENT OFFICER

Frank Barker VK4KFB

W.I.A. ACCREDITED EXAMINERS

Les Parker VK4S0

BARCFEST COMMITTEE

Michael Cooper VK4MX
Les Parker VK4S0

Club Meetings

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday (social) at the Maritime Museum and 4th (business) Friday of each month at the Maritime Museum in Brisbane.

No meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of January or the 4th Friday of December.

Visitors are most welcome to come along and sample our hospitality.

Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions fall due on the last day of August.

Current Standard Membership fee is \$20.00 (Subject to any changes prior to 31st August).

Correspondence

All correspondence (except for items for the Club newsletter) should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Brisbane Amateur Radio Club Incorporated
P.O. Box 605
Annerley, Qld, 4103.

Club Web Site <http://www.qsl.net/vk4ba>
Items for the Newsletter may be sent by mail to:

QSP Editor
P.O. Box 605
Annerley, Qld, 4103.

or, by Email to:

qspnews@longlandclan.yi.org.

Deadline is 5pm Monday prior to the 2nd Friday Each month except January.

Club Station Nets (VK4BA)

28.450 MHz SSB Mondays 2000 hrs Local.
Trial 14.170 MHz SSB Mondays 2000 hrs Local – if 10m conditions are bad.
147.000 MHz FM Wednesdays 2000 hrs Local.

Melamine and how to identify where produce are from

This alert was forwarded by Bruce VK4TRS. It is a timely warning, to keep in the backs of our minds as we organise the gift hampers at this time of year. The origin of this email is not known.

Make sure you read to the very end – very interesting – perhaps the best way to tell where things are made...

China milk poisoning incidents make everyone afraid to look at the daily news report. Everyday, the reports are changing. No one can clearly tell us what to eat and what not to eat.

1. What really is poisoned milk?

It is milk powder mixed with MELAMINE

What is Melamine used for?

It is an industrial chemical used in the production of melawares.

It is also used in home decoration. 'US resistant board'

We all MUST understand that Melamine is used in INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION — it CANNOT be eaten.

2. Why is Melamine added to milk powder?

The most important nutrient in milk is protein. And, Melamine has this same protein that contains NITROGEN. Adding Melamine into milk reduces the actual milk content required, and therefore it is cheaper than all milk. So it lowers the capital required in the production of milk products. Therefore it earns the business man more profit!

Melamine looks like milk powder – it doesn't have any smell, so cannot be detected.

3. When was it discovered that it had been added to milk products.

2007	US cats and dogs died suddenly, they found that pet food from China contained Melamine.
Early 2008	In China, an abnormal increase in infant cases of kidney stones was reported.
August 2008	China Sanlu Milk Powder tested for Melamine
Sept. 2008	New Zealand Government asked China to investigate this problem.
21 Sep 2008	The investigation found that many food products in Taiwan tested for Melamine

4. What happens when Melamine ingested and digested?

Melamine remains inside the kidneys. It forms into stones blocking the tubes. Pain will be imminent and the person cannot urinate. Kidney(s) will then swell.

Although surgery can remove the stones, it causes irreversible kidney damage. It can lead to the loss of kidney function and will require kidney dialysis or lead to death because of uremia.

What is dialysis? In fact, it should be called 'blood washing'; it is filtering all of the body's blood into a machine and then returning the blood back to the body. The whole process takes 4 hours; and it is necessary to have dialysis once every 3 days for the rest of your life.

Why is it much more serious in babies?

A baby's kidneys are so very small **and** they drink a lot of milk powder. China currently has 13,000 infants hospitalized.

It does not matter how much Melamine a human being ingested (ate) (took). The important point is: **MELAMINE CANNOT BE EATEN!**

5. What foods are to be avoided?

Food items from China that contain dairy products should be avoided. **Remember: Foods with cream or milk should be avoided.**

6. What do we do next?

Avoid the above food items for at least six months.

If you own or operate a snack bar, a restaurant, or a coffee shops, etc., **stop selling dairy products for the meantime.**

If you have infants at home, change to mother's milk or find other substitutes.

Finally, share this information with friends so they will understand the risk of milk poisoning.

7. Determining the country of origin

The whole world is very afraid of "Made In China" 'black-hearted' goods.

The first 3 digits of the barcode identify the country code wherein the product was made. ALL barcodes that start with 690, 691, 692, etc... up to and including 695 are all MADE IN CHINA.

Barcodes starting with 471 are printed on products Made in Taiwan.

You have a right to know. But the government and related departments never inform or educate the public. Therefore we must educate ourselves, be vigilant, and RESCUE ourselves.

Today, Chinese businessmen know that consumers will not select products 'Made in China'. So, they make every effort not to show or state the country of origin on their products. However, you can now refer to the barcode. DO remember if the first 3 digits are one of those between 690 and 695 inclusive then it is a product Made in China.

OTHER BARCODES:

- 00 — 13 USA & CANADA
- 30 — 37 FRANCE
- 40 — 44 GERMANY
- 49 JAPAN
- 50 UK
- 57 Denmark
- 64 Finland
- 76 Switzerland and Liechtenstein
- 480 Philippines
- 628 Saudi-Arabia
- 629 United Arab Emirates
- 740 745 - Central America

Please inform your family and friends. Be aware! And help others to be aware!

Headphones Interfering With 2m Repeater

Confiscated By The ACMA

Further information regarding the interference to the Brisbane 147.000 2m repeater, Monday December 8th, a representative from the Brisbane ACMA office paid a visit to an address where an offending device was located, upon his arrival, he tuned in to the affected frequency and was greeted by a strong wideband carrier, radiated by the interfering device.

The ACMA's investigations revealed that the device was a pair of wireless headphones, with a mic back-channel, designed to be used with a PC online. The headphones, an Omni model WEP-910D, use the 2m frequency as the audio feed to deliver audio to the headphones, which explains my hearing endless hours of what was from their PC soundcard, be it gaming, or streamed audio from internet sources.

There has been several other examples of the Omni WEP-910D headphones found by the ACMA, and they are a device that has been freely sold in Australia via mainly online shopping sites and EBay, the ACMA representative said that they now have another one of these things, and have growing amounts of "ammunition" to approach the importer/distributors selling them.

One retailer has allegedly sold many of these units. When asked to identify the RF frequency used to determine if there would be interference from 920 MHz cordless phones or wireless access points, the advice from the retailer was that they had not been aware of any issues of interference to these units and had sold a significant numbers of the devices.

The owners of the wireless headphones, who had suspected that they were not the only "users" of the frequency, had surrendered the unit to the ACMA, when they were advised that the unit was not legal to use in Australia.

Thanks were given to the ACMA for dealing with the interference problem, and ensuring that the radio regulations are being enforced. The ACMA representative involved expressed his appreciation for the work that had been done by the Amateurs to correctly identify and locate the source of the interference. As amateurs we should always make sure we do our best to assist the resolution of interference to Amateur radio from non-compliant equipment.

It turns out that the users of this particular equipment had, on some occasions heard "voices talking to them" on their headphones...

There may be more of these units in use, so be sure to keep an ear out for them, they seem to operate on 147.000 MHz \pm about 15kHz, so users listening to repeaters on 147.000 MHz are more likely to be affected by one of these units.

Additional Note:

These are the sort of devices including cordless telephones that can be freely imported and sold in Australia, however they should be operating on the correct frequencies allocated. It is however an offence to use these devices on frequencies that are out of band. — Peter Young VK3MV

— Tim Moore VK4TIM 10/12/2008

Article Source: <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2008/20081210-1/index.php>

Cost of WIA Examinations to increase

On 11h December the WIA released a statement of immediate interest to all clubs.

It was announced that from 2 February 2009, the price of WIA examinations will increase to \$67.00, including GST. This will apply to all assessments undertaken on and after that date.

It was also announced that the price increases will not apply to candidates under the age of 18 on the day of assessment. The charge for these candidates will remain \$35 including GST, with the exception of practical assessments taken alone, which will increase from \$25 to \$35 for those candidates.

It is important that clubs and candidates understand that the increases are justified and that the cost of qualifying as an amateur remains more than reasonable. The WIA provided the following information in its release:

The price increases are the result of a number of factors.

The date of the increases (2 February 2009) is the anticipated date that the WIA will commence conducting examinations in accordance with proposed new contractual arrangements with ACMA. From that date, the WIA will be obliged to comply with the Commonwealth's Cost Recovery guidelines, with its charges requiring Commonwealth approval. These guidelines require the WIA to charge a price consistent with the full cost of providing the service. The WIA will subsidise the lower charge for candidates under 18.

The work necessary to establish and obtain approval of WIA assessment charges has demonstrated that the WIA is currently undercharging for examination services. A number of new costs have also been incurred. Inflation has added to existing costs. The WIA has taken out a new insurance policy covering the WIA and each individual Assessor against claims arising from alleged improper assessments. There are also additional costs arising from the provision of additional services under the proposed contractual arrangements (for example, the WIA will issue amateur certificates of proficiency to successful examination candidates under the proposed arrangements).

WIA costs and corresponding charges have been verified by the WIA's auditors and ACMA.

The WIA is a not-for-profit organisation established to promote amateur radio. The price increases are due entirely to increased costs, the adoption of full cost recovery and the provision of additional services. The larger part of the work associated with the conduct of assessments is still provided on a voluntary basis by people who believe that amateur radio is worth promoting and encouraging.

No part of the charges are attributable to the time of WIA Assessors, Learning Facilitators, the WIA Directors/Secretary or the WIA Registered Training Organisation.

An Assessor Alert has been issued for all Assessors.

Any assessments completed before 2nd February 2009 will be at the old cost.

WIA Assessors have been advised that it is anticipated that a further revision of the Assessor Instructions will be released shortly, to cover the new procedures in relation to call signs, certificates of proficiency and other changes.

The WIA has made this announcement at the earliest possible time to ensure that all candidates, Assessors and clubs have as much notice as possible.

Please check the WIA website before sending enquiries.

— Ted Thrift VK2ARA

WIA Clubs Co-ordinator

(02) 4272 9521 <mailto:vk2ara@wia.org.au>

Radio Days Exhibition

The Queensland Museum at South Bank is exhibiting numerous radios in their “Radio Days” exhibit.

Location: Level 4 (Adjacent to Dandiri Maiwar)

Exhibits:

- Portable Radios
- The Social Life of Radios
- Wireless Technology

Radios come in all shapes and sizes. Over 150 radios are held in the Queensland Museum collection. Here we present a small selection from the 1920s to the 1960s, when radio was king.

In the 1920s the mass production of radios made them more affordable, turning them into “home appliances” Since then they have transformed our lives, bringing news and entertainment into our homes.

Since advances in electrical technology first allowed the transmission of sound, the “wireless” has continued to evolve. Changes in radio shapes and sizes as well as quality of sound can be traced to changes in technology.

After Marconi first demonstrated the long-distance transmission of radio signals in the early 20th century, the invention and refinement of the radio valve allowed the production of radio receivers. The development of the Superheterodyne circuit by the 1920s improved receiver performance, as did the arrival of the transistor in the 1940s and later the integrated circuit.

The appearance of radios has also changed as different materials have become available – wood, leather, fabric and metal have given way to plastic, allowing different shapes and colour and less weight.

Further Information

Geraldine Mate (Cultures & History) 3840 7604

David Scholes (Exhibitions Manager) 3840 7619

“The Night Before Christmas”

This first appeared in the WIA National News for the 14th December this year. I have included it here in case people missed it – it is really quite clever. It can be found online at <http://lists.wia.org.au/pipermail/vk1wia-news/2008-December/000109.html>. Enjoy. — Stuart VK4MSL

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down,
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back,
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.

The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words, “Old St. Nick”.

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said, “I've emergency traffic!”

His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:

“Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener!
Whoa, Diode! Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak!
Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode! You're flying too low!
you're flying too fast! Look out, you dumb reindeer,
his antenna mast!”

So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,

St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplow!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
“Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!”

As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back—
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
“Hams do it in the shack” on the front of his cap.

The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read, “QSL Via Bureau”.

His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.

I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.

He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.

But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
“Beware of the ACMA, friend, we were both out of band!”

Merry Christmas everyone

— Kylea VK6XYL