

BARC Newsletter

Volume 33, Issue 3

September 2012

Diary Dates

September 8th Social Meeting

September 22nd Business Meeting

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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 439.950 MHz will be used, This is a repeater and an input of 434.950 MHz will be used. The starting time is 8:00 pm.

Editorial

The Time seems to be passing very quickly. It seems like no time since I produced the August Newsletter. It is now 27th August and time once more to try and produce another Newsletter. The Monthly Business Meeting for august was last Friday (24th) so I will endeavor To let you know of any Club developments

What's New

Bill VK4TWS and Peter VK4COZ went to the Gold Coast and dismantled the three antennas that were on a house that used to be owned by Ozzie Harris who has become a silent key.

The controller for the rotator was missing. It was probably picked up by the person who collected Ozzie's Radio gear. If anyone can help in locating the missing controller please contact one of the club's committee members..

The three element tri band yagi is in pieces and needs to be cleaned up then reassembled ready for mounting on the club's lattice tower.

It has to be decided where to mount the rotator. It will be either at the base of the tower on top of the tower.

There will be a working bee next Saturday 1st September to help install a long wire antenna in preparation for establishing a working Amateur Station to be used for JOTA in October this year.. Please come along from 2pm to 4 pm to help.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Kevin Dibble VK4ZR

VICE-PRESIDENT

Kevin Dalton VK4WA

SECRETARY

Peter Holtham VK4COZ

ASSIST-SECRETARY

Keith Adams VK4XAK

TREASURER

Les Parker VK4SO

LIBRARIAN

Peter Holtham VK4COZ

PROVIDOR

Jim Kelly VK4HJK

REPEATER OFFICER

Kevin Dalton VK4WA

STATION MANAGERS (VK4BA)

HF

Bill Scheele VK4TWS

Les Parker VK4SO

PROJECTS CO-ORDINATORS

Ron Everingham VK4EV

AWARDS & QSL MANAGER

To be selected

PUBLICITY & LIASON

To be selected

WICEN REPRESENTATIVES

To be selected

QSP NEWS EDITOR

Kev Dibble VK4ZR

CLUB EQUIPMENT OFFICER

Les Parker VK4SO

W.I.A. ACCREDITED EXAMINERS

Les Parker VK4SO

BARCFEST COMMITTEE

Les Parker VK4SO

CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 2nd (social) and 4th (business) Fridays of each month at Rochedale Scout Den. 21 Rochedale Road Rochedale

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

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

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs fall due on the last day of August and must Be paid by the 4th Friday in September

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 6106
Upper MtGravatt 4122 Qld.

Club Web Site <http://www.qsl.net/vk4ba>

Items for the Newsletter may be sent by mail to:

QSP Editor
. P.O. Box 6106
Upper Mt Gravatt, 4122 Qld..

or, by Email to:

vk4ba@qsl.net

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
439.950 MHz. FM Wednesdays 2000 hrs Local

BRISBANE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BUSINESS MEETING 24th August 2012
Minutes to be provided later

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm by the President VK4ZR. Nine members were present. The following members were present. Colin VK4ACG, Keith VK4XAK, Peter VK4ATC, Gordon VK4OU, Don VK4DS, Les VK4SO, Peter VK4COZ, Bill VK4TWS and Kevin VK4ZR. It was disappointing to see just enough members to make up a quorum. The Club's constitution states that At any General Meeting the number of members required to constitute a quorum shall be double the number of members presently on the Management Committee plus one. As there are four members on the Management Committee this means that nine members are necessary to attend the meeting otherwise the meeting cannot proceed to conduct any business..

. At the July meeting it was decided to have a festival one Saturday afternoon later in the year to celebrate the opening of our new club house. It was intended to get the scouts involved in providing any refreshments.

As there is only six weeks to JOTA this year it was decided to ensure that the Club had a operational Station at the Club House to be used by the Scouts as this was part of the agreement with the Scouts when the Club signed the agreement to use the Scouts Hall.

Due to the limited time before JOTA a suggestion was made the Club erect a suitable HF antenna to be used in October instead of relying on getting the tri-band three element operational for use by JOTA.

The proposed festival may have to be postponed until a later date. There are other Ham fests programmed for November so the Club must select a suitable time that does not clash with these other festivals.

To overcome some of the problems with accessing the clubs 70 cm Repeater the provision of a connection to Echolink has been provided so that the repeater can be accessed by this method. This facility is setup at the QTH of Kevin VK4ZR and is not available full time. It will be turned on as often as possible and will depend on when Kevin is at home. It will be available on Wednesday nights for the VK4BA 70 cm net starting at 8pm.

HOW TO USE ECHOLINK TO ACCESS THE BARC REPEATER

To check if the facility is operational simply log into Echolink and under Explorer view, Oceania, Australia check on the list of VK4 Callsigns. If VK4RBA-L is listed then the facility is available. Simply log into VK4RBA-L by moving the cursor on to the callsign and clicking the left-hand button on the mouse..

When a connection is made to another station on Echolink it will be noted at the lower left hand side of the screen. It will be shown in RED.

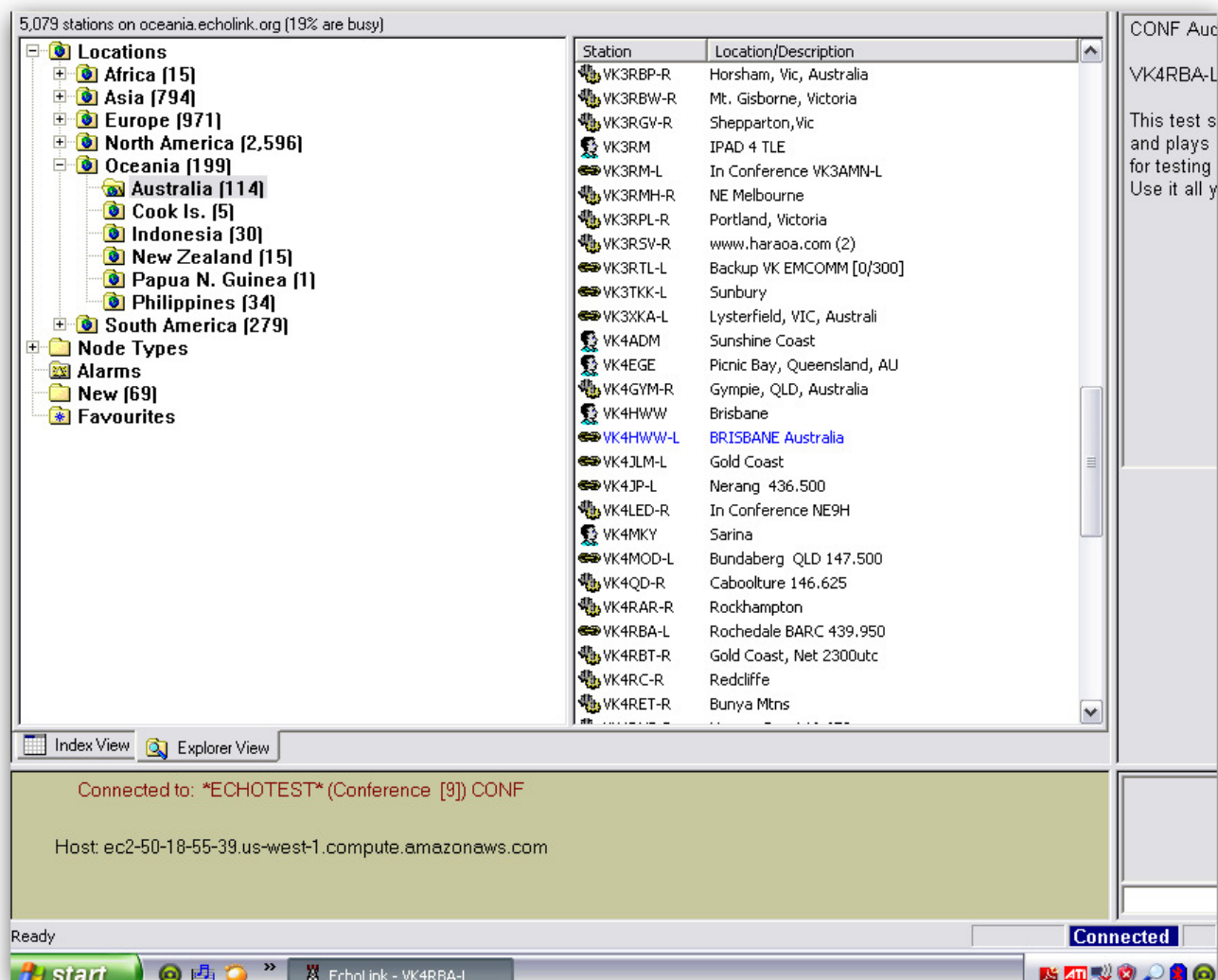
It the next picture it shows Echolink being connected to the Echolink Server.

Connected to "ECHOTEST" Conference (9) CONF

Below this is the URL used by Echolink

Host ec2-50-18-55-39 us-west-1 compute.amazonaws.com

The Station callsign shown in Blue is BUSY (VK4HWW-L)



Information on the next BARC Meeting

The Club will have its next meeting on Friday 8th September 2012. This will be a Social Meeting so please come along. There will be an interesting demonstration on how to check out an antenna and make adjustments to obtain the optimum settings for impedance matching and performance. Kevin VK4WA has just bought a new instrument and will bring it along and demonstrate how simple the exercise can be if you have the right equipment

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER ACTIVITY

This edition will be devoted to Bill Scheele VK4TWS who is one of our very active members. Bill is in his mid seventies but this does not stop him from being extremely active. He lives close to the Rosedale Scout club and we can thank him for arranging the contact with the scouts that has allowed us to make use of the facilities at the Rosedale Scout Den..

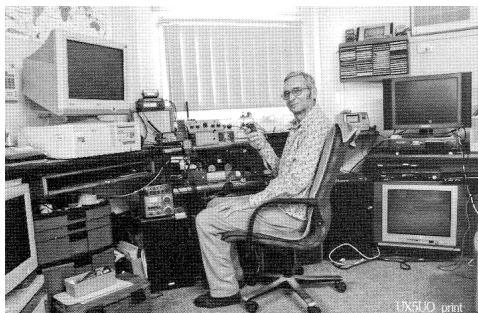
Bill is very active with Amateur Radio and enjoys playing with digital Slow Scan TV. This is only one of his many interests. He regularly scans the HF Bands looking for DX and other interesting contacts.

There are very few jobs that Bill will not tackle. Fence Making, Brick laying and cementing are just some of his present achievements.

Bill has built his own shack as well as a lattice mast for his Amateur Radio activities.



As you can see from the above picture, Bill's shack is not just an ordinary room in his house but a special building remote from his main dwelling. His home built mast is a credit to him and his antenna array is not just a simple three element HF Yagi!!





WIA CLUB GRANT for 2012

The Club has submitted an application for another Grant from the WIA for 2012. This application is for \$850 to purchase a Laptop Computer to be used in conjunction with the Digital Projector purchased with the money granted to the Club from last year's WIA Club Grant

HOW TO INSTALL ECHOLINK ON TO A COMPUTER

1. **Open your Internet Browser** and use Google to search for Echolink
2. You should find a page similar to the one shown below

Introducing EchoLink

www.echolink.org/

System to connect amateur radio operators to repeaters, simplex links, and other hams. Includes interface information, documentation, and node information.

[Download](#) - [Validation](#) - [Android FAQ](#) - [Take a Tour](#)

Download - EchoLink

www.echolink.org/register_data.jsp

... for more information. Please register by entering your callsign and e-mail address below. Then, choose Submit for instructions on how to download.

[Download EchoLink](#) - [Authentication](#) - [News and Tips](#)

Authentication - EchoLink

www.echolink.org/authentication.htm

Each new user must be validated, and the most critical part of validation is authentication. Authentication is simply verifying that you are who you say you are.

3. Select the item "Download Echolink"

Download EchoLink

EchoLink® software is offered free of charge to licensed Amateur Radio operators worldwide, for Amateur Radio use only. Please note that **you must hold a valid Amateur Radio license** in order to use EchoLink. After installing the program, you must provide proof of license if you wish to use it; see [Authentication](#) for more information.

Please register by entering your callsign and e-mail address below. Then, choose Submit for instructions on how to download.

Callsign:

E-Mail Address:

4. Complete the form you will see when you select “Download Echolink”

Type in your Callsign and your email address then click on “Submit”

You will see the below information

Download EchoLink

[EchoLinkSetup_2_0_908.exe](#)

Version 2.0.908

Size: 2.8 MB

This is a self-extracting installer, which installs the program and the help file. Download this file to your hard drive and then open it to begin installation. After installing, you can run EchoLink from the Programs section of your Start menu.

If you are upgrading from an earlier version of EchoLink, **do not un-install or delete your existing software**. Simply download and install the new version, and the software will be upgraded automatically, retaining all of your existing settings.



[Click Here to Download](#)

Proof of license is required for all new EchoLink users. After downloading and installing the software, please run it to register your callsign with the system. Then, to begin the validation process, click [here](#).

[Prior Version](#) | [New Features](#) | [Upgrade Notes](#) | [Windows 95 Notes](#) | [Installation Help](#) | [Other Downloads](#)

Note: If you have difficulty installing on Windows 2000 and older Windows versions, you may need to first update your Windows Installer system; download and run one of the links below.

- [Windows Installer for Windows 95/98/ME](#)
- [Windows Installer for Windows NT and Windows 2000](#)

Other Downloads

EchoLink Proxy Software v 1.2.3 [Download](#)

Works together with EchoLink (version 1.9 or above) to allow access to the EchoLink network via restricted Internet services in hotels, airports, offices, and other areas. Please see [EchoLink Proxy](#) for more info and installation instructions.

EchoLink User's Guide (PDF) [Download](#)

Printable version of EchoLink's Help file (ver 1.8.874).

Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or above.



EchoLink Programmer's Reference (Preliminary) [Download](#)

Information for software developers interested in creating programs and scripts to interact with the EchoLink software.

Note: You must download this file before opening it; do not choose "Open" or "Run" after clicking the link above.

Click on “Click here to download”

Read the text below this item.

Proof of licence is required for all new Echolink users. After downloading and installing the software, Please run it to register your callsign with the system. Then begin the validation process.

When you run the program you will see the following icons along the top of the screen



If you use your mouse and place the cursor over each icon it will produce a small window with the name of the function performed when this icon is selected

The first icon on the left-hand side of the task bar looks like a lightning strike. It can be used as the PTT switch. Click on it to turn on the TX then click again to turn off Tx

The next two icons are indicators of connection to another station. Clicking on the red broken icon turns off the connection.

The next icon looks like a pair of scissors and is used to cut a section of text that may have been typed along the bottom of the window.

The next icon looks like two sheets of paper and is the copy function.

The next icon looks like floppy disk and is the paste function.

The next icon looks like a page with two green arrows. This icon is used to refresh the list of stations shown on the screen

The next icon shows a finger pointing at a page. This icon is used to show information about a station simply click the mouse on a station then click on this icon and the station details will appear

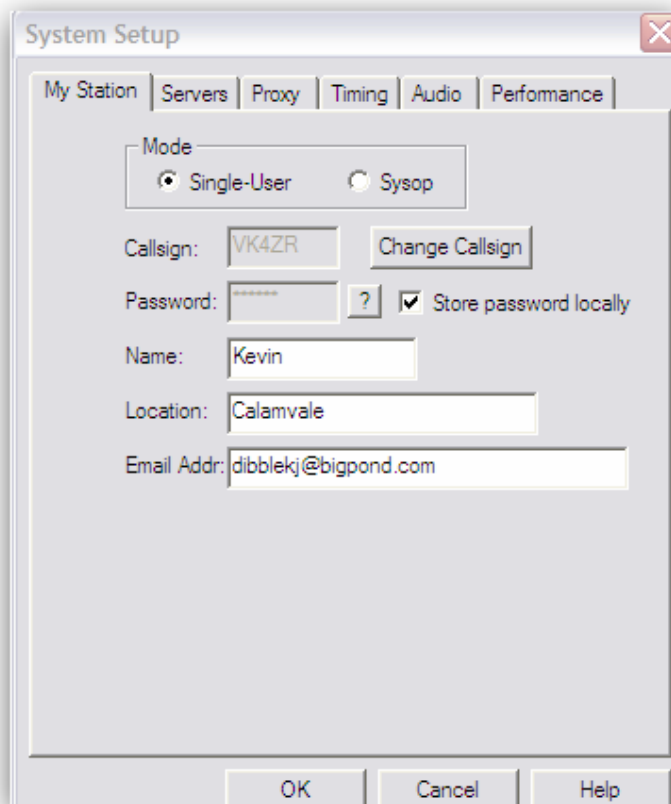
The next icon looks like a pair of binoculars. This icon is used to find a station by entering the station callsign into the window that opens when the icon is clicked on.

The next icon is an alarm function and a list of stations can be added and if any change status an alarm will sound

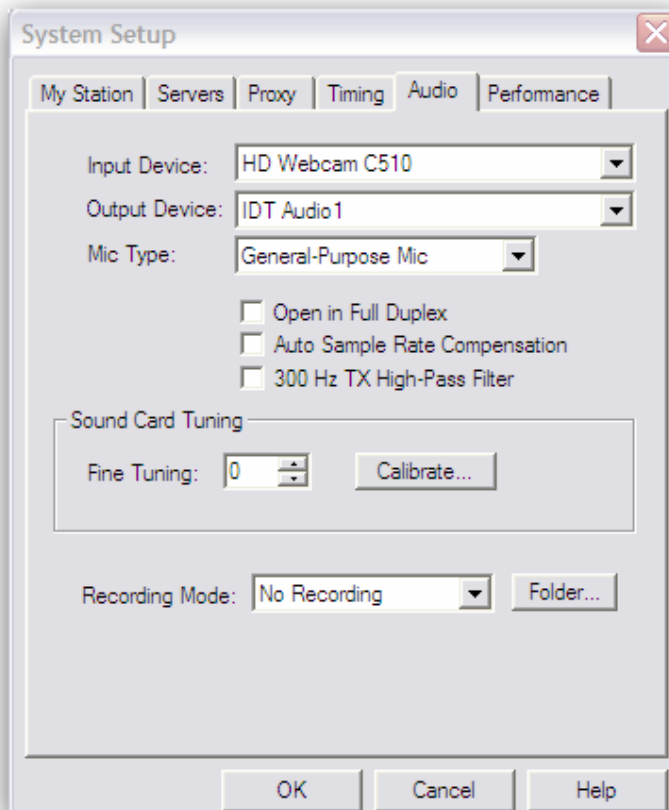
The next icon is a crossed set of tools and opens a window that is used to enter details of your callsign, password, name, location and email address.

The mode can be set to single-User or sysop if you have to operate a network.

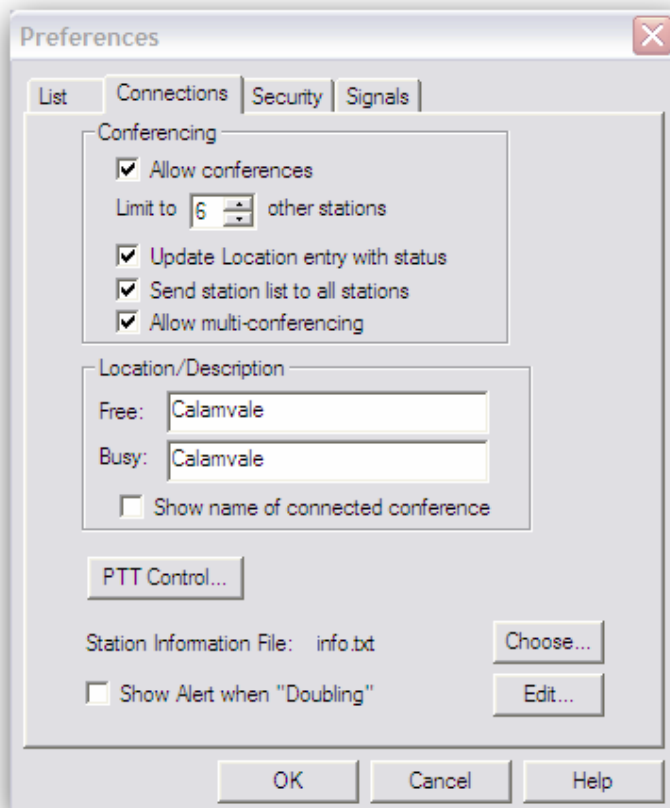
Single User is the normal setting.



The other items along the top of the small window "system Setup" Servers, Proxy, Timing and performance do not have to be changed. The "Audio" section shows which microphone is connected for the Echolink program as shown in the next picture



The next icon looks like a list of pages and is the **preference** function it is used to **change into conference mode** so that a number of stations can join together to have a conference. **This mode is needed when using the setup for vk4rba-l otherwise only one station can use the facility.**



If you select the second item "Connections" and the setup can be change for conference mode and the number of stations that can join the conference can be set.

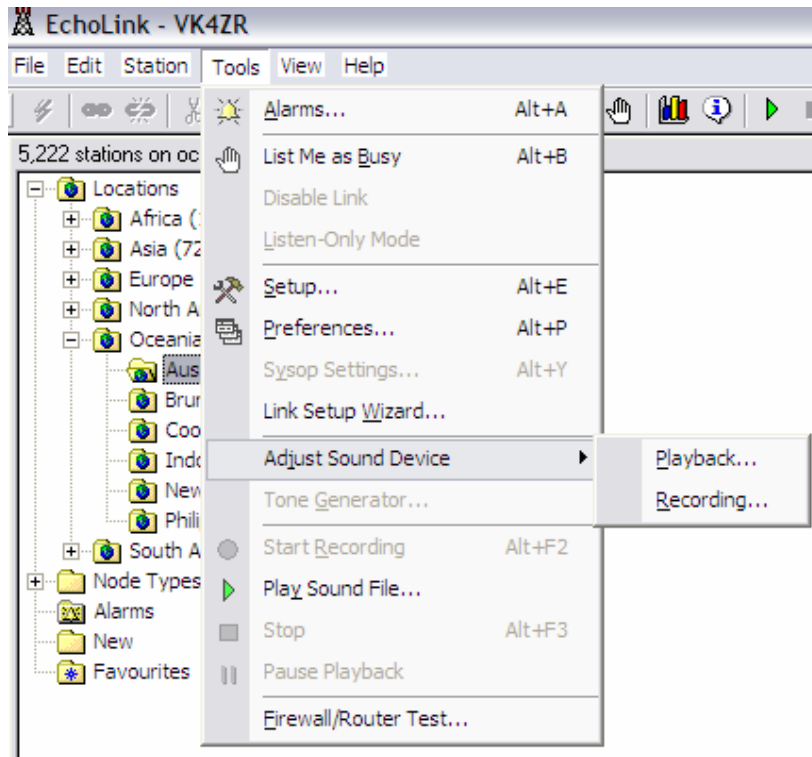
Simply put a tick in the box "Allow Conferences"

Adjust the number of stations that can be connected.
6 is possibly a good number to select.

The other icons are not important and you can check out their functions at a later time.

The next important function to know is that the **Space Bar** can be used as a **PTT switch**. If you tap the space bar you can change to the Tx function. Tap the space bar again to return to Rx mode

5. The next think you will have to do is to select a suitable microphone to plug into the sound card on your Computer. A cheap Electret mike is ideal. One can be purchased for under \$20 which will be fitted with a 3.5 mm stereo plug to be used with the sound card socket.



If you select “Tools” from the top tool bar a small window will appear. Select “Adjust Sound Device”

Then “Recording” and you will be able to adjust the input level of your microphone.

You may have to check that the correct mike is selected.

If you are having problems with getting the correct mike connected you may have to do some further checks.

Your computer may be set up in the Audio section to use other default settings.

To check this you may have to go the “Desktop” and select “control Panel” then check the “Sounds and Audio

devices” to see which items are set.

If you open the “System Setup up” window in Echolink (Page 8 of this QSP shows the System setup Window with details of the input and output devices used by Echolink) You can check that the correct devices are being used.

Selecting “Playback” will allow you to adjust your Speaker level.

The best way to adjust both Microphone and Speaker levels is to connect to the Echolink Test Server and then you can listen to your Tx signal and adjust the mike gain to obtain the optimum setting which is shown on a bar graph at the lower left hand side of the screen.

The bar graph will be blue when you talk into your mike and the length of the blue bar indicates you mike level. Too much level will be shown by the yellow colour in the bar at the right-hand end.

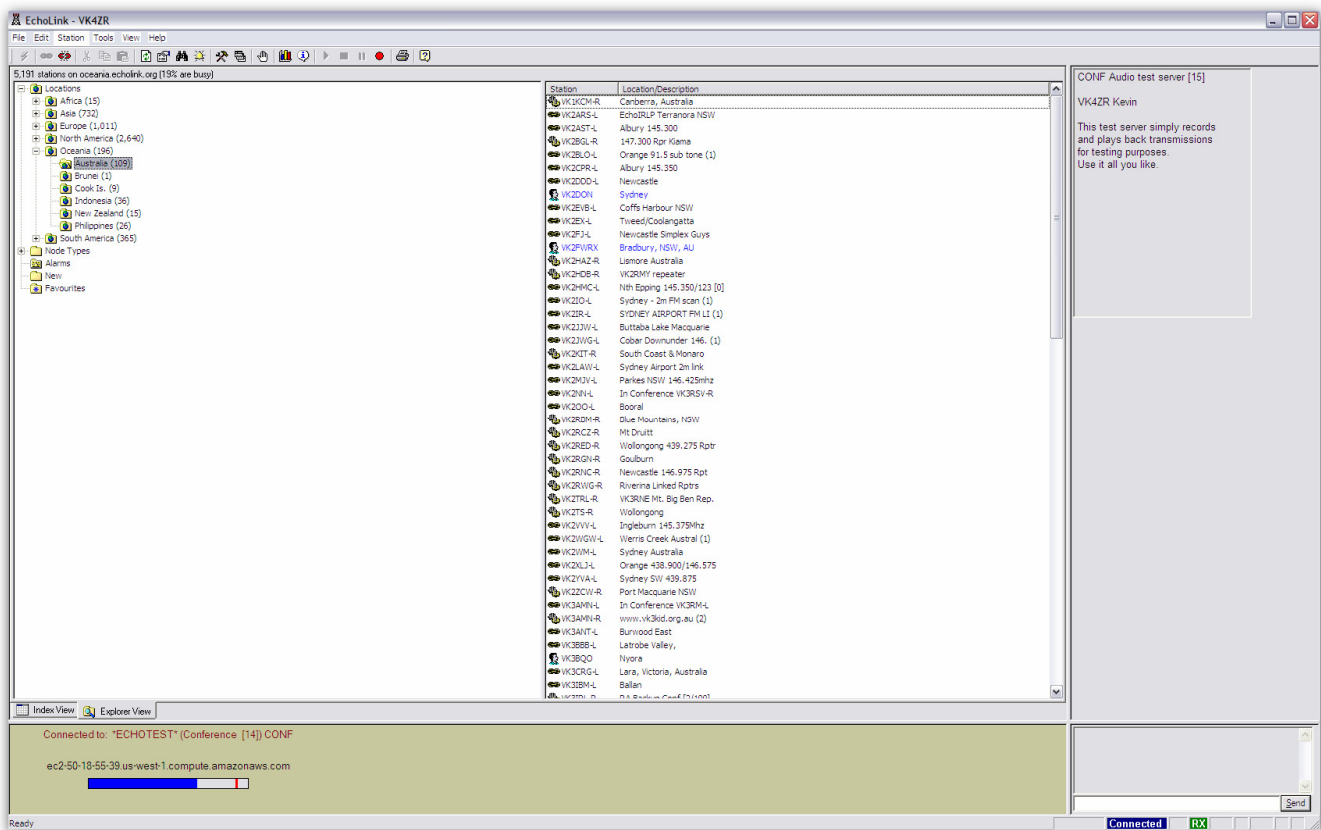
To make this adjustment select “Station” from along the top toolbar. A small window will appear then select “”connect to Test Server”

If you look at the picture in the next page you will be able to see the blue bar graph indicating the level being received from the test server

When the test server stops talking the bar graph disappears indicating that it is now time for you to tap on the spacebar and begin talking. You should see the bar graph reappear with TX in a RED box to the left of the bar graph.

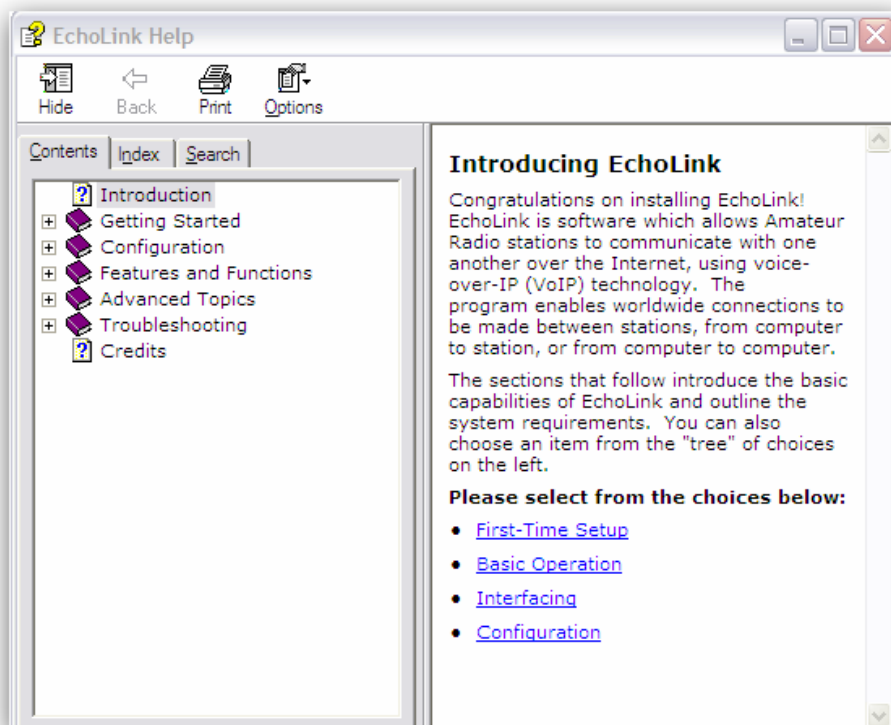
As you talk you can see the length of the Blue bar graph

When you have finished talking tap the Spacebar and the test server will replay what you have just said.

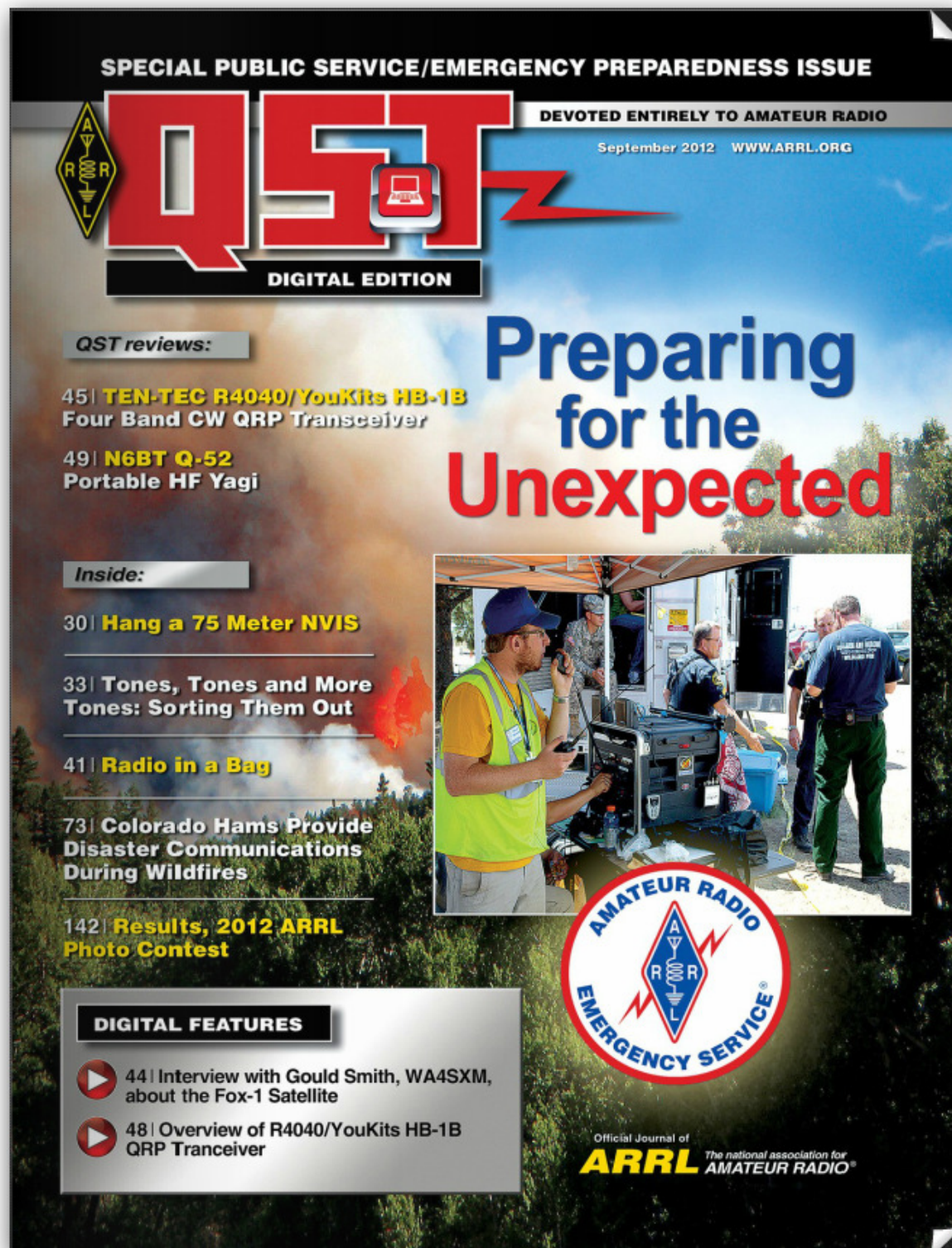


By now you should have sufficient information to use Echolink.

There is a very good “Help” section available if you select “Help” from the toolbar along the top of the screen



Check out what is this month's QST. Remember it is in the BARC Library ready to be borrowed provided another member has got there first!!



Please come along on Saturday with some rope and other items to help with the erection of a wire antenna in the tree tops (Saturday 1st September 2-4pm)