



BARC Newsletter

Volume 33, Issue 5

November 2012

Diary Dates

November	9 th	Social Meeting
November	23rd	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

This may be the last Newsletter for the Brisbane Amateur Radio Club if the club does not get more support from its members. The September and October General Meetings could not be held due to insufficient attendance from the membership.

What's New

On October 20th JOTA was held and the Brisbane Amateur Radio Club had arranged to provide Amateur Radio facilities at the Rochedale Club House for the local Group of Scouts.

Only the usual three Club members were available to operate the Club's Station even though members had been asked to help out on the day.

The Social meeting on the Friday 12th October was attended by eight members but on Friday 26th October only six members arrived for the meeting.

The Constitution states that the Business Meeting needs a Quorum of twice the committee members plus one for the meeting to take place.

The Club cannot continue to operate if this poor attendance continues on Meeting Nights.

Maybe a Special Business Meeting may have to be called to decide the future of the Club.

The Club has a membership of over twenty four people so there should be no problem obtaining a quorum so that a Business Meeting can operate

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Kevin Dibble VK4ZR

VICE-PRESIDENT

To be Selected

SECRETARY

Peter Holtham VK4COZ

ASSIST-SECRETARY

Keith Adams VK4XAK

TREASURER

Les Parker VK4SO

LIBRARIAN

Peter Holtham VK4COZ

PROVIDOR

Jim Kelly VK4HJK

REPEATER OFFICER

To be Selected

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

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

The Brisbane Amateur Radio Club Involvement in Jota

The Club had a commitment to the Rochedale Scout Group to provide the group with facilities so that they can join in the Jota activities. It was very disappointing to see the poor turn out by the Club Members

Our Club Station VK4BA had been setup for use during the October weekend of the 20 to 21st. But few volunteers from our club members were available to operate our Radio Gear and help the Scouts to contact other groups.

The tri-band three Element Yagi had been reassembled and mounted on the lattice mast and was used to make a number of contacts on Saturday afternoon. The Antenna Rotator was fully operational and could be rotated from the controller set up in the Clubs Console. Contacts were mainly on 20 Metres. Stations were worked in North Queensland and Victoria as well as New Zealand. Bill VK4TWS was at the Club House from 8:30 am until after 4:00 pm. on the Saturday. He has set up a demonstration of Digital Slow Scan TV on 2 metres and made a number of contacts with other Amateurs. The Scouts were very interested in his demonstration.

Lighthouse Weekend

Reprint from Practical Wireless
September 2012

.Welcome to *HF Highlights (HFH)* and I start off by acknowledging that we (the *PW* Editorial team and regular authors) often get requests for information - but one from Paul Simmonds VK5PAS has caused a few scratched heads! Paul and six other Amateurs are travelling to Kangaroo Island, South Australia this year for the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend (IL&LW) and will be operating from the Cape Willoughby lighthouse.

The island is Australia's third-largest, after Tasmania and Melville Island and lies 112km (70 miles) southwest of Adelaide at the entrance of Gulf St Vincent. Its closest point to the mainland is 3km (8 miles) off Cape Jervis, South Australia.

Paul wrote a short article describing the proposed trip for his local Radio club and produced a *PowerPoint* presentation for its members. As a result of this, while researching the IL & LW he has found quite a bit of contradictory material, particularly the year in which the IL&LW actually started which at this time it is thought to be 1993 or 94. From his research it seems that Anne-Grete OZ3AE wrote a letter to *PW* (possibly c. 1994/95*) asking if there was any Amateur Radio activity from lighthouses.

It was due to this letter that the event became international and the name changed from the Northern Lighthouse Activity Weekend to the International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend. Paul has been unable to find or contact Anne or the issue of *PW* that the letter first appeared in. Various websites, including the Ayr Amateur Radio Group's website: <http://gmOayr.org/> and the IL&LW site <http://illw.net/index.php/itw-history> have conflicting information and dates.

The Ayr ARG site says that it all began in 1993 during a wet wintry evening when two members of the AYR Amateur Radio Group in Scotland, John Forsyth GM400U and the late Mike Dalrymple GM4SUC discussed the idea of creating an event for the summer to encourage its club members to get out on a sunny weekend and play radio. Various themes were considered including ports, airports, historic sites in Scotland, the Firths of Scotland, castles etc. But it was finally decided that the lighthouses of Scotland would be ideal.

Paul VK5PAS would very much like to put the record straight and find out once and for all the 'accurate' details of this event and any that help you can provide will be more than welcome. If you are able to help with information then please let either the *PW* Editor or myself know so we can pass this on to Paul. This year's International Lighthouse & Lightship weekend will take place at 0001UTC August 18th to 2400UTC August 19th for 48 hours (or part thereof) and further details can be found at <http://illw.net/index.php/entrants-list-2012>

Over 285 activations have already signed up and there is still plenty of time for you to be one of them! If you take part please let us know how you got on.

*Tex Swan/7 G1TEX (*PW's 'Honorary Archivist'*) has discovered that the first mention in *PW* was in the December 1996 issue in Club Spotlight.

YOU CAN JOIN ALUMINIUM WITH ORDINARY SOLDER

Reprint from RADIO projects for the Amateur

By Drew Diamond VK3XU

In chassis, box and antenna work, we sometimes reach a point in the job where the most ideal joint would be a soldered one. But as everybody knows; "you can't join aluminium with ordinary solder". Well, in many circumstances, you can! Smaller solderable items typically used in radio and electronics projects, including those made from brass, copper, mild steel or aluminium may be effectively joined to aluminium using ordinary 60/40 resin cored soft solder and an 80 or 100 W electric soldering iron. Here's a dodge which will allow you to do it.

Warm up the soldering iron and make sure it is hot and "at the ready". Have a wet sponge, or an old paint brush on hand for cleaning the tip just prior to application to the job.

The components to be joined must first be cut to a rough burnished finish with a clean abrasive, such as emery cloth, wire brush or fine file, leaving no dust, filings or fingerprints.

The components must be pre-tinned before joining. To prevent air from reaching the work surface (and causing rapid oxidisation- which would normally prevent the flow of solder), apply a film of ordinary, clean engine oil to the area to be soldered (two or three drops may be picked up on the blade of a screwdriver and applied to the job).

Apply the hot iron to the work, and melt a little solder onto the tip. At first the solder will refuse to flow, but will remain attached to the tip as a molten blob. Heat the work by sliding and rolling the tip around under the oil. Suddenly, as the aluminium reaches the solder melting temperature, solder will begin to attach to the aluminium by "working" it with the tip. Continue flowing the solder onto the area required. Allow the job to cool, then wipe off the remaining oil with a cloth.

Align and clamp the components to be soldered together. Now, without oil this time; apply the iron tip to the join, and produce a bead or fillet by melting a little extra solder onto the joint in the usual way.

Facilities provided by BARC

Just a reminder of the facilities offered to club members by the Brisbane Amateur Radio Club. The Club spends hundreds of dollars each year subscribing to various Amateur Radio magazines so that members can have access to the latest up to date magazines simply for the cost of \$20 per year which is the membership fee for the Club.

These magazines are available for loan by the members. Arrangement to borrow a particular copy can be arranged by contacting the Club Librarian, Peter VK4COZ at one of the club meeting nights or by contacting him by phone, email or on the air. Arrangements can be made with Peter to obtain a loan of a particular magazine. It could be posted out to a member if the postage is paid by the borrower. Other arrangements can be made by contacting Peter.

The Club also has a number of test items that are available to be borrowed by members for short periods of time to assist with various projects. The Club is always open to hear about any suggestions from members to purchase test equipment which could help individuals with their projects. A lot of this test equipment just sits in cupboards gathering dust from lack of use by club Members who do not take the time to arrange to borrow an item that

could help and save time with a particular project. Les has taken on the role of equipment manager and can provide members with a list of items that are available for short term loan.

The Club House at the Rochedale Scout Hall provides an excellent venue for talks and demonstrations by interested people. A digital projector has been purchased by the Club and is always available for use to assist in making the talk or demonstration as professional as possible.

Saturday afternoons can be used for various practical activities. Over the past few months various Antennas have been erected and connected to the Clubs console which has been set up with the Clubs Amateur Radio equipment and is fully operational on most amateur Bands. Members are invited to arrange to come along on a Saturday Afternoon and enjoy the company as well as make use of the set up.

A kitchen is provided and refreshments are usually available for members to enjoy the social activities.

Members who have difficulty in night driving can enjoy an afternoon drive to the Club house and have an interesting time socializing with other Club members.

BARC MEETINGS

As members are having difficulty attending meetings maybe the meetings can be arranged to come to the members instead. With all of the electronic media available maybe it is time to investigate some other methods of conducting meetings.

Some thoughts of other ways of holding a meeting. Maybe the meeting could be held at a Council Library centrally located so that all members can attend. The problem is to locate a suitable venue and to cater for members who do not wish to drive or cannot drive at night. Maybe an afternoon may be suitable for the majority of members. There will always be a number of members who are unavailable regardless of the location and time.

Maybe members who cannot attend a usual Friday night at Rochedale can make arrangements to make contact via a suitable frequency eg. 146.550MHz and join in to the meeting which usually only lasts a half hour.

Another method is to use the internet and select a suitable program such as Skype. It could be arranged to provide a Computer with internet access to be used at the Club house on meeting nights so that absent members could call in and participate in a meeting.

Echolink has been suggested as a temporary method to access the Clubs 70 CM repeater until better 70 cm antennas are installed at premises so that the repeater can be accessed by normal RF means. Every Wednesday night at 8 pm the Club runs a net for Club members to join in and hear the latest activities of the Club.

Echolink facilities are provided and by simply logging into VK\$RBA-L via Echolink a member can join into the 70 cm net. Unfortunately this facility has only been used by a couple of members.

As usual the Club has asked for members to contact one of the committee members and pass on any suggestions but very little has happened. It is as though most members are simply not interested in the Club and are occupied with other interests. An email can be sent to VK4BA and will be read and replied as soon as possible.

Check on page two of this newsletter on the email address of the Club.

The Clubs website has been updated and contains past and present newsletters but from some of the responses received some members have not even attempted to check out all the pages on the website.

These facilities do not just happen they take a lot of time and effort to produce them and the response from the membership leaves a lot to be desired. The time and effort taken could be spent on more productive activities.

If you wish to keep this newsletter being produced then it is up to the Club Membership to help with the production of suitable interesting articles.

Let us see how many members bother to take the time to send back a reply to the Club as to what they would like to Club to do for them. Remember it is your Club and as such for it to be successful it needs your support.

I am trying to remain positive but unfortunately I am becoming frustrated with the lack of interest that appears to be coming from most members. Please let us know your thoughts about the Club. It is obvious that the Club is not meeting your requirements and you are turning to other interests. What is necessary to gain your attention once more? Where is the club going wrong or is it just that Amateur Radio is losing its interest.

I am trying to find suitable articles to add to the newsletter so that it is its usual 11 pages but I am not winning so it may be much smaller this month.

Peter Holtham

Peter is the Clubs Secretary
His Callsign is VK4COZ



Peter is very interested in restoring world war 2 valve operated equipment. He also enjoys working with valve operated Amateur Radios as can be seen from the picture of his shack. Practically all the equipment in his photo is valve operated. It is uncommon to see a nineteen inch rack full of equipment. This was common in the early days but with semiconductors and Microprocessors being used in Transceivers, the size of the latest equipment is very small

This has probably taken away a lot of the joy of working on amateur Radio equipment. Gone are the days when one could change a resistor or capacitor or a valve to make a home repair. Today the repair of our modern equipment is beyond the average amateur so we become operators instead. A number of amateurs used to spend most of their time building and reconstructing equipment.

Special Event 8th May 2013

The Club urgently needs a proficient operator who can send morse code at 20 words a minute to attend this event.

Earlier this year I was contacted by the Holland Park RSL re an event happening on 8th May 2013. I was invited to attend one of their meetings which I did attend .I then passed this information on to club members and it was agreed that we would participate in the event.

The event is a celebration of the 130th anniversary of the first ship to shore communication by radio in Australia. This coincides with an Australia wide reunion of naval personnel and will be a national event. What is required is a display of radio equipment and to send that message via Morse code throughout the morning and to contact other hams on the day.

What is required by us is to provide a cw operator and people to attend the display. The event will be held on 8th April 2013 from around 8am onwards. **The operator must be able to send morse code at 20 words per minute**

As this is a national event maybe we should apply for a special callsign for the day such as VI 130 or similar and maybe qsl cards for the event.

This event will take place at the Holland Park RSL hall or the adjoining Girl Guide hut

.The original Girl Guide hut was the building where the first message was received but was replaced with another building some time ago.

Please give this some thought and help to make this an event to promote amateur radio

Les VK4SO

Please give this event some serious thought. It is not until next May but we need to locate a suitable Amateur who can represent Amateur Radio Operators of Australia to participate . The 8th May is a Wednesday and the person will be required to attend the celebration at Holland Park on the morning and to operate a Transmitter at that site.

The Club will undertake to set up a station with facilities for operating and contacting other amateurs. The Clubs main concern is to find a member who can send at 20 words per minute and will be available on the morning of the 8th May at Holland Park.

At this stage we are not certain of the dignitaries who will be attending. It will be a national event so there could be some very important personnel there.

It will be a chance for Amateur Radio in Australia to get some sort of recognition.



Above is the latest Copy of QST for November 2012
Remember that this copy will be available to members at the next Meeting of the Club on Friday 9th November 2012. This is just one of the facilities available from BARC



The three element tri-band Yagi mounted on the rotator on top of the lattice mast donated by Frank Barker VK4KFB.

The mast is mounted on a concrete slab that has been sunk into the ground for one metre. Bill VK4TWS dug the hole and hand mixed the cement for the base.

The mounting assembly was reconditioned and installed by Bill VK4TWS.

The mast can be winched out from the building by another assembly designed and built by Bill VK4TWS.

The Coax and control cable for the rotator passes under the floor of the building and up to the main hall.

The vertical antenna on the extreme right hand of the picture is the 70 CM antenna for the VK4RBA Repeater. The smaller antenna beside the tall vertical is a two metre Vertical antenna donated by Frank VK4XK.

The Beam had to be reassembled and reconditioned then put back together with new clamps holding the telescopic elements into place

The 70 Metre long wire has been installed between the front tree and the rear tree to the right. It took the following people to help



Warren VK4WH
Stuart VK4MSL
Peter VK4COZ
Bill VK4TWS
Les VK4SO
Kevin VK4ZR.
Warren spliced together some telephone wire to make up a draw wire for the two pair cable which was shorted together'

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