

Special Features

- 9 WIN A FREE SUBSCRIPTION:** Our problem is your gain — a second chance to win one of five free subscriptions to Amateur Radio Action!
- 11 OL' SOL AND THE SUNSPOTS:** Ron Betrand VK2DQ takes a serious look at the sun and how it relates to amateur radio propagation.
- 15 THE NEXT SOLAR CYCLE:** Richard Thompson from IPS makes some brave predictions for Solar Cycle 22.
- 16 THE CUBICAL TEST ANTENNA:** VK2CTA explains how to construct a cubical quad with moveable elements for antenna optimisation tests.
- 18 KENWOOD SUMMER CATALOGUE**
- 24 EQUIPMENT REVIEW:** Tony Gilbert VK3CE takes a look at Icom's wonder rig, the optical fiber equipped IC-900 multiband modular mobile.
- 27 THE ORIGINS OF WIA/IREE:** Alan Shawsmith VK4SS examines the WIA's claim to being "the oldest amateur organisation in the world".
- 36 ELECTROMAGNETIC PROPAGATION:** Part One of a three part series by John Nolan on the technical aspects of radio wave propagation.
- 43 THE UNDERGROUND POP-UP MAST:** A novel but extremely innovative idea to get that mast out of the wind and your neighbour's bay view.
- 46 AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING:** Sam Voron details his preferred option for a new and revitalised amateur radio structure.

COVER: *Sunspots girdle the solar equator in the peak of the last sunspot cycle. Photo courtesy Planetarium, Science Museum of Victoria.*



ABOVE: *white hot gases stream into a solar vortex created by a sunspot — an essential for most HF communications.*

Regular Features

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