



Gympie Communications & Electronics Group Inc. Newsletter

Editorial by Greg VK4VBU

4th Quarter, 2014

Welcome to the 4th Quarter GCEG newsletter for 2014. Firstly my apologies for the late newsletter but better late than never as they say. I would like to pass on the club's best wishes to Erik VK4AES and John VK4FXLO who have not been well of late. Hope to hear you back on the air soon Erik and John. As of November, we have also had some great success with the training of some new F-Calls and many thanks to Tony VK5WC/p4 who is doing a sterling job in this department, hope to hear the new members on the air very soon.



The Gympie Club is going from strength to strength and it's very rewarding to see the membership on the rise when other local clubs are doing it tough, well done to all the members that give up their valuable time and contribute to the continued well being of this club now and into the future.

As most of you are aware I live in Central Queensland and I greatly benefit from the Echolink, IRLP & AllStar modes. There are plans to put a digital repeater in the local area, so I would encourage all those interested to look into the latest technology and keep moving forward in trialling and developing the latest technology locally in Gympie. We have all seen the benefit of these communication modes and one does not have to look much further than Alan VK4EAB to see what a difference these modes can make to peoples lives, no mater what their current circumstances and living arrangements are, as not all hams live on huge blocks with big antenna's, (yes I would love too).

Christmas greetings to all and see you in 2015

Greg VK4VBU



How I became interested in Amateur Radio



Your Story Here !

Please send just a few sentences about how you got into the hobby to:

newsletter@gcegin.org.au

2m Net Roster December 2014 to February 2015

22nd December	Greg VK4VBU via All-star	26th January	Paul VK4YPM
29th December	Ed VK4ABX	2nd February	Bob VK4MR
5th January	Jim VK4FJIM	9th February	Owen VK4FAAQ
12th January	Roger VK4BNQ	16th February	Geoff VK4ZGF
19th January	Jim VK4FAAQ	23rd February	Greg VK4VBU via All-star

GCEGinc. OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: BOB DIXON VK4MR president@gcegin.org.au
VICE PRESIDENT: ED FISHER VK4ABX vicepresident@gcegin.org.au
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SECRETARY: ROGER STIERLI VK4BNQ secretary@gcegin.org.au

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Presidents Report for November 2014

As we approach the final days of 2014 it might be a good time to reflect on some of the achievements our group has made in the intervening period since this time last year.

I think the first major step we have taken is that of the consolidating of our group and its direction, something that is a credit to the members and the committee. This has been no mean task given all of the challenges we have faced over the years, that so 2014 has no doubt been a big one for us.

Another factor in our sound direction has been the increase in membership of our group which is rapidly heading to number 40, a long way from the 6 we had at the start. Sadly one of these, Quinton VK4BQG, is now a silent key. I am convinced, as would others who knew Quinton, be sure he would have echoed his congratulations and encouragement to what we have done in promoting the hobby of Amateur Radio here in Gympie and indeed beyond.

Once more I must congratulate all members who have given of their time and efforts to our limited but prime fund raising efforts such that our bank balance is considerably better placed to allow us to upgrade some of our ageing gear and better engage in new advanced aspects of our hobby.

One area that perhaps we now take for granted is that of our website which has promoted our group well beyond Gympie, and Amateur Radio, in a professional way that it has. In more recent times, credit here must go to Roger VK4BNQ, Rogers input has been exceptional and much appreciated.

The major positive advents we have seen in new members and licences have been a prime factor in our progress, here credit must go to Tony VK5WC. His efforts and input with our group and the Lightning Ridge group has been quite something.

This coming year will I am sure bring its share of new opportunities and challenges but with the strength we now have in numbers and commitment I am convinced we will see our hobby and the group achieve even more positive progress as we look to build on our efforts to date.

It might be quite a surprise to you that our group's membership exceeds that of most of the city clubs whose numbers have in more recent times suffered a decline. The regional clubs away from the cities have better appeal and ours needs to continue to build on that fact in the coming period.

Have no doubt we are as a group doing something right for the unique hobby of Amateur Radio and the friendship so evident in our particular group and its ongoing activities.

On behalf of you all I would wish those members, who have sadly found themselves on the sick list this year, with some sadly still on it, a speedy recovery to better health.

In closing this report for 2014 I would on behalf of your committee wish you and your families a very happy, enjoyable and safe Christmas, see you all at the Christmas get-together this coming Sunday.

Bob Dixon
President GCEGInc



Interesting Amateur Radio / Radio / Electricity related YouTube videos to watch

Project Diana Earth-Moon-Earth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAiC6J89Tr0>

How It's Made Audio Vacuum Tubes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFQsdx1B-ic>

How It's Made Cathode Ray Tubes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qp6tNaUvfNI>

2014 Club Christmas BBQ

Woodworks Museum



Monday Night Net

With all the new amateurs on the air now is the time to tackle the nerves and have a go at running the net on a Monday night. It would be boring if it was all run by the same person in the same format, so why not put your hat in the ring and give it a go? Yes it can be a bit nerve racking for the first time but the sense of accomplishment after running a net for the first time is a great feeling and it all helps with progressing in the hobby. Don't forget the HF net as well, Barry is always willing to let someone have a go.

Building Projects

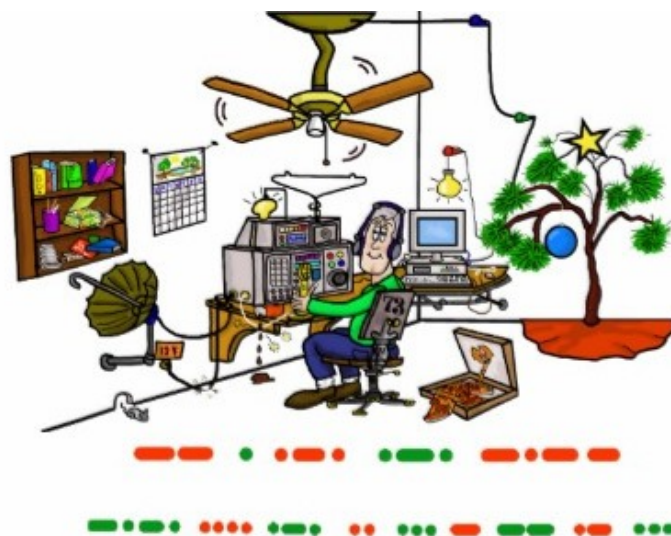
One of the fun parts of learning in our hobby is to build amateur projects and see how they perform. Erik has a good saying "Suck it and see", so the only way to answer some of these questions that new amateurs have is to build something and try it out. It doesn't matter if it's a new antenna design or an an electric circuit, but don't be scared of failing as that's when you learn the most and progress forward in your learning.

One thing to help F-Calls progress to the next level of licences is to build projects, why? Because when you build something you get to know every part and how it works and you learn what that part does. Reading books is great to pass exams but getting your hands on the soldering iron and putting a circuit together is a lot more fun. There is also plenty of electronic equipment being thrown out these days to the dump, so before it goes to the dump why not pull it apart and learn how it works? Of course before doing this please consult with someone experienced as some electronic devices do have some hidden surprises like capacitors that still might have some charge in them and also some components that should be handled with care due to the chemicals they might contain, but that just means taking some extra care and using some PPE, so don't let that put you off.

Why not learn to de-solder some components and work out what those components are and what they do? Why not use some test equipment and see if they are still within specifications? A google search of the component will usually bring up a lot of information that you can use to take electronic measurements. You will find that when you go for your licence upgrade, you will have a greater understanding of how electronic devices work. So why not give it a go? Maybe learn about a component and give a talk to the club, you will be surprised how much you will learn if you do this, maybe some of our new F-calls can lead the way and give a five minute talk on a component? Don't be shy, give it a go as everyone will learn from your new found knowledge.

Classic Member Quote For This Quarter

From Ed VK4ABX - " A millimetre - That thing that's about a 16th of an inch "



New wireless world record

Researchers have achieved wireless rates of 40 Gbps at 240 GHz, a feat that promises to seamlessly span wireless and optical technologies.

Digital, mobile and networked - the changing usage habits of modern society require ever faster transmission of increasing volumes of data. Compared to the European standard, Germany lags behind in the expansion of fibre-optic networks, according to statistics from the FTTH Council Europe. Deploying new fibre-optic cables is expensive and difficult when there are natural or urban obstacles such as rivers or traffic junctions. Broadband radio links can help to overcome such critical areas, thereby facilitating the expansion of network infrastructures. In rural areas they can be a cost-effective and flexible alternative to 'fibre to the home'.

In a feat that might help bridge the broadband gap, German researchers have set a new world record in wireless data transmission. For the first time, fully integrated electronic transmitters and receivers have been developed for a frequency of 240 GHz, which enables transmission at data rates of up to 40 Gbps. This is the equivalent of transmitting a complete DVD in less than a second, or the equivalent capacity of 2400 DSL16000 internet connections. Distances of over one kilometre have already been covered by using a long-range demonstrator, which the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology set up between two skyscrapers as part of the project "Millilink".

Using the frequency range between 200 and 280 GHz not only enables the fast transmission of large volumes of data, but also results in very compact technical assembly. Since the size of electronic circuits and antennas scales with frequency/wavelength, the transmitter and receiver chip only measures 4 x 1.5 mm.

Source: www.radiocomms.com.au



Next Newsletter is due out around the end of March 2015.

Please submit articles to newsletter@gcegin.org.au

Club meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of every month except January.

The Clubrooms are open for social meetings every Wednesday morning

from around 10am. The location is the northern platform at

The Old Gympie Railway Station, Tozer St. Gympie.

Full information on the website.

