

Gympie Communications & Electronics Group Inc. Newsletter

Editorial by Greg VK4VBU

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter for the year. Congratulations to our two new standard licence holders Rhonda & Dale who recently passed their exams up in Maryborough. It's a shame the processing of the licences take so long, but the hard work is now behind you, I know you will enjoy your new hard earned privileges.

2nd Quarter, 2016



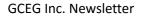
<u>How I got into Amateur Radio – Rhonda VK4NRD</u>

Well my 0.05c worth ... it if were not for the Baofeng UV-5R I would have no idea what amateur radio was ... I bought one because it was just another gadget and I like gadgets ... After it arrived I found out I had to have a licence to operate it ... Off to the the local HAM club to find out details of getting a licence ... not even two years later and I passed my Standard Theory Exam... Did the regs a few months back and the Foundation over a year ago ... I have up 80 and 40 meter dipoles with air core baluns ... made a 2m beam for better access to the local repeater ... getting better at CW ... doing electronics projects as a way to understand what is going on inside these radios and other gadgets I have (now I make my own gadgets) ... now own Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, Lexin and TYT radios as well as the Baofeng ... become treasurer of that same local HAM club ... have had a number of long time amateur radio operators come to me to program their Baofeng radios (as well as one Lexin) because even though they are well versed in HAM radio they are not all well versed in operating computer software ... I say thank you to Baofeng else I would not have started this fun and interesting ride!!

GCEGinc. OFFICE BEARERS

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Builders Corner – 2 Meter Handheld Yagi – Greg VK4VBU

Lately I have noticed that my background noise on HF has increased to S9 + and its got to the stage that it has made listening to HF very difficult indeed. So I decided to make a 2 meter beam antenna resonant around 146.225 Mhz, to see if I can find any sources of spurious noise around my house or in my street. I got my inspiration from watching some Youtube videos which I have added in the video section of the newsletter, they show fellow amateurs looking and finding the source of their local HF noise.

My antenna was made out of 2.5mm fencing wire, but as you can see on the following youtube video, other people have used coat hangers, don't forget to ask the wife first though: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLOvSLXDudU</u>

Once I built the directional antenna to be resonant on the 2 meter band, I attached Bob VK4CWL's SWR meter and I was very surprised with the results of my build, I only had to cut off a little bit of wire from both sides of the driven element and it was working great.



After the fine tuning was done, I programmed the FT60 to receive AM on the 2 meter band and saved the frequency in my radio with the text label of NOISE. I then went out and aimed my antenna at the electrical poles in front of my house and nothing, I had the volume up and the squelch off and all was quiet, then I walked around to the back of the house and the noise was increasing.



I moved the antenna around and pointed it towards the school behind my QTH and nothing, then I aimed it at the direction of my shack and the radio burst into life !!!! I had found something, what I don't know. I then turned off the main power and the noise went away. Refer youtube video link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8nG0tyMEWc

I was on to something real big here I thought, then I went up to my shack with everything turned back on and as I walked towards the door the radio went very loud with static. I then unplugged everything and proceeded to turn things on one by one. I thought it might have been the power supply for the radio's but it wasn't that, I then tried turning off the computers and the noise stopped but it wasn't the computers it was my Samsung monitor.

Refer youtube video link: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4FK2dJu_bE</u>

Wow this thing can generate some noise, but was this the cause of my interference on HF??? well partly, the real culprit was my Raspberry Pi running my D-Star hotspot. When I plugged in the power supply for the Pi it added two S points of noise on the HF band.

So there you go the main noise I had on my HF radio was not coming from the usual sources that everyone talks about, it was generated by a noisy computer monitor and a noisy Raspberry Pi. I have now upgraded to the latest Raspberry Pi and I will locate the Pi outside of my shack if possible and we will see what happens.

The difference to my receive audio was dramatic and its all thanks to a piece of timber, 8 screws, some rg58, a BNC connector and a bit of fencing wire which I purchased from the local Mitre Ten. This brings me to my last comment, have you checked your noise level today?

2m Net Roster Monday 19:30 EST		80m Net Roster Wednesday 20:00 EST	
9th May	Ed VK4ABX	4th May	Ed VK4ABX
16th May	Jim VK4NAG	11th May	Dale VK4FZZW
23rd May	Neil VK4NHT	18th May	Chris VK4BX
30th May	Dale VK4FZZW	25th May	Rhonda VK4FRDB
6th June	Roger VK4BNQ	1st June	Neil VK4NHT
13th June	Rhonda VK4FRDB	8th June	Bob VK4MR
20th June	Paul VK4YPM	15th June	Greg VK4VBU
27th June	Bob VK4MR	22nd June	Barry VK4KKN
4th July	Owen VK4FAAQ	29th June	Geoff VK4ZGF
11th July	Geoff VK4ZGF	6th July	Jim VK4NAG
18th July	Greg VK4VBU (via AllStar)		



GCEG Assisting with Communications

May, 2016 will be a busy but good month for the Club with two *comms events* happening in the same week! Both events earn good money for the Club in the form of donations so all members are asked to help out where they can, have some fun and help the Club and the community.

The first event is the annual Brooyar Camp at the Glastonbury Camp Grounds for the Aldridge State High School. The date for this event is Tuesday 24th May. All you need is a 2m radio, usually a HT will do. It's very simple and a lunch is provided. Arrival at the camp grounds is between 10 and 11am, and we are usually done and home well before dark. Please let the Secretary know if you can help out.



Right after the above event, we assist the Sunshine Coast Club with their annual Noosa Bike Race. This year the course has been changed and runs up in our direction, passing right through Gympie itself. So travelling distance for us is much shorter. Our Club earns an income per operator helping, so it's important to get as many to assist as possible. Once again, it's quite straight forward and one of the ops from the previous events can fill you in with details, just ask. We are usually home well before lunch so it's just a couple of hours on the early Sunday morning to report that the bikes have passed your checkpoint. You don't have to direct traffic or anything, you are just there for communications. Please let our Secretary or Roger VK4BNQ know if you can assist. The date is Sunday 29th May. You



will need a 2m radio in your car. Some checkpoints my be OK for a handheld so bring that also, but you will need a proper set in the vehicle for reliable comms into either our Mt. Boulder repeater or the Noosa 146.825 repeater. More detailed info and a checkpoint position will be provided to those registered to assist.

WIA Submission to the ACMA

On the 6th April the WIA sent a submission to the ACMA on future amateur licence conditions addressing a wide range of issues currently affecting licensees and establishing some key principles and policies for amateur radio licensing in the future.

The 22-page submission includes an extensive two-page preamble, setting out the context in which amateur radio operates in Australia, developments in the radiocommunications industry and the WIA's desire to reduce the regulatory burden for both licensees and the ACMA, and for future amateur licensing to accommodate emerging innovation in wireless technologies and applications, to enable the hobby to develop in whatever direction current and future licenced radio amateurs light lead it.

Key changes are:

Enabling use of digital modes for Foundation licensees Access to more bands for Foundation and Standard licensees Relaxing permitted bandwidths for all license grades Removing mode restrictions Review of Foundation callsigns Increased maximum power for all licensees Early access to the 5.3 MHz (60m) band.

Please go to this link and have a read of the submission:

http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2016/20160413-4/documents/ACMA LCD submission_FINAL_Apr16.pdf

Radio clubs around Australia are starting to struggle with membership as the young loose interest in our magic hobby, mainly because we have become stagnant. Without young people joining our hobby we are going to run out of members fast, we need to make club activities fun and exciting so young people want to join in and take part in what we do. We need to get back into building electronic projects, building antenna's, building radio's and show the new prospective members that what we do is cool.

Making some changes to the licence holder conditions is a controversial subject and many people will have different views, but looking at the age group of our members we are a



dying hobby if we sit back and do nothing. When the foundation licence came into being a lot of people joined the hobby and this provided a great boost, however that was a long time ago now and we need to do try other means to keep new members joining our wonderful hobby. It will be interesting to see what the ACMA decides to do. Greg VK4VBU (Editor)

Interesting videos to watch on YouTube

Finding HF noise (Great inspiration to finding those noise sources)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy73GPSDDJU https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN9WcPNAmu8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EaJDw2ibDY

> Next Newsletter is due out around the end of July 2016. Please submit articles to <u>newsletter@gceginc.org.au</u>

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.





www.gceginc.org.au