

Editorial by Greg VK4VBU

3rd Quarter, 2014

Welcome to the 3rd Quarter GCEG newsletter for 2014. Firstly a big congratulations to our two life members Norm VK4CNP and Alan VK4EAB, these two gentleman have given much to our hobby over the years and we are very proud to have as them life members of our club. I would also like to offer a warm welcome to our new members Leif Sundstrup VK4LES & Geoff VK4ZGF, hope you both enjoy what our region and club has to offer.



Also a big congratulations to our latest club F-Call licence holders, Pamela Parkinson – VK4FPAM, Ian Leyton – VK4FIRL and Navin Naidoo who is still waiting on his callsign allocation. It's great to see the new members getting their licences and we all look forward to hearing them on the air very soon. A big thank you to Tony for all his hard work with the training of new members, great to see all the hard work paying off.



Young Roger at "3QR"
100mW home-built AM 'pirate' radio station

VK4BNQ – How I became interested in Amateur Radio

When I was about 6 years old, I started hooking up batteries and light bulbs so for Christmas I received my first simple 20 in 1 electronics kit and I must have just about worn it out so the next Christmas I was onto a big 150 in 1 kit which in those days came in a beautiful wooden box with latches and a handle, like a brief case. In that kit I'd soon built up every kind of transmitter and receiver possible and then some with mods... It was obvious that electronics and radio was going to be "my thing". My Dad threw up a wire for short-wave listening which I think I enjoyed more than anyone. My parents were wanting to listen to Swiss Radio International but I spent many more hours finding the occasional AM amateur signal or HF telephone that I could actually decipher. VNG time signals were also a favourite.



I can remember going to a primary school fete day where there were a couple of guys who set up a 2-way radio and what looked to be a TV antenna. This was in about 1969, way before CB radio. I can't remember any more about it other than they did make contact with someone, I guess it might have been on 2m or 6m. I was fascinated and that was the first taste of amateur radio, although I didn't really know it at the time.

In secondary school, at the age of 14 or 15 my friend and I went halves in an AM CB radio and we put up a wire antenna at school. We had a few contacts and from there I got more seriously into CB radio buying out my friend's half of the AM rig and building an 11m $\frac{1}{4}$ wave ground plane antenna. In my neighbourhood I had noticed a house with a tower and a 3 element tri-bander beam. One day I knocked on the door and asked if I could learn more about it. As it turned out the chap was a school teacher, it was Neil Duncan - VK3AVK. He gladly showed me his modest station and luckily, he was also a CW operator. He helped me get started on CW and the rest is a bit blurry but I did buy a thick book called the ARRL Handbook which I read understanding some of it... I went for my Novice call in about 1976 and passed it, gaining my first call-sign VK3NFL at the age of 16. A year later, I had studied more and learned what I needed to learn about radio and passed my Full (or Advanced as it's now known) call, becoming VK3BNQ. In those days, CW (or morse code) was needed to obtain the novice and the full call. 5 wpm for the novice and 10 wpm for the full licence. During the time of my Novice year, I had built a 2 valve transmitter for AM and CW and my receiver was a friend's old Eddystone radio which drifted all over the place. I did not own any commercially built HF Ham radio until I had my full call which is when I bought my Yaesu FT-707. I still own that rig and many of you have seen it in use at the John Moyle Field days. I mostly worked CW that first year which is why I had no problem getting the full call at 10 wpm. Exams were full written essay type answers including drawing circuit and block diagrams.

So I've been an Amateur for most of my life and can highly recommend it as a brilliant hobby because it has so many diverse subjects and things to do and the challenges are virtually never ending, but at each level, it's also very rewarding.

GCEGinc. OFFICE BEARERS

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Snail-mail to PO Box 679, Gympie, QLD 4570

2m Net Roster August to October 2014

18 th August	Owen VK4FAAQ	22 nd Sept	Paul VK4YPM
25 th August	Paul VK4YPM	29 th Sept	Bob VK4MR
1 st Sept	Greg VK4VBU via AllStar	6 th Oct	Owen VK4FAAQ
8 th Sept	Ed VK4ABX	13 th Oct	Roger VK4BNQ
15 th Sept	Jim VK4FJIM	20 th Oct	Greg VK4VBU via AllStar



Presidents Report for July 2014 & AGM report

Here we are at yet another AGM having seen another year of activity, experience not just progress, but perhaps more importantly sound consolidation of our group and its activities.

It would be easy to identify all of the progress we have made in the last twelve months but to be quite honest I believe our greatest achievement has been the commitment all of you have made, to put in place, the solid foundation of our group in the pursuit of our unique hobby. I as your president commend you all for this effort and encourage you to see this as the way forward.

It would be impossible not to highlight some of these achievements as we look to move into a new year for our group, however in saying that I firmly believe that it is as a group that we have been able to succeed in putting in place a club worthy of its place in the future of our hobby.

The effort of the sausage sizzle group has without doubt been a major factor in our yearly income, without which our funds would be such that it would make us no longer viable. The commitment of all of you who have at your own expense ventured to Mt Boulder to maintain it and help resolve issues and improvements, is yet another example to me that we have the strength to achieve whatever we put our minds to.

There have been many other examples made by members in our progress and I have a strong feeling that they well know who they are, but some surely must be named. Here I would include Roger VK4BNQ for his completely tireless commitment to our group's efforts, Tony VK5WC for all his efforts to allow others, through his training program, to join us in our hobby and gain a licence. Another who has given of his time and effort has been John VK4FLXO with getting our library up to the level it is now. This list includes all of you who have selflessly looked to make a difference.

To be quite honest in the end I am I feel condemned simply to extend my congratulations to all of you who have given physical, material and financial support to the group in making our home liveable and as complete as it now is. I, as I am sure you would all be, proud of our achievements and of our progress.

I would urge not only all of our founder members, but in particular the new ones, to not just be a member and see fit to get involved at all levels of our hobby and the group as a whole. This coming period will see us involved in a far bigger fundraising commitment with the move to also participate in the Bunnings Sausage sizzle as well as our regular Mitre 10 efforts. All of that being so, please try and see if you can contribute time to make all of this as enjoyable as it can be and at the same time help us gain the rewards, of what should be, a considerable lift in our overall income.

In rounding up this past years achievements it would not be complete were I not to thank all members for their support in giving our most senior members Alan VK4EAB and Norm VK4CNP life membership, this honour could not have gone to two more worthy members.

The year ahead is going to see us perhaps face a new challenge which we might need to consider as part of our longer future business plan, I say this with particular reference to our rapidly expanding membership, and that is the fact our home is running out of space. A painful matter to have to contemplate given all the work we have put in to get to where we are today. Never the less I would urge you all to have a think about this and consider how best we might look to resolve this looming issue.

In closing I would once again place on record my commendation to you all for your efforts and involvement in our group's progress. I would also encourage you all to continue to make the effort towards a better future, one which clearly identifies and establishes Amateur Radio as a sound hobby for the future. I say this with particular reference to its relevance with respect to the rapid advancement of technology so obvious to all of us in today's world.

Bob Dixon VK4MR President GCEG Inc.



Leif VK4LES shows off his magnetic loop antenna

Here I am with my Elecraft KX3 and a new Alex Loop (magnetic loop) antenna. I have owned the brilliant radio for a while now and always searching for ultra light portable antennas for travel. I have a few Miracle MMD antennas (10, 15, 20, and 40 meter versions) that still require space to drop or hang and not optimal for hotel stays. I purchased the Alex Loop from the South American factory last month and so far made good local contacts - better than nothing 'On the Go'. Not too sure how it will go DX, but for its tiny size and weight, makes a perfect portable antenna for tight situations. My first ever QSO from Darwin using an MMD was with my father in QLD - VK4AES - on 10 watts and again my first QSO in QLD using the Alex Loop was with him on 5 watts. I'm not a QRP freak, it is just my only option as a regular traveller.

Leif – VK4LES



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

Amateur radio operator buys a new ham radio, wife not pleased :)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7kirdtdI1c>

Climbing the world's tallest Radio Tower. This is video of a technician climbing 1768 feet to the top of a transmission tower for repairs – Scary.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INbKYq0G9nU>

Electrical workers play with the power lines

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56-va8jPbAo>

Radio Amateurs' Examination 1960

Question 3

Draw the circuit diagram of the power amplifier stage of a transmitter for use in the amateur bands between 3Mc/s and 30Mc/s. Sketch the layout of the tank circuit and describe the construction of the coils and capacitors of which it is composed.

Pinched from the CARA Newsletter UK

Next Newsletter is due out around the end of October 2014.

Please submit articles to newsletter@gcegin.org.au

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

