



Mm
^ v k
M E H K

Volume 80
Number 5
May 2012
ISSN 0002-6859

Rxho

The Journal of the Wireless Institute of Australia

Editorial

Editor

Peter Freeman VK3PF
editor@wia.org.au

Technical Editor

Peter Gibson VK3AZL

Publications committee

Don Jackson VK3DBB

Evan Jarman VK3ANI

Bill Roper VK3BR

Ewen Templeton VK30W

Ernie Walls VK3FM

Greg Williams VK3VT

AH circulation matters

nationaloffice@wia.org.au

How to submit material

Secretary

AR Publications Committee

PO Box 2042

BAYSWATER VIC 3153

or armag@wia.org.au

Letters to Editor

Editor AR Magazine

PO Box 273

Churchill Vic 3842

or editor@wia.org.au

Hamads

'Hamads'

PO Box 2042

BAYSWATER VIC 3153

hamads@wia.org.au

Advertising

All enquiries to

Advertising Manager

AR Publications Committee

PO Box 2042

BAYSWATER VIC 3153

or admanager@wia.org.au

Registered Office

Unit 2011-13 Haveiok Road

BAYSWATER VIC 3153

Australia

Phone: 03 9729 0400

Fax: 03 9729 7325

Production Deadlines

All articles, columns, hamads and advertising booking by **first day of previous month.**

The contents of Amateur Radio are Copyright
Wireless Institute of Australia © 2012

General

The effects of a metal mast or a (very) stupid mistake! 11

Felix Scerri VK4FUQ

Microwave dishes, a confluence and two bottles of red wine 12

Dan Joyce VK2GG

A little known pioneer of Australian wireless 24

Brian Kirkby

Review: Wireless - from Marconi's Black-Box to the Audion 31

Blair Bowler VK4B8X

CENTENARY 1912- 2012 celebrating VK100WVQ 60

Michael J. Charteris VK4QS

WiA inwards QSL Bureau 61

Geoff Atkinson VK3TL

Wonnangatta Mayday 62

Tony Lathouras VK7VKT &

Peter Freeman VK3PF



This month's cover shows Dave Park VK3JDA examining some of the portable kit belonging to Tony Hambling VK3VTH. Several amateurs gathered at Churchill National Park in early March to discuss portable operations relating to activating National Parks. In the background, Peter Fraser VK3ZPF is busy working on 40 m, activating the Park for award hunters. See a brief report in the Amateur Radio Victoria news for the month. Photo by Tony Hambling VK3VTH. We also have reports from club activities for the John Moyle Field Day. The inset images are from the article on an audio bandpass filter designed for BPSK operations by John Sutcliffe VK3TCT, on page 44 (images by VK3TCT).

Contributions to Amateur Radio



Amateur Radio is a forum for WIA members' amateur radio experiments, experiences, opinions and news. Manuscripts with drawings and/or photos are welcome and will be considered for publication. Articles attached to email are especially welcome. The WIA cannot be responsible for loss or damage to any material. Information on house style is available from the Editor.

Technical

A look at frequency synthesizers 6

Elmo Jansz VK7CJ

Test Patterns for ATV 14

Ross Pittard VK3CE

A valve receiver that runs from 12 volts 28

Peter Parker VK3YE

A BPSK bandpass filter 44

John Sutcliffe VK3TCT

On sporadic E VHF propagation and solving a mystery about maximum usable frequencies - Part 2 52

Roger Harrison VK2ZRH

Columns

ALARA 32

AMSAT 39

Contests 18,21,36

DX - News & Views 42

Editorial 2,5

Hamads 62

Silent Key 23

Spotlight On SWLing 34

VHF/UHF - An Expanding World 48

WIA Comment 3

WIA News 4

News from:

VK2 41

VK3 5,10

VK5 17,35

VK6 47

VK7 8

Back Issues

Back issues are available directly from the WIA National Office (until stocks are exhausted), at \$8.00 each (including postage within Australia) to members.

Photostat copies

If back issues are unavailable, photocopies of articles are available to members at \$2.50 each (plus an additional \$2 for each additional issue in which the article appears).

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official view of the WIA and the WIA cannot be held responsible for incorrect information published.