



Gympie Communications & Electronics Group Inc. Newsletter

Editorial by Greg VK4VBU

2nd **Quarter, 2015**

Welcome to the 2nd Quarter GCEG newsletter for 2015. Firstly a big congratulations to our new F-Call licence holders Rhonda Bruce – VK4FRDB & Lachlan Morrison – VK4FLCM. At time of going to print with this newsletter Dale Anderson was still waiting on the WIA to process his licence, but hopefully it will be processed shortly. Congratulations also to Tony Brinkhoff - VK4TON who has just received his advanced call.



Erik Sundstrup VK4AES (Silent Key)



As you are all aware Erik VK4AES lost his battle with cancer recently and our condolences go out to Erik's wife Mary, his son Leif VK4LES & Erik's family and friends. Erik was not only a brilliant man but he was also the utmost professional and a true gentleman. I have known Erik for around 14 years and I have really enjoyed the many hours we spent in the shack talking all subjects but mainly amateur radio and aviation. One of Erik's favourite sayings was suck it and see, so next time you ponder an electronics project or think about building a new antenna, remember Erik's saying and give it a go.

VK4MR Standing down as President

Due to the fact that our long term President Bob Dixon has moved out of town, Bob VK4MR has decided to resign the position of President and hand over to Ed VK4ABX. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob for all the hard work he has put into the group since the club reformed in June 2008. Bob was a pivotal player at the beginning of the club and without his foresight and commitment our club would not be in the position that we are in today. The Presidents role in a club is like a Captain's role on a ship, that is he must guide the ship through both rough seas and fine weather, can I say that Bob has been an outstanding Captain & President and the club very much appreciates his efforts in the past years. On behalf of the club I would like to wish Bob and his wife Lyn all the very best and hope they enjoy their new QTH out near Widgee.



Presidents report for April 2015

As you are now all aware we have lost a club member, fellow ham and a dear friend, Erik VK4AES now SK. I well know many of you have taken the opportunity to share your sadness with Erik's immediate family to whom we as a club send our sincere condolences for their loss and I commend you all for taking the time to do so. This loss emphasises the importance of us all making the effort to stay in touch with our fellow hams particularly at times when they are under stress or unwell.

The fellowship of our hobby is in my view part of our culture and adds a component to it that most hobbies are not so able to do. It goes without saying that Erik will forever be a member of our group and will remain on our membership as VK4AES Silent Key. The other member who we have lost is that of VK4BQG Quinton SK a founding member of this group, as was Erik. I am sure that all of you who came in contact directly with Erik would well understand his total commitment to his hobby and in such an unassuming way, which was indeed the only way Erik knew how to be.

His technical knowledge will be sadly missed as I know he did help many of you on matters of aerials, without doubt a subject he was a master of. In moving on the matter of our tenure at the MVHR site has been a topic of concern and conversation now for some time, much of which is as a consequence of the lack of information, however that has been addressed. Paul VK4YPM has as of today contacted the responsible people and has been given unequivocal assurance that our tenure of the building we occupy is secure, along with the supply of electricity. He did assure them that we are happy to pay our share of the electricity which has always been our intention.

As you might recall we did insist at the beginning that a formal agreement was put in place, I am pleased to say that the current responsible management is well aware of that agreement and is happy to honour it. Our sausage sizzle at Bunnings was once more a success and has been responsible for a sizable contribution to our kitty. I would commend all of you that made this happen, in particular I would single out Graham who has played a major role in the success we have made of this fund raiser. As you are now all aware we have lost our restaurant so it is now up to us to look either for another venue or perhaps indulge in a BBQ at the club as a way of moving on, this is open to suggestions?

Bob Dixon President GCEGInc

GCEGinc. OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: ED FISHER VK4ABX president@gceginc.org.au
TREASURER: PAUL MEDWAY VK4YPM treasurer@gceginc.org.au
SECRETARY: ROGER STIERLI VK4BNQ secretary@gceginc.org.au

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

2m Net Roster May to July 2015

18 th May	Roger VK4BNQ	22 nd June	Geoff VK4ZGF
25 th May	Rhonda VK4FRDB	29 th June	Greg VK4VBU via All-star
1 st June	Paul VK4YPM	6 th July	Ed VK4ABX
8 th June	Bob VK4MR	13 th July	Jim VK4FJIM
15 th June	Owen VK4FAAQ	20 th July	Lachlan VK4FLCM



How I got into Amateur Radio

Paul Medway VK4YPM

I started playing with an electronics kit I received as a Christmas present when I was about 10 years old. One of the projects in the kit was a low power AM transmitter. I became fascinated with radio transmission and experimented with a number of other circuits. When I finished school I started working in the electronics industry and studying for my Electronics Engineering Degree.



I started experimenting with radio control circuits while I was studying but it wasn't until 15th August 1978 that I got my amateur licence as VK2YKG. I started operating on 2M FM until a friend introduced me to the 6M band and I have been hooked ever since. My first exposure to 6M DX was a contact into VK5 using 3W in to a ¼ wave vertical antenna attached to the gutter of the home unit I was living in. From there the antennas got bigger and the power went up. My best experience on 6M was an opening into the UK where I was able to make 6 contacts before the band faded out. Once I retire in the next year or so I will have more time to erect some antennas and get back onto 6M and maybe even some HF bands.



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

Dick Smith - Amateur radio & Adventure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK2KBD07ISY>

Trail Setup of Portable Bugout Backpack HF Ham Radio Station

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pM2OwsJgRY0>

Old Time MGM Ham Radio Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyWIJPNLPf8>



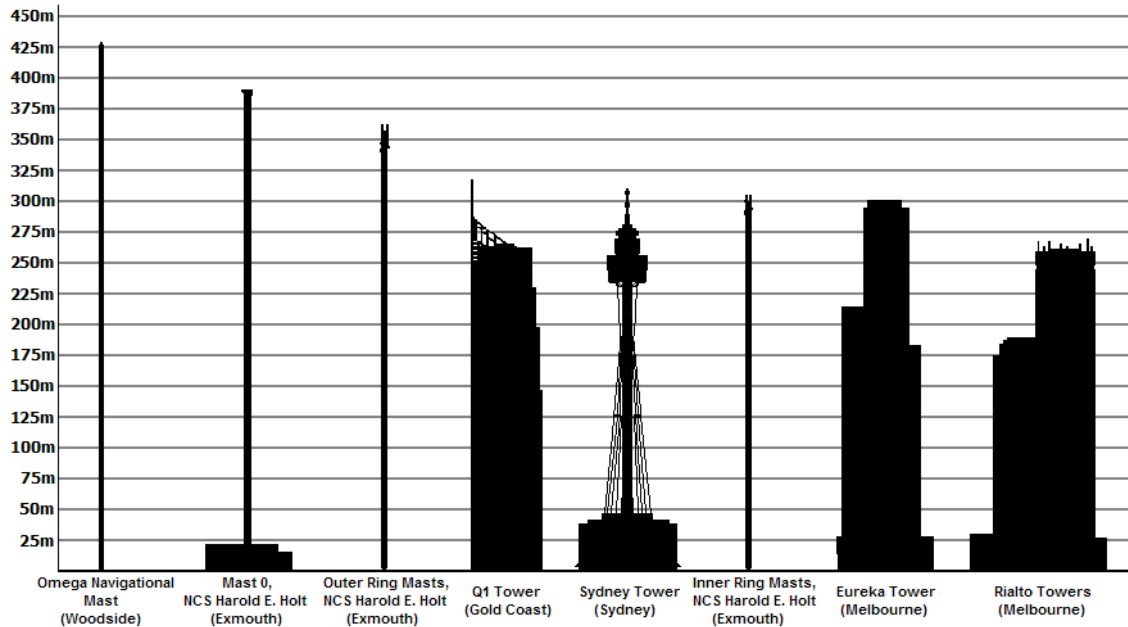
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence – Defence completes demolition of Omega Tower

23 April 2015:

Defence demolished the Omega communication tower on the former Naval Transmission Site at Darriman, Victoria, on 22 April 2015. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence and local member for Gippsland the Hon Darren Chester MP said that the demolition was completed successfully and without incident. "Our primary concern was to make sure that the demolition was conducted safely, and I am pleased to say that we have achieved this goal," Mr Chester said. For safety reasons, traffic on the nearby South Gippsland Highway was halted for a short period while the tower demolition occurred.



“I would like to thank the local community for their patience,” Mr Chester added. The neighbouring landholders, local council and local Victoria Police have been very cooperative and helpful in this project. “I hope that we have managed to complete this project with minimal disruption to the local community,” Mr Chester said. Representatives from Victoria Police, Worksafe and Defence attended the demolition to observe, record and support the project. Defence’s contractor, Liberty Industrial Pty Ltd, cut selected guy cables by explosive charge, then the tower structure was destabilised and it collapsed upon itself in four large sections. Now that the Omega tower has been demolished, Liberty Industrial will clear the site of materials, and in due course, Defence will dispose of the site.



Home-Brewing at its Best!

Article by Roger VK4BNQ

Dale Anderson VK4???



GCEG member Dale Anderson with his home-brew 10m beam and 2m 1/4 wave ground plane antennas. Dale who is still waiting for his licence paperwork to arrive, is all set to get on-air the moment that call-sign comes through. In the background, yet to be raised, you can just see part of one of two special tilt towers that Dale also built. It features a slide rail system to raise and lower the antennas and rotator. We look forward to soon hearing Dale on all the bands that his new F-call will allow.

Right, a picture of old and new technology. The star is a beautiful valve audio amplifier that has been built by Dale's friend Colin. Colin is a tube and audio enthusiast and his work includes restoration of old valve radios. His collection is something very special indeed. Hopefully we might see a little more of Colin at our Club in the near future ...



Putting Up a Radio Tower - Part 6 (final)

Contribution by Roger VK4BNQ

Well as you may recall from a previous edition, (or was it a previous life) I had some tower and antenna work still to do in order to successfully mount the 20m mono bander beam. As you see from the first picture, the rotator cage when assembled with the top mast, was nowhere near in alignment. How it got that way is a mystery, but it had to be sorted.



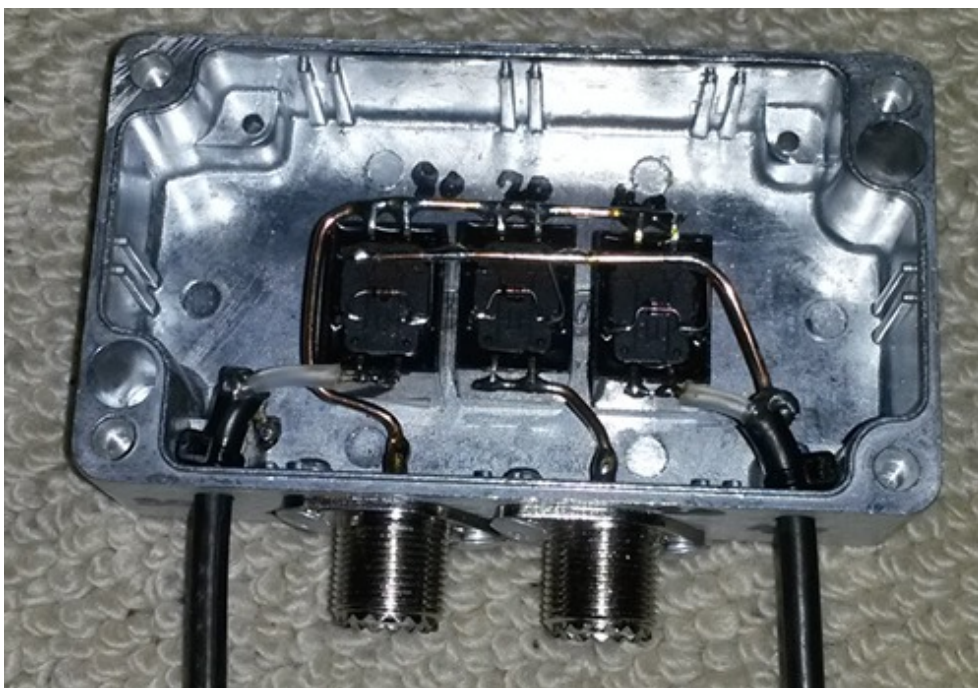
The only way was to cut it off, and adjust the legs and weld it back onto the rotator support plate.





The 20m mono band beam that served Erik VK4AES (SK) well for many years also needed some TLC. There is still a little more work to be done but it is now up and running with reports of 5/9 coming from Europe and the USA. The rain showers are holding up the last addition to the beam and that is the finished home-brew air-core 1:1 balun to feed it. The antenna is working OK, as per the reports with the coax feeding straight into the Beta match (also known as a hairpin). Once the balun is in place, it will remove the common mode currents in the coax and give a more perfect radiation pattern. It will be interesting to see how it performs then with a neater radiation pattern.

I also added the 2nd wire antenna to the tower for 40m, a cross between an inverted vee and a dipole. It is also using one of the HB air-core baluns and works very well with really low background noise levels. A 6m beam (after I build it) will sit at the very top of the tower and it will be fed by a dedicated coax already in place. The 80, 40 & 20 metre antennas are fed by just one coax and I made a remote switching box which is also working very well. The relays short the antennas to ground when not active.





So that's about it. There's a lot to putting up a tower and directional antenna, but the end results are quite amazing.

It's taken many years to achieve this, so I have to admire some of our recent new members that have gone straight into building antennas and towers and I encourage all of you to make a goal and go for it. My goal was always to be able to speak to a Swiss station on 20m, to practice my 2nd language of Swiss-German. On Sunday evening, the 17th of May, 2015, I achieved that goal with HB9DFQ, QTH about 10km from Zürich where my parents came from.

That's the end of this series on "Putting Up a Radio Tower". 73, Roger VK4BNQ.



Next Newsletter is due out around the end of July 2015.
Please submit articles to newsletter@gcegin.org.au

