



Gympie Communications & Electronics Group Inc. Newsletter

Editorial by Greg VK4VBU

4th **Quarter, 2016**

Welcome to the 4th Quarter GCEG newsletter for 2016. We have had some changes to the committee recently as Tony VK5WC (port 4) has decided to step down from the President's position and Lachlan Morrison has put his hand up to take on the President's role.



Tony has done a great job with the club training over the years and was also kept busy assisting with repeater maintenance. Tony was also successful with a number of grant applications for the club which has certainly put the club in a great position going forward, thank you.

Not many people put their hands up to take on an executive role within the club, so it's a big welcome to Lachlan Morrison VK4FLCM. Lachlan is our youngest President to date and I'm sure he will do a great job. Thanks also to our hard-working Secretary Neil VK4NHT who is doing a great job in keeping the club updated on what happening and also for preparing the minutes in such a timely manner, well done Neil !!!

GCEGinc. OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: Lachlan Morrison VK4FLCM president@gcegin.org.au
VICE PRESIDENT: Bob Dixon VK4MR vicepresident@gcegin.org.au
TREASURER: Rhonda Bruce VK4FRDB treasurer@gcegin.org.au
SECRETARY: Neil Turner VK4NHT secretary@gcegin.org.au

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



Builders Corner – QRP 40 Meter TRANSCIEVER

We haven't had any members building projects lately, so I decided to put something together for the newsletter, I went halves with Bob Lee VK4CWL and we purchased a couple of 40 meter QRP kits. The price was \$45.00 US delivered, which works out in Australian dollars to \$60.00.

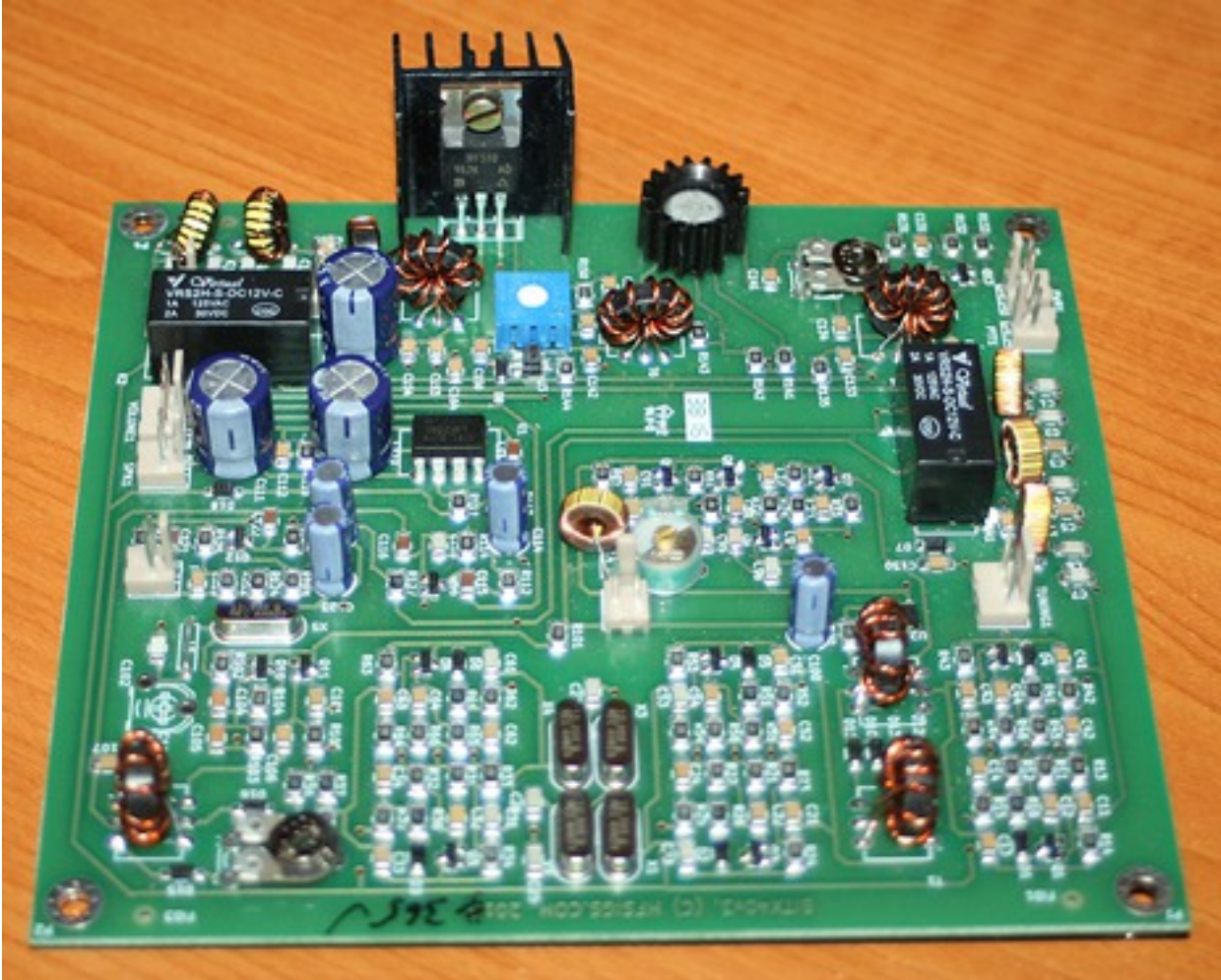


Photo: The board straight out of the box

For this project, I needed a metal container to house the components and I remembered that I had an old power supply that Leif Sundstrup had given me that belonged to his father Erik VK4AES. This power supply was not working, so I decided to put the case to good use and use it for my new project.

Some basics about the kit, it is called the BITX40 and comes from India. The board is already pre-assembled, so it's a kit that you can get on the air in a short period of time. There is some soldering of components to do but this is all very easy, the main job is preparing a case into which the board and components will go.



The BITX boards are hand assembled by a collective of women and each of the toroids are hand wound. This provides these women with livelihood. The assembled boards are then DC checked a final RF check is performed to check the receiver's sensitivity as well as transmitter's output before being shipped. Each board is individually numbered.

- * 4-1/2 inches by 5 inches tested SSB transceiver module, covering any 150 KHz
- * segment of the 7 MHz band
- * Small electret microphone
- * High quality BNC connector for the antenna
- * Two earphone style audio jacks for the mic and the earphones/speaker
- * A set of DC power socket and plug
- * Volume control with on/off switch
- * 100k linear pot for tuning
- * 4 Brass stand-offs with mounting nuts and bolts
- * Connectors with wires for all connections on the board



Photo: Bag of components that comes with the kit

Technical Information

The BITX40 is a very clean, crisp and quiet receiver. The front-end has a triple tuned circuit that cuts out-of-band signals from getting inside, a diode ring mixer front-end with a very low phase noise, all analog oscillator makes this a crisp receiver that doesn't overload easily.

7 watts of SSB provides you with enough juice to have thousands of contacts on 40 meters, daily rag chew and occasional DX chasing. Any common 2 ampere, 12-volt power supply will provide enough power for this transceiver, or you can run it from a battery.



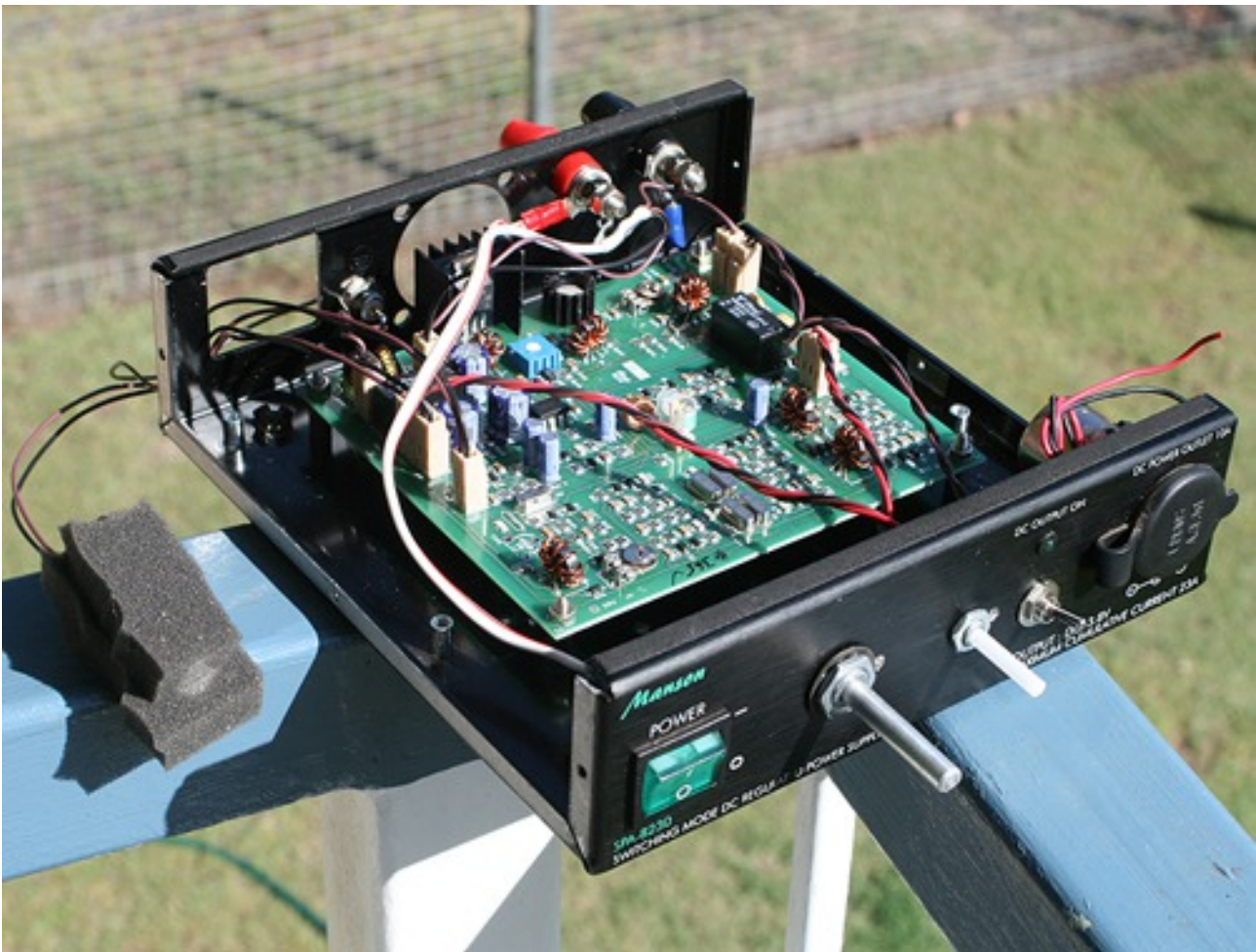


Photo: Greg's new QRP radio, ready to power up

Before we powered the radio up for the first time, with the assistance of Bob VK4CWL we did some alignment checks as per the instructions and made some final adjustments, after that we got on the air and did some power output checks. The radio performed great and I was very impressed with the receiver.

I did some testing across town in Emerald and Bob VK4CWL said he had me loud and clear, he also said there was a tendency for the radio to drift a little off frequency but that's not a big issue as it really is "back to basic's" radio operating. Later in the evening I did an on-air test with Shaun VK4NSP who is located in Rockhampton and at one stage I was 10 over 9 !!! which was a huge surprise, the frequency I was operating on was around 7.132 MHz and I was using my outside external 40-meter dipole antenna which is resonant in the centre of the 40-meter band. At present I still have some more mods to do, I want to set up a good speaker system and maybe a boom microphone, plus install another pot for fine tuning of the frequency, but all in all for the money it's a great little kit that you can put together in a couple of hours and be on the air in no time. Further info: <http://www.hfsigs.com>





Photo: The new transceiver up and running on test in the power supply box



Christmas Party 2016

Our annual Christmas party was held this year at Dales VK4NBX QTH on Sunday 20 Nov 2016, there was a great turnout and great live music, many thanks to those who attended for making it such a special day.





Certificate of Appreciation Men's Shed Lightning Ridge Radio Club VK2SMS

On the 9th September 2016 Tony VK5WC (port 4) accepted a plaque on behalf of the Gympie Communications & Electronics Group for the outstanding motivation, mentoring, encouragement and also the donation of the repeater by the members of the Gympie Club, well done to all concerned.



Update – Norm VK4CNP

Unfortunately, one of our senior club members Norm VK4CNP has had to move into a nursing home recently due to his ill health, this was a big move for Norm because he will no longer have access to his beloved HF radio which he used every day on CW. It wasn't that long ago that a group of GCEG Inc club members were assisting Norm with installing a tower in his backyard, so it's a real shame to hear the latest news.





2m Net Roster Monday 19:30 EST	
19th December	Greg VK4VBU (via AllStar)
26th December	Ed VK4ABX
2nd January	Jim VK4HWY
9th January	Op Required
16th January	Dale VK4NBX
23rd January	Roger VK4BNQ
30th January	Rhonda VK4NRD
6th February	Paul VK4YPM
13th February	Bob VK4MR
20th February	Owen VK4FAAQ
27th February	Geoff VK4ZGF

80m Net Roster Wednesday 20:00 EST	
21st December	Rhonda VK4NRD
28th December	Op Required
4th January	Bob VK4MR
11th January	Greg VK4VBU
18th January	Barry VK4KKN
25th January	Geoff VK4ZGF
1st February	Jim VK4HWY
8th February	Ed VK4ABX
15th February	Dale VK4NBX
22nd February	Chris VK4BX

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.

