

gateway



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE GIPPSLAND GATE RADIO
AND ELECTRONIC CLUB INC

january 2001

Gippsland Gate Radio and Electronics Club Inc.

Incorporation Number A0016893M

Club Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month
at the Cranbourne Girl Guide Hall in Grant Street.

The meetings commence at 8:00 PM.

Visitors are most welcome.

Committee Members 1999/2000

President	Bruno Tonizzo	VK3BFT
Secretary	Andrew Clinkaberry	VK3HFA
Treasurer	Mike Ide	VK3KTO
Committee member	Russell White	VK3MWR
Committee member	Helmut Inhoven	VK3DHI
Magazine Editor & Printing and Dispatch	Phil Pavey	VK3YB Ph. (03) 59957484

Club Station VK3BJA Located at the Guide Hall

Club Repeater VK3RDD Freq. in 52.575, out 53.575 Mhz

Call in Freqs. are HF on 28.325 Mhz, USB

VHF on 146.225 Mhz, FM and UHF on 438.850 Mhz, FM

Visit our internet site at:

<http://avoca.vicnet.net.au/~ggrec/>

Current GGREC Inc Membership Fee Schedule

Full Member \$30.00, Pensioner Member \$15.00

Junior Member \$15.00, Extra Family Member \$10.00

Fees due after each April Annual General Meeting.

**The deadline for submitting Gateway articles is EIGHT
DAYS
before each General Meeting.**

Please direct magazine correspondence to 6 Norford Crt, Cranbourne
Nth 3977

Phone: 59957484 or Email PPAVEY@bigpond.com

All other Club correspondence to **PO BOX 1098 Cranbourne 3977**

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President's Message

Welcome to the January edition of GATEWAY.

The year 2001 has already presented the committee and members with a challenge. The Cranbourne Guide Hall has had a new coat of varnish on the floor boards and will not be available for use until the 27th of January. Please check the "Event Queue" for the latest info for the location of the January GM !!

It is with sadness that I announce the passing of VK3ADD David Brian. David was an active member of GGREC in it's early years, and will be greatly missed by his friends at the Club.

The Committee held it's first meeting for 2001 on a very hot Tuesday night. Work has commenced on this years calendar and we hope to provide you with exciting and comprehensive events throughout 2001.

On behalf of GGREC, I would like to thank Di Jackson for her hard work as Club editor. Di and Ian will continue to assist with the production of Gateway, but the job of Editor has been handed to Phil Pavey. Please assist Phil by submitting interesting articles, technical discussion and letters to the editor for inclusion in the magazine.

Yes, I know that May is a long way off yet,(Easter eggs are already in the shops!!) but please give some thought to the 2001 Club elections. This year I will not be nominating for President as I believe that there are many eager members that can competently take on the challenge of leading the Club. (continued inside back cover)

Event Queue

DAY	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Fri	19 Jan	8:30pm	General Meeting and Radio Display - Venue is Cranbourne Swimming Pool - 8:30pm
Fri, Sat, Sun	26 th 27 th 28 th Jan 2001		Bendigo weekend away. Big 4 Ascot Holiday Park
Tues	1 st in Feb	7:30pm	Committee meeting
Fri	1 st in Feb	8pm	Prac Night
Fri	16 th Feb	7pm	General Meeting
tba	tba	1pm	Museum visit and Dinner

The November Gateway mentioned that John Bilston was waiting to receive his callsign - listen out for VK3JOB. Well done John!

2001 Callbooks

Mike will have callbooks for sale at the January General Meeting for \$19-50. A limited number are available for those who did not pre-order. You won't find callbooks elsewhere for this price, so don't miss this opportunity.



Gory Details...

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

The January General Meeting will be the last in the series of "radio display" nights. This will be for "other" equipment (ie not Kenwood, Yaesu or Icom) and will include any home brew gear - so start looking through your shack to see what you can bring along to what should be an interesting night. This meeting will be held at the swimming pool. Continue up Grant Street past the Guide Hall and the pool is on the Right Hand Side.

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR PUB NIGHT

The next pub night will be held on the 9th of February. The venue has been changed to the ~~the~~ Berwick Inn, which is in the main street of Berwick. You can book seats for this night at the January General Meeting.

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

The club's Australia Day Weekend at Bendigo is fast approaching, on Friday 26th January - Sunday 28th January. Accomodation is still available at the (Big 4) / cot Holiday Park. This venue has a pool, spa, playground, TV room and Barbecues. You can book on 1800 062 340 - and please mention you are with the GGREC group.

Bendigo has lots to offer for the tourist - have a look at your November issue of Gateway for a sample of what is available.

HF DX

The HF bands have not been too lively of late - even so rare prefixes have been there to work even if somewhat weak.

Listen out for the following callsigns due to be active in the coming weeks

4N8.LZ1BJ	This station will be active in Kosovo for the next few months
5T	Mauritania by F6YD next 6 months
9X	Rwanda by N4Xt until 12 March
HC2/UA4WAE	Ecuador. This station will be active for next two years
J28LP	Djibouti. 10 metres only for next 2 years
TT8DX	Chad. Active until end of 2001
CE0XT	San Felix. Until Second week of February 2001
D68C	Comoros. Listen from 8 th - 28 th February 2001

There is also activity from numerous IOTA spots around the world. These are just a few call areas to get you interested! Greater details can be found in the various magazines and web sites. - 73 Peter VK3VB

VHF DX?

This time of year is magic for long distance contacts on the VHF and UHF bands. While having large yagi antenna's is certainly a great advantage you should not exclude yourself from a listen around the SSB portions of 2m, 6m and 70cm if you only have a more modest station. The antennas here are a dipole for 6 metres, crossed dipoles for 2m and a mag mount collinear for 70cm! On 2 metres I regularly talk to Bairnsdale and Mt Helen (nr Ballarat), and can hear a station from Wangaratta.

A phone call on New Years Day alerted me to interstate openings on 6 metres. As I was busy trying to turn the back yard from builders rubble into Cranbourne's second botanic gardens it took me a while to get on air - but I did contact two stations in Narrabri (NSW) with 5/9 reports exchanged. The 3rd of January was a frustrating day with the VK7RAE beacons audible all day on 70cm, 2m and 6metres, but little activity. It was not until 20:30 local that VK3EK/7 appeared. Robbie was running 2.5 watts. I also worked VK7XR later in the evening. When I turned the gear off close to midnight the beacons were still audible. A check of the band at 22:30 also had the Mt Gambier beacon present on 2 metres.

I also believe that Mike VK3KTO had some contacts on 2m SSB into VK4 over the Christmas period.

The Way It Is

I, as a know little "novice" like to think that this is the way it is in Amateur Radio. In other workds, what Amateur Radio is all about.

I called into a fellow club members place of business on what was primarily a social call. He had customers and, as a retired businessman, I understood and tried to stay out of the way. He went about the business giving each customer due care and attention and made sure each was satisfied. After the last customer had left we got down to socialising and compared notes, so to speak - family, holidays, club equipment and our own equipment. ON our own gear I complained about chores I had been doing and still had to do to get the 2 mtr. Rig up and running. There was nothing wrong with the rig itself, only the antenna or the coax. Birds kept landing on the antenna and bending it at right angles to vertical. I knew I could manage the coax without too much trouble, but the antenna was the problem. My friend said, "Here, look in this box. There are some odd bits that might do". I picked up one item that was a plain short heavy rod with screw-on mounting nut. He said "That's what you need, but you need a ground plane with it". He proceeded to explain what he was talking about and then proceeded to take a large flat steel washer and soldered 4 rods equally spaced around the washer and all bent to about 45 degrees to the flat side of the washer. He then explained how to position the device (it had advanced to the device stage now) and said give it a try. Keep in mind, I had called in as a friend and a fellow ham not looking for anything. I was treated as a friend and a fellow ham in the spirit of Amateur Radio.

I want to thank and say that Graham Brennan, a mild unassuming fellow not looking for the limelight, typifies what I believe Amateur Radio is all about. I hope he won't blush and if he does he can always say its windburn from riding his new Harley. Thanks Graham

EVER WORKED A SATELLITE??

I have to admit that until last year I hadn't! Early in the year a VK5 amateur mentioned to me that he was having lots of fun working through UO-14, a 2m/70cm FM satellite. The next night I loaded some satellite tracking software and had a listen. Sure enough, I could hear the 70cm downlink signal on the vertical - but it was very patchy. A quick trip out to the garage for the 12 element 70cm yagi and an just over an hour later I had my first contact through an amateur satellite! It was still patchy on the 70cm receive, but workable.

It didn't take too long to work out that using the 12 element yagi inside wasn't the best idea - and trips to the backyard became a frequent affair - with an IC-24AT dualband handheld running into a diplexer, with the 2m output going into a 5/8 whip on the garden table and the UHF for receive into the 12 element yagi so I could track the bird. This proved cumbersome so I started using a 5 element yagi, which was actually better as you do not have to be so precise with your aiming. Eventually I did away with the 5/8 on 2m and put a quad type loop on the boom of the UHF yagi, giving full portability so you can move around if the bird becomes obstructed. Through this satellite I have worked VK1, VK2, VK4, VK5, ZL and FK8. Passes are typically 8 - 10 minutes.

If you would like something that does not need the yagi I have worked SO-35 using just the handheld & rubber ducky antenna! This radio's for SO-35 are only activated for one pass per day over each continent. The passes normally fall between 6 and 8 pm local time to maximise the number of users.. Why not have a listen?

SO-35: Mode J

Channel number	Downlink	Uplink
1	436.260	145.820
2	436.255	145.825
3	436.250	145.825
4	436.245	145.825
5	436.240	145.830

SO-35: Mode B

Channel number	Downlink	Uplink
1	145.830	436.280
2	145.825	436.285
3	145.825	436.290
4	145.825	436.295
5	145.820	436.300

UO-14: Mode J

Channel number	Downlink	Uplink
1	435.080	145.970
2	435.075	145.975
3	435.070	145.975
4	435.065	145.975
5	435.060	145.980

Here are a few times for SO-35 Australasia passes.

17/1 - 06:32 UTC Mode B
18/1 - 05:51 UTC Mode B
19/1 - 05:11 UTC Mode B
20/1 - 04:32 UTC Mode B
21/1 - 07:10 UTC Mode B
22/1 - 04:49 UTC Mode J
23/1 - 05:47 UTC Mode J
24/1 - 05:07 UTC Mode J
25/1 - 06:06 UTC Mode J
26/1 - 05:24 UTC Mode J
27/1 - 06:25 UTC Mode J
28/1 - 04:06 UTC Mode J

To avoid interference to others please do not try and talk through the satellite until you have a clear signal on the downlink frequency. Phil VK3YB

Guess The Resistors at the 2000 Christmas Party



Sighted at the 2000 Christmas Party



RT85 - Another Update

Since the last article in November's Gateway a few low level birdies from the RT85 have been found on HF - between 18 and 30 Mhz. Most of these were radiating from the 12 volt leads. Slipping two Ferrite beads (F14 material with 4mm inside diameter) over each lead gave a great improvement.

Some radiation was also occurring from coax outer. This was greatly reduced by wrapping the antenna coax onto a standard F14 ferrite rod as close to the radio as possible. This was held in place with electrical tape.

The ferrite's used are available via G & Communication's from Altronics.

Other options may be to put beads on the coax between RF output socket and the PCB, or an external filter or cavity.

Again I hope to hear a few more RT85's up and working on 6m.

73 Peter VK3VB

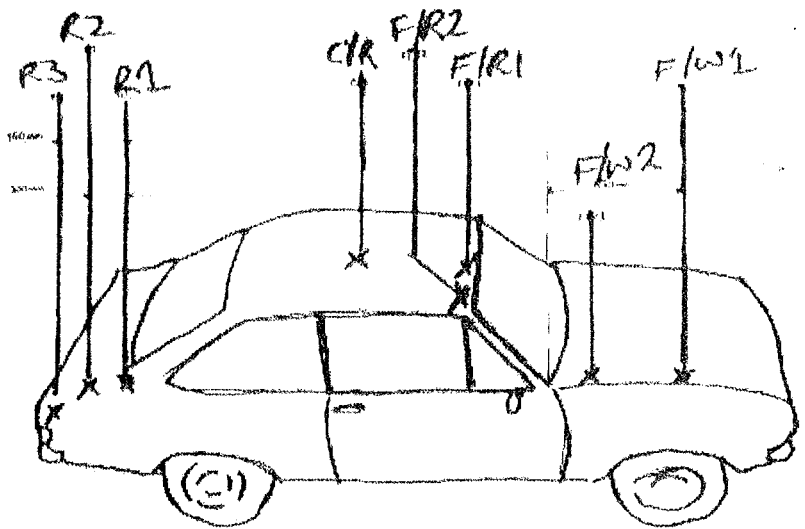
EXAM

The next exam will be on March the 3rd at 1pm

Closing date for applications is Friday 16th February

Enquiries Pat & Peter Pavey 03 59 983533

How Good is Your Mobile Antenna??



The diagram above indicates eight common mounting points for antenna's on vehicles. C/R, the centre of the roof, is the only position that exhibits an omni-directional pattern - but I am sure we all new that. What may surprise you is the % signal difference of the various positions, if we assume the centre of the roof is 100%.

	POSITION OF AERIAL	SIGNAL
C/R	CENTRE OF ROOF	100%
F/R 1	FRONT OF ROOF	24%
F/R 2	ROOF, ABOVE WINDSCREEN PILLAR	16%
F/W 1	FRONT WING 600mm FROM WINDSCREEN BASE	30%
F/W 2	FRONT WING AT BASE OF WINDSCREEN	24%
R 1	REAR WING AT BASE OF REAR WINDOW PILLAR	18%
R 2	REAR WING 200mm FROM BASE OF REAR WINDOW	13%
R 3	REAR WING 450mm FROM BASE OF REAR WINDOW	10%

Certainly leaves no doubt as to the best location for your mobile antenna. (While I could not confirm it, I assume that the above data is for a basic quarter wave antenna and that different results might occur for ground independent antennas)

FOR SALE

YAESU FT470 2/70 HAND HELD

WITH: SOFT CASE

FNB-14 1000mAh Battery Case

MH12A2B Speakers Mic & Operators Handbook

21 memories and 2VFO's per band.

Adjustable simultaneous reception on both bands

Wide Variety of Scanning Functions

\$325

Peter VK3VB

03 59983533 10:30am – 8:30pm

FOR SALE

YAESU FT530 2/70 HAND HELD

DUEL-BAND FM PAGING TRANSCEIVER WITH FNB-25

NI-CD BATTERY + SOFT CASE & RUBBER DUCK AE

\$350 o.n.o.

JIM VK3ZRG QTH/R 03 5672-4183

FOR SALE

IC – Q7A DUAL BAND 2/70 MINI HAND HELD

Receive 30 – 1300 Mhz Transmit 350mW

with Carry Case, HR 46 Speaker / Mic

RCA to BNC Adaptor

With Manual

\$350

Peter VK3VB

03 59983533 10:30am – 8:30pm

This empty space could contain information on what YOU have experienced in Amateur Radio. Why not make a few notes and email them to PPAVEY@bigpond.com, post to 6 Norford Court Cranbourne North 3977, packet vk3yb@vk3frs or give me a call on 59 957484

Mike Ide will be ineligible to sit for Treasurer as he has held the position for three years – well done Mike. Please speak to any committee member if you are thinking of taking up a position and want to know more. Those of you that have had a break from the committee for a year or two, please consider another go at a very rewarding position on the committee of GGREC.

In closing, the committee will endeavor to keep you up to date with the new "Self Assessment of Amateur Services for EMR Compliance" requirements that is being formulated by the ACA. Information is available via the WIA internet site for those of you with internet access.

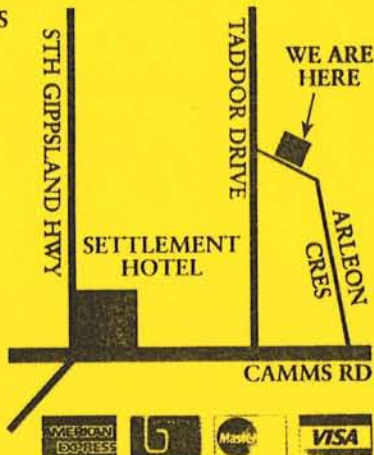
73's for now,
Bruno Tonizzo, VK3BFT

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