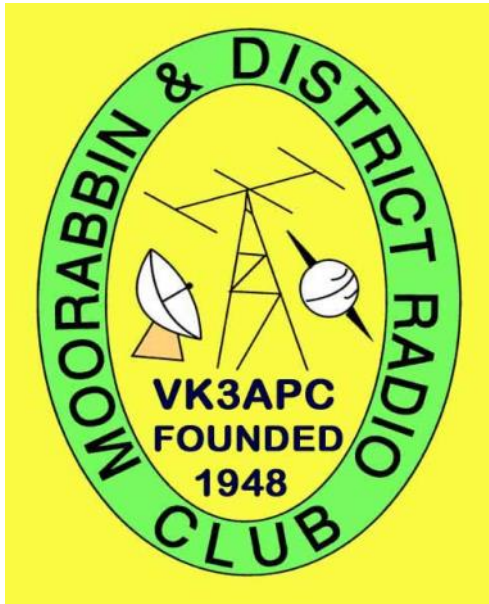


APC NEWS



SATURDAY

8th MAY

is

HAMFEST DAY

2021 HAMFEST

General Information

Date: Saturday 8th of May 2021

Time: Doors open at 10 am

Location: Kingston City Hall, 975-985 Nepean Hwy Moorabbin
(Cnr. South Rd and Nepean Hwy)

Cost: \$7 – Free Parking + One (1) Major Door Prize Entry Ticket

Repeater Communications: Contact other patrons attending the MDRC
Hamfest via VK3RSE, 439.900 MHz

Traders information

Doors open at 8:00 am for traders

Tables are \$20 for a 1.8 m table

Traders get one (1) entry per table included in their table fee.

For T&C and more info go to <https://mdrc.org.au/hamfest/>

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QTC

Well this is my QRT edition. I've had a good run and appreciate the support fellow members have given me.

Thanks to the contributors for this issue and the ones before it. I do appreciate them. And last but certainly not least, a big thank you to Denis VK3JN our indefatigable proof reader who saved me many times.

Good luck to anyone who takes on the position of Editor of APC News in the future.

Don't forget the Hamfest:

<https://mdrc.org.au/hamfest/>

73.
Ron
VK3AFW



OpenGD77 Project Closed Down

Roger VK3KYY has advised that software licensing problems, caused by the original badly drafted software license, mean the OpenGD77 firmware is no longer available from him.

Thanks Roger for your efforts. You have brought a cheap radio to life with your software.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

With only 2 weeks to go for the MDRC Annual Hamfest on May 8th at our new venue, the Kingston City Hall (aka Moorabbin Town Hall) who would have thought that 2 years have passed since our last Ham fest back in May 2019. It looks to be a good one as the tables are selling out fast.

As always we rely on a few dedicated helpers to organize and oversee activities and events during the day, so if you can help out let either Graeme, Ken or myself know.

Covid has had a significant impact on the attendance and social gatherings for MDRC members and it's great to hear that the Tuesday mornings are back into full swing. I am yet to manage a Tuesday morning off to enable me a call in to say "Hi". The 2nd Friday meetings may be taking break and there is chatter to consider a Sunday meeting instead. Let's see how that progresses.

My position as the Vice president of the WIA has been a little time consuming addressing many items and issues facing the future of Amateur Radio in Australia and I am always available to receive your comments and suggestions if needed, whether to do with MDRC or the WIA.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ken Millis has informed me that we have several new members and others who have upgraded or received new call signs. Welcome and congratulations to those respectively. Remember if you need study advice for upgrades or wish to sit Amateur Radio exams, we are currently lucky to have three AMC level 3 assessors within the club, Graeme Lewis VK3GL, Charlie Savage VK3ZD and myself, VK3GK and you can contact any one of us in relation to arranging exams etc.

The committee has been active although at a reduced rate these last 12 months or so but it looks like Covid may be behind us now and we can get back to some welcomed normality again.

Keep in mind the MDRC AGM is also just a few months away in August but more as we get closer to the date.

Thanks to the “webmasters” and contributors to the MDRC website which now has a web shop and other niceties. It’s been a new experience having our Ham fest traders booking tables online.

As always thanks to Ron VK3AFW who has been holding the fort and producing APC magazine. Ron is stepping back and the committee is looking for someone to fill the role to continue....any takers?

I look forward to catching up with everyone on Ham fest Day.
See you all then.

73 Lee VK3GK, MDRC President.

SARAH'S SHACK

Sarah VK3SD

Because of my back I can't get in the roof space to run low loss coax to a Buck Master 3kW rated sloping Vee OCF dipole, one side 80 feet and the other leg 120 feet fed from a balun attached to the chimney. It was a good antenna even though the radiation pattern faced South. Unfortunately the front garden in my North facing house is not big enough, I've got the long 120 foot of the aerial running through a jacaranda tree, no SWR at all even with a few bends through the tree. I have had it connected it to my Yaesu FT DX 9000 which on full power, can give 450 watts when it's in a good mood, 50 watts more than the specs.

I moved my shack from the back sunroom to a front bedroom as the environment feels better and I can have a lot of gear and tables to put it on. Unfortunately it's rather a mess. Hopefully writing this will inspire me to get cracking and set up everything and transmit some test tones with a strong whistle!

My other transceiver is an Icom IC 7851. I would like to attach monitors to both to highlight a NASA like environment! Attached to the Icom Tx/Rx is a 1 kW linear amp in case ACMA in their wisdom want to do some 1kW testing again! Then we could be on par with our bro's across the ditch in NZ!

SARAH'S SHACK cont'd

Yaesu FT DX 9000



Collins R54j4



The table for the shack is a 6 seater timber dining table with 6 chairs I got for only \$50 on eBay. I managed to pack all that in my old Ford Territory car and still close the tailgate. I gave the 6 chairs to a friend from the Aero club, who helped me with the load. I have a super comfy ergonomic Office Works chair for hopefully long QSO's. I love HF it's my favourite band.

SARAH'S SHACK cont'd

I also have a couple of Yaesu vhf//uhf type transceivers, One of them was installed in my car and did a couple of WICEN Red Cross charity canoe races with members of MDRC and others. It travelled to check points along the route on the Murray river for the race to Swan Hill. That was an interesting outdoor activity over 3 days, camping in the car. I had a Yaesu Tx/Rx installed in the car by AA Radio in Vermont, then got them to uninstall it when I bought the Audi Q8 which is a beautiful high tech car with a 'virtual cockpit', It even stops the car if your hands are off the steering wheel too long and will call emergency services, stop in the lane it's in and deploy the hazard lights! In hind-sight I should have kept Terry for loads and bush bashing, Audi only offered \$4.5k for trade in and listed it on Gumtree for \$13k! It needed a new transmission as it was 'hunting' but should have got new transmission for \$6k.

I'm contemplating installing an all band Icom saw advertised at the 'toy shop'. Used a lot of HF at Macquarie Island and loved it listening and tuning RTTY sigs from Pacific nations especially strong signals for newspapers. One station in Honiara was a very strong signal. Fine and exact tuning for voice radio telephone (radphone) calls was vital to avoid the 'duck's quack' effect on USB whilst the LSB on that frequency was printing out telegrams from expeditious families and friends. I loved the Collins 54J4 receivers. I've got 2 of these beautiful machines, I know one works and it's used to tune around the bands like I did at Macquarie. I need just need to connect all these rigs together. I know I'm capable of connecting it and I can chuck up a 10 meter long dipole I built. It worked ok on the Wednesday night skeds on 40 meters. I just need the motivation.

SARAH'S SHACK cont'd

Icom 7851



I also have a recently acquired ,off eBay, a Cisco Systems Switching and Routing Lab where I can play networks to keep up with the Internet infrastructure. I have 4 switches and 2 routers I can configure, and have a play.

The Radio shack is currently a mess; I've got all I need just need a boot up the proverbial and do it. Hopefully writing this will inspire me, it's only a couple of days effort to get everything going. Only worry is the cable length, it needs to be about 8 or 10 meters long to run to the OCF dipole at the back of the house, I'm hoping the low loss cable will be able to handle the transmit load for that length, it's a roll of Benelec 400 low loss coax, just need to measure the length in the roof space and maybe do some loss calculations on the Benelec website, I have a feeling I should be under the threshold for any major loss and should have low SWR as proved in my old RG213 cable.

SARAH'S SHACK cont'd

HF is still my favourite band as it's "Raw Radio" with no internet interfaces. I've got my Cisco Lab if I want to play internet; its the stuff I used to look after at Telstra before the NBN.

I got my Novice licence in 1978 as I missed radio so much after being in Antarctica. I studied in 1979 for the full ticket. Thankfully the exam was multi choice and nearby at the Camberwell Civic Centre. Then I could talk to the guys in Antarctica.

My call signs in chronological order; VK3NRE (national radio establishment!), VK3BLZ,(then I let my licence expire), next VK3AUD then via WIA ballot VK3SD and VK3VV. VV sounds good on CW although I mostly chat on SSB to folk all around the world, best time about 1400 UTC, talk tech with old timers, a lot of them were in electronics and radio, especially in the UK.

British PM Stanley Baldwin in 1932 said prior to WW2 ' the bomber will always get through' In conclusion I believe Raw Radio HF will always get through if the internet fails.

73

Sarah,

VK3SD

M&DRC REGULAR EVENTS

(Relevant Covid19 Rules apply)

Every Tuesday 9:30 AM Club Meeting at the Club Rooms

Every week day evening. 4:45 PM on. Drive Time. 146.550 MHz

Every Wednesday night, 8:00 PM. Club Net.

VK3RMC 147.325 MHz or 146.550 MHz and on Digital Voice.

Sunday 9:30 AM Club Meeting at the Club Rooms

New initiative. Check with Ken VK3KIM for dates.

Updated 32 April 2021

HEMA now in VK



HEMA stands for Humps Excluding Marylins Award program. It's another UK imitative embracing hill walking and radio. The rules are fewer than SOTA and it is based on a 100 m prominence instead of the 150 m for SOTA. Many wonderful mountains are excluded by SOTA but included in HEMA.

There are already hundreds of registered summits for VK1, VK3 and VK6 and these ones will be added to over the coming months.

HEMA peaks are more accessible around and in Melbourne but some of the bush ones involve a decent hike. Yes there are drive to the top ones but you can't operate from your vehicle.

You score 1 point per activation regardless of the peak height and need 4 contacts with different stations and different operators to qualify. Unlike SOTA, a station whose operator may hold four call-signs can give only one valid contact.

The program caters for both activator and chaser. Please consider.

For more information on this interesting development go to: <http://hema.org.uk/>

ANY OLD IRON?

MDRC IS COLLECTING SCRAP METAL

We are on the lookout for saleable scrap to turn into cash for the Club.

Many Hams have all sorts of obsolete or unwanted items taking up space that may not be feasible/practical for them to take to a scrap dealer, but may be useful to add to the club collection so we get a critical mass .



ANY OLD IRON? Cont'd

Some items that would be welcome are:-

Old transformers/chokes; the enamelled copper windings, valuable "magnet wire" can be recovered

Scrap PVC covered wire and cables, even odd lengths of hook-up wire and the like add up. Old coax with stuffed dielectric or sheath has copper braid that can be recovered and is almost "pure copper"

Electric motors. Larger ones have value as scrap even in tact, but stator windings on medium size motors for example if recovered are good value "magnet wire" scrap.

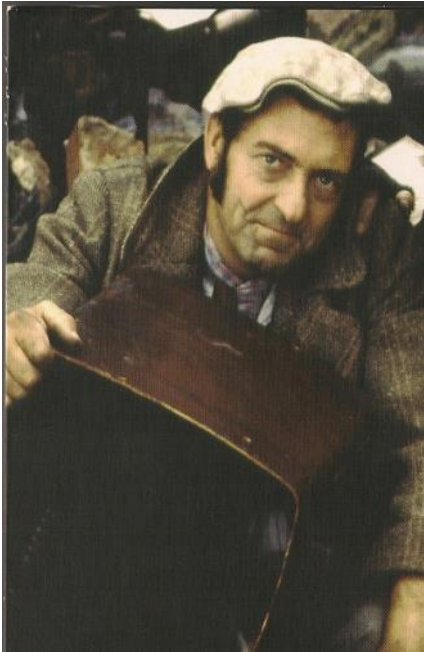
Aluminium in the form of heatsinks, large can capacitors, odd bits of extrusions such as tube or channels, even domestic pots and pans.

Lead/SLA batteries ex car, UPS, alarm etc..hey, even old fishing sinkers you no longer need or want !

Old microwave ovens (with usually a 1000 W plus mains transformer) yield some decent copper magnet wire, and a magnetron that has a decent aluminium heat sink assembly and a pure copper cast/ precision machined shell

Plumbing junk; brass fittings, brass taps, scrap copper pipe, scrap copper/brass, hardware such as screws, nuts and bolts

ANY OLD IRON? Cont'd



Prior to contributing to MDRC, any work to break down or separate would be most welcome, as it helps reduce the volunteer effort needed. But don't hesitate to offer what you think might be useful, even "as is"

There will be labelled tubs/bins at the Club for each type of scrap sited in a suitable spot, so you can "unload" into relevant bins any time you come to a Club meeting.

If you have a quantity that warrants or needs picking up, let us know. our "truck" will call!

Regards & 73's,
Terry VK3YX

email to: vk3yx@iinet.net.au

THE MARKET PLACE



The Market Place. Items the Club has for sale. The list shows the price and following are photos of the items.

If you are interested in something listed please contact Ken VK3KIM the Club Secretary

THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D

Image#	Description	Price
9803	2m Ground Plane	\$30
9805	Superflex and Heliac Cable assemblies various lengths	POA
9808	Roof Mount Bracket	\$15
9809	MDRC Slim Jim 2m with 2m cable	\$45
9810	MDRC J-Pole 2m/70cm	\$65
9817	Belcom S-868 27Mhz AM/SSB	SOLD
9818	Mizuho DC -7X CW QRP Kit 40m	SOLD
9819	Hansen SWR 6 Power Meter HF 10w/100w	\$40
9820	Palomar R-X Noise Bridge	\$25
9821	Icom IC u2AT 2m H/H	SOLD
9822	Puxing PX777 VHF/UHF Hand Held with two chargers 4 W UHF 128 channels	SOLD
9823	BHI NES10-2 Noise Cancelling Speaker	SOLD
9824	AR7 with speaker and power supply. Tuning Boxes	Withdrawn

THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D



9803



9805



9808

THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D



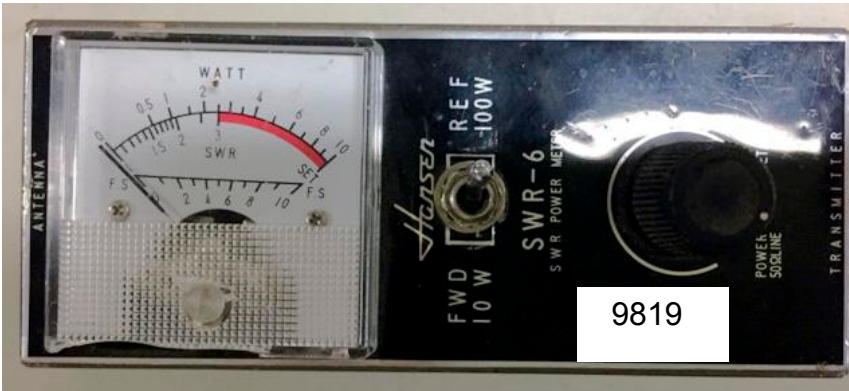
THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D



9817



9818



9819

THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D



9820



9821



9822

THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D



9823



9824

THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D



40 m dipole with
winder, balun and
bag.

\$40 plus postage

THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D



Hook up wire. Offers? Contact Ken
VK3KIM

White Wabbit Winders \$5 each or 5 for
\$20 plus postage.

Coming soon, 9:1 balun \$40 plus postage

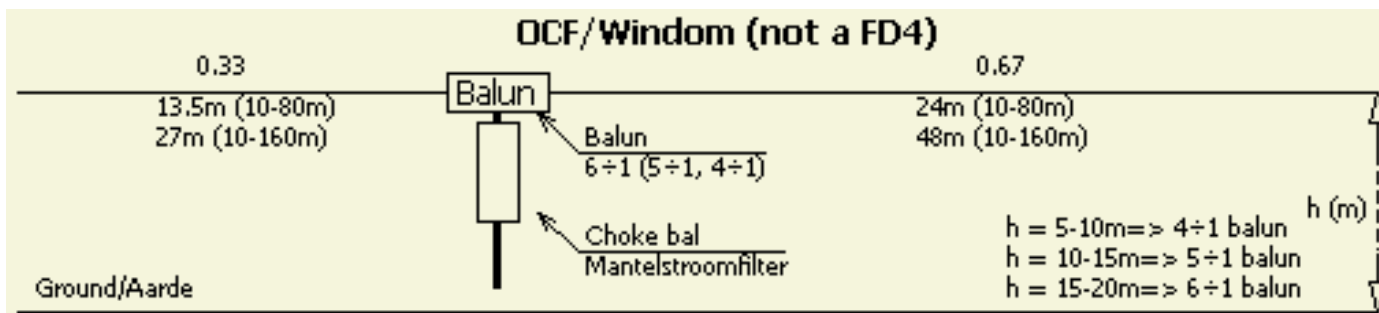


THE MARKET PLACE CONT'D

FOR ITEMS IN THE MARKET PLACE

Contact: Ken: millisk@hotmail.com or
Brian: adsljmv0@tpg.com.au

THE FRITZEL



The Fritzel is a version of the Windom or Off Centre Fed Dipole. The balun ratio for the best compromise match depends on the height above ground and the proximity to metal roofs etc.

height 5 - 10-m » 4 : 1 balun (This is the common one)

height 10 - 15-m » 5 : 1 balun

height >15 - 20-m » 6 : 1 balun

It is well known for having a good match on 40 and 20 m but not so good on 80 m. However with an ATU it will perform well on 80 m. Or a 50:112.5 transformer can be used for good matching on 80/40/20 without an ATU.

REF: <https://pa0fri.home.xs4all.nl/Ant/FD4/fd4eng.htm> Caveat. This contains some minor errors.

CLUB MEMBERS 2020



Left to Right,
Standing.
Ian VK3XI,
Tony VK3AC,
Derek VK3XY,
Brian VK3BCM,
Leon VK3DTL,
Ian VK3SV,
Alby VK3VBP,
Ken VK3KIM,
Ron VK3AFW,
Ben VK3FCBN,
Gerard
VK3GER,
Ian VK3ST,
Seated, Left to
Right
Paul VK3PDC,
Shane
VK3FBMD,
Jeff VK3VJS,
Colin VK3UDC.
Photo by Ken
VK3CEK

TRADE DISCOUNTS

FOR CLUB MEMBERS at ALTRONICS and JAYCAR.

Moorabbin and District Radio Club Inc. members can now buy over the counter at **Trade prices** from both **Altronics and Jaycar**. When making a purchase ask for **Trade Discount** and for **Altronics** quote the Club's Trade account number **32323** and your **call sign** or for **Jaycar** quote Customer Number **45400209**. **This is NOT a charge account so you use your money.**

Note: Minimum purchase of \$20 may apply.

Check out these companies at their websites.



<http://www.altronics.com.au>

GET YOUR PHOTO ID CARD NOW.



<http://www.jaycar.com.au>

IS THERE AN EDITOR IN THE HOUSE?



Well of course, in fact there are several.

But none have volunteered to keep APC News running.

So if you think its important to have APC News and you are not going to volunteer then you must “twist someone's arm”.

Contact Lee or Ken.