

April 2009

Volume 37 - Number 4



Official Newsletter of the

CENTRAL COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc...

Postal address: PO Box 238 Gosford NSW 2250

Clubrooms and Station: Dandaloo St., KARIONG 2250

Club Callsigns: VK2AFY, VK2EH Phone 02 43402500

Repeaters: VHF-146.725 VK2RAG

UHF- 438.075 CTCSS 123Hz VK2RAG IRLP node: 6060

UHF VK2RTG 439.300 Voice Multimode

Morse (CW): 439.725

APRS: 145.175 - VK2AFY, VK2RAG

Home Page: <http://www.ccarc.org.au>

A light version of **Smoke Signals** can be downloaded from <http://vk2afy.dyndns.org>



Part of the group of the Saturday morning Get-Together.

All members are welcome to come along and have a chat, a cuppa and share ideas.

Depending on the make up of the group topics can vary from Amateur Radio (obviously) to Antennas, computers, gardening, favourite foods, camping, travels •••

Occasionally some repairs and soldering •••

*From left: Bob VK2FULL, Terry VK2FACI, Ken VK2KJ and Winstone VK2BS
(Photo: Chris VK2LOB)*

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 Dandaloo St. Kariong

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Contributions

Information to be included in "Smoke Signals" must be submitted to the Editor by the second week in the month preceding publication. Information must be in writing, and in MS-WORD or RTF format. You can hand the information to the Editor at the club meetings or via email (preferred method) to smokesignalseditor@fsparker.com.au.

No information can be taken via telephone.

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club is affiliated with the Wireless Institute of Australia and Amateur Radio NSW.

Management Committee 2008—2009

Executive

President Col VK2ZCO 4324 5576

colhodg@comcen.com.au

Vice President Bob VK2ZAR 4392 7153

Secretary

Treasurer Ray VK2HAY 4325 2182

tooby@bigpond.com

Committee

Bruce	VK2ZAD	John	VK2DBC
Don	VK2ZCZ	Leon	VK2BLV
Fred	VK2FSP	Rod	VK2DOT
Geoff	VK2ZC	Sam	VK2ZZ
		Victor	VK2BTB

Sub Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Television	Victor	VK2BTB
Callbacks	Fred	VK2FSP
Constitution	John	VK2DBC
Deceased Estate	Bruce	VK2ZAD
Education	Chris	VK2LOB
Field Day	Col	VK2ZCO
Lecture	Fred	VK2FSP
Library	Victor	VK2BTB
Membership	Fred	VK2FSP
Project & Development	Bruce	VK2ZAD
Property	Ray	VK2HAY
Publicity	Ray	VK2HAY
Repeater	Don	VK2ZCZ
Smoke Signals	Leonie	VK2LCP
Social	Ray	VK2HAY
Station Officer	Bob	VK2ZAR
WICEN Liaison	Bob	VK2ZAR
Webmaster	Greg	VK2NGE

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in Smoke Signals are those of the contributors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the Executive, Committee or the general membership.

Repeaters **VK2RAG** (Site: Somersby. 300 Metres ASL)
 VHF (time out 3 Min) 146.725 Mhz
 UHF (time out 3 Min) 438.075 Mhz-123Hz tone
 IRLP 6060
 Morse Practice 439.725 Mhz
 Packet CCOAST 44.136.16.14
 1200 bps 439.150/434.150 Mhz Duplex
 APRS 145.175Mhz
 Non Linked UHF voice 439.950 (under construction)

VK2RTG (site: KARIONG, 150 Metres ASL)

ATV
 Vision Carrier In 1250 MHz Out 444.250 MHz
 Sound Carrier In 6.8 MHz +/- 75 KHz Out 449.75 MHz
 Polarity Horizontal
 Multimode 439.300/434.300 MHz Duplex,

VK2AFY (site: KARIONG)

APRS 145.175 MHz

Senior Members

Bill Aulsebrook	VK2SUB	Fred Parker	VK2FSP
Paul Clutter	VK2SPC	Leonie Parker	VK2LCP
Humphrey Cowled	VK2FUN	Ray Richards	VK2BRR
Ed Dyring	VK2ED	Gordon Saxby	
Dot Crutcher	XYL-VK2ZCZ	Dot Skinner	XYL-VK2ARI
Bruce Holland	V2ZAD	Ivan Skinner	VK2ARI
Len McNab	VK2ABD	Alan Swan	VK2DAS
Dick Maitland	VK2BBK	Tom Walker	VK2NAU
Kevin Outlen	VK2ANT	Evan Weaber	VK2AJV

Honorary Members

Tom Burt	VK2TB	Greg James	VK2GRJ
KenKirkby	VK2XAL	Peter Mudie	VK2XPZ

Life Members

George Collie	VK2ZDC	Ray Tooby	VK2HAY
Ross Mudie	VK2ZRQ	Col Hodgson	VK2ZCO
Don Crutcher	VK2ZCZ	Bob Ridgley	VK2ZAR
Victor Barker	VK2BTB	Leon Brett	VK2BLV

STOP PRESS

Saturday Morning Get-Together

Saturday 4th April 2009 **Don't miss this**
 Jeff Johnson VK4XJJ, who walked across Australia with a Yaesu FT-817 will be present at the club to talk about his walk.

Following there will be a BBQ.

Web site: www.jeffswalk.com

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**NB. There will be NO MEETING OR LECTURES on Easter Saturday 11th April 2009**

## President's Report

My report this month is more in the nature of a request.

There is no need to remind members we are approaching the end of the Club financial year and the imminent AGM.

We need to consider the events of the past months and the future direction of the CCARC. There are many facets of our Club's activity and operation that need careful consideration as well as considering future office bearers in the Club's Committee and Executive positions.

My request is for as many club members as possible to attend the next business meetings ( 3 April 09 and 1 May 09) and to prepare to attend the AGM itself.

If you can not attend these meetings please forward your apologies as soon as possible.

Notices re the AGM will be issued soon in keeping with the requirements of the CCARC constitution . Nomination forms for Club Executive positions will also be available in the near future.

Cheers,  
Col VK2ZCO

## Items of Interest

◆ For anyone interested there is a **free** amateur radio magazine on the internet.

Go to [http://ham.france.free.fr/crbst\\_18.html](http://ham.france.free.fr/crbst_18.html)

and subscribe for a **free** HAM-MAG edition every month.

◆ **The next Field Day Committee meeting**

Will be held at 42 Dwyer St., North Gosford, Monday 6th April 2009 at 1930 hours. All welcome to attend. Hear the true story of the 2009 Field Day, hear the facts. No legal chatter. Just the results.

### From the Editor

#### Articles desperately required.

Any ideas, suggestions for articles, photos of interest, practically **anything** (that isn't copyright) will be gratefully received. **Please** send any articles for publication to the Smoke Signals Editor:

**By Email:-** [smokesignaleditor@fsparker.com.au](mailto:smokesignaleditor@fsparker.com.au).

## W.I.A News

### David Rankin VK3QV/9V1RH SK

David Rankin VK3QV, 9V1RH passed away in Singapore on 19 March 2009. David was always the enthusiastic amateur, originally involved with Victorian Division, then the Federal Executive, and was Federal Vice President for a number of years.

<https://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2009/20090320-2/index.php>

### Wicen Tally

It is six weeks since the Black Saturday disaster that involved a third of Victoria claiming 210 lives, destroying more than 2000 homes, wiping out townships and killing farm animals and wildlife in its path.

<https://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2009/20090320-1/index.php>

### GlobalSET - 18 April 2009 - Rules published

The date for this event, sponsored by IARU Region 1, has been altered to coincide with World Amateur Radio Day on Saturday, April 18th.

<http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2009/20090319-1/index.php>

### GippsTech - Special Edition the 2009 WIA AGM Weekend of Activities

The Wireless Institute of Australia is pleased to announce the expansion of the "GippsTech – Special Edition" program with additional Sunday Morning guest speakers.

## Tweety Bird is 60 years old this week!

**It happens to all of us...**

**Now Have A Nice Day!**

*This bit of useless information is here because I had a space to fill. It was either that or a blank space — Editor*

- ◀ Any ideas, anyone ?
- ◀ Anything at all ?
- ◀ No matter how small
- ◀ ... or large—we can serialise if necessary



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## John Moyle Memorial Field Day - VK2EH

Again this year the CCARC mounted an assault on the JMMFD from Mt Allyn, grid locator QF57ru, in the Chichester State Forest adjacent to the Barrington Tops National Park.

The trip began with a convoy form up at the Ourimbah rest area on the F3 at 10am for the 3 hour journey to the site. The trip was uneventful and the crew arrived shortly after 1PM. The first task was to set up the sleeping accommodation and cooking facilities.

Once this was completed it was time to sit down and have an ale and watch the massive thunderstorm approaching from the North West.

When the storm arrived it brought with it torrential rain that lasted for more that 2 hours and saw rivers of water running through the site. Being the highest point for several kms the mountain took several lightning strikes, luckily they all seemed to be on the communications tower 200m away.

Once the storm passed the fire was stoked up. Dave VK2JDD towed a fallen dead tree up from the road below with his Land Cruiser to supplement the firewood that was brought along. The remainder of the evening passed by with intermittent rain squalls, dinner and a few beers.

On Saturday morning the sky was overcast and blustery winds which persisted for most of the day.

Equipment setup proceeded without to many hitches and the 3 stations where ready well before the start time of 12 noon.

During the morning Col VK2ZCO and Ray VK2HAY , who were staying at Lostock Dam 20Kms south, called on FM simplex to say they would be coming up for a visit, and would be there soon. Several hours and radio contacts later they arrived in time for afternoon tea. The roads on the topographic and forest maps, as well as the road signs, indicted a route that was not navigateable and they had to find an alternate route.

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The contacts flowed during the afternoon at a moderate pace, aided this year by having an addition UHF band (23cm),

The stations where closed down for the night at 12:30am , after more that 12 hours of operation.

The stations where again active at 05:30am with the flow of QSOs markedly increased as the morning passed. Several other portable stations reported that they had even worse weather than us overnight and had delayed starts to their operations on Sunday. The stations were finally closed down at 11:45am, 15 minutes before the official contest finish time.

After lunch the long process of packing up all the radio and camping gear began. The last 'ockey' strap was secured at around 2pm and we started the journey home.

If you want to join the VK2EH crew on the next field day, probably the Winter FD in June, contact Dave Hardy VK2JDH or Col Matten VK2KCM.

Dave VK2JDD has produced a short video of the FD and it is planned to show it at a Friday lecture night towards the end of the year.



**John Moyle Memorial Field Day - VK2EH – *continued*****Equipment:**

23cm IC 910 Andrew grid dish  
 70cm IC 910 13 el yagi  
 2m FT 897 14 el yagi  
 6m FT 857 3 el yagi  
 Contest logging was done using the VK contest logger from <http://web.aanet.com.au/mnds/>  
 Honda EU10i generator powering the lot.

**Longest contacts:**

|      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 23cm | VK2MA | 183Km |
| 70cm | VK1DA | 450Km |
| 2m   | VK2WG | 522Km |
| 6m   | VK2HZ | 209Km |

**People :**

Dave VK2JDD  
 Dave VK2JDH  
 Col VK2KCM, wife, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 dog  
 Peter, wife, daughter and dog.  
 - Dave Hardy VK2JDH

**Why, Why, Why...**

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are almost dead?

*Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they already know there is not enough money?*

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars; but have to check when you say the paint is still wet?

*Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?*

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

*Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?*

If people evolved from apes, Why are there still apes?

*Why is it that no matter what colour bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?*

Is there ever a day that mattresses Are not on sale?

*Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?*

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

*Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?*

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

*When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, 'It's all right?' Well, it isn't all right, so why don't we say, 'That really hurt, why don't you watch where you're going?'*

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

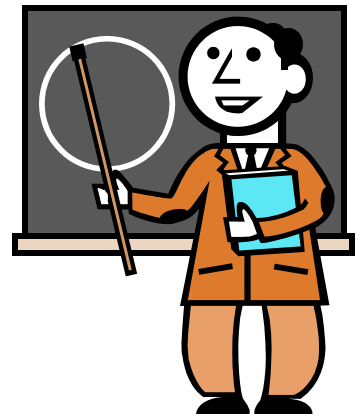
*How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?*

And my FAVORITE.....

The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.?

***A day without a smile is like a day without sunshine!\****

# Standard Theory Training Course



If you know of anyone interested in becoming licensed as an Amateur Radio operator or if you feel you could do with a little "brush up" on theory please contact Geoff VK2ZC. Ph: 4362 9444.

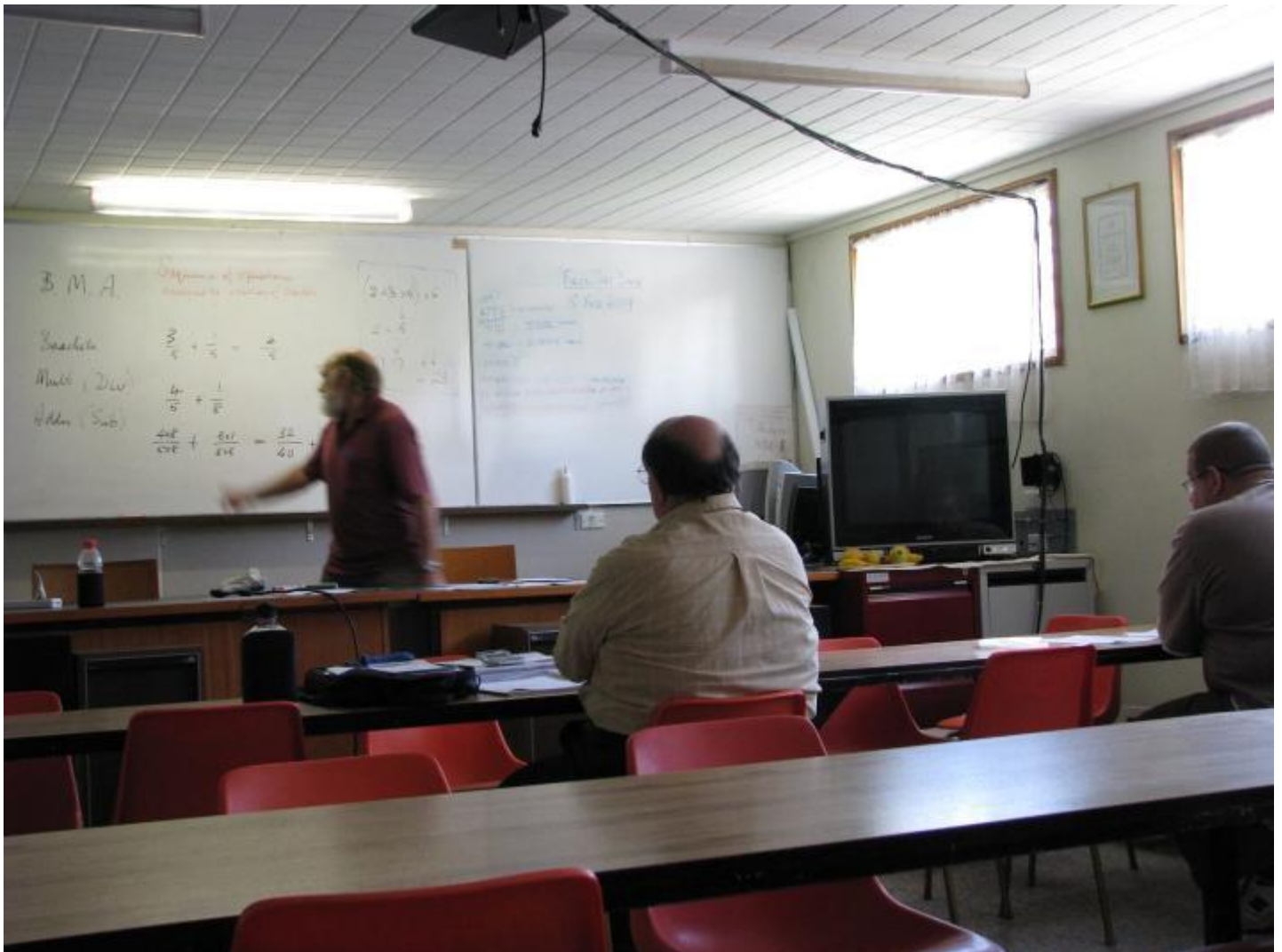
Theory training for the Standard Grade Licence will be held each Saturday at the CCARC club rooms at Dandaloo Street, Kariong.

**When:** From 9:30am -- 11:30am each Saturday starting 7th March 2009

There will be 2 x 50 minute lectures each Saturday, with a mid session break.

**Bring:** Notepad and writing stuff.

For further information contact Geoff VK2ZC, on 4362 9444



Col VK2ZCO teaching Math as a preparation for lectures in Standard Theory Training Course. This basic math aids in the understanding of aspects of Amateur Radio. Paying rapt attention are Graham VK2FHMG and Terry VK2FACI. Photo: Chris VK2LOB

(SS Editor was observing at back for the last 1/2 hour and was impressed with Col's excellent teaching....he made equations so easy to understand.) -