

February 2010

Volume 38 - Number 02



Official Newsletter of the

CENTRAL COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc...

Postal address: PO Box 238 Gosford NSW 2250

Clubrooms & Station: Dandaloo Street, KARIONG NSW Phone: 02 43402500

Club Call-signs: VK2AFY, VK2EH

Repeaters: VHF - 146.725 CTCSS 91.5 Hz VK2RAG
UHF - 438.075 CTCSS 91.5 Hz (IRLP node: 6060) VK2RAG
UHF - 439.300 Voice Multimode VK2RTG

Morse (CW): 439.725

APRS: 145.175 - VK2AFY, VK2RAG

D-Star: 146.63750 MHz -0.600 Offset (Usually "C" Node) VK2RAG
438.32500 MHz -5.400 Offset (Usually "B" Node) VK2RAG
Gateway Registration URL <https://122.252.16.155/Dstar.do>

Home Page: www.ccarc.org.au



Somersby,
Saturday 16th
January 2010
working bee..

Geoff, VK2FSP and
Ian, VK2HK on the
ground, await
instructions from
Peter, VK2XZP,
high on the Tower.

Smoke Signals, Published by:
 Central Coast Amateur Radio Club Inc.
 PO Box 238 Gosford NSW 2250
 Phone: +61 (02) 4340 2500
 Dandaloo St. Kariong
 Editor: Leonie VK2LCP

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 2009-2010

Executive

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Treasurer	Ray	VK2HAY	4325 2182
		rooby@bigpond.com	

Committee

Bruce	VK2ZAD	John	VK2DBC
Don	VK2ZCZ	Leon	VK2BLV
Fred	VK2FSP	Doug	VK2FDCC
Bob	VK2ZAR	Chris	VK2LOB
Greg	VK2NGE	Victor	VK2BTV

Sub Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Television	Victor	VK2BTV
Callbacks	Fred	VK2FSP
Constitution	John	VK2DBC
Deceased Estate	Bruce	VK2ZAD
D-Star Facilitator	Chris	VK2LOB
Education	Chris	VK2LOB
Field Day	Col	VK2ZCO
Lecture Co-ordinator	Fred	VK2FSP
Library	Victor	VK2BTV
Membership	Fred	VK2FSP
Project & Development	Bruce	VK2ZAD
Property	Ray	VK2HAY
Publicity	Doug	VK2FDCC
Repeater	Don	VK2ZCZ
Smoke Signals	Leonie	VK2LCP
Social Co-ordinator	Doug	VK2FDCC
Station Officer	Leon	VK2BLV
WICEN Liaison	Bob	VK2ZAR
Webmaster	Greg	VK2NGE

Repeaters **VK2RAG** (Site: Somersby. 300 Metres ASL)
 VHF (time out 3 Min) 146.725 MHz - CTCSS 91.5 Hz
 UHF (time out 3 Min) 438.075 MHz- CTCSS 91.5 Hz
 IRLP 6060
 Morse Practice 439.725 MHz- CTCSS 91.5 Hz
 Packet CCOAST 44.136.16.14
 1200 bps 439.150/434.150 MHz Duplex
 APRS 145.175MHz
 Non Linked UHF 439.950 (under construction)
 voice
 D-Star 146.6375 MHz (Usually "C" Node)
 438.3250 MHz (Usually "B" Node)
 Gateway Registration <https://122.252.16.155/Dstar.do>

Repeaters **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
Ursula Barker	XYL-VK2BTV	Ray Richards	VK2BRR
Ed Dyring	VK2ED	Gordon Saxby	
Dot Crutcher	XYL-VK2ZCZ	Dot Skinner	XYL-VK2ARI
Bruce Holland	V2ZAD	Ivan Skinner	VK2ARI
Dick Maitland	VK2BBK	Alan Swan	
Kevin Outlen	VK2ANT	Tom Walker	VK2NAU
		Evan Weaber	VK2AJV

Honorary Members

Tom Burt	VK2TB	Greg James	VK2GRJ
Ken Kirkby	VK2XAL	Peter Mudie	VK2XZP

Life Members

George Collie	VK2ZDC	Ray Tooby	VK2HAY
Ross Mudie	VK2ZRQ	Col Hodgson	VK2ZCO
Don Crutcher	VK2ZCZ	Bob Ridgley	VK2ZAR
Victor Barker	VK2BTV	Leon Brett	VK2BLV

Disclaimer

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President's Report

2010 is now under way as the first year of the second decade of the third millennium or is it the last year of the first decade, really the answer depends on the number system or the counting system in use (I will leave that for readers to decide/decode).

Whatever the case the next ten years present serious challenges, global warming / climate change and our energy usage probably the most serious. Genuine scientific research and climate measurements indicate climate change is already upon us.

That last statement may provoke some letters to the editor. Please feel free to respond if you wish, I am sure Leonie, our editor, would appreciate extra input to Smoke Signals.

This year also presents some new challenges to the CCARC. Legislative changes to trusteeships will require alterations to several of the Club's official procedures, eg alignment of the Club year with the financial year.

Probably the most immediate challenge is our Field Day 2010. Preparations are being finalised but there is still a considerable amount of work to be done.

With several club projects under way, eg the completion of the HF antenna system and a proposed telemetry system for Somersby under early investigation there will be sufficient activity for involvement of club members for this year.

Wishing one and all a successful year.

Cheers,

Col, VK2ZCO

Coming CCARC Events

Friday 5 February — 7.30pm at Club rooms
Monthly business meeting.

Note the change of time and date.

Monday 8 February — 7.30pm at Club rooms
Field Day meeting — All welcome. Come with your ideas. **We need YOUR participation.**

Saturday 13 February — 2.00pm at Club rooms
WICEN meeting.

Field Day News

Please make sure that your alarm clock is in good working order for **Sunday, 28th. February 2010**, we need to insure that the Main Gate is fully manned at 0530 hours, and the Raffle Ticket Sellers are out & about by (say) 0600 hours.

Remember it is your Club, and the recent Lands Dept. ruling will affect us all.

Don't forget about the special items of interest for family members or friends who are not amateur radio enthusiasts situated on the top level of the Members' Stand

- ▶ **Wires** display - important work in saving the lives of sick and injured native animals
- ▶ **The Embroiderer's Guild N.S.W. Inc.** - with a display of their skills and sales
- ▶ **Central Coast Potters Society** - with a range of high class pottery and jewellery.

Also on this same level are the club's Amateur Television Experts display as well as tea and coffee

Do not forget the combined evening dinner on the 27th. February 2010 at the Wyong Bowling Club, starting at 1800 hours, this is a Menu Dinner.

Our Club and A.R.NSW are combining to have this event a "show piece" for the Field Day week end.



Remember to wear your CCARC club cap with pride at the field day .If you need to buy one (only \$5) see Ray VK2HAY at the club or the main gate and information room at the field day.

If you have any suggestions regarding the running of the Field Day now is your last chance, we look forward to hearing from you.



Many thanks to Graham Vk2 GRA for mowing the grass at Kariong, again. Offers of assistance would be appreciated. Contact Graham and let him know you can lend a hand.



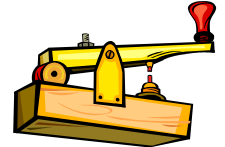


Reflections of an Amateur Radio Enthusiast

My interest in radio communication started at a very early age through the simple fact of listening to ABC children's hour and the Argonauts Club. The first radio my family had was, as I remember it, was made up of 3 units, a large cabinet which contained 4 batteries, the receiver, and a speaker box. About 1936 this was replaced by a single unit, about 2'6" high by 1'6" wide and 1' deep. This we had until about 1948.

My first effort of having my own radio was making a crystal set, fed by a long antenna connected from the back veranda, which was also my bed room, to a very large black butt tree about 50' down the back yard of our home in Lane Cove (my father and a friend connected the antenna in the tree which remained there until 1939).

It was also during this time that my neighbour, 2 years my senior, convinced me to learn Morse Code, which we used to communicate via a wire connection, a simple key and buzzer. I achieved a reasonable proficiency which, because of inconsistent use, I later lost.



In 1943 we moved to Roseville, where my interest in Amateur Radio began when I visited a licensed Amateur in 1946, soon after the removal of the wartime restrictions, and, as second operator, I had a contact with a US serviceman, who had setup a Amateur Station in Japan.

In 1947 we moved to Newport, where I built my first valve radio, the famous Little General, as described in Radio and Hobbies magazine. I eventually made 2.

Though my interest in amateur radio never disappeared, it was not until the advent of CB, legally, that through the contact with Sam Voron, VK2BVS, in the mid 70s, and the lectures held at NSW Division of the WIA in Atchinson Street St Leonards, that eventually my wife Leonie, son Geoff (age 14), and I, sat for the NAOCP and obtained our Novice Licence in September 1978.

If it had not been for Sam, we, any many others, would not be licensed to day.

Our initial call-signs were, Leonie VK2NBL, Geoff VK2NBS, and mine VK2NFF.

I sat for LAOCP and gained the Limited Licence in late 1980, call-sign VK2ZBK. This was converted a few years later, when the Combined Novice/Limited licence became available to VK2JBK.

In 1980 I joined WICEN, and attended many meetings held at the NSW Police Rescue Centre, in Marrickville. During the earl 80s, WICEN was activated many times, in which I took part.

In 1982 Geoff gained his LAOCP, and as the Combined licence was available, changed his call-sign to VK2KGP.

Leonie never upgraded, but because of a Department of Communications (DOC now ACMA) bungle, her call-sign was changed to VK2LCP.

Leonie and I moved to the Central Coast in February 1996, Geoff and his family followed shortly after.

One of the first local contacts made was with Bruce VK2ZAD, who I first met when a student at Moore Theological College. I also contacted Rod, VK2DOT, who I had known since 1981 when he was a member of the staff at Kurrangai College of Advanced Education. In 2000 I became a member of the CCARC.

My interest in Amateur Radio in all its facets continues, including WICEN, and even though my technical expertise is rather lacking, and my physical capabilities are waning, I continue to promote Amateur Radio.

Today, Leonie is still VK2LCP, Geoff VK2ZC, and me, VK2FSP.

This is just a brief resume of my interest in Amateur Radio. I am sure there are many others with an even more interesting resume of their Amateur Radio activities.

Fred Parker, VK2FSP

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*Thanks Fred, this article may prompt others to expound on their beginnings with their Amateur Radio "fascination". Please think about writing a few paragraphs or pages. If it is too long it will be serialised. (only kidding). It would be appreciated by your article-starved editor.*

*ED.*



CCARC Business meeting reverts to its former day and time.  
**Friday evening 5 February at 19.30 hours**

## WIA NEWS — Wireless Institute of Australia - <http://www.wia.org.au>

### Good News D-Star story from Port Lincoln

While the loss of our clubrooms and equipment is sad, it does pale into insignificance when you compare it to the loss of 12 family homes two days before Christmas. But there is one story from the fire that promotes D-Star which I thought I would share. <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2009/20091228-1/index.php>

### Year-long Centenary celebrations start

Celebrating the Centenary of Organised Amateur Radio in Australia has now begun and will continue during the entire year 2010 through a variety of program events and activities. <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2010/20100101-2/>

### FGARC ready to go for the Jamboree

After nearly a year of preparation, the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club has the Amateur Radio Shack and activity ready to go when the Australian Scout Jamboree commences on 4th January 2010. <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2010/20100101-1/>

### VK5ALE Lower Eyre Peninsula ARC Clubrooms Destroyed

Sad news from Port Lincoln today with the Lower Eyre Peninsula ARC clubrooms destroyed by a bush fire. <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2009/20091224-1/index.php>

## *A bit of Trivia about cricket .... .... as explained to a foreign visitor.*

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.

Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in, and the next man goes in until he's out.

When they are all out, the side that's out comes in, and the side that's in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.

Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When both sides have been in and out, including the not outs, that's the end of the game.

HowZat!

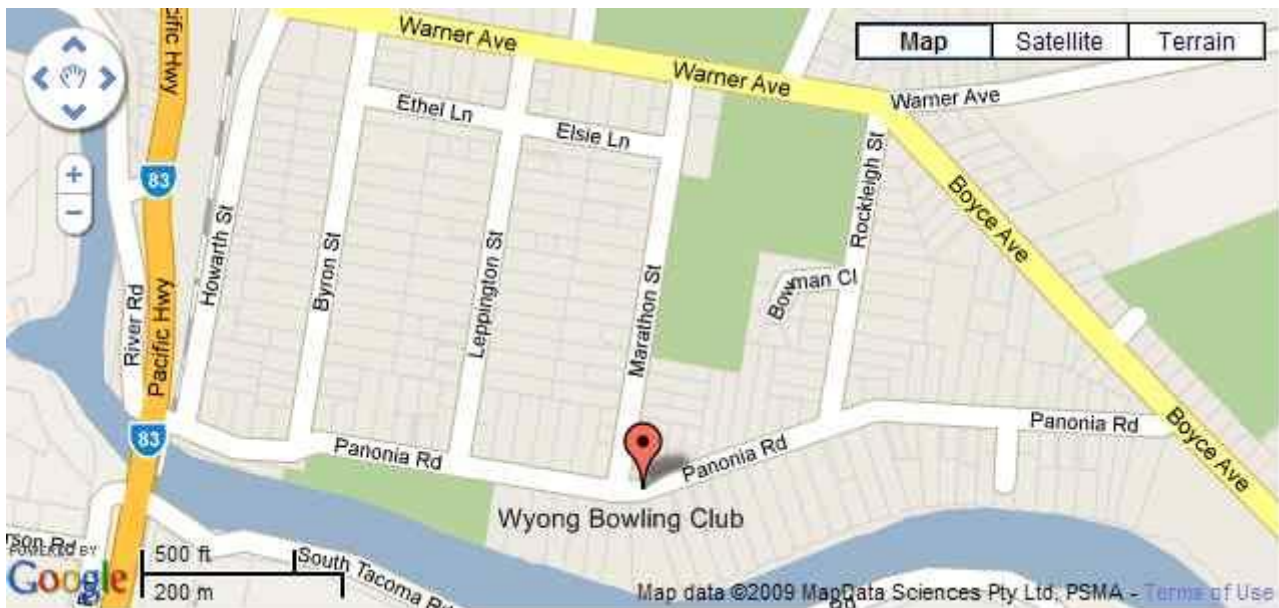
## ASPIDISTRA

Aspidistra was once the most powerful transmitter on the planet. At the time when most radio stations were 50 kilowatts or less, Aspidistra's transmitter was 600 kilowatts. Named for a popular wartime song about an Aspidistra flower so tall that the top of it was in the clouds, the 14 tonne (30,000lb.) top-secret monster was located in Crowborough, England during WW2, it communicated with other top-secret Allied radio stations including Hydra, the communications centre for British intelligence at Camp X. (Camp X was a spy school located near Toronto, Canada). Both radio transmitters played important roles on the intelligent front. Hydra's job of receiving and retransmitting intelligence was straight forward, Aspidistra's role was more complicated and called a Black station because it transmitted from England but gave the impression that it was transmitting from within Germany. Black stations were first called Freedom Stations, and later, Research Units, or RU's. Whatever they were called, their purpose was psychological warfare. Most of the information Aspidistra transmitted was from legitimate German news sources but the real news was interspersed with propaganda designed to turn German citizens against their own leaders.

- submitted by Paul VK2SPC

# FIELD DAY DINNER

Saturday 27th February 2010 - 6.00 pm



To be held at the Wyong Bowling Club, Panonia Road  
(northern side of Wyong Creek)

This year the dinner will be held in conjunction with  
Amateur Radio NSW as part of the W.I.A. Centenary year

The Menu consists of a  
two course buffet meal

Cost: \$25.00



Club members to book with Ray VK2HAY (ph: 4325 2182)

It is essential to book and pay in advance.