

Bunya Mts& District AmCom Inc.
News in Brief.
Summer 2017_2018.

From the Editor.

Hi again folks, Well time for yet another rag, we have some guff to include in this edition so fasten your seatbelts and hang on, because here we go.

Club meetings.

The next general meeting will happen on Saturday the 3rd of February 2018 At the MYCNC complex on the CNR of Drayton & Nicholson streets in Dalby, with the normal times being applicable, 0900hrs Morning tea, 1000hrs sharp the general meeting, then lunch around 1200hrs, and it is still to be decided whether we have our usual BBQ, or we go to a local club or Pub for a meal. The November meeting was held in Nanango, and was very well received, more details later in the rag.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

I took on the President's position to try to give something back to my 'club', the Bunya Mountains and District AmCom Inc. to which we all belong for a common goal, the enjoyment of our hobby 'Amateur Radio'.

It was pleasing as the almost newly elected President to see the many faces at our meeting in Nanango on 5 November and, to meet the faces behind some voices I have only met on air. I am hoping the numbers will continue for future meetings. Having over the years since the mid 1980's, served as President on three P & C Committees, been Minute Secretary to a Committee in Scouts Qld for almost ten years and then Treasurer of my Oakey RSL for four years, I would like to think that I am bringing some of that experience to my current position.

Whilst Committees are important to the running of any club it has been my experience that everyone who attends wants to get the business over and done with that they can get on with whatever other matters they wish to do. It was for this reason I put forward some changes to our meeting procedure that sees only the floor of the meeting accept (or reject) inwards and outwards mail and reports. Important matters including monetary approval will still see a motion put forward then a seconder (to ensure it is supported) before being voted on by members present.

It has been suggested that we could have every second meeting at Nanango if, we were to get somewhere near the numbers attending as did on 5 Nov. My suggestion is that we could also all have a meal at some venue after any meeting if enough members were interested.

I am disappointed at times by the number of members involved with fundraising. It is an important aspect of our club that benefits all who use the club's repeaters for, it is not cheap to provide, then maintain the repeaters on Mt Kiangarow along with insurances and ACMA licenses etc. Fund raising also assists in keeping down our membership cost! I ask of you all that, if you can provide some of your precious time to assist, even for an hour or so, that you please do.

It is an interesting morning at sausage sizzles as we get to talk among ourselves discussing varied matters and solving the problems of the world. That is on top of talking to some interesting customers. As Radio Amateurs we love to talk, please join us some time for a chat and help to raise needed funds. Maybe if we get enough attending we could have a radio/s set up as a practical demonstration and a means of possibly attracting new members ?

My sincere thanks to my fellow executive members, Andreas (Andy) Kellner - VK4TH for maintaining our link to the outside world via the club website (and, for organizing the use of the school room at Nanango and Christmas get together lunch at the RSL), our overworked Secretary/Treasurer Neil (& Judy) Holmes - VK4NF, Peter Griffiths – VK4POP for the work in the background maintaining VK4RET that I have learnt he does, and, Ian Binns - VK4NVF for repeater matters he has as his portfolio. Your support of our club in what you do is truly appreciated by me and, all this on the same pay rate as in the previous year. – you are amazing dedicated people !

I would be remiss if I did not also thank ex President Reg Kerslake (& Beth) for their stewardship in previous years. I have come to the helm with the club in a good position both physically and financially. Reg & Beth a sincere Thanks !

I welcome this opportunity to wish everyone and their families a happy Christmas and the best that the coming New Year of 2018 can bring.

Some more exam questions.

1. An antenna mounted on a tower or mast, should be DC grounded because.
 - a. It produces a better signal with smoother and natural Audio.
 - B. It produces a more positive radiation angle.
 - c. it ensures that static charge build up is shorted to ground.
 - D. It stops the birds from perching on it.

2. this is not an exam question but it is food for thought at this time of year. Christmas, why do we have such a thing as Christmas. ??
 - a. we work so hard through the year, that we deserve a holiday break.
 - b. it is a good opportunity to spend/waste money.
 - c. It is a celebration of an Iconic birthday.
 - d. it is a good excuse for Australia to shut down for a few weeks.Answers later in the news. hope U R correct.

The importance of DC grounding and lightning protection.

As Amateur radio operators, we all have antennas up in the air, on towers and masts, and this brings to bear the problem of lightning and static build up/charge that will occur with these antennas. and of course, these antennas are, strangely enough, hooked up to our precious and expensive radio transceivers. And if you have a radio attached to an antenna that is either above, or not connected to ground in some way, static charge can build up on the antenna, (particularly in very cloudy weather) and when it builds up to a point where it finds a path of least resistance, (through some component in your transceiver) it can and will take out that component, and probably along with some other component.

So, some antennas are above ground with no possibility to DC ground them as this will detune the antenna example, A quarter wave ground plane antenna, sure the ground plane is grounded but the radiator is not. So we should be focusing on antennas that can easily be DC grounded. a simple example of such an antenna is a Slim Jim or J pole. these antennas have DC continuity to all of the antenna, so if any static charge starts to be generated in the antenna, it is immediately shunted to earth.

Lightning, of course, is much more dramatic and more difficult to deal with, it all depends on how good your grounding system is, how heavy the wiring and grounding straps and whether you receive a direct strike. if you do receive a direct strike, a piece of say 6 or 8 mm copper wire, would probably act as a very good fuse and disconnect your grounding very quickly, then of course, the earthing strap on your transceiver would probably melt as the potential makes charcoal of your transceiver.

we will deal with this a bit more in the next news in brief.

Neil VK4NF.

CALENDAR FOR NOEL'S NUTTY CAMPS.

Please contact Noel via Email or his web site shown here, for more info.

Email:vk4nlnoel@gmail.com

<http://vk4nl3.wix.com/noelsnuttycamps>

As I write, Noel VK4NL & Jan, along with many of the other nutty campers are currently indulging on a different style of camping, they are floating around on the big water pool on one of the princess cruise lines ships, Can't you feel sorry for them ?? I wonder are they playing cards in the Casino, swimming in one of the half a dozen pools, feeding their faces in the Horizons food court, or maybe being entertained in the Princess theatre, no they are keeping fit doing a few laps of the Promenade deck Blimy, where do I stop, we do hope you guys are having a great time. Looking forward to some exciting options for the camps being planned for 2018.

Surge protection

A power surge, or **transient voltage**, is an increase in voltage significantly above the designated level in a flow of electricity. The normal supply in Australia (& N.Z.) is **240-250 volts**. If the voltage rises above that, there is a problem, and a surge protector helps to prevent the problem from destroying your computer, radio, power supply or other appliance etc.

Various factors can cause a brief increase in voltage.

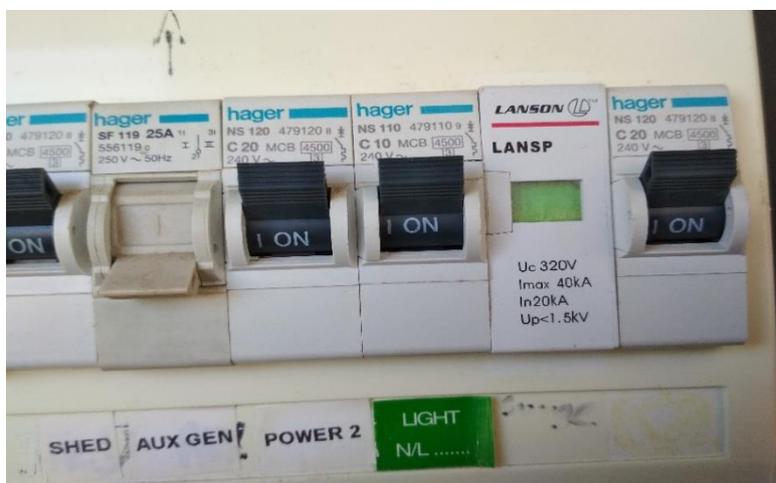
- When the increase lasts three nanoseconds (billionths of a second) or more, it's called a **surge**.
- When it only lasts for one or two nanoseconds, it's called a **spike**.

If the surge or spike is high enough, it can inflict some heavy damage on connected equipment, appliances or a machine.

Since my first computer I have been concerned with protecting my equipment. I and most other members in my computer group, installed across both the incoming Neutral & Active legs a component to shunt any current created by excessive voltage away to earth, rather basic but some protection rather than none.

With refrigerators and other household appliances, my computers and now my radio equipment that I/we could not be without should they receive a surge created by lightning or other cause on the mains supply, I have maintained that surge protection. A number of years ago, we purchased individual surge protectors that plug in to the outlet. One of these was destroyed when receiving a surge so it was well worth the purchase cost of the unit and not the replacement of item that it protected. You may only use it once or never use but, if you do not have one when needed the cost could be a shock, at a time when you do not have the funds to repair / replace.

On having some electrical work done at my residence I had a surge protector (see second from right in the included photo) fitted alongside the circuit breakers on the mains panel and, which protects all house circuits. It is considered a worthwhile investment in my peace of mind and was not considered expensive to purchase and fit. Whilst it shows green in the window all is OK. To protect from a 'brown out' after a blackout we also disconnect our refrigerator/s until after power is restored, just to be safe.



Contributed by Allan VK4MBE. Thanks Allan. ED.



Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to ensure they get there.

Club meeting at Nanango 5th November 2017.



HMMMM how about this for an interesting bunch of Colts and Fillies. taken in the grounds of the Nanango State high school. there are a few missing from this pic, and thankfully the ugly dude behind the camera was in the right spot. we had 22 attended the meeting 17 members and 5 visitors. a very encouraging attendance, thank you to all.



Here we have most of the Meeting attendees enjoying a great meal and some good fellowship at the Nanango RSL.

Ladies if a man says he will dosomething, he will do it. there is no need to remind him every 6 months to do it.

Update on the club's repeaters.

OK, As mentioned in the Spring rag, things are moving very slowly, we have repositioned one of the VHF dipoles, and changed the UHF dipole for a 4 dipole phased array. The Pic below shows the new UHF array. it also shows the top VHF dipole basically in its original position, but it has been swung around a bit further to the east. in the bottom left hand corner of the pic, you will see the other VHF dipole this is the lower of the two VHF antennas that has been removed from below the other one, and repositioned on the north western leg of the tower. we believe that this antenna is giving a slightly better performance to the 2mt repeater, but unfortunately it has made no change to the day time interference that is our major problem.

The UHF array is not working like it should, so we are considering what we can do to sort out this problem. any suggestions are most welcome.



Two lads up the tower making changes to our antennas.

Fundraising.

Yes, we continue our fundraising sausage sizzles on a Saturday morning, last Saturday the 9th December. We cleared \$227 a good average morning. On Saturday next the 16th of December we plan to do a promotional event to hopefully assist one of our sponsors Dalby Home Hardware, also this will be to say thanks to all ours and Home hardware's customers for their tremendous support through the year. should be a great morning. Also this will be the last sizzle for the year, probably start again about mid January. Once again we say many thanks to the few members who have stepped up to the plate and assisted with this most worthwhile club activity, Well done oh good and faithful servants.

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR BRAIN DOESN'T STOP WORKING, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 50,000 THOUGHTS PASS THROUGH IT EACH DAY ON AVERAGE, THOUGH SOME SCIENTISTS PUT THIS FIGURE AT 60,000, THAT IS A WHOPPING 35 TO 45 THOUGHTS PER MINUTE. Blimy, no wonder I'm Tired!! ED.

For the latest on licence courses and exams, over to John VK4TJ.

Who's New In the Zoo?

The recent Foundation Weekender course + exams held November 4 &5, 2017, has resulted in 5 new hams:

Cam Webb VK4FCAM Seventeen Mile Rocks, QLD

Ray Shaw VK4FYRS Brassall, QLD

Warren Townsend VK4FOZZ One Mile, QLD

Darren Campbell VK4FHSV Dalby, QLD

Louis Fernandes VK4FUJI Toowoomba, QLD

With the course held at Fifteen Mile, Waza from One Mile, Cam from Seventeen Mile Rocks, and Darren simply travelling miles to attend, it would seem that this lot have not embraced metric with any particular enthusiasm!

Persistent rumours of a decline in interest in running course at the coast actually work to our benefit, as can be seen from the above, since Bunya Amcom & DDRCI chronically fall short of the numbers to justify the effort of running a course. 60% of our candidates were from the coast, largely because they would have had to wait too long.

Unfortunately, the weekend was a warm one indeed, so candidates both figuratively and literally sweated their exams in 38 C heat in the VK4TJ shack/shed, resulting in DRCI copping an anonymous formal complaint for failing to provide a suitable venue.

This group of candidates is unusual in that every single one claims a strong interest in getting off their "L plates" at the earliest opportunity. After reviewing all available options they have expressed a strong interest in advancing via the US examination system, so plans are already underway for a USA exam session in late January or early February.

oooOOOooo

Thankyou John for the update, well there you have it, if you know of anyone who is keen to obtain, an amateur licence, of update their licence. looks like a good opportunity early next year.

We congratulate all the successful candidates and as listed, we have one local guy now licensed, Darren Campbell, VK4FHSV. good on you Dazza. We also have another new amateur in Dalby Frank Staunton, Frank had his novice licence quite a number of years ago, but was unlicensed for these number of years, but thankfully he still had his Certificate of proficiency, and was able to renew to a Standard licence, and not only that, Frank was able to have his original call sign VK4VFS. Good for you Frank, it will be good to have you and Dazza on the airwaves.

WHY.

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

Club Netts.

Bunya Mts& District AmCom Inc.

Each Sunday evening at 1930hrs we run an 80mt nett on 3.650 MHz.

If you have some time to spare on a Sunday evening, please call in and say hi, and join in the different topics of discussion that arise from time to time. It is great to have our regulars on this nett, but there are quite a few missing, So, the question - Where are you all.???

The 2mt nett is on each Wednesday evenings at 1930 hrs on the Bunya Mts 2mt repeater.

146.675 megs please call in if you can, and join the conversation. Yes the repeater is working fine after dark, unless it is windy, we will get a few crackles then.

Bunya Mts& District AmCom Inc.

Meets on the first Saturday in February, May, August & November. These dates may vary slightly due to circumstances, but watch these newsletters, and check the website for details.

Meetings held at the MYCNC complex in Dalby, or at other venues decided @ previous meetings.

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Secretary: ----- Neil Holmes VK4NF Ph 07 4662 4950)

Treasurer: ----- Neil Holmes VK4NF Ph 07 4662 4950) Mob 0488 687 649.

Repeaters; - VHF 146.675. UHF 438.7 Co sited on the Bunya Mts.

VHF repeater located in Dalby 147/250mhz. positive offset.

For sale, give away or wanted

WANTED, DETAILS OF PRELOVED GEAR THAT NEEDS A NEW HOME

YES we have had requests for second hand gear, so if you have any such gear stashed in cupboards anywhere, bring them along to the Club meetings when they are on.

We place adverts in this newsletter free for members,
non members, we would appreciate a donation. ED.

If you would like to add some copy for publication in the next issue of News InBrief,

please Email same to – holmzie@bigpond.com

Many thanks to all those who have contributed

Answers to the exam questions.

1.(C)

2. (C)

The Club would like to acknowledge all of our most valued sponsors.

Dalby Home Timber and Hardware:

Condamine Electric Company.

Butters Warehouse Dalby:

Evolution 2 Enterprises.

Until Next time, enjoy your hobby. Neil Holmes VK4NF.-----Editor.

On behalf of the club, I would like to extend to all our members and fellow amateurs.

A very happy and blessed Christmas, and may 2018 exceed all your expectations.