



REPEATERS VK3RGV 2m
& VK3RGV 70cm
CLUB CALL SIGN VK3SOL

Volume 3, Issue 4,
May 2007



Repeaters: VK3RGV 2m - 70cm - Packet.
Freq: 146.650 - 439.775 - Packet 147.575

Founded 1979

Incorporation No. A6677
P.O Box 692 Shepparton 3632

VK3RGV



Aerial photo of Mt Wombat showing VK3RGV

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Newsletter

Editor - Lisa Laffan

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THE PRESIDENTS REPORT



Hi,

Our Club has been invited to attend a lecture on the 7th June 2007, this invitation has come via The Midland Amateur Radio Club in Bendigo for a 1.30PM start, at this stage we have arranged a Bus pick up from our Club rooms to Bendigo and return, the only problem is we don't appear to have much support from the membership, Lisa sent a bulk email to all our members on email last week wanting a reply from the membership with a yes or no answer, to date I have received 4 reply's, we need 15 starters for this trip to be a goer, to date we have 11 members who have indicated they would attend, can you please let Duncan VK-3MDC our secretary know if you can or can't attend, the cost is \$20 per head with a 11.00am departure. The lecture is on Pic-A-Star, please go to this site and have a look <http://www.marc.org.au/> this site explains all about the software-defined radio, this brings back homebrewing to our hobby.

Guest speaker for the June Meeting, Graeme Scott- VK2KE, 2nd June 2007, this will be a very interesting lecture and discussion, if you wish to upgrade your license you need to attend this meeting, or if you know someone who is interested in becoming a Ham this is a must see and attend meeting, we are looking for full support from the membership to attend, a special thanks to Ed VK3BG for arranging Graeme to attend our meeting, for further information on the books that Graeme has produced please go to this site <http://www.geocities.com/vk2ke/> books will be available on the day, please attend, sausage sizzle prior to the meeting for the early staters.

Reg, VK3ARB has kindly donated some radio equipment to our club, this equipment will be used in our radio room, Yaesu FT-212RH 2mtr radio, Dick Smith 3-15v 25amp power supply, FM-900 2mtr Radio, 30Mtr of Coax cable and some Antenna Books, we thank Reg for his donation, Reg is not in the best of health these days, we wish him well.

IRLP Link to change frequency from 70cm to our 2mtr repeater VK3RGV, Ray VK3RW and Daryl VK3KL, are currently working on this project to change our link frequency, when this change over is complete we will notify the membership, all going well it should be sometime this month, this change of frequency will give all our members and users the opportunity the experience DX contacts via 2mts, we realised that having the link on 70cm disadvantaged a majority of users/members from having access to the IRLP Link and the DX world.

73s for now, Roger VK2RO

By Graeme Scott - VK2KE

The Standard Licence Theory Handbook and Study Guide and the Advanced Licence Theory Handbook and Study Guide are suitable study guides for the Standard and the Advanced licences under the new Foundation licence structure. New photos of the books will appear soon.

I have written four textbooks for the ham radio courses in Australia I have taught at TAFE colleges in Melbourne and Wodonga over a period of more than 15 years and have taught classes in Radio Theory and Practice to apprentice, technician and evening classes. I have conducted classes for the Twin Cities Radio & Electronics Club in Albury -Wodonga.

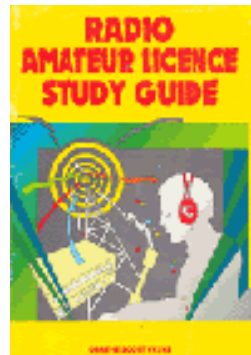
I am an active ham having been in the hobby since 1957.

I would like to see as many people get their ham radio licence as possible because I think it's a great hobby.



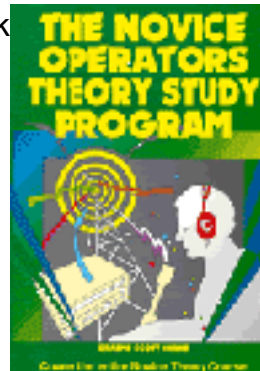
The third book is the Advanced Licence Theory Handbook.

The fourth book is the Advanced Licence Study Guide.



The first book is the Standard Licence Theory Handbook.

The second book is the Standard Licence Theory Study Guide.



HIGH VOLTAGE POWERLINE INTERFERENCE

Overhead high voltage power lines have been a significant source of interference to radio, television and radio-communications reception for many years. The current interest in the continuing problem of PLI has prompted the need to further enhance an understanding of such problems. The following article looks at how the interference is generated and the present methods of detection and interference reduction, including how modern construction trends on HV lines are minimising interference.

DOC's Radio Frequency Management Division is responsible for detecting sources of interference to broadcasting and radio communications services. Once a particular interference source is located, DOC advises the owner of the offending equipment and suggests what remedial work is necessary to overcome the problem. If required, the equipment owners are assisted on site to successfully suppress the offending equipment. Such assistance may be needed since interference suppression can become quite complex. Recently, DOC has been working with the Australian Standards Association to produce standards which, when introduced under the Radio communications Act 1983, will help to progressively reduce interference levels.

DOC's interference investigators, called Radio Inspectors, identify sources of PLI and recommend remedial action to the relevant power authority. At least 90% of PLI is generated by sparks that is, interrupted arcing in the variable leakage paths between phases, sometimes via the earth or neutral conductor on the high voltage reticulation system. It should be understood that when referring to 'sparks', the start and finish of each 'arcing burst' is the responsible mechanism for the interference heard.

Incidentally, it is a widely held misconception that common arc welders cause interference. This is just not so. Arcing, when such welders are in use, is normally continuous and is quenched in any case. Power line voltage fluctuations may, of course, occur and in severe cases could cause some instability in appliance operation when the line voltage regulation is poor. In fact, only the more sophisticated 'pilot arc' welders can cause interference. Usually these would be found only in industrial premises.

Voltages of 6.6 kV, 11 kV, 12.7 kV, 22 kV, 33 kV and 66 kV are variously used

in Australia to distribute power around suburbs, towns and rural areas before being transformed down to 240-415 Volts AC. The main feeder reticulation systems are usually 220 kV, 330 kV, or 500 kV and these will be disregarded in this article as PLI problems on them affect relatively few people. The most common high voltage power lines in Victoria are 22 kV and 66 kV. They share similar construction techniques with the most obvious difference being in the size of the insulators (See Figure 2).

By referring to figure 1 and the following information, it will be clear how most high voltage PLI is produced. No insulator is perfect. Recognizing this makes it much easier to understand how interference is produced. Since no insulator is perfect, a small current flows between each high voltage phase. This current will combine purely resistive current and capacitive current components. Figure 1 shows the leakage paths from phase 1 to the other two phases as an example.

Contamination on the surfaces of an insulator, or a faulty (and possibly cracked) insulator, will increase this leakage current quite significantly due to a reduction in the resistance across the insulator. This leakage, in itself, does not cause interference. Interference will only be caused when there is some discontinuity in the leakage path or paths. Where this condition occurs, sparks will jump across the gap and thus produce interference. The interference level is governed largely by the level of the leakage current peaks.

The typical high voltage distribution pole shown in figure 1 is mostly made of wood, with a wooden cross arm and metal braces. The insulators in this type of system are mounted on metal pins which are bolted to the cross arms. When first installed, all of the 'hardware' (that is, nuts, bolts, braces, and so on) is tight, so it is unlikely that any discontinuity will exist in the leakage paths. However, in time the wood shrinks and the whole of the structure at the top of the pole will become loose. Additionally, the metalwork will corrode and will have some contamination on its surface as well. These may act as poor quality insulators, usually of reasonably high insulation resistance, but with low dielectric strength.

Since the leakage currents travel throughout the high voltage structure, as shown, it should be clear now that at some points where there is looseness in the structure, discontinuity in the leakage path can occur.

A similar phenomenon can be observed when plugs and sockets on electronic equipment are loose, with resultant crackles and variable performance. The effect of corroded connectors in antennas are well known. A check of continuity across such corroded connectors shows that the resistance varies from about zero, when making good contact, to a very high value if the corrosion is the only path for the ohm-meter testing current.

Returning again to our power pole line support structure, it is obvious that - 'hardware looseness acts very much, like a 0or join in an antenna. However, the signal voltages on an antenna are low, whereas the voltage across any part of the loose hardware on a power pole, where an open circuit exists, rapidly reaches several thousand volts.

If the spacing across the open circuit gap is not great, sparking will occur at a rate of 100 times per second, or twice 50 Hz, which accounts for the two bands of dotted interference lines sometimes seen on a television screen. A single leakage path from one phase to earth may also produce a single band of dotted lines on a television screen. In the most severe case of leakage between all phases, up to six noise bands may theoretically be seen, although it is more likely that these would merge in practice and be seen as one very broad interference band covering most of the screen.

Another common type of high voltage construction which causes considerable interference is the suspension disc insulator type construction (see Figure 3). This system is often used on both 22 kV and 66 kV lines. There are usually two disc insulators per phase on 22 kV lines and four disc insulators per phase on 66 kV lines where wooden poles and cross arms are used.

Disc insulators are joined together, either by flexible ball and socket joints with a retaining 'W' pin, or clevis and pin coupling. This is a 'loose mounting' arrangement and, as such, it is free to move with wind pressures and so on. This freedom of movement in the assembly of these disc insulator strings makes them prime sources of interference due to the numerous potential discontinuities in the flexible couplings between insulators. In cases where the mechanical strain on such coupled in-t systems is great, the potential for PLI is reduced since a reasonably reliable and continuous contact between couplings can be maintained.

Continued next month

Due to the length of this article by Rodney Champness and Vic Pleuger it will be run over several months.

Minutes of May Meeting

Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Inc. A6677S. Minutes of monthly meeting held on Saturday 5 May 2007 at the Mooroopna Community Hall, Echuca Road Mooroopna.

As the president was running late due to business commitments, the secretary Duncan VK3MDC opened the meeting at 13.50 hours, apologised for the late start of the meeting and welcomed all present.

Present: Roger VK2RO, Duncan VK3MDC, Kane VK3HKH, Ron VK3COP, Les VK3TEX, Allan VK3AYD, John VK3PXJ, Terry VK3FTED, Brian VK3HBW, Rodney VK3UG, Les VK3FLGL, Pat VK3OV, Peter O'Connor SWL, Rob VK3ECH, Barrie VK3KBY, Neil VK3KAL, Angela VK3FELT, Ben VK3FBGS,

Apologies: Max VK3DSF, Danny VK3FDTH, Ed VK3BG, Terry VK3FTHS, Bill VK3DWG, David VK3ANP, Daryl VK3KL, Jan VK3ALF, Wayne VK3XQA, Moved John VK3PXJ, seconded Ben VK3FBGS, and carried.

Treasurers Report: No report was available at the meeting.

Correspondence Inward:

Email from Lisa (Newsletter Editor) regarding printing costs.

Email from Midland Amateur Radio Club regarding interclub activity.

Email from Peter VK3YF regarding membership renewal.

Email from David VK3ANP regarding visit to Watsonia Signals Museum.

Correspondence Outward: Nil.

Acceptance of minutes of last meeting: Moved Ben VK3FBGS, seconded Brian VK3HBW, carried. The president Roger VK2RO arrived and took over chairmanship of the meeting.

General Business:

Newsletter Printing: The email

from Lisa (newsletter editor) was discussed and it was decided to accept Lisa's suggestion to use the office supply shop to provide the printing/photocopying services. Roger VK2RO will discuss this with Lisa.

Club Mail: To make it easier for the club mail to be collected, Jac VK3TJS will arrange for a second key for the PO box be obtained through Australia Post.

Equipment Donation: Roger VK2RO visited Reg VK3ARB in hospital. Reg has kindly donated some radio equipment to the club. Roger will take an inventory of this equipment and will table this at the next meeting.

Club Membership: The email from Peter VK3YF was discussed and it was re-emphasised that all membership applications/renewals must go to the membership secretary Pat VK3OV. When any changes to the club membership list are made, Pat should send a copy of the updated list to Jac VK3TJS so he can update the club website and Lisa (newsletter editor) to ensure that all financial members receive their copy of the newsletter. Copies should also be sent to the club president and secretary.

Duncan VK3MDC is to send a letter to Peter VK3YF apologising for the mix up and thanking him for his donation to the repeater fund.

JOTA: Ben VK3FBGS informed the meeting that JOTA this year is to be held on 19 to 21 October and the club will be required to participate as was the case last year.

Although not required for JOTA, members are encouraged to apply for "working with children" permits, which may be required for other events.

WIA Learning Facilitators: Les VK3TEX gave a summary of the

changes to the WIA Exam Service being introduced from 1 December 2007. Details of the changes can be obtained from the WIA website.

Club Radio Station: The beam antenna for the club radio station is now ready to be erected. Ben VK3FBGS is to obtain quotes for the hire of an elevated work platform to achieve this.

Midland Amateur Radio Club Lecture: An email was received from Kevin Crockett, president of the Midland Amateur radio Club asking if any of our club members would like to attend a lecture in Bendigo on how to build your own transceiver (For more information search on PIC-A-STAR and SDR). Roger VK2RO suggested that we hire a bus for the trip to Bendigo and at least 10 members expressed interest. Details of the trip will be finalised on Wednesdays club net. Barrie VK3KBY will obtain a quote for the bus hire.

Watsonia Signals Museum: An email was received from David VK3ANP indicating that the Vintage Radio Club was organising a trip to Watsonia Signals Museum and asked if our club was interested. A number of members expressed interest and Roger VK2RO will reply.

Payment of Accounts:

Reimbursement to Ben VK3FBGS for the IRLP replacement radio. Moved Jac VK3TJS, seconded Ron VK3COP, and carried.

Reimbursement to Ben VK3FBGS for tensioners for the dipole antennas. Moved Ben VK3FBGS, seconded RON VK3COP and carried

Reimbursement to Jac VK3TJS for name badges. Moved Jac VK3TJS, seconded Ben VK3FBGS, and carried.

The president Roger VK2RO closed the meeting at 1555 hours.

If you have something you would like to share with the other members of SADARC then send it along with any photos you may have to accompany it to newsletter@sadarc.org

CLUB NEWS

WANTED TO BUY

MARINE RADIO

Radio is needed for use in a boat to go out in the sea.
Contact Theo Cowie
Phone: 0358711301 (Cobram) or email
tcowie@bigpond.net.au

FOR SALE

Commet GP9N 2M / 70cm high gain antenna.
20M of RG213RT5 low loss coax.
FM900 (FM92) 2M with frequency readout (programed).
Kenwood TMD700A, fully tuned and setup. Dual VFO
2M @ 1/10/65W 70cm @ 1/10/50W
Very sensitive and fully callibrated including S meter.
2M beam and 70cm high gain beam
\$650.00 the lot.
Phone: 0439099922
Email: benji@mcmedia.com.au

FOR SALE 1 KENWOOD TS530s TRANSCEIVER
condition unknown at this point. The radio belongs to
friend of mines mother inlaw and she is situated in
tasmania.
Radio is beleived to only been used on 27mhz for the
time they have had it.
They are asking \$300.00 for this unit
for any further imformation on this please
contact Danny Hender VK3FDTH on 0407060175
or 58623444.

FOR SALE

A range of Chrysler Valiant Sedans & Wagons 5 in total. Running on duel fuel, LPG only & Petrol.
Great for restoration or parts alone.
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a woman of her word!
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PUBLIC NOTICE

MEMBERS WITH 2M SSB GEAR

Each Friday night at 2000hrs come and join in the club net on 144.160Mhz. Upper sideband and horizontal polarisation preferred. So far we have had VK3BG, VK3KL, VK3HMB, VK3ECH, VK3OV, VK3SMB and VK3ANP. So come and get on the air and try more of the bands that we use. If you have an idea about a different time or night for the net lets know it might be a better choice than what we have chosen.

David VK3ANP.

The Midland Radio Club lecture

On Pic-A-Star, its a defined software Radio, that virtually anyone can build.

When: The 9th June 2007 - 11.00am departure.

Cost: \$20 per head.

Mini Bus pick up and return from the club rooms in Mooroopna.

Barry VK3KBY has volunteered his services to drive us safely to and from the event.

We need to know numbers ASAP!

A minimum of 15 people is needed or this will be a non event.

R.S.V.P. via email to Roger_plus10@optusnet.com.au
or VK2RO

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Ham Radio and Travel outside Australia

By Bruce VK3QC & Muriel VK3BJO Plowman



After arriving home from our Around Australia trip, and taking a few days to see our friends, we started to organise ourselves for some serious work on our new house, the basic ground work had been completed a year before, and we had done quite a few sketches of what we wanted, at night in our van. Muriel felt she would prefer a plain design with basically two 24 ft squares side ways across the block, with one offset 3ft, in relation to the other. This would give us a layout which allowed for a passageway starting at the middle and going south to access the two bedrooms and study, as well as laundry, bathroom and toilet. The offset which left the lounge, dining room and kitchen back from the front, gave us an easterly aspect across the valleys, and a front door protected from the southerly cold winds. As the house was facing downhill to the east, we designed the floor height to give us sufficient height to put other rooms and a car port under the house, and instead of a front verandah, we had an 8000 gallon concrete water tank cast on site, with a flat roof on the tank, and a surrounding railing to make a deck. As owner-builders we sub-contracted all of the major components such as the brickwork for the lower story, the wall framing and roof trusses, and later the steel roof. I did most of the rest, including cement sheet weatherboards, which Muriel pre-painted, wall and roof insulation, plumbing and electrical wiring etc, and all of the earthworks. Whilst doing this we lived in the caravan on our tiny "back yard". This took us about 10 months. At night we planned our North American trip, and we had decided to try a scheme which we had heard about, of Vacation Home Exchanging, which was becoming quite the thing in the USA for people who wanted to travel, at the "grass roots" level, rather than the more exotic, and expensive, normal system of taking a cheque book into a Travel Agency and buying a "package trip". We contacted by mail (no Internet in those days) quite a few people, so

Muriel wrote a lot of letters. The idea was to buy a directory produced by a couple in Arizona, which listed people from all over the world who were interested in this form of travel. We would then select names and addresses and write directly to these people and see if we could come to suitable times, and conditions to make a deal with them to swap houses and vehicles for a period of time that suited both parties, usually 2 to 4 weeks. As part of the courtesies we would do everything to make it easy for people to come to a strange country, and feel happy and secure in getting to know our friends.

The general idea was to have someone who could meet the visitors at the train station, and take them to our house, give them the keys, show them how the house "worked", have basic foodstuffs in the fridge, and perhaps have the guests at their place for their first meal, and then "be there" for any help the guests wanted.

We were very fortunate in having as friends and neighbours Arthur and Meg Courtney who lived just a couple of stones throws from us, and who were a very warm and extroverted couple. Our house was 10 miles from Wangaratta where Arthur worked with IBM in an executive job. This was a bonus as being with IBM, Arthur knew people in the USA (where his mother was living) and he was able to give us a great deal of helpful info on how and where to go, and do in that country.

The people with whom we were corresponding and making "deals," (no money ever changed hands as each party would meet their normal household bills such as utilities and insurance etc costs) were doing the same for us.

Over a period of nearly 12 months, we arranged 7 home swaps and 2 Recreational Vehicle swaps covering most of 1980 and into 1981 we did have one gap of one month, but we had allowed for that happening. It was generally accepted that the exchanges would include free use of their car(s) and motor homes and/

or caravans, (these bracketed under "RVs"). So our guests would be able to travel in our F100 and caravan, and just use our home as their base in Oz. Because we had alerted our other neighbours and relatives of the visit of these people, and had made quite extensive notes for them of things to see and do, plus plenty of road maps and brochures and with the ongoing support of Arthur and Meg Courtney they all enjoyed themselves. So well did the Courtneys assist our visitors, that they themselves were invited to go and visit the people, and stay in the USA with them. They did go, and of course having Arthur's Mum in the US fitted in well. We still keep in touch with most of the people with whom we made exchanges, and several of them have become good friends who hosted us when ever we were in their vicinity, we too have had them or their family, or friends visit us. Probably, looking back on this system, the nicest outcome is feeling so welcome in North America.

We do get quite emotional when something like 9/11 or an earthquake, or tornado or brush fires affect them, and I do admit to getting quite "homesick" for that beautiful part of the world. Over the period of 20 odd years, totalling 10 years spent in Nth America, we stayed in, or visited, over 100 homes in the USA and several more in Canada, some of them many times. These were

not just from the people with whom we made exchanges, but through Ham Radio, meeting people "on the road" and visiting friends and families of our hosts who had invited us to call.

The first exchange we had teed up was with a couple in Inverness, North of San Francisco, Dorothy and Alan John-

ston. He was, before he retired, the Manager of an FM radio station in San Francisco

Due to her mother being ill, they had to forgo their trip to Oz, but they arranged for us to have the use for a month, of a house which had been her grandfather's home, which was in the woods near them. The house, made of Californian Redwood, was over 100 years old, and was full of nautical treasures. Her grandfather had been for many years a Ferryboat Captain, plying across the San Francisco Bay, where the Golden Gate Bridge now stands. Incidentally this beautiful suspension bridge is one year younger than the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and is of similar design to one considered for the SH Bridge, before the decision to use a Coat Hanger was made. The Johnstons also lent us a spare car they owned, a huge Ford Thunderbird sedan. As we knew our next exchange was to be in San Bernardino near Los Angeles, we checked on an add in a junk mail paper in the letterbox, for a Mercury (Ford) station wagon, which was advertised at a town about 20 miles away for \$1500. We phoned the people, and they invited us to go for lunch and take the car for a run. They were a nice couple, and we



A map of The San Francisco Bay.

Continued next page

Ham Radio and Travel outside Australia continued

enjoyed meeting them. After lunch, he took us to see the car and handed me the keys, as invited me to take it for a run. We drove it around the block, and could not believe that such a big car could be bought for \$1500. When we got back to the house she had gone back to work as Manager of a branch of the Bank of America. He was surprised to see as back so soon, and said "No good huh? I meant for you to take it for a run over the weekend" When I said I liked it, he explained they were moving to Florida "in the job"

He was a high ranking officer in the US Airforce based at a nearby AF Base, and they had three cars, and just two drivers," so make us an offer", I offered him \$550, expecting to come up a bit, and he said "done!". I then told him I would have to go to San Francisco to get the money, as we banked at the Bank of America there. He then said "My wife is the Manager of the local BA bank, so why don't we just go down there and she can fix it"! This we did, and while she was sorting things financial, he excused himself and disappeared. He came back about an hour later, and handed me an Insurance Policy for 12 months, a one year membership with the Automobile Association of California including free road service, and a Registration Certificate for a year for the car!! Muriel drove the Wagon back to Inverness, closely following me in the Ford.. The Wagon was 5 years old and had only done 45,000 miles! Muriel, who always finds names for our vehicles named it "Big Bertha".

I had bought a 2 mx rig and I installed it in the car, and added my call signs to the front and rear. When I finished the installation, it was about 10.30 am. I had been feeding the signal into a resistive dummy load, and when I finished I connected to a magnetic antenna on the roof, and said just "This is VK3QC testing" Immediately, someone came on and said "Come again" So I repeated my call and had a simplex contact, my first from the USA, into the USA. I have forgotten his call sign, but he spent time in giving me the frequencies of the repeaters around San Francisco. Later in the day, still outside the house

we were using, I went on one of the repeaters on Mount Tamalpais which is just north of San Francisco, across the Bay. I was there until nearly dark, answering one call after another. One ham asked me where we were living, and the phone number, which I gave him. For the rest of the month we were in Inverness we had over 500 phone or radio calls inviting us to functions, Ham Club Meetings, Rotary, Lions club, Schools (to talk to the kids), Church and Business Groups and so on, or personal invitations. Most of the personal ones we just could not fit in for lunch or supper, so "damn it all, come for breakfast"! It was just unbelievable that so many people wanted to meet Aussie Hams and also be so interested in Australia. One of the cutest invitations was from the Fourth grade teacher

then dropping out to let others come in. I very soon had to get an AC power supply and another antenna set up in the house. Both of these were donated by hams. One remarkable contact we had was "out of the blue" We were sitting in the car at an 'Overlook' at the northern end of the Golden Gate bridge, having a cuppa, and we heard an English voice come on. He was about 50 miles south of SF and he wanted to know how to get to the Bridge. One ham answered, and said it would be great if we could guide him in, a sort of Aussie to Limey QSO in the USA! So Muriel, who had already got out our maps and guide books, not only talked them to the Bridge, but right to our car! This took over an hour, and if anyone came on to use the repeater, one of the other hams who were listening,

have otherwise known. One of the original group was Lyle Anderson K6MZ who was a quadriplegic in a wheel chair, and his wife Madeline. He was only able to slightly move his right arm and could with perseverance put pre-cut food into his mouth. Everything else had to be done for him, and Madeline was absolutely superb in the loving and patient way she supported him. They travelled, with Madeline driving, in a converted Ford van which had an inbuilt wheel chair lift and a raised roof with strip windows along the top, so Lyle to see out. This Van was a copy of one used in a film series of "Perry Mason" some years before. Of course he also had 2mx gear in the van.

The Andersons lived in Forestville, a pretty area near the Pacific coast north of San Francisco, and we visited them several times.

Lyle had been a manager of a SF stage theatre and was quite at home up near the roof arranging lighting and sound effects. They had been looking forward to his retirement, when they intended, as very many Americans do, to buy a Motor Home and travel around Nth. America, which includes Mexico. Shortly after his retirement, he had decided to tune his beam which was on a 45 ft. tower, and he climbed up the tower, lost his footing and fell to the ground. On the way down he hit one of the guy wires with his neck, and this caused permanent paralysis. This was several years before we met them, and Madeline had told him they were going to make the best of things and she devoted herself to him. It was of course an enormous strain on her, and once a month, she would put Lyle into a special care hospital for a week, to allow her to get a break. Many hams sort of 'adopted' them and amongst themselves formed a roster in which each of the hams had his duties and responsibilities. Thus was formed the group we joined. While we were at Inverness, we were told that Lyle was to shortly celebrate his 70th birthday and Muriel had a bright idea. So over to her.....But you will have to wait until the next episode, as Lisa needs space for other Newsletter items. Bruce and Muriel Plowman, VK3QC/VK3BJO



The Auto Club Badge & my Car Driver's Licence

in a school at Pinole across the Bay, who was a ham, and he asked if we could make a sked for the next day to make a contact through the repeater with his Class. He would bring in his 2 mx gear, and the kids could ask us questions about Oz, and we did it as a copy book ham two way contact. When we finished he invited us to go over to the school (which was about 25 miles away) and meet the kids. Of course we would! Interestingly, when we were on the repeaters, no ham ever intruded to make a call to someone else. We had several night time multi- contacts with perhaps 15 or 20 hams coming in with their questions, and

would call them and ask them nicely would they mind going to another repeater, and he would handle the traffic. One of these people was originally from the UK, and he wanted to ask the Poms where in England they lived. So he came to where we were just before they arrived, and we had a 5 way eyeball contact! To make it even more interesting, the second Pom had been brought up in Newcastle-on-Tyne, which we knew quite well. We got home for tea well after dark! Muriel did a great job. Altogether we tied up that repeater for over 2 hours, and no one tried to barge in.

One ham who was a member of a group of hams who got together for lunch, once a week, invited us to come along with him as their guests, and we really enjoyed this. There were 8 others at the first lunch, but by the time we moved on to other exchanges, several more had joined in, and between them all, we went to places, and met with other people they individually knew, that we would not

"Big Bertha" and us as we were then



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References.. How to exchange homes:- <http://www.homeexchange.com/>
Inverness is shown where a dotted arc joins Tomalas Bay, is a narrow gulf pointing toward San Francisco. The San Andreas Fault runs right down this gulf, and was the source of a huge earthquake that devastated San Francisco City in 1906. The Golden Gate Bridge is marked as 12, with Sausalito at the northern end of the bridge. Highway 1 (dotted)

runs over 1000 miles up the coast of California from Mexico to Canada. It is a very grand version of our Great Ocean Road

The VK/trans-Tasman Contests are on again, this year !
There are four Contests to choose from, between May and July * 12th May, 80M Phone * 26th May, 80M CW * 7th July, 160M Phone * 21st July, 160M CW The Phone Contests run for up to 6 hours, and the CW Contests up to 5 hours, commencing 6pm EAST.

(0800 UTC). Everything you need to know about these Contests can be found on the website at:

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman>

- this includes Rules, auto-logging programs specifically written for these Contests, downloadable hand log sheets, results and analysis of 2006 Contests with photos of winners. Prizes include a bronze trophy for the Winner on both bands, and laminated certificates for Winners and place-getters in all categories. Scoring

is structured to provide a level playing field for all, regardless of your QTH and time-zone. So, note the dates in your diary, get your equipment ready in advance, and give it a go ! These Contests are run for YOUR benefit and enjoyment, and their future continuation will depend on the level of participation. Note: The Contest Manager will be unavailable until 1st June, so results for the 80m Contests will not be published until about the end of June.

Getting to know you!

What's your name? **Lisa Jane Laffan**

Your age? **It's rude to ask a lady her age, oh ok, I'm 39 + 1.**

Have you ever been known by another name, other than a maiden name that is? **I have but I don't think it's a fit name to use here!!!**

Are you married? **I am married to Mark and have been for 20 years.**

So does that mean you probably have kids, if so how many? **Kids, gee I got 6 of them, and I also have a grandson, don't look old enough do I?**

Who are they and what are their names? **Ok, well they start off with Catheryne, she is 21, then comes Damien, he is the ripe old age of 16, then Nathan who is following in his fathers footsteps is 15, then Cameron who's 13 and the mischievous one of the family, Amanda is my second daughter and she is 12 and last but certainly not least is Jeremy or who like to call Miah and he is 10, and of course my wonderful 6 week old Grandson Jay, the light of all our lives.**

So what's your occupation? **Well at the moment I am not in the work force as such but I am a Typesetter/Graphic Designer which also includes a bit of website design. At the moment I am the SADARC newsletter editor, a job which I really do enjoy doing.**

How long have you been doing that for? **I took the job of typesetter 5 years ago now, gave it up for various reasons in November 2005.**

What day in your life stands out as the most memorable? **There would be 7 days that jump to mind, that would be the days my kids were born, and the day my grandson came into the world.**

What makes you happy? **A lovely sunny day pretty much does it for me, otherwise when all my kids are home at the same time and they aren't fighting, now that's just bliss I think...**

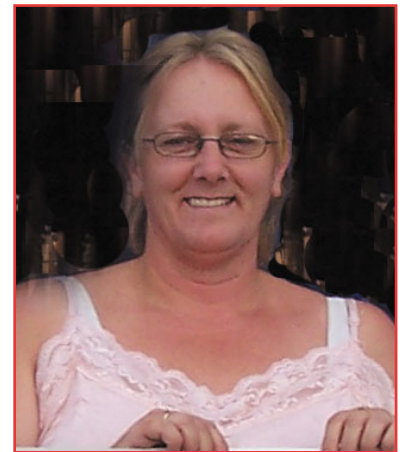
What cheeses you off? **Oh wow, there is just too much to mention with that, anything from people not giving way at the give way sign out the front of my home to missing out on the t.v. show The Bill of an afternoon...**

If you could change one thing in the world what would it be? **Air travel would be FREE!!!**

Have you ever met anyone famous? **A couple of celebs yeah, I know Dean Pullar the Olympic diver, or as we call him, the kamikaze footy player. I met Rolf Harris once and I know Aliesha who is in Big Brother this season.**

Would you have dinner with Tom Cruise? **No Way, I'd prefer to have roast pork with the Big Bad Wolf...**

What's the strangest thing you have ever done? **This interview, it's like talking to myself, oh wait, I am talking to myself...**



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