

Official Bulletin



MHz to GHz

The West Australian VHF Group Bulletin

APRIL 2015

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN VHF GROUP (INC)
PO BOX 189 APPECROSS 6953

President Tom VK6ZAF

Secretary. Graeme VK6LV

Vice- President As required

Treasurer Graeme VK6LV

Activities Terry VK6ZLT

Publicity Terry VK6ZLT

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Councillor

Trustee # 1 Wally VK6KZ

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1. Editors input.

Apologies for the late publication, but things around my home QTH have been very busy with external commitments and AR demands for GPS beacons for entry the WIA beacon prizes. I'm happy to announce that the club was successful in obtaining the grants from the WIA under the stewardship of Akan VK3XPD.

Well, the crunch is on with respect to club beacons VK6REP in Esperance is being converted to a GPS disciplined beacon, BUT it has lost its transmitting site! A new site will have to be found prior to re-installation.

VK6RBU at Bunbury will be switched off in May due to the operating site being closed down. An alternative arrangement for resiting is at present unknown. So any members who may know of the availability of a new site which could supply mast space for antennas & power would be appreciated. Operation of our beacons at the various sites rely on the good auspices of the site owner or at least a **Memorandum Of Understanding** with regards to power costs or details agreed to by both parties.

Of course the Augusta beacon has been out of commission for some years now awaiting a suitable site to operate from. Any assistance in finding a new site down in the south west corner would be appreciated.

Some AR people have questioned the use of the club beacons at all? Well, everyone knows the famous HF beacon WWV and the worldwide network of 10 metre beacons, I reckon the way the new GPS disciplined beacons are shaping up in the VHF/SHF area will at last provide a source of reliable frequencies that will not only

provide accuracy but automatic identification of location (maidenhead) without having to look up a table. By the way if you are short on Morse code interpretation there are number of Morse code apps available on the internet. As editor I'm always looking for articles and after the April meeting here is a timely reminder for calibration.

Checking the Calibration of your SWR meter and constructing a dummy load.

Submitted by VK2XTT

There is a simple way to check if your SWR Bridge is working correctly.

You will need a 5 watt resistor, not wire wound, of 75 ohms and 100 ohms.

If you can't find a 5 watt carbon or metal film resistor, parallel up 3, 390ohm 1 watt units with 2, 360ohm units to make a 75.4 ohm resistor and 5, 500 ohm resistors to make the 100ohm unit.

Solder each resistor into a PL259 plug so you can attach either of them to the back of your meter. If your using paralleled units, solder a coax fly lead to your bundle keeping all leads short. Too much coax will also affect the readings. Or build it using the dummy load construction technique as described in the article linked at the end of this note.

Turn your rig to its lowest power setting, hopefully lower than 5 watts and key the transmitter.

A 75 ohm resistor will indicate 1.5:1 and a 100 Ohm resistor will indicate 2:1 - simple! I stress the need for carbon or metal film resistors since a wire wound unit adds significant inductance that will skew the result.

For more detailed instructions on building multi resistor dummy load, read this excellent article by K4EAA...

<http://www.k4eaa.com/dummy.html>

