

MARA INC. NEWS

Mackay Amateur Radio Association Inc. Since 1972

January Edition 2018

Find us now on the web: www.vk4wim.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/vk4wim Email: vk4wim@outlook.com.au

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING IS ON: Tuesday 16th January 2018 @ 1930 Hrs

Make your 2018, "The Year to go Buy a Digital Radio!"



D-STAR Radios



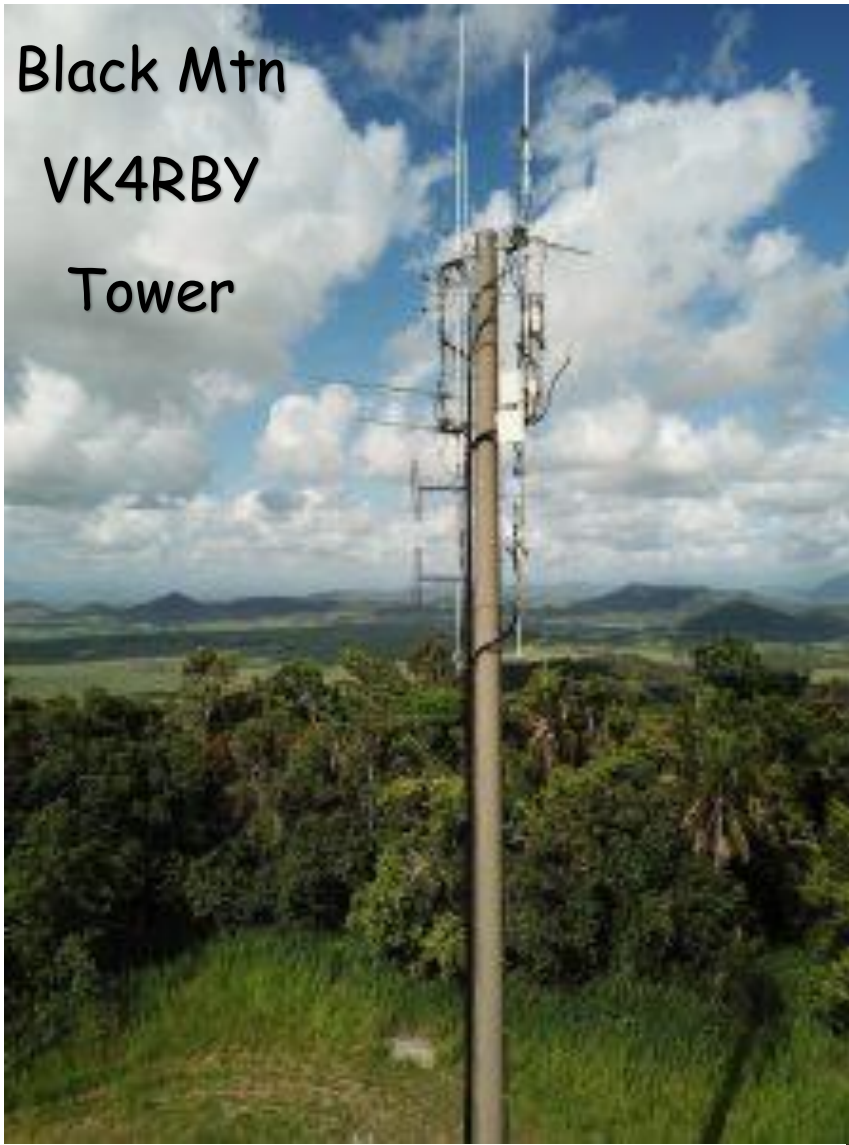
Black Mountain VK4RBY 2 Metre Repeater Upgrade to Digital Multimode

Story by Waratah, VK4BQ

Black Mountain 2m 146.650MHz -600KHz is now a multimode repeater. P25, DMR and DSTAR are all available on this repeater. This repeater is in addition to the multimode repeater in operation at Jordan Creek Sarina on 147.075MHz. Both repeaters work together to provide over-lapping coverage to the north and south. So, if its DMR or P25 or even D-star you can work whatever mode interests you. Go on and give digital modes a try.

The 70cm DSTAR repeater is 438.600MHz -5MHz remains unchanged but in the back end its all new gear. Many hundreds of dollars of private money has been injected into the Black Mountain site to bring it up to scratch and install a security system. Thanks go to Doug Waterston, Roy Moore and Waratah for their generous donations of time and equipment. As a lot of time and money has been poured into setting these systems up we encourage local HAMs to get on board and give digital modes a go. I have been told a number of times the excuse for not moving to digital mode was that "DSTAR radios are too expensive" and therefore this was a barrier to moving into the future. This feedback was taken on board and therefore more money has been poured into multimode systems that supports DMR. The cost of a DMR radio on eBay is just over \$100 but no one is trying this mode? Your challenge for 2018 is go buy a digital radio, don't make excuses just do it. It's our hobby so get your wallet out and spend some money on a new radio.

Black Mtn
VK4RBY
Tower



What Radio & ID's do I need to get onto Digital / Multimode?

For DMR use, you will need to register a "DMR ID" and to do this, google, "Register DMR ID" and it's the first listing. This has to be programmed into your radio to use. For P25 use, you will use your "DMR ID". This is through the P25 Gateways. Locally, we have been using ACMA ID but this is not suitable for the P25 Network.

For APCO P-25

Tait TM9100 Series Mobiles

Tait TM9400 Series Mobiles

Tait TP9100 Series Portable

Tait TP9400 Series Portable

**Motorola XTL/XTS/APX Series Portable & Mobiles
Simoco SRM9000 Series with P25 Upgrade Only
For DMR (Mototrbo or DMR Tier 2)**

Any Motorola Mototrbo Radio

Motorola DM Series (Mobile)

Motorola DP Series (Portable)

Motorola XPR Series Portables

TYT MD-380 / MD-390 Portable

Hytera, Any PD Series Portables

Baofeng DM-5R (Not yet Tested) Beware early Tier 1 Batch.

RETEVIS RT3 Portable

HYTPD360 Portable

Simoco SDM600/630 Series Mobiles

C4FM - Yaesu Fusion

FTM100DR Mobile

FTM-400DR Mobile

FTM-3200DR Mobile

FT1DR Portable

FT2DR Portable

D-Star

All Icom "ID" prefix Model Radios

Check out eBay, as most of these radios can be purchased second-hand and/or brand new!

<http://www.ebay.com.au>

Want to know more about Digital Multimode??

Story by Neil, VK4NB

So, I have been working on some documents to distribute to our members via various ways including email and printouts to hand out at the monthly meetings. This will contain some basic information into getting "on-air" in the growing digital modes that we know have available to us on various repeaters in our district, Also, keep an eye out on the vk4wim.com website, there is a "Multimode" tab you can click on, and will take you to a page with all the required settings necessary to get "On-air" with your digital radio. **Just Remember, most, if not all DIGITAL Radios are BACKWARDS COMPATIBLE to still work on ANALOGUE.** If you need some help or info, don't hesitate to contact Waratah, VK4BQ or myself, Neil, VK4NB. As the website is progressively updated, please re-visit again for newer information. I will also try and keep everyone informed of newer information via email, newsletters, social media etc.

D-Star Daily Auto Connects Update

Story by Waratah, VK4BQ

Hi DSTAR users, I have removed the daily auto connects so our repeaters just stay on DCS028-Q. Some of the net days have changed so we need to revisit what we link to. Please let me know if you have any suggestions so we are all on the same linking pattern.

The only repeater I could not connect to and revert back is
VK4RDS Maleny.

News from Dennis, VK4VTK, Mount Isa!

Story by Dennis Patch, VK4VTK

Good afternoon everybody from the Mount Isa Amateur Radio Club.

We are going ahead with Leaps and Bounds. We now have DMR and P25 operating on 146.525MHz. The P25 system didn't miss a beat at JOTA with Mackay club being contacted on the Saturday and Multiple clubs across the USA being contacted on the Sunday

With some upgrades to our repeater we now have a coverage of about 150KM on 146.700 MHz

This Sunday we will be installing the new APRS Digi Repeater, Thanks to Dennis VK4VTK, Darryl VK4MIC and Lawrie VK4YN for all the efforts with the APRS system. Lawrie has been contacted many times with problem solving calls. Thanks Lawrie (Lawrie Built the Unit and Donated it)

Albert VK4POW, has been busy with the solar panel frames and the new solar panels are now installed.

Currently, club members are operating on JT65 and FT8 with some remarkable results. Eric VK2TRD/4 recently made contact with Alex Turkeev RD1AV, in Vostok station in the Antarctic.


Mount Isa Amateur Radio Club would like to thank everybody for their efforts. By the time you get this email the panels should be already installed. There will be a total of 300 watts of power. We have also installed a digital security camera for peace of mind.

We are also redrafting a new constitution, so we can try and affiliate ourselves with the WIA. This is extremely hard when we are in a very small isolated community like Mount Isa. But we have some very

clever individuals on our committee. We have called on the assistance of Rockhampton Amateur Radio Club and the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society members for assistance to get things moving along, that Some people say they are movers and shakers.

A special thanks to local businesses. With this support, it makes our amateur radio community even stronger.

All the best, Dennis VK4VTK.



Mount Isa Repeater Site

Wyong Field Day 2018

NSW Central Coast

Story by Neil, VK4NB

Well it's approaching that time of year again, when the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club holds its annual Field Day at Wyong, New South Wales. It is held on Sunday, 25th February, 2018 and gates open at 6:30am for the flea market, then the traders at 9:00 am.

The Central Coast Field Day (Hamfest) is one of the largest events of its kind in the world and the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

The planning and organisation of the Field Day starts in earnest in April the year before.

A small handful of MARA Inc. Club members make the trip down there every year, and have been doing so for the past several years and we always come home with some bargains and goodies, and also full bellies from the massive feeds at the Wyong RSL.

If you would like to know more about our experiences to Wyong, just ask Roy - VK4RM, Tony - VK4AMT, George - VK4AJL, GARY - VK4CUZ or myself, Neil - VK4NB and we can fill you in!!

If you would like more information about the Field Day, visit:

<http://www.ccarc.org.au/wp/ccarc-field-day/> or

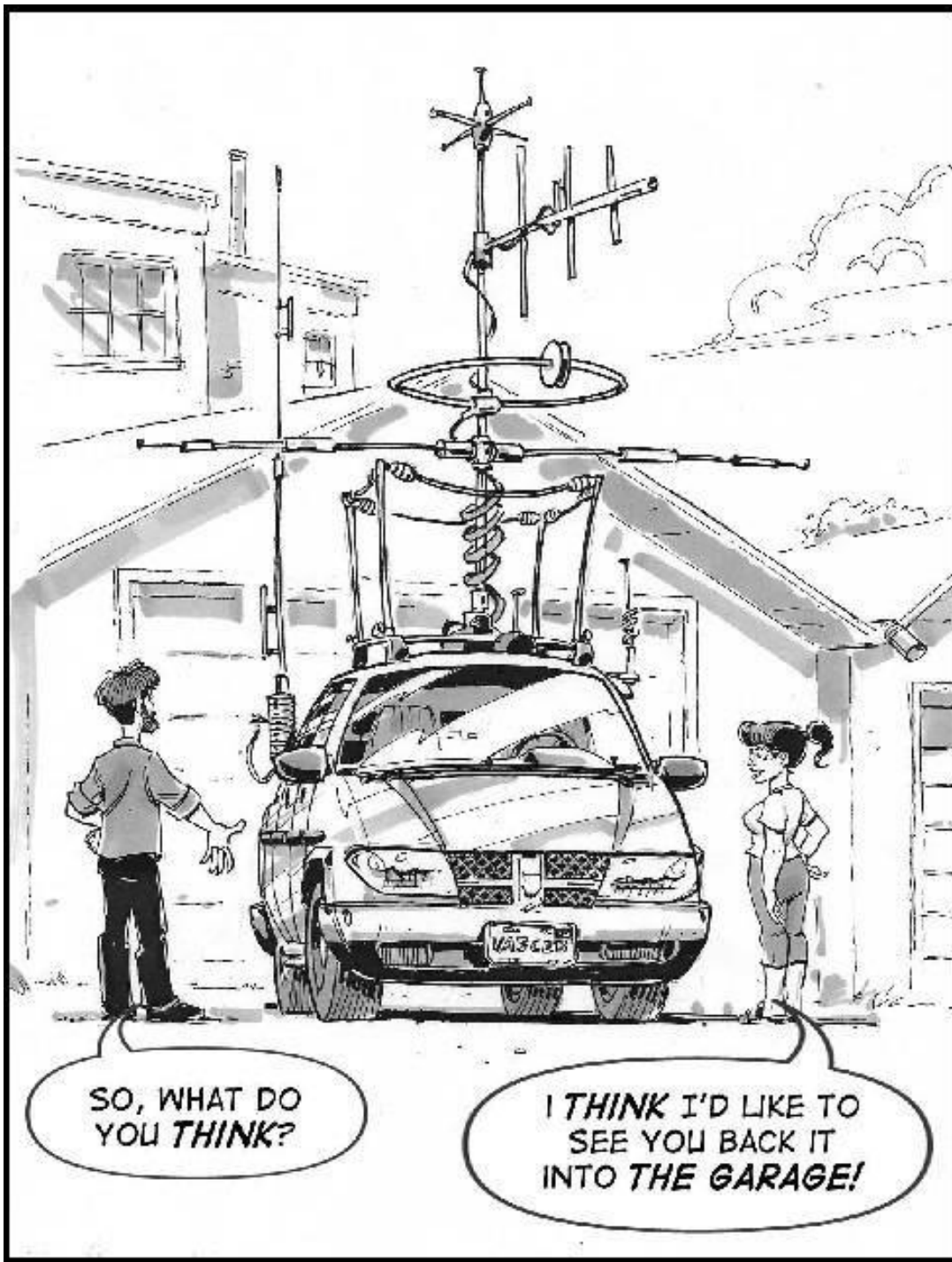
<http://www.fieldday.org.au/>

Breakaway Horse Riders Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be Held at Harrup Park Country Club on Monday 5th February @ 1900 Hrs. Radio Operators are encouraged to attend to be informed of any upcoming events and or to discuss radio related activities between the clubs. I do receive Emails with notifications of Upcoming Events and also the monthly newsletter. Below is a snapshot of events for Jan till end of February. Be aware, this is a Draft.

Breakaway Ride Calendar 2018 @ 18/12/17			
Blue shading =school holidays		Pale font = Non-Breakaway Rides/Events.	
Changes will occur as the year goes on			
JANUARY <i>Full moon 2 & 31 Jan</i>	Monthly Meeting: None in January		
6/7 Jan			
13/14 Jan			
20/21 Jan	View Ken Faulkner DVD's as follow up from 2017 clinic. Possible sign up day & meal	Venue to be confirmed	
27/28 Jan			
FEBRUARY	AGM /Monthly Meeting: Monday 5 th @ 7.00 pm - Harrup Park		
3/4 Feb	Introductory Trail Ride Confidence builder	Calen	Mez Green 0459343995
10/11 Feb	Teemburra Dam Camp	Teemburra Station	TB Mike Teuwsen 0408075019 Co-Ordinator Roxy Aprile 0408712851
17/18 Feb	Possible Trail Boss/Steward Accreditation Course TBC	Action Challenge	
24/25 Feb	Day 1 Polo Cross come and try Education. Run through Polo X Qld <i>Endurance 80/60E/40/2x20</i>	TBC <i>Denison Ck</i>	Contact: Roxy Aprile 0408712851

When some of these rides occur, we need Radio Operators are needed please, so if you are interested, please contact Gary VK4CUZ at: vk4cuz@gmail.com and Gary will provide you with more info.



Thanks for Reading this
January 2018 Edition:
Please email me at:
vk4wim@outlook.com.au
to Submit any Articles,
News or Info...or if you
have something to sell
or wanting to buy etc.
anything to help build
these Newsletters in
Future!

Thanks for Reading and
73!

Published by

Neil, VK4NB

Website Manager -
MARA Inc.

Publicity Officer -
MARA Inc.

Mackay Amateur Radio Association Inc.

Web: www.vk4wim.com

Facebook: facebook.com/vk4wim

Twitter: twitter.com/vk4wim

Email: vk4wim@outlook.com.au