

## **SCARC News July 2009**

*Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the SCARC Committee. Any comments should be addressed to the [secretary@scarc.org.au](mailto:secretary@scarc.org.au)*

### **RF Enthusiasts.** [Mitch VK5AZM]

I am asking for some comments from those who have built 'Sniffers', and from anyone who;  
1. hasn't finished due to any number of reasons; or  
2. has finished and has questions on its uses.

The project can have a gain stage and a battery added for those special low level readings.

This could be a point of discussion as the details are flexible. I do listen to a few frequencies but best availability to me is by email... see Club links.

### **A Filter Experience** [contributed]

I've had some good quality radios in my time, and heard all the talk about filters, but never understood what all the fuss was about.

In my experience ... over many years, with a sizeable variety of receivers, filters did stop the over-lapping of stations, but the degradation of the signal quality made their use pointless. The muddy sound, the poor audio quality and the sheer loss of recovered information made it preferable to put up with the heterodynes, or the cross-channel talk.

About 4 months ago, I had cause to change my mind. I acquired a Racal RA17, and after it was repaired, suddenly understood what it meant to use a proper filter. Obviously, one gets what one pays for, and the skirts in the Racal filters put all the hype of other manufacturers aside.

The steep skirts on the 1,2 filter are such that it's comfortable to listen to a broadcast station, with minimal loss of overall quality, and perfect voice integrity. The 3kHz filter is so good that it removes the need of the audio DSP I have.

The RA17 is ancient, and has none of the doodads of modern sets, but it is my favourite receiver, and the set that is used in preference to any modern rig. If you have trouble understanding the fuss and bother made over filters, see what it's all about by approaching someone with a top-class

set and have a demo. It might just convince you that the investment is worthwhile. Just ensure it is an investment in a usable form, and not simply advertising hype.

The Icom R75; on paper, left the old Racal dead - but the Icom hasn't been retained, despite the technical sophistication.

### **SCARC Mid-Year Dinner** [Graham VK5GCT]

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June a significant number of members, wives/partners and harmonics spent a great evening of dining and companionship. Radio talk was kept to a minimum allowing attendees to get to know each other better. It is from activities such as this that the club will grow. Please make an effort to get to a meeting when you can so you can see what the club is doing.

### **Brazilian amateur radio assists in search for the flight AF 447** [QRZ.com]

The radio amateur **Andre Sampaio, PY0FF** helped in the search for Air Airbus 330-200, the company Air France, which disappeared after leaving from Rio de Janeiro. According to Andre, the aircraft had lost contact with control towers and radar in Brazil, about 270 km from the coast.

Also according Andre, this distance is relatively short and lies within the range of reach of the Brazilian Air Force (FAB). He said he lives in Fernando de Noronha (PE) and weather at the time was good, with clear skies throughout the morning in the region.

Andre said that, shortly after the time that contact with the plane was stopped, messages were sent via amateur radio to vessels sailing the region. The amateur radio message passed information on the disappearance of the aircraft and the crews were asked to be on the lookout for any sign of the aircraft. So far, according to Andre, no information was passed by boats.

Full Story and video: <http://g1.globo.com/Noticias/Mundo/0...LO+VOO+AF.html>

### **Five Wise Surgeons** [from Alex VK5XSP]

Five surgeons are discussing who makes the best patients to operate:

The first surgeon says, "I like to see accountants on my operating table because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered."

The second responds, "Yeah, but you should try electricians! Everything inside then is color coded."

The third surgeon says, "No, I real think librarians are the best; everything inside them is in alphabetical order "

The fourth surgeon chimes in: You know, I like construction workers. Those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over and the end, and when the jobs takes longer than you said it would."

But the fifth surgeon shut them all up when he observed: "You are all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, no balls, no brains and no spine, and the head and ass are interchangeable.

### **Still no Reporter**

Despite my pleas for someone within, or connected to the Club to be our reporter of any newsworthy items there is no volunteer. In essence what we are seeking is someone who has the time and the inclination to write articles about planned events, happenings involving members for the *Amateur Radio* magazine. Currently the only club that provides regular articles is the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society [AHARS]. Christine Taylor VK5CTY has kindly offered to be the focal point for items/articles that can be forwarded to AR. If you can help please let me or a committee member know.

*Editors Note: we now have a volunteer. Thank you Neville*



Barry VK5KBJ and Robin VK5ATT after WICEN talk at clubrooms. *Photo courtesy of Stef VK5HSX*

*Graham Thomas VK5GCT SCARC Secretary*