



Why do people restore old radio gear?

by Peter VK3YE

The collection, restoration and use of historical equipment is another movement in amateur radio. The musty smell of warming dust, the heavy clunk of rotary switches and the velvet smoothness of precision tuning drives are joys of every use.

Such sensuality is absent from modern plastic-fronted, wobbly-knobbed transceivers. Old rig cabinets felt they had something in them. A kick would hurt you more than them. And etched panel markings confirmed they were built to last.

Unlike today's dainty push buttons with stunted travel and disembodied beep, toggle switches showed you where they stood.

There are psychic as well as physical joys. The thrill of bringing neglected or dead equipment to life drives many. It's an underestimated skill. You start with nothing and almost anything done represents progress when building from scratch. Whereas with a repair it is very easy to render something that's 80% good completely useless with a careless drop or slip.

The drive to recreate a beginner station you previously owned (or wished you owned) is another reason to favour old equipment.

At one time this was invariably tube gear. However, 1970s analogue dial transceivers are also now starting to be referred to as 'vintage' in used equipment ads. There are many available since many people were entering amateur radio at the time and old-timers were changing from tube to solid state.

Similarly, long-time 27 MHz operators cannot fail to notice often high asking prices for certain older models of CB transceiver. My theory is that work and family responsibilities ease when people enter their 50s and 60s. Personal wealth also often peaks around then. Combined with nostalgic sentiment, made more intense as the world changes, this creates a market for products that will help relive actual or regretfully missed youth experiences.

As the cohort of 60-year-olds changes, so does the era of peak nostalgia, which may now be entering the 1970s. If you've missed that boat, stock up on 1980s computer games and 'ghetto blasters' now! Repairers and restorers must often draw on multiple sources for information and parts.

Electronic disposals stores have all but died out and some Hamfests, swap-meets and radio rallies are struggling. However, the internet has transformed buying and selling by enabling a global marketplace. Those in cities may pine for the old 'Radio Row' or 'Silicon Alley' but those never near them will prefer how things are today.



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CLUB EVENTS:

1 st Wednesday of the Month RMN Net Night
2 nd Wednesday of the month Social Gathering
3 rd Wednesday of the month Zoom Meeting
Last Wed. of the month Club Meeting

The Great Parks Caper

Why do we do it?

Parks on the Air (POTA)

Parks on the Air (POTA) is a popular amateur radio program that combines the joy of outdoor activities with the excitement of ham radio. It provides a unique opportunity for radio enthusiasts to operate from various parks and protected areas while enjoying the beauty of nature. In this article, we will explore the key aspects of POTA and the experiences shared by some great personalities in the world of amateur radio.

Connecting with Nature and Radio

POTA encourages amateur radio operators to explore and appreciate the natural wonders that parks have to offer. It promotes outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, and wildlife observation, while enabling participants to engage in radio communications. This combination of outdoor adventure and radio communication creates a fulfilling experience that brings together the best of both worlds.

"Amateur radio allows us to venture into the great outdoors and connect with fellow operators while enjoying the serenity of nature." - John Doe, Amateur Radio Enthusiast

Unlocking the Beauty of Parks

Through POTA, operators have the opportunity to activate parks by setting up temporary radio stations. This allows them to share their location with other radio enthusiasts worldwide, who can then make contact and add the park to their logbooks. Activating parks not only provides a sense of accomplishment but also promotes the preservation of these natural spaces by increasing awareness and appreciation among the radio community.

"Parks on the Air has opened my eyes to the breathtaking beauty of nature that surrounds us." - Jane Smith, POTA Activator

Building a Global Network

One of the remarkable aspects of POTA is its ability to connect people from different corners of the globe. Amateur radio operators can make contacts with individuals in various countries, exchanging greetings, information, and stories. This global network fosters friendships, cultural exchange, and the sharing of knowledge, contributing to the overall growth of the amateur radio community.

"Ham radio has allowed me to form friendships with like-minded individuals worldwide. POTA takes it a step further by connecting us through the shared love for parks and outdoor adventures." - Robert Johnson, Ham Radio Operator



Parks on the Air not only promotes amateur radio as a hobby but also highlights the importance of environmental conservation. They actively engage with park visitors, educating them about amateur radio and raising awareness about the need to protect and cherish our parks and wildlife.

"POTA has given me a platform to spread the message of environmental conservation." - Emily Adams, POTA Ambassador

Conclusion

Parks on the Air (POTA) offers a unique and rewarding experience for amateur radio operators. By combining the excitement of radio communication with the beauty of parks, POTA fosters a sense of adventure, exploration, and connection with nature.

"Parks on the Air is a true gem in the world of amateur radio. It allows us to escape the confines of four walls and embrace the wonders of the great outdoors." - Michael Anderson, Radio Enthusiast

Annual Subscription



At the March club meeting there was a discussion about whether the members still need to subsidise the club room rentals by paying a \$3.00 meeting sub, widely known as "Coffee Money".

The treasurer was asked to research and submit

a report on whether we still need to pay this club hire fee amount as it was felt that members who attended the by Zoom did not pay this sub while those who did effectively paid \$63,00 per year.

This was felt to be disproportionate and unfair. In general the members did not mind paying paying the "Coffee Money" but felt there was a fairer way of dealing with this.

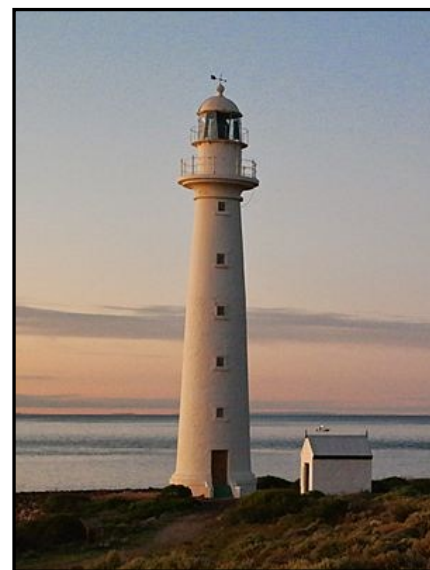
It was moved and seconded that the Club's annual membership fee be increased from \$30.00 to \$40.00 per year and that we do away with the "Coffee Money".

This is generally payable by the end of the financial year but preferably by March or April so that the treasurer can tally up the accounts prior to the audit, which is required to be made before the A.G.M.

The Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

For some reason or other August seems to have become the international weekend for lighthouses. Countries all over the world have become involved in one form or another of lighthouse activity.

However, the major event which takes place in August is the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, ILLW, which came into being in 1998 as the Scottish Northern Lights Award run by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group. The history of this event can be found elsewhere on the internet. The ILLW usually takes place on the 3rd full weekend in August each year and attracts over 500 lighthouse entries located in over 40 countries. It is one of the most popular international amateur radio events in existence probably because there are very few rules and it is not the usual contest type event. It is also free and there are no prizes for contacting large numbers of other stations. There is little doubt that the month of August has become "Lighthouse Month" due largely to the popularity and growth of the ILLW.



Whyalla Amateur Radio Club has taken part for a number of years but due to the upgrade pf the Whyalla Lighthouse cottages have had to forego this pleasure for a number of years. However, 2024 saw the return of the Light House Weekend and we will be in attendance once again this year.



Equipment and Antennas will be tested, packed and re-assembled once more for the weekend commencing 00.01UTC 16th August 2025 to 24.00UTC 17th August 2025 (48 hours). The members will gather and set up on Friday 15th August 2025.

Meeting Nights & Events

The Club has several monthly events for the members to take part in. These are held on a Wednesday evening. Some at the Club and some from home.

1st Wednesday

CLUB NET NIGHT:

Club Net night takes place every 1st Wednesday of the month on VK5RMN, the Bluff repeater.

The frequency is: 146.700MHz with a -600KHz offset. No tones are required. This is a controlled net with a club member who orchestrates the call- ins and sequencing.

It is NOT confined to club members, and anyone is welcome join in. The net commences at 8:00pm.

Whyalla Amateur Radio Club Website:

<http://vk5bwr.ddns.net>

Members who do not as yet have their password for access to the members' pages can apply through the website email portal.



SOCIAL NIGHT:

2nd Wednesday

The second Wednesday of the month is a **Social Night** with members meeting at the clubrooms around 7pm or so, to generally chat, socialize and bring things in to talk about, discuss, fault find or even demonstrate.

The radio is available every time the club is open and has been put to good use. Coffee, tea and sometimes nibbles even are available if a generous soul remembers to bring some down.

As this is a social evening, the Club ZOOM facilities are not in use. You will need to come down to the clubroom to chat. Sorry!



3rd Wednesday

ZOOM Night: is a left-over stemming from the COVID-19 outbreak which became popular as a lot of our club members do not live in Whyalla, and travel can be prohibitive. Again, this evening commences at 8:00pm on the following ZOOM address and password.

The Room is:

Room No: 810 8680 1731

The password: 864 042



LAST Wednesday

CLUB MEETING: The Club meets on the Last Wednesday of the month at the clubrooms at about 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. The meeting is broadcast on Zoom as well so that out of town and Non-members may join in. However, only financial members may vote. The club meets at the Steel City Drag Club rooms on McBryde Terrace in Whyalla.