

Omega Radio Club Inc

News Letter

Vol. III Issue 1 - February 2017

Hopefully you have all had a great Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year.

With the festive season well and truly behind us now we have several events already on the horizon. 2017 is shaping up to be another busy year for the car rally team and hopefully we can bring you some different activities as well.

2017 Kick Off

On Saturday 21st January a small group of members enjoyed a BBQ get together at Nortons Park. This date was earlier than usual due mainly to Australia Day falling on our usual meeting night. Unfortunately some of our regular attendees were not able to attend on the chosen date so numbers were down. Your eNews editor was one who couldn't attend however reports indicate all who did attend had an enjoyable time.

Next Meeting:

The first formal meeting for 2017 will be on Thursday 23rd February at the school as usual. Hopefully many of you are able to come along and enjoy the evening.

Car Rally events:

We already have a number of car rallies on the books with the first being on Saturday 1st April. This will be the George Woods trial based at Powelltown and extending through the forest toward Noojee.

Following that we have the Cooper Memorial Rally on Saturday 29th April again in the Noojee—Powelltown area. The Cooper Memorial is a new event for Omega that we have not done before. At the time of writing it is planned to hold a combined test day for both these events at the same time when mapping for both events are available. If you would be able to assist with this testing, please drop an email to Len 124 via the club address and we will be in contact with you when we have all the information needed.

There are a number of other events on the horizon however the only confirmed date is the Spring 200 on 16th September.

Changes to UHF CB Licencing:

Information received from the ACMA indicates they are planning changes to the class license for UHF CB including removing the 30 June 2017 cut off date for use of 40 channel wide band equipment. This is probably very good news given the number of 40 channel radios still being used. They are also looking at removing the limitation on linking CB repeaters. They are inviting submissions from interested parties regarding these changes.

The closing date for submissions is 6th March.

Further information is available at: [ACMA Website](#)

Update of members contact information:

It is some time since we have distributed an update of the members' contact directory. It is planned to issue an update over the coming weeks so if you believe your contact information has changed, please let the secretary know via omega.radio.club@gmail.com so our records can be corrected.

Remember the club holds all member information in confidence unless you have agreed to your information being shared on the club's public members directory. Information on the members directory is limited to your name, email address and phone numbers. Those who have not agreed to have their details included will have their name and callsign only shown.

Club Web Site:

David 145 is continuing work on the club's new website and is intending to launch the "Members Only" area soon. Once this is ready to go, you will all be advised a password and how to login. The committee is also working on updated and more appropriate content that fully reflects the activities of the club in the current time.

Contributions for eNews:

If you have anything you think would be of interest to members that could be included in eNews please send to us at *omega.radio.club@gmail.com* or contact Mike 220 or any committee member to make other arrangements.

January BBQ

Hi everyone and welcome back for the 2017 year of fun fun fun with Omega. Mike 220 has asked me to write a short note about the Annual Start of Year Omega BBQ held on 21st of January at Nortons Park.

The day started out looking a little dull. Fortunately as midday grew nearer the promised sun had started to shine through, pardon the pun. The promise was kept and we were rewarded with a comfortably warm and sunny day.

A reasonably large group of members attended the afternoon and enjoyed good food, company, conversation and wine. Not so sure about the wine but it's the thought that counts. Many subjects of discussion were undertaken, even politics was discussed with a high degree of agreement but I'm sure that would be disputed if brought up in Parliament House.

At least that's how I remember it, great afternoon had by all.

Frank 483

For Sale, Swap or just plain Free.**For sale this month:****Radios:**

Frank 483 has a number of radios available configured for use on the club VHF system. If you are in need of a new radio, please contact Frank at *VBX483@moshari.net* as he will most likely have something to suit your needs.

Laptop Computer Bags:

Chris 338 has a quantity of pre loved laptop computer bags and some similar but larger bags designed for carrying 19" Rack mount switches available. If you would like to obtain one or more of these free bags please drop an email to *omega.radio.club@gmail.com* to order.

Inverters:

Alex 510 has some Victron Energy - Phoenix professional grade pure sinewave inverters available at the absolute bargain rate of \$20.00 each. While they are 24V input they are very good quality and a steal at that price. For more information contact Alex 510 via Club Email.

Events Calendar—Club Diary**2017**

23rd February	General Meeting	At the School
TBA	Rally Test Day; Powelltown—Noojee area	
7th March	Committee Meeting	Barry, 671s home
23rd March	General Meeting	At the School
1st April	George Wood Rally	Powelltown area
29th April	Cooper Memorial Rally	Noojee area

Ikea Hack

Ever needed a 19 inch rack for a home media computer, network switch, router or perhaps some HiFi equipment but not bothered as the cost is so high? If this sounds familiar then here is a very, very low cost solution.

The first step is to take a drive to your local Ikea store and purchase a Lack Side Table. They sell these for a ridiculously low price, a mere \$9.99. For this you get a small square table (flat pack off course) which measures 22" wide by about 17" high. Yes I am talking inches here as we are of course building a 19inch rack. They come in a number of colours so you should be able to get one that suits however black looks nice. As it happens there is 17 ½ inches clearance between the legs of our new Lack table



which is just the right size to accommodate any 19inch rack case. It is worth noting the legs of the lack table are hollow so care needs to be taken when screwing the rack case in position. I overcame this problem by carefully cutting the bottoms off the legs before assembling my table and inserting 42mm square hardwood. 42mm is a little smaller than ideal however if inserted with a generous amount of wood glue does the job very well. A 1.8m length is adequate to fill the 4 legs. Once the legs are filled complete the assembly of the table according to the Ikea instructions.

I actually used two lack tables using the top of the second table as a base effectively making a cube. I used 25mm right-angle pressed sheet brackets to attach the legs to the base then adding 4 casters to the base to make it easier to move the unit when fully set up. It is worth adding metal brackets to reinforce the top of the legs as well as I don't think Mr Ikea intended his table to be used in this way.

There you have it, a nice looking 19inch rack for your equipment that doesn't look out of place pretty well anywhere you would want it in your home

Project cost:	
2 x Ikea Lack tables	\$19.98
1.8m length 42mm sq. hardwood	14.00
8 x 50mm RH brackets	9.08
Sundry screws (on hand)	
4 Casters (from old photocopier)	
TOTAL COST	<hr/> \$43.06

Mike 220

