

Omega Radio Club Inc

www.omegaradioclub.org

News Letter

Vol. III Issue 6 - July 2017

Annual General Meeting:

The next club meeting will be our **AGM** on **Thursday 27th July** at our usual venue Carwatha College, Browns Road, Noble Park North. The meeting will commence at 8pm. Food and refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the meeting. The AGM night is a great opportunity to catch up with other members and enjoy some supper and informal discussion after the official business of the annual meeting. As always visitors are most welcome to come along.

Car Rally events:

It looks like we have a break for a while with the next rally being the Marysville stages on Saturday 16th September. Please note the date and if you are able to assist please reply to Len 124's emails to let us know we can add your name to the list. It assists our organisers know end if we know well in advance the number of members who are available for each event. It also helps if we can avoid needing to phone around in the days before an event in the hope of filling the numbers.

Whenever possible we make every effort to meet special requests for early finishes and late starts or whatever helps individual members' requirements, however these have to be looked at on a first come first serve basis. Putting it simply, if you have a special request, please let us know as soon as possible.

Melbourne repeater site:

Our new equipment has been in service for about a month now with all indications showing a considerable improvement in coverage. Work is continuing to further reduce the remaining interference problem at the site and we hope to have some more progress on this over the coming month.

Considerable work has gone into upgrading the repeater system and the club has spent a sizeable amount of money in an effort to provide the best coverage we can from the site. It would be very nice to hear a few more members using the repeater from time to time. Since completing the majority of the work we have only heard 5 or 6 members using the system with probably only 4 regulars. This repeater is available for all members to use and it is a very good way to make sure your radio equipment is operating correctly before heading out to rallies. We are also very keen to hear reports on coverage so when you are out and about give it a go and let us know what you find.

Member of the month:

The **July** award goes to Wally 727 for his work at rally headquarters on the Nightmoves rally.

Pull Up Display Banners:

At the time of writing no further suggestions have been received for designs for our pull up display signs. We are keen to complete these signs and to have them available at the coming Spring 200 rally. This is a great opportunity for members outside of the committee to have a say in how we promote our club. If you would like to submit a design or some suggestions that could be incorporated into these signs please let us know as soon as possible by sending your suggestions to us at omega.radio.club@gmail.com. Remember these banners are tall and narrow. The required size would be approximately 840mm x 2050mm. Full credit will be given on the banners to members who submit designs that are used.



Email Gremlins:

As I am sure you are all aware some gremlins took up residence in our email account last month causing problems with the distribution of eNews. My thanks to all members who replied confirming they had received the June issue. Unfortunately many did not reply so I could not be sure everyone received the edition. If you have not received the June edition please let me know and I will send you another one.

Mike 220

Nissan Nightmoves 2017

By Alex 510

On Saturday the 17th of June the Omega Radio Club attended the coldest rally for the year, on the plus side it did stay above zero - by half a degree.

The Nightmoves was again run out of Heathcote which last year caused us considerable trouble. Over the last ten years the repeater site on Mt. Ida has been populated with radio frequencies that interfere with our normal repeater. Last year Mike 220 made several test runs and built a hybrid repeater which worked - sort of. This year I suggested we set the repeater up in a different spot and setup the translator on Mt. Ida in case the repeater doesn't have the range. Len 124 did a bit of Googling and found a spot 30m lower than Mt. Ida but with a clearer path. The setup worked well, all locations were able to access the repeater, but a couple chose to use the translator as it worked better.



Above: Wally 727 and Alex 510 operating from a very cold shed at the Heathcote showgrounds

Below: UHF repeater antenna and VHF translator antenna at Mt Ida



Wally 727 and I were able to work out of a cold (even with 2 heaters), smoky, tin shed by sticking 3 mobile whips to the gutter with magnetic mounts. Apart from the repeater we had a radio to directly access the translator in case the repeater didn't work at all, so it never got used, and the UHF antenna required some relocating before it worked. Everything went like clockwork and everybody was happy with the rally, the happiest were the guys who service my car as they came in first and second.



Above: Len 124's repeater setup with pneumatic mast on a ridge north of Heathcote

Left: Translator radio and UHF repeater equipment at Mt Ida

Fitting Solder / Clamp type connectors to Times SF142 (RG142 type) coax.

By Mike 220

Recently we received a donation via Alex 510 of some SF142 coax patch leads with N type connectors. Times Microwave Systems SF142B is a similar size cable to RG58 however has multiple layer shielding of spirally applied silver plated aluminium foil and silver plated copper braid to achieve 100% shield coverage. This offers >95db shielding compared with 40 to 60db for RG type cables. This cable also has a silver plated solid centre conductor. The cable is ideal for connecting repeater radios to diplexers and cavity filters in high density radio sites.

I was in the process of preparing our new repeater equipment for the Melbourne site when Alex passed on these cables. They were to be very useful connecting not only our diplexer but also the added filtering used to reduce the interference problem at our site. On first look at these cables I found the bodies of the N type connectors were loose on the cable and could be rotated indicating the coax screen was not connected inside the connector body. To resolve this it would be necessary to re fit the connectors.

The connectors had a solder on centre pin with a clamp connection for the braid, usually the case for this type of connector. They consist of 6 parts; main body, centre pin, dielectric spacer, 2 parts of the braid clamp and finally the screw in retaining nut. The components are assembled on the cable in the order shown in *figure 1*.

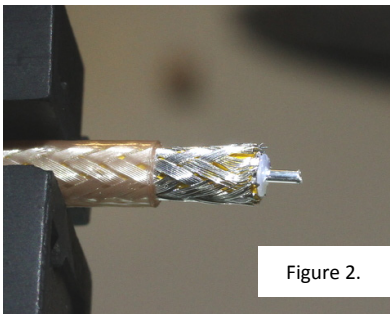


Figure 2.

To terminate the cable the outer Teflon case needs to be removed then braid and dielectric trimmed to length. (*figure 2*)

Now the screw in retaining nut and clamping ring can be placed on the cable.

Important note:

It is critical that the clamp ring is fitted the correct

way around with the chamfered edge toward the end of the coax or the centre pin—in this case facing right. When we received these cables they had been assembled incorrectly with these collars reversed. This causes the sharp edge of the collar to cut through the shield when the clamping nut is tightened resulting in the connector becoming loose on the cable.

Ref *figure 4 & 5*.

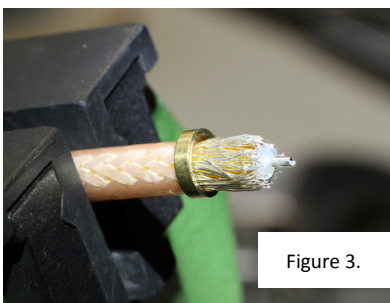


Figure 3.

Once the outer clamp collar is in place the braid can be splayed out (as shown in *figure 6 and 7*), the centre spacer and dielectric collar can be fitted and the excess braid trimmed away.

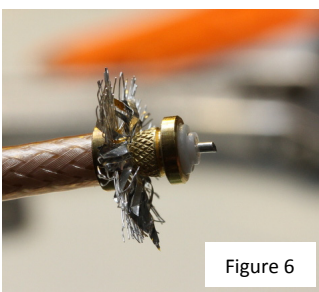


Figure 6

The next step is to solder the centre pin in place taking care not to overheat the joint damaging the dielectric.



7.

Any surplus solder remaining on the outside of the centre pin can be removed with a sharp knife.

The final steps are

to fit the main connector body, tighten the retaining nut. I would recommend covering the nut and end of the connector with heat shrink as this reduces stress on the joint if the cable ends up squeezed into a tight cabinet or rack.

Once the connector is fully assembled test your cable with a multi meter to ensure continuity from end to end and no short between the inner pin and outer case.

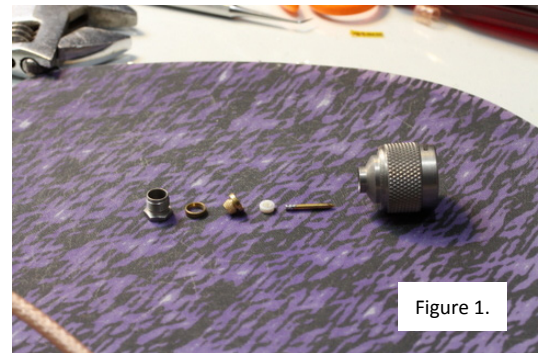


Figure 1.



Fig.4



Fig.5

Note the 2 different sides to the clamping collar.



News from the ACMA:

Upside.Digital sees a \$39,600 downside for breaching the Spam Act

Australian e-marketing company Upside.Digital has paid a \$39,600 infringement notice following an Australian Communications and Media Authority investigation into breaches of the *Spam Act 2003* (the Act). The ACMA has also accepted a court-enforceable undertaking from the business targeted at future compliance.

The ACMA found that Upside.Digital sent and caused to be sent a significant number of marketing emails that did not clearly contain the name and contact details of its clients who authorised the sending of the messages involved. Also, while Upside.Digital had consent to send emails to recipients on its own database, it was unable to demonstrate that consent had been obtained for other emails that it caused to be sent through a third party.

Upside.Digital operates as part of an affiliate marketing chain. Its activities include sending advertising emails on behalf of clients and providing these emails to other third party marketers to send to their own customer databases.

‘Every single entity in an e-marketing chain needs to be aware that they are responsible for complying with the requirements of the Act,’ said the ACMA’s acting Chairman, Richard Bean. ‘Advertisers also need to be able to prove that consent exists for all messages they have authorised, irrespective of who sends them.’

The Act requires e-marketing messages to include clear and accurate details of the entity that authorised the message. Typically this is the business whose product or service is being advertised. The authoriser and sender of the message also bears the burden of proof, to establish that consent was obtained.

If you receive a marketing email that you think may not comply with the Act, you can report it to the ACMA by forwarding the message to report@submit.spam.acma.gov.au. You can forward SMS spam to the Spam SMS service on 0429 999 888.

Media release 25/2017 - 12 July

Events Calendar—Club Diary 2017

July

Tuesday 11th	Committee meeting	Mike 220's home
Thursday 27th	Annual General Meeting	At the School

August

Thursday 24th	General Meeting	At the School
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September

Saturday 16th	Marysville Stages / Spring 200	Marysville
Thursday 28th	General Meeting	At the School

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed.

She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice,

"Mummy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug.

"I can't dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice:

"The big sissy."

For Sale, Swap or just plain Free.

For sale this month:

Radios:

ICOM F1010 – VHF FM Commercial Radio. \$130.00

Remote Mountable – ICOM RMK-1 Remote kit NOT INCLUDED!

Fully programed for use on Omega Radio Club Frequencies

5w Low & 25w Hi Power, Fully programmable CTCSS encode decode features.

Alpha Numeric display, Up to 25 programmable channel memories.

Front panel buttons programmable for multiple functions

Supplied with new Genuine ICOM Microphone

For more details or to arrange a purchase please email 483 Frank at VBX483@moshari.net

Other makes and models available on request.



ICOM IC-760 Pro HF Radio also known as IC-765 everywhere but Japan!

An oldie but a goodie! Very good condition for its age.

Frequency coverage: Receive - 0.1 - 30.0

MHz, Transmit - 1.8 - 30.0 MHz

Modes: LSB, USB, CW, AM, FM, RTTY

Max. output power:

SSB 100W PEP

CW, RTTY & FM 100W

AM 40W



Built in Tuner, Power supply and Speaker.

On the appropriate antenna system it has very good performance capabilities for receiving and transmitting.

Comes with manuals, schematics etc.

Only needs a standard ICOM round pin microphone.

\$550.00

Contact Charlie 341, 0448-506-024.

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.

