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TREASURER: Janette Parkin
SECRETARY: Rick Shea

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- Caravan Quality Assurance
-and much more!



DISCLAIMER

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Austravel SafetyNet Inc.

The HF Radio Communications Network for Trips, Treks, Tracks & Tours



MERRY CHRISTMAS



HF RADIO NETWO

From the Austravel SafetyNet Inc. management committee, we wish all our members and all our HF radio allied traders a very Merry Christmas ...lets all hope 2021 rolls out as a much better year with Covid - 19 becoming a distant memory.

2021 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Kim Rhodes	7880
Vice President	Peter Schrader	2513
Secretary	Rick Shea	3097
Treasurer	Jannette Parkin	0116
Membership	Geoff Peck	0951
Committee 1	Roy Watkins	6001
Committee 2	Bob Carne	1750

2021 EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Sked Coordinator	Ken Fischer	9618
Tech Support	Andrew Griffin	4053
Tech Support	Col Ingham	6355
Social Media	Pim Cahill	7255
Events WA	John Hall	6014



PRESIDENTS REPORT

By all accounts, a year we all want to forget. Fortunately in amongst it all we did manage some achievements. My thanks again to the team effort for the installation of the Mareeba Base 4199.

There is a separate article on the base in this magazine. From all in the club, thanks to Janette Parkin (0116) for the financials and audited reports. As you can see from the report we are in a good financial shape, with the Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant being the saving grace this year covering most of our 4199 base costs.

Membership is increasing but did dip at the beginning of the year. Perhaps now with many people diverting to caravan and camper travel holidays in Australia, we may see more people realising the benefits of HF radio in their travels.

Into next year we will be looking at the next developments for Austravel. There are some technical additions that the committee is considering which have a cost implication and are yet to be discussed. To date Austravel has not done any advertising to attract new members so that is to be addressed as well. I am always interested in features that the Austravel system could possibly support. So anyone with ideas please pipe up and give me a call, and chat.

For now Merry Christmas, stay safe and please share information about Austravel in conversation with others.

IS YOUR NGT HANDPIECE IN NEED OF SOME TLC?

Not sure where to go for some refurbishing of your Codan NGT handpiece. Colin Ingham (6355) from WA has the knack . Call Colin (0417 097 043) and discuss your needs, damaged leads, scratched lenses , sticky PTT and buttons......get it done, your NGT will perform so much better!



REPLACE CURLY CORD, PTT SWITCH, CLEAN OR REPLACE SCREEN

DEEP CLEANING OF BUTTON CONTACTS



GET IT BACK OPERATING AND LOOKING LIKE NEW







HF Radio Antenna Parts and Supplies

- Cable & Connectors
- Mobile
- Wire Antennas
- Feed Systems & Baluns
- Parts
- CB Antennas
- Broadband HF
- Verticals
- HF Beams

Contact: Mark Rawlings

Austravel Member :

Selcall 6622

Lot 25 Brand Hwy. Dongara W.A.

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W: www.tetemtron.com.au

3CX VOIP DEPLOYMENT

I am writing this piece to answer a few questions about vate Branch Exchange (PBX), allowing many handsets why we deployed 3CX to sked operators and emergen- on desks without needing a POTS service for each cy responders. Then I got thinking and wondered if the handset. As VOIP services developed further the large members knew anything about how our HF network and expensive PBX systems and handsets have been works behind the radio equipment. This piece will replaced with VOIP based PBX and handsets. One of have a go at being technical without going into the the most common VOIP PBX is Asterix, an open source, nitty gritty uber-nerdy details. [Disclaimer - I am one free of charge server application now used by a huge of those uber-nerds that love the nitty gritty technical number of organisations. Initially Austravel relied on a details1.

At each base station there is a Barrett 2050 radio connected to a Barrett 2060 Telephone Interconnect. The 2060 looks very much like a 2050 but with important

internal differences mainly providing an interface between the HF radio and the telephone system. However, the 2060 was designed for a Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS). With the deployment of the NBN wholesale network throughout Australia the POTS is disappearing, that is, the copper cables that connect your home to the nearest telephone exchange are about to, or have been, decommis-The 2060 was desioned. signed very much for a POTS, so the challenge for Austravel is how to maintain a phone service without a POTS?

Our Base Equipment - simplified HF antenna Telcall Server 4G modem/router Barrett 2060 ATA

The other challenge is network connectivity to the base to support our Telcall+ features. We decided that 4G provided Internet is the only effective way to provide both the network connectivity for the Telcall+ service as well as a telephone service. This is known as Voice Over Internet Protocol, or in short, VOIP. For some time now there are adapters available that provide a traditional POTS service over a VOIP network. The common names for such adapters are Analogue Telephone Adapter, or ATA for short. You may have an ATA in your house already if you are connected to the NBN. In the early days of the network each base had a business grade Telstra dial up telephone services (POTS) which cost \$30 / per month, plus calls. The cost, plus Additionally, for when there is an the disappearing telephone line copper services, plus emergency activation the operators the requirement for Internet at each base effectively can conference call to manage the forced us to consider another solution.

Small, medium and large businesses have historically (Submitted by Peter Schrader 2513had an internal telephone exchange, known as a Pri- Vice President)

FreePBX Asterix server to provide the dial in and dial out services to and from our radio bases. FreePBX served us well and proved the concept of VOIP as doable, it did require complex handset configuration and a secure VPN connection to each base. The first

> implementation FreePBX featured an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) requiring a unique PIN. The advantage was that any phone can be used, plus the cost to operate each base dropped considera-Disadvantage was the admin load to keep the PINs up to date and adding handsets to the network for sked operators.

> Our ever hard working IT co-Griffin ordinator, Andrew (4053), identified that there is an alternative that may be better for our sked operators. The 3CX solution is another VOIP based telephone service

with a few advantages that proved attractive.

While the changeover from FreePBX to 3CX was completed transparently, Andrew managed to change all of the services without any network interruption, there was one really cool thing that 3CX provides to users.

3CX provide a free application for Windows, Mac, Linux, iPhone and Android devices that acts as a telephone handset.

So now every sked operator is talking to you via the 3CX app of their smartphone or via their computer. response.







SKED OPERATORS WANTED

What Is an Austravel Sked?

A 'Sked' (Scheduled Net) is a regularly scheduled communications session operated by Austravel members for Austravel members.

Primary Function:-

- Stay in touch daily while travelling and log your position.
- Convey messages received from family, friends and various agencies dealing with road and weather alerts.
- Emergency voice contact point for all members
 - * an extension to H.E.L.P. (4357)
- Radio check frequently test your radio and antenna systems
- Broaden HF radio skills and knowledge

Who Operates Austravel SafetyNet Skeds?

Any Austravel members including social members can operate a sked. There is a lot of fun and satisfaction operating a sked, but on the odd occasion can be challenging.

If I Volunteer, What Do I Have To Do?

Training is available for volunteer sked operators. Experience in the use of a HF radio is an advantage, but we have successfully trained a social member who didn't have a HF radio, and still doesn't.

After training, it is up to the sked volunteer to nominate when and how often they are available to conduct skeds. The sked coordinator provides a sked roster with most volunteers dedicated to a five day week, some just weekends, some just wish to be on stand by to fill in for other volunteers.

Does Where I Live Matter?

Where you conduct a morning and afternoon sked session is entirely up to the volunteer. Skeds by phone interconnect via a base station can be completed from any reliable mobile phone coverage area or WiFi access point. Volunteers can be a resident of W.A. and conduct an East Australia sked and vice versa.

What Equipment Do I Need?

- 1. A mobile phone with earbuds or over the ear blue tooth headset
- 2. An Apple Mac or Microsoft Windows computer or tablet
- 3. Internet access

Are there Costs Involved?

All of our sked operators use their own mobile phone, computer and internet accounts to operate skeds. Sked operators report that conducting skeds by phone does not financially burden their phone/internet plans.



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE?

Technically speaking, operating a sked via the world wide web can be accomplished anywhere there is internet access.

The Austravel sked operator could be in China, USA or in the UK... or it could be someone living in Australia who is house bound for one reason or another and looking for something worthwhile and rewarding to do.

Our current sked volunteers represent a diverse range of experiences and capacities. Some are long term operators, others new to the role. We particularly encourage our female members to consider becoming sked operators.

As an inclusive not-forprofit club, Austravel SafetyNet would welcome an opportunity to change someone's life, by sharing our HF network experiences with those who are looking for interaction with our travelling members, and doing something positive.

For more information:-Ken Fischer Phone:- 0439 749 449 E-mail:skeds@austravelsafetynet.org.au

Austravel Safety Net Inc.
Registered Office
33/54 Macalister St.
Park Avenue Qld. 4701
(A not-for-profit club)
Incorporated Assoc.

Page 5 Mareeba 4199...technically efficient!

The installation of equipment went reasonably smoothly for Mareeba, however the boys had a fair bit of work to get the building up to scratch and in place on the rural property. Luckily all the hard work was done before I got there. This base is our first totally off grid installation for a professional HF remote radio base. We may in fact have the only solar power HF radio base with telephone interconnect in Australia including any commercial or government network. We are certainly the only one with full Telcall+ features.

Lets have a very brief look at the logistics to install this base:

 First the location had to be found where a rural property owner would be happy for us to use a patch of land. That started way back in 2019 with members driving around

door knocking. After many knockbacks a property owner (Glen) said yes. Then there were many discussions with the property owner on group phone calls to establish the best location for us and him. The chosen spot

moved a number of times for various reasons.



- Then the purchase by remote control of a second hand cool room from Cairns and transported to site. A local friendly contractor organised to install two 10 metre above ground poles for the antennas at very nominal cost.
- Then the Austravel boys arrive on site and found the cool room condition
 was not quiet as good as the seller had reported. Some refurbish work was
 needed to turn it into an equipment room. Steel footings fabricated and
 fitted.
- The property owner with tractor transported the building up the paddock.
 About 1 ton of it.
- Footings dug by hand and the building concreted into place with many bags of rapid set.
- An outer wall of donated corrugated iron was constructed on 200mm Z beam sections to create a convection heat skin to aid with summer cooling and weather protection. (continued on page 13)

For anything and just about everything 12 volt.....JGM Direct will have a product and price to suit.

Your Channel Chatter editor visits this favourite "men's toy shop" often when needing a 12 volt this or that.

Check their webpage, delivery Australia wide.



Techniques For Better Radio Telephone Calls

(available as a KISS series document)

Which bases can make a phone call?







Simple Techniques for Improved Radio Telephone Calls.

Advise family members and friends before your trip starts, that when you make a HF radio phone call (Telcall) through any Austravel base, the caller ID shown on their phone will be either 07 21013454 or +61721013454. Convince them to save this phone number in their contacts list under AUSTRAVEL. This should remedy any doubt about who the incoming caller ID is.

If the incoming call is missed, advise them that they cannot call you back on this displayed phone number. If they do attempt to call back on 07 2101 3454, they will be greeted with an Austravel voice message that will explain the Austravel radio telephone system and their options.

All radio telephone calls are limited to six (6) minutes......warn the called person that the phone conversation may drop out before you finish and if need be you will immediately call them back.

Remember that all Telcall's are transmitted on air and can be heard by fellow Austravel members.....use language that your mother would be OK with hearing. The phone user may be less aware of this and you may need to let them know.

There are a few other techniques that will help the operational quality of your HF radio phone calls.

When someone answers a Telcall from you, they need to avoid using the "loudspeaker" option. The quality of the Telcall is much improved when the mobile phone is used "on ear" because using loudspeaker can pick up environmental interference from various sources that can echo within the room such as kids, dogs, birds etc.

This is a problem because the Austravel base equipment may detect these sounds from the incoming phone and will switch between receive and transmit (Voice Operated Xmit VOX). The Austravel base equipment cannot differentiate between good speech and noises. If noises trigger the transmitter, the receiver is not on at the base in that moment. So, if you are transmitting on HF saying your bit and the base is randomly triggered to transmit by your listener at the same time, your voice does not get to the phone.

Random voice replies on the phone during a call consisting of, (yep, ok, umm etc.) will also stop them from hearing all your speech because it triggers the VOX. Each time the VOX triggers it hangs on transmit (TX) for 1 second which is two or three words lost at normal speech speed.

So, remember to remind people that although it is a phone call from you, it is still a two-way radio conversation with one voice direction at a time. I.e. transmit then receive. They need to listen carefully, hold their utterances, phone on normal, move to a quiet area for the call, speak clearly at reasonable volume, in sentences not single words and you will have good quality Telcall operation from your HF radio telephone interconnect calls. This technique works well for normal phone calls as well.

Members please note....if you would like a PDF copy of this KISS document, please email Geoff Peck : membership@austravelsafetynet.org.au

Mareeba Base, replies to a Beacon/Channel test or Selcall with a slightly different sound to other bases. After one of the above calls you hear a constant tone for about 1 second then the revertive (reply sound). The (doe, ray, me) revertive is a bit shorter than other bases. It is still working correctly. This is normal and means you got through OK even if you only hear the tone. Still use this to evaluate by your ear the best channel.

The reason is that the base has two antennas fitted and the Mareeba base radio is programmed for a multifaceted antenna system - meaning antenna two (2) has an auto-tuner.

The Mareeba base radio normally operates and scans on antenna 1, which does not need tuning but the radio checks it anyway. Hence the tone.

It does sound a little different to other bases as does Kununurra, but the other bases do not have a second antenna that sometimes needs to be tuned.

It is normal and I can't make it be any different so just understand it is a little different and all is OK.

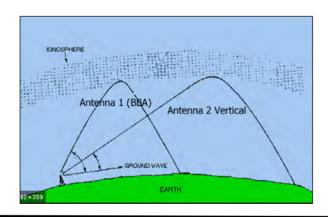
There are a number of reasons why we have two antennas. Firstly a backup should there be a problem with antenna one (1), whereby we can remotely switch to antenna two (2). Remember it is not easy to get a service team to Mareeba.

Secondly both antennas have different properties. The main antenna one (1) as a horizontal broad band is a high angle radiator, designed to provide strong coverage 0Km to about 800 km.

Antenna two (2) is a vertical inverted "L" low angle radiator and is better should Mareeba base be needed to help with an emergency call more than 800 Km away, but it is not as good on closer range signals. There is considerable overlap on these two antenna properties but is means we have the best of both.

In addition, now that Mareeba is running it has been incorporated into the East Australian skeds. Mareeba is designed to cover to the tip of the cape, the gulf and into the NT. Providing overlapping coverage with Kununurra, Alice Springe and Casino bases. Our East sked time table looks pretty complicated but in reality it gives a wide range of opportunity to make contact in the morning or afternoon on the far side of the country. West Australians members can have a go at Mareeba 4199 on channel 7 and 8 as it does have good coverage into the West at times. Channel 7 Mareeba is in the skeds as a trial at the moment but this may get revised down to channel 5 next time table change.

Please exercise your new Mareeba base 4199.



Qmac Radio Service

The Qmac HF90 transceiver is the world's smallest high power HF SSB transceiver. The HF-90 is a commercial grade transceiver, designed for long-range manpack, portable, vehicle and fixed base station applications.

For service support contact Keith Perry Austravel Member 1701

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Email: Vk6qa@iinet.net.au

PH: 0408 092 811 (be persistent poor mobile coverage area)





BORDER WATCH

1800 06 1800

Help protect Australia's border

Small craft border crime: know the flags

Criminals may attempt to use small craft to bring drugs, illegal tobacco, weapons and dangerous chemicals into Australia.

Help keep your community safe by reporting suspicious activity to **Border Watch**.

What should I report?

Report suspicious vessels:

- · vessels anchored or operating in an unusual area
- · vessels meeting at sea with other vessels
- · vessels displaying an unusual draft for vessel type
- vessels operating without navigation lights, departing at unusual times or in unsuitable weather conditions
- vessels damaged on return to the dock (scrapes along sides, fender scuff marks, signs of hull attachments, etc.)
- · vessels with unusual equipment or modifications.

Let us know about suspicious behaviours:

- vessel owners or crew enquiring about Australian Border Force, Police or other law enforcement agencies' activities
- vessel operators who lack knowledge about local conditions or lack ability to operate their vessel.

Be on the lookout for:

- unusual radio activity (such as cryptic radio messages or vessels not responding to radio contact)
- · unusual objects at sea or washed up on shore
- unusual activity on beaches or in remote areas (such as hidden campsites, fuel dumps).



Help protect Australia's border

Border Watch allows everyone to help protect Australia by providing information about suspicious border related activities.

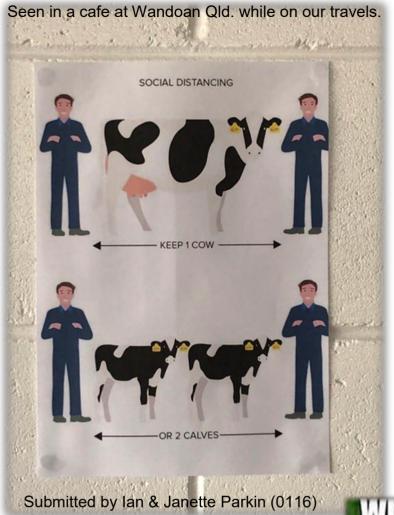
All reports are confidential.

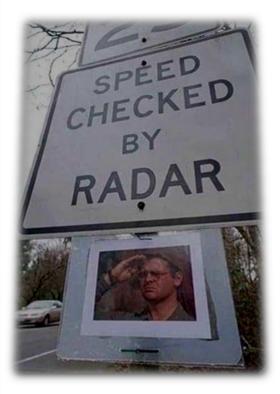
If it doesn't seem right, report it.

Call Border Watch:

- 1800 06 1800 (in Australia)
- +612 62451325 (satellite ph.)

Report online: www.abf.gov.au/borderwatch

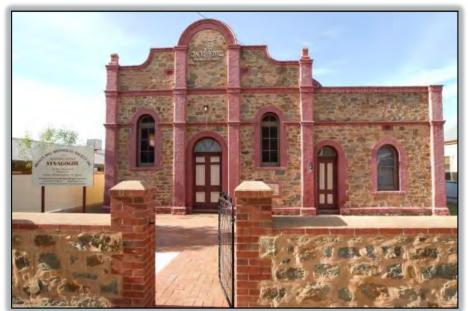








PLACES TO VISIT Synagogue of the Outback Museum, Broken Hill NSW



At the Synagogue of the Outback was first consecrated for worship Museum, Curator Margaret Price on 26 February 1911. and her team of dedicated volunteers have created a fabulous testa- The Jewish community declined in ment to the cultural diversity that the late 1940s and 1950s and the has been part of Broken Hill from its Synagogue finally closed its doors as foundation.

The team has preserved the history of the vibrant Jewish community that was once a part of life in the city, but the museum also incorporates much more. There's memorabilia from local Christian Churches. various local historical relics, as well as a research centre with archives and the quirky Titanic room featuring an exhibition on the fateful ocean liner. There's even a collection of diecast model vehicles from 1953 to 1983.

The building consists of the former Synagogue and a Rabbi's residence behind the stone facade. It is a plain 20th century stone building located in Wolfram Street, quite similar to the simple churches built by Christian groups such as the Methodists and Baptists.

The foundation stone was laid on 30 November 1910 and the building

a place of worship in 1962.

The building declined but was saved by the efforts of people such as Alwyn Edelman and Harold Griff, descendants of Jewish families in Broken Hill and local historians Richard (Dick) Kearns. The Broken Hill Historical Society, formed in 1965, became the owners of the building in 1990 and have played a major role in its ongoing care and restoration. It is now the headquarters of the Society.

The society have created excellent panels and displays that bring the story of the Jewish community alive and have also been involved in continuing research to add to the store of knowledge. Free entry, donations appreciated.

(Sourced From Westprint.)



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EASTERN AUSTRALIA AUSTRAVEL MUSTER





Plan Ahead and Join Us!

Announcing the next S.E. Qld. Austravel Muster is planned to be at Maidenwell Qld. about 200 Km's north west of Brisbane. Open to members and visitors, especially those visitors wishing to learn more about HF radio and / or Austravel's "Telcall+" and "Out-n-About" - new complimentary HF radio technology platforms.

WHEN & WHERE?

May 27^{th.} > 30^{th.} 2021

Maidenwell Hotel

18 Maidenwell Bunya Mountain Rd

Maidenwell Qld.

Free camping behind the pub and adjacent showground. No power but there are toilets, showers and adump point within the showgrounds.

WHAT'S ORGANISED?

(Understanding its early planning)

- Friday night welcome and "complimentary" sausage sizzle
- Saturday Q&A.....10:30am, gather for morning tea got a general or technical question about Austravel ? , here is the place to ask.
- Saturday 6pm pig on the spit at \$20/head.



This is an early announcement to interested members, we will firm up plans and announce a contact person once we understand the implications of Covid in 2021.





I have taken the liberty to reproduce this letter from Minelab.

It is another example of a good reason to register your Austravel information with AMSA as per our **Kiss Help PLB** sheet.

As we, Austravel will attempt to contact you via your HF radio for AMSA should your PLB be triggered.

This will enable AMSA to activate the appropriate emergency response action for your PLB activation.

Or equally important know it was a false activation and hence save massive resources and embarrassment.

Kim Rhodes (7880)



Subject: - Direct from Minelab

Hello Fellow Members. Kim



There have been some reports of customers having EPIRBs and PLBs activating when they have come into close contact with a metal detector coil when the detector is switched on.

We would like to reach out to you all so that you are aware of this so that you can also educate our customers with this information to help prevent any unnecessary activation of EPIRBs or PLBs.

Our engineering team have loaned detectors to Kinetic Technology International and they have researched the affects of the KTI PLB and our detector, the PLB was activated when it came within 10cm of the detector coil.

Although this distance is very close we would like to make sure than any customers using EPIRBs or PLBs are aware of this so that they can keep their location beacons well away from the detector coil to prevent any false activations. Please keep this in mind particularly when a target has been removed from the hole and you are finding it with a scoop (you are physically much closer to the coil when this takes place.)

KTI have suggested to use a metal tin to carry your EPRIB or PLB in to help prevent this from happening. A metal tin will work as a faraday cage (faraday cages will break the electromagnetic fields that your detector produces.)

We agree that this is a good suggestion as it can assist in greatly reducing the risk of a false activation.

If you have any questions regarding this please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Jason Hosking
Technical Sales Representative

https://www.minelab.com/anzea/metal-detectors

Minelab Electronics

TREASURERS REPORT

Hello Members,

Our finances are looking good. We have received majority of the membership fees for 2021 (if you aren't in the majority, now is a good time to join them and pay the fees). We still have a couple of base licences to pay in early 2021, with a plan to align all of out ACMA license renewal's to one annual date.

There are a few projects in the planning stage that need budgeting for in the new year. The benefit of attaining a strong financial position, is the ability to plan ahead and develop technical projects that benefit our membership as a whole.

If any member has a question in regards the clubs finance's, please call or write to me.

Janette Parkin (0116)

MAREEBA BASE...technically efficient (Continued from page 5)

- A sloping sun roof fitted and solar panels mounted on the roof. (Even Cliffy was on the roof, don't tell Marge.)
- Equipment arrives with me and we install the rack.
- A separate enclosed battery compartment is built inside the building.
- Vents were cut into the building for batteries and 12 volt fans, vermin grids, thermostats fitted. The building must be mouse, and general vermin proof as they like warm equipment to go to the toilet on.
- Peter Schrader connects all batteries, solar panels and regulators. The battery system is split in two, as is
 the solar panels feeding two solar PL40 Plasmatronic PWM regulators. (Plasmatronic don't make any RFI
 noise.) The complete dual power system runs in parallel but can be separated if needed. A 25amp mains
 battery charger permanently installed should a generator ever be needed at site.
- I put the equipment into the rack and hook the bits together.
- The 4Gx Yagi mobile network antennas go up on the outside of the building for our internet connection. Being careful not to shade our solar panels.
- The boys put up between the poles, the 54 metre horizontally polorised broadband antenna (BBA) main antenna 1. We make an inverted "L" wire at the end of the BBA near the hut for the SGC auto-tuner. This is our antenna 2 which is vertically polarized.
- Earthing of the building with multiple earth stakes in the sandy soil to cater for RF and lightening earthing as best we can.
- Some testing, audio level setting checking and the base went live for members to use by the 7th August 2020.
- 4199 was included in the skeds for the first time on the 22nd August 2020.

I didn't mention in the list above, but our treasurer Janette Parkin did a fantastic job of ordering all the items of equipment. In many instances it had to be paid before it was shipped. Some were dispatched to me as I needed to do testing in WA and other heavier items were transported by members going to site, so items went to them and were freighted to sight at no cost. A fantastic effort by all on site and my thanks, as President, on behalf of all Austravel members to the volunteers:

The boys: Geoff Peck (0951), Denny Sharpe (1226), Bob Carne (1750), Cliff Herod (9363), Alan Green (6042), Ray Cook (7506), Garry Chambers (non member), Glen Wood (4055), Peter Schrader (2513), Clyde Robson (0129), Rick Shea (3097), Pim & Peter Cahill (7255) Kim Rhodes (7880) and of course a big thank you to all the ladies supporting the boys.

Nth QLD Mareeba Base 4199 (These were previously the Casino channels)

Antenna 1	Chan01	Chan02	Chan03	Chan04	Chan05	Chan06	Chan07	Chan08
57m BBA	3.175		5.270		7.652		10.203	13.910

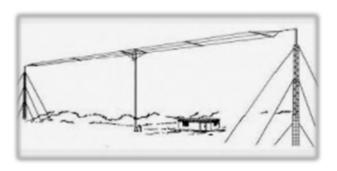
(author Kim Rhodes 7880)

I have written before why we have two antennas at Mareeba and Kununurra. During my drive back to WA I did some testing to see how the two antenna performed in practice and how they compared to theory. By design, antenna one (1) is a horizontal broad band BBA high angle radiator where much of the signal goes straight up to the ionosphere and then bounces down near by. i.e. from say 50Km out to a range of about 800Km....this is the most utilised antenna.

Whereas antenna two (2) is the vertical with auto tuner, with a lower angle of radiation which by default sends the signal out more towards the horizon where it continues past the horizon until it hits the ionosphere then down again at that more oblique angle and of course longer distance. Ranging say 1000Km out to 3000Km. So I did some comparison testing and measured the results.

- These tests were not done at the same time every day but the two antennas were compared within a few minutes of each other.
- The test was done by sending a selcall from the base on each antenna and measuring on my NGT receiver, reading the signal strength on free tune in dBuV.
- The distance was measured by putting the Mareeba GPS coordinates in the address book on my NGT and the microphone display shows distance to base when selected.
- All testing predominantly to the West direction from the base.

Channel	Range Distance to base	Ant 1 RX Level dBV	Ant 2 RX level dBV	Best ant for the distance
Ch1	121Km	39	17	1
Ch3	121Km	32	18	1
Ch1	270Km	34	16	1
Ch1	337Km	50	43	1
Ch3	337Km	42	38	1
Ch1	446Km	39	35	1
Ch3	446Km	41	41	Same
Ch5	446Km	39	35	1
Ch3	861Km	36	41	2
Ch5	861Km	49	42	1
Ch3	1249Km	33	44	2
Ch5	1249Km	46	46	Same
Ch5	1370Km	36	43	2
Ch7	1450Km	12	21	2
Ch8	1750Km	31	28	1
Ch7	1750Km	29	29	Same
Ch5	1750Km	26	29	2



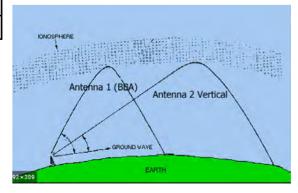
Interpreting the results:

Firstly it can be seen that the BBA antenna one (1) provides considerable benefit over the vertical antenna two (2) in close to the base to a range of about 250Km.

This signal difference is 10 to 20 times the power and will be a major benefit for members in close to the base. Beyond not as much difference but antenna one (1) is still better to about 800Km where either could be used.

However further out at 1200Km Antenna two (2) becomes the dominant antenna most of the time.

The antennas are only just starting to cross over in performance from about the 1000Km range. Between 800Km and say 1200Km either antenna could be best but after a distance of about 1300Km Antenna two (2) performs the best. Note that our mobile car antennas perform like the base antenna two (2).



(Kim 7880)

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

There is a new section in the Telcall+ handbook that members will not have seen. It was an oversight on my part that these items were not common knowledge for many members. So in the interest of better clarity, of operating the Austravel system please review the following. You can get a new copy of the Telcall+ handbook which contains this from the member area on the Austravel web pages. (Kim Rhodes 7880)



This term	Means
Austrav	Abbreviated network name on NGT radios to make the channel number also fit the screen.
Austravel	Abbreviation for Austravel SafetyNet Inc.
Base (Station)	A location with a base transceiver with large antenna and computer, connected to phone and internet. Austravel has 6 base stations.
Beacon call /Channel test	Both mean the same but different manufacturer labels. Means a call type using selcall tones to ascertain the best communication channel. To initiate a revertive.
Emergency Call	A selective call, or send position call, to 4357 or RED button press. Used for any level of help where you know you need some assistance.
Friend PIN	Identification Number to activate the Out-n-About app for friends and family to view your travels.
GPS	Global Positioning System connected to the radio or referring to the app.
GPS Position /GPS Data	A call type using selcall tones to send position information.
HF	High Frequency band of frequencies 3Mhz to 30Mhz as used in our radio type. Hence the slang name for our radio type of HF.
Khz	A way of depicting frequency units. K means 1000, hz is cycles per second. i.e. 3175Khz is 3175,000 Cycles/second. Sometimes depicted as 3.175Mhz. M one million.
Network	Identification of the organization providing your radio license. i.e. Austravel SafetyNet. Network is also used in radio program grouping of the Austravel channels.
MailBox	Storage area on the internet for Austravel HF radio messages. Every member with Telcall+ has a separate MailBox identified by their selcall number. See Telcall+ handbook.
Member PIN	Personal Identification Number to activate the Out-n-About app for you only.
Page call / Message call	A text message sent or received on the HF radio. Different terminology used by Barrett and Codan.
PTT button	Press-to-talk button on the side of the microphone. Switches the radio to transmit.
Red Button	One of the ways to send an emergency call in the Austravel SafetyNet system.
Revertive	An acknowledgement signal automatically transmitted from a station receiving a Selcall or beacon call/channel test call. i.e. (Doe-Ray-Me sound up to 3 times) Sometimes has a single beep in front of a shortened Doe,Ray,Me)
Scan	Radio switches around all Austravel channels at about 3 channels /second. Listening for a call to your radio. (Radio watches all channels)
Scan Table	A list of channels used when scanning for incoming calls.
Selcall	A radio call type format using data. Sent with warbling tones. Selcall is also used as a shortened or slang term for selective call.
Selcall number	The unique 4 digit reference identification of your transceiver (not serial number) as given to you by Austravel membership.
Secall tone sound	Sound of data being sent. Sounds a bit like a FAX machine for those that are old enough to know. Warbling tones.

Calaatina Call	This is a specific call type to another selcall number. Rings alarm on a mobile radio or
Selective Call	to a base retrieves your messages immediately after revertive sound.
Telcall /	Telephone calls via the HF radio.
Radphone call	
Telcall+	Additional operational features available to the radio user in Austravel SafetyNet, Telephone, SMS messages to mobile phones, Mailbox bi-direction messaging, GPS position marking, Emergency call.
USB	Upper Side Band mode of transmission on the radio. This is what Austravel uses on all channels.
UHF	Ultra High Frequency band of frequencies 300Mhz to 3,000Mhz as used by your CB radio type. Hence the slang name for your CB radio being a UHF.
VOX	Voice Operated Xmit which is the electronic detection of sound to automatically trigger the base transmitter to transmit. Used in the base equipment when making Telcalls. Person talking on the phone triggers the base transmitter VOX.
Page call /	A text message sent or received on the HF radio. Different terminology used by Bar-
Message call	rett and Codan.
PTT button	Press-to-talk button on the side of the microphone. Switches the radio to transmit.
Red Button	One of the ways to send an emergency call in the Austravel SafetyNet system.
Revertive	An acknowledgement signal automatically transmitted from a station receiving a Selcall or beacon call/channel test call. Ie (Doe-Ray-Me sound up to 3 times) Sometimes has a single beep in front of a shortened Doe,Ray,Me)
Selective Call	This is a specific call type to another selcall number. Rings alarm on a mobile radio or to a base retrieves your messages immediately after revertive sound.

CODAN ENVOY ALERT

Austravel SafetyNet has previously reported this Codan Envoy issue in the August 2020 edition of Channel Chatter.

Just a reminder that the issue we speak of here is not a Codan factory issue, but it is an issue for Austravel members who use a Codan Envoy, and have the H.E.L.P (4357) red emergency button programmed.



Codan are protective of their dealer network which is understandable, and the technical support which Austravel needs (or needed), is gaining access to the Envoy programming software. OK we understand that attaining access to the programming software isn't going to happen outside of their dealer network.....however Austravel through the efforts of Colin Ingham and Kim Rhodes have found a viable solution.

The reasons for and the how to fix it are shown in a step by step document which is available on Austravel's web page ("Members Info tab" KISS Envoy Red Button Setup correction for emergency call).



This app could save your life!

Walk-2-GPS

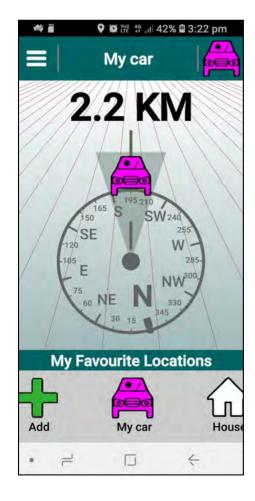
- Loading this simple to use app on your phone may truly save your life, by giving you easy guidance back to a known location, (ie. Your car) using your mobile phone.
- Find you car in a shopping centre car park. Find your way back to camp. (Young or old can use this app.)
- This app operates regardless of mobile phone network coverage. (ie. In any remote area of the world.)

Application:

Mark your location as you park your car.
 Go for a walk and get lost. Keep your location icon in the big triangle and walk back to the car.

Features:

- Import/Export locations via clipboard and with other applications.
- Store and name locations with 3 clicks.
- Save many locations for re-use later.
- Show /display actual GPS coordinate information.





A\$3.99 Search for: walk2gps

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=b4a.takethis.walk2gps



4050 D **HF SDR**

outback traveller pack



- Advanced fully software defined architecture
- Intuitive and user-friendly touch scree interface
- Wireless operation voa iOS, Android & Windows devices
- Selcall / Telcall
- SMS—Pagecall
- Multiple Self ID's
- Wi-Fi Adaptor
- 2019 Auto tune HF antenna with internal GPS receiver

Address books

Designed and built in Australia for the world's harshest conditions, Barrett HF equipment thrives in the outback and has the track record to Prove it. The Barrettt "Outback Traveller Pack" should be considered as standard equipment for anyone travelling in remote areas.

Utilising the "free to air" nature of HF communications, the "Outback Traveller Pack" provides access to essential safety and emergency services with no ongoing call charges.



The Barrett 4050 D handset app supports iOS, Android and Windows devices for wireless voice and radio control.

www.hfradiosales.com
Ph: 07 3118 5265
For all sales enquiries



4050 D

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

5210	NSW
2575	NSW
2147	NSW
1113	NSW
8172	NZ
1536	NT
1038	QLD
3006	QLD
0371	QLD
1103	QLD
1960	QLD
1186	QLD
5857	SA
1125	SA
1096	VIC
0268	VIC
3030	VIC
1109	VIC
1491	VIC
1118	VIC
7658	VIC
0970	VIC
	2575 2147 1113 8172 1536 1038 3006 0371 1103 1960 1186 5857 1125 1096 0268 3030 1109 1491 1118 7658

Jason	6979	WA
Graham	5592	WA
Jeff	1603	WA
Grant	6707	WA
Lachlan	7031	WA
Martin	1976	WA
Graham	6781	WA
Anthony	1011	WA
Bill	6701	WA
Andy	8672	WA
Neville	1497	WA
Cynthia	1498	WA
Danny	6961	WA
Anthony	0780	WA
Charles	6565	WA
Brian & Liz	6526	WA
Damian	0968	WA

New Members since August 2020 = 38 Total for 2020 = 109



Out and About 4 x 4 Club

4 Wheel Driving, Camping, Social events, Meetings

For all enquiries or membership questions,

Email president@outandabout4x4club.org.au

Or secretary@outandabout4x4club.org.au

Come to our next meeting: Tuesday November 20, 7:15pm Beechboro Scout Hall, Lot 17 Lord St, Caversham 6055 WA. Find us on Facebook
Out and About 4x4 Club Inc







Four Wheel Drive Western Australia (WA 4WD Association INC.)



Do you have any social media items to share with fellow Austravel members?

Need help or guidance, or wish to submit something?..... Pim Cahill (7255) is our Social Media officer.

Email Pim: -

socialmedia@austravel. org.au



Members Market

Colin Ingham (6355) frequently have used Codan NGT HF radios complete with 9350 autotune antennas and GPS. These units are refurbished and come with a limited warranty for \$1,800 each.

Contact Colin Ingham (6355) 0417 097 043 E: colin.ingham@netwest.com.au



Netwest's Radio & Electronics Repair



Home

Services

About

Netwest's Radio and Electronics Repair Centre

- Transceivers, Auto tuner repairs, Power supplies Codan antenna repairs
- Commercial electronic devices can be quoted

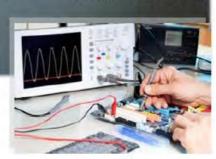
Services



Contact Bruce Ingham

08 92255522 or 0418 376 541

41 Kensington St East Perth WA 6004



QUALITY ASSURANCE



Westprint - Outback Maps, Books, Travel Guides and Navigation systems.

www.westprint.com.au 6 Park St, Nhill Victoria 0353911466

Caravan Quality Assurance

With so many people buying caravans, camper trailers and motor homes these days it is important that you do your own homework both before you make a purchase and before any trip or holiday. There are a wealth of resources, technical information and articles like the one below freely available from the Caravan Council of Australia.

Many people assume that the legal requirements for manufacturers of caravans and camper-trailers for ensuring full Compliance and high Quality, are the same as those for motor vehicles. They are not.

Before a motor vehicle model can be offered for sale in Australia, detailed credible documentation, proving that it complies with all applicable ADR's (Australian Design Rules), must be submitted to VSS (Vehicle Safety Standards). to affix Compliance Plates to their vehicles.

Manufacturers of motor vehicles must have Approval from VSS (Vehicle Safety Standards) to affix Compliance Plates to their vehicles.

To be confident that no changes have been made, and that compliance continues, CoP (Conformity of Production) random audits are regularly conducted by VSS personnel.

Manufacturers of caravans (and camper-trailers) can simply affix Trailer Plates to their vehicles... via the accepted scheme of "Self-Certification".

Manufacturers of motor vehicles are also legally required to have a professional QSD (Quality System Documentation) program in place. Manufacturers of caravans and camper-trailers have no such legal requirement.

More information can be found at www.caravancouncil.com.au





THATS FUNNY!

An elderly man in Queensland had owned a large property for several years.

He had a dam in one of the lower paddocks where he had planted mango and avocado trees. The dam had been fixed up for swimming when it was built and he also had some picnic tables placed there in the shade of the fruit trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the dam to look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a ten-litre bucket to bring back some fruit.

As he neared the dam, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee.
As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his dam.

He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end.
One of the women shouted to him, 'We're not coming out until you leave!'
The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the dam naked.'

Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the crocodile'

Moral: Old men may walk slow, but they can still think fast!

AUSTRAVEL SAFETY NET Inc. HF Radio Allied Traders List Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers' (Last update December 2019)



		F
Watts Communications	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Bushcomm Antennas	Fyshwick ACT
	www.wattscom.com.au / sales@wattscom.com.au	02 6280 6416
Wes Follett	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Bushcomm Antennas	Deniliquin
	wfollett@bigpond.com /0412 885 817	03 5881 3189
Eacom Communications	Codan	Griffiths NSW
	www.eacomm.com.au / ian.blackburn@eacom.com.au	02 6964 2033
D.L. Communications	Codan, Barrett	Merimbula NSW
	dlcserv@hotmail.com	0418 280 270
Newcastle Pro Sound	Codan, Barrett	Newcastle NSW
	www.npsonline.com.au	02 4965 6899
Fettell Communications	Barrett	Port Macquarie NSW
	www.fettell.com.au	02 658 11341
Action Communications	Icom	Kingswood NSW
Action communications	www.actioncommunications.net.au	1800 802 948
Karera Communications	Icom	Tuggerah NSW
Karera Communications	www.karera.com / sales@karera.com	02 4355 1599
Phoenix HF	Servicing most brands of HF	Kareela NSW
Communications	-	02 9544 6355
Independent	Servicing most brands of HF radios	Tamworth NSW
Communications	www.independentcommunications.com.au	02 6765 7555
	Codan	Wollongong NSW
Illawarra Communications	www.illcom.com.au / scott@illcom.com.au	02 4229 7300
Central Communications	Codan, Barrett	Alice Springs NT
	www.centralcomms.com.au / sales @centralcomms.com.au	08 8952 2388
O (NIT) D/I	Codan, Barrett	Alice Springs NT
Comspec (NT) P/L	www.comspec.com.au / sales@comspec.com.au	08 8953 1903
Combined Comms	Barrett	Darwin NT
Solutions	www.combinedcom.com.au / info@combinedcom.com.au	08 8941 0644
	Codan,also servicing most brands of HF radios	Winnellie NT
ITS Communications	info @itscomm.com.au	08 8984 4855
	Codan, Barrett, Scout	Yeppoon Qld.
Multi Voltage Maintenance	All HF radios catered for, older units channelized (Andrew Sutherland)	0418 814 978
hfradiosales.com	Codan, Barrett Sales Service (incl. Qmac) and spare parts.	Brisbane Qld.
On-Line Store	www.hfradio.com.au / email: sales@hfradio.com.au	0408 345 208
	Codan, Icom	Brisbane Qld.
Mobile Communications	www.mobilecomms.com.au	07 3373 2345
	Servicing most brands of HF radios	Brisbane Qld.
RF Technologies	www.rftech.com.au / maxr@rftech.com.au	07 3279 7177
	Codan, Barrett, Icom	Burpengary Qld.
Kyle Communications	www.kyle.com.au / kylecomms@specsafe.com.au	07 3888 7899
	Codan, Barrett	Cairns Qld.
Miles Electronics		
	www.mileselectronics.com.au / john@mileselect.com.au	07 4035 1133
Reids Radiodata	Codan	Cowra NSW
	reidsradiodata@bigpond.com	02 6341 1544

AUSTRAVEL SAFETY NET Inc. HF Radio Allied Traders List Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers' (Last update April 2018)

WHINE WAY AF RADIO NETWOR

Aust. Professional	Repairs for a wide range of electronic equipment including HF radios	Redlynch (Cairns)
Electronics & Repairs	Email: info@apear.com.au	0408 764 540
Linemeeter Merine	Barrett	Maroochydore Qld.
Linemaster Marine Electronics	www.linemaster.com.au / sales@linemaster.com.au	07 5479 6851
TCQ Communications	Codan, Barrett	Mount Isa Qld.
	accounts@tcq.net.au	07 4743 4388
Capricorn Communications	Codan, Icom	Nth. Rockhampton Qlo
	www.capcom.com.au / sales@capcom.com.au	07 4926 1172
Beaney's Communications	Barrett, Icom	Rockhampton
	www.beaneys.com.au	07 4927 5049
Advance Communications	Codan,& Barrett (www.advancecomms.com.au)	Roma
	E: peter.wrensted@advancecomms.com.au (mobile 0418 987 356)	07 4592 1111
Comptel P/L	Codan	Toowoomba Qld.
	www.comtel.com.au / enquiries@comptel.com.au	07 4639 8999
Navcom Electronics P/L	Barrett	Townsville Qld.
	navcomadmin@bigpond.com	07 4771 2422
Norcomm P/L	Codan, + servicing of most brands of HF radios	Townsville Qld.
NOICOIIIII I 7E	www.norcomm.com.au / sales@norcomm.com.au	0408 722 833
Digital Radio Solutions	Codan, with service to most makes of HF	Adelaide S.A.
Digital Radio Solutions	www.marktek.com.au / contact@marktek.com.au	0418 845 518
Electric Bus	Codan, Icom, Barrett	Adelaide S.A.
Electric Bug	www.electricbug.com.au / sales@electricbug.com.au	08 8346 9234
International Comms.	Codan, Barrett, Icom, Wagner, Hawk	Port Adelaide S.A.
Systems	www.intcomsys.com.au / intcomm@intermode.on.net	08 8447 3688
Mantalalastallations	Codan , servicing most brands of HF	Adelaide S.A.
Marktek Installations	www.marktek.com.au / mark@marktek.com.au	08 8250 2888
N. d O	Sevice of all brands of HF radios	Gawler S.A.
Northern Communications	phil.48@bigpond.com	08 8522 6081
	Codan & Codan Auto Tune Repair	Renmark S.A.
HF Radio Solutions	www.hfradiosolutions.com.au/ ivan@hfradiosolutions.com.au	0428 882 719
	Codan, Barrett, Icom	Howrah Tas.
Desmond Communications	desmondcomms@dodo.com.au	03 6228 1331
	Codan, Barrett, Icom,	Launceston Tas.
Marcom Watson	www.marcomwatson.com.au / info@marcomwatson.com.au	1800 630 611
Weeks Radio Communica-	Codan	Alexandra Vic.
tions	sales@ weeksradio.com	03 5772 1292
airnsdale Communications	Codan, Icom	Bairnsdale Vic.
	sales@bcomms.com.au	03 5152 4622
Lara Electronics	Codan & Codan Auto Tune Repair	Geelong Vic.
	www.laraelectronics.com.au/ sales@laraelectronics.com.au	0418 599 355
Bushcomm Online Store	Buschcomm Antennas, Multi Tap Antennas,2nd. Hand HF	Melbourne Vic.
	www.bushcomm-online.com/ sales@bushcomm-online.com	03 9017 6777
Angus Communications	Codan, Barrett	Shepparton Vic.
-	hofmann126.ph@gmail.com	03 5821 9155

AUSTRAVEL SAFETY NET Inc. HF Radio Allied Traders List



Connecting Austravel Members To HF Radio Sales / Service Providers'
(Last update April 2018)

South Eastern Communications	Sales & service of most brands of HF radios. www.secomms.com.au	Rosebud Vic. 0434 720 006
AA Radio Services	Codan, Icom, + service of most brands of HF radios.	Vermont Vic.
7	www.aaradio.com.au / sales@aaradio.com.au	03 9264 8333
Earth 2 Ocean	Barrett, Codan, Icom sales and service	Bunbury W.A.
Communications	www.earth2ocean.com.au / sales@earth2ocean.com.au	08 9721 1730
Esperance	Barrett, Icom + servicing of most barnds of HF radios	Esperance W.A.
Communications	www.esperancecomms.com.au / service@esperancecomms.com.au	08 9071 3344
ACS Communications	Codan, Icom	Perth W.A.
AGG GOMMUMOUTONG	www.acs-marcomm.com / faith@acs-marcom.com	08 9277 4655
Allcom Communications	Codan, Icom	Perth W.A.
Allcoll Collinations	www.allcom.com.au / allcom@allcom.com.au	08 9479 4997
	Barrett	Perth W.A.
Barrett Communications	www.barrettcommunications.com.au /infor- mation@barrettcommunications.com.au	08 9434 1700
Mobile Masters	Barrett (sales no service)	Perth W.A.
WIODITE WIASTELS	www.mobilemasters.com.au / mail@mobilemasters.com.au	08 9492 1777
Transair Two Way Radio	Codan, Icom	Perth W.A.
Transair Two Way Naulo	www.transair.com.au / transair@transair.com.au	08 9209 2225
DE Maria Australia	Codan, GME, Motorola HF VHF Repair & Service	Hammersley W.A
RF Waves Australia	www.rfwaves.com.au / email: cpg@rfwaves.com.au	08 934 271 161

Austravel Safety Net Inc. Members please note.....The purpose of this list of "Allied Traders" is to offer a ready reference which may provide you with a source of sales and/or service assistance when travelling away or near your home location.

Please provide feed back to the "Channel Chatter" newsletter editor if you find information contained misleading or incorrect.

Allied Traders...please review your listing and advise the "Channel Chatter" newsletter editor of any listing detail that is incorrect or requires review. Additionally, if you wish to be removed from our Allied Trader e-mail contact list, please advise. (editor contact details contained on page one)