

# Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club Inc



PO Box 692 Shepparton 3632  
Incorporation No. A6677  
<http://www.sadarc.org>  
Club Callsign VK3SOL  
VK3RGV 2mt VK3RGV 70cm

## The Communications Day was a great success

Volume 1, Issue 3

Newsletter Date  
September 05

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The Annual Communications day held on Sunday 11th September was a success with around 126 passing through the doors. There are some pictures on page 8. Our Weekly VK1WIA Broadcasts on Sundays at 10 am are going really well so keep up the check-ins.

### **IMPORTANT**

**All Pictures sent for publishing HAVE to be in jpg format and around 100k in size.**

At present our Membership has grown to 38 Members  
For those that are not members and want to join contact  
Roger VK2RO , Allan VK3AYD & Jacek VK3TJS , cost \$20

There will also be a For sale/Wanted in the Newsletter so if you have any goods for sale, or want to buy, send details to me see below.

The next Club Meeting will be held on Saturday October 1st at 2 pm

Please forward any news to [vk3kln@netspace.net.au](mailto:vk3kln@netspace.net.au) or post D.Hitchcock P.O Box 362 Cobram 3644 Phone: 03 5871 1444

The newsletter will be emailed / posted in the third week of the month, so make sure you get News & or Wanted / For Sale in by the Monday of the third week.

If there are any important news or events that arise during the month you will be notified by email or post.

Our callback numbers are improving, so keep it up; The more the better. The 80 meter 3.6200 Mhz net is held in conjunction with 2 Meters. On Wednesday 7th, our first 80M net we had 24 check-ins.

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# For Sale

## GM-270 CF GPS Receiver



### Specification

- Weight : < 50g
- Update Rate : 1 Hz
- Receiver : L1, C/A code.
- Tracks up to 12 satellites.
- Dimension : 91 x50 x20 mm
- Minimum Signal Tracked : -175 dBW
- Store Temperature : -45 ° ~ + 85 °
- Antenna Type : Built in Active Antenna
- Operation Temperature : -10 ° ~ + 70 °
- Snap Start : < 3 sec (at < 25 minutes off period)
- Operation Humidity : 5 % to 95 % No condensing

### Position

### Accuracy

#### Non DGPS (Differential GPS) :

Position : 5 - 25 m CEP without SA

Velocity : 0.1m / sec

Time : 1 usec sync GPS time

#### EGNOS/WAAS /Beacon :

**This is new and asking price \$100 for further information  
Contact Roger VK2R0 either by phone or email**

SEPTEMBER 05 MEETING SADARC HELD S&R. ROOMS BENALLA RD SHEPPARTON

MEETING WAS OPENED By President Roger 2RO at 2.04 pm. APOLOGIES

Were received from Jan 3ALF and Wayne 3XQA

PRESENT Were Norma VDD883, Max Matthey, Niel Tingay VDD824, Margaret Tingay, Kylie Tingay, Max 3DSF, Ed. 3BG, Les 3TEX, Danny Hender, Jacek 3TJS, Daryl 3KLN, Roger 2RO, Rob. 3KBV, Ray 3RW, Pat 30V, Rod 3UG, David Milford, Neil 3KAL & Allan 3AYD.

MINUTES of the previous meeting were read and confirmed... . Moved Daryl/See Jacek Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING Original rules for the Wombat Award have been located and will continue to be used for the revived award Moved ED 3BG /Sec Max Matthey... ... Carried

COMM'S DAY ...Arrangements were reviewed Max 3DSF reported the key to St. Augustines to be picked up next friday. Cheques for hire and insurance of \$270 will be required, also a bond cheque of \$250 , to be held by the hall committee. This cheque is to be destroyed after the event if all is satisfactory afer we leave the hall.

A roster of jobs was then worked out. Jacek reported that all was under control for the kitchen. A Door prize of an electric drill was donated by Neil and Margaret Tingay, Many thanks Neil and Margaret for this excellent prize!!!

TREASURER REPORTED available funds of \$5031.62c. Moved Allan3AYD /sec Les 3TEX that the report be accepted..... Carried

CORRESPONDENCE Consisting of A.R. and newsletter from Eastern & Mountain Radio Club. Moved Ed. 3UG / Sec Max Matthey ... .. Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS Roger reported on the situation at the repeater, which resulted in a motion from Max Matthey and sec Rod 3UG That a new Antenna and associated equipment be purchased ... .. Carried

Moved Jacek /Sec Rod 3UG that Neil 3KAL be included on the technical committee... Carried

Ed 3BG reported on a successful participation in the R.D. Contest.

A certificate of appreciation to Greg Halley was discussed.

JOTA was also discussed briefly.

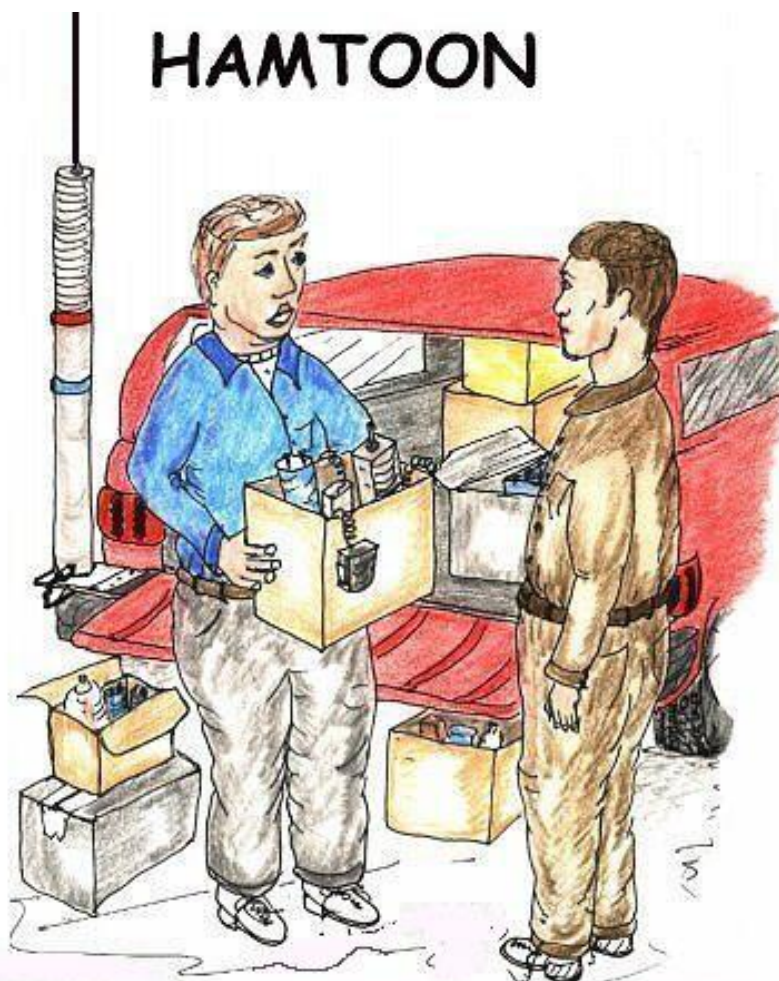
Possibility of a follow up to local Federal Member Re. Power Line Broadband was then discussed.

PRESIDENT Roger presented a tape provided by the team who set the world record for transmission of modulated Light Emitting Diode with the aim that this club co-operate with their next attempt to extend the distance record.

MEETING CLOSED at 4.22 P.M. and a cuppa was served thanks Norma and Margaret

# Cartoon Corner

## HAMTOON



**THIS WAS THE BEST HAM FEST, LOOK AT THESE GREAT BUYS. COULD YOU STORE THEM FOR ME TILL MY WIFE IS OUT OF TOWN ?**

# VK3TEX PROFILE



Name: Les Tatar

Call sign: VK3TEX

Location: South Kyabram, Northern Victoria.

Ham Shack: Running at the moment as the main station rig a Kenwood TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver. Backup rig is a trusty HF Icom IC-765 that I have had for 15 years. New recent addition to the shack is an Emtron DX-2 HF Linear Power Amplifier. Mobile: Yaesu FT-1500 2 Meter 50 Watt rig.

Antenna: 80-meter full size sloping dipole. 40/15-meter commercial Diamond trap dipole. Half wave 10/11 meter vertical. 5-element 10/11-meter yagi on the main tower at 70 feet. 2 by 11 element 2-meter yagi's stacked in vertical configuration at 74 feet high. And a 70 cm folded dipole. 5/8<sup>th</sup> wave stick for 2 meter mobile.

Interest in radio started when:

I first started doing a Basic Electronics Course for study and career and developed an interest in CB Radio. I started off with an AM CB Radio in the mobile, but quickly found it limiting. Moving soon to SSB and getting a taste of DX, I was hooked on radio.

Soon moving up to beam antennas and working overseas DX for many years on 27Mhz, it was time to move to Amateur Radio. With that, I passed my Limited Certificate of Proficiency and got the call VK3TEX in 1998.

Being limited to VHF and above, I did a lot of overseas Dx'ing on 29Mhz FM during the sunspot maximum and continued my interests in 27Mhz Dxing.

I also took an interest in VHF Troppo Dxing during this time also.

But it was in 2004, when they lifted the restrictions on some grades of licence from operating on HF frequencies that I finally took off with my interests in Amateur Radio that I really wanted to pursue, HF.

## VK3TEX PROFILE CONTINUED

Now I am actively building up my HF station at VK3TEX, and, soon will be acquiring another tower and some more HF antennas for the 20-meter band and will be upgrading my 10-meter beam.

Favourite Bands: 10 meters for Dxing, and 80 meters for Australia wide chatting.

On the Horizon: I want to try the digital modes on HF namely PSK31, SSTV, PACTOR etc.

Tear down the old Ham shack and build something new. (The Termites have done the job on it. The next one will be made of metal! Let's see the little buggers eat through that!)

Other interests: Computers, Digital Video and Photography, Radio Club activities, fishing and camping, Home theatre and DVD.



Antennas



Inside the shack



# Communication Day Photos



Pat O'Shannassy VK3OV



VK3OV Wife Barbara & Ross VK3UCR



Ross Keogh VK3MY Strictly Ham



Richard Hoskin Demonstrating APRS

More Photos next issue

## Wombat Working Bee

On Saturday 27th August, the club held a working bee on Mt. Wombat to make some changes with the current Antenna system to RGV 2m Voice rpt. Present were; Roger Connway VK2RO, Ray Wales VK3RW, Greg Halley VK3ZKV, Daryl Hitchcock VK3KLN, Neil Webster VK3KAL, Graham VK3NE, Max Matthey and Angela McCallum.

First the old mast was lowered very carefully so as to note any corrosion or build-up of any unwanted foreign materials that may create semiconductor joints that can cause interference due to the mixing of RF signals from nearby services on this communal Radio Site.

Much evidence was found in the form of rusty mast sections, along with most of the antenna mounting clamps used with our different services in RGV hut.

While removing the RGV 2m Voice Ant. (Phelps Dodge Super Stationmaster 6db Collinear) glass fiber particles were seen floating about the antenna. Also a great deal of Lichen was growing on the antenna due to the porous nature of an aged fiberglass raydome which had led Greg VK3ZKV, to have no doubts in his expertise that it would be subject to water-logging.(A known factor for Intermodulation and other issues) After carefully disassembling the antenna some days later, a major fracture was found just above the decoupling sleeve at the base of the antenna. Some arcing was evident around partially broken solder joints between the lower half-wave elements as well. It would seem that the design of the antenna was weaker than it should be in this section of the raydome, whilst at some six and a half meters in length, it's not surprising, although by looking at the raydome's girth and wall thickness (around 65mm in diameter by 9mm thick) it should withstand strong gales you would think.

As lunch time approached, a fancy BBQ supplied by Roger and prepared by Daryl, went down very well by this time of the day.

Greg Halley brought some fancy equipment along with him, a "Anritsu Sitemaster, Cable and Antenna Analyzer" and found that some of the aging antennas were out of tune by quite a bit, and also found some of the connections were in need of attention.

Many thanks must go to Greg for his time and diligence in this area of expertise. He also donated lengths of heliax and connectors that made the job much easier to deal with.

Neil had made up a 5.2db Collinear which was mounted on top of the newer fabricated Nally Tower with much thanks to Max's enthusiasm, next to the Hut.

Although the antenna tunes well according to Greg, it would seem that it has too much uncalculated down tilt built into it's radiation pattern, making it less serviceable in the fringe area of Mt. Wombat's coverage than before.

Tests were conducted till after dark while remounting the other antennas.



Sunday:

An attempted Sunday morning WIA re-broadcast was abandoned due to excessive noise and crackling on the rpt. also the Rx coverage of RGV was quite a lot less than before. The crew (Ray, Greg and Neil) soon made the journey back up the hill to rectify this situation, finding that half the BNC sockets on the duplexer were loose. Subsequently they were tightened, and the cavities were retuned to a modest figure of 106db notch with 1.5db through loss on Rx. and a similar result on the Tx.cavities. The rpt. suffers no desence whatsoever with this amount of isolation.

A helical Resonator was also installed on the Rx. side of the duplexer with a notch of 35db at 166.7375 Mhz to lower the interfering signal which has made a marked improvement on the interference.

An antenna compromise was also made by using the 2m Packet dipole on the 2m Voice rpt. and the 5.2 db collinear on Packet.

Although the dipole, of much lower gain, appeared higher in the fringe areas.

Several visits have been made since, changing the dipole position on the tower as suggested earlier by Gavin Brain to null the Trunk Radio interference while trying to maintain an acceptable 2m rpt coverage. We have had some reasonable results in reducing the problem but as yet to find the niche formula as a whole.

Also on one of the visits we have retuned the 70cm duplexer making the 70cm rpt. fully operative once more.

Sincere Regards:

Click, Click. Tech Team RGV

Editor's note

Pictures held over till the next issue

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## PLEASE NOTE

You will notice that the Newsletter is late, this is because of items not being sent in time. The deadline is **MONDAY** of the **THIRD WEEK** and is posted/emailed on the Thursday of the same week.

All news/entries that are received after the third Monday in future will not go in the Newsletter for that month. Your cooperation would be appreciated.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2005

Hi Everyone,

What a great Month we have had, the last meeting was very well attended, the interest in our Club Project, and the video presentation were well received, thanks again to Norma for providing the afternoon tea. Our Hamfest was a great day, thanks to all that assisted in making the day a great success, our Hamfest may not be the biggest in Victoria but it is the friendliest by far, the ladies in the kitchen did a great job on the day and appeared to be busy, our Treasurer tells me we had a great day financially, Allan has a smile on his face, if the Treasurer is smiling it's a good sign, I look forward to Alan's report at the next meeting.

The day went like clockwork; new members joined on the day, and also past members renewed their subscriptions, Ed, VK3ED took a couple of Log reports for the Wombat Award, Greg VK3ZKV and his business partner donated a 2 meter antenna to the club for use on the hill, the only proviso is that this antenna should not end up in someone's back yard. I personally went around to all the traders and thanked them on behalf of our Club for their support; the feedback from the commercial traders was they did well on the day.

The Club has received by way of a donation 40 dummy loads, these dummy loads are 50 watt, 0-2Ghz with an adjustable sniffer lead 20-30 db, duty cycle 60% on 40% off, you could run to 100% duty cycle if you forced air into the heat sync via a Muffin Fan. As an incentive, the Club will give a Dummy Load to every new member that signs up from here on in until all dummy loads have gone, and also a dummy load will be provided to any current member that introduces a new member to our club or brings along a potential new member to our next meeting in October 2005. The donor wishes to remain nameless for commercial reasons, we as a Club are very fortunate have great support like this, and by the way the Dummy loads would cost more than the membership fee to purchase.

Christmas Barbeque, make a note of the date, Sunday 4th December 2005, 12.00 pm onwards at the Goulburn Weir near Nagambie, it would be my recommendation that the Club provide the meat on the day, and the Members provide the salads and trimmings. Also, we are going to make some club presentations on the day, more on this latter.

JOTA, have you volunteered some of your time for the weekend 15-16th October 2005, the venue will be at the Mooroopna Scout/Cub hall, please give it some thought between now and the next meeting, we need good club support and participation on the day, we need radio equipment, power supplies, antennas, basically a fully portable radio station that covers all frequencies between 80-2 metres. We would need to set up a roster with a minimum of 2 Radio Operators for every 3 hour blocks, Also Pat, VK3OV may need some assistance with setting up a station at the Guide Hall in Shepparton.

Let's put our best foot forward for this event the club needs your support.

Foundation Licence, special thanks must go to Ed, VK3BG for giving up his weekend and driving to Melbourne to take part in the Examiners Accreditation Program, I look forward to being briefed on the new Licence/Entry conditions and start date, once again Ed, thank you.

Mt Wombat, our technical team have been very busy on the Hill, where do you find such determination and dedication, and such tireless workers Neil VK3KAL and Ray VK3RW, that's where you find it, what was that again Ray, you and Neil, 4.00 am knock off. From all of the members of our club we do appreciate the hard work that you do and we say thank you.

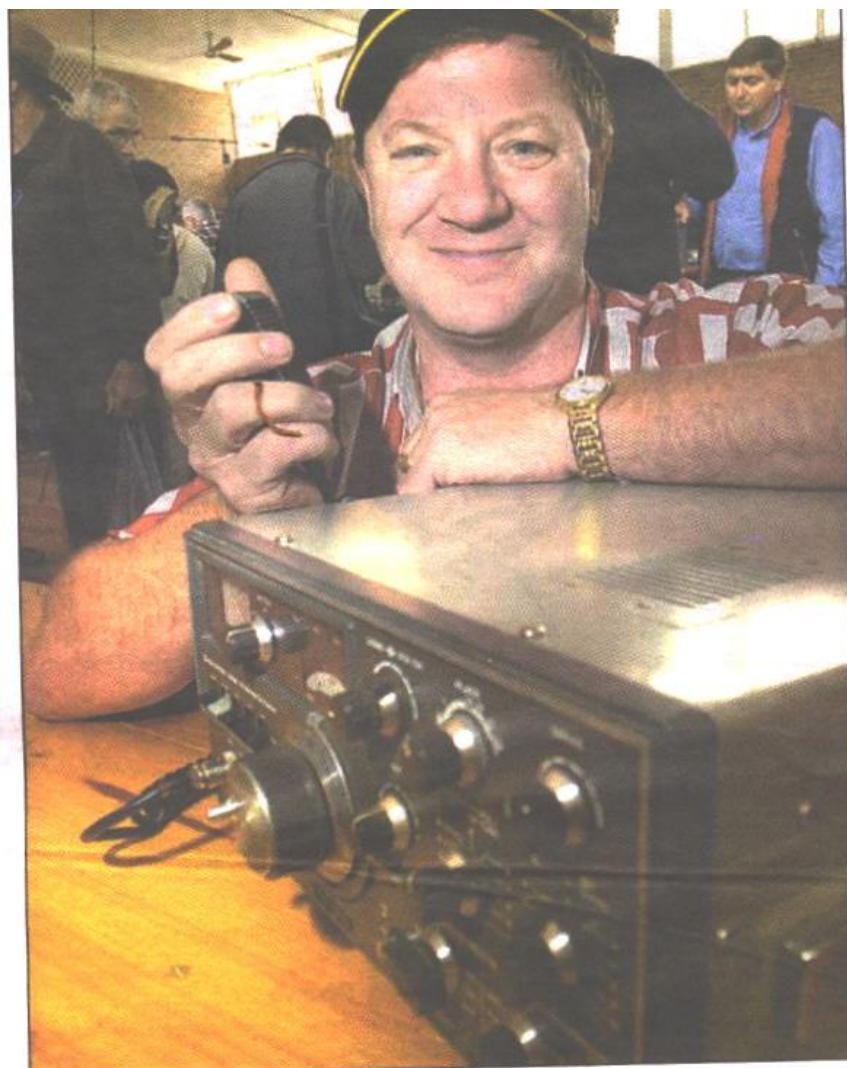
Our Vice-President Barry, VK3KBY will conduct the next meeting, I will be away in QLD for a couple of weeks, I will however endeavor to come up on the 80mtr NET for the next 2 Wednesday's in a portable capacity, have a listen out for me VK2RO/VK4/P

At the November meeting we will need to set up a sub-committee for our club project, if you are interested in being part of this sub-committee make yourself known at the November meeting, we are looking for approx 8 people, this is a very exciting project to be involved in, it may involve some traveling and night testing.

Last but not least is our Club Field Day, 12-13th November 2005, the anticipated rf site is Mt Gwynne, the location is just West of Yarrawonga on the NSW side of the Murray River, we have used this site before with great success, I am just waiting on final permission to use this site from the property owner, more on this latter.

73s For now Roger VK2RO

**Picture from article in Wednesday's Shepparton News**



**Hitting the airwaves:** Roger Conway mingled with fellow amateur radio fans at the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club's Hamfest.