



REPEATERS VK3RGV 2m  
& VK3RGV 70cm  
CLUB CALL SIGN VK3SOL

Volume 8, Issue 4,  
September 2008

# SADARC

SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Office Bearers

**President:**

Roger Conway VK2RO

**Vice President:**

Kane Hinchliffe VK3HKH

**Secretary:**

Duncan Cameron VK3DCX

**Treasurer:**

Daryl Hitchcock VK3KL

**Public Officer:**

Duncan Cameron VK3DCX

**Membership Secretary:**

Pat O'Shannessy VK3OV

**Technical Committee:**

Ray Wales VK3RW

Neil Webster VK3KAL

**Newsletter**

Editor - Lisa Laffan



## COMM'S DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

SADARC Comms Day 2008 was a very successful day for all concerned with all the main traders and a number of private vendors present. A total of 33 tables were booked and just under 200 visitors came through the doors during the day.

Congratulations to Daryl VK3KL for organising the day. It was a busy weekend for some members who were present on Saturday afternoon to pick up tables and set up the hall ready for the Sunday event. Traders started arriving from 8.00am on

Sunday to set up their tables and the doors were opened to the public at 10.00am and the usual rush to pick up a bargain followed.

A very interesting addition this year was a presentation by ICOM on D-Star operation which was very well received by those present.

Special thanks go to all the members who helped over the weekend and especially Jac VK3TJS and the ladies who again did a marvellous job with the catering providing food and drinks for those present.

**Chips N Bits are giving 10% off  
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<http://www.sadarc.org/news.html>



**GENERAL MEETING  
AND AGM SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER 2008**

Hi to everyone,

Well, what a fantastic result for our Ham fest, financially it was the best ever, thanks to Daryl and his team, well done. Daryl will present a full report at the next meeting.

This will be my last report, I am stepping down as President, we have 2 nominations on the table for the Presidents position, namely Danny VK3FDTH and Tibor VK3FTIB, this could be a first in Australia, for an "F" Call to be a president of a Ham Radio Club, please note we will accept nominations on the day of the AGM, the other positions of Secretary and Treasurer will also become vacant, a current list of our club membership is included in the newsletter, should you wish to nominate someone, you need to be a financial member of the club, it is important that everyone attend the AGM, we have a lot to discuss. D Star radio will be part of our agenda at the next meeting, Danny is also doing a presentation on tower rigging, a must for everyone.

The last 3 years as President has been a very exciting time for myself, I have enjoyed my time

# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Presidents Report for September 2008

as President of the club and feel I have achieved everything that I set out to do, and even more, I step down, knowing that the club is in very good shape, financially and strong in membership with a good asset base, its time for our youth of the club to step up to the plate and move this club forward even more, I don't think this is a big ask, I believe this club is well poised and well positioned to move to the next level, new blood, with new ideas

and enthusiasm, I wish to thank all the members for supporting myself during the last 3 years and giving me a bit of a free hand and support to move this club in the right direction, it has been overwhelming.

Last but not least, October is JOTA; we will need members to man the station at the clubrooms on this weekend

I will present a full report at the next meeting, 73s/88s for now Roger VK2RO

## ASSESSMENT DAY

The next Assessment day to be held by Ed & Rob will be on Sat 1<sup>st</sup> of November, starting at 10am. A follow up date will be in late January 2009, the actual date will be advised.

Our recommendation to any station who wishes to upgrade from Foundation to Standard (or Advanced) is to download the LCD's (regulations) from either the ACMA or WIA website, study them, and then sit for the Reg Assessment on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Once the Regs are out of the way, you will then be free to study for either the Standard or Advanced Theory, without having to worry about doing both Assessments on the same day. We will be able to handle up to 5 Reg Assessments on this date.

Give this matter some thought and, if you need any further info, contact me at vk3bg@wia.org.au or on 03 5874 3244 after 8:30 pm (speak to the answering machine first).

73's Ed

Special thanks go to ICOM and YAESU for their kind donation of 2 hand helds that were used as the HAM FEST door prize.

# Minutes of September Meeting

Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Inc. A6677S. Minutes of monthly meeting held on Saturday 6 September 2008 at the Mooroopna Community Hall, Echuca Road Mooroopna. The president Roger VK2RO opened the meeting at 1315 hours and welcomed all present.

**Present:** Roger VK2RO, Duncan VK3DCX, Daryl VK3KL, Ed VK3BG, Tibor VK3FTIB, Les VK3TEX, Rodney VK3UG, Max VK3DSF, Allan VK3AYD, Pat VK3OV, Les VK3VLG, Brian VK3HBW, Alan VK3FALN, Wayne VK3XQA, Terry VK3MAR, Nandor Barabas SWL, Steven VK3MUG, Ron VK3COP, Toby VK3PNF, Wes VK3FDDT.

**Apologies:** John VK3PXJ, Neil VK3KAL, Angela VK3FELT, Geoff VK3AHT, John VK3FJHM, Ian VK3JNC, Geoff VK3PLW, Terry VK3FTHS, Jan VK3ALF, Peter VK3FBEN, Ray VK3RW, Danny VK3FDTH. Moved: Les VK3TEX, seconded: Tibor VK3FTIB and carried.

**Inward Correspondence:** BARG Newsletter, EMDRC Newsletter, membership renewals, letter from Coles Supermarket.

**Outward Correspondence:** Nil.

**Minutes of the last Meeting:** The secretary Duncan VK3DCX read the minutes of the last meeting and moved that they be accepted. Seconded by Rodney VK3UG and carried.

**Business arising from the minutes of the last meeting:**

**IRLP:** Relocation of the IRLP has now been completed.

**Insurance:** Roger VK2RO indicated that insurance for the club radio equipment would probably cost about \$200 per annum. Considering the level of security that already exists at the clubrooms, Roger then left it to the meeting to decide

whether to proceed further. This matter still needs to be resolved.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer Daryl VK3KL presented the report on the club finances and moved that it be accepted. Seconded: Steve VK3MUG and carried.

**General Business:**

**Comms Day:** Daryl VK3KL indicated that 33 tables have now been booked.

10 tables are required from the Fire Brigade. Pat VK3OV and Max VK3DSF will check these tables to see how many long tables are available. Toby VK3PNF will pick up, these tables on the Saturday.

It was pointed out that some of the tables at the hall were in disrepair and it was decided to hire 5 additional tables. Wayne VK3XQA will enquire about the hire and notify Roger VK2RO.

Daryl VK3KL tabled sample entry/door prize tickets he has printed for the day.

Money tins: Daryl VK3KL will obtain from clubrooms.

Door prize: First prize, Icom hand held transceiver. Second prize BBQ tools.

Raffle: first prize, Yaesu dual band transceiver. Second prize, hamper.

Volunteers for setting up on Saturday: Roger VK2RO, Daryl VK3KL, Rodney VK3UG, Wayne VK3XQA, Steve VK3MUG, Les VK3TEX, Les VK3VLG, Max VK3DSF, Ed VK3BG, Terry VK3MAR, Toby VK3PNF.

Volunteers for security on Sunday: Steve VK3MUG, Ed VK3BG, Daryl VK3KL, Danny VK3FDTH, Terry VK3FTHS.

Members to sell tickets on Sunday: Barbara O'Shannessy, Tibor VK3FTIB.

Daryl VK3KL will arrange change for: catering, door and raffle.

Pat VK3OV will arrange the pre selling of tickets prior to 10.00am on Sunday.

Pat VK3OV will arrange toilet

paper for the hall.

Roger VK2RO will arrange the projector and screen.

Max VK3DSF will man a radio at the hall to give directions on VK3RGV. Radio equipment will be supplied from the club radio station. Les VK3TEX will provide the antenna and coax.

Volunteers to clean up on Sunday after the event: Daryl VK3KL, Roger VK2RO, Duncan VK3DCX, Steve VK3MUG, Ron VK3COP, Wayne VK3XQA, Ed VK3BG, Rodney VK3UG.

Door prize to be drawn at 1.00 pm.

Ron VK3COP will provide marking tape for the floor and tables etc.

**JOTA 2008:** JOTA 2008 will be held on 17 to 19 October and the club will participate. Volunteer operators will be arranged at the next meeting.

**SADARC AGM:** The club Annual General Meeting will be held on 4 October at the clubrooms. Roger VK2RO

indicated that all executive positions will become vacant and he encouraged members to accept nominations for these positions. Roger also handed out nomination forms to all the members present.

The secretary Duncan VK3DCX will arrange for a current list of club members to be included in the September newsletter.

**Operating Procedures:** Ed VK3BG informed the meeting that as an Assessor, he has been advised that several stations in North East Victoria were not being operated within the prescribed power levels and not using the correct operating procedures. Ed then reminded the members of the maximum power levels allowed under each level of licence. A lively discussion followed.

The president Roger VK2RO thanked the members present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 14.50 hours.

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## SADARC MEMBERS 2008-2009

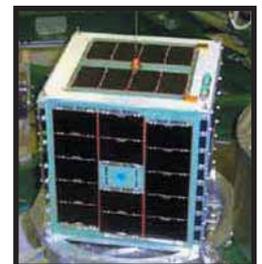
Following is a list of financial club members for 2008/2009 to assist those wishing to make nominations for executive positions prior to the club AGM to be held on Saturday 4 October. If any members have paid their 2008/2009 annual membership subscription and do not appear on the list below, please notify the secretary Duncan VK3DCX email [duncan@bordnet.com.au](mailto:duncan@bordnet.com.au).

Ed Roache	VK3BG	Lisa Laffan *	(newsletter editor).
John Mullins	VK3FJHM	Ray Gardiner *	VK3YNV
Roger Conway	VK2RO	Toby Corbett	VK3PNF
Muriel Plowman	VK3BJO	Alan Ransley	VK3AJD
Bruce Plowman	VK3QC	Steven Hamer	VK3MUG
Norma Forbes	SWL	Alan Vearing	VK3FALN
John Waters	VK3PXJ	Clint French	VK3CAF
Bill Griffiths	VK3DWG	Greg Halley	VK3ZKV
Ray Wales	VK3RW	Mark Bennett	VK3HMB
Max Matthey	SWL	Neil Tingay	SWL
Norma Matthey	SWL	Margaret Tingay	SWL
Duncan Cameron	VK3DCX	Neil Watt	VK3XNW
Terry Dovaston	VK3MAR	Terry Svoboda	VK3FTHS
Pat O'Shannessy	VK3OV Life Member	Rob MacGregor	VK3MAC
Peter O'Connor	VK3FBEN	Ross Farrar	VK3KVC
Les Tatar	VK3TEX	Graham Tremellen	VK3GPT
Les George	VK3VLG	M Pace	SWL
Rodney Champness	VK3UG	W Smith	CALLSIGN UNKNOWN
Neil Webster	VK3KAL	Indy Rosser	VK2XB
Angela McCallum	VK3FELT	Rob George	VK3ECH
Jac Szczurek	VK3TJS	David Harms	VK3VL
Kane Hinchliffe	VK3HKH	Bob Knaggs	VK3AJN
George Francis	VK3HV	Hilton Younger	VK3AHY
Ron Burns	VK3COP	Ian Sturman	VK3JNC
Kevin Epps	VK3LKE	Geoff Webb	VK3PLW
Geoff Cooper	VK3AHT	Chris Lumsden	VK2TYG
Jim Day	VK2TWY	Matt Bilston	VK3SMB
Peter Okeefe	VK3YF	Danny Hender	VK3FDTH
Jan Vankerwijk	VK3ALF Life Member	Darren Glasson	VK3HEN
Allan Dobson	VK3AYD Life Member	Len Hearn	VK3BMY
Barrie Halliday	VK3KBY Life Member	Bob Bird	VK3GEB
Graham Rutter	VK3ACK	David Waring	VK3ANP
John Carrodus	VK3CJA		
Wes Lemon	VK3FDDT		
Wayne Collyer	VK3XQA		
Max Johnson	VK3DSF Life Member		
Carol Tremellen	VK3FCLT		

\* Denotes Honorary Member

Vk3kl has been experimenting with amateur satellites with success. His first contact since the early 90s was with VK2ZAZ on AO 51. Reports VK2-ZAZ gave was 59, and VK3KL gave a report of 55. To learn more about Amateur

satellites check out Amsat on the internet. Mode V/U (J) FM Voice Repeater:Operational. Uplink: 145.9200 MHz FM, PL67.0 Hz. Downlink 435.3000 MHz FM. Power: 5 to 10 watts.



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## INFORMATION PAPER

# VOICE REPEATER GUIDELINES

Repeaters are established primarily to extend the communication range of mobile stations in the VHF and UHF bands, and to assist amateurs in remote locations where simplex communication is not normally possible. They can also be used as calling channels for initial contact before switching to a simplex frequency. The following are suggested guidelines to maximise the efficient and courteous use of repeaters.

Here are suggested guidelines for making the most efficient and courteous use of voice repeaters.

### TRANSMISSION TIME:

Keep contacts brief and to the point. Each transmission should not exceed two minutes. If you have nothing to say, don't say it!

Repeaters have timers to limit transmission length. Do not reset the repeater's timer to extend your own transmission time. Before replying, let the repeater "drop out" and wait at least three seconds before transmitting. This allows others immediate access.

### BREAKING IN:

If you are using a repeater and another station announces its callsign during the pause, let that station go ahead immediately. He or she may have an urgent message.

To gain access to a repeater which is being used by others, announce your callsign during the pause between overs. If you have an urgent message, it is better to say so when you announce your callsign.

### CALLING CQ:

In some parts of Australia it is not usual practice to call CQ on a repeater. The most common practice is just to announce your callsign. It is courteous to follow local repeater practice.

### USE OF CALLSIGNS:

Avoid over-use of callsigns. They are required at the start and end of a contact, and at least once every ten minutes. But they can be dropped from the start and end of transmission during a contact. Avoid using phonetics unless they are absolutely necessary.

### REVERSE OPERATION:

Use reverse facilities to observe the other station's signal strength, and if satisfactory, move to a simplex channel. This keeps the repeater clear for those who may need it.

Please avoid simplex operation on repeater inputs, even if the channel is not in use in the immediate area. You may key up a repeater without realising it. It is also better to avoid using a repeater output frequency for a simplex contact: other stations may be able to hear a repeater on the frequency even if you can't.

### POOR CONDITIONS:

If your signal into the repeater is reported to be marginal copy or breaking up, do not persist in using the repeater until you are able to improve your signal.

### DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE:

Ignore annoying transmissions. Do not respond to a transmission not identified by callsign, or even comment on it. If you do, it will only encourage the person causing the interference.

### CROSSBAND CONTACTS:

The use of repeaters for liaison to establish contact on another band is reasonable, but cross-band contacts using a repeater are not encouraged. Where cross-band contacts are made, all frequencies should be announced by all parties. Priority should be given to normal repeater usage.

### COURTESY:

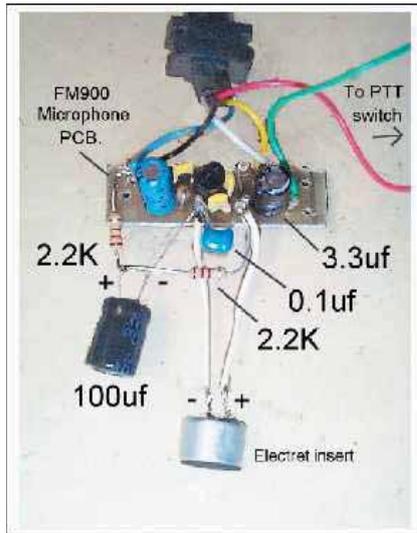
Be courteous and unselfish at all times, and always be aware of the needs of other people who have an equal right to share the repeater.

If you hear someone new to repeater operation, assist and educate them in a courteous manner. Remember that others, including new or potential radio amateurs, monitor repeaters. The image of Amateur Radio is important.

# HOW TO MAKE THE FM900 SOUND LESS AWFUL

By Ian Jackson VK3BUF

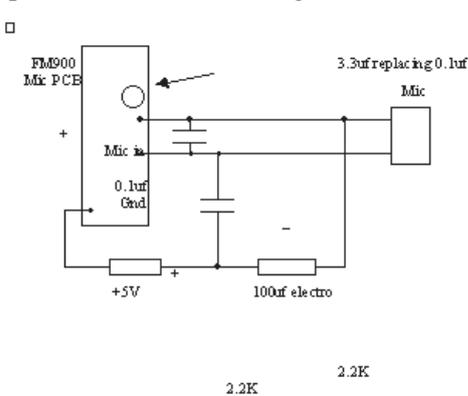
Recently I set up an FM 900 in my camper trailer on 2 metres. It had plenty of RF output and received satisfactorily, but everyone said that I sounded awful...at least worse than usual. The reports were that the audio was thin and devoid of low frequencies, which may be great in a taxi or fire engine. So I put someone else on the rig and had a listen from the car and indeed they sounded like a pre-pubescent chipmunk fallen down a tin mine. In short I concurred with the reports and I could tolerate being an acoustic pariah no longer.



The problem is two-fold. Firstly the standard dynamic microphone inserts are not renowned for their low frequency response and secondly the coupling capacitors inside the mic handset only allowed high frequencies to pass.

I mounted an electret microphone in place of the dynamic insert and added a few component values to support it. Two wire electret microphones have to be powered from a DC source and de-coupled from the audio line with a capacitor. In the FM900 microphone there is a small interface board that holds the reed relay used to engage the scanning feature when mounted on a special microphone-hook-with-a-magnet clip. A +5V potential is extended from the FM900 microprocessor stage to support this feature. I pinched this potential, ran it through a 2.2K resistor, cleaned up the

inherent microprocessor crud with a 100uf cap, then dropped the voltage with a further 2.2K resistor to feed the microphone insert. The audio is then extracted via a 3.3uf capacitor. On the little microphone pcb the original insert connected to a pcb pin which coupled into a small 0.1uf cap. This cap was partially responsible for cutting low frequencies off, so I de-soldered it from the board and replaced it with the 3.3uf electrolytic cap. Finally I put a 0.1uf cap across the audio line to clip the high frequencies. While it didn't make me sound like Lee Marvin, it did increase the base response and made for more comfortable listening.



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All of this should squeeze into the mic enclosure ok. I surrounded the insert with tissue paper to stop it from rattling. It is important to have the insert directly behind the mic grille with lots of paper around and behind it, but not obscuring it. The tissue also serves to reduce echo within the microphone enclosure.

Beyond the values given here, the audio comes down to individual preferences. If you want to let a few more high's through reduce or remove the 0.1uf capacitance. There are almost certainly other series capacitors within the transceiver box which adversely affect the audio, but this method is easier to get at. The insert was a common Dick Smith type available for about \$3.50 (cat. C1163) It has a large output level, which allowed the high's to be attenuated without killing the output entirely.

Also note that the Mic gain and deviation level control trimpots within the FM900 may need to be adjusted to obtain the optimum drive levels. A really rough rule of thumb for settin the levels is to get a nearby station to listen while you adjust the settings. Start with a high mic level so that your voice appears to 'clip' on your voice peaks, and gradually back it off until the clipping stops. If available, a deviation meter will do a better job of it.

At least you won't be on the air wearing a metaphorical placard saying 'look at me, I'm using an FM900!' Keep em guessing...

Good luck and happy soldering. VK3BUF

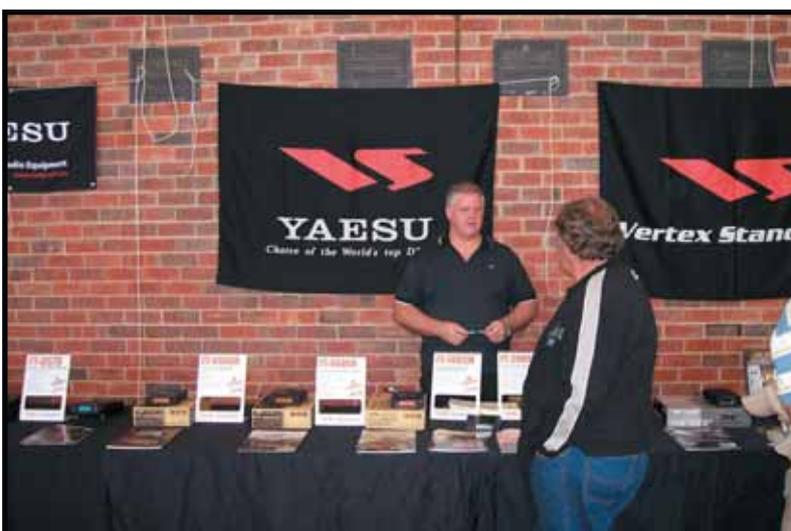
## NEW ARRIVAL

Tanner Marc Kelly arrived on the 17th of August 2008.

Tanner is the first child for Catheryne & Tim Kelly of Wagga, second grandchild for Lisa & Mark Laffan of Cobram & 3rd great grandchild for Daryl VK3KL & Janice Hitchcock



# COMM'S DAY



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