



Repeaters: VK3RGV 2m - 70cm - Packet  
Freq 146.650 - 439.775 - Packet 147.575

Founded 1979

Incorporation No. A6677  
PO Box 092 Shepparton 3632

REPEATERS VK3RGV 2m & 70cm  
VK3RGV B D-Star  
70cm IRLP Node # 6992  
CLUB CALL SIGN VK3SOL

### Volume 6 No 2 January 2011

President	Ed Roache	VK3BG
Vice President	Tibor Nemeth	VK3MRO
Secretary	Steve Hamer	VK3DAG
Treasurer	Ron Burns	VK3COP

From the Editor

For fear of exposing myself to investigation I would like to make the following comment.

Prior to moving to this area my wife and I operated a computer business in Melbourne for 12 years. We were small organisation ( 4 staff) and dealt with a number of schools and “not for profits”. Before the introduction of GST there was a 22% sales tax on computers. If you were purchasing some hard ware for a school or “not for profit” you could fill in a tax exemption form and send it with your orders to the supplier. This would get you the item tax-free. At our end we had to attache the tax exemption form to our order from the customer.

With the pricing of some of the computers that were around at that time there was obviously retailers that were imagining that they had orders from schools or “not for profits”.

The Tax Department knew about this and wrote to all the Computer Retailers asking us to fill in our business details. They then carried out checks on various different retailers to see if their paper work was in order. Of the 6500 computer retailers that they contacted 30 responded with their details. They checked on the 30 that had responded and no others. We were one of the 30. (You will be pleased to know that we had everything in order.)

So, how does this relate to Amateur Radio? It doesn't really but you may be able to draw some similarities.

Nearly every Friday night there is a net on 80m called the Night Owl and Insomnia Net. It commences at 10.00pm EST and continues until it is finished sometimes 4.00am. I used to call in on the net, but not any more. The reason I do not call in is that somebody continually plays music, sirens, gongs etc and drops carriers over the top of who ever is talking. I often cannot hear others and they can't hear me, so I have given up. This has been going on for at least 12 months and the powers that be seem not to be able to do anything.

I hear on the air and via forums that ACMA is checking on Amateurs to ensure they are doing the right thing. I have no issue with that, that is part of their job but to me they are checking on people doing the right thing generally. Is this another case of investigating the innocent and ignoring the guilty? Just like the taxman above.

Hopefully in the near future our “radio graffiti artist” will be apprehended and the net can get back to being a fun experience.

Cheers & 73's

Peter.  
VK3FPSR

## **Dairy Dates.**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Regular Meeting

## **Minutes of the Meeting Held 5<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

Minutes for S.A.D.A.R.C

Sunday 5 December 2010.

Meting Open: 1:10PM

Present:

Alan VK3FALN & Marilyn, John VK3FJHM & Helen, John VK3PXJ & Marlene, Ian VK3CHV, Dave VK3VCE & Deb, Jack VK3TJS & Bozanna, Norma Forbes SWL, Pat VK3OV & Barbara, Neil VK3XNW & Bernadette, Jan VK3ALF & Nola, Toby VK3PNF, Rod & Lyn VK3UG, Trevor VK3VG & Jan, Ron VK3COP, Peter VK3FPSR & Karen, Ed VK3BG, Hilton VK3AHY & Gwen, Les VK3TEX & Chrissie & Josie.

Apologies:

Steve VK3DAG.

Minutes from Previous Meetings:

Minutes of the last meeting:

Correspondence:

Treasures Report:

Ron VK3COP handed out treasurer's report for all members present.

General Business:

Ed welcomed all to the Club luncheon at the Mooroopna Golf Club for the final Club gathering of the year. The Club station license renewal has been received. It was requested that the Club purchase a digital voice recorder for the recording of meeting minutes; this motion was moved by Ed VK3BG and seconded by Alan VK3FALN. Membership cards will be distributed to all financial members as soon as they are printed and laminated. Remember, these MUST be presented to staff at the Jaycar store in Shepparton to get a Club discount. The membership list will be closed off at midnight 05/12/2010. Mains power was lost on Mt Wombat for several days and battery power use was substantial but they held up until mains were restored. Toby VK3PNF gave a quick update on D-Star.

Meting Closed: 1:20PM

President Ed called a meeting of the executive and others to review the year ahead and set some goals. The following is a record of the discussion that occurred at that meeting.

### **Minutes from a Special Pre Yearly Meting for S.A.D.A.R.C.**

**Saturday 8 January 2011**

**Meting Open: 11AM GV Hotel Shepparton.**

**Present:**

Ed VK3BG (President), Tibor VK3MRO (Vice President), Steven VK3DAG (Secretary), Ron VK3COP (Treasurer), Ian VK3CHV (Station Manager), Peter & Karen VK3FPSR (Editor), Rodney VK3UG (Technical Committee).

**Apologies:**

Ray VK3RW (Technical Committee).

**General Business from Previous Meetings:**

Sunday 5 December 2010.

Ed welcomed all to the club dinner at the Mooroopna Golf Club for the end of year club dinner. The stations license has been renewed. It was forwarded that the club should purchase a digital recorder for all the meetings, this motion was moved by Ed VK3BG and seconded by Alan VK3FALN. Treasures report has been handed out to all those present at meeting. Paid membership cards will be distributed to all financial members. The membership list will be closed off at midnight 05/12/2010. Mains power was lost on Mt Wombat for some time and battery power was substantial, Toby VK3PNF gave a quick update on D-Star.

**Correspondence:**

None.

**Treasures Report:**

Ron VK3COP handed out interim treasurer's report for all members present.

**General Business:**

The executive group and the technical committee as well as the station manager and editor were invited by the president to a pre year meeting at the GV hotel. This is to work out the basic framework for the club to discuss and vote on during the year at upcoming meetings. Here is an abstract of the discussions that took place.

D-Star is working OK and needs reinstalling in the repeater hut.

D-Star Internet connection will cost about \$50 a month.

Should the D-Star users pay for the Internet connection at the Repeater Hut?

Maybe the D-Star users could donate towards the Internet costing?

Internet connection in the hut could be used for other purpose other than D-Star. Some of these are Packet, A.P.R.S., Weather Station, and Video Cameras around the repeater hut, I.R.L.P, etc.

Power points need moving in the Club station to more convenient location.

Should members be allowed to dump old equipment at the Clubrooms? Maybe they should have to get prior approval from the Club committee before dumping of old equipment?

Clean out all unneeded dumped equipment at the Clubrooms to the rubbish tip?

A member to donate some old clean cupboard for the Club station.

Repair or replace the HF Antenna at the Clubrooms.

Should we keep an active Club station going? If so it could be used for J.O.T.A., Assessments, Members rag chews, contests, etc.

Maybe build a Nelly tower or something similar for the Club station. To allow for easier maintenance of the station antenna.

Six meter antenna on repeater hut is ready to operate.

Six meter repeater is ready to operate except for a small teething problem that is being seen to. Once the technical committee is satisfied that its reliable it will be OK to install in the repeater hut.

Two meter antenna and/or feed line is not working to full performance. This needs to be repaired urgently.

70cm repeater is de-powered to about 5 watts to stop affecting the sensing of the D-Star repeater.

70cm repeater antenna needs moving around to the west side of the tower for better coverage to the west. It could also be relocated to help stop affecting the D-Star repeater.

Install any new antennas as required on the repeater site.

Make up new laminated membership cards.

Negotiate with business to advertise in the Club newsletter for a discount when producing Club card.

Replace the faulty power points in the repeater hut.

Replace the pipe mast that goes through the centre of the repeater hut with a two section lattice tower that's outside? This is to give more room in the congested repeater hut.

Put a 19" mounting rack against the back wall of the repeater hut to tidy up the equipment. Providing the centre pole is taken away first to give clear access.

The repeater hut has a Residual Current Device (R.C.D) on its power supply. And if it trips we have no access to reset the RCD. The RCD is in the new Fire Hut. Needs a solution found soon. Maybe we can get a RCD put in the repeater hut. And the one removed from the Fire Hut.

Should the Light Box project go ahead? Could be used at Jamboree.

Consider getting amateur analogue TV transmitter maybe on Mt Major. Mt Wombat is too far from the local area.

Do we restart the news broadcast. If so who will transmit it?

Do we install an A.P.R.S repeater in the repeater hut?

Maybe we can increase the power of some of the repeaters to higher levels if all criteria are met.

Maybe the newsletter can have different formats or material. The one thing that the editor requests is more Club member input. Like amateur stories, home projects and general Club news etc.

The main conclusion of the meeting is to get the analogue repeaters back to full working condition as of utmost importance. Then get all current projects finalised and then move forward with the new ones.

**Meeting Closed: 12:15PM**

**Steven (VK3DAG)**

**From Rodney VK3UG**

## **A FEW SOLAR FACTS**

Quite a few members have chosen to install Photovoltaic Solar electricity generating systems on their homes or free standing. Most are grid connected so depending on your arrangements with the electricity supplier you may be getting up to 66 cents per kilowatt (this varies with suppliers and states) for every kilowatt that you actually export to the grid. You will be charged for the power that you consume from the grid at whatever the going rate is that you pay. When your solar cells are producing power but not as much as you are currently using, the amount of solar energy being produced will come off your bill at the normal rate that you pay for your power. Examples assuming that power from the grid costs 20 cents kWh, and you are paid for excess power into the grid at 60 cents per kWh:-

You are using 10kW per hour, your solar is producing 3kW then your meter will show that you have used 7kW. With no solar energy fitted you would pay \$2.00 (10 x 20c = \$2.00), but with the solar array producing power you pay \$1.40 (7 x 20c = \$1.40).

You are using 2 kW per hour and your solar is producing 3 kW, your meter (chargeable section) will show no increase, whilst the input to the grid will be 1 kW. You will pay nothing but the 1 kW will be credited to your account at 60 cents . If you have not using power at the time you will be credited 3 x 60c = \$1.80. These figures assume that the usage of power is continuous over a period of an hour as is the amount of electricity generated by the solar cells and fed into the grid.

A 3 kW array of solar panels will generate around 15 kW in a day in summer. If you didn't use any power during the day you would get a credit for the whole day of \$9.00. You can use quite a bit of power at night and you are likely to have an account in credit over a billing period. I trust that these few figures are of help for current users and possible future users of solar panels.

In this area, members solar panel arrays vary in size from 750 watts to 3 kw of rated power. The inverters used seem to be mostly Latronics, SMA Sunny Boy and Fronius, with a smattering of Chinese and American units. Some inverters meter just the output of the system in kW whilst others record the output total, temperatures, mains voltages peak and through values, peak watts output, etc.

One interesting thing I noted, I have a 1400 watt array and my inverter has shown readings as high as 2097 watts. Whilst I believe the inverter is reading between 10 and 12% high this would bring this peak reading down to around 1900 watts, which is much higher than 1400 watts. Solar cells are rated to give their rated output at around 25 degrees with the sun shine directly at right angles to the panels and it drops off as the angle deviates from this angle and as they get hotter. As the temperature goes below 25 degrees the panels become more efficient and produce more power. Also these peak outputs occur on cool sunny days with clouds. When the sun breaks out from behind white fleecy clouds on these cool days the output jumps dramatically for a while. In this instance the white fluffy clouds diffract some of the sunlight onto the solar arrays as well as getting the direct sunshine.

These are just a few observations I've made. Others may care to contribute to the forum too.

Rodney Champness VK3UG

**Classifieds:**

Keith Barbour has the following items for sale. He can be contacted on 0438 350 175.

3 X Philips FM900 two way radios & 1 has attached repeater for sale no set price. Make him an offer.



Peter Rentsch has the following for sale:

After much deliberation I have decided to sell my “spare” Kenwood TS520.

It works on all bands except 40M. I kept it only for spare parts. It is missing part of VFO knob, one of the other knobs and it has no Microphone or power lead. Asking price is \$150.00 or nearest offer.

I will also have my other Kenwood TS 520SE for sale in January. It is in working order and good condition for its age. If you want to hear it I use it on 80m quiet regularly. It comes with a hand microphone, power lead and a printed copy of the manual plus other documentation needed to aid in the tuning process. Asking price is \$275.00 or nearest offer.

Contact Peter VK3FPSR on 5871 1000 BH.

Don't forget if you have anything for sale to let me know, you just never know your junk may be someone else's treasure.

Please remember that this is your newsletter. It is only as good as the articles that I have submitted to me.

## **Lets Lighten Up**

### **ANTENNA ROMANCE ... From The Internet**

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married.  
The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.  
Since they were a perfect match, soon they generated harmonics.  
Wrapped the harmonics in dipoles.  
But later the harmonics turned out to be parasitic elements.

The true story -- she was a tri-bander and he felt trapped, so they went on separate beam headings

## **DX Movies**

Pileup On The Orient Express  
Gone With The Wind -- A Yagi Story  
Dxpedition To Skull Island By KING/KØNG  
Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Lid  
First BLØOD  
The Maltese Falklands  
To Live and Let Diode -- ØØ73  
CasaBlanker  
Citizen Band  
Key Largo  
HamaLot -- The Old DXer is at it again  
Silence Of The Hams - Starring Rachel Squelch  
Contact - Starring AL1IEN  
Zulu -- The Ultimate PileUp!!  
Fifth Element -- Story about a 4 element yagi starring Bruce Willis  
Custer's Last QSO -- He left the Sabers, Gatling Guns & HT's at the Fort!!!  
ZULU Dawn -- Durnford didn't do well either!!  
ZULU Dawn -- GrayLine Prequel

M1SH MASH -- With RF Burns  
Gone With The Windom -- The Sequel  
Nightmare On Elmer Street -- With JA1SON

VERTICAL!! Directed By Alfred Switchbox  
Name is James, Call is BØND -- Agent ØØ73