



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

President:- Ed Roache
 Vice President:- Peter Rentsch
 Secretary:- Steve Hamer
 Treasurer:- Ron Burns

VK3BG
 VK3FPSR
 VK3DAG
 VK3COP

Volume 6 No 11 October 2011

From the Editor

As you are aware the next meeting to be held on the 5th November is our AGM. Please consider getting involved in the running of the Club. The Club is only as good as you can make it. Attached to this Newsletter are Nomination forms and Proxy voting forms if required.

A Thankyou is due to all those who contributed in any way to the Clubs success in the last year. To Ed VK3BG as President, Steve VK3DAG and Alan VK3AO our Secretaries, to Ron VK3COP our Treasurer, thank you very much.

Many others contributed to the Club and I will try and list them below. Please accept my apology if I missed you out.

Thankyou to	Max	2m Net Controller
	Rostered Members	80m Net Controllers
	Pat	Membership
	Rod, Ray and Toby	Technical Committee
	Ian	Station Manager
	John	Swap Meet
	Jack	Catering
	Wayne	For the bags of components
	Barry	Website

The Swap Meet is our main event throughout the year and it was another great success this year. It continues to go from strength to strength, so a thank you must go to all members who helped in any way.

So, after our November meeting a new year commences. New years are a time to look back on the previous year and cogitate on the previous year. What we have accomplished and what we could have done better. It is also a time when we look forward to next year, setting some new goals and aspirations and getting involved in a great hobby.

Put your thinking caps on and let your committee, whoever they may be know what you would like to see occur

within the Club. Do you want more training sessions or social activities, guest speakers, home brewing, show n tell, product reviews, working bees and so the list can go on. Unless the Committee knows what you would like to see, do or hear we cannot act on it.

Cheers & 73's

Peter.
VK3FPSR

Dairy Dates.

Saturday 5th November – Regular Meeting 1.00pm followed by the AGM

Sunday 4th December – Christmas Meeting. Benalla Bowls Club

Saturday 4th February 2012 – Regular Meeting 1.00pm Mooropna Scout and Guide Hall.

Announcements

If any members have articles for the Newsletter please send them to me. Thanks to those who have contributed to date.

If you have an E-mail address and to save the Club some money we are very happy for the Newsletter to be E mailed to you. Can you please let me know your E-mail address and I will record it for future Newsletters. My e-mail address is Petenkaz@tpg.com.au or Pages.Cobram@bigpond.com



50 Ohm RG213/U cable

Specifications:

- Conductors: 7/0.75 + 216/0.12mm
- Roll length: 100 metres.

Jaycar have the pictured RG213 cable available. Financial members of SADARC can purchase this cable for \$2.80 per metre. (minimum purchase \$15.00)

Thanks to Darren we now have some photos of the last Swap Meet. Please note the date on the photos is incorrect.





As you can see from the picture a great time was had by all. Dave is looking enviously at the FT – 2000 while Rodney has more important priorities.

Next year let's make the Hamfest bigger and better for the benefit of all.

From Ian Ward VK3CHV the SADARC Station Manager.

In the last Newsletter I made comment as the Editor as to who was allowed to climb towers. My information was incorrect and I apologise for the error. Ian has been good enough to put fingers to the keyboard and has sent me the

following information.

A Comment was written in last's months newsletter which stated you have to be a rigger to climb a tower. That comment is incorrect.

To climb a tower there are no licence requirements as yet. You do need the owner's permission and if you are climbing or working above 1.8 metres in height above ground level you need to have fall protection, full body harness, a twin leg harness for 100% hook-up and work pole straps. Also you need to have completed a tower climbing/tower rescue course to gain a certificate of attainment.

That's the climbing part. If you want to attach any antennas / rotators / pipe / brackets or rig any equipment to haul anything to the top of a tower you to have

A Worksafe licence for high risk work codes are

DG , Dogging

RB , Basic rigging

RI , Intermediate rigging

RA , Advanced rigging

Rigging is work involving the use of mechanical load shifting equipment and associated gear to move, place or secure a load including plant, equipment or members of a building or structure and to ensure the stability of those members and the setting-up and dismantling of cranes and hoists.

There are four certificate levels involved in rigging:

Dogging

Basic rigging

Intermediate rigging

Advanced rigging.

This guide outlines the competency based skills needed to carry out basic, intermediate and advanced rigging safety. Basic rigging incorporates the skills needed for dogging. Refer to A Guide for Dogging: WorkCover Authority of NSW.

Basic rigging

Those qualified in basic rigging must know how to carry out work associated with:

- movement of plant and equipment
- steel erection
- particular hoists
- placement of pre-cast concrete
- safety nets and static lines
- mast climbers
- perimeter safety screens and shutters
- cantilevered crane loading platforms.

Intermediate rigging

Those qualified in intermediate rigging must know how to carry out work associated with all basic rigging competencies and:

- the rigging of cranes, conveyors, dredges and excavators
- all hoists
- tilt slabs
- demolition
- dual lifts.

Advanced rigging

Those qualified in advanced rigging must know how to carry out work associated with all basic and intermediate rigging competencies and:

- the rigging of gin poles and shear legs
- flying foxes and cableways
- guyed derricks and structures (A Guyed radio tower)
- suspended scaffolds and fabricated hung scaffolds.

Thanks to Ian for this information.



Recently Ian VK3CHV, station manager replaced the Nylon ropes associated with the SADARC antennas located at Mooroopna.

The Nylon ropes had been affected by the ultraviolet light and had perished.

So as our station was workable for the JOTA weekend Ian had to climb the tower and repair and replace the ropes.

Dave VK3VCE was the photographer and spotter for the exercise. Thankyou to Ian and Dave for carrying out this task.

That's Ian up the tower.



Thanks to Ian and Dave for this story for the Newsletter.

From the Vice President.

You may have noticed that Mt Wombat 2m is a little better lately. I can now use it from Cobram on a good day. This temporary repair was carried out some 6 weeks ago by Ray VK3RW and Greg VK3ZKV. Thanks guys for doing this work for us.

Also a special thanks to Alan VK3AO for his job as stand-in- Secretary while Steve VK3DAG has been busy with his work.

Minutes for SADARC

Saturday 1 October 2011

Meeting Open: 13:04 at the Mooroopna Club Rooms. All welcome

Present:

Ed VK3BG (President), Ron VK3COP (Treasurer), Alan VK3AO (Acting Secretary), Les VK3TEX, Brian VK3HBW, Pat VK3OV, Ian VK3CHV, Rodney VK3UG, Peter VK3FPSR, Danny VK3FDTH, John VK3FJAF, Jacek VK3TJS, Steve VK3DAG, Rob VK3ECH,

Apologies: VK3FALN, VK3DCX, VK3CAF, VK3DSF, VK3VCE.

Previous Minutes Passed:

Moved Alan VK3AO
Second Les VK3TEX

Correspondence:

Inwards:

A letter of thanks from Rodney & Lynn re the passing of Rodney's father.

Midland ARC newsletter

ACMA license for VK3SOL

Receipts from Jacek for expenses incurred at the recent comms day

Flyer from Sunrasia Group & WIA annual conference to be held in Mildura during 2012

Your Electronic One Stop Shop

Jaycar Electronics - Better, More Technical

18 Piece Stainless Steel Mixed Bit Set

A collection of commonly used driver bits in a handy rubber edged case. Features a bit locking mechanism for stable driving. All stainless steel. Driver not included.

- Set contains:
 - Torx: T10, T15, T20, T25, T30, T40
 - Flat blade: 3.5, 5.5, 6.5
 - Phillips head: 1, 2, 2, 2, 3
 - Hex: 4, 5, 6
- Case dimensions: 115(L) x 50(W) x 31(D)mm
TD-2111



\$29⁹⁵

Cat III 4000 Count Autoranging DMM

An accurate and easy to use autoranging DMM. Select the parameter required and the meter chooses the appropriate display range. Features temperature, capacitance, data hold and auto power off plus a backlit display for measuring in dark places.

- Display: 4000 count
- Dimensions: 150(H) x 70(W) x 50(D)mm
QM-1327



\$34⁹⁵

Digital Sound Level Meter

Featuring a wide dynamic range from 30 to 130dB, it can measure both A and C weightings and can have fast or slow responses to get an 'ambient' reading or a short noise. Includes data hold and min/max functions, as well as tripod mount. Supplied with carry case, wind sock and battery.

- Dimensions: 210(H) x 55(W)mm
QM-1589



\$99⁰⁰

Smart Powerboard

6 way smart powerboard with digital energy power board. One socket never switches off and one 'smart' outlet can be used for main appliances. When the main appliance is switched off it will then switch off other related items. LCD display shows energy consumption which is easy to use and simple to set up.



\$59⁹⁵

Cat III 2000 Count Inductance/Capacitance DMM

A feature packed DMM with inductance & capacitance measurement. Ideal for audio enthusiasts designing their own crossovers. Features large LCD, inductance, capacitance, data hold, auto power-off, and temp measurement.

- Display: 2000 count
- Hfe transistor test
- 10A AC & DC current
- Diode test
- Audible continuity
- Dimensions: 195(H) x 92(W) x 55(D)mm
QM-1548



\$49⁹⁵

Cigarette Lighter Battery Monitor

Check the voltage output of a car's battery quickly and easily. Simply plug this handy voltmeter into the cigarette lighter socket and get an instant readout of the electrical system's voltage.

- Display resolution: 0.1V
- Operating voltage: 8 - 30VDC
QP-2220



\$19⁹⁵

Retractable Cigarette Lighter Extension Cord

Handy for 4WD & camping use, this three metre extension cord retracts into its rugged housing to keep it protected & tangle free.

- 5 amp fuse
- Power indicator
PP-1990



\$16⁹⁵

Present your financial member card to receive Trade Pricing!!

*Does not apply where items are already on special. Minimum purchase \$15 before trade discount can be applied.

Jaycar Electronics
Shop 4, 575-585 Wyndham St,
Shepparton, VIC 3630
Ph: (03) 5822 4037



Outwards:

Ed contacting interested parties/clubs for the "Get together" at Yarrowonga, tentatively booked for the second weekend in Nov (12th)

BYO everything and possibly a car boot sale

Treasurers Report:

The recent hamfest/comms day was successful with 35 tables booked. The WIA did not pay however there was no charge for including our advertisement in "Amateur Radio" magazine.

Similarly, Vortex did not purchase a table however they generously donated a \$250 raffle prize

A motion of acceptance of true and correct was moved by Ron VK3COP and seconded by Steve VK3DAG
All voted in favor

Reports:

Technical Rodney VK3UG

Following a recent trip to Mt Wombat, and checking of the 2m repeater antenna it was discovered it is resonant at ~120Mhz. Potentially due to water ingestion.

The Andrews antenna is ready to go and expecting 6dB gain and will be installed when suitable weather, equipment and personnel are available. (Bill Croker to be notified)

This could be a club working or service day.

Potentially last weekend in Nov.

It was put to the group to purchase a spare set of Xtals for the 6m repeater to allow a serviceable standby unit for the club

Moved: Rodney

Second: Jacek

Future 6m repairs noted were:

Adjustment of the audio as is peaky at the moment

Adjustment of the receive sensitivity

Future DSP to be fitted to the receive audio

It was reported the 70cm repeater occasionally has "open mute"

APRS Xtals have arrived and Ray is in the process of installing such in the Packet repeater.

Expected completion is early next year. Freq

145.175Mhz

VK3JFK may be asked by the club at a future date to give those interested a tech talk on APRS. Stay tuned

General Business:

JOTA will be conducted next weekend. The club will operate after 1600 hours and requires operators

Starters are Jacek, Dave with Steve and Danny “possibilities”

Rodney reported that Alan Dobson is in permanent care at “Mercy Hospice” and suggested the club help setting up a 2m rig for him (if allowable)

With regards to the Mt Wombat service day it was suggested to finalise a date.

Moved: Les VK3TEX

Second: Brian VK3HBW

The agreed date is Nov 26th at 0900 hrs

The club will supply food for a BBQ, Steve will supply a cooker

Danny questioned the whereabouts of coaxial cable donated to the club by Geoff Angus. There was some discussion/suggestion but no conclusion.

Additional cable was purchased last year

Ron expressed the clubs gratitude to everyone especially Jacek and family for their contributions to the comms day. Well done everyone

Peter VK3FPSR would appreciate articles that can be included in the newsletter.

Meeting closed 14:05. Thank you for your attendance

Regards

Alan VK3AO

A dedicated group of Amateur [Radio operators](#) from Sydney took part in a multi-agency search and rescue exercise in a remote area of New South Wales to help in the continuing search for VH-MDX, a small plane that crashed some 30 years ago with four persons on board.

The single-engine Cessna aircraft had taken off from Queensland to Sydney's Bankstown airport when the experienced pilot, Michael Hutchins, radioed that he was experiencing severe turbulence, the plane had been hit by lightning and he could no longer tell up from down. To make matters worse, the wings were icing up and, despite his best efforts, the Cessna was losing altitude.

The airplane disappeared from radar and all communications ceased a few minutes later.

The little Cessna's four passengers were NSW Police Inspector Ken Price of the Water Police, who was travelling together with Noel Wildash, Phillip Pembroke and Rhett Bosler.



Compton Allen VK2HRX from WICEN explains ham radio tracking with ARPS to Roger Gough (Police Rescue) and John Tonitto (VRA), at right.

Search aircraft sent to the general area could find no sign of wreckage, and there was no smoke or fire to guide them. And New South Wales officers from Maitland, Dungog and Gloucester police stations launched intensive land searches after the crash was reported, but wreckage of the plane and the remains of its five occupants was not found.

For thirty years since the accident, teams of volunteers have returned to the area every year to walk, chop and climb their way through every piece of unsearched landscape in the hope that somebody will trip over a piece of wreckage or spot something that ends the riddle of VH-MDX. The areas that have been searched are marked off on a large map, so further unsearched areas can be checked the following year.

The going is so rough and exhausting that it can take a search team one hour of chopping through dense undergrowth to travel just 100 meters (yards) on the map. Searchers on foot have to hack a path through dense brambles and clinging vines which can trip a walker so they fall flat on their face. The area is also full of other hazards such as the highly-venomous and aptly-named fierce snake, stinging trees, poisonous ticks and annoying leeches.



Bushwalking search and rescue volunteers set out on Sat 15 October 2011 to look for VH-MDX. After 30 years the site of the plane crash has still not been found

For the safety of the volunteer searchers, each of the six teams carried one vhf or uhf [handheld radio](#) (a 5-watt type walkie talkie) that was set and locked to a commercial frequency. They also carried a [portable](#) 2-way HF radio, a [QMAC HF-90 transceiver](#). These tiny but full-power Australian-made radios cover the full HF radio spectrum, but had been

pre-programmed with four fixed HF channels between 2 MHz and 8 Mhz that had the best chance of covering the distances required. Packed in a rainproof canvas box, the HF sets included a short wire [antenna](#) that would work using skywave or NVIS signals to connect with any of several radio command posts set up and manned by [WICEN New South Wales](#). (WICEN is a volunteer organization of licensed and qualified amateur radio operators who donate some of their time and expertise to [emergency communications](#) to benefit the community.)

Groups helping with the search this year included the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad, NSW Police Rescue Squad, NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (the VRA), WICEN, Patonga RFS (Rural Fire Service), Baulkham Hills SES (State Emergency Service), Gosford SES and a team of four-wheel-drive enthusiasts from the [Toyota Land Cruiser Club](#).

From

<http://www.walkietalkietwowayradios.com/1549/sydney-radio-hams-help-search-for-lost-aircraft-vh-mdx/>

"Electricity originates inside clouds. There, it forms into lightning, which is attracted to the Earth by golfers. After entering the ground, the electricity hardens into coal, which, when dug up by power companies and burned in big ovens called 'generators,' turns back into electricity...where it is transformed by TV sets into commercials for beer, which passes through the consumers and back into the ground, thus completing what is known as a "circuit" Dave Barry.

DISCLAIMER. No guarantee is given as to the accuracy of information in this newsletter. Warning:- There is a danger of electrocution or injury when working on electrical/radio gear. You do so at your own risk.