



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 10 August 2012

From the Editor

I can't let this opportunity go by. A special thankyou to all those who contributed in anyway to the success of the Comms Day. A great day was had by all and many items were purchased. Listening to conversation on the Radio for the next few days after the event I heard many a good report, so well done everyone.

Our November meeting is the AGM. New office bearers will be elected at this time. Please consider getting involved in the running of your Club. If you are not happy about something that is occurring within the Club now is the time to get involved and fix it. With a Club of approximately 60 members we should be able to accomplish great things if all members assist in the Club. The success of the Club relies on all members not just a few.

The Comms Day is an example of the projects that we as a Club can undertake. It was a great success because a lot of members got involved. The old cliché goes "The more you put in the more you get you out". So get in, get involved and get something back for your effort.

Attached to this newsletter you will find two additional documents. One of these documents is for nomination of Office Bearers and the other is a proxy form for nominations if you are unable to attend. Please give some thought to taking on a role. Self-nominations are acceptable.

See you all on the 1st October.

Cheers & 73's

Peter.
VK3FPSR

Dairy Dates.

Saturday 1st October – Sausage Sizzle at 11.30am followed by our Regular Meeting 1.00pm

Sunday 23rd October – Ballarat Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

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

Sunday 4th December – Christmas Meeting. Benalla Bowls Club

From the President

The AGM is now not far away and it is time to have a think about who you would like to see leading the club for the next 12 months. All positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be called from financial members to fill those positions. Have you enjoyed being a member? Is it worth you're while remaining so? Can you offer the other members a little of your time? If your answer is yes to any or all of those questions, seriously consider applying for one of the committee positions. We do regularly need a "change of blood" to re-focus and refine our aims to keep the club active and vibrant. We have around 60 members, surely there are a few out there that can spare a couple of hours a month to give something back for what you've got out of it. Nomination & Proxy voting forms will be included with this Newsletter for your use.

As to the AGM, I had a discussion with most of the committee members this week and decided to move it back one month until immediately after the November General meeting, for several reasons. While I, and I'm sure others, are not "football tragics", there are probably a lot of members who are; and as the Grand Final occurs on the 1st of October this year, plus, as there are several new teams in the AFL now – and consequently more matches to be played – this means that the GF will, in all likelihood, be held from now on or around the same time as our AGM, causing ongoing problems to our club each year.

Secondly, the November meeting is the final business meeting for the calendar year, and it seems logical for the incumbent committee to finish up any outstanding matters, (except for any long-term ongoing business), close the meeting and stand down at that time. The AGM can then be held and new office bearers elected. This gives them several months to hold a committee meeting, plan an agenda for the next year and sort out any other matters arising, before the first meeting of the year in February. I trust that this meets with your approval – if not, let me know at the meeting!

Our Comms Day was a resounding success this year and while I will present a more comprehensive report at our next meeting, I would like to thank here at this time all the helpers, the traders & the members of the Amateur Radio community that made it so successful – thank you one and all!

On other matters, a temporary 2M antenna has been ordered to replace the Pager Antenna that has been 'crackling', whenever the wind blows up on Mt. Wombat, and it should be here any day now. This is only a stop-gap measure until the club decides what to do about the main 2M antenna that is not repairable without major expense. This will be discussed in greater depth at the General Meeting. The 2M Repeater is running on the old Packet Folded Dipole at the moment because of the problems noted above and the 6M Repeater has had the PIC in the controller replaced and is working normally.

Before the General meeting on the 1st October, a Sausage Sizzle will be held from around 11:30 am.

Remember, the AGM will be held on Saturday 5th November, following the General meeting at the Clubrooms. A 1 00pm start as usual.

Hope to see you all there.

73
Ed
VK3BG

Minutes for SADARC

Saturday 3 September 2011

Meeting Open: 13:07 at the Mooroopna Club Rooms. All welcome

Present:

Ed VK3BG (President), Ron VK3COP (Treasurer), Alan VK3AO (Acting Secretary), Toby VK3PNF, John VK3FJHM, Brian VK3HBW, Peter VK3FBEN, John VK3PXJ, Tibor VK3MRO, Les VK3TEX, Peter VK3FPSR, Rodney VK3UG, Ian VK3CHV, Bruce VK3FBNG, Dave VK3VCE, Pat VK3OV, Jacek VK3TJS.

Apologies: VK3CAF, VK3GBE, VK3ECH, VK3DAG, VK3FMDB, VK3FALN, VK3ALF, VK3DCX.

Welcome to our latest member Bruce VK3FBNG

Previous Minutes Passed:

Moved Alan VK3AO
Second Alan VK3FJHM

Recognition of the passing of Johns (VK3PXJ) partner and the passing of Ralph (VK3CQK)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

Receipt of the payment of Scout Hall rental (\$75)

Two donated vouchers of \$20 each from "Bag City" for raffling at the Comms day function

Outwards:

Nil

Treasurers Report:

Ron VK3COP presented the treasures report for the members.

A motion of acceptance of true and correct was moved by Ron VK3COP and seconded by John VK3PXJ

All voted in favour

Reports:

Technical Rodney VK3UG

Question: Can 6m be heard at Rochester ???

Rodney confirmed that this is well within the capabilities of the repeater and that 6m could be expected to reach 135km +, with 2m around 115km

Ed suggested upgrading of the antenna system would also improve the range plus a possible increase of output power up to 50 watts

Due to weather and other commitments, the tech crew have been unable to make a trip to Mt Wombat for repeater maintenance. Reports of the 6m repeater ident has failed and ongoing noise on the 2m repeater are noted

Comms Day:

John VK3PXJ reported 32 tables have been booked and we should have 3 or 4 spare tables (?CFA) on standby for late bookings. Barry VK3KBY to investigate.

John also requested that the availability of the front toilets be confirmed before the day.

Setup of the facilities to occur on Sat at 13:00 with opening for traders being 07:00 on Sunday

Max will provide travel directions to Orr Street via 2m until approx 10:00. A volunteer is sought for 10:00 onwards

Ed has suggested a get together on Saturday night at "The Taco House" in Shepp for members and out of town people who will be attending the Comms day. The restaurant can seat 30-40 people

General Business:

Rodney raised the possibility of organising another visit to Radio Australia. There would be a limit of 20 people.

Peter VK3FPSR would appreciate articles that can be included in the newsletter. He also apologised to those who had received multiple copies of the news letter that was caused by a computer problem

Meeting closed 14:06

Thank you for your attendance

Next meeting 1st Oct.

Regards

Alan VK3AO

From the Vice President:

As you know members of Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club are covered by insurance through the WIA when working on SADARC equipment or attending an official event organised by the Club. If you are working on equipment owned by SADARC could you please ensure that your membership is up to date and that if anyone else is working on the equipment with you that their membership is up to date as well. We do not want a situation where someone has been injured working on our equipment and not covered by our insurance.

Thankyou for your cooperation.

Announcements

The last page of this Newsletter is a form to renew your Subscriptions. It is printed on a separate page so you can easily return it to Treasurer Ron VK3COP with out affecting your Newsletter. Subs are \$25.00 and are due on the 30th June. This is the last time that the Membership form will be attached so if you have not already done so please forward your subs now.

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

From Barry Halliday VK3KBY

Barry recently attended a Linux training course in Melbourne. He found it most interesting. As a result of this course Barry spoke to the facilitators and inquired if they would be happy to present a similar course in Shepparton. They have agreed to come to Shepparton if there is sufficient number of people interested. It would most likely be a Saturday afternoon event. Please contact Barry VK3KBY to indicate your interest.

Linux is a free software that is used as an operating system. There is also a free Office suite called Open Office. An application that uses Linux in the Amateur Radio area is IRLP. IRLP uses a computer to connect to the Internet. The software that it uses to operate is Linux.

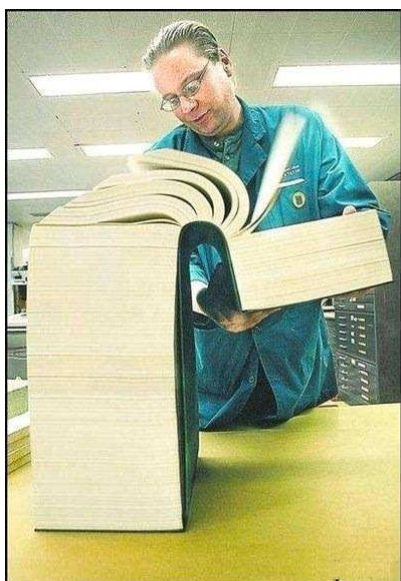
A little bit of self-promotion.

I have built a web site listing a range of Amateur Radio Books and Vintage Radio Books. These items are for sale and I have most of them in stock. The site will not have manuals or circuits. It will be for books related to Amateur or Vintage Radio use and restoration.

I will also have a range of second hand Radio Books as I come across them.

If you are after a title both new or old that I have not listed it please contact me and I will endeavour to locate it for you. Also if you know of a title that is suitable but I don't have it listed I would be most interested in some information on that title.

The web site address is www.radiobooks.com.au. Thankyou for your indulgence.



Oh – the size of the Manuals

Many of you may have recently purchased a new Radio. As you would be aware they becoming more complex in there functions. A hard copy of the manual is usually packaged with the Radio. I wonder how many people read the manual before actually connecting it up and using the Radio. We should probably read the manual first instead of using it as last resort to find out how the radio operates or does a particular function.

This then leads to another question and that is do we need all the features on the Radios the we get today? Probably not as individual users but as a large world wide group then I would assume that all aspects of a Radio is used by someone somewhere.

So next time you get a Radio don't forget to RFM – that is Read the Flamin Manual!



In the near future there needs to be a lot of work done on the tower at Mt Wombat.

To climb the tower you must these days have a Riggers Licence. Periodically work needs to be done on the tower and antennas need to be replaced.

The maintenance of the tower, antennas and equipment in the shack costs money, and sometimes reasonably large sums of money.

The revenue from the Comms Day goes towards the on going maintenance of this equipment. This benefits all users of our equipment, not only our local Club members but those travelling through as well.

President Ed will update us at the next meeting with what needs to be done. Leading on from this will be the scheduling of a couple of Working Bees on Mt Wombat. If you are available please help with the work that needs to be carried out.

The sooner it is fixed the sooner we will all have better service on 2M.

News.

I know many of you use Ham Radio Deluxe as your computer logging software. I thought the following story from the ARRL Website may be of interest.

Simon Brown, HB9DRV, has sold the rights to his popular [Ham Radio Deluxe](#) software package to a group consisting of Mike Carper, WA9PIE, Randy Gawtry, K0CBH and Rick Ruhl, W4PC. All three principals have more than 25 years of experience with radio data communications. Rick Ruhl is the president of [W4PC Software, Inc](#) whose products include the *PakRatt*, *PKTerm* and *Radio Operations Center* software suites. Randy Gawtry is the president of [Timewave Technology Inc](#) whose products include the PK and DSP families of data controllers and other commercial data products. Mike Carper is an experienced Fortune 500 technology executive, educator and featured speaker in the areas of wireless technologies and IT Service Management.

“Simon has done a fantastic job with this software,” Carper said. “His vision for integrating rig control, rotor control, logging, digital modes, and satellite operations into a single integrated feature-rich software suite has captivated the ham radio community. We’d like to see this product continue in a way that respects the hard work put into this package by Simon and others, maintaining that vision, while delivering timely fixes and feature enhancements in the future, will be the number one priority.”

“After many years writing the *Ham Radio Deluxe* software it’s necessary to take a break and hand the whole project over to another team,” said Simon Brown, HB9DRV. “The support effort required has become more than I can realistically manage, with many thousands of users, new radios and other hardware appearing all the time and unexpected changes to the infrastructure used by *Ham Radio Deluxe* such as QRZ.com, I no longer have any time at all for other projects. As some of you will know, I have formed a company called [SDR-](#)

RADIO.com GmbH and I am now working in the Software Defined Radio arena with RFspace. This is the technology of the future; a future I want a part of. In 2012 I plan to return to England and get back on the air, something I haven't done much during the last 25 years."

The new owners are in the process of building a development environment for *Ham Radio Deluxe* and they plan to begin by addressing some of the bugs in the existing "To Do List" for an upcoming version 5.1 release. The 5.1 release will be made available at no charge to registered users when completed.



If we can't climb the tower perhaps we can fix that broken element on the way down.

JOTA 2011

The 54th Jamboree On The Air will take place on 15 and 16 October 2011.

This year's theme is: **Peace, Environment and Natural Disasters.**

An exciting activity that focuses on the strength of Scouting: to act and support in unforeseen circumstances. Scouts are prepared.

Here is another opportunity to promote Amateur Radio in our community. A number of helpers will be required to work with the Scouts in getting them on air.

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) and Jamboree On The Internet (JOTI) is an annual event in which around 500,000 Scouts and Guides from all over the world make contact with each other by means of amateur radio and the Internet.

Every Member of Scouts Australia can make friends, exchange stories, experience different cultures and have fun as part of the largest activity in world Scouting. JOTA-JOTI also gives Youth Members an awareness that they belong to a worldwide movement.

100-year-old Aussie Ham Can Still Read The News

A bunch of Amateur Radio operators in Sydney Australia gathered on Fathers Day 2011, to honour Pierce Healy, who had celebrated his 100th birthday just a few days before.

Pierce Healy is still known by his amateur radio call sign, VK2APQ, although he no longer has his two-way radios to play with. He was a very active Amateur Radio operator for more than 30 years, and used to write a column called Amateur Notes in Radio and Hobbies magazine, which later grew into Electronics Australia magazine.

The radio hams gathered at the premises of ARNSW in Dural, New South Wales, where licensed amateur radio operators still broadcast a weekly news bulletin to other ham radio enthusiasts across the state and beyond. The transmissions go out on multiple transmitters, which cover a range of shortwave, VHF and UHF frequencies, and are sent both morning and evening on Sundays.

Pierce VK2APQ used to compile the news broadcasts when he was younger and would read them over the air as well. But today, the task is shared by a team of licensed radio hams who collect and write the news about ham radio operators and their activities both in Australia and around the world. Most New South Wales radio clubs send notes about their activities to the ARNSW news team by e-mail or fax, and it is compiled and edited before being read over their airways on Sundays. And when the broadcast is over, the announcer and engineer take callbacks directly over the air from their listeners -- who report their name and location, and rate the quality of the radio signal they heard. This is all noted and recorded in the radio station log book.

Pierce VK2APQ is still able to get around by using his walker, and went 'on the air' again during the Fathers Day Sunday broadcast to read one of the news items, from the St George Amateur Radio Club, a group he helped to start.

After the broadcast, Pierce Healy, who was accompanied by his daughter, walked across to the club shed where a barbecue lunch was being grilled for the hungry hams. Pierce cut a birthday cake and managed to blow out the candles with one puff. He was presented with a certificate from the ARNSW club to honour his centenary. And he was given a special radio call sign and license issued by the ACMA, the Australian government authority in charge of radio licensing.

Pierce's new license is valid for one month, and did not have the usual "VK" prefix which is used to identify Australian radio operators. It was just "100 Pierce".

The ARNSW (Amateur Radio New South Wales) club, used to be the NSW Division of the WIA (Wireless Institute of Australia). The WIA was the first society of Amateur Radio Operators in the world. It was formed before the ARRL in the United States and the RSGB in the United Kingdom.

From QRZ.com

From the support Desk!

Caller: 'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about'.

Caller: 'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I think you mean the telephone point on the wall'.

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.

Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

Sponsors of VK3RGV 6m, 2m, 70cm, D-Star Repeaters & IRLP Node 6992
PO Box 692 SHEPPARTON VIC 3632

Membership Application/Membership Renewal Form

Annual Subscription

Membership Fee \$25.00

Name: _____

Call Sign/Listener Only: _____

Postal Address: _____

Town: _____ Postcode _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please tick appropriate box:

New membership

Renewal of membership

Payment Method

Cash

Cheque/Money Order

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Thankyou for you valued Patronage.

Office Use Only: Date Paid _____

Rec No _____