



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

Founded 1979

Incorporation No. A6677
P.O Box 692 Shepparton 3632

REPEATERS VK3RGV 2m & 70cm

VK3RGV B D-Star

2m IRLP Node # 6992

CLUB CALL SIGN VK3SOL

Repeater Frequencies: 6 meters: (53.725Mhz Out, 52.725 In. 123Hz tone)

2 meters (146.650Mhz Out, 146.050Mhz In 123Hz tone)

70cm (439.775Mhz Out, 434.775Mhz In 123Hz tone)

D-Star (438.200Mhz Out, 432.800Mhz In 123Hz tone)

President:- Peter Rentsch

Vice President:- Phil Dwyer

Secretary:- Darren Glasson

Treasurer:- Greg Keegan

VK3FPSR

VK3ELV

VK3HEN

VK3POP

Presidents Report August 2013.

It was encouraging to see a great roll up for our last meeting. Thank you to all those that attended, it was a most enjoyable meeting. A special welcome to Anthony VK3FAJK. Anthony is a new Amateur and we welcome him to the hobby. Welcome also to Jan who has been building valve based receivers for many years and is now interested in becoming an Amateur. Jan brought along a couple of items for the Show n Tell. By his workmanship we can see he is a very accomplished home brewer.

Thank you to others that brought along something for the Show n Tell. Bruce VK3FBNG, Phil VK3ELV and Bill. Some interesting projects being experimented with by all three.

After returning home from the last meeting I realised that the next scheduled meeting actually falls on Saturday 7th September, the day prior to our Hamfest. After consultation with the other members of the Executive it was felt that we should transfer our meeting to Saturday, 31st August to give ourselves at least a week prior to the Hamfest. SO, THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY 31ST AUGUST COMMENCING AT 1.00PM.

Our Hamfest is coming up in September so please keep Sunday 8th September free to help out. This is our major fundraiser for the year so a concerted effort by all members to make it as successful as possible would be greatly appreciated. The money we raise at the Hamfest goes towards the improvement and upkeep of our equipment that we all use. As an example, this year due to a lightning strike we lost the main powers supply at Mt Wombat. To replace this power supply would have cost in the range of \$2000.00. We were very lucky this year in that we were able to get it repaired for next to nothing. Perhaps next time we won't be so lucky and we will have to find a large sum of money. Without the income from the Hamfest we would not be able to afford this. So put your thinking caps

on, come up with some new ideas, let us know what you would like to see and then help bring them to fruition.

Great discussion was held around the two questions that I posed in the last Newsletter. It was good to see such passion about topics and the interest that was shown. Thank you to all those that contributed to the discussion. One of the points made during our discussion was that perhaps we should come up with a tag line for the Club. We are known as SADARC but perhaps we should in our promotional material and underneath our letterhead, place line that indicates what we are on about. Put your thinking caps on and come up with a catchy promotion line that lets people know what we are on about. We will discuss them at the next meeting.

Don't forget that subs were due on the 1st July. Your subs help the Club operate and without them we would not be able to maintain and operate the equipment that we do. Memberships not paid by Monday 10th September will lax.

At our September meeting (**to be held on Saturday 31st August**) we allocate our time to discussing the Hamfest and the final arrangements for it. Most things at this time appear to be in place but there is always that last minute checklist.

Our October meeting will be our Annual General Meeting so please consider taking on a role within the Club to help keep it operating. Without willing volunteers to carry out the jobs in the Club we would not have a Club. I would like to create a new position at the AGM. The position would be of Publicity Officer. The role would be to on a regular basis (monthly) send out a brief Press Release to all Newspapers, Radio and TV Station about what the Club is up to. This Press Release would be done by Email and it needs to be no longer than one paragraph in point form. It is not to be print ready copy but a point form release that stimulates the reporter to contact us to ask more questions and then if possible develop the story from there. Hopefully somebody will put their hand up to do this task that is crucial to the ongoing promotion of Amateur Radio.

That's it for this month and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the next meeting and the Hamfest on the 8th September.

Peter – VK3FPSR
President – SADARC

Minutes of SADARC Aug

Meeting opened 13.06

Present ,

Vk3pxj, Vk3cop, Vk3fbng, Vk3vce, Vk3ov, Vk3gmv, Vk3kby, Vk3ug, Vk3elv,
Vk3faln, Vk3eb, Vk3atx, Vk3pgk, Vk3ntm, Vk3hbw

Apologies,

Vk3ao, vk3geb, vk3tex, vk3alf, vk3fthm, vk3caf, and Matt.

Previous minutes accepted

General business.

Jota looks like will be going ahead with most of the local troops interested in the event. The RSL has 3 days available for the end of year break up. Ron will look in Benalla for any other possible venue. The Murray quad will be held at the end of February will require 12 operators with 2 meters fm gear (hand helds should be ok)

The repeater on mt qwen has been stolen with other equipment please inform the authorities if you see any suspect gear being sold.

P.A system not fully tested at this stage but should be ready for display at the hamfest.

Web page needs more space to load more info on.

There has been 20 tables booked for the hamfest and 5 tables out the front. And enquiries still coming in Jaycar may donate door prize for the day. Raffle prizes are sorted out. Tables will need to be set up 7am on Sunday 8th September.

It was suggested signs be put on display on the main roads to let people know about the day.

The pre dinner for the hamfest might be held at the GV hotel but still to be confirmed.

It was also suggested the club have a name change which had many responses .and it was suggested people come up with a slogan that includes electronics for members to vote on.

Technical Report,

All the analog repeaters are performing well. Dstar has not been installed at this stage. Redesign of antenna mounts on mount wombat progressing well and the standby power supply still has a few things to sort out.

Meeting closed 14.40.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT – September 2013

Technical committee profiles

Not all members of our club know much about the Technical Committee members. I thought why not let our newer members know something of their abilities and contributions to the technical side of operating our club facilities. Quite a bit does go on behind the scenes. Certainly we do acknowledge the valuable input by previous committee members since the installation of the first repeater back in 1982. The current installation consists of three analog repeaters, one on 6 metres another on 2 metres and finally a 70 cm one along with a 70cm digital D-Star repeater. Also housed in the same hut is the Channel 3/33 UHF CB repeater owned by Max and Norma Mathey.

Ray Wales VK3RW

Ray has been on the technical committee looking after the repeater installations on top of Mt Wombat for quite a few years now. Of the current group he is the longest serving member and it is fortunate that we have had the benefit of his expertise for such a long period.

He lives in the Swanpool area and is involved professionally in radio and TV work in the Benalla area. Whether it be two way radio, television antenna installations in difficult reception areas, or doing professional video recording work, Ray is one of the few people in the area who can do this work, and also has the necessary test equipment to make sure things are working correctly. Ray looks after

the 3/33 UHF CB repeater on Mt Wombat and is involved with the Mt Gwynne amateur repeaters in a technical capacity. In his “spare” time Ray runs a farm with cattle and other livestock.

Philip Dwyer VK3ELV

Phil hasn't been on the committee for many years but his input has been refreshing with a number of new ideas being tried and they have worked. We have one of the first 6 metre repeaters in country Victoria and for that matter one of the few outside capital cities throughout Australia. Six metres does require a slightly different approach to 2 m and 70 cm repeaters to get the best out of them, and Phil has endeavoured to take what was a good repeater, to think laterally and make it into a very good repeater, and he has succeeded.

Phil obtained his first amateur radio licence at sixteen years of age. He was a keen VHF/UHF SSB DXer in the late 80's and early 90's using home made transverters and amplifiers on 2m, 70cm, and 23cm. During the 90's he was employed as a full time rf/audio electronics repair technician and has looked after repeater/ communications sites. Currently Phil is employed in his old trade in textile chemistry. In his “spare” time he picks olives on his small farmlet.

Geoffrey Angus VK3ZNA

Geoff has been involved directly in two way radio sales, installation, service and as communications adviser for many years as the proprietor of Angus Communication – which he has recently sold. His experience and contacts from this lengthy period is most valuable as he has the contacts in the commercial world which the rest of us do not have.

Since retirement Geoff has been slowly winding down living down in the Kialla area and getting the opportunity now to play with amateur radio which he rarely had the opportunity to do whilst running Angus Communications.

Rodney Champness VK3UG

Rodney like the rest of the group has been involved in radio communications from his teen years. For many years he was employed by the equivalent of ACMA to deal with Radio, TV and Two Way Radio interference and reception problems. Additionally he had the job at one stage of testing prototype two way radios before they were released for sale. He had the privilege of testing the first Philips FM828 transceivers and we all know how good they have been. This gave him wide experience with a multitude of problems and how to solve them.

He doesn't claim to be the technical whizz the other members are but believes his area of expertise in the group is to keep people informed, make suggestions, and generally be the “goffer” for many things that need to be done.

Other helpers

It would not be possible for the group above to do all that they have done and will do in the future without the help of those who we enlist the aid of from time to time. Whilst there are others who have assisted in various ways the following list is of those who have done or are doing quite a bit to assist. We have Bill Crocker (SWL), Ian VK3CHV, Greg VK3ZKV, Neil VK3KAL, Daryl VK3KL, Danny VK3FDTH, Toby VK3PNF, and Steve Hamer VK3DG.

70cm D-Star Repeater

The repeater is not operational at this stage (17/8/2013). It has been out of service for around ten months, and in that time it has been serviced by Icom and brought back from Melbourne and it will be reinstalled by Toby VK3PNF and Greg VK3POP in the near future – it may even be operating by the time that you read this. **So fellas if you have D-Star facilities or are thinking about it, please use this repeater so that the clubs monetary contribution to the use of digital is not wasted. It is up to you.**

70cm, 2 metre and 6 metre Analogue Repeaters

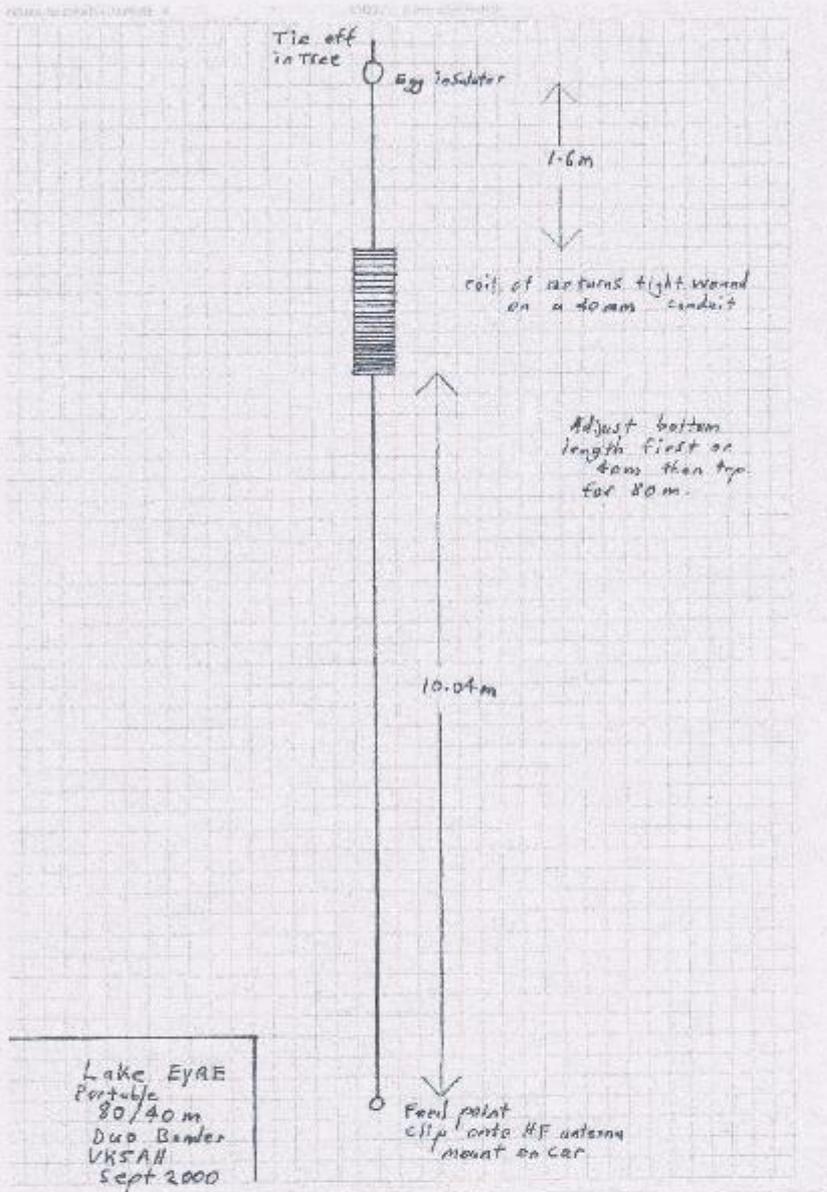
All analog repeaters are working well.

Below is a précis of the work projected to be done into the future. The whole site is gradually being upgraded to provide better service to our members.

- Checking all the lattice mast cables and connections – some are to be shortened. **(A general tidy up)**
- Install the new 6mx folded dipole to use in tandem with the current six metre antenna on the main mast. **(This will improve the six metre repeater performance by just under 3 dB)** Planning the mounting of the antenna is progressing.
- Repair remainder of lightning damage in hut. **(Safety, but not urgent)**
- Tidy and label all DC cables and Coaxial Cables in the hut. **(Easier to work in the hut)**
- Purchase and install DSP modules in the two and 70cm repeaters. Phil is checking on prices. **(They will give better quality audio with weak input signals. They are used on a number of British repeaters)**
- The cold standby 20 amp power supply is now complete and tested. **(Back up should main supply fail on Mt Wombat)**
- Return D-Star to service. **See notes above.**
- General tidy up around the site. Check door locks. Complete an inventory of equipment and spares. Remove the central mast base section inside the hut.
- Check the antenna mast and antennas at the club station. **(Greg is organising a cherry picker for when the weather improves.)**

Rodney Champness VK3UG on behalf of the technical committee, Ray VK3RW, Phil VK3ELV and Geoff VK3ZNA.

adjusts on 160m at about 3KHz Per Inch.



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At the last meeting VK3FBNG Bruce showed this portable 40/80m antenna he made and uses when he is camping in the bush. It connects to the mobile mount on your vehicle or as in this case on the caravan and is erected as a sloper to the nearest object mostly a tree. Materials are easily sourced. Bruce used 50mm pvc and single core plastic covered copper wire for the coil winding and antenna the antenna wire. With some alteration it can be used on 160m also.

Alan Dobson – Radio Estate listing 8/8/2013

Ten Tec 1254 receiver, with circuit (can't find handbook) and plug pack power supply (Tested, works but how good is it)

Heathkit HW8 QRP HF CW transceiver four bands, some modifications, looks okay. \$100.00 (Untested)

4 way Daiwa CS-401 coaxial cable switch \$50.00

Micronta 12 volt regulated power supply about 2 to 3 amps. \$25.00 ? (tested)

Dick Smith power transformer 0 – 15 volts 2 amps M2156 - new \$10.00

Dick Smith power transformer 25-0-25 volts 1.2 amps M6680 - new \$15.00

Micronta analog multimeter, 20 k per volt \$10.00 (tested okay)

AT3000 Chinese automatic antenna tuner with operational data, written in Chinglish. (untested, may get tested)

Port-a-lab 500D SWR bridge etc meter. Tested works \$30.00

Revex SWR/POWER meter, W570 1.8 to 1.2 GHz but not working, being checked – not for sale yet.

Revex 15 watt shielded dummy load L20 - good unit \$10.00

Heathkit Field Strength meter HD-1426 \$10.00

Grundig 240 volt powered GDO (these were a good unit)

Leader Antenna Impedance meter LIM-870A

Scopex 4D 10 Dual trace oscilloscope. Tube good, Channel A needs some work. Complete with several compensated CRO probes. \$50

Dick Smith RLC bridge K-3468 with data, well built clean but not tested EA design from 90s

C 3023 Transistor tester \$5.00

Tono Communications Computer 0 – 7000E in box \$30.00

PCB holder (so you can work on it acts as a third hand.)\$5.00

Prototyping boards with accessories \$5.00

Morse key PMG and a Sato type \$10.00 each.

Box of microphones

Box of plug pack power supplies

Box of new transistors various types. 100 or more I think Well worth grabbing.

Box of RF cable oddments, including a small reel of 75 ohm twin feeder – “make me an offer” items.

20 drawer component set of drawers

12 drawer component set of drawers

Box of electronic “make me an offer” items.

Miscellaneous other bits and pieces of little value, some still to be fully checked, available later on.

Hustler 4-BTV HF 4 band trap vertical 10 to 40 mx, requires maintenance with rusted parts, inc data. Stored at VK3UGs QTH, pending maintenance.

Books:-

Transistor Circuits Manual No4 (slim volume)
Engineers Mini Notebook – Basic Semiconductors (slim volume)
Radio Theory Handbook for Amateurs - 2nd Edition Swainston
The ARRL Antenna Book 1994
Quad Antennas Orr
Yagi Antenna Design ARRL 1986
Novice Radio Guide (Ham Radio) 1974
VHF Handbook Orr
Radio Projects for the Amateur – Complete set 4 volumes. **These should not be separated.** They are very good .
\$30 the lot. Drew Diamond
ETI circuits and designs – Complete set of 4 volumes ETI
A small pile of old QST magazines \$5.00
A small pile of miscellaneous magazines and books. Suggest around \$1 each for smaller ones \$2 to \$5 for medium sized books and large books as high as \$10.

All the above items are being sold on behalf of Alan's widow and we receive a 10% commission of the gross amount for the club. Hopefully many of these items will be available at the next meeting if not at the Hamfest. If items are sold beforehand you have missed out. Some items are still being assessed before being put up for sale, and these may not be available for some time. The person taking responsibility for selling the items that have no price suggested should put a realistic price alongside the item.

Rodney VK3UG

For Sale

An ex TV tower 25' telescoping to 35'? complete with a small rotator suitable for, ideally, a Hex beam (Google Hex beam, no wind resistance)
I have 4 fibre-glass spreaders --- needs 2 more. \$100.00 for all. I am shifting house and cannot use it.

I also have some vintage gear for sale and hope to get it to the Hamfest in September. Yaesu FT7, Yaesu FL2100B Linear amp, Yaesu FT23r 2M h/h, Icom 2m h/h, Kenwood TR 7400A 2m Tx (covers 2meters in 5 K/hz steps). 12v Power Supplies One is 20A Plus, others of lesser current capabilities.etc.etc.

Contact Bob VK3AQK on 57441676 or email hildeb@bigpond.com

For Sale

Mint condition Icom IC 7700 Transceiver. Have owned since 2008 with zero problems, has always worked perfect. Comes with the SM 20 Desktop mike in good condition. All accessories that came with it and original boxes. New price \$7995 , but this one for you at \$5000 FIRM. Contact Les at my email address lestatar@bigpond.com for further details and photos. I will not ship this as its heavy and I don't trust transport companies with it. Pick up only or I can deliver to the Shepparton Hamfest in September.

Wanted

For a Friend of mine a UHF CB Hand Held Transceiver He will pay up to 60 dollars for it any age as long as it works and can take STANDARD BATTERIES. Email lestatar@bigpond.com