

# SADARC

SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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)

President:- Peter Rentsch

Vice President:- Trevor Close

Secretary:- Darren Glasson

Treasurer:- Greg Keegan

VK3FPSR

VK3ATX

VK3HEN

VK3POP

## S.A.D.A.R.C. February 2014

**March Meeting as per normal. March 1st.**



The next meeting will be held on Saturday 1st March at the SADARC clubrooms Mooroopna.  
Executive Meeting will start at 10.30am followed by a BBQ and then our regular meeting as well as a Guest Speaker.  
Most people show up around 12Pm for a club meeting to have a bit of QSO beforehand.  
Don't forget we also have a **BBQ**. And an optional gold coin donation to help the club keeps operating.  
Let's hope someone brings the tomato sauce, great stuff.  
Everybody's welcome at a S.A.D.A.R.C meeting including non club members and newcomers.



## Presidents Report February 2014.

What a month of extreme heat we have had. I don't recall such long periods of heat for such extended periods of time and because of that heat perhaps this is an opportune time to remind everyone that has some style of rope holding their antennas in place to check that rope. The UV rays in the sunlight are very tough on rope and it can deteriorate quite quickly.

Due to that heat the Executive decided to cancel our February meeting as our venue is not air conditioned and the heat inside that building would have been quite oppressive. Consequently the program has changed a little. The Executive meeting will now be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March commencing at 10.30am followed by a BBQ at 11.30am and this will then be followed by our normal meeting at 1.00pm. I hope as many of you as possible can make this meeting as it is our first opportunity to catch up since our November meeting.

As part of Amateur Radio it is our responsibility to promote the hobby to other members of the community. In the past the WIA has scheduled the National Field Days where Amateur Radio is promoted to the community. These National Field Days are normally held in April of each year. I would like our Club to be involved in these field days and below is the information pertinent to the event for 2014. This information is taken directly from the WIA website and I wish to acknowledge that fact.

### [PR4AmateurRadio Expo will take place on April 11-13, 2014](#)

The WIA is strongly behind this Expo which harnesses its many affiliates as they showcase the benefits of modern amateur radio and engage the community. A commitment of up to 12 hours is being sought on a day by them.

Like other promoted activities people do better understand, appreciate and may join them. The promotion of amateur radio relies on having the right messages and trained radio amateurs to effectively give them. Apart from having knowledgeable radio amateurs on hand, please also consider that they should reflect the community by their different age groups, both sexes, and that they are trained in what to say on the day.

At all times act and look professional. For the best image a display must be neat, tidy, and always safe. This is an excellent opportunity to expose the public to the many diverse positive elements of amateur radio and how it fits into the community. Part of the effort should be designed to get people interested in and taking up amateur radio. It helps to have Foundation Licence training and assessments ready to go after Easter giving those attending the Expo or reading about it in the local newspaper a chance to give us a try.

The choice of a location is important to give amateur radio good exposure to the public. The

opportunities exist, however it does require advance planning including site owner approvals. The guidelines and other details about how to join for the PR4AmateurRadio Expo will be issued later.

## Aim

To publicise modern and diverse amateur radio that is easily accessible to people from all walks of life. Through exhibitions, showcase the very diverse hobby enjoyed by those of all ages, gender and ability. On air support may be given by WIA Directors, Office-bearers and members.

## When

The weekend of April 11, 12 & 13 April 2014 gives the choice of using any time on the Friday, Saturday or Sunday. A public event on one of those days should provide good exposure for the hobby.

## Registration

Now invited on the form on the webpage. After the Expo send a report of the event to the WIA to receive a Certificate of Appreciation. Each Foundation Licence holder having contributed to the Expo, and proven media coverage, will be recognised.

## Eligibility

The Expo is open to all, either being part of a dedicated small team at a public exhibition or on the air.

## Display

A number of people (at least four) must interact with the public and supervise equipment. A dedicated person is responsible for site safety including EMR limits and electrical distribution. Where possible try to use renewable energy sources and a variety of modes to show portability and range of activity.

Clubs or groups are responsible for obtaining any required permits or permission to operate at their chosen place. Ideally this will be in a public place to show off our hobby, but may also form a publicised open day at a club.

A sign in visitors book is highly recommended to provide follow-up contact opportunity. A planned Foundation Licence class is an additional talking point. The event must include a public information table which promotes amateur radio. Posters and other promotional material may be used.

By registering you agree to be bound by the guidelines on the conduct of the Expo, site safety, public liability insurance, and the final decision of the WIA on the interpretation of the guidelines and the outcome.

## Contacts

Expo stations are to log each contact. Separate logs are needed for each transmitter. To show that our diverse hobby uses different modes these are encouraged where possible. A voice station will adequately show what we do, but also consider the use of either FM repeaters, IRLP, EchoLink, or digital modes.

## Evidence and logs

To measure success of the Expo a record of activity will be gathered by the WIA. A submission may simply tell of the activity including the names/callsigns of the individual radio amateurs who ran it.

For those wanting to make a more detailed submission may include photographs (up to four), the number of visitors, potential class enrollees, contacts logged (mode break-down if possible) and media coverage.

This information can also be ideal for club's websites and newsletters to show members how it promotes the hobby.

Send to: PR4AmaterRadio Expo, Wireless Institute of Australia, PO Box 2042, Bayswater, Victoria, 3153. It is recommended that large submissions are easily identifiable files on CD or DVD media. The email address is PR4AmateurRadio@wia.org.au

It is highly recommended that you keep a copy. Each submission will receive a certificate of participation. At the discretion of the WIA Board a submission may be endorsed for its contribution.

Remember the Expo is not a competition, but an opportunity for everyone whether at a public display or on the air, to show amateur radio to the public.

The closing date is Friday 16 May 2014.

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/promoting/pr4ar/>

I understand that this is a lot information but it explains the whole concept much better than I could. I would like to discuss the possibility of being involved in this event at our March meeting.

Below is our calendar of events for the next few months and you will note that we have our usual gathering with Bendigo scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> April. It has been pointed out to me that this is Easter Sunday and may not be a suitable day for many. This will be discussed at our next meeting as well.

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|------------------------|---|
| March 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Executive Meeting at 10.30am followed by a BBQ and then our regular meeting and Guest Speaker |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Regular Meeting with Guest Speaker  |
| April 20 <sup>th</sup> | Gathering at Goulburn Weir with Bendigo Club  |
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Executive Meeting at 10.30am followed by our regular meeting and Guest Speaker                |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Murray QUAD   |
| June 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Regular Meeting with Guest Speaker  |

That's it for this newsletter and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. Peter – VK3FPSR President – SADARC

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT – February 2014 (18/2/14)**

### **70cm D-Star Repeater**

What a saga! Greg VK3POP took the repeater down to Icom for service – again. There are NO spare parts in Australia for the D-Star repeaters. It could be a month or so before a newly made up board (in Japan) might be available. The repeater has been out of service now for around 16 months. This needs to be talked about urgently at our next meeting to decide what action is needed to get a satisfactory outcome from this long running saga. The D-Star repeater was an expensive acquisition approved by the club nearly three years ago.

### **Analogue Repeaters**

All the analogue repeaters are working and working well.

### **New 6 meter antenna**

As has been spoken on several occasions recently, considerable research has been undertaken by Phil VK3ELV to determine the most effective and safe way to mount the extra antenna on the lattice mast. The research is complete with two options being considered, then it came to our attention that Amateur Radio Victoria (licensees for our site) are arranging the raising of the guy cable terminations up onto two metre high solid masts. An OH & S job. This is to protect idiots who may blunder around the site not looking what they are doing. This is expected to be done in the next month or two. For this reason Phil believes that we should put on hold the installation of the new 6 metre antenna until we see exactly where the guy cables are located. It would make no sense putting the antenna up then finding that the antenna and guys conflict when the guys are raised.

### **Visit by ACMA**

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February Rodney VK3UG along with John Bennetts VK3XJB journeyed up to Mt Wombat to meet with two representatives of the ACMA (Joe Abiad and Tony Linford) from Melbourne. (I used to work with Joe many years ago – a great bloke.) The purpose of the visit to Mt Wombat was to look at an interference problem experienced by the Mt Strathbogie Shire to their system. A number of problems were found which are to be fixed, but none were attributed to our site. Our site was inspected and although untidy got a tick of approval. Whilst up there I went around any and all rusty fences, guy wires etc and gave them a good shake to see if there were any problems that could cause interference. There were none observed.

Although not our responsibility, there appears to be an interference problem with the 3/33 UHF CB repeater. It appears to be similar in characteristics to what Geoff Broughton the Fire Spotter on Mt Wombat has observed on his UHF CB when tuned to Channel 13. Greg VK3POP hopes to have the tri-band beam re-installed at the club rooms shortly.

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

## The Upcoming Mt Franklin Get Together:



I hear on the grapevine that the third bottle shop net meet and greet will be held at MT Franklin near Daylesford Victoria.

It will be held on the weekend of 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 of March 2014. That's the last Wednesday to the Monday of the month of March.

Last year about 50 Amateurs turned up with there family and friends.

The camp ground is in Mt Franklin which is an old extinct volcano. No local rumbling has been noted lately.

Most who choose to stay bring along their caravan. But a tent would work as well. Loud Generators are not suitable for this area. As there are other people camping in the grounds.

The camp ground has basic amities and last check dogs are allowed under control. There are water tanks there. But don't rely on them. Bring some water with you. The toilet is a earth pit thunder-box. So some other arrangement might be better.

There is properly constructed fireplaces around the campground for anyone to use. But firewood is scarce. If wanting a fire bring some firewood.

It is also free to camp. With easy two wheel drive access with a caravan.

[Here is the information pamphlet to MT Franklin Reserve, Parks Victoria.](#)

[http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/313802/Park-note-Hepburn-RP-and-Mt-Franklin-Reserve.pdf](http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/313802/Park-note-Hepburn-RP-and-Mt-Franklin-Reserve.pdf)

Some Amateurs just turn up for the BBQ on the Saturday. Some of which drive a fair distance for the meet and greet. I went last year and had a great weekend. Put some call signs to faces. Look forward to meeting some new faces as well as the old. GPS Co-ordinates of Mt Franklin Reserve: -  
37.2655149,144.150924

P.S. The Bottle shop Net is on Friday Nights At 7:45PM on 3590Khz for first check in. And attracts around 30 to 40 Amateurs. It specializes in old valve transceivers (Boat Anchors). But transistor final transceivers are welcome as well. We love em all. I have a occasional check in. Great Net.

This get together is not organized by SADARC. But I am sure to say all Amateur operators will be welcome.

Steven VK3DP.