



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. March 2014.**

### **Upcoming Events.**

**PLEASE NOTE – OUR MEETING ON SATURDAY THE 5TH  
APRIL HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>.**

**It Will Be At The Shepparton Showgrounds To Coincide With  
The Rotary Club of Shepparton Motor Show & Market Day.**

**The Club will set an Amateur radio station to do with the  
WIA Publicity for Amateur Radio Event.**

**The Mt Franklin Get Together Is On 26 to 31 May.**

**And On Saturday May 10th the inaugural Murray QUAD. We  
Need Operators To Help With The Event.**

## Presidents Report March 2014.

Thanks to all those that attended our February meeting. The meeting began with a BBQ followed by our regular meeting. This was followed by Bill Crocker talking about a home brew project that he is building. He is putting together a Wadley Loop receiver using original parts from the era of the radio. The Wadley Loop receiver allowed precision tuning over wide bands without the necessity to switch out crystals. It is a large construction project and Bill is making it from the ground up. Many hours of work have been put into it and there are still many hours to go. As Bill was explaining what he had done and the concepts behind the radio I could see a number of the members shaking their head in agreement and obvious enjoyment of the technology being explained. Thanks Bill for being our speaker.

On Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> we have committed ourselves to help with the inaugural Murray QUAD. We will require about 12 operators for the day with 2m radios. A couple of operators with CB Radios would not go astray as well. Darren VK3HEN and Bruce VK3FBNG are organising our side of the event for the day so please contact them if you are able to help. We have a number of names at this time but we need about 4 more to make Darren and Bruce's job easier. More information will be distributed as it comes to hand and the final arrangements will be discussed at length at our meeting in May prior to the event.

In my last report I asked that the Club give consideration to being involved in a "Publicity for Amateur Radio Event". It was decided that Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April would be a good opportunity as we can coincide it with the Rotary Club of Shepparton Market to be held at the Showgrounds in Shepparton. By coinciding with the Market we are guaranteed a crowd. A number of members were keen to help on the day and it is now been confirmed with the Rotary Club so the event is going ahead. **PLEASE NOTE – OUR MEETING ON SATURDAY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>.**

We need to meet at the Showgrounds at approximately 7.00am on the morning as the gates open at 8.00am to the public and we need time to set up. Members have offered to bring equipment on the day but at the moment we only have HF equipment. It would be good if we could set up a 2m station as well. I can supply the Radio if someone has a suitable 2m antenna that we can use. The reason I would like 2m is so we can demonstrate IRLP and Echolink to passers-by. If you have a suitable 2m antenna can you let me know and I will bring my Radio.

Steve VK3DP is bringing his portable HF antenna and the Club Radios and others are bringing other pieces of equipment. If you can help on the day please contact Steve or myself if you have not already done so. The more helpers and operators that we have the more fun it will be.

Below is our calendar of events for the next few months and you will note that we have our

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|------------------------|--|
| April 5 <sup>th</sup>  | No Meeting   |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Amateur Radio Public Relations Day at Shepparton Showgrounds           |
| April 20 <sup>th</sup> | Cancelled for this year due to clashing with Easter and ANZAC weekend. |

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

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to as many of you as possible on the 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Peter – VK3FPSR  
President – SADARC

## Minutes of SADARC Feb 2014

Meeting Opened 13.00

Present,

Vk3pxj,vk3ov,vk3dsf,vk3cop,vk3hbw,vk3faln,vk3dp,Bill Crocker,vk3bph,vk3xnw,vk3kby,vk3chv,vk3pop,vk3fpsr.

Apologies,

Vk3fjhm,vk3pgkvk3jnc,vk3fbng,vk3geb,vk3tex,vk3alf.

Previous minutes,

Accepted with one correction, vk3fpsr was present.

1<sup>st</sup> vk3bph, 2nd vk3cop.

Business arising from previous minutes.

Greg told us the beam is ready to reinstall ,but will need to inspect pole before it will be mounted .Peter will look into finding a key to gain access condition of pole.

80 meter net down a little on numbers but at this stage no need to change the time it is held.

It has been decided that the xmas dinner will alternate between Benella and Shepparton on alternate years.

Greg looked into changing banks for a better deal but after research decided against any change.

The acma will need more information to talk action on the button pusher on the repeater.

Toby has a set of keys for the hut on Mt Wombat and we need to look into getting them returned.

Finance.

All going well, no new expenses (as listed in report.)

Tech report,

Rodney was not present but gave a good report in the February news letter.

ARVictoria has the repeater covered on its insurance policy as far as we know.

Pat will look into booking the hall for the hamfest to ensure all will be in place for later in the year.

General Business,

It has been noted the BBQ with the Bendigo club will be during Easter and may need to change the date but will need to contact them to see if any change is needed.

PR for AR might be able to be combined with the BBQ but waiting to find out about having it at Shepparton show grounds at the hot rod and swap meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April.

SADARC has enough radios for the display but some sort of vertical hf antenna will need to be used. Steve said he will be able to assist with an antenna for hf .Barry will contact the Rotary club to find out more details of the event. At this stage no details have been confirmed.

The Murray quad on the 10<sup>th</sup> May in Yarrawonga looks to be going well with 8 members offering to help on the day .At this stage MtMajor looks like the best option on 2 meters

As the 2 meter at Yarrawonga is out of action.70 cm still working at Yarrawonga but unsure if enough members have 70 cm .Still a little bit more research on what equipment people have ,this will help with there placement on the course.

Dstar repeater is still not repaired at this stage but will wait until the next meeting to decide if any more action is required.

Meeting closed 14.50.

# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT – March 2014 (19/3/14)

## DISASTER

**I always like to say that things are going well at our Mt Wombat Repeater site. Regrettably I can't say that this month.**

On the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> March an electrical storm hit Mt Wombat which caused damage to a number of sites ours included. Below is a list of the damage to our site. Ray Wales VK3RW journeyed up to Mt Wombat on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to see what damage had been done and to repair what he could.

- The Motorola power supply was hit and the supply is putting out 15.5 volts when it should be 13.7 volts. See further notes below.
- UHF CB repeater. Transmitter and receiver are not operating, and the DC plug into the device is burnt.
- The 6 mx repeater was inoperative but Ray found a shorted zener which has been cut out of circuit. The repeater is now operational. The zener is to be replaced.
- The 70 cm repeater was also inoperative but Ray also found a shorted zener in this device and it was cut out of circuit. The repeater is now operational. The zener is to be replaced.
- The power supply is capable of supplying quite high currents (I've measured 60 amps) and with the voltage at 15.5 volts (18.5 volts off load) it has caused a number of the problems mentioned above but probably not all of them. The batteries have been boiling for probably around a day – the extent of damage to them is unknown at this stage. Ray could smell quite high levels of acid fumes in the building and the batteries are gel types which are sealed with expansion valves so under normal circumstances no fumes will be produced. It is likely that the high voltage caused the two zener diodes in the 6mx and 70cm repeaters to go short circuit and take out the fuses. No fuse was blown so high voltage may have done the damage in the UHF CB repeater. We are fortunate that the 2 mx repeater did not suffer a similar fate.

### **What is the situation now?**

- The 2 metre repeater is fully operational. It has a low level audio tone on the signal which normally indicates that it is running on batteries. However, this has had to be bypassed and the repeater is running on AC using its own internal power supply.
- Both the 6mx and 70cm repeaters are capable of operating but as the power supply is faulty and providing too high a voltage they have been turned off, and will only be put back into service once the power supply is serviced.
- The UHF CB repeater and the Motorola power supply have both been removed by Ray, and they will be serviced as soon as practical by members of the committee. Too early to say what needs to be done with both of these items.
- Depending on committee members commitments the standby power supply will be installed until the Motorola supply is serviced. Hopefully the zener diodes can be replaced at the same time.

- How much damage has been done to the batteries is unknown and capacity tests will need to be done, but don't be surprised if we have to replace these batteries and they are not cheap. Ray is aware of a supplier that has batteries that may suit our site.
- Moves are being made to get the two power supplies over to Rodney so that repair of the Motorola can be undertaken and the standby installed as soon as possible.
- I'm not sure but I suspect that some if not all of this repair work may be covered by our insurance through Amateur Radio Victoria – hope so.

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

What a saga! The repeater has been out of service now for around 17 months. Greg VK3POP hopes to have an answer from Icom on when and if the repeater can be made serviceable by Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. This is after the cut-off date for the newsletter so further info will be available at the next meeting.

### **Analogue Repeaters**

Only the 2 metre repeater is operational at this stage.

### **New 6 meter antenna**

This antenna has not been installed at this stage due to pending alterations to the tower guying arrangements which could alter the radiation pattern of the antenna. Peter VK3FPSR hopes to talk with Peter Mill of Amateur Radio Victoria shortly so that we can get a likely time for this work to be done. See last month's news for more details on this.

### **Club rooms HF beam reinstallation**

The 3 band 3 element yagi antenna has been overhauled and is ready for reinstallation. However, access to the wooden pole that it is normally mounted on is needed and it is in a locked enclosure for which we don't have a key. We want the pole's safety tested before the antenna is re-installed. Greg VL3POP is following this up.

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

## **For Sale and Give Away.**

The club has been given a large number of transistors which are located at Rodney VK3UGs place. The list of transistors available was published in a recent newsletter. They are freebies, you need to contact Rodney with your requirements.

For Sale; A variety of Amateur Radio orientated books, see Rodney VK3UG at a meeting or at his home to see what he has.