



Founded 1979 Incorporation No A6677 P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632

Repeaters VK3RGV Freq: 53.725MHz (1 meg offset), 146.65MHz (**IRLP Node #6992 not operational at this time**) (600 kHz offset), 439.775MHz (5 MHz offset), 438.2MHz (D-Star) [**D-Star not operational at this time**] Access to the analog repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise mute (less sensitive).

Club Network informal on air get togethers. All welcome.  
Wednesday evening - 3.62 MHz ± interference 7.00pm,

Club callsign VK3SOL:-  
2mx repeater 8.00pm

Meetings are held at 1pm on the first Saturday of the month (except January when no meeting occurs) at the Mooroopna Scout/Guide Hall off Echuca Road, Mooroopna. Variations in these times and days are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

Website – [www.sadarc.org](http://www.sadarc.org)

**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.

President:- Peter Rentsch

VK3FPSR

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Secretary:- Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

[andyashley@icloud.com](mailto:andyashley@icloud.com)

Vice-President:- Barrie Halliday

VK3KBY

Treasurer: - Ron Burns

VK3COP

Membership Sec: - Pat O'Shannessy

VK3OV

Webmaster: - Steven Hamer

VK3DP

Station Manager: - Vacant

VK3CHV

Publicity Officer: - Vacant

VK3FPSR

Technical Committee: - Phil VK3ELV, Ray VK3RW, Geoff VK3ZNA, Kevin VK3BPH & Rodney VK3UG

Newsletter:- Rodney VK3UG & Peter VK3FPSR

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## Newsletter October 2015

**NOTE:** - The above list is the list of committee members for the forthcoming year commencing on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015. We thank all those members who worked tirelessly over the last 12 months and welcome on new appointees to the committee. We have two positions vacant – Publicity Officer and Station Manager. Any volunteers?

**NEXT MEETING:** - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November commences with a **BBQ at 11 am**, so plan to arrive for that and a chat with other members.

The **Murray Quad** which will be run on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016, will be discussed at length at the meeting by those involved in its running. There is a need for at least 12 of our club members to operate radio check points during the running of the event to assist in its safe running. The club will receive a donation from the Murray Quad group for our assistance. More details at the meeting.

## **Presidents Report October 2015**

Well I am back after an 8 month break. Whether that is good or bad is still to be seen. Thank you to the Club for again placing their confidence in me.

Firstly, let me thank all the outgoing members of the executive especially to those who have not taken on position again this year. To Greg who has led us through a tough year through no fault of our own and to John who has done an excellent job as Secretary. To all those who have stood again thank you, for your continued support.

While I am on thankyou's, to all those who helped at our recent Hamfest in any way, thank you very much. We came out with a profit on the day due to the hard work and commitment of all those who helped.

Welcome to our new Secretary Andy who has recently obtained his Advanced Licence – VK3AJA and to all the other members of the Executive, thank you for making yourselves available to assist with the continued growth of our Club.

It is my endeavour to get this Club active in a number of areas that we to date have been remiss in making happen. More publicity to the public, outside broadcasts, guest speakers, new technology, new methods of communication and perhaps even some more social events where all the family can join in.

We are starting the year running, or should I say bike riding, canoeing and swimming as well. Members may recall that a couple of years ago we assisted with communication for the Murray River Quad. We have been asked again to help with this event and to explain what is required of us Tim Roadley; the event director will be our guest at the next meeting to explain our responsibilities.

This is a great way for us to promote Amateur Radio so, the more we have involved the better.

Our December meeting will be a Christmas Luncheon tentatively booked for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Benalla Bowls Club. This is the only date that was suitable for us so Ron VK3COP has booked it. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

Don't forget that our next meeting will be a BBQ prior to the meeting at the Club rooms. All being well the doors will be open at 11.00am for a social chit chat and a bite to eat.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Peter VK3FPSR President - SADARC

## **MINUTES GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting opened at 1/10 pm

Apologies were VK3FJHM JOHN, VK3FALN ALLAN, VK3DSF MAX, VK3GEB BOB, VK3JNC IAN, VK3POP GREG, VK3HEN DARREN,

Those in attendance were, VK3COP RON, VK3PXJ JOHN, VK3OV PAT, VK3FBNG BRUCE, VK3ZE HUNTLEY, VK3AJA ANDY, VK3CAF CLINT, VK3DP STEVEN, VK3BPH KEVIN, VK3FPSR PETER, VK3UG RODNEY, VK3ZNA GEOFF, VK3TJS JACK, VK3KBY BARRIE.

Inward mail was a flyer from Jaycar, outward mail nil, moved Steven VK3DP seconded by Rodney VK3UG

Minutes be accepted moved by Kevin VK3 BPH seconded by Pat VK3OV,

Financial report presented by Ron VK3COP, moved they be accepted by Ron seconded by Kevin VK3BPH

Rodney VK3UG, presented the technical report.

General business. Jan's (VK3ALF) wife has requested no more correspondence from the club as Jan is in a retirement home.

There will be a barbecue at the next meeting starting at 11 am  
Meeting closed 2pm

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting opened at 2/20/pm

Apologies were from, VK3 FJHM JOHN, VK3 FALN ALLAN, VK3DSF MAX, VK3GEB BOB, VK3JNC IAN, VK3POP GREG, VK3HEN DARREN, VK3CAF CLINT.

Those in attendance were VK3COP RON , VK3PXJ JOHN , VK3OV PAT ,VK3FBNG BRUCE ,VK3ZE HUNTLY ,VK3AJA ANDY, VK3DP STEVEN ,VK3BPH KEVIN ,VK3FPSR PETER, VK3 UG RODNEY, VK3ZNA GEOFF , VK3 TJS JACK , VK3KBY BARRIE

Minutes received ,moved by Rod VK3UG seconded by BRUCE VK3FBNG, RON VK3COP presented and moved the financial report be accepted, seconded by Barrie VK3KBY.

Nominations for committee

Rod VK3 UG nominated Peter VK3FPSR for president. Peter accepted  
Barrie VK3KBY was nominated by VK3PXJ John for Vice president, seconded by JACK VK3TJS. Barrie accepted.  
Secretary = Rod VK3UG nominated Andy VK3AJA, seconded by VK3BPH Kevin Andy accepted.  
Treasurer = Ron VK3COP was nominated by Kevin VK3 BPH seconded by Pat VK3OV, Ron accepted.  
Website = Steven VK3DP  
Technical committee is Phil VK3ELV, Rod VK3UV, Geoff VK3ZNA, RayVK3RW, and Kevin VK3BPH  
Membership Pat VK3OV,  
Station Manager = vacant at present, to be confirmed by Ian VK3CHV  
Newsletter= Rodney VK3UG moved by Peter VK3FPSR Seconded by Andy VK3AJA

Meeting closed at 3/30/

**NOTE:** - Some members were unable to attend the meeting and were re-nominated for the positions that they had over the last 12 months as noted in the AGM minutes. These members have been contacted to ascertain whether they are in a position to continue in the role they had. Some are able to do so and some have relinquished their position and we thank them for their contribution over the last 12 months to those positions.

**The new committee member positions are shown on the newsletter header.**

Another year in the life of the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club. This last year has not been one that has gone at all smoothly as you know but this coming year we are hoping for a more settled year with more interesting club projects and talks than we have had this year. The legal and other problems that were thrust upon us that concerned our continuing occupancy and ability to maintain an excellent repeater site on Mt Wombat diverted us from more interesting club activities. I agree totally with Peter's **Editors Ramblings** from last month's newsletter and would recommend that you read it again so that the problems spoken of do not re-occur.

Although our repeaters do not receive heavy usage they are there for the social and technical togetherness of club members. As examples, we have the SADARC club get together of a Wednesday evening and the Vintage Radio Club has a get together of a Sunday morning, both on the 2 metre repeater. Whilst not much talk is heard on the repeaters at other times if we leave a rig on receive on at least one repeater channel other members have an opportunity to contact other members, plus it gives an opportunity to provide a welcome to amateurs travelling through our area. Let's not forget the ability of our repeater system to be of use in an emergency. Our repeaters have wide coverage and in an emergency the 2 metre repeater remains on battery power for several days if the mains fail. So my suggestion is let one of your rigs run on receive on a repeater when you are about the shack but not actively operating.

Over this last year Greg Keegan VK3POP has been our President and presided over a very difficult year. His sterling work was recognised by a round of applause at the AGM on 10/10/2015. Greg was unable to attend due to family problems which meant he had to go to Melbourne at short notice. Well done Greg.  
John Waters efforts as Secretary were also recognised.

We are pleased to have Clint VK3CAF back from overseas where he has been for some time and Steven VK3DP whose work has kept him away from meetings for some time. Glad you both will be able to come more often in the future.

Max VK3DSF fell and cracked his hip recently which has slowed him down considerably. Max is in rehabilitation at Tatura until 20<sup>th</sup> of October. If the medical fraternity clear him he may well be home by the time of the next meeting. We wish you a speedy recovery Max.

Pat VK3OV will have had surgery on his right knee in Melbourne by the time members receive this newsletter. I believe he will be recuperating back in Shepparton. We wish Pat a speedy recovery.

Ron VK3COP our worthy treasurer will turn 90 about the time this newsletter is sent. Happy birthday Ron and your continuing activity in the club is appreciated. He had quite a sizeable amateur radio station at Goomalibee just out of Benalla for many years and a few years back he moved into Benalla. Ron for many years was a member of the Victoria Police and after he retired from that he took up acting as pilot vehicle for many over-dimensional and heavy loads going along our highways and byways. He only retired from acting as a pilot vehicle a few months back. This shows how capable Ron has been in his senior years. Good on you Ron.

Congratulations to Andy on getting his advanced amateur call at the first attempt (VK3AJA). He has had the call for two weeks and is getting into the hobby very smartly and has already got the work vehicle fitted out with HF mobile.

## **HAMFEST**

There was considerable discussion at the meeting about how the hamfest functioned. There were the good and not so good aspects of the running of the hamfest. It appears that 35 tables are all the hall can accommodate. Peter Rentsch who goes to other hamfests as both an interested amateur and as a commercial entity finds that the way we lay out tables, our charges and generally run our hamfests are okay but that we could also look at the ways other groups run theirs and learn from what works well for them and adopt some of their ideas. Ron made the point that we need to have more people on the day to run the hamfest so that no one member is overloaded with things to do. Relief is needed so that toilet and cuppa breaks can be easily achieved. People need to be put on a roster so the work load is spread. There are also thoughts on how better the catering can be arranged. Peter made a point that no items should be sold before the 10am start otherwise the general amateur visitor may well miss out on good items as they were presold amongst stall holders. Those already in the hall have an unfair advantage. Anyone who has ideas on how to make our Hamfest more appealing for both commercial entities and the general amateur public is invited to send either Peter VK3FPSR or myself VK3UG your thoughts on this. Do it soon whilst the hamfest is fresh in your mind.

Ron VK3COP provided some information on what needs to be done at and before the hamfest. This needs to be looked at as soon as possible before any good or bad ideas can be looked at now well before the next Hamfest. How about next meeting before or after the Murray Quad is talked about.

Geoff VK3ZNA has info and equipment that is on 3.4 GHz (?) that is available for modification from the band it is on to one of our SHF bands. This is an interesting area of spectrum to experiment on so contact Geoff for more info.

## **ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR**

A list of possible activities for the year is being drawn up and all members are asked to put forward their ideas on what we should be doing at meetings. Please advise me or Peter so that things can be discussed in committee and general meetings.

Andy would like to see us invite Fred Swainston up to talk to us about amateur examinations. Our club has been slack over the last few years as we have not had people qualified to take aspiring amateurs for examinations. If we want the club to progress we need to look at helping those who would like to join our ranks.

Rodney is to look at getting the locks at our Mt Wombat site overhauled, some tumblers changed and new keys cut. As at 20/10/15 the smaller lock has been removed and serviced and is waiting to be reinstalled. The other older lock may be overhauled by the time of our meeting.



The Murray Quad is to be held on the Sunday of the March Labour Day long weekend, 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 on and around Australia's famous Murray River which is home to one of the world's oldest and longest kayak race, the Murray Marathon. The Murray Quad, as a unique event that consisting of 4 legs (Swim, Run, Cycle and Paddle) and based on the World Quadrathlon distances, it is the only one of its kind in Australia and is supported and encouraged by the World Quadrathlon Federation.

***Starting with the 3.2 km Swim in Yarrawonga on Lake Mulwala, the Murray Quad will test competitors by following up the swim with a 21.1 km Half Marathon run locally in Yarrawonga then heads out of town on the bike for 91.5 kms before arriving in Cobram where they will hit the water, finishing the gruelling event with a 25 km paddle down the mighty Murray River to arrive at Tocumwal completing a total of 141kms of physical endurance.***

To support the participants in the Murray Quad through the course there will be a number Emergency Access Points (EAP) that will relying information on the progress of the participants to the race director and advise the event safety officer of any emergency that has occurred on the course and assist the medical service teams if required.

### ***Location of Communications located around the event, this may include Radios and mobile phones.***

Between the start and the finish of the race there will be 13 on land communication check points and an additional communication on safety boats located on the water for the swim and paddle leg. If there is an incident during the event the team located at these check points will be responsible for relying information back to central control (CC) that is located at the Yarrawonga rowing club.

Com Pt	EAP	Leg	Information	Kms from CC	Location
CC	EAP 1	Swim& Run	Start & Transition	0 m	Yarrawonga Rowing Club
1	EAP 2	Swim & Run	Chinaman's Island	1km	Atchieson Point
2	EAP 3	Swim & Run	Silverwoods	2km	Pierce Point Silverwood
3	EAP 4	Run & Bike	Murray Valley Hwy	3km	Cnr Hogans Rd & Murray Valley Hwy
4	EAP 5	Bike	Boomahnoomoonah	21km	Boomahnoomoonah Rd & Tungamah Rd
5	EAP 6	Bike	Wilby Drink Station	22km	Wilby Recreation Reserve entry
6	EAP 7	Bike	Tungamah Relay Change	30km	Tungamah Pub Barr St Tungamah
7	EAP 8	Bike	Katamatite Pit Stop	37km	Chapel Rd & Bourke Rd Katamatite
8	EAP 9	Bike	Highway Crossing	35km	Murray Valley Highway Cobram
9	EAP 10	Bike & Paddle	Cobram Transition	40km	Thompson Beach Cobram
10	EAP 11	Paddle	Paddle on land (Vic)	45km	Dead River Beach
11	EAP 12	Paddle	Relay Changeover (NSW)	53km	Smithers Beach
12	EAP 13	Paddle	Paddle on land (Vic)	55km	Brentnalls Beach
13	Finish	Paddle	Finish (NSW)	57km	Tocumwal Town Beach.

### **A request**

To make the newsletter more interesting input from members is sought. This can be social, technical or anything that you feel may be of interest to members. As newsletter editor I am not the font of all knowledge.