



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

Repeaters VK3RGV Freq: 53.725MHz (1 meg offset), 146.65MHz (IRLP Node #6992, and Echolink active.) (600 kHz offset), 439.775MHz (5 MHz offset), 438.2MHz (D-Star) [D-Star not operational at this time on Mt Wombat] 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. Club callsign VK3SOL:-  
Wednesday evening - 3.62 MHz ± interference 7.00pm, 2mx repeater 8.00pm

The local vintage radio club has a get together at 11.00am of a Sunday on the 2 metre repeater. Many of their club members are members of SADARC too, so join in for a chat.

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	<a href="mailto:pages.cobram@bigpond.com">pages.cobram@bigpond.com</a>	
Secretary:- Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	<a href="mailto:andyashley@icloud.com">andyashley@icloud.com</a>	
Vice-President:- Barrie Halliday	VK3KBY	Treasurer: - Ron Burns	VK3COP
Membership Sec: - Pat O'Shannessy	VK3OV	Webmaster: - Steven Hamer	VK3DP
Station Manager: - Vacant		Publicity Officer: - Vacant	
Technical Committee: - Phil VK3ELV, Ray VK3RW, Geoff VK3ZNA, Kevin VK3BPH & Rodney VK3UG			
Newsletter:- Rodney VK3UG (Editor)	<a href="mailto:rodlynn6@bigpond.com">rodlynn6@bigpond.com</a>	& AndyVK3AJA (Printing/ Distribution)	

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**NOTE:- the next meeting has been brought forward to 10am on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April as our normal date clashes with Mothers' Day. We will commence work on upgrading the club station and more particularly the antennas systems. Bring tools and maybe ladders that could be useful for getting antenna wires over tree branches. A BBQ will follow.**

### Presidents Report April 2016

A smaller but quality gathering at our last meeting with some great discussion had as to how to improve the Club and what it has to offer. Thanks to all those who attended. Thanks to Andy VK3AJA who spoke about the little Chinese UHF/VHF Radios that are now available for next to no cost. (I have bought two, \$86.00 in total including freight, delivered in 4 working days, programmed by Andy in 10 minutes – not bad eh!)

A fairly busy month radio wise this month. Not talking on air but other radio related matters. After our meeting on Saturday I travelled back to Shepparton on the Sunday to do the Assessor Training Course with 4 other Club members. Fred Swainston VK3DAC travelled up from the Yarra Valley for the day to lead the training sessions. Fred did a great job and you will be pleased to know that we all passed. Thanks must go to Fred for making the effort to get us trained. Thanks also must go to Andy and his wife Tania for allowing us to use their home for the training and also for the lovely food that Tania provided. A very successful day that will give the Club the ability to do our own assessing and to also offer training courses particularly for those interested in doing the Foundation Certificate.

The following Sunday back down the Shepparton road we go. What a magnificent day weather wise we had on Sunday at Goulburn Weir for our annual get together with the Bendigo Amateur Radio and Electronics Clubs. A good roll up from both Clubs with excellent social interaction among us all. A great way to meet the voice behind the microphone. Thank you to all those who attended.

You will see from the **BIG RED NOTE** at the top of this newsletter that our next meeting has been changed from our regular meeting date to the 30<sup>th</sup> April. The following weekend which would be our normal meeting day is Mother's Day weekend and this meant that there would have been a lot of us away.

So, our next meeting will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April commencing 10.00am. We will commence with a working bee with a twofold purpose.

1. To check, tidy up and erect some better antenna's outside that we are confident in.
2. To tidy up inside the shack upstairs and to make it a much more user friendly environment to operate in.

I have asked the technical committee to investigate what we may need on the day and if anything needs to be purchased such as coax, joiners etc to do so. Hopefully by the end of the day our station will be operating much more efficiently.

After all the hard work we will have a BBQ commencing at about 12.00 noon. This will then be followed by our regular meeting.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next meeting.

Cheers & 73

Peter – VK3FPSR  
President – SADARC

### **SADARC Calendar of Events**

April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Working Bee commencing at 10.00am followed by a BBQ and regular Club meeting at 1.00pm.
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting with Guest Speaker – Speaker already organised
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Meeting

August 6<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Meeting  
September 11<sup>th</sup> SADARC Hamfest

## AGENDA

### Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Meeting - Minutes

2-04-2016 1:00pm

- Welcome

VK3TJS Jack, VK3COP Ron, VK3ZE Huntly, VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3UG Rodney, VK3VSM, VK3FPSR Peter, VK3KMF Mark, VK3AJA Andy.

- Apologies

VK3FALN Alan, VK3FBNG Bruce, VK3KDY Barry, Jason Jones, VK3GEB Bob, VK3PXJ John.

- Confirmation of Minutes of previous Meeting  
Read by Peter. Moved by Ron, seconded Rodney.

- Matters arising from the Minutes  
None.

- Inward and Outward Correspondence  
Inward, WIA insurance forms.  
Outward, WIA insurance forms completed.

- Reports

- President  
None.

- Financial

- Read by Ron. Moved by Ron, Seconded by Geoff.  
Technical

- Read by Rodney, Mt Wombat status. More info to come in next few weeks. No info as yet.

- General Business

Mark mentioned Possible combining new membership with supply of Masts. Or Welcome type kit. Perhaps New to Amateur Radio pack?

Some works need to be completed at Clubhouse to Antenna systems.  
Possible BBQ and works was mentioned for next meeting?

BBQ at Nagambie This Sunday 10th April 10:00am with Bendigo club and car boot sale.  
Electric BBQs are on site for use, bring Food Drink, Family.

- Closure and date of next meeting. 30<sup>TH</sup> April (see Red notes above.)  
Meeting closed 2:17 pm.

## EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Our meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April wasn't as well attended as our meeting for March with only about 11 members in attendance most of the time. Some had to go early and some didn't arrive until late. Members were reminded of the BYO BBQ lunch on the 10<sup>th</sup> being held at the Goulburn Weir.

Some enquiries are being made with the Echuca Steam Rally organisers about our club having a site at the Rally on the long weekend (11-13<sup>th</sup>) in June. Depending on facilities available will depend on what we can do. We need to remember it will be a noisy physical and electrical environment (lots of old spark ignitions engines around the place).

An information pack is in the process of being assembled by Andy and Rodney that will be sent out to all the amateurs in the area to encourage them to become involved in the club. The info will be circulated amongst our members for any suggestions on improvements to what Andy and Rodney come up with.

The status of the Mt Wombat repeater site is that the tower is fully installed and from talking with Paul Watters work may commence on populating the new tower with antennas around the end of this month. Other than that the repeaters are working as normal.

Geoff VK3ZNA and Rodney VK3UG are to look into getting bits and pieces available to do work on the club station. See the notice in red at the header of the newsletter.

Our repeaters get spasmodic use and it is suggested that members have their equipment running even if you have no real intention of transmitting, as you never know if someone may call you. I've had some quite interesting contacts that way. If you have the gear, monitor all three active repeaters.

A motion was presented at the meeting suggesting that we consider our membership fees at the next AGM. This was set aside and will be presented in the newsletter nearer to the AGM so people don't forget about it.

We are looking at how we may apply for grants for equipment or training etc.

The Assessor training day on 3<sup>rd</sup> April was attended by a number of our members and the feeling was it was well worthwhile.

It has been suggested that the 2mx and 80mx club skeds would be more effective if their times were swapped. Propagation on 80mx is better in the night time, whereas 2mx is not dependent on reflection from the Ionosphere.

Andy gave a very interesting talk on obtaining some of the cheap Chinese dual band 70cm/2mx hand held transceivers and the programming of them.. Andy was talking of prices less than \$50. If you are interested in one or more of these devices contact Andy and he can point you in the right direction. He can also program them for you if you ask nicely.

We are always on the lookout for talks to be given at meetings. A couple have recently shown up on the radar and if we can persuade the members who are working on these projects we will have some quite interesting talks. We have three members who design and work on power supplies; they are all quite different intended for quite different purposes. One amateur is well and truly involved in both satellite and moon bounce.

## **IRLP**

Continuing on in the use of IRLP. Last month we discussed the basics to get you up and running. We spoke about connecting to a node and the protocol required to make that connection and the how to contact somebody at the other end.

IRLP nodes have time outs on them just like any normal repeater. These time outs vary between 1 minute and 4 minutes, so if you speak too long you time out and drop off. The time out facility on the IRLP node is controlled by the software on the nodes associated computer, not necessarily by the repeater itself. Therefore, if the node is set to time out after 3 minutes and the repeater is set to time after 4 minutes you will time out after 3. The time outs for the repeaters and nodes are affected by the times set on both receive and transmit repeaters and nodes.

Occasionally when you try to disconnect at the end of a session the system will not disconnect. If this occurs then the system will automatically disconnect after 15 minutes of inactivity. This is not an ideal situation as it means that repeaters at both ends of the connection are still connected and that can then interfere with any local communication that may be wishing to use the repeater. The auto time out is really only a last ditch fail safe fix, so I suggest that if you can't disconnect immediately leave it for a minute or so and try again.

In your reading about IRLP you may have come across the term "reflector". A reflector in IRLP parlance is a computer that is connected to multiple nodes. It allows many nodes to be interconnected simultaneously. The time out process is overridden by entering a sequence of codes known to the reflectors administrator. A normal IRLP connection gives you a one to one connection whereas connecting through a reflector gives you a one too many connection. To connect to a reflector you use a four-digit number the same as you would for a normal node. These reflector node numbers are found on the IRLP web site.

Most IRLP communication is through repeaters that use 2m or 70cm. Occasionally you will find a node that uses 6m or another frequency. Foundation licensees need to be aware of what frequency the nodes they are calling is on. If it is a frequency that under their licence rules they are not permitted to use then that is what applies except if it is in another country. Therefore if I, as an F call contact a node that is on 6m in Australia I am outside my band allocation and should not use it, but if I contact a node in the USA that is on 6m I am permitted to use it. Note that at this time I am not aware of any nodes anywhere in the world that use anything but 2m or 70cm.

That's it from me for this month on IRLP. Next month we will look at the actual physical side of the IRLP network. Where the computers come into it, is it really Amateur Radio or is it just a different form of Skype.

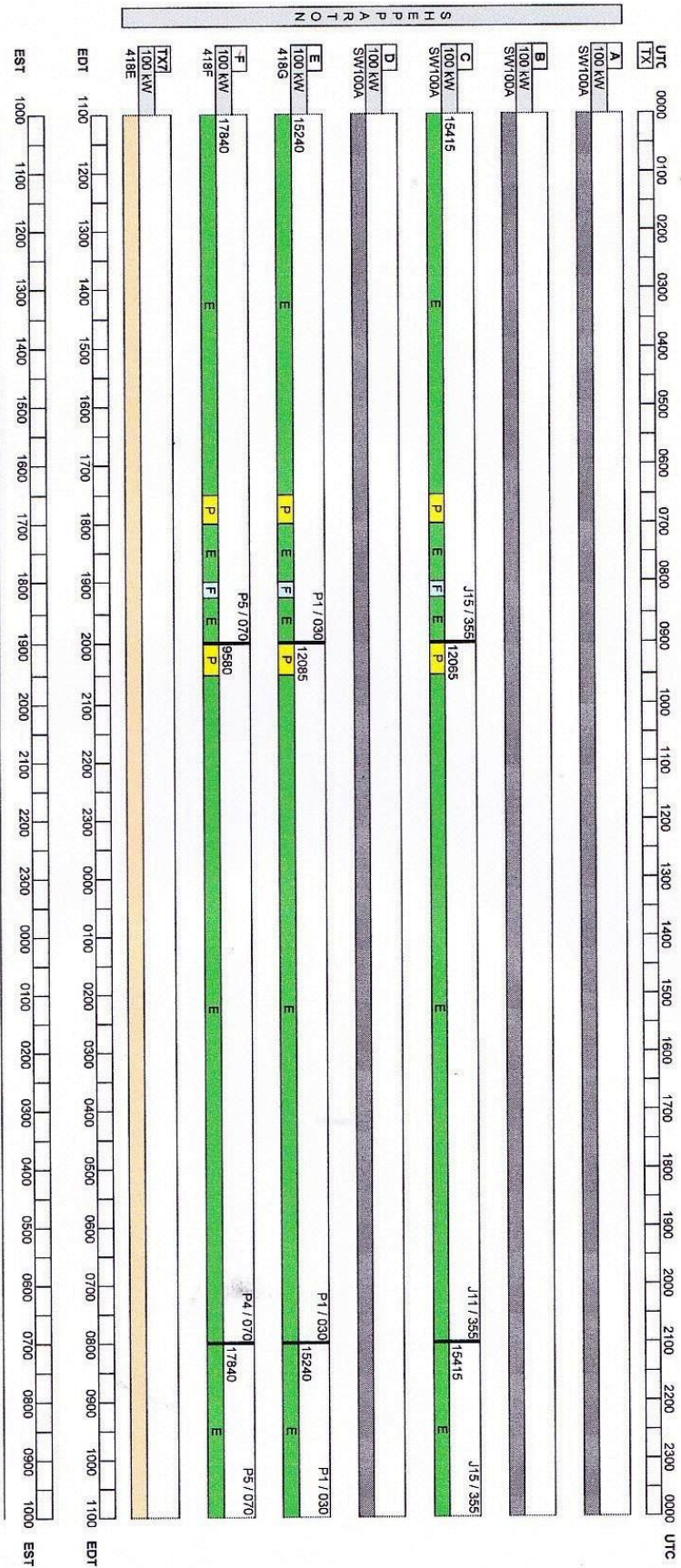
Peter. VK3FPSR

## **Radio Australia**

As many will know Radio Australia is a mere shadow of its former self. However, it does still run three out of the seven transmitters on site and if you are not in the skip zone from its transmission you will hear quite strong signals coming from its site just north of Shepparton. The transmission program and frequency schedule which commenced last month. The EIRP from the highest gain antennas is of the order of 10 megawatts.

# RADIO AUSTRALIA OPERATIONAL SCHEDULE - HF -

A16 v1.0 - Effective 0100 UTC Sunday 27 March 2016



English Antenna/Bearing  
FRQ (KHz) PROGRAM

French 0900-0805 UTC (English Sat & Sun)

Tok Pisin (English Sat & Sun)

Standby TX

OFF

UTC = Coordinated Universal Time  
EST = Eastern Standard Time (UTC+10 hours)  
EDT = Eastern Daylight Savings Time (UTC+11 hours)

UPDATED: G. Baker  
CHECKED:  
DATE: Feb 2016