



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

Repeaters VK3RGV Freq: 53.725MHz (1 meg offset),  
146.65MHz (IRLP Node #6992 **withdrawn from service. Technical upgrade in progress.**  
(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 analogue 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  $\pm$  interference 7.00pm, 2mx repeater 8.00pm

The WIA Sunday morning broadcast is often re-broadcast in the evening on the 2 mx repeater.

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 1 pm 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)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/sadarc.org](http://www.facebook.com/sadarc.org) Info for page contact Denny on [denny3782@gmail.com](mailto:denny3782@gmail.com)

**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) [rodlynn6@bigpond.com](mailto:rodlynn6@bigpond.com) & AndyVK3AJA (Printing/ Distribution)

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#### OTHER CLUB'S NEWS

Bendigo Amateur Radio & Electronics Club nets – Tuesdays 8pm 147.15MHz VK3RCV with club callsign VK3CMZ and Thursday 8pm 3.655MHz  $\pm$  interference. All welcome to participate. Many SADARC members are able to access their 2mx repeater.

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group – email [vk3bml@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au) and [www.barg.org.au](http://www.barg.org.au)

**STOP PRESS :- Radio Australia is to close all high frequency broadcasts on 31st of January 2017. This started to become known about a month ago (middle of the holiday season) that the ABC was closing all HF broadcasting, which means that Radio Australia in Shepparton will no longer exist as a transmitting station. This is a well known icon in the City of Greater Shepparton and also to our many members within SADARC.**

Radio Australia has been operating from Shepparton for 73 years. It has seven 100 kw transmitters and the latest was only installed about 2010 so at that time it was believed that Radio Australia would be here for a long time to come. The ABC is the parent body of Radio Australia and the ABC decided to close all HF broadcasting even that in the Northern Territory as they say that people now have internet access and if not they have access to FM broadcasting stations on VHF. One of the reasons given for the changes is that AM and HF broadcasting are old obsolete communications mediums. If this is so why is China increasing the number of transmitters to do what Radio Australia is going to stop doing?

This sounds great (if it were true) but the areas into which Radio Australia broadcasts the people may or may not have internet access or as most of the countries are rather poor they cannot afford the internet and computers. For example Fiji – about 10 years ago the hourly wage for many was \$2 and a packet of breakfast cereal was about \$8 so they are not wealthy people. The FM stations do not cover into many areas and if the country where they are located doesn't like what Radio Australia is transmitting the stations are closed down and have been. Whilst HF radio is subject to fading it is generally well received in the South Pacific and South East Asia as our transmitters with their high gain antennas provide a strong signal into these countries.

**What can be done about this? We collectively have little time as the closure date is the end of this month. I would urge you to do your bit and contact people and organisations of importance and bring to their attention the folly of closing Radio Australia's HF broadcasting. Have a look at this site of the ABCs <[about.abc.net.au/press-releases/shortwave-radio/](http://about.abc.net.au/press-releases/shortwave-radio/)> , and once you've read that have a look at the many sites that show why the closure is a bad idea.**

**Then it is your opportunity to contact the people of importance, your local Federal Member of parliament, Minister for External Affairs, Prime Minister, local and national papers, councils, and anyone else you can think of who would be interested in retaining Radio Australia. Don't rely on the elusive "they" it needs to be you doing something if you want our unique local icon to remain. I have contacted a number of people and organisations but because of the timing of the closure when most are on holidays not all have contacted me but some have. Your contribution may just be the one that causes the decision to be to close to be reversed.**

**Rodney VK3UG**

### **Presidents Report January 2017**

Well, here we are in 2017. I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and enjoyed the Festive Season. I hope Santa was as good to you as what he was to me and I will mention more about that later. Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas gathering in Mooroopna. It was an excellent venue for our needs and enjoyable time was had by all.

In our last Newsletter it was reported that the Albury ARC hosted a visit by two WIA Directors. This was incorrect and as President I take responsibility for this error and apologise to the members of the Albury ARC for this error.

At this time of the year we need to be looking at what we like to accomplish during our next 12 months. If you have a specific thing in mind that you would like to cover please let Andy or myself know and we will endeavour to make it happen. Geoff, VK3ZNA has sent me a list of ideas that he is suggesting and is happy to help organise. These are shown below and I think there is some great ideas in this list.

Establish the number of members that do not have 6 metre radios and/or antennas.

Explain construction of single freq, dual freq 6/2, and three freq 6/2/70 antennas to construct. Some members will want/upgrade their antenna

Construct an antenna 6m, 2m and 70cm, or combinations, as above.

How to use a Grid Dip Oscillator (Dip Oscillator), and supply a printed Instruction Sheet to attendees.

GDO construction or GDO adaptor for use with a signal tracer as the source of RF.

Magnetic Loop Antenna construction, Mark French has had butterfly capacitor plates laser cut for this project.

Using a Directional Wattmeter to measure VSWR. And an Instruction Sheet, as above.

Interference tracing and suppression in an amateur station.

Signal Generators, show and tell (to see what members have).

Modifications and additions to older signal generators to be more useful in the Amateur Station.

As you can see from the list Geoff has some excellent ideas for the Club members to tackle. If we can proceed with some of these straight away then we are all learning. I personally think we should move forward with the 6 metre projects as we have one of the best 6 metre set ups in the state and it hardly gets any use.

We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

Okay, now back to what Santa gave me Christmas. As many members would be aware there is a strong push for DMR radio. This technology is not a specific manufacturing technology but a technology embraced by both business and amateur alike. Due to the use by business there are many more choices when buying a Radio and the prices are much more affordable. So, for \$138.00 AU Santa was able to get me a Tytera MD-380 DMR radio. It is an UHF Analog/Digital radio and is one of the more popular models for DMR. There are many resources on the Internet on how to set it up and consequently I have spent some time learning about the programming of the device. I will bring the radio along to the next meeting so those interested can have a closer look.

I am hoping that when the new equipment goes up into Mt Wombat the Club may see fit to install a DMR Repeater as well. I am waiting to see how the Bendigo Club go with their testing to gauge what we as a Club should do. When the new equipment goes into Mt Wombat it will already have some of the components in place so as we can establish a DMR system. ARV have been happy to do this for us. We now need to wait and see.

At our next meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> February I have arranged two guest speakers. They are Joe VK3YSP and Julie VK3FOWL. Their presentation is "School Amateur Radio Clubs". If you subscribe to AR magazine you will know that both Joe and Julie are very passionate about Amateur Radio and their project has been written about in AR magazine. They will be here to talk to us about the possibility of establishing School Radio Clubs in our area. As they have already established three in Melbourne they are very experienced in the processes involved.

That's it for me this month. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> February.

Cheers & 73 Peter – VK3FPSR President – SADARC

## SADARC Calendar of Events

- February 4<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting at 1.00pm followed by Joe VK3YSP & Julie VK3FOWL talking about School Radio Clubs
- March 4<sup>th</sup> BBQ at 11.00am followed by Club Meeting and Guest Speaker
- April 1<sup>st</sup> Club Meeting with Guest Speaker
- April 9<sup>th</sup> Combined BBQ with BAREC (Bendigo) at Goulburn Weir TBC

**FOR SALE:-** Kenwood TS130S HF transceiver in good working order  
with handbook - \$300  
Contact Barrie VK3KBY 0427 116 101

**FOR SALE :-** Over the last few years I have developed AC power supplies to power valve type vintage battery radios and the designs and kits of parts are now available. The supplies are designed to supply DC LT voltages between 1.4 and 9 volts at up to 3 amps regulated, and DC High Tension voltages between 22.5 and 135 volts at up to 25 ma, plus bias voltages between -1.5 and -22 volts. All voltages are regulated. Printed circuit board to mount most of the parts \$22 posted in Australia with circuit information.

Printed circuit board and a kit of parts for the board plus a few components external to the board (but no heat sinks) Mk V version \$80 posted or for Mk VI version \$70 both posted in within Australia. Circuit, circuit information and construction ideas supplied for the version purchased.

Contact Rodney VK3UG 03 5825 1354 or email [rodlynn6@bigpond.com](mailto:rodlynn6@bigpond.com)

## The ancient art of Morse Code

Some consider morse code to be ancient and obsolete method of communications. It is a more effective method of communication using less bandwidth with less equipment complexity than SSB or AM, but it does require a greater dedication to become proficient with it. It is like another language and if you have some morse ability you will be able to read the identifying morse code on our repeaters and of those in other areas. As an example being able to read morse, it is handy then to see whether you are getting DX reception and not the locals. Our Mt Wombat repeaters identify in morse sending **VK3RGV** and the Mt Major repeaters sends **VK3RDU**. Now over to Les VK3TEX.

## **BEGALI CW MACHINE.**

A few months ago I was going through a bit of a low spot in my Amateur Radio activities and realised that I have already been licenced almost 20 years in this wonderful hobby, but I had just started losing interest in all aspects of the hobby that I normally would find pleasure in doing... SSB DXing and Digital modes had become boring and mundane...(especially with the low sunspot numbers...)

I needed to find a new challenge in the hobby before my interest finally waned to the point of finding something else to do with my spare time... I know a lot of Amateurs probably go through this malaise...

When I first got my licence it was then called the Limited licence which only allowed operation on VHF and UHF frequencies but NO HF operation without a Morse code qualification. At the time I had no real interest in transmitting on HF thus I didn't do a Morse test and left it at that. Later, the Morse code requirement was scrapped and limited operators were allowed to use HF, so then I did start to use it more and more to the point where most of my activity was on HF.

At the time when I first got my licence, Morse really didn't interest me, but over the years of using HF I have always thought that it would be nice to know how to use this mode, and at least keep the Amateur tradition alive and know how to use the code, on HF at least anyway.

Over the years my thoughts on Morse have changed and I believe every HF Ham should have some understanding of Morse even on a very basic level.

Learning Morse code is FUN if, and only IF, you have an interest. If you don't, then don't even bother as it takes time and dedication in practice of the code to get anywhere, you won't learn it overnight, that's for sure. And the best thing for me, is that it's a real CHALLENGE and a goal that I set for myself. Ultimately, my goal is to receive and send Morse by ear with no writing down at 20WPM. This is quite a lofty goal that I set myself, but I know I am up for the challenge.

Having made the commitment to study the code, I needed to find devices or products to help in my efforts to learn. After lots of searching I settled on a Hardware/Software device called the **Begali CW Machine**.

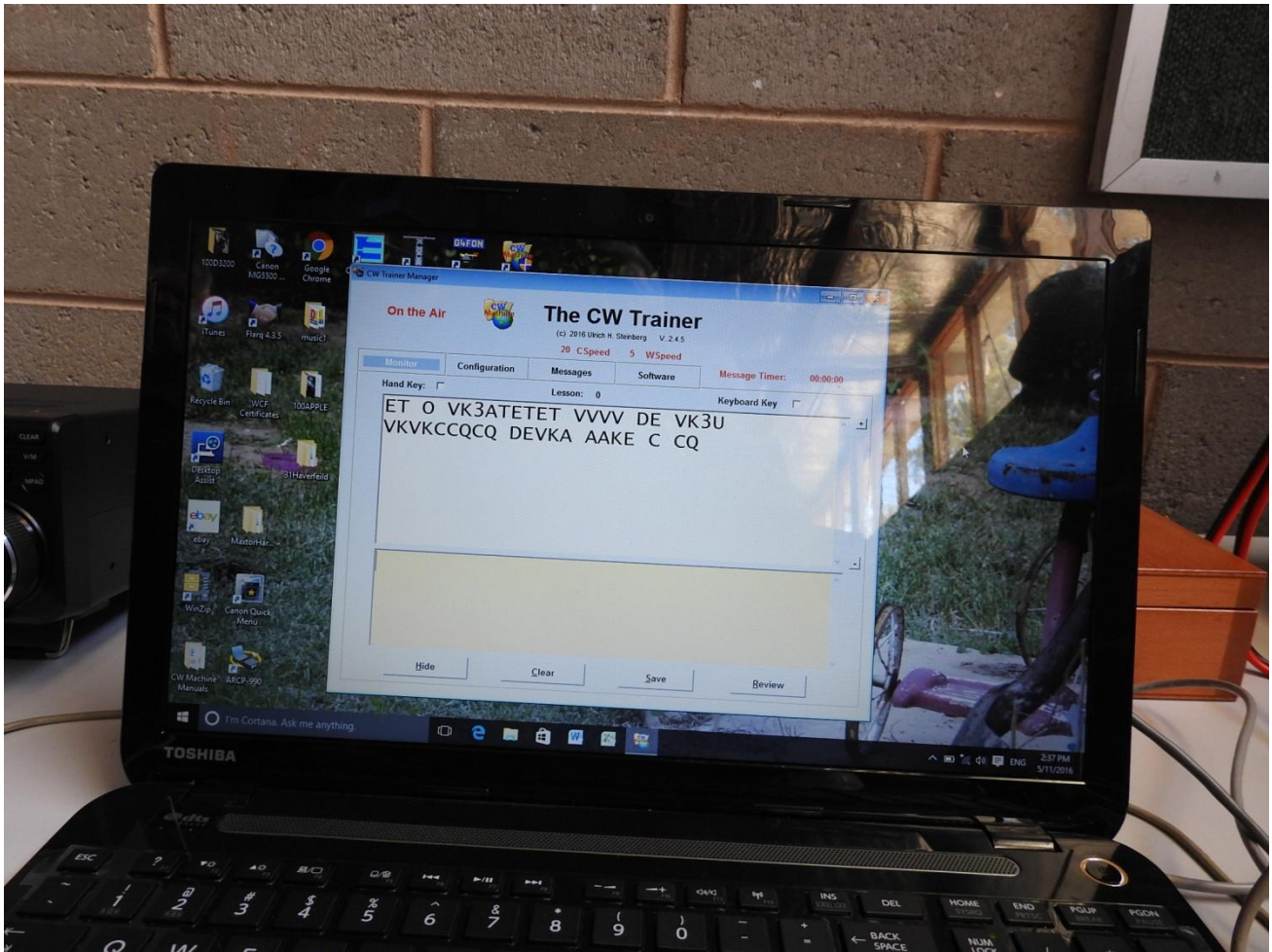
This is a standalone external CW Keyer which also has a CW training function program with the package that I purchased.

I have only used the Trainer function of the device so far, but from the start this is an absolute fantastic device for learning Morse. I believe that this is the ultimate device on the market for its purpose. It's extremely stable hardware and software package is very well thought out and is a mature product that works as advertised. Let me say, if you want to learn how to transmit and receive Morse PROPERLY this is the very best device for this purpose.

It has so many features and functions it's too much describe here, but its manuals are downloadable from the WEB and more info is available by googling "**Begali CW Machine**".

If you want to learn Morse, get this, it's well worth the money.

There will be more on Les's adventure into the realms of morse code in the next month or two. Like the report earlier on Radio Australia morse is supposed to be an obsolete communications medium. It may not be used a lot but it is a great medium once you really get into it.



Andy has obtained our club banner and it had its first airing at the end of year get together. As you can see it is quite effective.



## Editors Ramblings

- The Murray Quad took place in November. Unfortunately Bruce Glasson has been quite unwell and Myrtle has spent time in hospital so we have no report on the Murray Quad at this time. Get well quickly.
- Our repeater site took a near lightning hit over the Christmas New Year period which took out the power supply. The surge diverter, and a power transistor were the items that didn't survive. These items have been replaced and an additional varistor has been added that will also help with preventing lightning damage. The system ran for 3 ½ days before the system completely closed down – which it was designed to do. We do have a cold standby power supply and this was installed and is operating.
- There has been various opening on both 6 and 2 metres for DX both within and outside Australia, so keep an ear out for ducting and sporadic E propagation on the SSB call frequencies. Distant FM repeaters also are heard from time to time at this time of the year.
- The towers on the Hill. These photos should give you a fair idea of what the towers look like and the access to the new tower.

