



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

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

Facebook - www.facebook.com/sadarc.org

Info for page contact Denny on 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

pages.cobram@bigpond.com

Secretary:- Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

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

Publicity Officer: - Vacant

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

Newsletter:- Rodney VK3UG (Editor) rodlynn6@bigpond.com & Andy VK3AJA (Printing/ Distribution)

Presidents Report March 2017

Thank you to all those who attended our last meeting. My apologies for not being in attendance. Karen (my wife) fell ill late Friday night and spent a portion of Friday night in hospital. I felt I needed to be home to take care of her. After another trip to hospital on the following Tuesday and finally getting the message through to the Doctors she has been given some medication and is now on the improve after two weeks.

I understand the meeting all went well and I would like to thank Andy VK3AJA who ably stepped in and sorted out what needed to be done prior to the meeting.

One of Andy's tasks was to locate a screen to use for the presentation. Usually Rod VK3UG lends us his screen but Rod was not available. I assume Andy located one somewhere. I would like to suggest the Club purchase a screen. I, and others have been trying to locate one in op shops but to date have had no luck. I can source a new one that is portable, that is it is on a tri pod stand for \$260.00 new. Give this some thought and we can discuss it at the next meeting.

Our April meeting will be a "hands on" building day for those wanting to build a 6m 2m & 70cm antenna. Geoff VK3ZNA has willingly offered to run this project for us and I would encourage as

many as possible to be involved. Geoff has put a fair amount of effort in getting this project going so please support him and be involved. All materials will be supplied and there may be a small cost to cover some expenses for the materials. If you have not already let Geoff know you are interested in building the antenna then please do so prior to the meeting so Geoff can organise the correct amount of materials.

We will commence the day at 10.30am for those wanting to build the antenna. This will be followed by a BBQ and our regular meeting.

Don't forget also we have our Annual gathering at Goulburn Weir with the members of BAREC on Sunday 9th April. In the past we have had a very casual car boot sale at this gathering. So, if anybody has some preloved equipment that they wish to part with, bring it along for the day.

At this time I do not have a guest speaker booked for our May meeting and I would like to have someone speak to us. If anybody has a suggestion and knows of someone can they please let me know and I will contact them and see what I can arrange.

That's it for this month and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 1st April.

Cheers & 73

Peter – VK3FPSR President – SADARC

SADARC Calendar of Events

April 1st Antenna Construction Project, BBQ and then followed by Club Meeting and conclusion of the Antenna Project

April 9th Combined BBQ with BAREC (Bendigo) at Goulburn Weir.

May 6th Club Meeting with Guest Speaker

June 3rd BBQ at 11.00am followed by a Show n Tell

June 10th & 11th Steam Rally – Echuca

AGENDA – Meeting Minutes

Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Meeting

1:00 pm 4 March 2017

In Attendance were: VK3ZE Huntly, VK3COP Ron, VK3AJA Andy, VK3KJB John, VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3PXJ John, VK3AFD Arthur, John Stevens, VK3TEX Les, VK3DMD Doug, VK3POP Greg, Bill Crocker, VK3OV Pat, VK3FNQS Jason, VK3NQS Colin, VK3TJS Jacek
Guest Speakers: VK3BYD Warren, VK3KX Derek.

Apologies: VK3FALN Alan, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3FDV David, VK3FPSR Peter, VK3DSF Max.

Meeting was chaired by VK3ZE Huntly as President VK3FPSR Peter could not attend.

Moved by John, Second by Geoff. As Peter is not chairing meeting we kept it light.

Thank you, Huntly.

Confirmation of Minutes of previous Meeting. Read by Huntly.

Matters arising from the Minutes

We have discussed invite to Kyabram Vintage Machinery Rally.

Andy will email out asking who will be available to help. If enough numbers are willing He will book site. VK3PXJ John has indicated he will be available.

Inward and Outward Correspondence

In: Kyabram Vintage Machinery Invite. WIA insurance renewal invitation.

Out: none.

Reports

Financial: Read by Ron. Moved by Ron, Second by John.

Ron has mentioned that the Murray Quad has kindly donated \$500 to SADARC for help with coms. During event. A very nice gesture I might add!

Technical: No report delivered.

General Business

Andy has asked any members available to spend some time at John VK3PXJ's QTH to repair his HF antennas.

VK3ZE Huntly has kindly donated to the club a projector screen and stand, The club thanks him as will be quite useful.

Closure and date of next meeting

Closed 1:30 PM

We welcomed with a BBQ lunch Guest speakers VK3BYD Warren and VK3KX Derek.

They presented a very interesting talk on the emergency service DMR radio system in Victoria that they are involved in. It was interesting to note it uses the same DMR system as the Amateur Radio Repeaters we were shown some time ago. It was mentioned that using this system meant two QSO could be had at once on same frequency thus doubling its capacity, a point worth noting. They had an interesting presentation on the projector screen and followed up with a great insight into the challenges and requirements (Some quite complex) that needed to be addressed with new system. The coverage map was very impressive with only a very small amount of Victoria having no coverage. Some of the requirements were coverage to handheld units inside buildings! (Even with microphone cable wrapped around antenna hi hi) They noted that some major players were involved such as Telstra and Motorola and that the cost was significant.

All in all a very interesting talk.

The Club has thanked both Warren and Derek for taking the time to visit us and we presented them each with a fine bottle of red.

In Presidents absence, this report on guest speakers is written by Andy VK3AJA

Radio Australia and Northern Territory Short Wave Radio Closures.

This message has already been sent to members who receive their newsletters by email, but that is okay it is a reminder for them and a first time statement to those who get their newsletters by post. I would urge members who get their newsletters by post to seriously consider getting them by email it is quicker and if

something of time importance comes up you can be notified quickly (possibly the same day) not a week or two later by mail.

Due to the actions of Nick Xenophon there has been a senate committee set up to look at the possible restoration of Radio Australia's short wave international broadcasts and the short wave domestic broadcasts in the Northern Territory. By going to the site listed below you will be able to see that you have an opportunity to put ideas forward as to why the services should be retained. You will need to do it promptly as the findings of the deliberation will be finalised in May. I hope you will make the time to submit your opinions to the inquiry. My submission went in about a week ago by post. Have a read particularly of the 3rd submission as it covers most salient points but there could be others he hasn't thought of. Just because someone else appears to have said it all this should not stop you from having your say even if it is to say that you agree with what someone else has said.

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Shortwaveradio



We now have the third and final article by Les on his excursion into morse code. In this article he explains more of his introduction into morse code and we see what Les has done to restore an RAF Type D morse key. Thank you for this series Les. How about some article from more of our members, we can all learn from someone else's experiences.

RAF Type D Straight Morse Key

Back in 1994 I lived in Clayton South, a suburb of Melbourne, where I worked briefly for about a year and a half in a video gaming factory (poker machines) one of the only ones in Australia at the time.

I was fortunate to meet a guy who worked there at the time his name was Gerard, unfortunately,... I can't remember his last name.

At the same time there was an Amateur named Steve Bushell working there, his call is VK3HK. Some of you may have talked to him over the air. I had an interest in radio at the time and because Steve was an Amateur, we immediately hit it off!

I didn't have a licence, but we talked lots about all things radio on our breaks.

One day we were discussing Morse code and this unassuming guy named Gerard came up to us and told us quietly that he could do over 30WPM in Morse on a straight key. As he'd never talked to us about radio at all, we thought he was joking. We couldn't believe it.

He explained to us, that he used to be in the Mauritius merchant Navy as a Radio Operator for many years on the high seas in his younger days. He said that he could go a lot faster in his youth on a straight key! We were astounded; you never know who knows Morse code!!

Anyway, a while later I was due to leave this place of employment, and Gerard turned up one day with a Morse Key in hand and showed me what he used to use. I had a look at it, and was very impressed. Then I was stunned when he told me "You can have it, it's yours. I don't need it anymore, as I never use it and maybe you can get some use out of it"

I was stunned, this, nostalgic piece for him, and he was giving it to me. It was very humbling at first, and I refused, but eventually accepted his gift to me on my departure from this workplace.

It came home with me, and because I didn't have an interest in Morse at the time, or even a licence, I put the key away in storage, as you do!

Fast forward to 2016...

When I became interested in Morse this year I knew I still had a straight key in storage somewhere in my shed, so I went about looking for it.

I eventually found it in an old box and it was in a sad and sorry state... What to do? I decided it needed a well-deserved makeover and restoration.

I set about dismantling all the brass bits from the base and taking it all apart.

Once the base was by itself I cleaned it up and gave it two nice coats of black matte enamel spray paint. Turned out great. Then I took all the brass bits to my work where I polished all the bits up on a rotating buffing machine and got all the bits nice and shiny!

Then I reassembled all the bits to the base but needed to fit a new spring and found a suitable stainless steel one from my workplace. I fitted the spring but found there was too much slop in the spring tensioning mechanism. I simply fixed this problem with a cable tie on this mechanism and that cured the sloppiness, as I was finding that the key was going out of adjustment with my brass pounding!

Then I tested it out on the Begali CW Machine, and it worked great. A little adjustment and it worked well, but I can't send as fast with it like the keyer, but that's to be expected. But I'll keep practicing!

I will provide some before and after pictures for Rodney to include showing the startling difference after the restoration...

As a tribute to Gerard, and his gift to me, I want to make my very first CW QSO on HF with his Straight key and get a QSL card for it and frame it. I think a fitting tribute!

I hope all have enjoyed my article, and I will keep everyone up to date on my Morse progress. The best analogy I could use at the moment would be to compare it to learning the piano.

I have learned all the keys and what they sound like, but I am yet to put all the notes together on the sheet music and play a tune!

Anyway, I'll just keep practicing, as they say, PRACTISE MAKES PERFECT!

Cheers, Les, VK3TEX.

P.S. There is limited amount of information on the RAF-D Type key but some info can be found if you google **"RAF D Type Morse Key"**



FOR SALE :- Over the last few years I have developed AC power supplies to power valve type vintage battery radios. 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.

A printed circuit board to mount most of the parts is \$22 posted within Australia with circuit information.

A 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 or the Mk VI version \$70 both posted within Australia. Circuit, circuit information and construction ideas are supplied for the version purchased.

Contact Rodney VK3UG 03 5825 1354 or email rodlynn6@bigpond.com

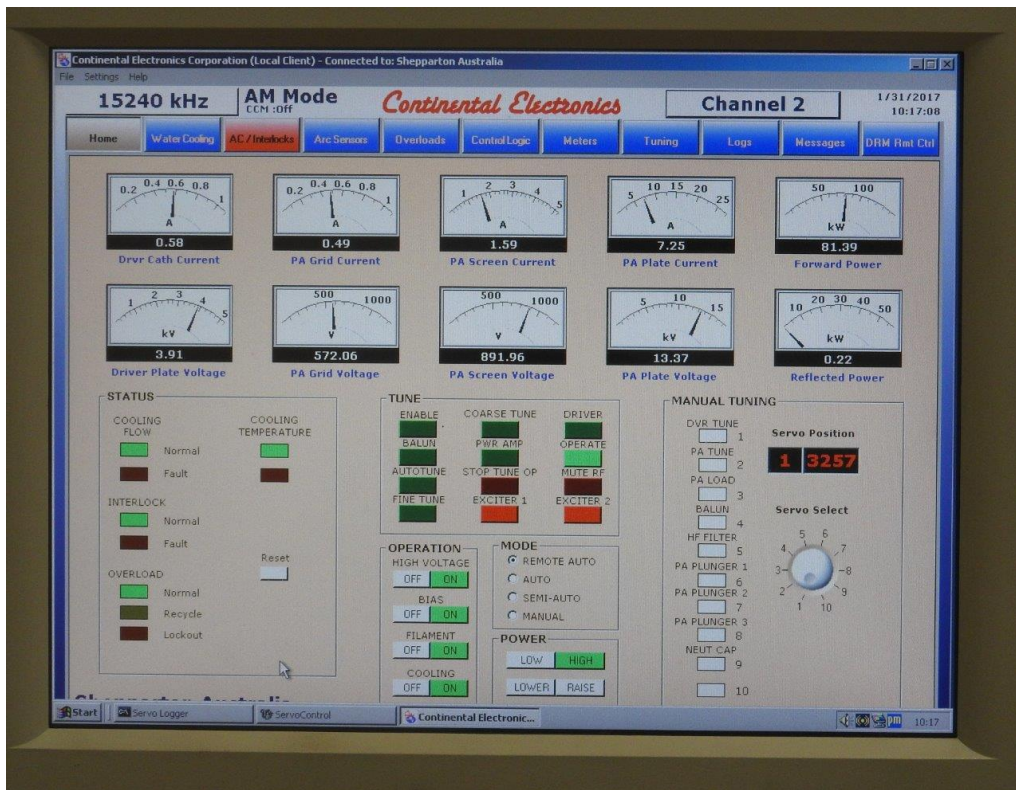
Wanted:- Adds for your surplus equipment, information sought, or wanted to buy.



This is the control panel of one of the Continental transmitters at Radio Australia. Sadly not now operating but hopefully in the future.

Editors Ramblings

- You will note that I have left out quite a bit of the heading I usually put in the newsletter. They will be put into the newsletter every couple of months.
- I have not heard from anyone whether the HF Wednesday night on air get together should be 7 pm or 8.30 pm. What is the best time – surely someone has an opinion.
- Andy reported that no other amateurs responded to his call for members other than John VK3PXJ to assist with a display of Amateur Radio at the Kyabram Vintage Machinery display earlier this month. Because of lack of support within the club the attendance by our club was cancelled. Andy found this disappointing as the club has nearly 50 members.



This is the control/indicator panel for the Continental 418G AM/DRM 100 kilowatt transmitter at Radio Australia. Sadly no longer are the meter readings occurring.



The Continental 418G 100KW AM/DRM transmitter at Radio Australia. This transmitter was installed around five years ago. DRM is Digital Radio Mondiale, a form of short wave digital radio transmission. It has not become popular and this transmitter has not been used in this mode to my knowledge.