



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

VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies

53.725MHz (1 Meg offset), **Operational.**

146.65MHz (600 kHz offset), **Operational.**

438.2MHz (D-Star) **Off-air (to be re-installed).**

438.650MHz (7 MHz offset and 91.5 Hz tone access only), **(Temporarily out of service.) ***

439.775MHz (5 MHz offset), **(Temporarily out of service.) ***

(*) These services may be back on line by our meeting time.

Access to most analogue repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise/carrier mute (less sensitive).

Club Network informal on air get togethers - Wednesday evenings. All welcome. Club call sign VK3SOL:-

2mx repeater 8.00pm (**On 146.650 MHz Mt Wombat**), 3.63 MHz \pm interference 8.30pm.

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, days and

location are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

Website – www.sadarc.org Face book - www.facebook.com/sadarc.org Info for the page contact

Denny French on denny3782@gmail.com

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.

The following repeaters do not belong to our club but provide good signals for many members.

Mount Major VK3RDU repeaters and TX operating frequencies, 146.850 MHz and 439.875 MHz

UHF CB Repeater Mt Wombat Channels 3- 33 **(Temporarily out of service) *** 22/8/2018

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 or working at heights doing antenna work. You do so at your own risk.

President :- Peter Rentsch

VK3FPSR

pages.cobram@bigpond.com

Secretary:- Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

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Vice-President :- Barrie Halliday

VK3KBY

Treasurer/Webmaster: - Graeme Martin,

VK3FCVT

vk3fcvt@vk3fcvt.com

Membership Sec :- Pat O'Shannessy

VK3OV

Station Manager :- Vacant

Publicity Officer: - Vacant

Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNF) 0427 715 663 & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson

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

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

Presidents Report August 2018

Thanks to all those who attended our August meeting. It was very well attended and a good meeting with numerous items discussed. Our biggest and best news for the day was that the Technical Committee have succeeded in getting the 2m repeater up and running again. Thank you very much for all the work you have put into it as I know it has been very frustrating. Well done!

Rodney and his committee have put a report together for Peter Schwarz to present to the deputy Prime Minister. Again, many hours of work have gone into this report and another job well done. Thanks to Rodney, Graham and Michael.

A couple of reminders.

1. Subs are now due, \$25.00 per annum
2. The Hamfest is on again on Sunday 9th September. Please make yourself available to help on the day. This is our major fundraiser for the year so we need as many of you as possible to contribute in some way to the day. There are many jobs to be done and at the next meeting I will be asking for people to commit to certain tasks. So I am looking for willing volunteers.

As we will spend a lot of the next meeting talking business I thought it may be a good idea to have some social time at the start so let's hope the weather is good for a **BBQ**. Andy will also be speaking on the day about the many forms of Digital Radio. He will present a brief overview of the many different modes.

That's it for me for this month.

Till next time,

Cheers & 73

Peter – VK3FPSR
President – SADARC

Calendar of Events

September 1st – Regular Meeting – finalise Hamfest **BBQ to start at 11.00am**

September 9th – Hamfest – all hands on deck

October 6th - Regular Meeting - AGM

SADARC Meeting minutes 4 August 2018 1:00 Pm

In attendance: VK3AJA Andy, VK3PNG Bruce, VK3PGK Graeme, VK3UG Rodney, VK3OV Pat, VK3DSF Max, VK3COP Ron, VK3KJB John, VK3YNV Ray & Co., VK3ASK Peter, VK3EB Dallas, VK3TEX Les, VK3KUG Ray. VK3TJS Jacek. VK3ZE Huntly. VK3FDV Dave, Mark, Stevo, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3GMV Wayne, VK3FMAA Michael, VK3JH Ray, VK3TJS Jack, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3FPSR Peter, VK3FALN Alan.

Apologies: VK3PXJ John, VK3HEN Darren, VK3FCVT Graeme.

John VK3KJB has taken Presidents chair for this meeting, Thanks John.

Correspondence: **In.** Letter from Graeme VK3FCVT, Membership forms **Out.** None

Min. last meeting; ready By John moved by Graeme, Second Bruce.

Reports:

Financial; None, Graeme had to work, could not attend.

Technical; Rodney/Geoff. 2-meter repeater now works well. Moved by John, Second Kevin.

General Business;

Ham fest; 28 tables booked so far!!!

15 Min. of fame, Dallas provided a profile on himself and radio, next month Huntly.

Exam was done at club rooms, congratulations Mark Van Shaik for passing F-call.

Peter spoke about arrangements for HAMFEST jobs will be filled next meeting.

Raffle prizes will be Jaycar vouchers \$25-\$50-\$75 Andy will purchase.

Wristbands to be ordered. Andy

Michael suggested pipe band for ham fest, club declined as would be too hard to chat over.
Thanks Michael for suggestion.

Azem's food truck booked, Andy will confirm.

Andy was to take over as treasurer till AGM, all agreed. Graeme has been contacted and is happy to keep role till then.

A visit to Vision Australia Centre has been organized, report next meeting.

Rodney spoke about RA. All agreed with submissions to be sent. Thank you, Rodney and Sub Committee.

It was mentioned by Les that the club should purchase new repeater perhaps Digital?
The club agreed to discuss, and Andy will provide some info on how Wires-x mode can be used.
And a demo to members next meeting.

Meeting Close. 2:15 Pm.

Repeater Update (Whacko 2FM is on air)

- The Tait 2 metre repeater was taken out of service by its previous owners and supplied to us some time ago "as is" which meant with any particular service modifications or faults. Whilst not many, there were faults which needed correction. The fact that the repeater only had tone access mute, modification for carrier mute was required plus testing to make sure no further problems were hidden. We didn't want a problem like happened with the Philips FM814 repeater a month ago.

- On the 2nd August in rather cold but sunny weather Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV and Josh went up to Mt Wombat to install the Tait two metre 146.650 MHz repeater and to do other necessary work.
- With access to a rather more sophisticated test equipment various antennas were tested and it was found that the 5 meg split 70cm repeater antenna was faulty, which explains the significant difference in the performance of it and the 7 MHz split repeater. That will be attended to, in due course.
- The UHF CB repeater antenna system was also found to be defective so that will need to be looked at too. The repeater has been brought down from the mount for a thorough overhaul and retune of the cavities.
- Ray VK3YNV's TTN system was installed and is now waiting for an internet connection.
- The systems were completed to Geoff and Ray's satisfaction by 4 pm when the two metre repeater was ready for traffic.
- All reports suggest that the Tait two metre repeater is better than what we have been used to in the past, with improved signals at a distance and excellent audio quality.
- I along with many other members have a hearing problem and I can say that the audio quality is excellent. The squelch tail is noiseless too.
- The repeater is now using a two antenna system with fewer but higher Q cavities which have less loss which contributes to the better signal strengths to and from the repeater. However it is thought that there may be a problem with the receive antenna as occasionally there is some crackling on the signal.

Continuing Repeater site work

- The standby Diamond combined 2 mx and 70cm antenna and the original UHF CB repeater antennas taken out of service when the new tower was commissioned were brought back to Shepparton for an overhaul. Geoff reports that the overhauls have gone successfully and they are available to be put back into service if the need arises, and with improved performance.
- The UHF CB repeater has been taken out of service and Ray VK3YNV has given it a very extensive overhaul and it will now fit into the rack system. The old controller has been removed and a VK5DJ controller (the same as our repeaters use) has been fitted.
- The CB repeater cavities were out of tune and have been retuned by Geoff. Further work is being done on the cavities so that they can fit comfortably into the available space in the hut. The hut originally housed one repeater; it now houses five with more to come plus other ancillary equipment. The hut can only accommodate 1 ½ people at a time in it. The ½ person sits at the door!
- The current 70cm antenna for the 5 Meg split repeater is to be rechecked for faults at the next Mt Wombat visit. However, in this frigid weather there will be no visits.
- If the weather is favourable, the off site overhaul work is complete and spare time is available to go to Mt Wombat, most of this work will be completed before our next meeting.

MURRAY QUAD 2018

Saturday programme.

The Murray Quad will be operating under a different format this year. This year the event will be held over two days, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th November. On the Saturday there will be a canoe event only and it will be starting at Thompsons Beach Cobram and finish at Tocumwal. Tim Roadley the organiser of the event said they will require 6 radio operators on the Saturday. The main control will be

at Tocumwal finish line with four radio check points to be set up between the start and the finish. We will need to set up at 2pm. ready for the start at 3pm. The first canoe should arrive at the finish line at approximately 4.30pm. The last canoe should arrive at around 6.30pm. We will require 6 radio operators for this event on the Saturday, two at the main control and 4 at the check points.

Sunday programme

On the Sunday it's the run section of the event. The first contestants will start from the rowing club at 7.45am and run via Silverwoods to finish at around 11.30am near the Bridge. Tim will require only four radio operators for this event on the Sunday with radio control to be set up at the rowing club. Set up time for the radios will need to be 6am.

If you can assist for one of these days or both please inform Bruce via email bnglasson@bigpond.com or phone on 0427 715663 or Darren on 58521092.

Tim Roadley informed me we will not be required to help with our radios at the Multi Sports Festival this year in October; the organisers are going to experiment using UHF Cbs. so that all the organisers and traffic controllers can be issued with two way radios.

Editor's Ramblings

- Congratulations to Mark van Schait for passing his Foundation Level examination under the watchful eyes of Andy VK3AJA and Huntly VK3ZE. We expect soon that Mark will have a call so listen out for a new call sign in the area.
- Look at your copy of **Amateur Radio** for our Ham fest advertisement. The Ham fest is on Sunday 9th of September. If possible make yourself available to assist in the successful running of the Ham fest. Make sure you are at the next meeting to find out what you can do to assist on the day.
- A big thank you to Ray VK3YNV and Josh for their assistance with getting things running better at our repeater site.
- Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV and Rodney VK3UG gave an extensive report on the work that has been done on the Mt Wombat repeater site and the many things that may be done into the future.
- Many members have suggested various upgrades to the types of services that could be provided on Mt Wombat. If you have thoughts on this, provide the technical committee with your practical ideas. The available space in the hut is not great so not all thought of systems may be practical. When things settle a bit a general diagram of the interconnection of various services and how they work together will be provided so that you have an idea of what is what on the hill.
- Next meeting Andy will give a talk on various modes that we can consider to install at the repeater site into the future.
- Dallas VK3EB gave a talk at our meeting on 4th on his radio history. Like all of these talks it is interesting to hear how members came to be interested and what they have done over the years. Bruce VK3PNG gave an interesting talk on his radio history from the time of intense CB activity in the 1970s the previous meeting.
- Ray gave a short talk after the last meeting to members who wandered over to where he had some equipment set up. Ray has built a **Time Domain Reflectometer** which coupled with an oscilloscope can be used to find the electrical length of a coaxial cable (important for phasing networks, etc.) or faults in a cable. A cheap and very useful piece of test gear. **We will have an article on this device by Ray in the next newsletter.**

The following covering letter and submission on Radio Australia was sent to Mr Peter Schwarz National Party candidate for the forthcoming State Election on 16/8/2018 by email. Our club does not hold any allegiance to any political party. Micheal Nowosad VK3FMAA invited Mr Schwarz to a recent meeting to hear our concerns about the closure of Radio Australia (and the Inland Service). He said that he knew the Deputy Prime Minister well and would submit a submission on Radio Australia to him. Hopefully we will get a positive response to the submission.

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**The Honourable Michael McCormack MP,
Deputy Prime Minister,
Parliament House,
Canberra**

Mr Peter Rentsch,
President of SADARC
Email:- pages.cobram@bigpond.com
Or club address:- PO Box 692. Shepparton 3632
16/8/2018

Dear Sir,

Mr Peter Schwarz the candidate for the seat of Shepparton in the forthcoming Victorian State Parliament election kindly offered to present the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club's (SADARC) submission on the subject of re-opening the Short Wave high frequency service of Radio Australia.

There is currently a review in progress on this subject, the site is as shown <https://www.communications.gov.au/have-your-say/review-australian-broadcasting-services-asia-pacific>. Submissions from the general public closed on the 3rd of August and a number of our members have put in their private submissions directly. Your presentation to this review or directly to the relevant ministers would be appreciated. Our club believes that Radio Australia (and also the Inland Service) are very important to Australia as part of our aid in the South Pacific. Many of our members are ex employees of the Radio Australia transmitting site at Shepparton.

The submission below was compiled by a sub-committee of the club consisting of Graeme Martin, Michael Nowasad and Rodney Champness.

I thank you on behalf of our club for your presentation on this important matter.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Rentsch, President.



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The impact of closing Radio Australia HF services.

- Most of the countries in the South Pacific do not have entertainment or information services available to large numbers of their populations. There are FM radio stations sponsored by Australia, New Zealand and increasingly China, but they can only cover a small audience in these countries, due to the difficulties of providing these facilities by the island countries themselves to their residents due to terrain and physical costs. The government of a small country can close any local FM stations down if they don't like the programs provided by Australia or other countries. Fiji some years ago had a coup.
- The ABC abandoned short wave a year and a half ago. There was a surge of dismay and alarm from within and outside Australia such that the Federal government has now set up a review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific.
- The ABC claimed that Short Wave radio was an obsolete technology and their services could be better provided by the internet and local FM transmissions. Whilst the internet is available in these countries it is not available right throughout their territories and where it is, it is expensive particularly considering the low wages many of the population receive. FM transmissions have restricted range due largely to topography and the curvature of the earth (as occurs also in Australia) and do not cover far out to sea. Most of these countries have large fishing industries considering their population.
- The closure of the Radio Australia HF radio services by the ABC left the door wide open for other countries to fill the gap with their HF radio transmissions. China Radio International has stepped into the gap left by Radio Australia and at any one time it may have up to 60 transmissions or more and with powers up to five times greater than the Radio Australia transmitters. Transmissions are in many languages as well as English. Radio Australia used to transmit on a number of foreign languages. Australia used to provide impartial news and general programs so that the residents of the overseas countries got unbiased information and news.
- With one dominant HF radio service from China Radio International it is difficult for people to be sure that what information they hear on short wave is accurate. Radio New Zealand International does provide a service using one transmitter (they used to use two transmitters).

- Whilst Australia provides considerable aid to most of the countries in the South Pacific it isn't apparent to the majority of the populations because we are not telling them through a radio service like Radio Australia what we are doing to help their development. China on the other hand is providing aid but also telling people in the South Pacific what they are doing in one way or another.
- We are losing out on being a friend to these countries whilst China is gaining a foothold which may ultimately give them locations for military bases and to extend their fishing rights. Subtle radio programming may ultimately cause us to be considered less a friend than China.

Regaining our influence in the South Pacific (and South East Asia)

- Restart Radio Australia into the region that we supply aid and nurture.
- Programs and languages appropriate to the target audiences.
- Provide an alternative to the high profile China Radio International transmissions into the area. People in these areas need to be able to receive impartial information from several sources not just one.
- There are options as to who should run Radio Australia, The ABC providing they take on appropriate programs and languages, SBS or maybe even a service run by External Affairs.
- The Radio Australia installation at Shepparton has three fairly new 100 KW transmitters and four older transmitters. A service with three transmitters could provide a presence into the area of interest, with the older transmitters being gradually brought on line to provide some of these services and also one transmitter could be used to fill the gap in the service to the Inland Service to the outback of Australia.
- It may not mean that the transmitters must be operated 24 hours a day, as picking the most appropriate time and transmission frequency to transmit for particular audiences would cut costs and still achieve good coverage.
- It could be said that everyone has gotten over the withdrawal of the Radio Australia and the Inland services and that they can be forgotten. However, the withdrawal of the Radio Australia Short Wave services has not been forgotten and it would appear that the current review mentioned earlier reinforces the view that Radio Australia Short Wave services are important.
- Listeners can easily and cheaply obtain portable short wave receivers so very few would be without ability to receive short wave radio transmissions.
- Short wave services can endure storms, coups and the vagaries of terrain - making them a lifeline to our remote Inland and Pacific Island neighbours.
- A number of people of importance and influence have spoken up cautioning that there is a cost to Australia's influence by not having a strong broadcast offering to the Pacific Island region. They are media starved for information on the democratic values and engagement we can have with communities.