

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



**Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club
and Electronics Club**

June 2024 Newsletter

Next Meeting Saturday July 6th.

SADARC COMMITTEE

President:- Peter Rentsch – VK3AXI

Vice-President:- Barrie

Halliday - VK3KBY

Secretary:- Rob Hose - VK3BLD

Treasurer:- Ian Saunders – VK3YYY

Membership Sec:- Ian

Saunders - VK3YYY

Assistant Secretary:- Peter Rentsch - VK3AXI

Webmaster Graeme Martin - VK3VSM and Ray Gardiner – VK3YNV

Hamfest Co-ordinator:- Peter Rentsch - VK3AXI

Newsletter (editor):- Peter Simpson – VK3ASK

Technical Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Denys VK3ZYZ, Josh Gardiner & Robert VK2RK – power to co-opt.

To contact any member of the committee above, email committee@sadarc.org and specify who you wish to communicate with and the subject.

If you have items for the newsletter, forward to: newsletter@sadarc.org

Communications Manager (External Events): Darren Glasson (VK3HEN) – subject to confirmation.

Meetings the first Saturday of the month from **10 am** for Arduino training, plus informal chats and technical talks. A BBQ follows (a gold coin donation). Main meeting 1 pm (except January when no meeting occurs) at 360 Health Centre, 18 Channel Road (250 metres from Archer Street), Shepparton.

Variations in these times, days and location are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

DISCLAIMER: - No guarantee is given as to the accuracy of information in this newsletter. E. & O.E.

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.

25/08/2022

VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies from Mt Wombat

53.725MHz (-1 MHz), In Service 146.65MHz (-600 kHz), In Service
438.2MHz (-7 MHz -D-Star), In Service 438.650MHz (-7 MHz 91.5 Hz
tone), In Service
438.9MHz (-7 MHz - DMR), In Service 439.775MHz (-5 MHz), Now back
in service, IRLP (node #6990)
476.475 MHz (+750 kHz) CB Repeater WBT03 Channels 3- 33, In Service
VK3RDS, 438.7625 MHz (-7 MHz DMR) Shepparton on test @ VK3YNV
QTH

The three following repeaters are not the clubs but are allied to the club in one way or another.

Mt Major VK3RDU, 146.850 MHz,
439.875MHz. Mt Bruno VK3RWC 147.325 MHz (-1.6 MHz 123Hz)

Access to most analogue repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise/carrier mute (less sensitive). Your TX offset is shown in brackets

Club informal on air get togethers, all welcome. Club call sign

VK3SOL:

Wednesday- 2mx repeater 146.65 MHz 8.00pm.

3.63 MHz SSB ± interference 8.30pm,

Sunday – 2 mx repeater 146.65 MHz 2 pm & 8 pm

The Vintage Radio Club – 2 mx repeater 11 am

A number of semi-private HF skeds take place either daily or weekly, locally or further afield.

Website – www.sadarc.org or www.sadarc.org.au Face book Page – Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Direct Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/481867453084459>

In this Issue

- **Next Club Meeting.**
- **Presidents Report**
- **Editors' comments.**
- **Jaycar Sausage Sizzle Day**
- **My love of radio by Peter VK3ASK**
- **External VFO for Kenwood Transceivers – Denys VK3ZYZ**
- **Hamfest 2024**

Next Meeting

The next SADARC meeting will be held on Saturday July 6th, at our regular clubrooms, 18-22 Channel Road. Note this is no longer Flexible Learning, the property is now 360 Health.

The format for the next meeting is as follows;

- 10am Arduino course with Denys VK3ZYZ, Ray VK3YNV and Josh.
- 12.00 BBQ Lunch.
- 1PM Club meeting, plus Man behind the Mike, this time Mark VK3MFE. Also, our regular discussions on projects, with some being displayed.

Diary Dates

July 6 th ,	Regular club meeting at Club Rooms
August 3 RD ;	Regular meeting and Man behind the Mike. Geoff VK3GSR
August 7 th ;	Regular meeting at club rooms, may be cancelled as Hamfest is the next day.
September 8 th ;	Hamfest

Presidents Report June 2024

What a great day we had at Geoff's VK3GSR's QTH. Thank you to Geoff and to Jane for all the work you put into the day. The venue, the company, the food and of course all those radios and gear were excellent to experience. I know there was a few others help Geoff and Jane prepare so thank you to them.

One of the great things about life that I really appreciate is people with a passion. Karen and I have a friend in Melbourne who runs a Winery. Her passion for what she does is infectious. I see the same passion about Radio in many of our Club Members and it was very evident in what we saw at Geoff's QTH. He is a man with a passion, and an inspiration to all.

Thank you to all those that helped with the Jaycar BBQ. It was at very short notice, but we knew that was a possibility. As per usual our team got it together and all went well. Thanks, guys, for making it happen and well done on getting our name out there again.

This leads me to my discussion point for this Newsletter. Our image. How we see ourselves, how others see us and what we actually are.

Do we see ourselves as a group of old nerdy men with a hobby that no one understands. To a certain extent that is true, but the face of our Club has changed dramatically in the last few years. We do not come across as an exclusive little group of people. Our current membership is much more open to new ideas, new members and elevating our hobby.

We generally are a happy cheerful group that is willing to share. When a new member walks in they immediately feel welcome - I hope. The chatter between existing members creates an atmosphere of excitement. This excitement is then contagious amongst both new and old members. So, I believe that we do the right thing within our group but we could be better at getting more people into our group and exposing them to the hobby.

The Jaycar days are a great help to us and many a time in the past we have discussed setting up near the lake with all our gear to promote the hobby. Perhaps we need to revisit this and put a plan in place to make it occur when the weather is better and there is something else going on at the lake that has attracted a crowd. We as a Club will not attract a crowd but if we can piggyback

of another event and also acquire a good location with a lot of walk past traffic then we are heading in the right direction. Some food for thought.

At our next meeting we need to start the planning for the Hamfest with some preliminary work to do. And, as we did not have a meeting as such in June it would be good to bring along your projects for a show n tell session.

Cheers,

Peter Rentsch

VK3AXI

President

Editors Comments

Well, Geoff VK3GSR, certainly knows how to put on a great lunch and how to make our June get together a really great event.

Not sure of the exact numbers, but the club was certainly well represented and it was great to see so many partners along for the day.

The food could not have been better and the array of ham gear and antenna's, never ceases to amaze.

A sincere thanks Geoff and Jane for a great day and thanks to those members who assisted with the lunch.

Below, some photo's showing just how much we enjoyed the day.

Not a lot else to go into this Month's Newsletter, but I do plan to continue my article about my love of radio in this issue

See you all on July 6th for our next meeting.

73's Peter Simpson VK3ASK

Photo's of the Day at Geoff's place



Sausage Sizzle Day at the new Jaycar Store

Below a report from Ray, VK3YNV on the very successful day held at the new Jaycar Store

On Saturday June 8, at the new Jaycar store, we had a great day sizzling sausages and chilling drinks, plenty of laughs and met some interesting customers.

Financially, it was a success as well, the day raised almost \$200 for the club coffers, and we still have some cans of drink to sell at the next club meeting.

We managed to sell all of the six large packs of sausages that Jaycar provided, and we ran out the bread, onion and tomato sauce supply.

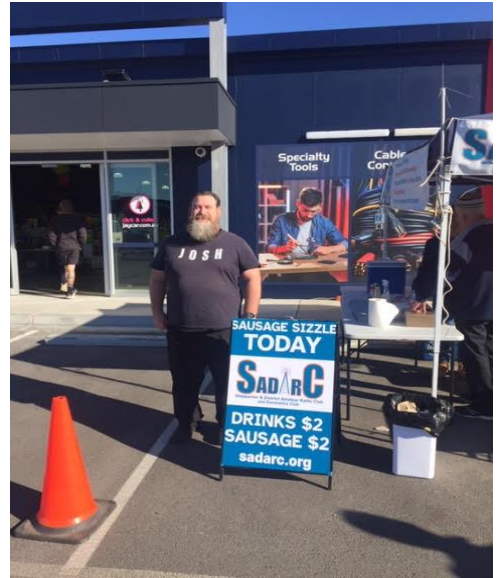
All in all, it was a great effort by everyone involved.

One of the highlights of the day was the number of people converted to 3D printing after watching a demonstration by Denys (VK3ZYZ)

he had a crowd around him all day in the Jaycar store demonstrating 3D printers.

Below a few pictures of the Day.





My Love of Radio by Peter Simpson VK3ASK

Last month I wrote about my early days of having a Z call, my 2mx experiences and my early masts.

This Month I will conclude with my peak enjoyment of amateur radio in the 1970's and early 80's.

In 1974, I started work at Channel 7 in Melbourne as an installation technician. Working in a technical environment, there were plenty of active ham radio operators, some who experimented with technology and some who took the black box approach.

Certainly, the most influential ham for me, was my good friend Lou Destefano, VK3AQZ. Both Lou and I had little money at that stage and were keen to build a sideband transceiver from scratch, for minimal cost.

We tried many designs, some from overseas magazines and some from articles written by Harold Hepburn VK3AFQ.

They were all based around a 9mhz xtal filter with broadband front end tuning. We did have some success, but at the end of the day, none was really good enough to put to air, mainly due to VFO stability and poor signal to noise.

As many would know, Lou went on to build many transceivers with a great deal of success, but for me it was just too hard and I did not have the mechanical skills to build a decent rig.

In 1974, my 1st wife and I moved to our own house in Carrum and I thought, "great now I can put up as many aerials as I like without having to gain approval from my parents".

That was true, but I had only seen our new house at night and did not realise that my next-door neighbour was also an active ham with a tilt over tower in his yard. He was happy enough to have a neighbour with the same hobby, but certainly not willing to share his tower, or 20 metre beam.

With funds short, the best I could do was a hills telemast clamped to the garage wall and numerous guy wires to keep the mast upright in the strong sea breezes of Carrum.

My 1st aerial at the new QTH was a trapped dipole, for 80 and 40 metres, but nothing for 20-15 and 10.

Having given up on the idea of building my own transceiver, I looked around for a good 2nd hand rig to get me onto HF.

This was at a time when all the Japanese gear was coming on the market, Kenwood, Yaesu and Icom and many hams were selling their old American made SSB rigs.

I managed to pick up a Swan 400 transceiver at a very reasonable price, which was my rig for many years to come.

It was a wonderful piece of equipment, sensitive receiver, produced a minimum 300 watts pep and put out a beautiful signal.

This radio is very bulky by today's standards, it had the main transceiver, a separate VFO and a separate power supply and was all valve, with the exception of the VFO.

With the Swan installed in the shack and the trap dipole on the telemast, I had literally 100's of contacts on 80 and 40 and was really enjoying ham radio and the many people I talked with, the QSO's were great.

The mid to late 70's brought on the peak in the sunspot cycle and I was really keen to make the most of all those signals I could hear on the higher bands. What to do, I couldn't afford a proper tower, or a beam, so I decided to build a 3 band 3 element cubical quad, which I would mount at the top of the Hills mast. I purchased some bamboo poles for the radial arms, which I wrapped in fibre glass tape and then coated with a 2-part epoxy. Worked well and proved to be very strong.

For the hubs, I used some plates of 16-gauge aluminium with U-bolts to hold the bamboo rods onto the aluminium and more U-bolts to hold the hubs onto the boom.

A cubical Quad, with a common feeder, needs separate tuning for each band, which was achieved by buying some cheap tuning gangs, housed in jiffy boxes and suspended from the copper wire radials.

Many hours were spent getting a satisfactory SWR, I would get the SWR down on 20 metres and then discover it was much too high on 15 and 10. Back up on the roof of the shed, many times, more adjusting of the tuning gangs and finally I reached a good compromise for the 3 bands.

Once again, the Armstrong method was used for rotating the quad.

With the Swan and the cubical quad, I had a wonderful time and many contacts all over the world on 20, 15 and 10 metres. It is amazing how much fun amateur radio can be with the right gear and a peak in the sunspot cycle.

All this pleasure lasted for 3 Years, until the quad started to fall to bits, the tuning gangs took in water and started to arc and the Hills mast bent over to 90 degrees, as one of the guy wires snapped.

Continual complaints from the neighbours about TVI, even when I wasn't on the air, and a visit from the radio inspector made me realise that my whole radio setup was due for an upgrade.

The Swan 400 remained, but the Quad and the top section of the Hills mast were abandoned and it was back to the trap dipole for HF and the 2mx beam for VHF.

I still recall the lady from next-door, who was a bit of a keyboard musician, banging on our front door shouting at me, "will you stop getting into my organ". She really didn't understand why I laughed so much at that request.

In 1980 my love of radio had to be put on hold.

My marriage had failed, the house was sold and I moved into a flat in Prahran, where there was certainly no room for ham radio and antenna's.

I sincerely hope you have gained some enjoyment from these articles and I certainly have enjoyed re-living my golden era of ham radio.

My interest in radio is still alive and well, but the 70's were certainly the fun time for me.

Peter Simpson
VK3ASK

External VFO for Kenwood Transceivers by Denys VK3ZYZ

I understand that Denys VK3ZYZ is still busy working on this project.

If you would like an update, log into the SADARC website and check out his articles in the forum.

<http://www.sadarc.org/xenforo/upload/index.php?threads/ts-520s-vfo-using-the-arduino-nano-vfo-board.545/>

2024 Hamfest September 8th, Please spread the Word.

SADARC

Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club
and Electronics Club

HAMFEST SUN 8th SEPT 10AM-1PM

open to Exhibitors at 8am
St Augustine Parish Church Hall
96 Orr St, Shepparton

\$5 ENTRY \$20 TABLE*

* Trader entry: \$20 for first table
additional tables \$15ea



ALL ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS
hamfest@sadarc.org
146.650 MHz-600kHz 123Hz CTCSS