



Shepparton And District Amateur Radio Club

Incorporation No. A6677

P.O Box 692 Shepparton 3632 www.sadarc.org

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well another month has come and gone, with plenty of activity behind us.

Last months meeting was a great success with the presentation on APRS, this was conducted by our guest visitor Richard VK3JFK, he made the trip up from Melbourne just to do this presentation, his presentation was gratefully received by all in attendance, I presented on behalf of the Club a bottle of Red wine in appreciation of his time and effort.

A special thanks goes out to Kane's father Bill for installing the much needed power points and overhead light in the future radio room, this installation plus the hardware was donated to the club, we thank Bob very much for his generous donation of his time and supplying of the materials.

On the 31st July 2006 we had the Hall Committee AGM, I was present at that meeting, accompanying me was Ben VK3FBGS and Kane VK3HKH, I gave an overview to the committee in respect to our clubs activities, Kane was elected as our delegate to sit on that committee, I thank Kane for his input and enthusiasm, Kane will report to the hall committee on a quarterly basis.

The Club Family Day Picnic, please note the change of date, Sunday the 29th October 2006, start time 11.30am, the venue at The Benalla Lake, please make a special effort to attend, barbeque facilities available, BYO.

What a great success the RD Contest was, we had 12 club members participating in the contest with 50% of those members being new calls, we worked in excess of 350 contacts, the enthusiasm and dedication shown and displayed by the members was very much appreciated, well done to all that participated.

Twin Cities Radio & Electronics Club Ham Fest, this Sunday the 20th August 2006, it's a 9.00am start Murray High School, Kaitler's Road Lavington, I will be attendance representing our club with a party of other club members, if you can make the trip that would be great, come along and support our neighbour club.

Our Hamfest on the 10th September

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2006 is well under way, I received my AR this week with our flyer intact, Pat and Max have done a very good job with arranging the circulation of our flyer in AR, Max informs me the tickets for the Ham Fest have been printed, we still have tables available on the day, please let Pat VK3OV know if you require a table.

Max visited Allan VK3AYD on the weekend, Max reported that Allan is in fine spirits, even though, still on the sick list, Allan misses the club and radio activities, we are going to see if we can set up a 2 meter radio for Allan so as he can keep in touch with the members.

AGM, 7th October 2006, proxy and nomination forms need to arrive with the Secretary 28 days prior to the AGM, please make sure if you nominate or proxy, those persons need to be financial members of our club.

The next major club activity will be JOTA/JOTI, this will be conducted at the club rooms 21/22 October 2006, it is a full weekend activity, a roster system will apply, if you are unable to volunteer 2 hours of your time on this weekend could you please let me know ASAP, I need to get things underway and liaise with

the Scouting Association, our club has been nominated as the contact point for the Scouts, Cubs and Guides in the district during this activity.

The next meeting will be a combination of a working bee and short monthly meeting, the focus being on the Hamfest, antenna installation and the commissioning of the radio equipment, early arrivals most welcome, we will split up into 4 small groups after the short club meeting, as usual we will provide a barbeque.

Wombat award, the latest recipients are Terry VK3FTHS, Kane VK3HKH, they were presented with the certificates at the last meeting, if you wish to receive the Wombat award, please submit a copy of your log to our Awards Manager Ed VK3BG.

IRLP Node, the radio has been programmed and ready to go, the only hold up is the interface cable connector, Ben has fine tuned the RF Internet antenna on top of the Club rooms, and Kane has put the IRLP Computer through its paces, all systems are go, I can't wait to hear the IRLP Node active.

73s for now
 Club President

Roger VK2RO

AUSTRALIAN WEATHER NEWS

FOR LONG RANGE WEATHER FORECASTS VISIT

[HTTP://WWW.AUSTRALIANWEATHERNEWS.COM/FORECAST_FORECASTS_LONGRANGE.HTM](http://www.australianweathernews.com/forecast_forecasts_longrange.htm)


september 06



Repeater Updates continued page 5

The 70cm Voice/IRLP repeater is again up and running after having some more improvements made, such as ctcss sub audible tone access (123Hz);

some tweaking of the diplexer to achieve a little better repeater performance, and a ctcss tone encode on the output so that the IRLP node receiver back at the

Club rooms only receives voice without the Repeater Call Sign Ident and Tail.

Picture: A Philips TX815, Ideal 70cm Repeater Setup

IRLP mod on RGV 70cm:-

Due to an IRLP system having problems with connections if a normal voice repeater keys up with it's identification tones, a system of ctcss has been employed at the repeater to keep the VK3SOL IRLP node from hearing RGV's 70cm ident from being heard over the node.

This is done by using a tone on the output of the repeater only when carrier is detected on the repeater's input.

The node receiver (VK3SOL) will detect the tone only when a user of RGV 70cm is accessing the repeater holding the repeater open, thereby allowing voice-only through the node. (No Ident or Courtesy beep after the user has let the button go).

The only time a user on another IRLP node may hear the RGV 70cm CW ident is when or if a local voice user of RGV 70cm is partaking in an IRLP contact and talking while the repeater is identifying (which is very rare even under non IRLP use).

If this is the case, the voice of the user, will be suppressed significantly (as it would be under normal local



use of the repeater) making it harder to be heard by the receiving station, especially if the user is of a lower than maximum deviation. In other words, try and avoid talking over the ident while using IRLP through the RGV 70cm repeater!



RGV 70cm Tune-up:-

It didn't seem all that long ago when we did a

tune up on the 70cm repeater, which had some serious problems to fix at the time, but since then it has been almost faultless. Even when there appears to be no faults, a good tune up on a regular basis doesn't hurt in the least. While having some ctcss mods and tests made to the repeater, it was found that one of the notch trimmers in the diplexer was a little out of tune, even though in the previous tune-up the diplexer was tuned to the maximum figures thought obtainable, better figures were yet achieved.

Letter to the Editor

Although I am not a contestant in the RD Contest, and have never, in 68 years as a Ham, entered a contest, I realise that a lot of people get a lot of pleasure from these activities. I would like therefore to congratulate you in organising the Club's Roster and instructions in this, and your previous email, so well. You are also to be complimented in the way you and your executive team have changed the S.A.D.A.R.C from a sleepy outfit, to an active and very lively Club in such a short time. Muriel

and I am sorry that age and health prevent us from taking a more active part in the Club's activities, but we do feel we are receiving good value from our membership fees. In the past I have been very active in WIA Zone and State activities, and I know from experience just how big an effort, and people-skill, is required to reach and maintain the standards you have achieved. I sincerely hope that other Club members, particularly the new members, show their appreciation of the Committee's

work, by re-electing those whom you need, to be able to continue the good work. We have decided that we will not be voting for any particular members at the AGM, but rather have sent to the Executive our Proxy votes for you to select those you feel will best suit the future of the Club. We do this because of our very limited knowledge of the other members, and their suitability for Committee Office.

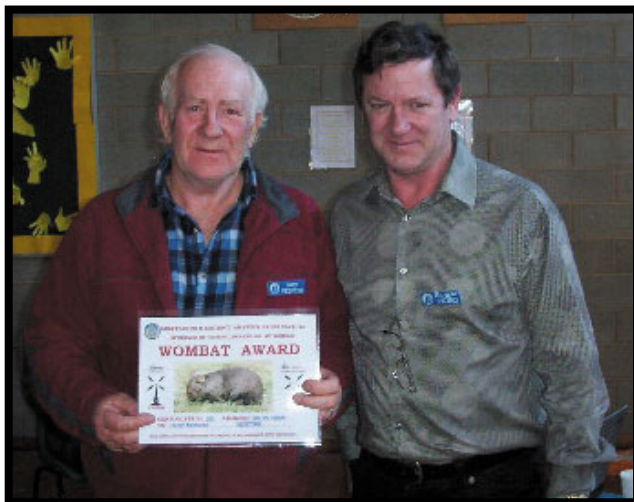
Sincerely Bruce Plowman VK3QC

September '06



CLUB NEWS

WOMBAT AWARDS



Wombat Awards: President of the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Roger Conway presented Terry Svoboda VK3FTHS (top left) & Kane Hinchliff (top right) VK3HKH with the prestigious wombat award at the August meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE CLUBROOMS



POWERING UP!

Bob Hinchliffe is pictured here installing power to the radio room of the SADARC clubrooms recently.

If you have any photographs, funny stories or just something that you would like to contribute to the SADARC newsletter then forward all material on to Daryl vk3kl@netspace.net.au

September '06



Minutes of previous meeting

Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Inc.
A6677S. Minutes of monthly meeting held on Saturday 5 August 2006 at the Mooroopna Community Hall, Echuca Road Mooroopna.

The President Roger VK2RO opened the meeting at 1315 hours and welcomed all present with a special welcome to Richard Hoskin VK3JFK.

Present: Roger VK2RO, Barrie VK3KBY, Duncan VK3FDCC, Pat VK3OV, Rob VK3ECH, Les VK3FLGL, Danny VK3FDTH, Tibor Nemeth, David VK3ANP, Rodney VK3UG, Jan VK3ALF, Kane VK3HKH, Ben VK3FBGS, Gordon VK3ACC, Brian VK3HBW, Wayne VK3XQA, Neil VK3XNW, Richard VK3JFK, Warren Brown VK3BYD, Jason Brown, David VK3KDL, Terry VK3FTHS, Max VK3DSF, Ed VK3BG, Daryl VK3KL, Terry Dovaston, Max Matthey, Jac VK3TJS, Wes VK3FDDT

Apologies: Bill VK3DWG, Ray VK3RW, Neil VK3KL, Norma Forbes.

Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting: moved Ben VK3FBGS, seconded Brian VK3HBW, carried.

Correspondence Inward:

Letter from Douglas Brooks regarding Foundation Licences.

Amateur Radio.

Newsletter from EMDRC

Newsletter from BARG

Account from McMedia for internet connection – Nil to pay.

Letter from WIA acknowledging receipt of grant application.

Letter from Commonwealth of Aust. acknowledging receipt of small funding grant application.

Moved Danny VK3FDTH, seconded Terry VK3FTHS, carried.

Treasurers Report: Barrie VK3KBY presented the report on the club finances. Moved Barrie VK3KBY, seconded Max VK3DSF, carried.

General Business:

- Licence Exams: Ed VK3BG indicated that 12 Foundation and 2 Standard licence exams have been conducted.
- Following an incident on VK3RGV, Ed VK3BG gave the members present a reminder about using the correct language protocol when on the air, particularly in relation to the use of offensive language.
- Following work done at Jan's place (VK3ALF)

by club members in the erection of a tower, Jan donated \$100 to the club. Roger VK2RO thanked Jan for this generous donation.

- Club Family Day: This event will now be held on Sunday 29 October at the Benalla Lake commencing at 11.30am.
- RD Contest: VK3SOL will be rostered around. The roster will be provided to those involved. Any additional volunteers should contact Roger.
- Comms Day: Pat VK3OV indicated that arrangements were on track. 12 tables have been booked, and flyers for Comms Day are now available.
- Rodney VK3UG has a number of boards out of electronic organs, which are available. Anyone interested should contact Rodney.
- Rodney VK3UG proposed that the club send a letter to Sharman Stone requesting feedback on the meeting last year regarding BPL. Moved Rodney VK3UG, seconded Danny VK3FDTH, carried.
- The equipment donated to the club from Alan's VK4SKL estate is soon to be returned to the club following servicing by Ray VK3RW.
- Roger VK2RO presented Wombat Awards to Terry VK3FTHS and Kane VK3HKH.
- Wednesday night 80M Net: Danny indicated that the net was running successfully, and Roger VK2RO thanked Danny for his good work.
- IRLP: Jacek VK3TJS indicated that the radio is now programmed and testing can commence. The only costs have been the IRLP boards from the USA. A 70cm yagi is now available for this project.

Letters of thanks are to be sent to:

John Bennetts for programming the club radio.
Angus Communications for donating the radio.
Bill Hinchliffe for installing power to the Radio room

APRS Presentation: Roger VK2RO Introduced Richard Hoskin VK3JFK to the meeting and Richard with assistance from Warren Brown VK3BYD gave a detailed and informative presentation on APRS which was greatly appreciated by all.

Following the presentation, Roger VK2RO thanked Richard and Warren and presented Richard with a bottle of red wine.

The President closed the meeting at 1505 hours.

Chips N Bits are giving 10% off selected products to SADARC Club members.



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Mobile Radio Installation in Cars

At this year's Gippstech, a very interesting presentation was given about installing 2-way radios in vehicles and the consequences of doing so incorrectly. While the talk was too long to relate here, the four main ways of installing were discussed, along with problems associated with each.

The First was using the cigarette lighter socket. While this is a quick & easy way for a temporary installation, i.e. in a borrowed or rental vehicle, it suffers from a lot of hash from other instruments, especially the voltage regulator in the console.

Secondly is using a spare fuse on the fuse block. It also suffers from the same problems as above, plus receiving ignition noise from the engine.

For the third way, you can connect the DC from your radio cables directly to the battery, but remember to install a bypass capacitor on both leads, as close to where they come through the firewall

into the cabin as possible. This method is the most popular, but a hidden problem with this way occurs if the earth cable or strap from the battery negative post to the vehicle chassis breaks or develops a high resistance (I've had this happen to me). In this situation, all the current drawn by the various sections of the electrical system find their way back to the battery by way of your radio. This can, in the worst case, "cook" your expensive radio, along with it's cable (replacing the cable is small change from the cost of the replacement radio).

The fourth, and safest, way to protect your valuable radio follows almost exactly the same as above, however, connect your earth cable from the radio to THE SAME grounding bolt on the side wall of the chassis where the battery lead is grounded. Doing it this way, if the negative lead from the battery becomes faulty, NO CURRENT will flow at all as there is no circuit, or

current path back to the battery.

This last method, obviously, is the way to go and takes exactly the same amount of time, but will protect your valuable investment much more thoroughly, especially in more modern vehicles that have a lot of electrics installed. With the filters installed on the leads, your radio/s will be much more immune from locally generated noise and electrical faults. Of course, this will not stop noise entering along the coax from other vehicles and other outside noise sources such as lightning, mercury vapour street lighting, to mention just a couple. The noise blanker in the radio is designed to eliminate or reduce to much lower level these noises.

Check your wiring, correct if needed, and enjoy many hours of safe operation while you are "out and about".

Ed

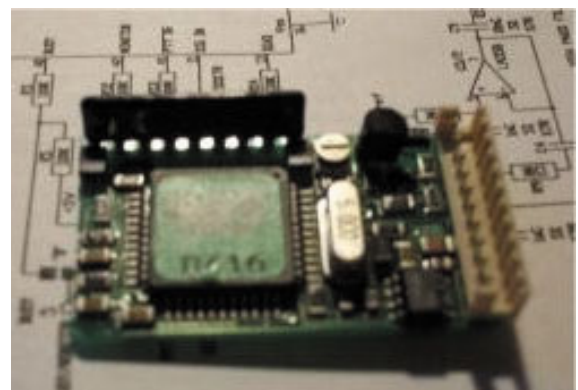
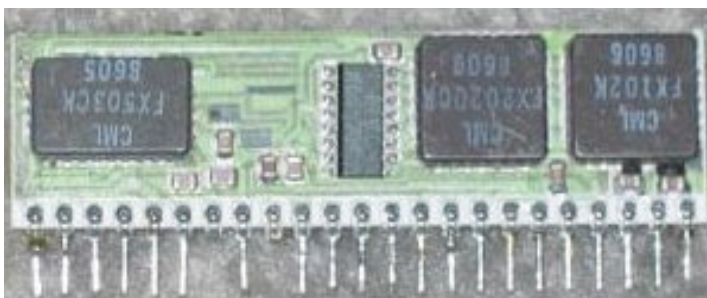
Repeater Updates Cont...

123Hz ctcss access on RGV 70cm:-

Like the RGV 2m repeater's sub audible tone access which was implemented to block the Intermod problem on Mt. Wombat about six months ago, there is a welcome benefit from having it as well; so the RGV 70cm repeater now has the same deal (minus the intermod). By enabling your ctcss encoder of your radio's uplink freq. (434.775 Mhz) with 123Hz, this will bypass the normal mute on the repeaters receiver, effectively opening it at it's highest sensitivity with the smallest amount of signal. The result is a far more readable signal in fringe area/mobile situations instead of the choppy, hard to read audio from the other

station who is not using the ctcss tone. We have noticed some users mistaking this chopping of signal on RGV 2m for several other faults including "a broken mic cord", "a fault in their transmitter" and many other reasons, but because the normal mute on RGV 2m is wound up pretty hard to overcome the Intermod, it's not surprising that it gets choppy when a user is not using ctcss sub audible tone. The normal mute setting on RGV 70cm has not been changed or set any higher than it would normally be. Note: With all this ctcss encoding and

decoding, to use the IRLP facility on RGV 70cm, it's not mandatory to have any ctcss encoding on your rig, but it might help if your mobile or in a weak area! Pictures: Various CTCSS Encoder/Decoder Modules



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