

SADARC

SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Les George became a Silent Key on Friday 26 June 2009 aged 80 years. More on Les' life on page page 5.



REPEATERS VK3RGV 2m &
VK3RGV 70cm
CLUB CALL SIGN VK3SOL

**Volume 9,
Issue 6,
July 2009**

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Les Tatar VK3TEX

Treasurer:

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Neil Webster VK3KAL

Newsletter

Editor - Lisa Laffan.

www.sadarc.org

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Presidents Report for July 2009

been playing around with. He has been getting great results on 40 meters DX. Keep up the good work gents.

I also believe that Wayne VK3XQA has managed to recover most of the beloved but drawn out LED Light Project. We all hope to see the L.e.d. team's progress in the up and coming months.

Steve VK3DAG complete with cow cooker and father in tow competed in the VHF-UHF Field day from Mt Terrible. I am still very keen for some club members (Inc myself) to head up on a hill somewhere and participate. Maybe we can all have a bit of a crack when the weather gets a bit warmer?

Well that is enough from me this month, hope to see you all at the next practical day on Saturday 18th of July.

Cheers & 73s
Toby VK3PNF

Fair dinkum volunteers wanted

For the Wednesday night 80 Meter HF net. Starting at 6:30 PM local. We only require people who wish to do the Net.

*If you are already a volunteer and want to be taken off the current roster please contact Steven Hamer, and the roster will be rearrange. *If anyone on a current roster can't make it for any reason, could they also contact Steve Hamer and arrangements for someone else to fill in for them will be made. If no one else is able to fill in Steven Hamer will cover it. To volunteer or for any more information please contact

Steven Hamer.
VK3DAG,
0417129910 0358254461
vk3dag@wia.org.au

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The first batch of nine 10 metre squid poles have been taken. Just to recap – these collapsible (down to around 1 metre) squid fishing rod poles are suitable supports for portable vertical antennas for 1.8Mhz, 3.5MHz, 7MHz, 10MHz, 14MHz and 18 MHz when used with a suitable matching cum antenna tuning unit at the base. The tuning networks are not unduly complex. Automatic antenna tuning units will make the tuning a snap as they do it themselves, but we like to make our own don't we? I do anyway.

I have been asked if I could get more. At this stage I don't intend to, but if members of the club want to advise me of their interest, I'll take their names, etc and compile a list. Once I have expressions of interest for nine poles, arrangements can be made to get another carton. The deal we had for the ones we have obtained was as follows \$49 + GST = \$53.90 each less 20% = \$43.12. The postage was \$20 for 9 which works out at \$2.23 each which then means each pole is \$45.35. My out of pocket costs, phone calls etc. brought the price each to \$46. They were picked up at a club meeting or delivery arranged some other way. If the poles are ordered singly the costs are \$53.90 plus around \$10 postage, which comes out to around \$64 each landed at your address. We only get the 20% discount for a full box of nine poles. Would those who want a pole please contact me (including those who did so at the last meeting) to confirm their interest. Phone 5825 1354 or email rodlynn@tpg.com.au .

Rodney VK3UG

Minutes of July Meeting

SADARC Minutes of the meeting held on July 4th 2009 Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Inc A6677S. Minutes of the monthly meeting held on July 4th 2009 at the Mooroopna Scout Hall, Echuca Rd Mooroopna. Meeting was opened by club president Toby, VK3PNF at 13:00 Hours

Present:

Toby VK3PNF, Les VK3TEX, Rodney VK3UG, Barrie VK3KBY, Max VK3DSF, John VK3FJHM Brian VK3HBW, Neil VK3KAL, Angela VK3FELT, Trevor VK3VG, Rob VK3ECH, John VK3PXJ, Bob VK3GEB, Pat VK3OV, Ian VK3FIRW, Chris VK3TYG, Peter VK3FBEN, Alan VK3AYD, Ed VK3BG, Alan VK3FALN, Terry VK3MAR, Wayne VK3XQA, Steve VK3DAG, Jan VK3ALF, Ron VK3COP, Rob VK3MAC, Jacek VK3TJS, Tibor VK3FTIB.

Apologies:

Ian VK3JNC, Clint VK3CAF, Wes VK3DDT, Darren VK3MJD.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated amongst the club members for their perusal. Motion was raised that the minutes be accepted by Les VK3TEX, seconded by John VK3FJHM. Motion was carried.

Inward and outward correspondence:

Some subscriber renewals were received and a newsletter from the Midland and

EMDRC clubs was also received. A couple of replies from traders for the Hamfest were received.

A letter to the Shepparton CFA was posted about tables for the Hamfest, but due to the date change will have to be sent again.

Toby sent a letter to Icom accepting their offer for the Dstar repeater. And another letter to the WIA with a request for frequencies for the Dstar repeater.

Business arising from the previous meeting:

Les VK3TEX sent the letter to the Shepparton CFA about the tables for the Hamfest but due to the date change from September to October another letter will be sent shortly with details of the new date.

Rodney VK3UG made a speech about various aspects of the club. He made a report on the state of the battery backup system on Mt Wombat and said it was inadequate for proper charging requirements upon his inspection. He expressed concern that the wiring be upgraded to cater for longer operation if the main 240V power should go down. Rodney also expressed concern about publishing photos of the repeater site in a public domain saying this was to be done with caution. Some things also regarding the repeater site should be omitted

from the newsletter for security reasons.

Neil VK3KAL made some comments in regard to Rodney's speech. He was in favor with all of Rodney's comments and that we have to take care of our repeater and provide adequate security.

Rodney VK3UG expressed a desire to become a part of the technical committee and Neil VK3KAL welcomed the additional help from Rodney.

Treasurer's report:

Ron handed out a 12 month annual report and a 1 month report at the meeting. It was passed around to members to read.

Ron asked whether the 12 monthly report needs to be audited by an outside organization but Barrie VK3KBY noted that an audit is only required if the club profits are over a substantial turnover.

Ron VK3COP moved that the report be accepted and Trevor VK3VG seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

General Business:

Trevor VK3VG gave a report on the progress of the advertising campaign he is running for the Hamfest. All was progressing well. He commented that Yaesu had come to the party with a door prize for the hamfest of a new Handheld transceiver.

Icom will also be donating a door prize also. At this stage it is not known what this will be.

Toby thanked Trevor for his hard work in getting our advertising happening.

Pat VK3OV commented that he would very shortly go and inspect the tables at the St Augustines hall and see what needs to be done.

Tibor VK3FTIB commented that Darren VK3MJD may have a temporary home up on Mt Wombat for the 70cm repeater as he has a property up there and said it would be no problem to keep it there until we find another home for it.

Tibor said he would chase it up with Darren.

John VK3FJHM commented that VK3DAG has been in AR magazine again and congratulated him on his efforts in the field day contest and a round of applause was given to Steve.

Steve VK3DAG asked about the 6m repeater and Neil commented that the frequencies are there but that is where it stands. No further progress has been made.

Toby commented that if the club wanted a 6m repeater that someone would have to take the bull by the horns and run with it. So far those person/persons have not put their hand up.

Meeting closed by Toby at 14:10 Hours.

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Six metre half wave vertical using a CB whip

Peter Cosway VK3DU

67 Brewster Street, Essendon 3040

I wanted a mobile aerial for six metres, preferable using a magnetic mount, making it easily transferable on or off a vehicle.

I have used a two metre quarter wave whip, on a magnetic mount, with great success - but six metres was not so accommodating. My attempts to use a quarter wave whip, on a magnetic mount, all produced unsatisfactory results. The SWR fluctuated, depending on where the mount was placed on the roof, and the coax was not doing its job but was acting as part of the radiating aerial. A quarter wave whip attached to a roof rack bar or a bull-bar etc has a ground of sorts. In some cases with this style of mounting even a two metre five-eighths whip can be made to work on six.

What to do? Would a choke in the coax help? I discussed the problem with Mark Harrison VK3BYY, one night, at a North East Radio Group meeting here in Melbourne. A suggestion from Mark set me towards a solution. "You need a ground independent aerial, something like an end fed half wave". Yes, OK, but how? A half wave vertical on six metres was too long! We have overhead tram wires here in Melbourne, as well as all the other usual impediments. Even though my interest was mainly in the horizontally polarised SSB part of the band I had earlier dismissed halos, turnstiles, clover-leaves etc as being too cumbersome - and difficult to arrange on an easily transferable mount.

Then I thought of using a 27 MHz CB quarter wave whip. I had one I had picked up somewhere. It would theoretically be a half wave on somewhere above 54 MHz - it should be possible to tweak it a bit lower in frequency. I also had a magnetic base with an S0239 UHF socket. This made the coax shield accessible. The alternative, a mount that just uses a threaded shaft connected to the coax centre, would not work for what I had in mind. The handbooks say a half wave dipole gives a theoretical gain of 1.8 dB over a quarter wave but in an end fed configuration presents a high impedance.

A look around at various commercial half wave aerials indicated that a tapped loop feed was popular for matching. It matches the high load impedance to low impedance coax, and hopefully isolates the braid from the radiating aerial. An aerial for home use on six metres could be built with a full length half wave element. For mobile work though a helically wound CB whip would be more practical. The one on hand was wound with an even pitch and was very light weight.

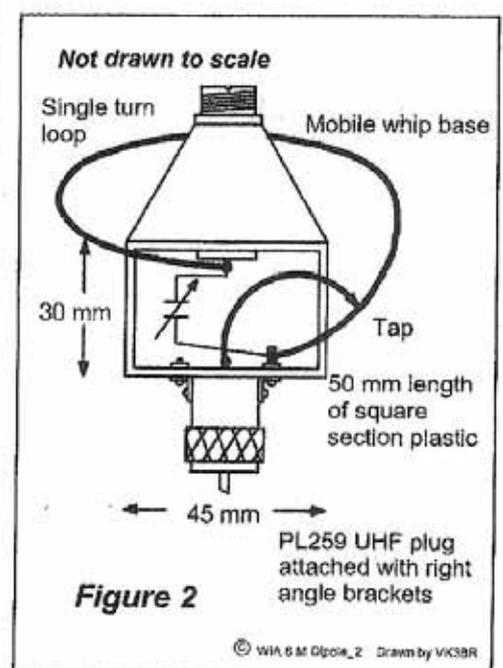
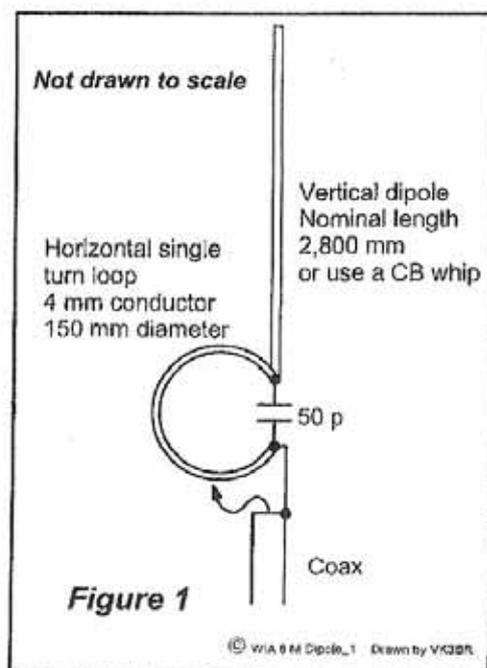
Initially however, I could not get this whip to load up. I tried to trim the horizontal loop to frequency with a fixed capacitor across it, and tried to bring it on frequency using a Grid Dip Oscillator. It seemed to be on frequency but I could not get a match point with the variable tap.

After talking to Mark VK3BYY again I took his advice to try it with a variable capacitor and a full length half wave. I parked the car under a tree and dangled a length of aluminium down on a rope and attached it to the loop. The tap was made with an alligator clip on a short

length of stout hook-up wire soldered to the pin of the coax plug. After varying the tap position I found I could load it with an acceptable SWR for the side-band end and the FM portion. Then I tried the CB whip. It tuned up but was only usable over about 500 kHz. The whip is now tuned up centred on 50.150 MHz. By moving the alligator clip and resetting the variable capacitor it can readily be re-tuned to work in the FM portion of the band. The 50 pf trimmer is a small 4 plate capacitor from the junk-box.

Now that the arrangement has been proven it could be replaced with a fixed capacitor to make a more weatherproof layout. Also the matching connections could perhaps be enclosed in a plastic box with the loop coming in and out through holes in the side. A full length half wave could be fine for the whole band but a helically wound whip would not be so versatile without the variable capacitor. The range and variety of 27 MHz CB whips is endless so be prepared to experiment.

ar



Figures 1 & 2. A loop fed six metre vertical dipole

Silent Key.

Les George became a silent key on Friday 26 June 2009 aged 80 years.

Born : 1929

RFDS Lic VHV25

Foundation Lic VK3FLGL :22-5-06, age 77 Y/O.

Standard Lic VK3VLG : 31-1-08.

Les had a keen interest in electronics with a large part of that interest being radio.

He built Crystal Sets and Valve Receivers in his early days.

He was involved with early CFA VHF communications. Also testing with late-ish 60s pre CB portable sets 6 Channel powered by 8 D cell Batteries (ex US possibly 26Mhz?)

Les was also loved to keep an ear out listening on most of the VHF bands from the late 1960s onwards.

He became unofficially involved in CB radio in the Mid 70s well before government approval. 27Mhz was approved in the early 1980s

and from then through to 2006 Les used both CB and the RFDS hf bands to communicate on. He would always keep in touch with his son Rob VK3ECH on their migration with caravan in tow Nth to QLD for the winter months. This also included regular evening skeds throughout the years while Rob went on many out-back travels and

around Australia adventures. This communication was achieved on both the RFDS channels and then 2006 onwards with use of our amateur bands.

Les was always up for a chat, Especially about the weather. The Kandos Group and SADARC nets were always his regular interest groups. He managed to check in on both about a fortnight before he passed away.

Les was a very active and keen SADARC Member. To our knowledge he never missed a single meeting

until the day of the Black Saturday fires where he was unable to attend due to his health.

I'm sure everyone would agree that if there were more blokes like Les George on this earth it would be a much better place.

We will miss you mate, Cheers and 73s from all your friends at the Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club.

The Club would like to extend their sincerest condolences to Les' family on the passing of such a well respected Gentleman.



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Remember all membership renewals are due by the 1st of July 2009. Included in this newsletter is a renewal / application form. This form will be included in following issues of the newsletter. Please complete the form and return it with your money to Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club, P.O Box 692, Shepparton, Victoria 3632 before July the 1st to continue your membership.



MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM

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