SHEPPARTON & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Repeaters: VK3RGV 2m - 70cm - Packet.
Freq: 146.650 - 439.775 - Packet 147.575
Founded 1979
Incorporation No. A6677
P O Box 692 Shepparton 3632

REPEATERS VK3RGV 2m & 70cm
VK3RGV B D-Star
70cm IRLP Node # 6992
CLUB CALL SIGN VK3SOL

Volume 6 No 3 February 2011

From the Editor

I was tuning around the bands on Australia Day and heard a call that I had not known about. This call was an Australian call sign starting with AX.

I understand that some discussion ensued on the regular Nets that week concerning the use of this call so I thought I would enlighten myself by checking it out and then letting those who are interested know through the Newsletter.

The following information is taken from the WIA Website.

Special events callsigns

Callsigns other than those normally allocated to an amateur station may be allocated on occasions of international, national, state/territory or local significance. The event must be of broad interest to the Amateur or wider community.

Special event callsigns will not be issued for recurrent events unless it is a particularly significant event (such as a 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary). *Note that Amateurs may use the AX prefix on every Australia Day, Anzac Day and ITU Day without seeking allocation of a special event callsign.*

The WIA will only recommend special event callsigns where the Amateur station concerned is actually participating in the event. ACMA will generally issue only one such special event station licence in relation to a particular event.

The callsign may employ special prefixes (e.g. AX or VI) and/or special suffixes. All special callsigns will include the appropriate state/territory indicator. WIA may authorise the use of callsigns with suffixes comprising two or more characters (letters and/or digits). ACMA will issue a short term licence for the period of the event or celebration.

Allocation of the AX prefix

This prefix is only available for occasions of special national or international significance, such as the Sydney 2000 Olympics. WIA will determine occasions warranting the use of the ‘AX’ prefix in consultation with ACMA.

Under such circumstances the 'AX' prefix, which will be made available to all amateurs. It may be used in lieu of the normal 'VK' prefix. Allocation of the prefix will be restricted to the duration of the occasion. The allocation of specific 'AX' prefix callsigns for individual particular events, where the callsign does not

comply with usual amateur callsign construction (AX$aa, AX$aaa or AX$aaaa (where $ is the State/Territory indicator)) cannot be guaranteed.

That's it for this month, I look forward to hearing you on ANZAC Day using the AX callsign.

Cheers & 73's

Peter.
VK3FPSR

Dairy Dates.

Saturday 5th March – Regular Meeting
Saturday 2nd April – Regular Meeting
Sunday 10th April – Combined Meeting with Bendigo Radio Club – Goulburn Weir

Minutes for S.A.D.A.R.C.
Saturday 5 February 2011
Meting Open: 1:10PM at the Mooroopna Club Rooms

Present:
Ed VK3BG (President), Tibor VK3MRO (Vice President), Steven VK3DAG (Secretary), Ron VK3COP (Treasurer), Rodney VK3UG (Technical Committee), Brian VK3HBW, John VK3FJHM, Toby VK3PNF, John VK3PXJ, Alan VK3FALN, Pat VK3OV (Membership), Chris VK3TYG, Max VK3DSF, John VK3FJAF, Alan VK3AJD, Dave VK3VCE, Jack VK3TJS.

Apologies:
Ian VK3CHV (Station Manager), Rob VK3ECH, Jan VK3ALF, Ian VK3CHV, Peter VK3FPSR, Clint VK3CAF, Duncan VK3DCX, Ian VK3JNC, Jim VK2TWY, Les VK3TEX, Ray VK3RW (Technical Committee).

Correspondence:
An email was sent to the club from Edward Thrift referring to the insurance policy. And who are the current office bearers. I emailed a list of the current office bearers back to Ted. Steven (VK3DAG).

Treasures Report:
Ron VK3COP handed out the treasurer's report for all members present. A motion was raised as to the treasurer report and passed.

Toby (VK3PNF) moved that the last minutes be passed and Alan (VK3FALN) second this.

There were small accounts that needed paying by the treasurer (B.B.Q., Keys Cut, Plastic folder and Small paint pots) these were moved by Ron (VK3COP) and seconded by Toby (VK3PNF) and passed.

General Reports:
Rodney (VK3UG) gave a report on the six meter repeater that it is operating well near Cobram at Daryl,s (VK3KL) house. There is discussion on whether the repeater should be tone access or tone assist? It's suggested that a trial in a more hostile RF environment before going to Mt Wombat is needed as a stepping stone to decide this. Getting the repeater to work OK without tone access is a bonus. This will make it a lot easier for users to use the repeater not knowing the tone access frequency.

A motion was moved by Tibor (VK3MRO) to move the repeater to Jeff Angus's premises in Shepparton. This is providing it is OK with Jeff Angus. This was seconded by Toby (VK3PNF) and a showing of hands by most of the members present ratifying this decision. There was a mood of appreciation to thank Jeff Angus for the donation of transceiver and other equipment for this six meter repeater. I will write a letter of thanks and mail it to him. Steven (VK3DAG).

Toby (VK3PNF) gave this report on D-Star. Here is a copy of Toby's Report.

Could all members note the VK3RGV B repeater is now fully operational on Mt Wombat with its new Gateway. If any members have any questions on D-star or need their radio programmed they can either ask me Toby (VK3PNF) or Rob (VK3ECH).

We now accept all inbound on outbound connections Inc DV-Dongle, Dvap and Hotspots. The repeater is also fully operational using call sign routing. We have been leaving the repeater connected to Reflector 3 C as there are some 10-15 other Dstar repeaters worldwide also connected but feel free to disconnect and use any other device. RGV B will automatically re-connect to REF003 when RF activity has been quiet for 15 mins.

The Gateways Internet connection is Telstra's Next G Network with a 3 GB limit. D-star has been using around 1.5 1.8 GB per month therefore leaving spare usage for other uses and projects. Maybe a webcam with a weather station???

Cheers Toby VK3PNF

General Business:

Financial members who cannot make it to the club meetings to collect their membership cards. Can receive them by sending a small self addressed envelope to SADARC Inc. PO Box 692, Shepparton, Victoria 3632, Australia. They will then be mailed back to you as soon as possible.

Daryl (VK3KL) has kindly donated his time to make a new sign for the club. He's done this by cutting out the club letters from Styrofoam. Painting them and placing these on a backboard. – *See photo at the end of the minutes. Editor*

Ed (VK3BG) received an email from Kevin Crockett (VK3CKC) of the Midland Amateur Radio Club to have our joint B.B.Q. on the Sun 10 of April. This is the week before we normally hold it each year. This is to avoid clashing with the WIA National Field Day Sun 17th of April. Also Kevin has suggested on having a field day as well as the B.B.Q. He thinking of setting up his Club trailer that works VHF/UHF bands. S.A.D.A.R.C. could set up the Squid pole vertical for HF like the previous year. We could advertise this as a field day and send out a certificate to the contacts made.

John (VK3FJHM) has asked if we could set up an amplifier and speakers for the Club meeting as some of us are having trouble hearing. The Club amplifier is too big and cumbersome for quick set up. I, Steven (VK3DAG) am in the process of building a simple amplifier speaker with its own battery for the club meetings. I should have it finished by next meeting.

Ed (VK3BG) has suggested that we set up a committee for the annual Ham Fest. This is to get things organised well in advance before the day. Toby (VK3PNF) has also offered to contribute to this. I Steven (VK3DAG) am happy to send out e-mails. Basically we need a group of people to work together in advance for the smooth running of the Ham Fest. On the day of the Ham Fest we need volunteers to run this event like previous years.

D-Star has been reinstalled back on Mt Wombat and working well. The cost of the D-STAR Internet connection on Mt Wombat is about $50 a month. This Internet connection is in Toby (VK3PNF) name. And the monthly bill is sent to the Treasurer, Ron (VK3COP). The reason for this is the Club has no phone line or an ABN. This means they won't give S.A.D.A.R.C. an account. This Internet connection can also be used for other duties. This is explained in the previous minutes. The Internet connection cost can be reviewed at a later date. But the Club should do right by Toby. Toby believes that D-Star will get more use with time as more people will explore this new technology.

Toby (VK3PNF) raised a motion that anyone who brings old equipment along to the Club rooms get permission from the committee before disposing any not needed items. If anything is left behind after people have viewed of what is displayed, they are to take this away from the Club room so not to be left behind. This is to stop the build up of old junk. This was seconded by Dave (VK3VCE).

John (VK3PXJ) raised a motion that the Club financing of the light box project be terminated. And Wayne (VK3XQA) can take all or any of the parts associated to the Light Box Project and proceed with it at his making. This was seconded by Tibor (VK3MRO).

Ron (VK3COP) is looking around for a cheap tower for the S.A.D.A.R.C. station. This is to replace the current power pole. As to the antennas on this power pole they are not able to be serviced without a climber with a rigging ticket. Let's hope we get lucky.

Another thing that came from the previous minutes was. Should the Club station be closed down? The discussion that took place was that it should certainly not be closed. The station is used for Examination, Contests, Jamboree of the Air (JOTA) and other purposes. Not to mention that the Club rooms are housed in the Scout/Guide complex. No more was said.

Toby (VK3PNF) explained that the 70cm repeater was putting out about 10 to 12 watts and not the quoted 5 watts that was in the previous minutes.

It was asked if anyone wants to take on the WIA Broadcast. It takes someone to download the broadcast from the Internet. And play it over two meter repeater with the timeout function disabled. There were no takers from any of the members present. If anyone wants to take this on they are welcome to.

As most of us are aware the two meter repeater is not working up to full performance. There seems to be a problem with the feeder or the main two meter antenna or both. It is currently operating on the spare antenna and feed line. To solve this problem we need someone with a rigging ticket who is willing to climb the tower with a harness attached. This is to perform the necessary test to work out what is wrong. The Club has someone who can do this. If we can all be patient we will fix this problem. The main thing to remember is that we need specialised person to solve this. And this will be in their spare time on top of Mt Wombat.

I hope these minutes help us keep informed. Remember that a Club is made up of interested people. The more that help out will benefit us all. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Cheers 73,
Steven Hamer VK3DAG
S.A.D.A.R.C. Secretary
Meting Closed 2:38PM

Announcements

Toby (VK3PNF) is now broadcasting the WIA News. This can be heard on Mt Wombat 2m (146.650Mhz) at 7.30pm every Sunday evening.

Daryl (VK3KL's) handiwork.

Please remember that this is your newsletter. It is only as good as the articles that I have submitted to me.

Lets Lighten Up

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity and where does it go after it leaves the toaster?

Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson: On a cool dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches one that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never use it to hurt others unless we need to learn an important lesson about electricity.

It also illustrates how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up batches of "electrons", which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpet so that they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travel down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit. AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT:

If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! But this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpeting.

Although we modern persons tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in. Then along came the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so severely that he started speaking only in incomprehensible maxims, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Eventually he had to be given a job running the post office.

After Franklin came a herd of Electrical Pioneers whose names have become part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments. Among them, Galvani discovered (this is the truth) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch it hop back into the pond -- almost.

But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention in 1877 was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923, when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879 when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: the electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year any new electricity was generated was 1937.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists have developed the laser, an electronic appliance so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations to the human eyeball, provided they remember to change the power setting from "Bulldozer" to "Eyeball."