



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

President:- Ed Roache
Vice President:- Peter Rentsch
Secretary:- Steve Hamer
Treasurer:- Ron Burns

VK3BG
VK3FPSR
VK3DAG
VK3COP

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From the Editor

In August it will be two years since I gained my Foundation Licence. So what have I learnt since then?

It is a little hard to measure the technical knowledge that I have gained but I do know now that I have grown in my understanding of the hobby and what it involves. I feel much more confident to have a conversation on air and I have had some great conversations with other operators over the time.

I have learnt a lot about our country as well as about radio. There are some very generous people out there that will freely give of their knowledge and experience in a manner that a person from a non-technical background can comprehend and I thank them for that.

The down side is that no matter what you do in life there are vandals. I don't mean the sort of vandal that actually breaks something, I mean the sort of vandal that purposefully disrupts other peoples conversations. I continually hear on 80m disruption to people having an innocent discussion. Why do they do that?

So, if you are reading this editorial then I would suggest that you respect the hobby enough not to be a vandal. So how do we as normal people that respect other people's rights get the message across to those who don't? I am not sure as individuals that we can, nor should we take the law into our own hands. So, it requires the authorities to police the problem. Policing costs money, our annual fees help cover the cost of the policing, so our hard earned dollars are used to apprehend the perpetrators.

Airwave "vandalism" should not be tolerated so, if you are aware of who the vandals are report them and get some of our annual fees working for the betterment of the hobby.

Cheers & 73's

Peter.
VK3FPSR

Dairy Dates.

Saturday 2nd July – Regular Meeting 1.00pm

Saturday 6th August – Regular Meeting 1.00pm

Saturday 3rd September – Regular Meeting 1.00pm

Sunday 11th September – SADARC HamFest/Comms Day

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th October – Proposed joint gathering with Bendigo, Wagga Wagga, Albury Wodonga Radio Clubs and the Vintage Radio Club on the Yarrawonga foreshore. More details to follow.

Sunday 4th December – Christmas Meeting. Venue to be finalised.

From the President

June is almost over, half the year has gone and the shortest day is now behind us. Before we know it the Comms Day will be here, as will the warmer weather and so some working bees will need to be considered – at the Club and on Mt. Wombat, as well as your own station antennas.

A lot of newer amateurs (and others) may not realise the importance of maintenance on cables and guy wires but, if forgotten or overlooked, can cause you, and maybe your neighbours, interference problems that may be hard to track down. Just take a fine day, a few tools and a couple of hours to check for corrosion, tightness of nuts & bolts & and lubricate/grease any pulleys and winches. Also check all coax connectors and cables for signs of water entry and bird damage and re-seal them with new vinyl tape.

While living in the tropics I replaced all my coax feed lines each year before the monsoon season (around Sept/Oct) so, if my equipment was needed during an emergency situation, like a cyclone, I was pretty sure it was going to work.

Down here in the higher latitudes it's not necessary to replace cables quite so often but it is certainly worth considering every 4 or 5 years, moving the cables down a band each time, ie: new coax for 70, move 70 down to 2M, the 2M coax onto upper HF (20/15/10) and its' cable onto the 40/80 antenna. That way the highest band always has the newest & least lossy cable and the more lossy cables (as they get older) are used on the lower bands where losses are not so important. The oldest cable can be sold for scrap, cut into pieces to make patch leads or have the outer sheath stripped off and the braid used to make low inductance earth straps to earth masts and equipment to prevent shocks or RF feedback. If you are careful, you can also recycle the connectors for later use.

AND REMEMBER – NEVER CLIMB OR RAISE/LOWER MASTS ON YOUR OWN – ALWAYS HAVE SOMEONE ELSE THERE AS A SAFETY BACKUP, even if only to call an Ambulance should an accident happen.

On a lighter note, The 6M Repeater is operational on Mt. Wombat, although it's still a bit deaf at the moment – those with the appropriate licence and equipment, please use it and help “run it in”.

Finally, the next club meeting is on Saturday July 2nd at 1 pm at the clubrooms in Mooroopna.

Hope to see you all there.

73

Ed
VK3BG

Minutes for SADARC

Saturday 4 June 2011, 13:00hrs

Meeting Open: 13:00 at the Mooroopna Club Rooms. All welcome

Present:

Ed VK3BG (President), Ron VK3COP (Treasurer), Alan VK3AO (Acting Secretary), John VK3FJHM, Ian VK3JNC, Jack VK3TJS, Brian VK3HBW, Kevin VK3BPH, Pat VK3OV, Max VK3DSF, Rodney VK3UG, Bill Crocker SWL, Trevor VK3VG, Wayne VK3XQA, Terry VK3MAR, John VK3PXJ, Dave VK3VCE, Ian VK3CHV, Alan VK3FALN, Peter VK3FPSR (Vice President & Newsletter), Hilton VK3AHY, Barry VK3KBY, Les VK3TEX

Apologies: VK3CAF, VK3FMDB a couple were missed due to poor recording

Respect for the passing of Vern, VK3AXW

Previous Minutes Passed:

Moved John VK3FJHM
Second Alan VK3FALN

Correspondence:

Ed informed the club that Steve VK3DAG has advised that due to work commitments he will be absent from the Secretary's role for approx three months. In the meantime Alan VK3AO will be acting Secretary

Business Arising:

Ed stated, further to the interference problem, he has heard nothing back from WIA, maybe because of the recent AGM held in Darwin. Ed will endeavour to speak to the person concerned while in Melbourne this week to find out something definite and if there has been any progress.

Re the Wagga Club, Ed was advised by a Albury member that the e-mail had not been read out at their meeting and therefore they were not aware of the proposed get-together. Details were passed over the air and another e-mail also forwarded to be presented at their next meeting. No feedback to date. Members were very warm on the idea at Yarrawonga

Treasurers Report:

Ron presented the treasurers report for the members.

A motion of acceptance of true and correct was moved by Ron VK3COP and seconded by Kevin VK3BTH
It was also noted that yearly membership fees are now due

Reports:

Technical Committee Rodney VK3UG

Rodney reported that it had been a disappointing week as members of the tech committee had been ill therefore unable to carry out scheduled work at Mt Wombat.

It was suggested that the antenna mount be modified to improve access to antennas.

Bill Crocker's experience was/will be sought in this regard.

The 6m repeater is working in town and hopefully will be installed at Mt Wombat in the very near future.

Please use/test the repeater when you get the chance. Your Tx frequency is 52.725 and Rx is 53.725 with a 123 Hz tone. Rodney has toyed with the idea of a different antenna and better cavity resonators that could give 9db gain. There was discussion on antenna orientation and mountain effect

Ray is continuing work on the IRLP. It is up and running on the 2m repeater

Ron suggested that work needs to be completed on the 2m repeater

Ed received a phone call from Greg VK3VKB donating:

- 1) Uband 815 70cm 50w rack mount repeater that could be used as an upgrade.
- 2) 4 folded dipoles and phasing harness that will give 6db gain on 70cm.Pickup Sunday in Melbourne
- 3) Greg has also donated 2 X 100watt dummy loads (400w int) suitable up to 2metres. These are to be given to the club member (not committee) who contributes the most to the club in the year

Kevin has a 70cm antenna available to the club. Thanks Kevin

General Business:

Ed received an e-mail from Les Carter donating Reg's (VK3ARB) equipment to the club. It consists of a FT1000MT HF and sundry items. Ed will acknowledge this generous donation.

The equipment may be offered to club members in the first instance, or possibly sold at the comms day. Should we consider a club spare?

Ian has received a "Certificate of Participation" dated April 26, 2011 from NASA that will be on the Mars rover We wait in anticipation for a reply

Rodney queried the progress of the "Large Expenditure" motion brought up at the last meeting And it was decided that large expenditures (\$500) will be put to members at a club meeting. Those NOT present will be notified by e-mail or other means. The proposed expenditure will be re presented at the next meeting for a vote and a majority will decide

Moved: Rodney VK3UG

Second: Brian VK3HBW

Wayne VK3XQA has compiled bags of electronic items (random) that will be available at the comms day for \$5. Thanks Wayne

Don't forget the comms day/hamfest on the 11th September

Alan & Ian	Security
John	Tickets
Max	2m call ins

Meeting closed 14:10. Thank you for your attendance.

Announcements

The last page of this Newsletter is a form to renew your Subscriptions. It is printed on a separate page so you can easily return it to Treasurer Ron VK3COP with out affecting your Newsletter. Subs are \$25.00 and are due on the 30th June.

If any members have articles for the Newsletter please send them to me. Thanks to those who have contributed to date.

If you have an E-mail address and to save the Club some money we are very happy for the Newsletter to be E mailed to you. Can you please let me know your E-mail address and I will record it for future Newsletters. My e-mail address is Petenkaz@tpg.com.au or Pages.Cobram@bigpond.com

From Rodney VK3UG

The 6 metre repeater has been tested at Geoff Angus's tower for a while. At short notice due to a favourable break in the weather, It was installed on Mt Wombat on Monday 6/6/2011 by Ray and Rodney. Preliminary tests indicate that the repeater is operating quite satisfactorily, however as 6 metre repeaters are not all that common it could still be considered to be in the testing phase. It is suggested that amateurs with the appropriate licence and who have the equipment, work the repeater as much as possible. Your receive frequency is 53.725 MHz and your transmit frequency is 52.725 MHz. Access is via normal noise mute or CTCSS 123 Hz. The effective radiated power out of the installation is around 12 watts. Then advise Ray VK3RW or Rodney VK3UG on how well the repeater performs in your location, whether the receiver sensitivity and transmitter output appear balanced, how it compares with the 2 metre repeater both at home and mobile. Any variations noted with temperature variations, whether between day or night of whatever may also be helpful.

There are a number of upgrades on antenna systems and equipment planned for Mt Wombat, but with the Winter closing in a number of these may have to wait until Spring. If breaks of good weather occur, visits to the mountain may be able to be arranged at short notice. Use our repeaters chaps. 73 Rodney VK3UG
Cheers Rodney

Last Meeting

Alan Ransley (VK3AO) was our guest speaker at our last meeting. Alan spoke about his experiences as Chief Pilot with the Royal Flying Doctor Service based at Port Augusta. Part of Alan's presentation is reproduced below.

Alan gave a brief history of the RFDS and then he covered topics such as the structure of the organisation, the operating sections, aircraft types, ownership and modifications, airstrips and navigation and finally the details of the Port Augusta base and what communication equipment the RFDS use. I have reproduced the details of the Port Augusta base and the comms equipment.

“PORT AUGUSTA

Operation 2 X PC12, 1 X B200, 1 x PA31 & Chieftain
 8 pilots
 4 doctors
 6 nurses
 2 engineers
 7 comms operators
 1 base manager

Area of responsibility.

Port Augusta to West Australian border, NT border (Marla, Mintabie), Clifton Hills (Birdsville track) and west of Flinders Ranges, Port Lincoln, Yorketown. South covered from RFDS base Adelaide

Flights

Clinics 3 days per week

Health Commission: 4 days per week providing services to rural & remote areas who do not have facilities. Physio, podiatrist, diabetes educator etc. RFDS provides aircraft and pilot only, with specialists from local hospitals and or practices

Evacuations/Emergencies: on call crew, doctor, nurse and pilot provide 24 hour coverage 7 days week. Pilot/nurse rostered 12, 10 and 9 hour shifts. Flights vary significantly. Could be a hospital transfer in visual conditions to a capital city airport by day or could be stormy night into a station strip lit by kerosene flares and no navigational aids for a roll over etc

RADIO AND COMMS

Up to the early 90s the RFDS HF network was extensive. Each base was operating several frequencies including the notorious 2020. Most of the transmitters at this stage were Codans running 4 x 4CX250B's in parallel giving each frequency 1000 PEP.

At Kalgoorlie, the HF transmitters and associated aerial farm was located at the RFDS base on the edge of town, with the receiving antennas remotely located some 10 miles out of town at an electrically quiet site. Telecom provided circuits from here back to the base.

At Port Augusta, both the transmitter and receiver antennas were located remotely at different sites and connected to the base via VHF links. Since 2008 all this is now digital.

School of the air was also incorporated with the RFDS although it is now a separate identity due to changes in technology and the Internet being available at remote stations.

Radphone calls were nearly continuous during the day in the 80s, many bases having one operator dedicated to this role. This is where the out station calls the RFDS base on HF and is then connected to the telephone network manually by the operator using a foot switch. This was operated when the comms person thought the out station had finished their "over".

After the extension of Telecoms network and the satellite program, many out stations and mining companies shared the same facilities as their city counterparts.

The RFDS also provided a mobile service to travellers in the outback. To the point that at one stage you were able to hire a HF from one base (eg PAG) and travel to Alice Springs and return it there. This service has been withdrawn and now the majority use VKS737.

As technology has moved the RFDS (in SA) now operate with the GRN (Government Radio Network) that provides all emergency services on a common system (although they operate on different channels). Any country town in SA where there is an Ambulance base, or SES base and potentially a Police station (proposed) there is a GRN outlet and contact can be made with your base. Eg if the RFDS activity is at Marla, it can contact Port Augusta with performance similar to VHF. By changing channels they can contact the Police, SES or Country Fire Brigade etc. This system was introduced in the 90's by the state government after one of the worst fire seasons. The inquiry into the loss of property and life was amazed that all emergency services operated their own comms systems (and practices) but had no common network through which to communicate.

Although the RFDS comms still have some HF, the system in SA for aircraft comms is firstly GRN then satellite phones and finally HF. The aircraft are also equipped with the trusty UHF CB that can be of great help if you are in the “outback” and need contact with a homestead (eg having the runway lights/flares operational for a night landing).

Also included in the “technology update” is aircraft tracking that allows comms staff to see the position of company aircraft. Updated every 5 or 6 minutes.”

Thankyou Alan for your most interesting presentation.

Humor

The Ultimate Metric Conversion Chart

1,000,000,000 Microphones = 1 Megaphone

1,000,000 bicycles = 2 megacycles

500 millinaries = 1 seminary

2,000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds

10 cards = 1 decacards

1/2 lavatory = 1 demijohn

0.000001 fish = 1 microfiche

453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake

1,000,000,000,000 pins = 1 terrapin

1,000,000,000,000,000,000 picolos = 1 gigolo

10 rations = 1 decoration

100 rations = 1 C-ration

10 millipedes = 1 centipede

3 1/3 tridents = 1 decadent

5 holocausts = 1 Pentacost

10 monologs = 5 dialogues

5 dialogues = 1 decalogue

2 monograms = 1 diagram

8 nickels = 2 paradigms

2 snake eyes = 1 paradise

2 wharves = 1 paradox

An interesting article from Dave Waring:

Emergency soldering tips

Many years ago (*RSGB Bulletin* May 1950, p377) "H.E.B." described a simple "emergency" technique for soldering together two wires without using a soldering iron that can also be used, for example, when repairing outside antennas.

The requirements are: a short piece of resin-cored solder, a piece of "silver paper" (aluminium foil), and a box of matches or a cigarette lighter. The procedure (Fig 5) is: (a) clean the wire ends, twist them together, and then wrap a short length of cored solder round them; (b) cover the whole with several layers of silver paper or foil, close up the ends, and place a lighted match or lighter flame under the wrapped joint and move it slowly backwards and forwards; (c) allow a few seconds for the joint to cool, remove the silver paper and (to quote H.E.B.) "surprise yourself with a perfectly soldered joint". H.E.B. pointed out that the real secret to success lies in wrapping the paper/foil on as tightly as possible with no air holes. The foil conducts heat to the joint as well as preventing oxidization and the formation of soot on the joint. It also stops the molten solder from running away. Better still, the dodge really works!

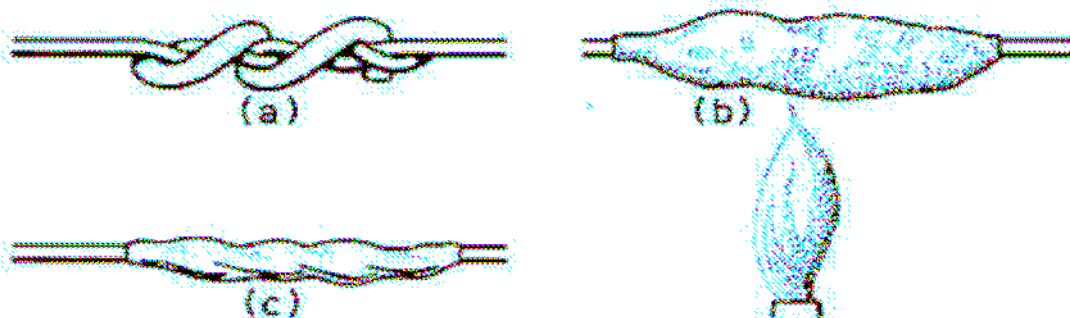


Fig 5. Why use a soldering iron? An old but still useful dodge for field days etc

A variation of this technique for field day use was given recently in *QST* (April 1982, p53, reprinted from March 1961). This is to prepare some pieces of thin solder in advance, by melting some on an iron and flicking it onto a flat surface, such as a sheet of aluminium, and then peeling it off. Then, to solder a joint where no iron is available, clean and join wires, apply flux, wrap the thin solder around the joint and apply a match or lighter flame. *QST* also reprints another soldering tip from 1961; this is to use a small 0.5-0.75in brush to remove solder droppings.

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. You do so at your own risk.

Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

Sponsors of VK3RGV 6m, 2m, 70cm, D-Star Repeaters & IRLP Node 6992
PO Box 692 SHEPPARTON VIC 3632

Membership Application/Membership Renewal Form

Annual Subscription

Membership Fee \$25.00

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Call Sign/Listener Only: _____

Postal Address: _____

Town: _____ Postcode _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please tick appropriate box:

New membership

Renewal of membership

Payment Method

Cash

Cheque/Money Order

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Thankyou for you valued Patronage.

Office Use Only: Date Paid _____

Rec No _____