



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

Volume 6 No 6 May 2011

From the Editor

In this final chapter on IRLP we will look at how the procedure actually works and what are the mechanics behind it as well as some additional comments on the use of IRLP.

You may recall in the last article I spoke about Nodes and Reflectors. Nodes allow connection from one person to another via their local Node. Reflectors allow connection from your Node to many Nodes. IRLP etiquette asks that if you are talking to a person for a period of time that you use their local Node and not the Reflector. This frees up the Reflector for others to use and it also reduces the workload on the Computers handling the communication.

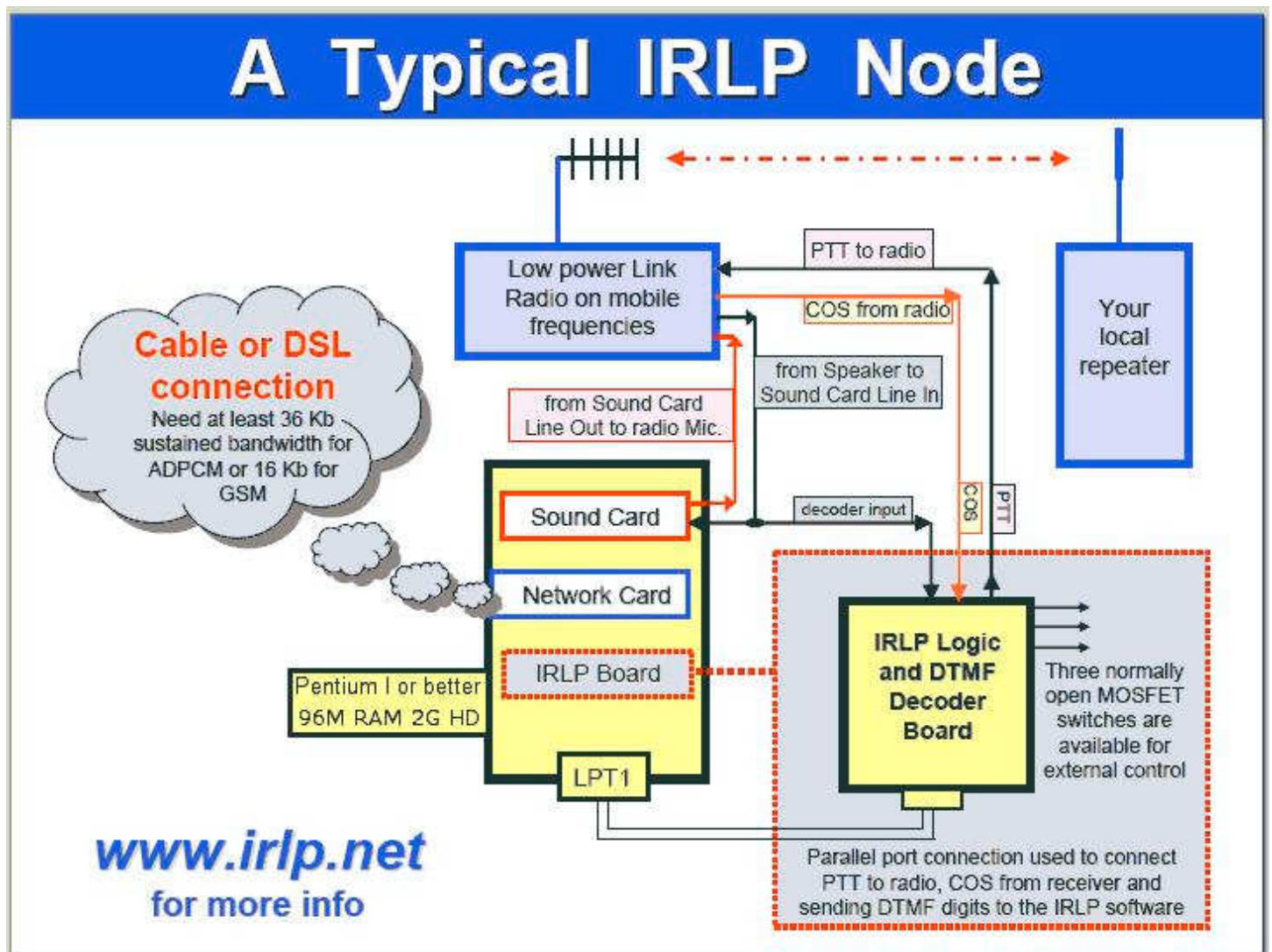
Just as an aside issue there is a IRLP Net held each day out of the USA. Anybody is welcome to call in. It is very well managed as they ask for calls from different areas of the USA, then Canada and South America, then Europe, then Asia, then Australia and New Zealand finishing with any other areas not covered. You need plenty of time because the whole thing takes about three hours and it means that you are connected to IRLP for that length of time. I joined in once and I was well received.

Another item of if interest in regard to IRLP is Google Earth. By down loading a link to Google Earth from the IRLP web site you can see once you load Google Earth what Nodes are connected at given time. It also shows you what Nodes are connected to what Reflectors. It updates every five minutes so as you see who is connected. It does not give the call sign of who is connected, just the Node number.

In simple terms the following explains the process. The system starts by receiving audio into a radio that has been modified to interface with a computer (using the IRLP interface board). When a signal is received by the radio, the Carrier Operated Squelch (COS) state changes. This change is then sent to the interface board, which tells the computer that the COS line is active. This change is picked up by the IRLP software and the computer starts sending a packet stream containing the audio from the receiver.

This audio is picked up by the connected computer(s) and played out the sound card. The IRLP software detects the incoming packets and sends a PTT signal to the link radio. Hence the audio from one end is heard on the other.

The following diagram explains the processes in a graphical format.



I hope this illustrate how IRLP operates. I enjoy using it and have made a number of contacts overseas. I regularly contact a Node in London and chat to somebody over there who has now become a friend. I could not do this on HF whenever I wanted to but I can using IRLP.

If you wish to find out more information about IRLP there are two good web sites to use. The first one is: www.irlp.net. This site gives you all the information you need to use IRLP. If you are into more of the technical aspects of IRLP or require some inside knowledge on troubleshooting then I suggest you look at <http://garymcduffie.com/irlp/>. The Yahoo group for IRLP web site is also very helpful when there is a problem to be solved.

That's it for this series of articles. I hope you have found them useful.

Cheers & 73's

Peter.
VK3FPSR

I wish to acknowledge the www.irlp.net web site for much of the information contained in these three articles.

Dairy Dates.

Saturday 4th June – Sausage Sizzle at 12.00 noon followed by the Regular Meeting at 1.00pm. Guest Speaker - Alan Ransley VK3AO talking on the RFDS. Comms Day Committee to meet at 11.00am prior to the meeting.

Saturday 2nd July – 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 on the Yarrawonga foreshore. More details to follow.

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

From the President

I'm saddened this month to have to report the passing of a former member, Vern Wyatt VK3AXW, who passed away on Wednesday May 11th, just 3 weeks shy of his 90th birthday. I knew him for many years and he was my mentor, introducing me to electronics and Amateur Radio when I was about 4 years old, back in the early 1950's. He lived just down the street from my parents place in Cobram and I used to wander down there on Sunday mornings to watch and listen to the strange voices and accents that used come out of his shack. Taking pity on me, Vern started teaching me about electricity, components and radio in his spare time and got me to build my first Xtal set with bits he gave me for my 5th birthday. From there, as the saying goes, the die was set. Vale Vern Rest in Peace.

Also this month the Club received notification from Tibor, VK3MRO, that he was standing down as Club Vice President due to work commitments. His position has been filled at very short notice by Peter, VK3FPSR, our Newsletter Editor, who I thank for stepping up to the plate.

The 6 M Repeater is back in operation after some modifications to the cavities and there is a distinct possibility that it might be moved to Mt. Wombat sometime this week, weather permitting. Also Toby, VK3PNF, has been setting up the IRLP & Echolink system, using a temporary 2m radio, on the 2m Repeater; so, if you are hearing some strange DTMF tones on air lately, that's what is happening.

The next meeting will be Saturday June 4th at 1.00pm as usual, with a Sausage sizzle beforehand at around noon. Alan VK3AO will be our guest speaker on the day talking about his experiences in the RFDS and there use of Radios.

The Comms day committee will meet at 11.00am to finalise details for September, so those on it, please be there.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting – regardless of the weather.

73

Ed
VK3BG

Minutes for S.A.D.A.R.C.

Saturday 7 May 2011

Meting Open: 13:15 at the Mooroopna Club Rooms

Present:

Ed VK3BG (President), Steven VK3DAG (Secretary), Ron VK3COP (Treasurer), Rodney VK3UG (Technical Committee), Pat VK3OV (Membership), John VK3PXJ, Wayne VK3XQA, Jack VK3TJS, John VK3FJHM, Alan VK3FALN, Kane VK3HKH, Bruce VK3FBNG, Darren VK3HEN, John VK3FJAF.

Apologies:

Ian VK3CHV (Station Manager), Peter VK3FPSR (Vice President) (Newsletter), Tibor VK3MRO, Dave VK3VCE, Matt VK3FMDB, Barry VK3AXX (Web Page), Ian VK3JNC, Clint VK3CAF, Jim VK2TWY, Rob VK3ECH, Ray VK3RW (Technical Committee), Duncan VK3DCX, Barrie VK3KBY, Alan VK3AYD, Alan VK3AO, Les VK3TEX, Toby VK3PNF (D-Star), Brian VK3HBW, Jan VK3ALF, Max VK3DSF, Bill SWL, Trevor VK3VG, Terry VK3MAR, Geoff VK3AHT.

Previous Minutes past: Steven (VK3DAG) moved that the last minutes be passed and John (VK3FJHM) seconds this.

Correspondence:

Ed (VK3BG) hears from the Wagga Club: SADARC has some inwards correspondence about the BBQ at Lake Mulwala from Wagga. The Wagga club is also suggesting camping in Yarrawonga for a night as well. And also having a mini car boot sale. This is to add to the original idea of a BBQ. It looks like the date for this will be on the last weekend in October on the Yarrawonga foreshore.

The Vintage Radio Group has also replied with an acceptance letter to this BBQ. So far there has been no response from the Albury club.

The QBE Insurance policy contract has arrived for SADARC. So it's now been finalised for another year. **A letter of resignation from Tibor (VK3MRO).** I simply put a copy of the letter in the Minutes.

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 7:20 PM

Hi Ed how are you? I will have to give up the vice president position because of work commitments. I am very sorry about this. But I don't think it is fair on the club especially since I can't get to most meetings.

Kind regards Tibor vk3mro

Ed VK3BG Called for nominations for Vice president. There were no replies from the members present. Ed had been talking to Peter VK3FPSR and he commented that he would take on the position. John VK3PXJ nominated Peter VK3FPSR for the Vice President Job. And Wayne VK3XQA seconds it. Congratulations to Peter VK3FPSR as the new Vice President.

Treasures Report:

Ron (VK3COP) handed out the treasurer's report for all members present. A motion was raised by Ron (VK3COP) as to the treasurer report and seconded by John (VK3FJHM).

Ron (VK3COP) moved that this month's accounts be paid and Trevor (VK3VG) second it.

Bunnings BBQ as fund raiser. Ed comes across an idea of raising funds for the club. Having a BBQ out the front of Bunnings warehouse. If possible it would be a great fundraiser. It's believed that you can raise \$1000 dollars for the day. Worth looking at.

Refit Your Workbench

Switchmode Laboratory Power Supplies

Compact size, high current, variable output and fan cooling make these the ideal power supply for your bench. They are protected against thermal overload and short circuit and will display a warning LED in the event of a fault condition. Current and voltage are displayed on separate backlit analogue meters. Two models available:

Common Specifications:

Ripple: <9mV at rated load, Output regulation: <1%
Dimensions: 148(W) x 162(D) x 62(H)mm

0 - 24VDC

• Current output: Max 18A, 15A continuous
MP-3800 \$149.00



MP-3800

0 - 16VDC

• Current output: Max 30A, 25A continuous
MP-3802 \$199.00

FROM
\$149⁰⁰



Micro Engraver new

The diamond coated tip spins at 10,000 RPM. Personalise tools, equipment and security ID on valuables etc. Engraves glass, ceramics, metals and plastics. Batteries and case included. Tip is replaceable.

• Size: 160(L) x 15(Dia)mm TD-2468

Replacement tip sold separately TD-2469 \$6.95

\$19⁹⁵

Electronic Tool Kit new

An excellent tool kit for electronic or fiddly repairs with all the essentials - cutters, pliers, screwdrivers, nut drivers etc. See website for full contents.

Case size: 210(L) x 140(W) x 38(D)mm

\$29⁹⁵

TD-2107



60W ESD Safe Solder/Desolder Rework Station

Complete solder & desolder station for production and service use. The temperature is easily adjusted in 1° increments with simple up/down buttons and the soldering/rework functions can be operated independently.

- ESD safe & suitable for lead-free solder
- Celsius and Fahrenheit display
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- Temp range: 160 - 480°C
- Hot air blower, 320W & 3 nozzles includes

TS-1574
\$369⁰⁰



Soldering Accessories

Deluxe GOOT Desoldering Tool

This is a high quality GOOT brand desoldering tool. It features Japanese build quality and a large vacuum chamber for extremely strong suction.

• Length 330mm

\$27⁹⁵



Solder Fume Extractor TH-1856

Designed to remove dangerous solder fumes from the workbench or work area, ideal for the enthusiast. It incorporates a ball bearing high volume fan to maximise airflow which is directed upwards at the rear of the unit to aid in safe dispersion of fumes. ESD safe.

\$69⁹⁵

TH-1580



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Jaycar Electronics
Shop 4, 575-585 Wyndham St,
Shepparton, VIC 3630
Ph: (03) 5822 4037



General Business:

Wayne VK3XQA making component bags: Wayne has been busy making up component bags of electronic components donated to the club. These will be sold at the upcoming hamfest.

Two Meter repeater interference. Ed VK3BG has sent a letter referring to the interference from the Ballarat repeater onto two meter repeater on Mt Wombat. The letter was sent to Peter Mills a week before Easter. As of the meeting there has been no reply.

Rodney VK3UG proposal on large expenditures. Here with my submission and notice of motion:-

That where any large expenditures or projects are proposed, all members be given the chance to voice their opinions before action is taken. The person or people proposing the action will give a realistic idea of the cost or amount of time involved in the action as well as explaining in detail if need be what is proposed and why and what advantage it will be to the club and club members. Club members will be invited to take part in any project to make it viable. This information should then be sent to all members who will then have the chance to assess the merits of the proposal. They will then have the opportunity to vote **YES** or **NO** and if they do not vote that will be construed as meaning that they will accept the view of the majority that voted, whether it be yes or no. A threshold value for expenditure of \$500 is suggested for a complete project or routine running costs. Smaller amounts would be approved or disapproved at a general meeting.

Cheers Rodney

Cheers 73, Steven Hamer VK3DAG
S.A.D.A.R.C. Secretary
Meting Closed at 2:20PM

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.

John Fisher VK3DQ, facilitator of the VK3ARK Training Academy is happy to come to Shepparton to run an upgrade course for those “F” calls that wish to upgrade.

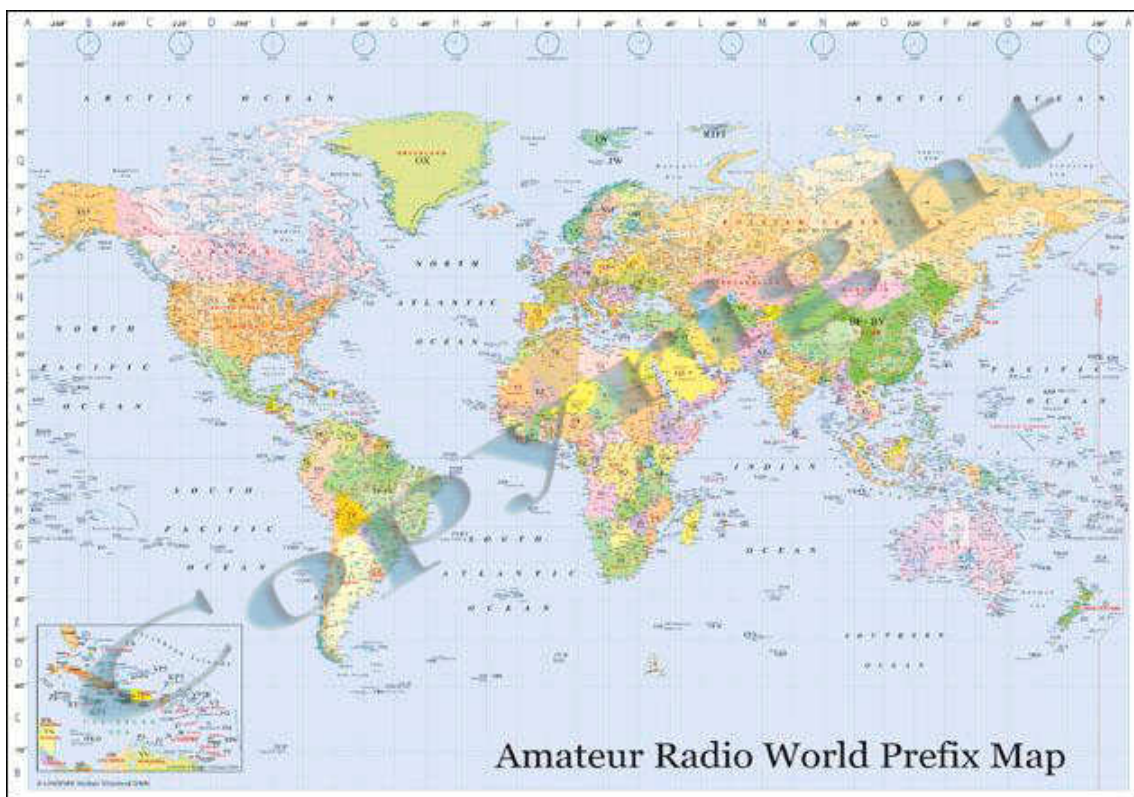
John runs these courses frequently in Melbourne. The upgrade from Foundation to Standard is a five week course. As it is not practical for us to travel to Melbourne over a five week period John is happy to come to Shepparton. His courses are normally free in Melbourne but there may be a cost involved if John travels to Shepparton. We would need at least five people that are happy to upgrade to make it worthwhile for John. If you are interested could you please contact Peter VK3FPSR – Ph 5871 1000 to register your interest.

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

If anyone is interested I have access to a **Amateur Radio World Prefix Map (Full Colour and Great detail)**. These maps are new, **Large 39" x 27" Amateur Radio World Prefix Map**, a perfect size for your wall. This map is fully up to date and includes all DXCC entities including Ducie Islands (VP6D), East Timor (4W), Peter Island (3YP) among others.

The price per map is \$25.00 delivered to the Club meeting. A lead-time of three weeks from placement of order to delivery is required. Payment is required with order. Please contact Peter VK3FPSR – Ph 5871 1000 if you are interested.



At our last meeting Bruce Glasson VK3FBNG spoke about his involvement in the Southern 80 Ski Race.

The report below is from Bruce and explains what occurs on the day and what is required of the Radio operators.

Bruce VK3FBNG and Darren VK3HEN gave a talk at the last meeting of the SADARC on how radio communications are a very important part in the running in one of the biggest ski races in the world the Southern 80.

The Southern 80 is run by the volunteers of the Moama Water Sports Club over two days on a Saturday and Sunday of each year along the Murray River from Torumbarry to Echuca, there are approximately 500 entrants from all over Australia. Bruce and Darren operate the main radio control at the finish line in Echuca for the safety check point radios. There are approximately 25 safety check points along the course. Each check point is issued with a MWSC radio transceiver which has the allocated UHF duplex frequency installed. Most of the check points are boats moored at strategic points along the course. A repeater is used to insure radio communications coverage of the entire course. The race does not start until every radio operator has reported to control that they are monitoring and ready. The task of each operator is to monitor the safety of the race crews and report any accidents or situations that require attention, another important task of each check point operator is inform by radio to the next check point in the direction the skiers are coming from of any danger ahead so that CP can warn the boats of the danger ahead by showing the boat operator the appropriate flag.

There is direct radio communications between the start and finish lines and radio communications between the sweep boats and the start and finish lines, the sweep boats can also communicate to the check points by using the CP simplex frequency. The sweep boat travels up the river following the last competitor in each section after each series of races. The sweep boats checks on any competitor's boats that have been unable to continue and then arrange with each check point by a hand held radio what boats need a tow and to which retrieval ramp to tow them to. The sweep boat operator also informs boat recovery at the finish line what they have arranged; this is all done via the sweep boat radios.

The committee of the Southern 80 are looking for more radio operators preferably with boats to assist with the communications at the safety check points, if you are interested to assist please contact Bruce or Darren on 03 54841343 or 0358521092, boat fuel and running costs to and from Echuca are reimbursed and free camping sites are available for volunteers at the Echuca Trotting track. A BBQ is supplied on the Saturday evening for the volunteers also.

As can be seen from the report Bruce is looking for more Radio operators to assist in the future. If you would like to help or find out any information Bruce can be contacted on 54841343 or via e-mail at bnglasson@bigpond.com

From Rod Champness:- It's time again for the annual 'Stella Awards'! For those unfamiliar with these awards, they are named after 81-year-old Stella Liebeck who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued the McDonald's in New Mexico , where she purchased coffee. You remember, she took the lid off the coffee and put it between her knees while she was driving. Who would ever think one could get burned doing that, right? That's right; these are awards for the most outlandish lawsuits and verdicts in the U.S. You know, the kinds of cases that make you scratch your head. So keep your head scratcher handy.

Here are the Stellas for this past year -- 2010:

SEVENTH PLACE Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas was awarded \$80,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The store owners were understandably surprised by the verdict, considering the running toddler was her own son

Start scratching!

*** SIXTH PLACE *** Carl Truman, 19, of Los Angeles , California won \$74,000 plus medical expenses when his neighbour ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbour's hubcaps.

Scratch some more...

*** FIFTH PLACE *** Terrence Dickson, of Bristol , Pennsylvania , who was leaving a house he had just burglarized by way of the garage. Unfortunately for Dickson, the automatic garage door opener malfunctioned and he could not get the garage door to open. Worse, he couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the garage to the house locked when Dickson pulled it shut. Forced to sit for eight, count 'em, EIGHT days and survive on a case of Pepsi and a large bag of dry dog food, he sued the home owner's insurance company claiming undue mental Anguish. Amazingly, the jury said the insurance company must pay Dickson \$500,000 for his anguish. We should all have this kind of anguish Keep scratching. There are more...

Double hand scratching after this one.

FOURTH PLACE Jerry Williams, of Little Rock, Arkansas, garnered 4th Place in the Stella's when he was awarded \$14,500 plus medical expenses after being bitten on the butt by his next door neighbour's beagle - even though the beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. Williams did not get as much as he asked for because the jury believed the beagle might have been provoked at the time of the butt bite because Williams had climbed over the fence into the yard and repeatedly shot the dog with a pellet gun.

Pick a new spot to scratch, you're getting a bald spot.

*** THIRD PLACE *** Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania because a jury ordered a Philadelphia restaurant to pay her \$113,500 after she slipped on a spilled soft drink and broke her tail bone. The reason the soft drink was on the floor: Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument. What ever happened to people being responsible for their own actions?

Only two more so ease up on the scratching...

SECOND PLACE Kara Walton, of Claymont , Delaware sued the owner of a night club in a nearby city because she fell from the bathroom window to the floor, knocking out her two front teeth. Even though Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the ladies room window to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge, the jury said the night club had to pay her \$12,000....oh, yeah, plus dental expenses. Go figure.

Ok. Here we go!!

*** FIRST PLACE *** This year's runaway First Place Stella Award winner was: Mrs. Merv Grazinski, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who purchased new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On her first trip home, from an OU football game, having driven on to the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go to the back of the Winnebago to make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the motor home left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Also not surprisingly, Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not putting in the owner's manual that she couldn't actually leave the driver's seat while the cruise control was set. The Oklahoma jury awarded her, are you sitting down? \$1,750,000 PLUS a new motor home. Winnebago actually changed their manuals as a result of this suit, just in case Mrs. Grazinski has any relatives who might also buy a motor home. If you think the court system in the US of America is out of control, be sure to pass this one on.

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

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