

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

President:- Peter Rentsch
Vice President: - Ed Roache
Secretary: - John Waters
Treasurer: - Ron Burns

VK3FPSR
VK3BG
VK3PXJ
VK3COP

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Warning: - There is a danger of electrocution or injury when working on electrical/radio gear.
You do so at your own risk.

Newsletter December 2011/January 2012

Hello Everyone,

My name is Les Tatar and my call sign is VK3TEX and I am the newsletter editor for 2012.

I have been a member of the club for a while now since 1995. I have also held other various positions within the club over the years, and this is my first newsletter...

By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year's will have gone, I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable break.

First we will start with the President's Report...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Presidents Report December 2011, January 2012

As this is my first report as President I need to start with a few thank yous. Firstly let me thank Ed VK3BG for all the work he did as President. As I have already found out there is a lot that goes on in the background that takes up your time. Secondly, let me thank Steve VK3DAG and Alan VK3AO for the work they did as Secretary's. Next I need to thank Ron VK3COP for his ongoing work as treasurer. Apart from these members there are many others that contribute a great deal to the Club as well. Those that organise the Comms Day, the Technical Committee and those that contribute in any way to SADARC, I thank you for your contribution.

Welcome to the new committee and I look forward to working with you during the coming year for the benefit of SADARC and the education of members and non-members alike in the hobby that is Amateur Radio.

As the weather has now improved a Working Bee has been carried out on Mt Wombat. The foliage was tidied up around the hut to reduce fire risk and hiding places for critters. The new

2m/70cm vertical was installed and the 2m Polar was removed. Earth stakes were located and cleaned up ready for the new frame work to be connected to them and some additional work was carried out on the 6m repeater. Thank you to those that helped on the day, a job well done.

The framework that is to be installed on the top of the shack on Mt Wombat has now been completed. It has been built by Bill Crocker, ably assisted by Rodney VK3UG. Rodney has taken the framework to Furphy's for galvanising and this has now been completed. It is hoped that early in the New Year that this framework will be installed on the Mt Wombat.

Many of you will note that I don't always come up on the 2M Net on a Wednesday night and I must apologise this. The reason for this is that on Wednesday evenings I have a Rotary Meeting. This is every Wednesday night and is supposed to finish at 8.00pm. Most times it is possible for me to get away on time but occasionally I can't, hence my non-appearance or late appearance on the Net. Thank you for your understanding.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 4th February at the Guides Hall in Mooroopna. At this meeting everyone will be given the opportunity to help set priorities for the Club and where we as Members would like to see our Club go in the next 12 months. The method of approach for this meeting will be a little different so please come along with your ideas for the future of the Club. There will be an opportunity for everyone to contribute in a non-threatening manner. I look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at the meeting.

Karen – my XYL and I wish you all a very safe, successful and healthy 2012. Good DX and have fun with Amateur Radio.

73,s

Peter Rentsch VK3FPSR
President SADARC

Working BEE December 3rd 2011 at Mt Wombat

Rodney VK3UG Report:

Greetings gentlemen – Working bee personnel, and club committee,

The day couldn't have been better for the working bee as it was warm, calm and dry. The following attended:- Ian VK3CHV, Clint VK3CAF, Darren VK3MJD, Steve VK3DAG, Philip VK3ELV, Brian VK3HBW, and Rodney VK3UG.

The most important jobs were very ably attended to by Ian – first the removal of the big brute of an antenna (2mx) on top of the lattice tower (7.6 metres long I believe). Ian would like to know exactly what it weighs out of interest. He then removed the old pager antenna - the 2mx antenna that was putting crackles on the signals when it was windy. Finally he fitted the replacement 2mx (and 70cm ant. We can only get dual banders at the moment) antenna (5.2 metres) in place of the old pager antenna. Ian is very well equipped, qualified and capable as he made it look so easy, even though we know that it isn't. Thanks a heap Ian; it is a great effort which the club members will appreciate more as time goes by.

Several members cleaned the area around the hut and lattice mast of small bracken undergrowth particularly around and near the coaxial cables. Now in case of fire, our installation should fare much better.

Rodney and Philip reinstalled the 6 mx repeater. The preamplifier was tried but the results were not any better than with the FM828 receiver running by itself, so it was removed, and Philip took it back home. Checks were then made on the input of the repeater to overcome any interference from the controller. The crystal case was earthed to the cabinet and the controller was bonded to the FM828, with a slight improvement in noise on the input frequency. However, when the IC706 of Philip's was connected to the repeater antenna interference was still heard. Tests were done in the hut but no source was found. A quite strong source was eventually found coming from the Shire of Strathbogie communications hut around 40 metres away. This is probably the interference Rodney originally detected when the 6 mx antenna first went in. It is now our task to work with the Strathbogie Council to determine what equipment is causing the interference (which is DE sensing our repeater) and getting it eliminated.

When the work was about finished Steve stoked up the BBQ and we had snags, spuds, bread and tomato sauce.

The two antennas with problems have been brought back to Steve's home and they can be picked up by whoever is going to try and repair them. Steve may be able to deliver them. That can be discussed at a meeting.

It was a most successful working bee and thanks to all who took part. The irritating problems of the 2 mx antennas hopefully are over for some time now.

I spoke a little about the antenna frame that is to go on the top of the hut. This should be installed all being well in January. The existing earth wires were found and earth cables from the new antenna frame can be easily attached to them.

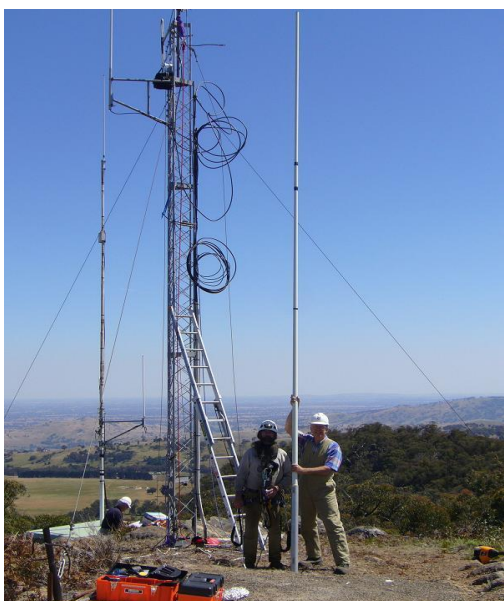
Cheers Rodney

Here are some photos of the day:





Top two photos are Bill Crocker working on the frame, bottom photos the boys are relaxing after removal of the big 2m antenna, and Ian VK3CHV climbing the tower.



Left, Ian VK3CHV and Clint VK3CAF, enjoying the day, and right the tower being guyed back up.

December 2011 SADRC Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of meeting & Xmas break up, held at Benalla Bowls Club on the 4/12/2011.

Present was John VK3PXJ & Fay Peter VK3FPSR & Karen ,Ron VK3COP, Alan VK3FALN & Marilyn, JohnVK3FJHM & Helen ,Steve VK3DAG, Jack VK3TJS & Bozena.

Claudia & Bret, VK3SWL Norma, Ed VK3BG, good to see Ed looking a lot better than he has been, Rod VK3UG & Lyn, Pat VK3OV & Barbara, Hilton VK3AHY.

Thanks to Ron VK3COP for choosing such a good venue. Ron VK3COP presented the treasurers report. Peter VK3FPSR presented certificates to all the ladies that worked in the kitchen, at our comms day, and a big thank you Jack VK3TJS for organising the food and everything in the kitchen. A Dummy Load was presented to Jack VK3TJS for his continued help with the catering.

Allan VK3AO and Ian VK3CHV will also be presented with Dummy Loads as a thank you for the extra effort they have put into the Club this year. Bill Crocker was presented with a book, 50yrs Of Technical Topics for all his good work at Mt Wombat. There was a working bee held at Mt Wombat on Sat 3rd which was very successful. There will be an executive meeting on Saturday 14th Jan 2012 to be held at the RSL HALL, Nunn St BENALLA, at 11am to be followed by Lunch at a venue to be decided. Our next meeting will be on Saturday the 4th February at 1pm.

Merry Xmas and a happy new year to all club members and their families.

Photos of the Benalla SADARC Christmas Function:



Looks like everyone had a great time!!

2 Meter Collinear Antenna Dismantling:

The 2 meter antenna that was taken off the tower on Mt Wombat was dismantled by Daryl VK3KL; here are some photos and comments.



Hi all

- > Thought you may be interested in the state
- > Of the Collinear
- >
- > Well the pics will tell you a lot
- > Bad corrosion on the brass and they used
- > Bubble wrap to pack it out they were all damp
- > The top one was wet
- > I filled the Radome with water and found
- > A leak at the top cap that appears to have a bearing
- > On water entry as the top element was black
- > As per photo as they went down they were a lot
- > Cleaner you could see the condensation in the bubble wrap
- > On all joins.
- > I have given the elements one clean will need a few more
- > So at this stage all looks good.
- > Daryl

From the Editor:

I received a nice email this month from a former member of SADARC who a few of you may remember:

Hello from VK4

Good afternoon friends,
I just stumbled across SADARC site, and this brought back many memories
Of my early Ham life.
I used to live in Mooroopna, in Gange Street to be exact. I worked at
Ardmona fruits.
A mate of mine up the road from me,.....
Ross Farrar and I received our novice licenses in 1980, having
developed our interests
Through the CB days.
We were part of the original team who helped establishing and building
the site on Mt.Wombat.
What a great time that was. It was quite an effort to get the bricks
etc. up there.
At one time, I was Vice President of the club circa 1981. My
name...Phil Menyweather VK3PLM.
I returned to VK4 in 1983, and after some time, let my license lapse.
However, about a year ago, I got my old VK4 call back, and am now
trying to become active once again.
I now live at beautiful TIN CAN BAY [nr Fraser Island on mainland], and
my call VK4NXZ.
Maybe some old members from that era may remember me.
I would love to hear from them. I will try to make contact via
echo link.
Kind regards,

Phil Menyweather VK4NXZ

Skype: phil.menyweather

Note from editor: I have Phil's mobile number for anyone who wants to
contact him.

I hope everyone has a great 2012 and I hope to see you all at the
February meeting.

Cheers,
Les VK3TEX
Newsletter Editor.