



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  
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

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.

### Presidents Report March/April 2012

I hope during this time of flooding in our region none of our members have been affected by the excess of water that is around. I have not heard of any but if you do need some help in overcoming the damage the floods have caused to your equipment and shack please contact me and I will see what arrangements can be made to assist. To all those affected by the floods I wish them a quick recovery.

The flooding caused us to cancel our March meeting and to any members that may have turned up on the day I apologise. We did try and cover most members but it can be difficult at times to contact everyone. Thanks to Rodney who helped on the day with letting people know and placing a sign on the door at the Scout Hall informing members that the meeting had been cancelled.

We now meet again on the second Saturday in April which is the 14<sup>th</sup>. Our regular meeting on the first Saturday was moved forward a week due to it falling on Easter Saturday.

**SO, PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NEXT MEETING IS THE 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1.00PM MOOROOPNA SCOUT HALL.**

Prior to the regular meeting at 1.00pm the Executive will meet at 10.00am at the Scout Hall for an Executive meeting. After the Executive meeting and prior to the regular meeting there will be a Club BBQ commencing at about 11.30am. So come along early and have some social interaction with other members of the Club.

The following Sunday, which is the 22<sup>nd</sup> April is our annual get together at Goulburn Weir with the Midland Amateur Radio Club. This is great day and an opportunity to talk radio to another group of like-minded enthusiasts. Goulburn Weir is great location with shelter and BBQ,s provided. This year it is BYO everything commencing at 11.00am onwards.

Midland Amateur Radio Club, Albury Wodonga Radio Club and the Wagga Wagga Radio Club have all been invited. As well as the BBQ there will be a low key Car Boot Sale for those that wish to dispose of some excess equipment. If you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity to sell some excess gear bring a boot full. There will be no charge by our Club to anybody who wishes to participate in the Car Boot Sale and it is your responsibility to display your sale items as you wish.

So bring your food, drinks, chairs & rugs for a great day of fellowship with other Amateurs.

That's it from me this month. See you in April.

73,s

Peter ,VK3FPSR

## VERY IMPORTANT!! AGAIN!

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 14th April. There will be an Executive Meeting at 10.00am followed by a BBQ for all Members at 12.00 noon and then our usual meeting at 1.00pm.

On Sunday the 22nd April is our regular BBQ at Goulburn Weir with Midland Amateur Radio Group.

It is BYO everything so catering does not have to be arranged.

## **TECHNICAL REPORT MARCH 2012**

Due to the floods our last meeting was cancelled. To keep you up to date the technical report for the meeting is therefore published in this newsletter.

You will all have seen the report of the technical committee for last month in the newsletter, which included a report on the working been on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The repeater installations on Mt Wombat continue to provide much improved performance when compared to before the working bee. Many who had trouble accessing the 2 metre and 6 metre analog repeaters now receive good performance from them. The digital signal processing (DSP) that Philip has installed on the 6 metre repeater is proving to be very effective. The technical committee and others are thinking of several other upgrades on services but they will be some time down the track if approved by the club.

There are still a number of things to do up at the repeater site over the next few months, but they are not things requiring a full scale working bee:-

- The interference to the 6 metre repeater will be investigated after the fire season is considered over and a suitable date can be organised with the CFA technician.
- The various safety items are to be properly installed on site and inside the hut cleaned.
- The oversize small masts for the hut antennas have been replaced with items of the right diameter and they will be installed in due course. We borrowed 2 masts from Clint to get things up and running.
- A (new to us) UHF folded dipole array for 70 cm is planned to be installed on the hut to take the place of the current X50 antenna, hence giving a little more gain on the analog 70cm repeater. The X50 would then become available for any 2 metre and 70 cm service should the main repeater antenna normally used for a particular service develop a fault.
- As mentioned in the report in the last newsletter, a coax connector is to be checked on the mast and various coaxial cables are to be tidied up. The Bracken fern could do with some more attention too.

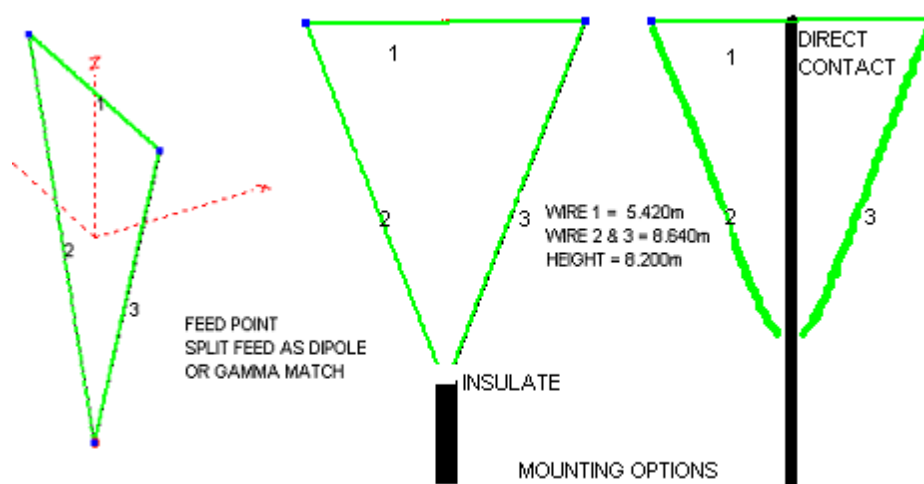
The 2 metre antenna that was installed in December was removed and tested by Daryl and Greg. It was found to be well off tune and despite work being done on it, it would appear from Daryl's comments that it is more suited to the UHF CB band on 476 MHz rather than 2 metres and 70 cm amateur bands. It was purchased in a hurry to meet a deadline which unfortunately couldn't be met, the brand of antenna we wanted was unavailable so this Chinese copy of a Diamond was obtained. It has proved to be an unfortunate purchase and found to be made cheaply and would most likely not have lasted the winter on the hill. We all live and learn. We would recommend members wanting to purchase an antenna, that it is better to wait for the antenna you want, rather than accept an inferior antenna. Anyone got any thoughts what we should do with it?

Rodney, on behalf of the Technical Committee.

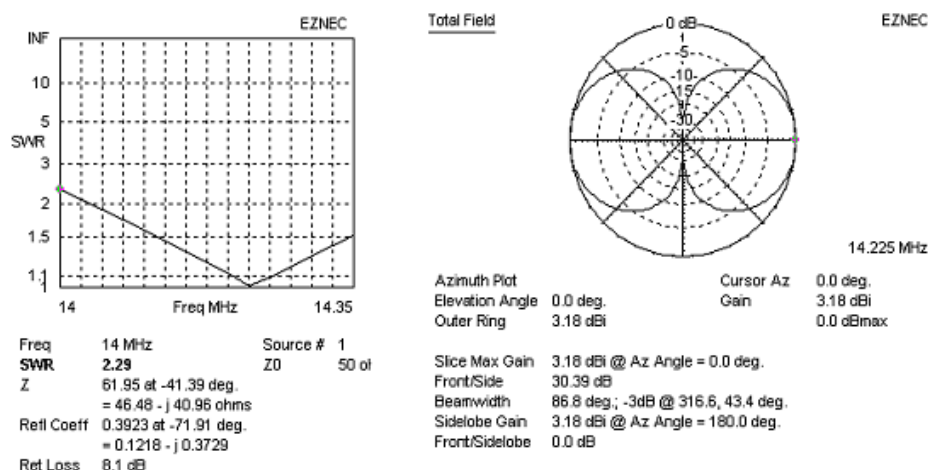
## LIMITED SPACE 20 METRE ANTENNA

Do you wish you could rotate that 20m dipole or G5RV? Do you want a bit more gain but have no room for a tower and a beam? A rotatable single element quad could be the answer. A normal square quad is a bit of a mechanical nightmare and can have a lot of wind resistance. It also has an impedance of about 100 ohms when we want 50 ohms. A delta loop or triangle quad is mechanically simpler, stronger, has less wind resistance, and has many more construction options. If you "stretch" a horizontal polarized quad horizontally (maintaining a full wave loop) the impedance increases until you end up with a folded dipole. If you "stretch" it vertically the impedance is reduced and the gain increases. The gain increases because the spacing between the two radiating sections is increased. A multi band version could be constructed by scaling the dimensions and putting smaller loops inside the larger ones. This of course would require separate feeds or relay switching.

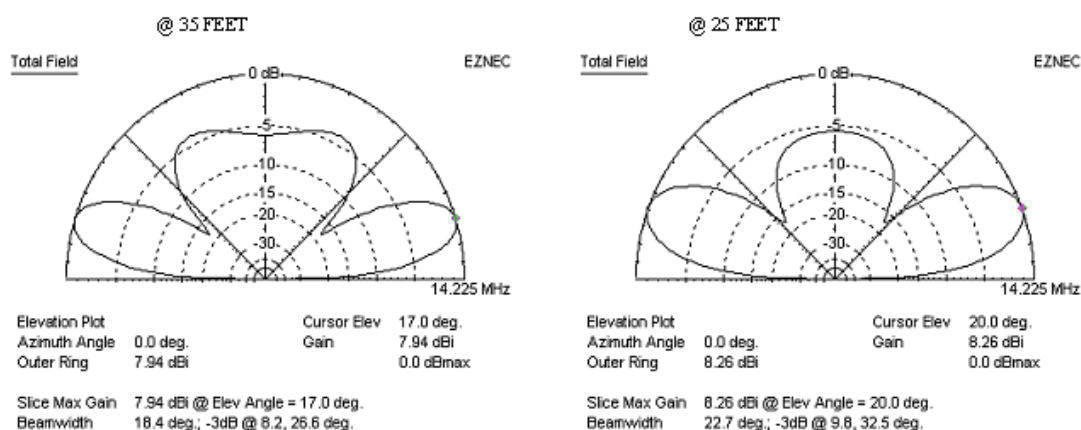
### 20 meter 50 ohm delta loop quad



## FREE SPACE SWR, PATTERN & GAIN



## RADIATION ANGLE AND GROUND REFLECTION GAIN ...



## THE FIRST 3.590 BOTTLE SHOP MEET AND GREET ON THE 2/3 /4 MARCH

**HELLO TO ALL OPERATORS RECEIVING THIS EMAIL, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS REPORT AS AN INFORMATION REPORT ON THE FIRST BOTTLESHOP NET MEET AND GREET HELD AT MT FRANKLIN DAYLESFORD VICTORIA.**

**WE SET OF FROM OUR HOME LOCATION FRIDAY MORNING AT 9.30AM HEADING FOR DAYLESFORD .THE WEATHER WAS LOOKING A LITTLE OVERCAST AND DULL BUT WE COULD DO NOTHING ABOUT THAT AS WE WERE HEADING TO MT FRANKLIN IN HOPE THAT WE COULD PUT A FACE TO THE CALL SIGN OF OUR RADIO FRIENDS THAT SUPPORT THE NET RUN BY MYSELF VK3MBW AND OUR TASSIE PARTNER IN VK7VTX GAVIN.**

**NOW AS YOU WOULD BE AWARE THAT THE NET HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR AN ON AIR TIME OF 115 WEEKS AND WE TO THIS STAGE HAD ONLY PUT FACES TO A FEW OF THE OPERATORS THAT WE MEET AT THE SWAP METS ABOUT THE COUNTRY. I HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR SOME HELP TO GET**

**THIS BBQ AND MEET AND GREET TOGETHER AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF VK3KLB ,VK3BTW WE HAD A DATE FOR THE GET TOGETHER.**

**VK7VTX COULD NOT ATTEND DUE TO A LATTER VIST PLAINED TO AUS ON THE 13/3/12.**

**SEVERAL EMAILS BACK LATER WE HAD A GROUP OF COMMITED PEOPLE WHO WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO CATCHING UP AT THE MEET AND GREET BBQ.**

**WITH THE DATE SET I THEN WENT THROUGH THE VAST NUMBER OF CALL SIGNS OF THE BOTTLESHOP NET OPERATORS AND INVITED ALL TO ATTENED ON THE BBQ DATE AT MT FRANKLIN VOLCANO IN DAYLESFORD VIC.WE MEET UP WITH ALBERT VK3KLB AND KAY ON THE WAY IN TO THE VOLCANO AND TRAVELLED PART OF THE WAY IN.**

**ON ARRIVAL WE FOUND THAT STEVE VK3DAG AND DOUG VK3FJAE HAD SETUP THERE CAMP ON THURSDAY AND WERE WAITING FOR US TO START ROLLING IN .**

**I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT WE HAD 20 HAMS AND WIVES THAT ATTENDED A GREAT GET TOGETHER AT THE LOCATION.THE WEATHER WAS HOWEVER SOME WHAT UNKIND WITH RAIN THROUGH OUT THE DAY SATURDAY AND AGAIN SUNDAY MORNING FOR PACKUP. FRIDAY NIGHTS NET WAS RUN FROM TASSIE BY GAVIN AND OUR LOYAL ASSISTANT VK3VCR GARY,THANKS GUYS I THINK WE HAD ABOUT 26 ON THE NET WHICH SEEMS TO BE A FAR AVERAGE WEEKLY.**

**FRIDAY NIGHT WAS A GOOD BIT OF FUN WITH LIMITED RADIO ACTIVITY FROM THE CRATTER BUT OBVIOUSLY ENOUGH TO ALLOW THE ACMA. WHO WAS AT MARYBOROUGH GET WORD THAT A GROUP OF AMATEURS WERE IN TOWN FOR A BBQ ,SO SATURDAY MORNING WE ALL WELCOMED MARK TELL FROM THE ACMA INTO CAMP ,ENJOYED A CUP OF WARM COFFEE AND A CHAT ON THE ACMA ACTIVITIES THAT MARK AND THE OTHER RADIO INSPECTORS WERE CONDUCTING.MARK HAD BEEN UP FOR A CLUB PRESENTATION AND DROPPED IN ON HIS WAY PAST.**

**SATUDAY NIGHT WE HAD ANOTHER BBQ GET TOGETHER AND A FEW QUIET ONES BUT DUE TO BAD WEATHER MOST WERE FAIRLY EARLY TO BED.**

**SEVERAL SCHOOLS ALSO BRAVED THE WET FOR SOME TRAINING IN CAMPING AND THE PREPARATION FOR A TRIP TO BORNEO LATER IN THE YEAR.**

**SEVERAL OF OUR PEOPLE HAD MADE VERY LONG TRIPS VK3FTFM,VK3VBC ,VK3FMX,AND VK3MJR AND HAD TO RETURN HOME ON SATURDAY NIGHT SO A VERY SPECIALTHANKS GOES TO ALL FOR TRAVELLING TO SAY HELLO.**



**SUNDAY AGAIN RAIN AND PACKUP TIME WAS UPON US AND WE BEGAN TO DEPART FOR OUR HOME LOCATIONS. TREVOR AND HIS WIFE WERE ON HOLIDAYS SO HAD DECIDED ON STAYING A COUPLE MORE DAYS. FROM VK3MBW BARRY AND SANDRA WE THANK EACH AND EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED AND INVITE YOU TO BE WITH US AGAIN IN 2013 FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEET AND GREET BBQ.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPORTERS OF THE BOTTLESHOP NET THAT COULD NOT ATTEND THE MEET AND GREET. VK3MBW BARRY NET CONTROL GEELONG AND VK7VTX GAVIN NET CONTROL TASSIE.**

**Photos of the Bottleshop Net Weekend:**







Thanks to Phil VK3ELV for the antenna article and Steve VK3DAG for the Bottleshop net article.



I hope everyone has a safe and happy Easter from VK3TEX your newsletter editor!

