



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

President:- Peter Rentsch
 Vice President:- Phil Dwyer
 Secretary:- Darren Glasson
 Treasurer:- Greg Keegan

VK3FPSR
 VK3ELV
 VK3HEN
 VK3PXA

October 2012 Newsletter

Presidents Report October 2012.

Thank you to all those that attended the last meeting, both the regular meeting and the AGM.

To all those that have taken on positions we say thank you. And a thank you must be given to those members retiring from positions. A special thank you to Ron VK3COP who for the last few years has been treasurer of the Club. It gave me great pleasure to present Ron VK3COP with a Life Membership of SADARC. Ron, as you would know has put in a great effort over the last few years as treasurer and a Life Membership was well deserved.

The new executive consists of:

President:	Peter Rentsch	VK3FPSR
Secretary	Darren Glasson	VK3HEN
Treasurer	Greg Keegan	VK3PXA
Vice President	Phil Dwyer	VK3ELV

Technical Committee	Rod Champness	VK3UG
	Phil Dwyer	VK3ELV
	Ray Wales	VK3RW
	Geoff Angus	VK3ZNA

Station Manager	Ian Ward	VK3CHV
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Membership	Pat O'Shannessy	VK3OV
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Newsletter	Les Tatar	VK3TEX
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Web Site	Steve Hamer	VK3DAG
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The December meeting is our usual Christmas Sunday Lunch. This year it will be held at the Shepparton RSL on Sunday 2nd December. A booking has been made and I will need an indication of numbers at the November meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 3rd November. I would like to hold an executive meeting commencing at 10.30am at the Guide Hall. This would be followed by a BBQ at 11.30am with our meeting to follow at 1.00pm.

It is important that we hold an executive meeting to review the year gone by and put in place what we like to accomplish in the next 12 months. If any members that are not on the executive have anything that they wish the executive to discuss can they please send the details in writing to me or the Secretary prior to the meeting.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the November meeting.

Peter – VK3FPSR
President – SADARC

Annual Report for the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club.

2012.

It is with pleasure that I present the annual report for SADARC for the year 2012.

The year started off with a very pleasant Christmas Lunch held at the Benalla Bowls Club. The Christmas Lunch is always a good day of fellowship and getting to know our fellow members and their partners.

In January we held a well-attended executive meeting in Benalla at which time we discussed the direction of the Club.

The next meeting was the February meeting at which some lively discussion was held and I carried out a survey of members as to what they would see as priorities for the Club. Some of these ideas have been put into place and the results were published in a subsequent Newsletter.

The March meeting was cancelled due to flooding rains.

Our April meeting commenced for those involved with an executive meeting. This was followed by a Club BBQ and then the normal meeting. The following Sunday some of us attended the annual get together with the Midland Amateur Radio Club at Nagambie Weir. There was a good attendance of members from both Clubs and a great day was had by all.

Our May meeting was followed by some Videos on Amateur Radio including a video by Craig, VK3CRG on operating portable.

June meeting saw a guest speaker in the form of Bert Orr, Senior Paramedic in Cobram talk about First Aid and Safety for the Amateur. He also spoke at length on being aware of the symptoms of Stroke. Also in June we held a field day at Kyabram organised in the main by

Michael VK3FMAA. This was great day and a lot of fun. Thank you to all those who attended and contributed to the day.

A pre meeting BBQ was held prior to the July meeting with an executive meeting held on that day as well. Our guest speaker at the July meeting was Tim Roadley. Tim introduced us to an event to be held in December called the Murray QUAD. We have been asked to do the communications for the day and the Club has agreed to help. 12 – 15 operators will be required so please keep Saturday 15th December free. This is great opportunity for us to showcase Amateur Radio.

Our August meeting saw us commence final planning for the Hamfest. As well as that we had Rodney VK3UG do a presentation on interference to Amateur Radio and some common causes.

September meeting saw us put in place the final arrangements for a very successful Hamfest considering the current economic climate.

Some thankyou's need to be made. To the members of the executive and committee, thank you for the work that you have done throughout the year. To those that aren't on any committee but help out as best they can when they can, thank you to you as well. To all those members that turn up to the meetings thank you to you as well. It makes it worthwhile putting some effort into the meetings when you know you are going to get some appreciative members along.

I have purposely not made any comment about the progress of the repeaters and the equipment that the Club owns and operates. Rodney has provided us with a very comprehensive report. My only comment is that to me in my limited understanding it all seems to be working relatively well. The nature of Amateur Radio being experimental means that we can always try new thing but we have to be careful that the cost does not out way the benefit gained.

Many other tasks have been carried out this year and some of these have been,

- Establishment of a Welfare Officer to assist Amateurs who due to health reasons are not able to maintain their station

- Relocation and distribution of the Club Constitution and Bylaws

- A perpetual Life Membership Card

- Updating of the Website to current information

- Plus many other small improvements to the running of the Club.

In closing first let me say thank you to all those who have supported me in my endeavours to make this Club run smoothly. It has not been an easy task for me as I like others do this in our spare time. Many of us work and have to fit in our hobby as a spare time endeavour.

Secondly, as part of being a member of any organisation there will always be events occur that you do not agree with. In a democratic society we make decisions as a group and then implement them. If you disagree with the majority then that is your prerogative but please don't undermine the majority. Bite the bullet and get on with the task at hand to build a better Club for all.

My wish for this Club is probably a little utopian. I would like to see an active membership that encourages each and every member in the pursuit of their hobby no matter at what level, assist where assistance is needed, be a friend when friendship is needed, show acceptance when acceptance is needed and then get on with the job of making the privilege of Amateur Radio an enjoyable hobby for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Rentsch
VK3FPSR
President SADARC 2011-2012.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT - Sept 2011 to Sept 2012

The last 12 months has seen a great deal of work being conducted on our amateur repeater installations on top of Mt Wombat.

As at mid September 2011 the repeater situations were as follows.

The six metre repeater was working reasonably well in some directions but in others the performance left a lot to be desired. We were using the antenna that was converted by Rob VK3ECH mounted on the hut central mast. The radiation pattern left a lot to be desired.

The two metre repeater came in for a lot of criticism about its performance – crackles on signals and inadequate range when compared to the large Polar antenna when it was working properly. It had a serious fault in it at that time and was unusable. Greg VK3ZKV, Daryl VK3KL and Ray VK3RW went up to Mt Wombat on the 12th September to determine what needed to be done. An antenna was swapped around to at least get things going a bit better and for a new antenna to be obtained to replace the faulty antenna. Due to a number of problems a replacement was obtained after Greg had to return home from one of his trips to the area.

This Chinese made antenna was installed later on in December and proved to be a disaster as the quality was just not there. At this time the Polar antenna and some of the other two metre antennas were ably and safely removed by Ian VK3CHV and taken back to Daryl's VK3KL home for repair. The Polar antenna was found to have a lot of moisture in it due to poor moisture sealing. Daryl overhauled the antenna and tested it with excellent results. This antenna is quoted as being of 9dB gain but it is thought that it is nearer 9dBi; anyway it is now an excellent antenna.

The 70 centimetre repeater has been working well and no work looked like being necessary to maintain it in good condition.

The D-Star repeater was going well and continues to work well. It had to have some wiring altered so that interference from the D-Star computer didn't interfere with the six metre repeater.

The APRS repeater was not in operation as Ray VK3RW was waiting for a modem. And he is still waiting.

It had been decided that an antenna frame be built to go on top of the building to support four short poles (one in each corner) to mount standby antennas or main antennas for services as required. Bill Crocker and Rodney VK3UG worked on the frame for several days in spring and had it galvanised and installed early in December prior to the February working bee.

A large working bee was held on 18th February to reinstall the refurbished two metre Polar antenna, put up a S/H but good six metre folded dipole obtained from Greg VK3ZKV and shift a few other antennas around either on the new hut masts or the main lattice mast. Ian VK3CHV and Danny VK3FDTH worked on the main mast refitting the Polar antenna to the top of the mast and fitted the six metre dipole off the side of the mast. We appreciate the work done on the tower as we know that mast work is far from easy physically. Ray VK3RW and Rodney VK3UG altered antennas on the hut, with the six metre standby antenna and the 70 cm FM repeater antenna being put on the same pole. Phil VK3ELV worked on the six metre repeater making sure it was operating properly and fitting the digital signal processing (DSP) module to it. Greg VK3ZKV tested the various antennas to make sure that all were working correctly.

A First Aid kit and various safety items were also brought to the site and are kept on site for use when members are working there.

Much of the bracken fern was slashed and got rid of with access to the hut improved as well as a reducing the fire risk to our site. The inside of the hut was also cleaned. There were several other club members in attendance assisting, Steve VK3DAG and Clint VK3CAF and Daryl VK3KL. This was a very successful working bee.

The two metre repeater is now working as well as it did when the Polar antenna was first installed, which means it is working extremely well with around 1 to 4 dB improvement in some areas.

The six metre repeater is down a little in performance in some directions but the improvement in some other directions has been improved by 15 to 20 dB. The DSP also improved the weak signal performance too. There was at that time still some interference from the CFA power supply in the Shire building nearby. That would be looked at later as it affected the receive performance to a small extent, but if the proposed upgrades of this repeater were to take place the receiver would be adversely affected by the interference.

The 70 cm repeater performance shows no change in performance as the antenna was only shifted a couple of metres to tidy up the antenna layout on the hut.

There was nothing done to the D-Star or the APRS.

Back in late March Rodney gained access to the shire building from which we believed interference was being radiated into the six metre repeater. The CFA equipment power supply was found to be the source. On the 16th April Ray VK3RW and Rodney VK3UG went to Mt Wombat with Warren Brown of the CFA to look at ways of overcoming the interference. Two clamp on ferrite lead chokes were fitted to the leads radiating the interference and its level was reduced by greater than 10 dB – enough to mean the repeater is now interference free, even if the new repeater receiver is installed later on. Trevor VK3VG did some calculations on the electromagnetic radiation from our services, and the results show that no transmitter radiates signals in excess of those considered safe. However, if the standby six metre antenna is used it would not be difficult to climb near it and be in the zone where radiation would exceed that considered safe. However, this is expected to be a rare occurrence.

Phil VK3ELV has been working on an upgraded six metre repeater which will cost the club little. He has built a much more sensitive receiver, has refurbished a FM814 transmitter PA with a high performance low pass filter which can give up to 70 watts output, although it will be run at 50 watts. He is currently working on a filter to remove any low level spurious signals from the transmitter. Once this new repeater is tested it can be installed on Mt Wombat. To get this repeater to a sensible maximum performance the addition of another folded dipole antenna would make this repeater one of the best if not the best six metre repeater in Australia.

Into spring and summer we will be looking at having one or two working bees on site. There are a number of projects to be worked on and members may have ideas how some of these projects can be effectively done. The technical committee isn't the font of all knowledge. Members may have ideas on other things that may be desirable to do up on the mountain and what they can help with.

- The removal of the central antenna mast on the hut (getting rusty and possibly unsafe). Bill Crocker has indicated he can assist with advice on the best methods to do this. Max Mathey may be able to assist too. This is probably our highest priority. (This will allow us to make access easier inside the hut and make antenna work on the hut easier too.)
- Shifting of the UHF CB repeater antenna onto a hut mast. (Easier access, see above note)
- Installing the heavy duty 70 cm repeater antenna onto a hut mast and commissioning it. (Antenna currently at VK3UG's) (Give the repeater more gain, hence better range)
- Fitting the remaining two hut masts (currently stored at Steve's VK3DAG). (Means the hut masts are all available)
- Checking all the lattice mast cables and connections – some are to be shortened. (A general tidy up)
- Install and trial the upgraded 6 metre repeater. Expected improvement is around 7 dB on transmit and at least 7 dB for the receiver (if the antenna is upgraded as well as the equipment). (Better performance in weaker areas, will be better than two metres as six metres 'bends' around corners better)
- We are also looking at increasing the gain of the 6 metre antenna by 3 dB, but whether it is a project that will get legs this year is unknown at this stage. Costs come into this, \$700. (Better repeater performance, see above)

- Possibly purchase and install a DSP module in the two metre repeater, cost around \$160.
(Give better quality audio with weak input signals)
- Possibly purchase and install a DSP module in the 70 cm analog repeater, cost around \$160.
(Gives better quality audio with weak input signals)
- General tidy up around the site. (better access to hut and less likelihood of fire damage)
- Check the batteries. (Need a charge discharge cycle to assess capacity)

This last year the work on the Mt. Wombat cost around \$1800. The likely costs for all of this proposed work would be around \$1100. The six metre antenna and harness \$700, two DSP modules @ \$160 each, plus some miscellaneous coax connectors and other hardware. We do need to factor into our budget the replacement of the two 12 volt batteries within a year or so. These costs are all the likely capital costs for some time with the exception of replacement batteries.

The technical committee appreciates the work that other members have done to make our job so much easier. As can be seen there has been a lot of work done on site over the last 12 months. If all the above tasks can be done and approval given for the items listed to purchase, the club will have a very good repeater site which we will be able to use even more effectively. Our repeaters are one of the best ways of keeping in touch with each other.

Rodney VK3UG for the technical committee consisting of Ray VK3RW, Phil VK3ELV and Rodney VK3UG.

Minutes for SADARC

Saturday 6 Oct 2012

Meeting Open: 1310 hrs at the Mooroopna Club Rooms

Present:

VK3FPSR, VK3COP, VK3AO, VK3DAG, VK3FALN, VK3VG, VK3VCE, VK3OV, VK3ELV, VK3HMB, VK3FBNG, VK3PXA, VK3KBY, VK3ZMA, VK3TJS, VK3HEN.

Apologies:

VK3DCX, VK3TEX, VK3UG, VK3HBW, VK3DSF, VK3GEB, VK3CHV, VK3RW

Previous Minutes:

Minutes moved as correct VK3DAG Steve
Second: VK3HMB Mark

Business arising from minutes:

Correspondence:

Inward:

ACMA licence renewal

Department of Justice for info

Radio bulletin (2) from Eastern Mountains and Midland radio clubs

Numerous QSL cards with Dave VK3VCE having a majority. Well done Dave.

Outward:

A letter to Michael VK3FMAA thanking him for his contribution to SADARC

Treasurers Report:

Report was handed to members by Ron VK3COP.

Accepted as correct

Moved: Ron VK3COP

Second: Trevor VK3VG

All in favour

Technical Report:

Phil reported all repeaters are operating well

Projects: Moving of the CB antenna an 6m upgrade that is going to plan

General Business:

Steve reported he was unable to connect to the club website to start the updating.

The club comms day went well although it was down approx 40 people therefore kitchen sales were slightly down as well.

The day returned a healthy profit.

Jacek thanked everyone who helped in the kitchen

Peter (Pres) thanked everyone concerned. Well done.

JOTA:

There has been no contact with/from the scout group

XMAS function:

It was decided this years Christmas function would be at the Shepparton RSL on the first Sunday of Dec, being the 2nd. Ron to organise and advise

Murray Quad:

Bruce and Darren have agreed to co-ordinate the Murray Quad

The following have indicated their availability: Pat, Steve, Bruce, Alan (x2), Dave, Darren & Peter

DSTAR:

Trevor moved that from the AGM onwards the DSTAR internet connection will not be financed by the club. It was decided that it will remain as at present until the completion of the current contract that expires in Dec 2012. From there the liability will rest with Toby

Alan to inform Toby in writing of this decision

Moved Ron

Second Trevor

All in favour

Mt Wombat:

It was decided to wait for the return of Rodney before organising a working bee.

SEC Pole at Scout Hall:

The question was asked, should the club contact Powercor for a core sample or should the club remove the antenna and rotator and leave the dipole

The responsibility of the antennas/equipment is generally that of the technical committee

Could members remove the antenna from the pole next meeting and clean up the radio room?

General Business:

Updating the club register had been started by Ed and Rodney has the balance in hand

Has there been any movement on the requests of members after the "Butchers Paper" survey?

Peter informed the group that he had arranged guest speakers and organised work on the repeaters. Both these items were on the top of the list for attention. Other projects are to be followed up.

It was suggested a filing cabinet be purchased for the radio room.

Next meeting 3rd November 2012

Meeting closed 1410

Regards

Alan VK3AO

Minutes for SADARC AGM**Saturday 6 Oct 2012**

Meeting Open: 1430 hrs at the Mooroopna Club Rooms

Present: Present:

VK3FPSR, VK3COP, VK3AO, VK3DAG, VK3FALN, VK3VG, VK3VCE, VK3OV, VK3ELV, VK3HMB, VK3FBNG, VK3PXA, VK3KBY, VK3ZMA, VK3TJS, VK3HEN.

Apologies:

VK3DCX, VK3TEX, VK3UG, VK3HBW, VK3DSF, VK3GEB, VK3CHV, VK3RW

Previous Minutes:

Minutes moved as correct VK3VCE Dave

Second: VK3COP Ron

All in favour

Business arising from minutes:

Nil

Presidents Report:

Read by Peter VK3FPSR and are attached

Moved and accepted by Steve VK3DAG

Second Bruce VK3FBNG. Well done Peter

Treasurers Report:

Report was handed to members by Ron VK3COP.

Ron informed all present of the current balance of the bank account, and said the club is in good shape. Projects undertaken in the past year returned a balance reduction of \$92 over 2011's balance

Accepted as correct

Moved: Ron VK3COP

Second: Alan VK3FALN

All in favour

Technical Report:

Rodney was not present but supplied Peter with a written report (attached)

The report was moved as correct by Peter VK3FPSR

Second Steve VK3DAG

All in favour

Membership:

Pat informed all that the current financial membership is 60

Would all members please check their email address is correct

Station Report:

As Ian VK3CHV was not present, there was no station report

General Business:

Peter presented Ron VK3COP with a club life membership in recognition and appreciation of his work as treasurer over the last 3 years

Thanks from all the members Ron, a great effort

Jacek takes the chair

Thanks to all on the retiring committee, all positions being declared vacant

Presidents position:

Alan nominated Trevor who declined

John nominated Peter, Steve seconded, and Peter (VK3FPSR) accepted another term

All in favour

Secretary:

Peter nominated Darren VK3HEN, Dave seconded, and Darren accepted

All in favour

Treasurer:

Ed nominated Greg VK3PXA, Dave seconded, and Greg accepted

All in favour

Vice President:

Peter nominated Alan who declined due to work commitments

Ed nominated Phil VK3ELV, seconded by Pat. and Phil accepted

All in favour

Tech Committee:

To be Rodney, Phil, Geoff. & Ray, Moved Alan, seconded Peter.
All in favour

Station Manager:

Subject to Ian's approval (due to his absence) it was moved by Trevor and seconded by Ron that Ian retain this position

Steve will accept position if Ian is unavailable

Newsletter	Les
Membership	Pat
Website	Steve

Peter returned to the chair and thanked the past committee

Ron handed over documents that require attention before the next meeting to the new treasurer.

Meeting closed 1500 hrs

Regards
Alan VK3AO

Hamfest September 2012 Photos





TS-2000 LED Modification.

By Les Tatar VK3TEX.

Recently I had a couple of main display globes on my 10 year old Kenwood TS-2000 HF transceiver blow out and I had the option of installing replacement globes, or doing a simple modification and replacing the whole globe setup with LED display diodes. Well the choice was simple; the modification was the way to go... Having been an avid HATER of the original amber display colour I was ready to get stuck in and do the mod.

There is a kit and detailed instructions available on the internet by a couple of enterprising

USA amateurs and will cost you 35 US dollars. If you want to go this way you can find it readily by googling "TS2000 LED Mod". But there is an easier way and cheaper by reading this article!

You will need some basic soldering skills and a few hand tools and skill at taking the front part of the radio off. The good news is, that it's a very easy mod, and the front is an easy removal.

STEP 1:

Put the radio on a soft working surface (like a towel or something...) and remove the screws on the top and bottom panels of the radio. Then remove the covers to give a view of the screws holding the front panel on.

There are 4 screws on the sides (2 on each side) holding the front panel onto the chassis.

Once they are off, slowly move the front panel forward, and pull the ribbon cable from the radio side off carefully and the two plugs near the back of the mic socket.

Once the front panel assembly is off the main unit, it is a lot easier to work on it.

Now take all the front panel knobs off the unit starting with the VFO knob, taking the rubber grip off first and then find the smallest allen key in your collection and release the grub screw holding the VFO knob on. Remove it and unscrew the encoder of the plastic front and remove the small screw above the encoder. Remove the rest of the knobs.

Once the knobs are removed then pry the small tabs around the plastic cover as you move the cover forward slowly, be careful doing this as you don't want to break the tabs accidentally. It will pop off readily once you get it far enough...

Once the plastic cover is off you will see the front display unit in front of you. Take the display Panel off by removing 4 gold coloured Phillips head screws. Be careful with the two ribbon cables as they are delicate and need to be handled with care. Next step parts removal off the display board.

STEP 2:

Turn the display board over and locate the three surface mount resistors labeled "5R6"

These are easy to find and in plain sight. Turn your soldering iron on and with a fine tip installed

Heat up one side of the first resistor while prying the heated end up with a fine blade or

Very small flat blade screwdriver. Once one side is up you can grab the lifted end with the small pliers and de solder the other side. Then just add small dollop of solder to each of the pads to give the new resistors something to hold onto.

Remove the other two "5R6" resistors like the first one.

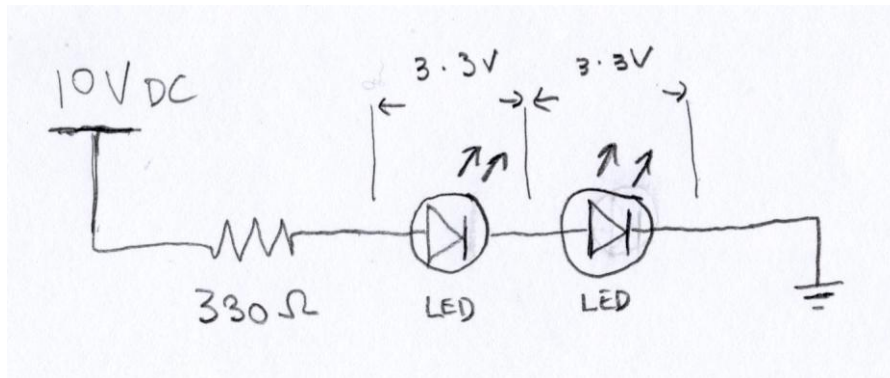
Now to remove the 6 bulbs from the top area of the circuit boards.

With the small blade or flathead screwdriver pry one end of the bulb lead while applying heat with the soldering iron. Once the lead is up, hold it with your small needle nose pliers and heat up the other side of the bulb and lift it out of the hole it is in.

Repeat the above procedure for the rest of the bulbs.

Once the bulbs are out, we get to step 3, to reinstall the new components.

The new lighting circuit looks like this:



For the new components you will require 3 x 330 Ohm resistors ¼ watt. These I found in my parts box. The LED's I ordered off the Farnell website which is now called Element 14. Google and you will find!...

The specs for mine were: 3mm LED, 3.5volts forward voltage, 20 mA forward current and 1200 mcd brightness. I found this to be more than adequate. Any brighter and I think it would be too bright in my opinion. I selected a blue colour, but there are many different colours available... The part number for the LED from Farnell is: [172784](#)

I ordered 10 just in case I broke any, and some for spares. They were very cheap, about 59 cents each. The postage was dearer at \$12.95!

Now, solder the three resistors where the "5R6" used to be, leaving as little lead as possible on the end resistors and laying them flat. The middle one I soldered in "axially" with the resistor standing upright and then bent slightly forward once soldered in, to allow room for re-assembly. You will see it when re-assembling, and need a little room by bending this resistor slightly forward.

Once the resistors are in the LED's are the final step.

Now this is important, the LED's are polarized, so the anode will need to be TOWARD the resistor. That's the LONGEST lead. This goes for all the LED's. If all anodes are toward the resistors you should be right. If you want to test your LED's, put them in series with a 150 ohm resistor and check with the multimeter on the Diode check position. You should just see them glow slightly. Just make sure anode is + and cathode is -.

The LED's need to have their leads bent 90 degrees or a bit more so they are horizontal. Then clip off the lead excess leaving only about 4mm on each side. Solder them in and make sure you have enough solder on the pads to get a nice flow. You will need to add a bit of solder to make it stick properly.

Step 3:

Once the components are in then it's time for re assembly. Take care with the VFO encoder assembly, put this back on the plastic front cover first and put the plastic cover back once you have the display assembly together. Be careful not to PINCH the encoder wires between the plastic front and the button and display boards.

The fiddliest bit on re assembly was the ribbon cables. Take care. TIP: The large ribbon I put back once the front unit was loosely held by the four screws on the sides. Once the radio is re assembled you can put the knobs back on the front and enjoy the difference with your own preferred colour over Kenwood's yucky amber globes!!

Cheers, VK3TEX Les.



Before:



After:

There you have it, remember YOU can choose whichever colour YOU like!!

FOR SALE:

From Bruce Gillies VK3AGG

Coax Cable RG213 50 Ohm Cable \$1.50 per meter (Brand new still on drums)

Coax Cable RG 11/au 75 ohm \$1.50 per meter (Brand new still on drums)

Multi strand S/S cable 4.7mm retails at \$8 per meter ideal for aerial support etc, sell at \$3/meter.

One Prop pitch motor

Many TX and RX air variable c'c

Roller inductors

Meters of all kinds

Power supplies, Variable Vacuum Capacitors

TX valves and sockets and all the components used in home built gear.

Please contact Bruce at email gillies.3630@gmail.com

(Bruce did not supply me with a contact phone number, Les VK3TEX)



Report on the Meeting with Tim Roadley – Race Director for the Murray River QUAD to be held on Saturday 15th December.

Bruce Glasson, Darren Glasson and I attended a meeting in Yarrawonga on Saturday 13th October to discuss further our involvement in the Murray River QUAD.

Tim has it all very much under control and had a list of locations where Radio operators will be required. It appears that in all we will need 12 operators for the day as some operators can cover two or more locations as the event passes them. Once the last competitor has passed by those in the early stages of the race can move further down the track. Darren and Bruce have carried out some tests on the 2m Mt Gwynne repeater and at this stage it appears that it will be suitable. Mt Gwynne 2m repeater uses 147.200 and don't forget it has tone access.

As race director Tim will provide us with the locations we need to be at and the times we need to be there. The times given will be from when the first competitor is likely to reach the location that we are monitoring to the time when the last competitor is passed. A 30 minute leeway either side will be given. If competitors do not finish sections within a certain time frame then they are removed from that section, therefore there will be no stragglers.

Our task for the day is necessary but not too onerous. Our job is more an information relay facility if and when required. Bruce will be operating the communications base station in Yarrawonga and we will only have to transfer information to him when and if required.

There will be plenty of marshals to control the competitors as well as SES radio equipped boats on the water for the swimming and paddling legs. There are also numerous drink and food stations throughout the course for the competitor's.

It has been suggested for those that can make it that we all get together on the Friday evening in Yarrawonga for a meeting to coordinate the day. Tim is hoping to arrange free or reduced fee Caravan sites in Yarrawonga for those who wish to avail themselves of this facility if you are assisting on the day.

Official vests and ID will be issued to all those who assist on the day. These are necessary as they will allow you to get past the marshals who will be controlling the traffic flow.

Please note that Bruce and Darren will go through this day in a lot more detail at our next meeting so if you can help on the day please be there to find out what is required.

Peter Rentsch
VK3FPSR
President – SADARC