



Founded 1979 Incorporation No A6677 P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632

Repeaters VK3RGV Freq: 53.725MHz (1 meg offset) -146.65MHz(IRLP Node #6992) (600 kHz offset) - 439.775MHz (5 MHz offset) - 438.2MHz (D-Star) [D-Star not operational at this time]
Access to the analog repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise mute (less sensitive).

Club Network informal on air get togethers. All welcome. Club callsign VK3SOL:-
Wednesday - 3.62 MHz ± interference 7.00pm, 2mx repeater 8.00pm

Meetings are held at 1pm on the first Saturday of the month (except January when no meeting occurs) at the Mooroopna Scout/Guide Hall off Echuca Road, Mooroopna. Variations in these times and days are normally notified in the preceding newsletter. Website – www.sadarc.org

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.

President:- Greg Keegan	VK3POP	gregkgn@gmail.com	
Secretary:- John Waters	VK3PXJ	glengordon@bigpond.com	
Vice-President:- Barrie Halliday	VK3KBY	Treasurer:- Ron Burns	VK3COP
Membership Sec :- Pat O'Shannessy	VK3OV	Webmaster:- Dallas James	VK3EB
Station Manager:- Ian Ward	VK3CHV	Publicity Officer:- Peter Rentsch	VK3FPSR
Technical Committee:- Phil VK3ELV, Ray VK3RW, Geoff VK3ZNA & Rodney VK3UG			
Newsletter:- Peter VK3FPSR & Rodney VK3UG		rodlynn6@bigpond.com	

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2015

STOP PRESS

DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE NEXT MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR THE 6th JUNE AND THIS IS THE SATURDAY OF A LONG WEEKEND, THE MEETING IS NOW TRANSFERRED TO SATURDAY 13th JUNE AT 1.00pm. SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Minutes of Meeting 2/5/2015 commenced 1.10pm

Apologies:- VK3FJHM JOHN, VK3KBY BARRIE, VK3HBW BRIAN, VK3GEB BOB, VK3JNC IAN, VK3TEX LES, VK3OV PAT, VK3DSF MAX.

In attendance:- VK3PXJ JOHN, VK3POP GREG, VK3COP RON, VK3UG ROD, VK3CHV IAN, VK3VCE DAVE, VK3FPSR PETER, VK3 TJS JACK, VK3FALN ALLAN, VK3ZE HUNTLY, ANDY ASHLEY.

Inward mail:- An email from Harmony Village asking our club to give their residents a talk on Radio on the 13th May.

Outward mail:- nil

Minutes of the last meeting moved by Greg VK3POP Seconded by Rod VK3UG, accepted and carried.

Treasurer's report moved Ron VK3COP seconded by Rod VK3UG, accepted and carried.

Technical report presented by VK3UG Rod, moved it be accepted by PETER VK3FPSR seconded by Andy Ashley, carried.

Ron moved that we give Peter VK3FPSR a cheque for 440 dollars for ink for printing the newsletter seconded by Allan VK3FALN, carried.

Ron VK3COP notified the club that he will move a motion at our next meeting that Southern Cross Austereo remove all their equipment from our hut and whatever else is installed on our site at Mount Wombat.

Formal meeting closed at 2.25pm. John Waters Secretary

General

The technical report indicated slow progress and negotiations with Austereo on the alterations on Mt. Wombat. There was considerable discussion at the meeting on our position with both Austereo and Amateur Radio Victoria as the proposal for the inclusion of Austereo in our building on a permanent basis has to be carefully considered. Ongoing communication on this subject has continued during the month.

Greg VK3POP reports that he is having trouble arranging for a Cherry Picker so that we can reinstall the 3 element beam on the pole at the club rooms. The owner of the device has had technical problems, and work commitments which have delayed things, plus unsuitable weather conditions have caused delays.. Greg is to check what tickets are required to work in the Cherry Picker buckets, etc.

Members are happy with the format of the newsletter, and members are asked to contribute items for inclusion as the editor isn't the font of all knowledge.

With the full implementation of digital TV throughout Australia, ACMA has reassigned TV channels in blocks of six channels (usually adjoining each other). In the Shepparton area we have block C which includes channels 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39. The highest channel now in use is channel 51 which ends at 694 MHz. The spectrum above 700 MHz has been assigned by the ACMA to digital data services of various sorts and their use in built up areas is likely to cause reception problems (e.g Pixelation) for some viewers particularly if broadband mast head amplifiers are being used. Low pass filters with a cut off frequency of 700 MHz may be needed before either a mast head amplifier or your TV set to overcome the problem. Kingray have a filter to suit this application and no doubt other manufacturers do too.

Peter VK3FPSR reported that there are some very nasty virus type computer programs spams and other malicious nasties etc getting around that can cost \$ thousands to overcome. I am hopeful that Peter will be able to put together a short article on this subject in the near future.

I am looking for more person profiles of members, and I have one from Alan VK3FALN this issue.

To be able to complete our club's historical records we would like members to look through anything that they have on the activities etc of the club as over the years some things have been mislaid or accidentally destroyed. So any copies of earlier history would be appreciated. Club newsletters are often a source of information. Please loan whatever you find to Greg VK3POP or John VK3PXJ.

PROFILE – Alan Vearing VK3FALN

Alan was born 1/9/45 in Melbourne. He spent most of his youth on farms at Karramomous and Baddaginnie.

He joined the army at 17 and went to Vietnam aged 19 for the period 1965/66. On return to Australia he was employed as a driving instructor of armoured vehicles for most of his remaining time in the Army. He retired in 1982 after 20 years in the services.

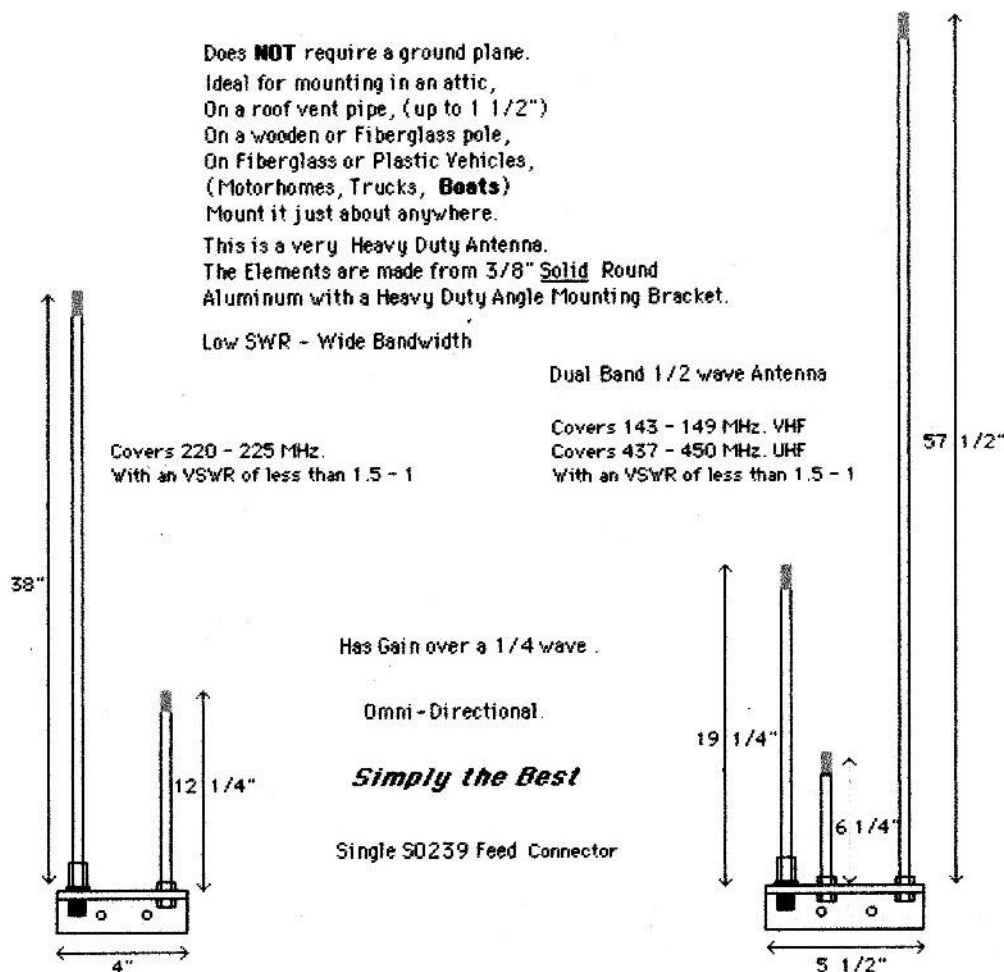
He has worked as a welder, builder and various other jobs. In 1994 he got a job with Serco GM as a Range Operator at Puckapunyal. He really enjoyed his time with Serco . You'll have to ask Alan what this involved.

Due to ill health Alan retired in 2000 at the age of 54.

His hobbies and interests are varied, and include fishing, shooting, blacksmithing, leatherwork, playing around with old engines and radio. He enjoys tripping around and we often hear of Alan's 4WD trips which make a number of us a little envious. He enjoys meeting people, pottering in his shed (like many of us) and he says – life is good.

Alan married Marilyn back in 1968 and they have three children, (2 girls and a boy), and five grandchildren, all of who give Marilyn and Alan much pleasure.

HUNTLY'S (VK3ZE) DUAL BAND 2 METRE/70CM ANTENNA



Above are the dimensions of the dual band 2 metre/70cm antenna that HuntlyVK3ZE showed us last month. There are also measurements for the 220 MHz American band which we don't have. The antenna is fed through an insulated connector at the left side of the antenna It is virtually a strengthened SO239 socket. I'm not sure where Huntly got it so suggest you contact him. . Contact Huntly about the sources for the aluminium for the antenna although the most likely source will be W. B. Hunter's in Florence Street, Shepparton.

LOOP TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING ANTENNAS

Electrical noise is often the bane of amateur radio operators. It has always been a problem to a greater or lesser extent but it seems to be an increasing problem. The ACMA and its more recent predecessors set in place a set of standards for Electro Magnetic Compatibility and Electro Magnetic Immunity and naively believed that organisations and individuals would be very happy to comply with the standards. Guess what!!! It became open slather as there was virtually no policing of the standards and some very noisy devices were imported into Australia and still are. Many pieces of equipment have compliance stickers on them, but compliance stickers can be bought on a reel for a few cents – much cheaper than making sure the equipment complied! It would be nice if the ACMA did make sure equipment complied, but they have superannuated and otherwise decimated their field staff so that little is ever done to ensure compliance.

Hence we as amateurs have to do our very best to overcome the electrical interference problems we are faced with. Various types of antenna systems react to noise in different ways. Vertical antennas are the most susceptible, horizontal antennas less so and small loop antennas the least affected. The further we get away from a noise source the better and many amateur now go portable to quiet areas so that weak stations can be worked. In this photo we have Pat VK3OV experimenting with a loop antenna he has made. It isn't working to Pat's satisfaction yet and we have further work to do to see why. It is hoped to include more info on loop antennas in later newsletters.

