



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

### VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies

53.725MHz (1 Meg offset), **Operational.**

146.65MHz (600 kHz offset), **Operational.**

438.2MHz (D-Star) **Off-air (to be re-installed).**

438.650MHz (7 MHz offset and 91.5 Hz tone access only), **(Out of service.) \***

439.775MHz (5 MHz offset), **(Out of service.) \***

**(\*) These services will be back on air once refurbishment is complete.**

Access to most analogue repeaters is by sub-audible 123 Hz tone or noise/carrier mute (less sensitive).

Club Network informal on air get togethers - Wednesday evenings. All welcome. Club call sign VK3SOL:-

2mx repeater 8.00pm 146.650 MHz, 3.63 MHz  $\pm$  interference 8.30pm.

**Meetings are held at 1 pm 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, days and location are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

Website – [www.sadarc.org](http://www.sadarc.org) Face book - [www.facebook.com/sadarc.org](http://www.facebook.com/sadarc.org) Info for the page contact Denny French on [denny3782@gmail.com](mailto:denny3782@gmail.com)

The local vintage radio club has a get together at 11.00am of a Sunday on the 2 metre repeater. Many of their club members are members of SADARC too, so join in for a chat.

The following repeaters do not belong to our club but provide good signals for many members.

Mount Major VK3RDU repeaters and TX operating frequencies, 146.850 MHz and 439.875 MHz

UHF CB Repeater Mt Wombat Channels 3- 33 (Out of service) \* 21/11/2018

**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 or working at heights doing antenna work. You do so at your own risk.

President: - Peter Rentsch	VK3FPSR	<a href="mailto:pages.cobram@bigpond.com">pages.cobram@bigpond.com</a>
Secretary: - Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	<a href="mailto:vk3aja@wia.org.au">vk3aja@wia.org.au</a>
Vice-President: - Barrie Halliday	VK3KBY	
Treasurer: - Graeme Martin	VK3FCVT	<a href="mailto:vk3fcvt@vk3fcvt.com">vk3fcvt@vk3fcvt.com</a>
Membership Sec: - Graeme Martin	VK3FCVT	"
Webmaster: - Ray Gardner <a href="mailto:ray@etheira.net">ray@etheira.net</a>	VK3YNV	Publicity Officer: - Vacant
Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNF) 0427 715 663 & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson		
Tech. Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV & Rodney VK3UG		
Newsletter: - Rodney VK3UG (Editor) <a href="mailto:rodlynn6@bigpond.com">rodlynn6@bigpond.com</a> Peter & Andy (Printing/ Distribution)		

## Vale – John Waters VK3PXJ 24/3/1939 – 16/10/2018

It was with sadness that last month's newsletter reported the death of John VK3PXJ. His funeral however, was not held until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November with a graveside service at 1pm at the Tatura Cemetery. As a mark of respect for John our meeting scheduled for the same day and time was cancelled and many members attended the funeral and there were 20 there at my count. The club formed a short avenue of honour for John.

John was one of nine children and grew up in a number of towns in the general area. He had been in the army reserve over the years. His working life involved a number of jobs which involved him in either some form of leadership in various positions from working in concreting, dairy product processing and finally retired after many years at the Rosella factory having worked in the boiler house.

John married Carol and they had two children. Sadly Carol died a number of years ago. Later on John and Marlene became very good friends then unfortunately she died around six years ago. All of this of course saddened John.

John was very keen on Country Music and attended many gatherings of those keen on Country style music. He even went as far as Tamworth. His interest in radio was sparked by the CB craze in the 1970s, and then as time went by John could see that he could enjoy radio even more by getting his amateur radio licence. So he sat for the exams and gained his ticket to more fun on the airways. John was always a keen and reliable member of the club and more recently despite his failing health he took a significant part in the organising part of the Ham fests.

Rest in peace John.



**The two sides of the guard of honour at John's funeral and the carrying of the casket.**

## **Presidents Report November 2018.**

As we lost a member VK3PXJ during the last few weeks and his funeral had been arranged for the same time as last scheduled meeting the Executive chose to cancel our meeting to allow those who wanted to attend John's funeral the opportunity to do so. Quite a number of members were in attendance at the funeral and I thank them for being there representing the Club and paying respect to John.

This means that our "test venue" has not yet had an opportunity to host one of our meetings. If it is OK with the venue we will meet there in February. We were also to hear from Ray about how to use an oscilloscope in the realms of Amateur Radio. I would hope that Ray is able to give his presentation at our February meeting as well. I will confirm both these items in the Newsletter that will go out just prior to our February meeting.

Our next meeting will be our Annual Christmas Lunch in association with the Vintage Club. This will be held at the same venue as last year which is the Mooroopna Hotel very close to silos as you enter Mooroopna from Shepparton. Lunch will be for 12.00 noon to 12.30 pm start and all are welcome including partners.

With this I conclude my report for this month and Karen and I wish you all a very safe and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. It has been an interesting year and it has made me realise that life is short. In the last 6 weeks Karen and I have attended 3 funerals, two friends including John and Karen's only Aunt who lived in Adelaide. (yes, we did a quick trip) In some respects this is sad note to conclude the year but in other ways it brings to you the realisation that we do not go on forever, so enjoy life while you can, finish that part completed project, talk to that person about your hobby and the fun you have but most of all remember the friendship's you have created through Amateur Radio.

Peter – VK3FPSR  
President – SADARC

Calendar

**1<sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Meeting – Royal Mail Hotel, Mooroopna**

2<sup>nd</sup> February – Regular Meeting to be held at Vision Australia venue with Guest Speaker – Ray Gardner. Topic – How to use an Oscilloscope

2<sup>nd</sup> March – Regular Meeting

## **Editor's Ramblings**

- The untimely death of John VK3PXJ brought to light the problem of organising club activities at fairly short notice. It is easy to notify those who get their newsletter by email, however due to the snail mail system those who get their newsletter by mail may miss out. If it is practical for you to have an email account please do so as that way you won't miss out on urgent or short notice messages. If you don't want your email address known, except to the newsletter distributor, ask that it not be given out and that BCC is always used. I believe all members who attended John's funeral were either emailed or phoned.

- As the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November meeting was cancelled there are no minutes; however, Peter will have a president's report.
- On my recent travels in a north westerly direction I found that the 2 mx repeater was useable to this side of Mitiamo whilst the 6 mx repeater was useable well past Mitiamo. Returning from Wodonga I found the 6 mx repeater useable from Barnawartha whilst the 2 mx repeater wasn't consistently useful until topping the Glenrowan pass. Down the snow road to Bright 2 mx was quite scratchy and hardly useful but 6 mx was consistently better than 2 metres.
- Our trial visit to the Vision Australia location for our November meeting didn't take place but it will, and maybe the February meeting will be there. You'll be notified in due course.
- **Remember our end of year luncheon on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of December at the Royal Mail Hotel (alongside the Ridley silos in Mooropna) commencing from midday onwards.** As for the last few years we will be combining with the Vintage Radio Club. Nearly half of our members are members of both clubs.
- Do you want to get your amateur radio licence or do you want to upgrade your licence. If so contact our worthy secretary Andy (contact info at the head of the newsletter) and he will be able to help you along this path. He and a couple of other members do conduct amateur radio licence examinations.
- In general I try to make the newsletter as up to date as I can. You can also get some news on the web site and facebook site as listed in the newsletter header. Have a look at all these sites and keep the facilitators of each site up to date with information so that we don't have out of date or incorrect info in any of these sites.
- For those members who are also in the Vintage Radio Club, *Silicon Chip* magazine has just brought out a DVD titled **Vintage Radio Collection – 20 years of history**. Whilst it doesn't have the very early submissions by John Hill the last article included is for December 2018. It is advertised in the November issue on page 45.
- Tecsun Radio Australia sent an email alerting the amateur fraternity to the launch of a satellite with an amateur radio transponder on it into geostationary orbit at 25.5E. The up link is in the 2.4 GHz band and the down link is in the 10.45 GHz band. It is a linear non inverting transponder with a bandwidth of 250 kHz . It is still being tested at the moment I believe.

## Repeater News

- SADARC will ultimately become the licensee of the WBT 3-33 UHF CB repeater, but not immediately. It is being upgraded with work being done on the cavities to reduce their insertion loss. The controller has been changed to a VK5DJ controller (All repeaters on the site now have this controller). Checks are being done on the antenna system to improve it and long term the actual repeater will be replaced with a newer piece of equipment. We expect to have this repeater back in service before December.
- We consider this repeater and the 2 mx repeater as two repeaters that are important in emergency situations in case of fires or other emergencies, particularly if power is lost on Mt Wombat which happens from time to time. Our battery back-up is intended to keep both of these services operating for up to two days without main power.
- The CB UHF repeater is important to many (maybe not us as amateurs) who may use it as a contact medium in cases of fire. This fire season is expected (unfortunately) to be extremely dangerous and this repeater could prove valuable in assisting fire fighting people minimise any fire damage or even save lives. This is of course in addition to the main CFA communications network.

- Under some circumstances our amateur radio comms systems can be used in an emergency too – e.g. during cyclone Tracey in 1974. Our 2 mx repeater is available for such times as it has good coverage and most amateurs in the area have equipment that can be used on it.
- A couple of members are looking to finance an internet connection to our site for 12 months. This is until it is known how much internet capacity is needed and what plan will suit us both in cost and capacity. With the internet installed it will be practical to connect the TTN network and re-instate the IRLP and D-Star services, and later possibly one or the other of DMR and Fusion digital repeaters or both. Watch this space.
- A list of actions in regard to upgrading of existing services and potential new services will possibly be available for the February meeting. This will be an opportunity to hear in more detail about services that have been mooted over the last year or so.
- Some of the services marked with (\*) in the newsletter header may be back in service by the time of our end of year luncheon.

### **Murray Quad November 24<sup>th</sup> . and 25<sup>th</sup> . 2018**

The Murray Quad will be on again this year but held under a totally different format. This year it will be over two days, Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Saturday** will be the 25Km. Peaches and Cream Paddle race starting at 3pm. The canoes will be paddling from Thompson's Beach Cobram and finishing at the Tocumwal town beach, the last canoe should arrive at around 7pm. For this event our radio operators will need to be in position and able to test their equipment by 2pm.

Our radio control for this canoe event will be set up at the Tocumwal town beach and 4 radio operators will be required on this stretch of river at some of the check points from start to the finish line.

**Sunday** will be the running of the 21.1k Black Bull Half Marathon starting at 7.45am. This event will start from the Yarrowonga rowing club and travel via the lake for shore and finish at the Silverwoods Golf Course and Lifestyle Resort at around 12noon. Radio comms will need to be set up and tested by 6.30 am. Our radio control will be set up at the rowing club and there will be three radio operators stationed along the marathon route.

There will be camping available at Tocumwal Town beach and all SADARC members attending are invited to a BBQ on the Saturday evening at the town beach.

Thanks to all those who volunteered for this event. We have enough volunteers for this weekend but if any members want to come along and assist in some way or just look on I am sure you will be welcome.

Being held over two short days will give us more time to relax and enjoy the weekend away.

Bruce and Darren Glasson outside events coordinators.



## Jota 2018 Mooroopna Scout Hall Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. October.

Bruce Darren and John arrived at the scout hall at 8.30am. and set up a G5RV antenna along with the club HF radio and a 2m. Radio and antenna.

The Leaders of the cubs and scouts arrived at around 10.30, after the cubs and scouts arrived the days activities' started. Along with their arranged activities they took turn in talking on our transceivers from time to time. Radio conditions were not good on HF. But after putting out several calls we eventually were able to contact a station in Tasmania and another in Goolwa in SA, several of the children present lined up to try their hand at talking into a mike. Along with these two contacts our scouts and cubs spoke made contact with a scout group at Castlemaine via the Bendigo 2M. repeater.

Later in the day there were no signals on HF to be heard so Darren tried 70cm. IRLP and made contact with KE8 HEV Andy in the USA. The children spoke with him for some time with interest exchanging times, weather and location etc. Although the day started slowly with only these two contacts in the morning this hour with Andy in the afternoon from the USA more than made up for a slow start to the day. Andy did a great job involving the scouts and cubs in keeping the conversation going. Andy said he was speaking to them from yesterday, they had trouble working this out but all enjoyed this conversation with Andy from USA. One of the scouts present stated it was cool to be able to talk to someone on the other side of the world.

A good day was held for all.





## What is it & what would it be used for?

I was recently shown this device which appears to be mounted into an early 4 pin valve plug possibly a European type. Only two of the pins of the plug are wired to the internals of the device. I and my friends would like to know what it is so let me know what it is or what you think it is and what its purpose was, please. We have some ideas but could be completely wrong hence my request.