



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

VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies

53.725MHz (1 Meg offset), **Out of Service ***

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), **(Operational)**

439.775MHz (5 MHz offset), **(Operational, IRLP to be fitted)**

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 Face book - www.facebook.com/sadarc.org Info for the page contact Denny French on denny3782@gmail.com

Note: Want to get your licence? SADARC has examination assessors, contact the secretary for details.

The vintage radio club (including SADARC members) have a sked at 11.00am Sunday on the 2 mx repeater.

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, 476.475 MHz (Out of service) * 21/02/2019

(*) These services will be back on air once refurbishment and lightning damage is repaired.

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	pages.cobram@bigpond.com
Secretary: - Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	vk3aja@wia.org.au
Vice-President: - Barrie Halliday	VK3KBY	
Treasurer (acting): - Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	vk3aja@wia.org.au
Membership Sec (acting): - Andy Ashley	VK3AJA	"
Webmaster: - Ray Gardner ray@etheira.net	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) rodlynn6@bigpond.com Peter & Andy (Printing/ Distribution)		

Presidents Report February 2019.

Thank you to all those who attended our meeting held on the 2nd February. We had an excellent attendance and a very fruitful meeting. Thank to Ray Gardiner for an excellent presentation on Oscilloscopes and in some ways I felt that we only scratched the surface in the use of this device. This is not meant as derogatory comment against Ray, he did an excellent job with the time he had available to him. Perhaps if I ask nicely he may do a second presentation in the future, lesson 2 in an ongoing learning curve. Can members please let me know if they would like to hear more from Ray.
(Definitely, Editor)

You will note from the header of this Newsletter that Andy is now acting Treasurer until the AGM in October. Graeme who had filled the role for 15 months has stepped down from the position due to work and personal pressures and Andy has taken on the role. I would like to thank Graeme for the work he did as treasurer including being smart enough to ignore a scam email that was sent to the Club.

As result of this meeting which was held at the Vision Centre it was decided that we would pursue the continuing to meet at this venue if suitable arrangements can be made with Vision Australia. On the following Friday, 8th February Andy, Peter – our contact to Vision Australia and I met with Vision Australia to discuss the possibilities of us using their facilities. We indicated that we were very keen to do so and are now in the midst of negotiations to organise this. At the time of writing this report we are waiting to hear back from Vision Australia. All in all it looks very positive for us.

Continuing on from this we need to vacate the Guide and Scout Hall and relocate our belongings to a suitable storage facility. Geoff VK3ZNA has offered in the short term his shed at his old work location. Consequently it was decided that **our meeting on the 2nd March will be a Working Bee to tidy up our equipment in Mooroopna. We will meet at approximately 10.30 am to clean out the shack and remove our antennas. A BBQ will follow and then the meeting. Please bring relevant tools and equipment and a couple of trailers or Utes would not go astray.**

I am, going to put my head on the chopping block and suggest that we hold the interclub BBQ with BAREC at Goulburn Weir on Sunday 14th April. One of these days I will get it right!

That's it for this month and I look forward to seeing you all on the 2nd March.

Peter – VK3FPSR
President – SADARC

Calendar

2nd March – Regular Meeting at MOOROOPNA. Working Bee plus BBQ

6th April – Regular Meeting

14th April – Goulburn Weir Interclub Meeting and Car Boot Sale

SADARC Meeting Sat 2nd Feb. 2019 1:00 pm.

Venue: Vision Australia Centre, Channel Rd. Shepparton

Apologies; VK3ZE Huntly, VK3DP Steve.

In attendance was; VK3FALN Alan, VK3BF Allan, Geoff Russell, VK3DV Dave, VK3PGK Graeme, VK3KJB John, VK3DSF Max, VK3OV Pat, VK3ASK Peter, VK3FBEN Peter, Josh Gardiner, VK3COP Ron, VK3AFD Arthur, VK3UG Rodney, VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3AO Alan, VK3YNV Ray, VK3EB Dallas, VK3FPSR Peter, VK3AJA Andy.

Correspondence,

In- Licence renewal VK3SOL. WIA Insurance renewal email (Application form only) VK3COP membership form.

Out- WIA Insurance form.

Reports;

Financial, No report given (Treasurer absent)

Technical; Rodney spoke about damage to repeater site after lightning strike. Ray and Geoff spoke about repairs carried out, an electrician was required, and an invoice will follow. Mains power has been restored and failover system will need repairing. Repeaters have been restored to service however the 6 meter repeater didn't fair so well and has failed. Geoff spoke about DMR repeater and advised Peter Brennan will work with Peter Mill on installation. Geoff has advised the CB repeater is on final test on bench.

Murray Quad;

Bruce spoke about changes to Murray Quad event later this year and will keep us informed. He advised an email from Tim was received and it was noted that the event went without incident. Tim is starting to plan next event for possibly 30 Nov. a few more SADARC members will probably be required this year, Please keep this in mind!!!. Bruce has requested that Peter (SADARC President) send an invoice to Tim for donation. Tim has asked if SADARC would like to contribute some of the money to Hearts for Kids charity. It was noted by John Blackman that SADARC constitution prohibits donation to other charities as we are not for profit. A motion was moved by Peter Simpson to accept \$400 and donate \$100 to Hearts for Kids. This was amended by Kevin, stating that we send invoice for the full donation of \$500 and discuss any possible donation to Heart for Kids at next meeting. This was seconded By Dallas and a vote was taken, the amended motion was carried.

ACMA info;

Andy spoke about the end of the tender between ACMA and WIA for exam/callsign management had come to a (abrupt) end at midnight 31st. January 2019. This unfortunately meant the assessment planned for Geoff Russell on the 1st February 2019 could not take place. This was a bit of surprise as there was talk of the announcement being on 4 Feb. 2019. We will wait and see what the new arrangement for assessment will be!

General Business;

As our treasurer has not attended the last couple of meetings, a motion was moved by John Blackman that Andy contact Graeme and ask if he wants to continue the roll. If not SADARC will require him to deliver a letter of resignation. Andy will then take over the roll until next AGM. This was seconded by Peter Simpson and a vote was taken, the motion was carried. Andy agreed to contact Graeme.

BBQ at Goulburn Weir;

Peter has decided that because he cannot choose a weekend with suitable weather for the Goulburn Weir BBQ (Hi Hi) that he will contact Kevin Crocket and discuss plans, this way some of the blame for foul weather Peter has managed to supply for the last 2 years can be put on Kevin (Hi Hi) we will see how that goes.!!

Pat has mentioned that Bruce VK3AGG is now in care due to poor health and his wife would like to clear out radio equipment. Pat will keep SADARC informed.

Andy mentioned that Max Martin (father of Graeme Martin VK3FVCT) had passed away after a long period of poor health. Andy mentioned that he had several QSOs with Max on our 2m repeater and was always a great chat. Peter has mentioned that it would be nice to send a sympathy card on behalf of SADARC, all agreed.

Geoff Angus moved a motion to appoint a new HAMFEST coordinator as John VK3PXJ is now SK. John did a great job of organising HAMFEST. John Blackman agreed to take on roll. This was seconded by Graeme and all agreed, motion carried.

It was noted that we should have email addresses on the SADARC website for each roll instead of personal ones. A motion was moved by Kevin and seconded by Dallas. All agreed, motion was carried. Josh has agreed to get this done.

Ray moved a motion that we investigate using the new venue as our club rooms. (Vision Aust. Room) This was seconded by Kevin. All agreed and motion was carried. It was agreed to pay the outstanding bill for the scout hall. This will enable us to use hall till July 2019. Everyone has agreed. We will need to move our gear out of hall over next months and Geoff has agreed to store some in his shed, short term.

Negotiations will be entered into in regard to Vision Aust. room usage.

Ray Gardiner gave a very interesting presentation on using an oscilloscope. Thanks Ray.

Meeting ended 4:00pm

Check SADARC website for further info on next meeting venue.

Repeater News

- On the 30th January an electrical storm travelled across our region which included Mt Wombat. Damage was extensive and caused to **ALL** services on the mountain. All of our repeaters were off air. Ray VK3YNV and Josh took a trip up onto the site and found that the circuit breaker at the fire watch tower had disintegrated, our active Motorola power supply was extensively damaged with fuses and switches physically damaged (see pictures). The

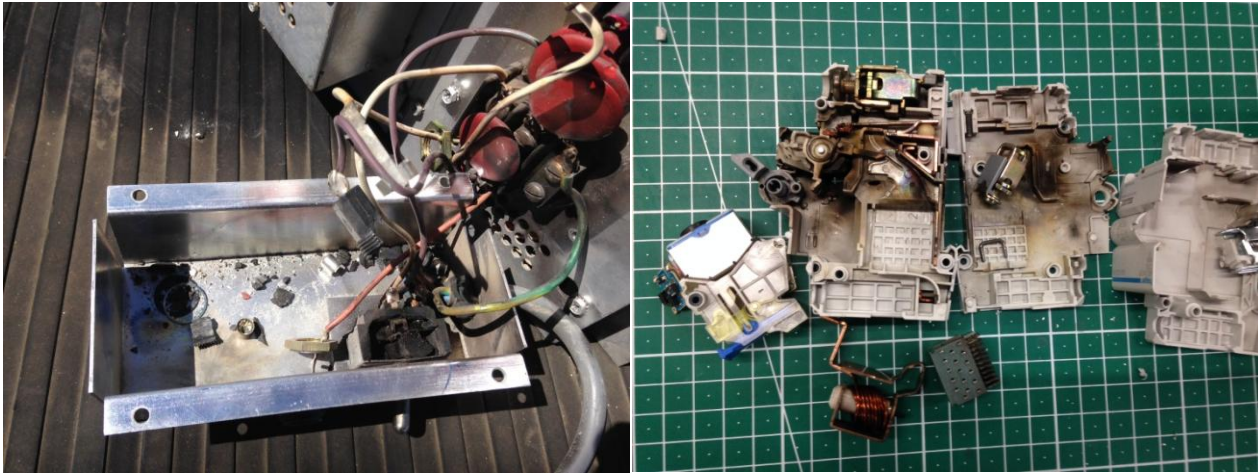
electronic damage has largely been repaired. The DC control system failed. Ray was able to determine that all but the 6 metre repeater had escaped damage. Ray arranged an electrician to attend the site to repair the damage which was outside our legal authority. The services were returned to air from the second standby power supply but without battery backup and little protection from future electrical storm protection.

- With electrical storm activity it has been found that our power supplies over the life of the site have often taken a hit and either the power supply failed safe or unsafe. The design of supplies are designed as much as possible to fail safe in other words the output drops to zero in a fault condition, but this cannot be guaranteed. However if the failure is unsafe the output voltage could rise well above what batteries or equipment are designed to stand. The Motorola supply could under one fault condition place around 60 volts onto the 13.7 volt output line. Wherever possible additional protection down line has been fitted as this has usually protected all services. The repeaters have proved remarkably tolerant of nearby lightning strikes and usually return to operation once power is restored.
- It is proposed that we further upgrade the electrical storm protection although nothing is able to provide 100% protection against such storm damage. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- A trip to restore facilities back to normal will occur as soon as some parts/devices become available.

Editor's Ramblings

- Our club conducts amateur radio examinations for those who want to get a VK licence. Geoff Russell was all set to do his examination on 2nd of this month (February) before the meeting. Unfortunately the contract that the Wireless institute of Australia had with the Australian Communications and Media Authority expired on the 1st of February. Hence no examination could take place.
- The contract for the conduct of examinations, etc has now been granted to the Australian Maritime College (AMC) at Launceston, a part of the University of Tasmania. The AMC has been conducting maritime examinations which include maritime radio communications licences for 20 or more years. However, it is not known how the AMC will do the work that the WIA has done and all we can do is wait and see. When it is clear what is happening the information will be talked about at our meetings and appear in the newsletter.
- The Hon Michael McCormack the Deputy Prime Minister has replied to our proposal for the return of Radio Australia to air. The reply indicates that HF broadcasting is not on the Governments agenda – very disappointing and short sighted. See below to read the reply.
- Bruce Gillies VK3AGG health is deteriorating and he has gone into care. His station is being disposed of over a period of time. Contact Pat O'Shannessy VK3OV for information.
- Ian VK3AXH from the BARC group reports that he contacted VK3VG in Shepparton on 1296 MHz SSB in the last month or so. Are any of our members doing similar things – if so, I'm happy to include activities in the newsletter.

Some Mt Wombat repeater site damage



A picture of the Motorola power supply and circuit breaker after the electrical storm damage. The supply and the DC controller have largely been repaired and the DC controller is under test after its repair. Upgrades to minimise power supply damage within the building are being investigated in conjunction with Andrew Meachen of Austereo.

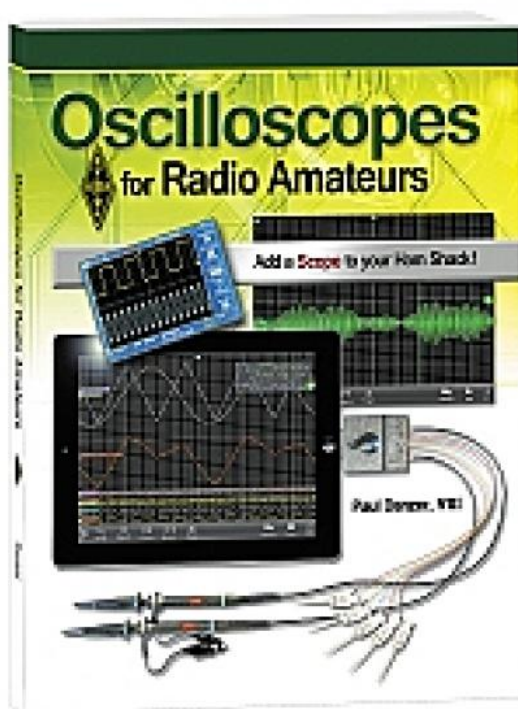
Oscilloscopes.

Ray VK3YNV gave a very interesting talk on the use of both analog and digital oscilloscopes at our last meeting. Later on we may be able to get some further information on these very useful or dare I say essential test instruments, particularly in this digital age. Most members do have an oscilloscope varying in capability from simpler single trace analog units to dual trace analog to multi trace digital storage units. These and our multimeters are the two most useful instruments in our testing arsenal.



A trace on one of Ray's digital oscilloscopes and Ray adjusting the oscilloscope to get the trace on the left photo.

It is great to have such instruments but we need also to know how to get the best out of them and Peter Rentsch has a book available called ***Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs*** at \$45.



The topics Include:-

- A Little History,
- Why get an Oscilloscope?
- Every Scope has these elements,
- Probes and accessories.
- Scope sections in detail.
- Input modes.
- Let's put a Scope to work.
- If you are going to buy one – specifications. Software Oscilloscopes – capable and free.
- Review of several current models.

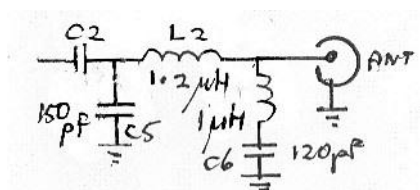
Oscilloscopes are a useful tool in the world of electronics, allowing radio amateurs to "see" the signals inside their equipment. With personal computers and today's technologies, a variety of analog, digital or hybrid scopes are available to hams for solving problems and testing new ideas in home workshops.

Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs is filled with practical information you'll need for using a scope. It begins with an overview of the oscilloscope and continues on to discuss characteristics, applications, probes, controls, and input modes. If you're considering adding this piece of test equipment to your ham shack, there is an explanation of scope specifications and features to help you select an oscilloscope

Pixie PA modification

The Pixie 7.023 MHz transceiver reviewed in the July 2018 newsletter has a rather high 2nd harmonic output. To reduce the harmonic output and to make the final stage output more efficient the output stage was modified as per the accompanying diagram. The modifications can be done on the board with one join in mid air the junction of C6 and the 1 μ H inductor. These inductors look like 1/2 watt resistors and are available from Jaycar, Altronics and some other suppliers.

With this modification the 2nd harmonic is extremely low, but some of the higher harmonics are visible on the Spectrum Analyser. With a supply voltage of 12 volts the receiver current drain with no signal is 15 ma whilst the transmitter is 90ma for 400 milli watts of output.





Australian Government
Department of Communications and the Arts

Ref No: MC19-000569

Mr Rodney Champness
6 Mundoona Court
MOOROOPNA VIC 3629

rodlynn6@bigpond.com

30 January 2019

Dear Mr Champness

Review of Australian Broadcasting services in the Asia Pacific (Shortwave)

Thank you for your email of 17 January 2019 to the Office of the Hon Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister, regarding Pacific broadcasting. As the matters raised in fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Communications and the Arts, your email has been forwarded to the Hon Mitch Fifield for reply. I am responding on behalf of the Minister.

The Review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific has now been completed. A report, taking into consideration stakeholder input, was provided to Government in late December 2018. The Government is currently considering the findings from the review of Australian Broadcasting Services in the Asia Pacific and the report will be made public in due course, in line with the terms of reference.

From 2019, Australia's South Pacific neighbours will benefit from a significant boost in quality Australian television content. While there is already some Australian content being distributed in the region, there is a strong desire for more. Pacific communities are, however, not resourced to acquire it independently. The initiative will provide access to a greater diversity of Australian media than is already available to Australians.

The provision of Australian television content will also help promote Australia and our values throughout the Pacific. Providing more news and information content will strengthen Australia's contribution to discussion on issues of regional importance, whilst entertainment content will showcase Australia's lifestyle and culture.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Neroli Santleben'.

Neroli Santleben
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