



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

VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies

53.725MHz (-1 MHz offset), **In Service**

146.65MHz (-600 kHz offset), **In Service**

438.2MHz (-7 MHz - offset -D-Star), **In Service**

438.650MHz (-7 MHz offset and 91.5 Hz tone access only), **In Service**

438.900MHz (-7 MHz offset- DMR repeater), **In Service**

439.775MHz (-5 MHz offset), **In Service**, IRLP (node #6990)

VK3RDS, 438.7625 MHz (-7 MHz offset DMR repeater) **Shepparton on test @ VK3YNV QTH**

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

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

2mx repeater 8.00pm 146.650 MHz,

3.63 MHz SSB \pm interference 8.30pm.

The vintage radio club have a sked at 11.00am Sunday on the 2 mx repeater.

Meetings occur on the first Saturday of the month at 1pm. Due to the pandemic temporarily they will be conducted on air via our 2 metre repeater and Peter VK3FPSR will officiate as President.

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

Mount Major VK3RDU repeaters, TX operating frequencies, 146.850 MHz and 439.875 MHz
UHF CB Repeater WBT03 Mt Wombat Channels 3- 33, 476.475 MHz, **In service** * 25/7/2020

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

peter@rentsch.com.au

Secretary: - Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

secretary@sadarc.org

Assistant Secretary:- Geoff Angus

VK3ZNA

Vice-President: - Barrie Halliday

VK3KBY

Treasurer: -Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

secretary@sadarc.org

Membership Sec: - Andy Ashley

VK3AJA

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Webmaster: - Ray Gardner ray@etheira.net

VK3YNV

Publicity Officer: - Vacant

Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNG) 0427 715 663 & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson

Tech. Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Josh Gardner & Rodney VK3UG – with power to co-opt.

Newsletter: - Rodney VK3UG (Editor) rodlynn6@bigpond.com

Peter & Andy (Printing/ Distribution)

Presidents Report July 2020

We continue to deal with the COVID 19 pandemic as best we are able and I hope all members are surviving the new recent lock down regulations. In many ways we are more secure living in rural Victoria but that does not mean that we can be lackadaisical about following the rules. Has it affected us directly, yes it has! As much as we live 3km from the NSW Border we cannot get a pass to enter and our planned trip to the big smoke was cancelled due to generally wanting to stay away from large crowds. Did this bother us, well yes but, in many ways, we are extremely fortunate. Cases in rural Victoria have been very minimal and our family has had no detrimental effects on them at all. Those that can work from home are and those that cannot are still able to continue working. Karen and I feel very relieved that all our family is safe. One must count one's blessings in this difficult time.

Enough of me philosophising, after that last paragraph no one would know this is supposed to be an Amateur Radio Club Newsletter.

Thank you to all those who called in for the last meeting and we will have to continue the process again this coming meeting. So, again we have to blow the cobwebs of the Radio and be like Radio Amateurs and use the microphone. In this time of COVID when we can't meet face to face it is a great way to keep in touch with our members.

Perhaps to stir the pot a little we could have a small competition. My thoughts would be that the SADARC Club Member who makes the most radio contacts with the greatest number of different SADARC Club Members excluding contacts via the Club Nets on Wednesday nights from the 1st August to the 31st August will be the recipient of a Jaycar Voucher to the value of \$20.00. Email your total number of contacts to me prior to the September meeting and I will announce the winner on air. To enter this little competition, you must be a financial member of SADARC. What, no wine! It is too hard to post but a Voucher can go in the mail.

That reminds me, to all those who have paid their Subs thank you, to those who have not please do so at your earliest convenience.

That is it for this month and I look forward to hearing you all on the 1st August for our "on air" meeting.

Cheers for now.

Peter Rentsch

President

CLUB CALLANDER

1st August – Regular meeting – 2m Repeater Mt Wombat 1.00pm

5th September - Regular Meeting – format to be advised.

SADARC JULY 2020 MEETING MINUTES

On air 2m repeater VK3RGV due to Covid-19 apocalypse

Meeting start 1:00 pm Sat 4/7/2020

Apologies: VK3FALN Alan, VK3NQS Colin, VK3EB Dallas.

In Attendance: VK3FTRK Geoff, VK3FNQS Jason, VK3YNNV Ray, VK3UI John, VK3ZYZ Denys, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3ASK Peter, VK3PGK Graeme, Stevo + cake, VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3AO Alan, VK3AFD Arthur, VK3ECH Rob, VK3FPSR Peter, VK3AJA Andy, VK3YYY Ian, Robert H. VK3UG Rodney, VK3TJS Jacek.

In: Memberships, RASA newsletter, moved by Andy, second by VK3ZNA Geoff, all in favour.

Out: None.

Reports:

Minutes last meeting:

Read by VK3FPSR Peter, moved by VK3FTRK Geoff, second VK3ASK Peter. All in favour.

Financial:

Read by VK3AJA Andy. Moved by Andy, second by VK3KBY Barrie. All in favour.

Other:

Technical: Ray mentioned SADARC.ORG.AU now registered. Still no link to 70cm VK3RNE Repeater.

VK3ZNA Geoff has nothing else to report.

VK3UG Rodney has nothing to report.

Moved by VK3PGK Graeme, second by VK3ASK Peter, all in favour.

HAMFEST: **TO BE CANCELLED.**

VK3FPSR Peter has asked our thought on go-no go...

VK3AJA Andy suggested cancelling due to safety concerns and having no idea if we can run it.

VK3KBY Barrie agreed to call it off also due to safety.

VK3UI John has suggested we should not go ahead for same reasons.

VK3ZYZ Denys has agreed that it should also be cancelled due to safety concerns.

VK3TJS Jacek also agreed to cancel.

This was moved by VK3UI John, second VK3ZYZ Denys.

VK3FPSR Peter has put it to a vote, all agreed (**Ham fest cancelled for this year.** Editor)

RA Event:

VK3UG Rodney has suggested any info be sent to him for reports to be put together. VK3FPSR Peter has suggested put together a preliminary report for VK3ZNA Geoff to read over then to VK3YNNV Ray, Josh and any others involved. VK3UG Rodney says he is happy to look at any info provided by anybody.

VK3YNNV Ray has suggested Reports of building BALUNs etc.... many stories to tell and lots of personal Stories involved in event.

We all have something to share, let us get it done!

VK3FPSR Peter has suggested a story in AR mag. May be on the cards.

VK3FTRK Geoff, suggested perhaps SMS messages of pics and info could be sent to Rodney.

VK3UG Rodney has stated the more info he gets the better but prefers not using SMS but instead email or written letter and said there are many personal experiences that can be provided also. Rodney has suggested it may be a multi part article.

Moved by VK3YYY Ian, second by VK3ZNA Geoff. All in favour.

General Business:

Clubrooms: VK3FPSR Peter has asked about the future of the Clubrooms. VK3ASK Peter has said the new owners (Education Dept) have no problem with SADARC continuing to use the clubrooms.

Great news!

VK3FPSR Peter has given his details to Education Dept. And further details will follow.

VK3PGK Graeme has suggested perhaps we could ask about possibility of putting up antennas! VK3ASK Peter has agreed that this would be a great idea as the new owners are all about people learning new skills.

Motion moved to ask permission to install some limited antennas. Moved by VK3FTRK Geoff, Second by VK3YYY Ian, all in favour.

VK3YNV Ray has spoken about the RA QSL cards, has noted that BAI has not provided and funding for QSL card and SADARC has paid for them as per last month's meeting Minutes. We are just waiting for them to arrive. Great work Ray!

VK3YNV Ray has not heard for Chris VK3FY on possible Fusion repeater. VK3ZNA Geoff has suggested internet connection may be supplied by 3rd party! VK3AJA Andy will contact Chris VK3FY again for info.

VK3FPSR Peter has reminded us about some info on ALLSTAR. VK3FNQS Jason has mentioned he will get some further info. As He and Colin have setup an ALLSTAR node at home.

VK3YNV Ray has mentioned that some IP address were reserved for Amateur Radio but some of these have been sold to large companies and the money is to be given back to the Amateur radio community and we should look at what could be available and that SADARC should have a look.

VK3BPH Kevin, Second by VK3TJS Jacek, VK3YNV Ray agreed to investigate this for SADARC. All in favour.

Other comments:

VK3FTRK Geoff mentioned He has looked at some club stickers and has provided a proposed design so far for the club to think about. He will send it to VK3FPSR Peter to look at. VK3YNV Ray said it is on the website for all to look at.

VK3UG has reminded the club that books are still available from VK3FPSR Peter from his now closed bookstore.

Great to hear Stevo on air at VK3FTRK's shack! And thanks everybody for their best wishes.

Meeting Closed 2:17 Pm

Editor's Ramblings

- It is interesting to listen to the Wednesday evening on air get togethers on 2 mx and 80 mx and the Vintage Radio Club get together on a Sunday morning at 11am on 2 mx. A variety of subjects are discussed which can be topics that can be talked about when we start meeting face to face later on.
- Subjects that have been discussed lightly that can be discussed in more detail and/or put in the newsletter are :- Transformer lamination vibrations – how to cure, Electrical interference – types, methods of suppression, etc, Cross polarisation effects, Stealth antennas – how to have an antenna that is difficult to recognise, only up at night etc., Auto-transformer – purpose and safety, and many others. Can you add some more?
- Two new 6 metre repeater operators, Bruce VK3PNG and Dallas VK3EB. Listen out for them. Both have good signals into the repeater.
- We have still to determine why the stacked six metre dipoles do not appear to be giving the signal improvement we expected. One school of thought is that the two antennas are anti-phased so that there is a null in the pattern where we want the strongest signal. We won't be able to confirm this until

Spring time. If this is the problem it will be easily corrected at the same time as the replacement two metre antenna is installed.

- Bruce VK3PNG reports that there is a new a new 6 metre repeater on 53.60 MHz near Pyalong on Mt Lookout which would put it at about 500 metres above sea level. Whether it is operational or not, I don't know. It may be accessible to some of our members. Keep an ear out for it Bruce and let us know anything further you find out about it. Bruce VK3PNG, Graeme VK3PGK and Rob VK3ECH are finding our 6 mx repeater good value. Ray VK3RW has also been heard from his new QTH in Benalla.
- Heard tell one amateur using a HF 10 mx long squid pole antenna as a vertical in a permanent location found one evening that it was snapped in half. It cannot be said for sure but it would seem that the constant flexing with wind weakened the pole and a substantial bird colliding with the pole completed the destruction. Feathers found.\
- David Voight has been conspicuous by his absences from the airways. Unfortunately David had a serious accident back in 2017 and more recently other medical problems which have inhibited his opportunity to go on air. He has changed his callsign to **VK3DFV** and hopefully we'll hear David on air again soon.

Repeater News

- On the 19th July, Ray VK3YNV and Josh ventured up to Mt. Wombat to see why their LoraWAN gateway low power 900 MHz service was not operating. Whilst there (and getting frozen by the minute) Ray was able to confirm that when the top mounted 2mx antenna swayed a little in the gusty winds on the mountain top that weaker 2mx signals had the crackling on them that we sometimes experience. This confirms to our satisfaction that there is a problem with the antenna and when weather, Covid19 and availability of key people occurs the antenna will be replaced.
- The UHF CB repeater was off air due to an intermittent power plug problem (a type that is nearly always suspect for reliability). That was fixed for the time being but the performance of the repeater is poorer than it should be in Mooroopna. There appear to be a number of problems with the repeater, cavities and antenna so come spring it will need attention before the fire season. So it is operating but is rather sick.
- The other services were operating as normal. I hope to have more info on the repeaters next Newsletter.
- The weekly 80-mx and 2mx nets on a Wednesday night are well patronised. The weekly vintage radio club net of a Sunday morning on the 2mx repeater at 11am is also patronised, although not as well as the SADARC nets. By all means patronise this net as well, as most of the participants belong to both clubs. Also in the morning out in the shack the temperatures are more inviting than in the cold shacks that many of us have in the evening.

After being married for 40 years, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "Honey, 40 years ago we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 18-year old girl. Now, I have a \$500,000.00 home, two \$35,000 cars, nice big bed and plasma screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 58-year old woman who is not a hot chick anymore. It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things.

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 18-year old chick, and she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV. Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve a mid-life crisis.

A young son asked, "Is it true Dad that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?" Dad replied, "That happens in every country, son."

The last instalment of Les's (VK3TEX) article on his mobile installation

Portable Antenna for HF stationary operations:

Having setup and completed my mobile install I thought about ways to improve my signal for operation on the lower HF bands of 80 and 40 meters, while stationary portable.

I opted for the squid pole vertical arrangement. This was the logical antenna to mount on the front of the bull bar. I bought a 7 meter squid pole from the Shepparton Hamfest for a good price and found this was a good height for 40 and 80 meters.

Next was the requirement for some sort of temporary mount for the bull bar. I fashioned a mount at my place of employ from some scrap stainless tube and a nut and bolt adaptor welded to the tube. This mounts very nicely to an unused antenna mounting plate which was on the bar.



The tube mount can be removed when not required but can also be left on when moving around as it's very sturdy and doesn't move once fitted. Because the squid pole is very light, the wire can be wound around it helically on the ground and it can be lifted into position into the tube where it sits steady as I have made up a round plastic bush stabiliser for the squid pole and the top of the steel tube mount. This steadies the pole to stop it flopping around needlessly.

Once the pole is in the holder I have an alligator clip on the end of the wire which simply clips to the ATU unit with its own spring and antenna removed.

The squid pole makes a spectacular difference on the lower bands and is just a simple matter of hitting the tune button on the 7100 and you're good to go....





The squid pole and vertical antenna is very good out in the bush where there is little man made noise and makes for a great portable operating experience. Anywhere the vehicle can get to, the portable station can be set up.

In Summary, I had great fun putting this project together starting with the 2006 Land Cruiser, then adding the bull bar then the radio's and antenna gear, this should be a great set up coming up to the next sun spot maximum in the next few years.

I use the vehicle for camping and fishing also... When the fish aren't biting I can always do some Ham Radio and fill in some time between bites.

It was also great fun learning about the importance of vehicle bonding and was sometimes a challenge to crawl under the vehicle, but once done, it doesn't need to be touched again.

The last time I had an HF mobile in a vehicle was 30 years ago in an old Ford XC Falcon sedan and it was my first actual Ham rig which was the Yaesu FT 757GX2. That worked well in its day but was a bit bulky from memory.

It's great to be back in HF mobile once again after so much time gone by...

Mobile HF and VHF/UHF is a worthwhile project for any Ham to try. It lets you get out doors to experience the true quiet of the rural areas away from the masses of man-made noise of the city/town areas which most of us are plagued by.

Thank you for reading my articles and your interest. If anyone has any specific questions about my mobile install please don't hesitate to contact me. My details are OK on QRZ dot Com.

Best 73 from Les, VK3TEX

Echuca, Victoria.

Thank you Les for your very informative article on mobile radio installations. We can all learn something from Les's experiences. I am aware that there are readers outside our club membership who have been reading it all with interest. (Editor)



An aerial view of the Macquarie Island sub-Antarctic base looking to the West. The base is in the centre left, the main part of the island is further left for 34 kilometres. The *Aurora Australis* is pointing towards shore in Buckles Bay. Mawson's radio station of around 1913 was built on the plateau (North Head) to the right of centre (about 100 metres high). The radio station remnants are now in either the Antarctic headquarters in Kingston, Tasmania or the local museum. The amateur station is located on the small hill jutting into the sea in the centre of the picture.