



Founded 1979 Incorporation No A6677 P.O. Box 692, Shepparton 3632
April 2022

VK3RGV repeaters and transmitter operating frequencies Mt Wombat

53.725MHz (-1 MHz), **In Service** 146.65MHz (-600 kHz), **In Service**
438.2MHz (-7 MHz -D-Star), **In Service** 438.650MHz (-7 MHz 91.5 Hz tone), **In Service**
438.9MHz (-7 MHz - DMR), **In Service** 439.775MHz (-5 MHz), **In Service**, IRLP (node #6990)
476.475 MHz (+750 kHz) CB Repeater WBT03 Channels 3- 33, **In Service**
VK3RDS, 438.7625 MHz (-7 MHz DMR) **Shepparton on test @ VK3YNV QTH**

The three following repeaters are not the clubs but are allied to the club in one way or another.

Mt Major VK3RDU, 146.850 MHz, 439.875MHz. Mt Bruno VK3RWC 147.325 MHz **(-1.6 MHz 123Hz)**

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

Your TX offset shown in brackets

Club informal on air get togethers, all welcome. Club call sign VK3SOL:-

Wednesday- 2mx repeater 146.65 MHz 8.00pm,

3.63 MHz SSB ± interference 8.30pm,

Sunday - **2 mx repeater 146.65 MHz 8 pm,**

& The Vintage Radio Club - 2 mx repeater 11 am

Meetings the first Saturday of the month from 11 am for informal chats and technical talks. A BBQ follows (a gold coin donation). Business meeting 1 pm (except January when no meeting occurs) at Flexible Learning Centre, 18 Channel Road (250 metres from Archer Street), Shepparton.

Variations in these times, days and location are normally notified in the preceding newsletter.

Website – www.sadarc.org or www.sadarc.org.au Face book Page - Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club

Direct Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/481867453084459>

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

DISCLAIMER: - No guarantee is given as to the accuracy of information in this newsletter. E. & O.E.

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.

26/04/2022

President:- Rob Hose

VK3BLD

hounddog@aapt.net.au

Vice-President:- Barrie Halliday

VK3KBY

barrieaprilhalliday@bigpond.com

Secretary:- Arthur Duke

VK3AFD

secretary@sadarc.org

Treasurer & Membership Sec:- Ian Saunders

VK3YYY

lotsawys@yahoo.com.au

Assistant Secretary:- Geoff Angus

VK3ZNA

Webmaster:- Ray Gardiner

VK3YNV

Hamfest Co-ordinator:- Peter Rentsch

VK3AXI

peter@rentsch.com.au

geoff@vk3zna.net

ray@etheira.net

Communications Managers (External Events):- Bruce (VK3PNG) & Darren (VK3HEN) Glasson
Tech. Committee: Geoff VK3ZNA, Ray VK3YNV, Josh Gardiner & Rodney VK3UG – with power to co-opt.
Newsletter: - Rodney VK3UG (Editor) rodlynn6@bigpond.com , Distribution via Secretary

Apology

I refer to Robert VK2RK's article **DC Voltage Conditioner** as published in last month's newsletter. In my extra thoughts on Robert's DC conditioner in paragraph two in my attempt to go further than Robert had with the effect voltage drop has I endeavoured to indicate the effect on RF output from transmitters. My correction cum apology as given to Robert via email is as follows "It was not Robert who said anything about the transmitter power dropping, it was me misinterpreting that part of Robert's article. The comments however still stand in regard to voltage drops in output power with reduced input voltage although this can vary from transmitter to transmitter depending on design". The **disclaimer** in red shown above the committee member details does apply.

Rodney VK3UG Editor

President's Report April

We have had some good news this week, Congratulations to Stevo for completing the Foundation Exam. Thanks to Arthur (VK3AFD) and Geoff (VK3GSR) for their help and support in this achievement. We await the first contact with a new Ham.

Band conditions have been excellent this month and it looks like it will keep going for a while.

At our last AGM, it was decided that the AGM would be held in February. The Club Membership fee will be decided at this meeting, so the committee has decided that Membership will expire at the end of the AGM in February, and fees will be due before the March AGM. This means the fees are now due in March 2023. Members will remain current until then.

Some of our members are interested in the Arduino, and we have decided to offer an Arduino course through the Club. If you are interested in this course, please contact the Committee.

There is a video available on YouTube about the development of the Arduino. Here is the link if you would like to see it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4D1WhA_mi8

Our next meeting will be on May 7 at 11:00. Denys, VK3ZYZ will be giving us an insight into 3D printing. Many of us have seen the work he has done. It should be an interesting subject.

See you there.

Cheers and 73 Rob (VK3BLD)

SADARC April. 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Club Rooms, Shepparton

In Attendance:- VK3ZYZ Denys, VK3FALN Allan, VK3BPH Kevin, VK3AXI Peter, VK3KBY Barrie, VK3YYY Ian, VK3UG Rodney, VK3YNV Ray, VK3ZE Huntly, VK3ZNA Geoff, VK3BF Alan, Josh, VK3AFD Arthur, VK3OV Pat, VK3ASK Peter, VK3KAH, Bill C., VK3GEK Graeme, Stevo.

Apologies:- VK3 GSR Geoff , VK3EB Dallas, VK3AJA Andy, VK3BLD Bob, VK3UI John.

Minutes of last Meeting: Read by VK3AFD Arthur, Moved by VK3BPH Kevin,

Seconded by VK3ZYZ Denys all in favor.

Inward: Liability Certificate of Currency for SADARC

Outward: Application for WIA Insurance.

Moved by VK3AFD Arthur, Seconded by VK3ASK Peter, all in favor.

Financial: Treasurer VK3YYY Bob reported Income of \$108.65

Payments

1. WIA Insurance	\$266.43
2. P.O. Box Renewal	\$139.00
3. Etheira Technologies	\$142.80
4. ACMA -- VK3SOL	\$55.00

Moved by VK3YYY Ian, Seconded by VK3 FALN Alan, all in favor.

Technical:

Rod VK3UG, Kevin VK3BPH and Arthur VK3AFD Visited the repeater installation on Mt. Wombat on 1st April.

Observations. 1. Animal droppings –equipment will need to be cleaned and the building vermin proofed. Ray, VK3YNV stated that this problem has occurred since Nov. 2021.

2. Using the uppermost antenna on 2 meters gave a noticeable reduction in crackling.

3. The connection of one antenna to the repeater opened the mute with no input

signal!

Discussion. The problem appears to be related to windy conditions, but could it be spurious signals from other equipment? Bill C. suggested a “diode effect” or relay with dirty contacts. Geoff VK3ZNA said maybe birds could have damaged the coax cable, allowing moisture to enter.

Rod VK3UG suggested that we should have replacement repeater units on hand. Ray VK3YNV said we haven’t had to replace one as yet. We have a 6 Meter replacement.

VK3YNV said there is a problem with the IRLP – The repeater controller “hangs up”, it can be reset remotely which gives only a temporary fix. He suspects an output transistor is the problem.

Moved by VK3UG Rod, seconded by VK3ZNA Geoff, all in favor.

General Business:

Hamfest Peter VK3 AXI moved that we hold the Hamfest this September, seconded Ray VK3 YNV all in favor. The second Sunday will be the 11th . Pat VK3OV to check availability.

Ray VK3YNV suggested we place advertising flyer in the WIA magazine as other clubs have done.

Ray VK3YNV moved that Peter VK3AXI, with assistance of a committee, organize Hamfest.

Seconded Barry VK3KBY, all in favor.

Bookings. In the past, John VK3UI has taken bookings of exhibitors. John not currently a member, but would possibly be able to assist.

Moved by Kevin VK3BPH that the Entry Fee remain at \$5 and Peter to be given authority to set a trader’s table fee between \$15 and \$30 that would cover the cost of the hall. moved Kevin

VK3BPH, seconded Peter VK3ASK. All in favor.

Projector. Ray VK3YNV moved that we replace the club’s projector with a large screen TV up to the value of \$500. Barrie VK3KBY and Geoff VK2ZNA to research. Seconded Denys VK3ZYZ, all in favor.

Resignation. In an email to SADARC, Robert VK2RK indicated that he would be resigning from the club. Kevin VK3BPH moved that we accept his resignation, thanking him for his participation and wish him all the best for future endeavors.

Peter VK3ASK Informed us that this property now has a for sale sign, - we don’t need to worry ’till June next year.

Meeting closed.1.55 pm.

Editor's Ramblings

- Congratulations to Stevo. He has passed his Foundation examination and will now be waiting expectantly to get a call sign.
- Ray VK3YNV presented an interesting story of the history of the SADARC repeater site on Mt Wombat complete with slides at our meeting on 2nd April. It is 40 years (1982) since moves were made to establish a repeater site on Mt. Wombat. Many of our members will not remember the enormous effort needed to do this work legally and physically. Many who were involved have since passed on. The site went from having just the 2-metre repeater to having at least 8 services using the hut to accommodate the equipment.
- I am always keen to receive technical or social items for the newsletter so that as many of our members get a reasonable selection of items to suit their particular interest. Items if long, over about four pages, I would rather not publish them as a single article, so I'd ask any authors please present the article in such a way that I can easily divide it and still retain the continuity of the article in the next issue. Take for example the excellent series of articles presented by Les VK3TEX on his mobile installation techniques. I can't always guarantee that I can put a particular article in a particular newsletter although if I can I will. I will usually look at an article and check spelling and punctuation, but I will not alter the article as such as it is your article. Any contentious article/material I will refer to the president and/or secretary to determine whether it will be published or to the author for some clarification on some aspects of the article. I rarely have need to do this. As an editor I may make some comments separate to the article to encourage people to take on board the essence of the article as is done in many other magazines.
- I regularly receive the Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club newsletter. The editor, Mark VK3PI has decided to "hang up his quill" as he said in the latest issue. Mark has to be congratulated on the high standard of the newsletter. Commonly there are up to 15 to 18 pages of news. I don't intend to try and compete with his standard. The incoming editor whoever that may be has a difficult task to equal Mark's work over the last few years. Anyone who would like to be put on their distribution list should send their request to secretary@wansarc.org.au.
- Peter VK3AXI is no longer president but has willingly taken up the job of leading us into a successful Ham-fest on 11th September later this year. As we have not had a ham-fest for a couple of years we will need to get things going straight away and assist Peter in various ways.
- A couple of amateurs have endeavoured to access Phil VK3ELV's repeater on 147.325 MHz (1.6 MHz split) from Shepparton with no success. Phil says that Mt Major blocks the signals to Shepparton. If you are located at least 10 to 15 km North or South of Shepparton you should be clear of the radio shadow created by Mt Major.
- Some experimentation is going on with different times and days/nights for get togethers on air on the 2 mx repeater. More details later.
- Robert VK3BLD has finally got his antenna system up and running with assistance from Ian VK3YYY, Arthur VK3AFD and Stevo. He can now work both Mt Wombat and Mt Major on 2 FM. A long wire with an ATU has been pressed into service until a more permanent antenna farm is constructed for 80 and 40 MX.

Repeater news

1st April. As at the 1st April all the repeaters on Mt Wombat were operating. Kevin VK3BPH, Arthur VL3AFD and Rodney VK3UG went to Mt Wombat to transfer the 6 metre and 2 metre repeaters to different antennas as we have had some interference problems. This was accomplished but brought to light other interference problems which are being investigated with many ideas floating around as to what the cause(s) might be. This will involve at least another visit with an array of more sophisticated equipment than just a multi-meter.

There is an urgent need to revisit the site because some critters have entered the hut and put quite some excrement on to the equipment particularly the 2 mx repeater. This will need to be cleaned off and the entry

holes plugged up with stainless steel kitchen scourers and expanding foam filler. This was discussed at the meeting on 2nd April meeting and further notes on remedial progress will follow in the newsletter.

4th April. The 6mx repeater on the standby antenna is around 2 dB weaker in a north westerly direction, but Phil VK3ELV to the north East is now unable to access it. The antennas will be swapped during the next visit to the site.

25th April Kevin and Rodney visited the site and closed off the holes in the wall with stainless steel kitchen scourer and expander foam. The animal droppings were removed from the equipment as best we could. There does not appear to be any damage caused by animal urine, at least it hasn't shown up yet.

The 6mx repeater has been returned to the tower antenna so signals should be a little better in most locations.

The 2 mx antenna that appeared noisy at last visit was temporarily removed from service and spare lightning arrestor put into service. The problem with noise on this particular antenna still remains and does not appear to be a faulty lightning arrestor. Further tests will be made later on to determine what is causing the problem.

The internet connectivity to the DMR and DSTAR repeaters is down due to a faulty network switch. The repeaters are working but only for local connections, not for network connections.

The UHF repeater on 439.775 MHz – 5 MHz offset IRLP node #6990 is powered down due to an intermittent fault that causes the PTT line to turn on.

A new network switch has been ordered and will be here in the next few days, following which we will be travelling up the hill to install the new switch and try and diagnose the issue with the UHF repeater.

Investigation with people in the know, say that the animal droppings are from a carnivorous marsupial mouse called Antechinus. It is about half way between the size of a mouse and a rat. Have a look on the internet to learn more about it. Below is a photo of the droppings. Thanks to Bill Crocker for suggesting that it might be Antechinus. Most of us had not thought of such an animal being the cause of our dropping problem. Note this is a protected animal so don't kill them if you see them.

