

THE PROPAGATOR

AUGUST ISSUE

1997

This may well be my last Presidents report as my job situation may change soon keeping me away from Tuesday evenings, but we will wait and see.

I think you would all agree that the club in general has had a successful year, both financially and with regards to the services provided. I would like to thank the club members for their support this year through the raffles and general meeting night attendance.

Thanks to the committee for their support throughout the year and making my job a whole lot easier. A special thanks to Vic VK2KVH for the terrific nosh that he has been serving up at the end of the meetings. I am sure that this a great part of the reason that people stay and have a good yack at the end of meetings.

Brian VK2UBF has spread the word far and wide this year about the club and you can see the result by the number of out of the area members and visitors we get on a regular basis.

It seems every year that we give Rob VK2MT a special mention for his excellent efforts with the repeater systems. This year is no different.

Not a lot of people get to hear about the 5 o'clock mornings Rob puts in maintaining the systems, and then fronting for family and work a couple of hours later. Well done Rob!

Thanks to the repeater committee for their efforts as well.

73's Simon de VK2XQX

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

The AGM of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society. There will be a raffle with three prizes instead of the usual one. Prizes include a free membership to the club for one year, a multiband AM/FM radio and a lottery gift pack. First ticket drawn out gets his or her choice of prizes. The guest speaker will be Michael Corbin VK2YC

SEPTEMBER

Possibly a talk on Community Radio by a representative from 2VOX FM our local community radio station.

A nomination form for club positions is in this issue. Just remove it and bring to the AGM.

LOG ### Connected to VK2MT -
Sat Aug 02 00:35:08 1997

*** CONNECTED to VK2MT

1996 - 1997 AGM REPEATER REPORT

Each year, before the AGM, I try & give a quick Report on what your Repeater Committee has achieved in the previous 12 months. It's pretty hard summing up everything, especially when Editor Simon said there isn't much room left in this Propagator. So I think the best way of tackling this job, is to just make some short notes in point form for each site, without too much detail.

VK2RMP (Maddens Plains)

- * 6850 working well, with excellent coverage.
- * Several ZL stations accessed 6850 & spoke at length to numerous local stations over summer months.
- * Longest VK distance achieved was a station at Grafton.
- * As an experiment, a "10m Gateway" was connected to 6850 over Summer, allowing many, many DX contacts via 2m. VK2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8 & ZL stations worked.
- * Interference is still with us, courtesy of Communication Site Rentals.
- * Spent considerable time dealing with CSR trying to rectify the situation, only

to be told they weren't going to bother.

- * The tower owners expect a refurbishment & clean-up of the tower to take place very soon, hopefully rectify the interference.
- * The original gell cell batteries were replaced with wet cells after a collapse of two cells.
- * The linking to VK2RMU 6700 is performing well, with lots of good friendships & conversations being made between our two areas.
- * CTCSS decode installed on the link RXer.
- * DTMF 5 output control unit built to give remote control to main site functions.
- * CTCSS decode work done to the WIA Broadcast RXer to overcome reception problems.
- * Link unit built & installed to send WIA Broadcast to VK2RUW 8225 (& on to Goulburn & Canberra).
- * 8725 UHF Rptr built & installed, using same antenna as 6850.
- * This Rptr has proven to be very reliable, with no attention needed since installation.
- * Future plans for this Rptr are for some form of linking, maybe to 6 or 10m...
- * Coverage of 8725 in some directions found to be better than it's VHF 6850 brother (or is that sister?).
- * Severe storms over 30 & 31/8/96, allowed water to creep it's way into one of our 7/8" heliax connector, putting 6850 off the air for almost a day. Fixed on the 1/9 (Fathers Day!).

* Same visit, "a mere Amateur radio operator" got the site's Ambulance system back on the air & also lashed a rope to CSR's antenna system to stop it falling 120' to the ground.

* Many working bees were held, with some very nice hot lunches supplied by Brian (UBF). (Burp!, Ed)

* Probably by the time you read this, a new Packet node may have been installed on 144.700MHz (VK2AMW-9). (Works like a little ripper, Ed)

VK2RIL (Sublime Point)

* After the site sitting vacant for many months, waiting for the South Coast Packet Group to supply eqpmt for a link to the Sth Coast, we gave up waiting & re-installed 7275 Rptr.

* With the usual (+) offset, the Rptr was absolutely useless with very strong & continuous interference from the old Telecom intermod (that DOTC/SMA could never ever totally fix).

* While still licensed to TX on 147.275MHz, elected to try an experiment & change the Rptr RX frequency to a (-) offset, on 146.675MHz.

* This new RX frequency provided Pager free operating.

* Antenna system was changed to a 3 elmt yagi facing south into W'gong, making the Rptr a "local" Rptr.

* Although W'gong coverage was very good, most users still stuck to 6850 (or simplex).

* By the time you read this, the Rptr will

be gone. It's future use to be explained at end of this Report.

* Future plans for site could be for 6 or 10m Gateways, packet digis or link expansion; any suggestions?

VK2AMW (Mt Murray)

* The 147.575 digipeater/node is presently working it's best ever, with HEAPS of traffic passing thru' it at times.

* The system was originally installed last October, using 7275's old 27' colinear.

* Worked well for 2 weeks, till the antenna was later found to have failed.

* Replaced with a 3 elmt Yagi facing south, to provide a service to our south coast brothers.

* This was later replaced with a 2 x 5/8th 2m ringo.

* Recently changed back to the now fixed colinear.

* New user friendly software installed, with far better traffic handling abilities.

* The original pass-band filter, that had to be used to prevent Telecom pager interference from Kinghts Hill, changed to a pass/notch type, notching out very successfully the pager crap.

* The 828 radio also retuned on site, with better RX & TX performance.

* Future installation of the 10m Rptr RXer planned.

* DTMF 5 output control unit already built, awaiting installation to provide remote control of main site systems.

VK2RUW (Knights Hill)

- * 8225 UHF Rptr working very well, with good coverage.
- * UHF linking to Goulburn & Canberra is working well, with some very interesting contacts being made.
- * Reliability of the system was so good, that no visit was necessary to the site for over 9 months!
- * Even after all that time, the visit was only to change a capacitor in the audio stage on the link radio, to "sharpen" our audio to the South.
- * The Rptr's antenna system was changed.
- * System was fully diplexed, using 2 high gain yagis facing north & south. Diplexer was removed, with both yagis now facing north, with one for RX & the other for TX.
- * Future plans for the site include installation of the 10m Rptr's TXer.

VK2RIS (Saddleback Mtn)

- * Rptr has required almost no maintenance for the past year.
- * The antenna system has had a bit of work done to it, due to the severe winds at the site causing loosening of connections.
- * Presently, the system is awaiting major changes. A new 90' tower is planned which will significantly improve the Rptr's performance.
- * When this is done, the diplexer will be

retuned & quite possibly the existing Rptr may be changed to a 50W commercial unit.

* It is also planned to link the 10m Rptr to this Rptr.

* The Shoalhaven ARC's UHF Rptr on 9275 was removed from service a few months ago. They have their reasons, I don't agree with them, but it was their decision.

* Unfortunately, if they had waited we could've shared licence costs, when SMA (now ACA) changed the licensing rules (again), allowing multiple TXers to be placed under one licence.

* The packet system that was placed at Saddleback, was removed many months ago. This was due once again to many reasons, mainly "political".

* This site has personally caused me more grief than I could ever have imagined, due to what I call the "political" crap. In hindsight, I was very naive in my hopes & plans for this site. The amount of ill-informed, ignorant & plain untruths about many aspects of this site have left a very bad taste in my mouth. Never again will I go down that same road. Suffice to say, I have learned from my "mistakes".

* Apart from the above, I foresee great things for Saddleback with the planned site changes.

Well that about wraps up the Rptr site rundown for the past 12 months. We have a few more plans for our systems & sites, but mainly to just maintain & improve what we already have.

One plan we are supporting, is the establishment of a 2m Rptr in the Batemans Bay/Moruya area.

This area is well outside our "area", but we have the eqpmt & ability to provide a service, with no planned costs to the IARS, to an area that is very poorly serviced with an Amateur Rptr system. With some surplus gear, a few nights work & help from some enthusiastic Club members, we should have a very good, high coverage system hopefully established in the next few months. It is planned to link that Rptr system to somewhere, whether back up to the Illawarra or via the Canberra systems, who knows?

Also, you may have heard already, but on the 29th of July, the Shoalhaven ARC closed down. All assets & responsibilities have transferred to Sth Coast WICEN. Club Membership had unfortunately dwindled to a very low number. I believe the Club had been in existence for 17 years. Hopefully, the IARS will continue for many more years with the dedication of it's members.

"Ask not what our Club can do for you, but what you can do for YOUR Club."

If you have not already considered it, why not be a bigger part of our great Club & stand for a position at the AGM on the 12th of August.

Finally, I'd like to thank all those who have helped establish & maintain our Rptr systems.

VK2ZLJ VK2U5F VK2XGX
VK2CAG VK2TPH VK2XBC
VK2XGJ VK2XCE VK2TKE
VK2BIT & all the others I've probably missed.

Till next time - RoB VK2MT.

<Ctrl_C>

cmd:

cmd:d

cmd:*** DISCONNECTED

LOG ### DISconnected from
VK2MT - Sat Aug 02 00:38:44 1997

CAVIONS

RECYCLING FOR EARTHCARE

*AVAILABLE AT OUR YARD ARE ALL SORTS
OF PRELOVED BITS AND PIECES, OLD & NEW*

*Electronic parts, meters, gauges, instruments, cable, wire
metal sections, aluminium sheet, brass, copper, s/steel
motors, gearboxes, pumps, assorted machinery, planks
ladders, shelving, safes, scales and compressors.*

We buy all metals including platinum and gold.

11 MOLLOY ST BULLI 042-846838

NEWTEK ELECTRONICS

Ph/Fax 271620

Resellers for:

ALTRONICS ARISTA JAYCAR ROD IRVING

**Stockist of alarm accessories, UHF antennae, tools
computer accessories, test equipment, cables,
plugs, RF sprays and components for the
professional and amateur alike.**

348 KIERA ST WOLLONGONG

FOR SALE

Tower For Sale

14 m steel self supporting tower with heavy duty rotator and remote selsyn indicator. Estate of John VK2ANO
Phone Peter VK2PG on 042 275 996

Gear For Sale

*1 Midland 2m mobile ex commercial. Eeprom programmed with 80 ch. All repeater and some simplex ch. Not for paket use as no ch are programmed. 25 watt output. Ideal mobile or base unit. \$150.00 ono.

*1 Icom IC 2AT H/ held, 2 m radio with drop in quick charger , repacked with new batteries pack and a 12 volt adaptor. \$100.00

See John VK2ZLJ or phone 0418 276 157 BH or 042 941 690 AH

Antenna Sale

* 14 element long yagi VHF TV antenna. Band III (ch 7, 9, 10) \$25.00 ono

* 2 element full size 20 m beam. Commercially built. Big and Strong.
\$50.00 ono

* 5 band trapped vertical (10, 15, 20, 40, 80 m) \$30.00 ono

* Yaesu mobile whips (3 of) 2, 15 & 80m with base. \$25.00

All good quality. Surplus to needs & you'll make the wife happy.

(Free set of steak knives to first 100 shoppers)

Rob VK2MT Home- 042 847 889 Work- 042 234 231

Kenwood Stuff

* Kenwood TS-430 (in carton) with mike, power lead and manual.

Kenwood ATU AT-200 with manual. Home made power supply with desktop control. Panel volt and ammeter. Will deliver at least 25 amps @ 13.8 volts.

Works well. \$1000.00

Throw in a 25 ft tower and Kenpro rotator and cables, also a MC 50 mike as well.

Contact Peter VK2AGB Work 02 9583 1046 Home 042 948 423

ATTENTION: ALL PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE IN EFFECT:

SICKNESS

Absolutely no excuses. We will no longer accept your doctor's statement as proof, as we believe that if you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR AN OPERATION

We are no longer allowing this practice. We wish to discourage any thoughts that you may need an operation, as we believe that as long as you are an employee here you will need all of whatever you have, and you should not consider having anything removed. We hired you as you are and to have anything removed would certainly make you less than we bargained for.

ACCIDENTS

Our safety programs and company policy preclude any lost time for accidents. First aid in most instances will be treated during normal breaks. Application of splints, hemorrhage and artificial respiration may be done at other times, work load permitting.

DEATH (OTHER THAN YOUR OWN)

This is no excuse. There is nothing you can do for them and there is always someone else with a lesser position who can attend to the arrangements. However, if the funeral can be held in the later afternoon, we will be glad to let you off one hour early, provided your share of the work is ahead enough to keep the job going in your absence.

DEATH (YOUR OWN)

This will be accepted as an excuse, but a two week notice is required as we feel it is your duty to teach someone else your job.

RESTROOM PRIVILEGES

ENTIRELY TOO MUCH TIME IS BEING SPENT IN THE RESTROOM. In the future we will practice going in alphabetical order. For instance, those with names beginning with "A" will go from 8:00 to 8:15, "B" will go from 8:15 to 8:30, and so on. If you are unable to go at your appointed time, it will be necessary to wait until the next day when your turn comes again.

THE ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY INC. NOMINATION FORM

I(call.....)
nominate(call.....)
for the position of
for the next twelve month.

This nomination to be presented at the AGM on the Illawarra Amateur
Radio Society on August eighth.

Seconded by

Nomination accepted by (call)
for IARS committee. Date.....

A DAY OFF

So you want the day off. Let's take a look at what you are asking for.

There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have 2 days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have use up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available. You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break that accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With 1 hour lunch period each day, you have used up another 46 normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you with only 20 days available for work. We are off for 5 holidays per year, so your available working time is down to 15 days. We generously give you 14 days vacation per year which leaves only 1 day available for work and I'll be damned if your going to take that day OFF!!!

THE ILLAWARRA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY SOCIETY INC

PO BOX 1838
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

REPEATERS

<i>Call</i>	<i>Fx</i>	<i>Mode</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Linked to</i>
VK2RMP	146.850	VOICE	MADDENS PLAINS	VK2RMU
VK2RMP	438.725	VOICE	MADDENS PLAINS	
VK2RIS	146.975	VOICE	SADDLEBACK MT.	FUTURE
VK2RUW	438.225	VOICE	KNIGHTS HILL	VK2RGN VK1RGI
VK2RUW	29.620	VOICE	KNIGHTS HILL	OFF AIR
VK2AMW-7	147.575	PAKET	MT. MURRAY	NETROM
VK2AMW-1	144.625	PAKET	WOLLONGONG UNI	
VK2XGJ	144.700	PAKET	DAPTO (& 147.575)	
VK2XGJ	439.075	PAKET	DAPTO	
VK2AMW-9	144.700	PAKET	MADDENS PLAINS	NETROM

**MEMBERSHIP \$20.00 PA \$15.00 CONCESSION EXPIRING
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AGM IN AUGUST**

COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	VK2XQX	SIMON FERRIE
VICE PRESIDENT	VK2UBF	BRIAN FARRAR
SECRETARY	VK2MT	ROB McKNIGHT
TREASURER		ROB SKELCHER
COMMITTEE	VK2ZLJ	JOHN LODDING VK2ZWG JIM BEAVER
	VK2AGV	NED McINTOSH VK2TPH PHIL HOWCHIN
REPEATER COMM	VK2MT	ROB McKNIGHT VK2TKE KEN GOODHEW
	VK2ZLJ	JOHN LODDING VK2BIT PETER WOODS
	VK2CAG	GRAEME DOWSE VK2XBC CHRIS STEVENS
PUBLICITY	VK2UBF	BRIAN FARRAR
BROADCAST	VK2UBF	BRIAN FARRAR 146.850
	VK2MT	ROB McKNIGHT 438.225
EDITOR	VK2XQX	SIMON FERRIE
PRINTER	VK2MT	ROB McKNIGHT
CANTEEN	VK2KVH	VIC HEE
LIFE MEMBERS	VK2OB	KEITH CURLE VK2CAG GRAEME DOWSE
	VK2ALU	LYLE PATISON

INVITATION

Dear Member,

You are invited to renew your membership with the Society for the following financial year. Please return this completed form with your remittance to:

**THE TREASURER
PO BOX 1838
WOLLONGONG 2500.**

If you are paying at the meeting, kindly bring the completed form with you.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....
Call:.....

W.I.A. member yes..... no.....

Member \$20.00

Pensioner \$15.00