

THE PROPAGATOR. IARS

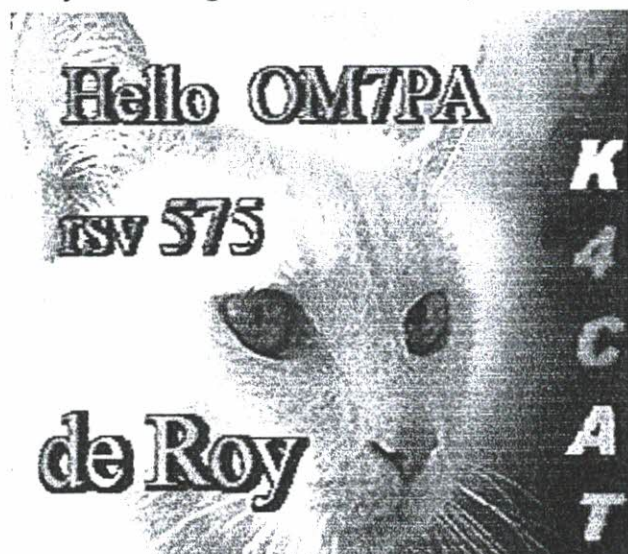
VOLUME 00/05 Issue 5 June 2001 PRINTED BI-MONTHLY

PRICELESS

Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month (except January) S.E.S. Building Montague St Nth Wollongong
Starting At 7:30 P.M. Official Newsletter Of The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society P.O. Box 1838 Wollongong 2500

Welcome to this Months edition of "The Propagator". This issue has been produced in 2 Versions. There is this version that has been mailed out to our members and a second version that has been compiled and sent out via the Internet as a trial, to those members that have requested it that way. This is only a trial as the incoming committee at our AGM in August may have some other views. We will wait and see. If you would like to receive the next issue (August) via E-Mail then drop me a line at VK2JBS@bigpond.com.au and I'll add your name to the list. The front page is the only page that is different, but the e-mail version is in color and PDF format. You will need to download Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it.

I didn't manage to get along to the May meeting but from all reports it



was very good with the demo of the SSTV software and hardware. I will be getting involved with this as soon as Time permits as have quite a number of our members. Quite quite a few people with great success have constructed John's (VK2BHO) little inter-phase box.

The QSL Cat (CARD) shown below was received by Brian VK2UBF via SSTV and is just a small example of what can be done with his equipment. (It looks heaps better in color)

On a different note we have had some rather disturbing news in the last week or so which has the potential to dramatically change the way in which the I.A.R.S. operates its repeater network in the Illawarra. Rob VK2MT has provided us with an update of the current situation and it doesn't look good. Hopefully more information will be available at our June Meeting.

Also inside there is a set of plans for a 5 element Beam on 6 Mtrs.

I hope to see you all at the June Meeting.

Bill

de VK2JBS.

Minutes of the meeting Of The IARS held March 10 at Cataract Dam

Opened at hours 12:10pm With Ted VK2TTH welcoming all those there.

Attend 20 People including XYL'S and harmonics. Plus about the same number from another group having a birthday bash in the same shed.

APOLOGIES FROM : VK2'S XQX,KFQ,XBC,ZRF,ZWG,BHO,TNK,NJP,ZLJ,HPR And The XYL Of TTH.

VISITORS: NIL

CORRESPONDENCE IN: Cheque from Rob Heyer for name tags.

ACA licence renewal for VK2RBT.

ACA returning the licence for the 10 m repeater.

Account for Box 1838 from Aust Post.

News letters from: Central Coast Amateur Radio Society, Goulburn Amateur Radio Society, St George Amateur Radio Society.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: E-mails to known members with same re this meeting. E-mail to 1earth to update the web page.

Correspondence in and out moved by VK2UBF 2nd by VK2ZDM

Minutes of meeting were read above the noise. Moved VK2ubf
2nd VK2ezd

MATTERS ARISING from: David VK2ezd asked about the licence for the 10m repeater and was told about the letters sent to fix up the problem with this licence.

Treasurer's report: Give my Jim VK2CAV. Income \$154:05 Expenses \$76:20 Excess income over expenditure \$77:85

Moved VK2CAV 2nd VK2UBF

REPEATER REPORT: As there was so much noise Rob just said they are working. Which I think most there heard! The licence for the 10m repeater only took 10 weeks to put right this time!!!!!!!

GENERAL BUSINESS: As there was so much noise from the birthday party there was nothing discussed at general business as it would not have been heard.

General meeting will be held: 10th April

MEETING CLOSE: 12:20 PM. When the BBQ'S started to cook the lunch. They sure took some getting started with WET wood but the OLD boy scouts had NOT forgotten how. It could have been all the blowing by Brian that did the trick!! At one time the smoke was so THICK you could hardly see. After the BBQ a great time was had by all with a rag chew. Most left at around 3pm. The weather was Not good but all those there enjoyed themselves.

Raffle prize winner VK2ZDM a large box of fruit and veg. DRAWN BY HIS WIFE!!!

\$40 Membership badge draw winner: Number 34 Rob Skelcher not present next meeting \$45. Sorry Rob better luck next time.

MINUTES OF THE I.A.R.S. GENERAL MEETING HELD APRIL 13TH 2001

The meeting opened at 7:35 PM with Jim VK2ZWG welcoming all present and asked if there where any visitors. There were No visitors present.

APOLOGIES : - Vk2's ZDM, AXJ, TPH, TNB, XBC, FHN, BES, GCE.

ATTENDANCE. 30

CORRESPONDENCE IN Membership application with Cheque attached from John Bennett VK2AAL. Account from Vimcom for \$76:09. Letter from VK2CAV with Cheque for Vimcom account, which was paid. Booklet on the Drug problem. Licence for VK2RBT. WIA conference of club minutes. Minutes of Council meeting February 2nd. E-mails from Michael Corbin re FRED. The Orange repeater.

NEWS LETTERS IN Dragnet (March) Moorabbin and District (February). Ballarat (March). Central Coast (April).

CORRESPONDENCE OUT. Propagator to all members. E-mail to know members re this meeting. Fax to WIA broadcast re this meeting. Correspondence In / Out Moved VK2UBF 2nd VK2EZD.

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING There where NO minutes at the meeting so they where NOT confirmed. This will be done at the next meeting. The minutes of the March meeting will be e-mailed to those on the E-mail list, and Printed in the next Propagator. (THIS EDITION ED.).

TREASURERS REPORT Given by Jim Moved Jim VK2CAV 2nd Ted VK2TTH

REPEATER REPORT. Brian read a report from Rob VK2MT "All repeaters are working all OK". The club has been approached by the Blue Mountains Club to link our network to the VHF repeater and in turn into the IRLP network. This link will be at No cost to the IARS and will be experimental for about 2-3 hours of an evening. The BMARC will supply crystals to the IARS. If this linking and the experiment is working OK. The IARS will purchase from the USA the IRLP software etc. The approx cost is \$200?""
FOOT NOTE FROM SEC. A letter should be sent to the BMARC about this agreement.

APRIL MINUTES CONTINUED.....

GENERAL BUSINESS. Brain spoke about the raffle tickets he had and asked for members to buy some. All tickets he had were sold. He will look into this more and see what's needed so the club can make money from this also.

He also asked about needing help at the weekend to lower some aerials. Nobody said they would help so hopefully he doesn't have to do it all himself!!!!

Raffle Prize an Easter Hamper won by Jack VK2XGD

Membership badge draw \$45 Number 23 VK2VWT John Pratley NOT present so \$50 May meeting.

A good rag chew was had by all and the HEAVENLY PIKELETS went down like a treat!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Minutes Of General Meeting Held On 8th May 2001.

Jim VK2ZWG Chaired the Meeting

OPENED 7:45 PM

ATTENDANCE VK2's 26

APOLOGIES VK2's XBC, ZDM, AXJ, JBS, ZRF, TNB, BES, AGB.

VISITOR Grant Hayman

CORRESPONDENCE IN: E-mails from Michael Corbin, Chris Stevens, Brian Clarke, Bob Freebairn, John Matthews, Phil Howchin, John Morris, Rick Hanna, Wayne Bardwell, Hank Laauw. Re propagator via e-mail. E-mail from Bill Stone re web page. E-mail from Michael Corbin re new E-mail address. E-mail from Chris VK2XBC re not attending this meeting. Phone call from Bill VK2JBS re web page and phone call from Ken Westerman re the W.I.A. AGM and conference of clubs. ACA renewal for VK2RIS. Letter from VK2TNK with Cheque attached for radio. Letter from Rob VK2MT with account and correspondence from Dept of Fair Trading.

NEWS LETTERS Received from: Central Coast, Morrabbinn, Ballarat.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: E-mails to all on list re to-nights meeting. E-mail to all on list re propagator on E-mail. E-mail to W.I.A re this meeting. Correspondence in and out moved by VK2UBF 2nd VK2TTH.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The members requested that the minutes NOT be read but to be published in the Propagator. They were eager to get on with the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING : Nil

TREASURERS REPORT: Attached Moved VK2CAV 2nd VK2WRJ.

REPEATER REPORT: Parts are ordered for the IRLP Internet repeaters linking. Not sure when they will arrive but they will be used ASAP when they arrive. VK2RMP 70 cm has a small problem. Rob will look at when time permits. Moved VK2UBF 2nd VK2HPR

Minutes Of May Meeting Continued.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Suggestion for Web page. This is on Brian's computer. Some members looked at this page and gave some suggestions.

Members to go to W.I.A. AGM and conference of clubs on June 16th.
NOBODY INTERESTED.

Introduce application and late renewal fee of \$5
NO WAY LETS KEEP THE NUMBERS WE HAVE.

NEXT MEETING June 12th

MEETING CLOSE: 8:10pm. The raffle was drawn and won by Simon VK2XQX. A nice box of fruit and veg.

Members badge draw \$50 won by VK2CRM as he was NOT present the amount jackpots to \$55 at the June meeting.

S.S.T.V. DEMO. Was given by John and Brian. Many members wanted to get the program and start off ASAP. Simon had a table full of goodies which all went to good homes.



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Contact John VK2ZLJ On
0418276157 W or 42941690 H

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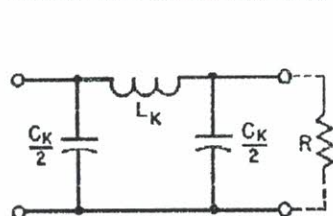
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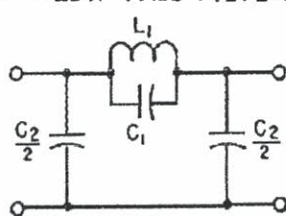
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WOLLONGONG Just across road, at new address.

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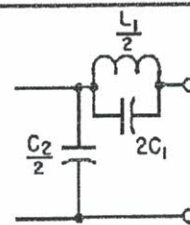
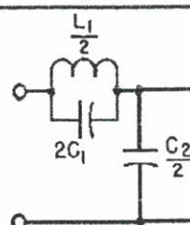
LOW-PASS FILTERS



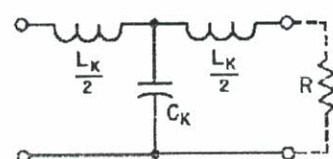
Constant-k π section



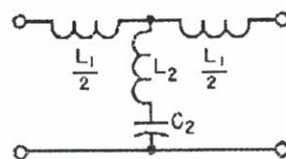
m -derived π section



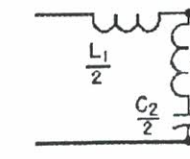
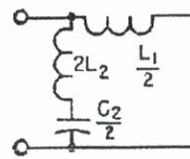
m -derived end sections for use
with intermediate π section



Constant-k T section



m -derived T section



m -derived end sections for use
with intermediate T section

$$L_K = \frac{R}{\pi f_c} \quad C_K = \frac{1}{\pi f_c R}$$

$$L_1 = m L_K \quad C_1 = \frac{1-m^2}{4m} C_K$$

$$L_2 = \frac{1-m^2}{4m} L_K \quad C_2 = m C_K$$

$$L_1 = m L_K \quad C_1 = \frac{1-m^2}{4m} C_K$$

$$L_2 = \frac{1-m^2}{4m} L_K \quad C_2 = m C_K$$

In the above formulas R is in ohms, C in farads, L in henrys, and f in cycles per second.



Illawarra



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A Member of The Association Second The Applicant For Membership Of The Association.

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Signature Of Secunder

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Date

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-----Committee Use-----

Presented At Committee Meeting/...../..... Not / Approved

Type Of Membership....Overseas / Pensioner / Student / Ordinary

Fees Paid Y / N Membership No..... For Year 2001/2002

The Propagator June 2001

Page 9

Build This Full Coverage Beam For The 6 Metre Band.

By Roger Harrison VK2ZRH

Reprinted From ETI Magazine

This design is based on the ETI-714 VHP Log-Periodic Antenna published in a past issue of ETI. It comprises a three-dipole log-periodic array with passive reflector and director elements added. It has been cast to cover 45-55 MHz and should yield a gain of some 6-7 dB over a dipole. Balanced feed is necessary and a simple coax feedline balun is all that's necessary for matching. Feedpoint impedance is in the 60-70 Ohm region and VSWR across the band should remain below 1.5:1, which is quite acceptable, their being generally little point in trying to better that.

Construction

The beauty of log-periodic designs is that they're tolerant of construction variations. At these frequencies, tolerances of ± 10 mm can be accommodated without serious (if noticeable) effects on performance. Figure 1 shows the overall construction dimensions. Each of the dipole halves must be insulated so an insulated boom is required, along with some convenient method of mounting the dipole elements on it. There are two basic ways of achieving this - using a wooden boom and wooden element support brackets; or using a boom of high-density water pipe of a suitable diameter and conventional element-to-boom brackets. The boom for the model illustrated in Figure 1 is a two metre length of 25 x 50 mm (dressed size) wood such as maple, though western red cedar is also good. It must be a straight grained and knot-free and suitable for outdoor use if sealed with a stain or Estapol. Wattle 'Forestwood' or one of the Cabot outdoor stains are fine and will ensure a long life. The elements consist of two halves. Screwed to a wooden support block, which is affixed to the boom. These blocks are cut from a length of 42 x 19 mm (dressed size) timber of the same type as used in the boom. The element halves are 10mm diameter aluminium tube which is generally available from hardware stores or specialist aluminium suppliers (look them up in your local 'phone book). The measurements for element length given in Figure 1 are tip-to-tip dimensions.

Cut the element halves 5 mm shorter than required to leave a 10 mm gap in the centre. The reflector should be made from a single length, if you can possibly do it. Otherwise, use two, two-metre lengths and bond them thoroughly in the centre to get electrical contact. (If it has to be 50 mm short, it won't hurt all that much). Figures 2 and 3 show the general assembly details for the dipoles.

The position of each dipole support block should be marked out on the boom before assembling the dipoles. Drill the two bracket-to-boom screw holes in the brackets a little oversize so that the elements can be lined up parallel and at right angles to the boom. For appearance's sake. Note that the element-to-element spacings given in Figure 1 are dipole centre-to-centre dimensions.

Figure 4 shows 'plumbers delight' Assembly. Standard element-to-boom brackets are used. If you can obtain, or modify, element brackets to suit a 50 mm boom, do so, but common brackets are designed for 20 mm booms. A plastic boom will need supporting from the mast to prevent considerable droop. Alternatively, the boom can be drilled to pass the elements which can then be secured with long self-tapping screws through the top of the boom. Make sure you drill the boom reasonably accurately so that the elements lie in the same plane. Mainly for the sake of appearance. The dipoles are cross-connected (Figure 5) and the feedline is attached to the shortest — dipole 3. Use heavy-duty (24 x 0.2 mm) hookup wire for the dipole interconnections. Balun details are given in Figure 6. Seal the ends of the coax with a good sealing compound like Silastic. Tape the balun piece to the main line with electrician's tape, maintaining a spacing of 5 mm or so with small chunks of plastic placed very 1(X) mm or so between the two coax pieces. Plastic clothes pegs are just great for this! Tape the balun to the boom adjacent to the feed point or secure it with a cable saddle.

Let the balun section hang down from the boom a little, loop the feedline back up and either tape it to the boom toward the reflector end. Or secure it with a cable

Saddle. I'll leave the boom-to-mast Clamping arrangements to you as Individual circumstances will vary. A quick VSWR check with the antenna mounted with the reflector about a metre or so off the ground and pointed skyward should tell you all is OK — or not — before you hoist your 'baby' to the top of the tower. If you want to adjust the VSWR, an open-wire line stub. Connected at the feedpoint, shorted at the opposite end and about 1400 mm long to start with can be employed. Shorten the stub successively until you reduce the VSWR to what you want. Tack the stub to the boom, away from the Feedline, when you've established its final length.

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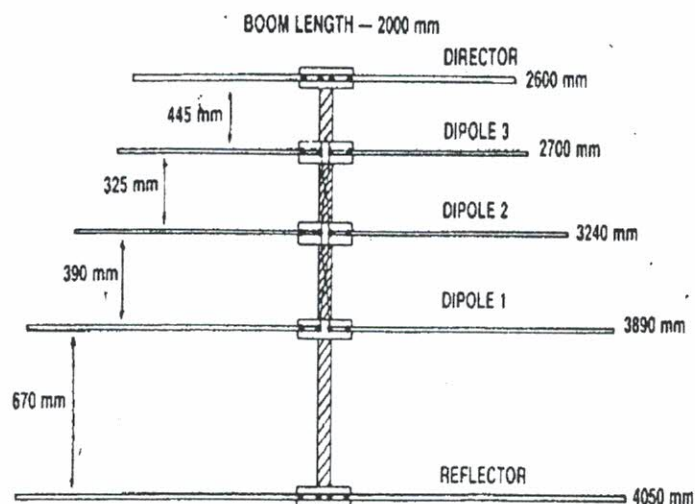


Figure 1. Overall construction of the beam. It provides coverage from 45 MHz to 55 MHz and gives around 6-7 dB gain.

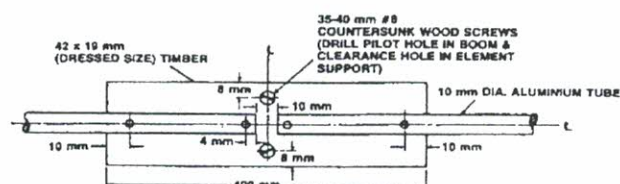


Figure 2. Dipole-to-boom bracket using wood construction.

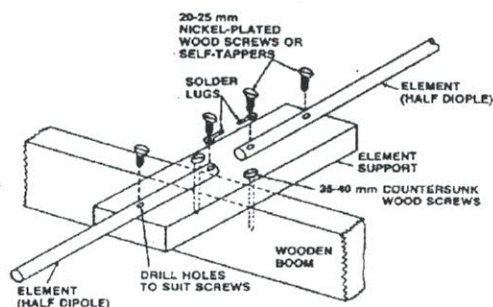


Figure 3. Element-to-boom mounting using wood construction. Estapol or stain all wooden components before assembly.

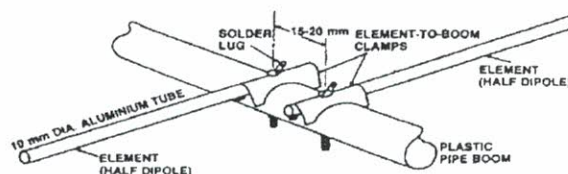


Figure 4. Plumber's delight assembly using a plastic pipe boom.

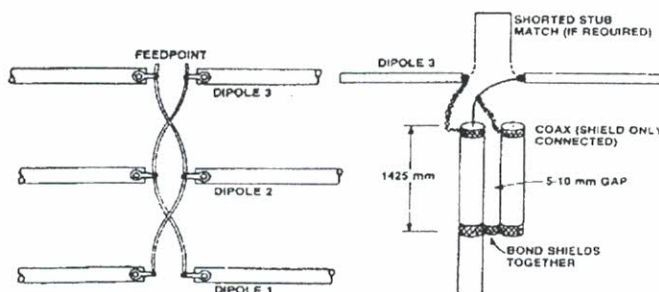


Figure 5. Showing the feedline connections between dipoles and the feedpoint termination.

Figure 6. Suggested balun and matching arrangement.

Repeater Report

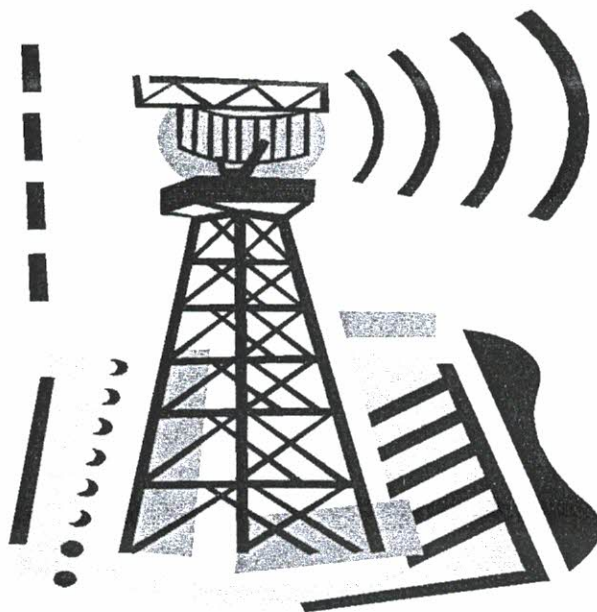
I haven't felt it necessary to submit a Repeater Report for quite a while, as there hasn't been much of real "importance" to report. I guess when our Club's Repeater systems just keep cruising along without problems, that's a "good thing", albeit uneventful. The Repeater Committee has however been busy behind the scenes doing subtle changes, modifications, improvements & maintenance.

Some sites like Knights Hill, Mt Murray & Mt Boyne have gone for over a year without needing a visit. (Now, that's pretty reliable.) For instance, in April I visited Mt Boyne for the first time since January last year. And the reason for the visit was not due to a failure, it was that I was on holidays in the area with my family & we just went for a drive.

I feel we can proudly boast a damn reliable Rptr system, considering we presently have 4 voice Rptrs, 4 Packet digipeaters & a fairly complex linking & control system between all sites. For example, if I wanted, I can reset the TNC at Mt Boyne 250 kims away, while using my handheld in the lounge room.

Anyway, the reason for the Repeater Report wasn't to "boast" about our rather clever Rptr systems (although it doesn't hurt to be occasionally reminded), it was due to some recent developments. Developments that are both good news & bad.

The good news first.....



Have you heard of IRLP? Well, IRLP stands for Internet Radio Linking Project & it's coming to a Repeater near you! The IRLP system uses a combination of software & hardware to link Amateur Repeater systems all over the world, by using the Internet. I truly believe it is the way of the future for Amateur Repeaters.

I'll submit another article to our Editor regarding the technical details of how IRLP actually works, but suffice to say, the system just hangs off a Rptr. You have no idea it's even there until a user wants to initiate a call to another IRLP Rptr, which could be anywhere in the world.

To connect to another IRLP Rptr you just send a 4 digit DTMF address number to your local Rptr, wait a few seconds & you're connected. It is that simple. Once connected an announcement will be broadcast at both Rptr ends, informing each system that they are now linked to the other Rptr. You then just call the station you want, or even put out a CQ call.

There is presently 92 other IRLP connected Rptrs across the world. Some examples: Anchorage, Denver, Hawaii, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, London, Montreal, San Diego, Seattle, Sheffield, Toronto, Vancouver &

Washington. And there is also the two other Australian nodes at Perth & the Blue Mtns. The number of nodes across the world is increasing at around two per week. At that rate, there'll be well over 150 by the end of the year.

Another useful feature is that as well as connecting directly to another particular Rptr, you can also connect to a Reflector, where multiple Rptr systems can all talk to & hear each other, like a big party channel.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, our IRLP Node will be operating across our VHF Rptrs. The list of DTMF address numbers will be supplied to IARS Members after we're connected into the system. The connection numbers will be supplied by either hard copy or via e-mail. If non-Members want to use the system, they will be "encouraged" to join the IARS to get a copy.

As I said above, I truly believe that IRLP is the way of the future for Amateur radio. Just think how much easier JOTA will be, not being at the mercy of the ionosphere or the "difficulties" of understanding SSB. Also, Amateurs who cannot (for one reason or another) put up a HF antenna, will now have the ability to talk interstate or overseas.

Now for the bad news.....

I've been sitting on the following rather unfortunate & disheartening information regarding site fees for a couple of weeks now, while trying to obtain further confirmation & details. The info doesn't just affect our Club, but at least 2 other radio Club's that I know of here in NSW. They being the Newcastle Packet Group at Mt Sugarloaf & the North Western ARG at Mt Kapatur.

The IARS have Repeater systems at two TransGrid sites, they being VK2RMP 6850 &

8725 at Maddens Plains and VK2RBT 6675 at Mt Boyne. TransGrid intend, from the new financial year (*a mere 4 weeks away*) to significantly up the rent for our Repeater systems on their sites. When I say significant, how does 1,000% plus strike you!!!

I have been told that as from the 1st of July 2001, ALL TransGrid sites will have a new two-tier fee structure attached.....

First there will be a Site Access Fee component of \$650.00 per site user. (By the way, this is the discounted Hobby/Non-Profit/Emergency rate!)

Secondly, there will be an Equipment Component Fee, which is proportional to the perceived RF "value" of the site. In our case, we have been told for EACH antenna, we will be paying \$318.00 at Maddens and \$159.00 at Boyne!

So, for just ONE antenna at each of these sites, we are up for \$968.00 at Maddens and \$809.00 at Boyne. But in actual fact, with the number of antennas we presently actually have, the cost will be \$1,604.00 and \$1,127.00!!!!!! Needless to say, the IARS cannot neither justify or afford to pay \$1,777.00 (one antenna per site) let alone \$2,731.00 (for all our current antennas).

However, I must be fair to TransGrid. From what I have been verbally told (as the official letters have still not been sent out), this rather massive increase isn't totally TransGrid's responsibility. I understand that the ACCC have "forced" TransGrid to be both accountable & responsible to their "owners" (the general public) for their sites, buildings & assets, etc.... I am not a legal eagle, so perhaps the details are a little more involved than this, but this is my laypersons understanding.

Now, on top of this rather large speed hump in the road of life, Kiama City Council have just sent us their own version of a love letter. This Council owns Saddleback Mtn, where our VK2RIS 6975 Repeater is located. The letter was sympathetic to our hobby cause & because of this, they decided at a recent Council Meeting, to increase our site fees to only 10% of the commercial rate. The price - \$268/year. This is an increase of about 200%. Talk about being attacked from all sides!

The bottom line figure.....

Including other site fees, plus annual ACA Repeater licences, the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society is up for around \$3,500 a year to maintain what we currently have on the air!!!!!!!!!!

The current very useful & well-used linking of our 3 VHF Repeaters that cover the NSW

South Coast from Sydney to Narooma, is decidedly VERY gloomy. So is the existence of the linked UHF 8725 Rptr at Maddens. This Rptr is the most northern access point to the UHF linked system that extends to the Southern Highlands, Goulburn, Canberra & Wagga Wagga regions. Also, the 3 VHF Packet Digipeaters at these sites will also be in doubt.

All up, 7 services are involved.

So, what do we do now?

I invite your suggestions & ideas. We don't have much time. It is possible we could be off Maddens & Boyne in 4 weeks time.

Regards,
Rob McKnight - VK2MT
Repeater Officer
Illawarra Amateur Radio Society inc.
e-mail: mcknightr@winns.com.au

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*Club Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the 2ND Tuesday of every month (except January),
in the S.E.S. Building, Montague Street, North Wollongong.*

Committee Meetings are held on the 3RD Wednesday of EVEN months.

MEMBERSHIP: Full - \$20 Concession - \$15 (Expires after August A.G.M.)

<u>allsign</u>	<u>Freq.In/Out</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Linked to:</u>
K2RUW	29.520/29.620	VOICE	KNIGHTS HILL	(OFF AIR)
K2RBT	146.075/146.675	VOICE	MT BOYNE	RMP & RIS
K2RMP	146.250/146.850	VOICE	MADDENS PLAINS	RIS & RBT
K2RIS	146.375/146.975	VOICE	SADDLEBACK MTN.	RBT & RMP
K2RUW	433.225/438.225	VOICE	KNIGHTS HILL	(OFF AIR)
K2RMP	433.725/438.725	VOICE	MADDENS PLAINS	RGN/RHR/RGI/RTW
K2AMW-1	144.725/144.725	GATEWAY	WOLLONGONG	(OFF AIR)
K2AMW-3	144.700/144.700	NODE/DIGI	MADDENS PLAINS	VK2AMW-4
K2AMW-4	144.925/144.925	NODE/DIGI	MADDENS PLAINS	VK2AMW-3
K2AMW-5	147.575/147.575	NODE/DIGI	MT BOYNE	
K2AMW-7	147.575/147.575	NODE/DIGI	MT MURRAY	
K2XGJ	53.100/53.100	BBS/SATGATE	DAPTO	
K2XGJ	144.700/144.700	BBS/SATGATE	DAPTO	
K2XGJ	147.575/147.575	BBS/SATGATE	DAPTO	
K2XGJ	440.050/440.050	BBS/SATGATE	DAPTO	

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HANDLE WITH ENTHUSIASM



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THE PROPAGATOR

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