NET CHECK-INS:

Wia National News - 4

Dawn Patrol - 53 check-ins to the Dawn Patrol for the week ending 29 September 2017.

Sarc Digi Net – 6 (see full Digi Modes Report below)

Wicen Net - 8 (Horse Enduro 28-29 October)

Wednesday Tech Net - 7 (Microphones)

Thursday 6Mtr Net – only 4 chatters this week.

Friday Night Net - 3

For all 'net' times & frequencies please check out the sarc website:
www.sarc.org.au/nets-broadcasts/

More things to do:

Coffee morning: 1000 on the 1st Wednesday   *Lunch day:* 1200 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
of the month   Ying's Chinese & Thai Restaurant
Rous Hotel (cnr) Keen/Zadoc St. Lismore   142 Keen St. Lismore

COMING UP SOON:

WICEN NR MEETING & TRAINING   COMMITTEE MEETING

October 8 @ 9:30 am -12:00 pm   October 8 @ 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

What's On
For the full year's calendar visit http://sarc.org.au/

This Month	Next Month
October 2017	**November 2017**
Sat/Sun --/01	Sat 05 GCARS Gold Coast Hamfest
Sat/Sun 07/08	Sat/Sun 04/05
Sat/Sun 07/08 Oceania DX Contest (PH)	Mon/Fri 06/09 Standard Course
Sun 08 Wicen 1000	Sat/Sun 11/12
Sun 08 Committee Meeting 1300	Sat/Sun 11/12 Foundation Course
Sat/Sun 14/15 Oceania DX Contest (CW)	Sun 12 Committee Meeting 1300
Sat/Sun 21/22 JOTA/JOTI	Sat/Sun 18/19
Sat/Sun 28/29	Sat/Sun 25/26 Spring V/UHF Field Day

DIGITAL MODES:

Monday 25 September, 2017

For tonight's net we had VK2PMG/SRC as net control with John VK2JWA and Leith VK2EA logging in. Also joining us for the net were Duncan VK2DLR, Rob VK2ARL and Chris VK2ACD.

Tonight we decided to return to Easypal, the digital file transfer method of transmitting images and files. Both Rob and Chris had to excuse themselves for various reasons leaving just Duncan and I to continue. VK2SRC started off with an image showing a spacewalk. Some segments were missing and a couple of BSR (bad segment requests) were needed to fill in the missing bits then all was good. This is one great aspect of Easypal, it allows an incomplete image to be repaired. An adjustment on the Signalink meant that there were no more missing segments. Duncan and I exchanged some more images and then tried to send other file formats. A basic text file came across perfectly with no scrambled text. A PDF was sent also and was equally perfect, along with other similar file types. The only limitation was that file sizes had to be kept small to avoid the repeater's 3 minute timeout. A very interesting net finished at 9.55pm. Thanks to all who logged in and participated.

Cheers from Paul VK2PMG
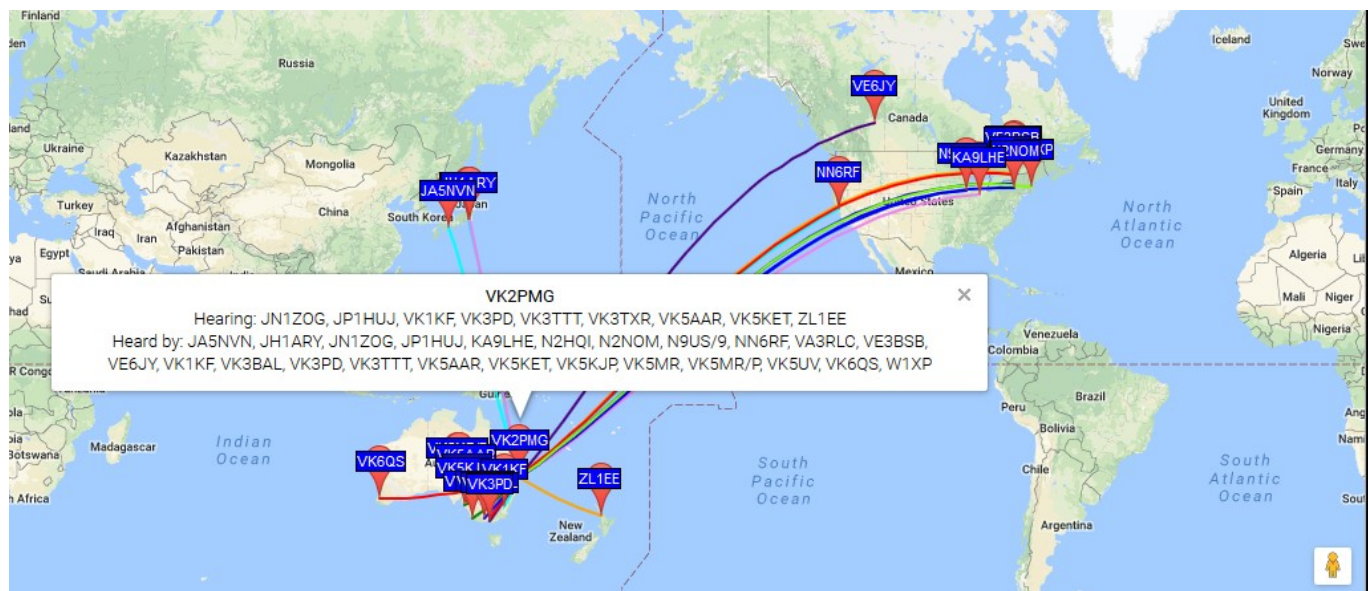

"WSPR" – what is it and what can it do?

WSPR, pronounced just like "whisper" means Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. It is a digital mode. WSPR can be downloaded from the WSJT home page:

https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/

As well as WSPR dedicated software, WSPR can now be chosen as a mode from within the weak signal software WSJT-X v1.8.0-rc2. This version also allows you to choose the new weak signal mode FT8, along with the other weak signal modes, including JT65. WSPR is not designed to be a QSO mode, it is designed to probe possible propagation paths using low power transmissions very much like a beacon. The software transmits your callsign, 4 digit Maidenhead grid locator and power in dBm. For example 5 watts is 37 dBm, 10 watts is 40 dBm and 20 watts is 43 dBm. The modulation uses the narrow 4-FSK mode with strong forward error correction. This forward error correction means that WSPR is effective in signal-noise ratios as low as -28dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth. The standard sequence consists of one 2 minute segment of transmit and receive. So in ten minutes, one 2 minute transmission is followed by a period of receive. The WSJT-X software also includes a power slider that enable the operator to reduce the effective power output significantly if your radio, like mine, only goes down to 5 watts. A big advantage of using WSPR is that you can see the results in real time on the WSPR website which logs the operators' transmit and receive signals:

http://wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/map

It is recommended that you to create an account on this website as it allows you to see who are receiving your WSPR transmissions and also who you are receiving:

The image above shows the stations heard my transmissions on 27 September and also the stations that I received. It shows a graphical representation of the radio paths. The power used was 5 watts. WSPR can be started off and when TX is enabled, the sequence of transmit and receive will just continue without intervention.

Where do I find WSPR signals?

The WSJT-X software lists standard frequencies from the very long wavelength of 2190 metres up to 23cm. USB is the normal mode chosen on the radio, or USB data or digital. Just as in other digital modes, an accurate computer clock is essential. The software Dimension 4 can be downloaded for free and links your computer clock to your choice of atomic clocks and it syncs at intervals when the internet is connected. So, WSPR is a very good and interesting way to check on how far your signals are travelling and the effectiveness of your antenna and radio's receive performance. This is only a basic introduction to a very interesting digital mode that really shows the limits of propagation.

Cheers, Paul, VK2PMG

WANT TO JOIN SARC?

Membership subs are due January 1. The rate is $40 for membership in 2017 and if you join part way through the year, the payment is pro-rata. If you live more than 100Km from Lismore, you qualify as a DX member at half the normal rate. Download a form for renewal/new membership here.
For full details of how to pay subs, go to here. The preferred method of payment is by direct bank transfer to the club's Summerland Credit Union account.

EDUCATION:
ABOUT OUR COURSES

The club runs courses for all 3 levels of Amateur Radio Licence – Foundation, Standard and Advanced. These take place at the clubrooms at Richmond Hill.

Foundation courses are the most in demand, and generally run over a weekend, with assessment taking place on the Sunday. The course is fairly intensive, and candidates are expected to obtain and study some recommended material in advance. Guidelines for this study will be sent to you once you have booked in for a course, or on request.

COURSES FOR 2017

SARC will be running courses according to demand. See below for details.

Most interest is in the Foundation Licence. This is the entry level for Ham Radio and gets you on the air quickly. This licence is proving popular with people touring, especially 4WD outback. The first step is to look at the website of the WIA (Wireless Institute of Australia). All the basic info is there.

{for more information about our Courses, please see our website for more: http://sarc.org.au/education/}

WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS:

Here we have a short-term archive of SARC newsletters – each weekly issue for the last year (eventually)

If you want to find an older issue, please send a request to the committee and we can send it to you providing it is in the long term archive at the clubrooms.

http://sarc.org.au/weekly-newsletters/

To unsubscribe:
Please reply to sarcnews@gmail.com