



## NET CHECK-INS:

**HF Dawn Patrol** – 45 for the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**Sarc Digi Net** – no Digi Net this week...(stay tuned)

**Wicen Net** – 10 Spring Mountain

**Wednesday Tech Net** – 5 Chasing antenna faults

**Thursday Night 70cm Net** – 6 Is component recovery worth the effort?

**Friday Night Net** – 7

**Lunch** - 7 Cars

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CLUBROOMS WORKDAY

May 27 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

### WICEN NR MEETING

June 10 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### COMMITTEE MEETING

June 10 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## *General News Items & Updates:*

### REGULAR SUNDAY WORKDAYS TO COMMENCE MAY 27

At the committee meeting Sunday 13/5, it was decided to hold regular workdays at the clubrooms, to attack the backlog of jobs. Work includes a re-vamp of the club shack, removal of waste from the ceiling, sorting out library contents, pricing of gear for sale at the *hamfest*, and many other tasks. Workdays will be scheduled for the third Sunday of the month, unless there is a clash with another club activity or a big amateur radio event. Clubrooms will be opened at 9.30 for a 10am start. Watch the website events list for details.

### PROPOSED WORKING BEE AT BYRON REPEATER

*Nothing definite* at this stage but keep Sunday 27 May in mind for a working bee at the **VK2RBB** site.

We need to give the site another mow before winter as well as lowering the mast and fitting new guy wires and the new antennas.

More details as the day gets closer. Site access is always weather dependent for this one.

### LAWN MOWING PROPOSED AT ALL SARC (Repeater) SITES

Hopefully a good mow at all our repeater sites should get us through the upcoming winter period.

We have replaced the bearings & blades on the clubs zero-turn mower, all ready for this “Grassy Venture” hihi

## WANT TO JOIN SARC or renew your membership?

**\*\*\*\*\*Membership subs were due January 1\*\*\*\*\***

The rate is \$40 for membership in 2018 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 [Membership + Information Form 2018](#)

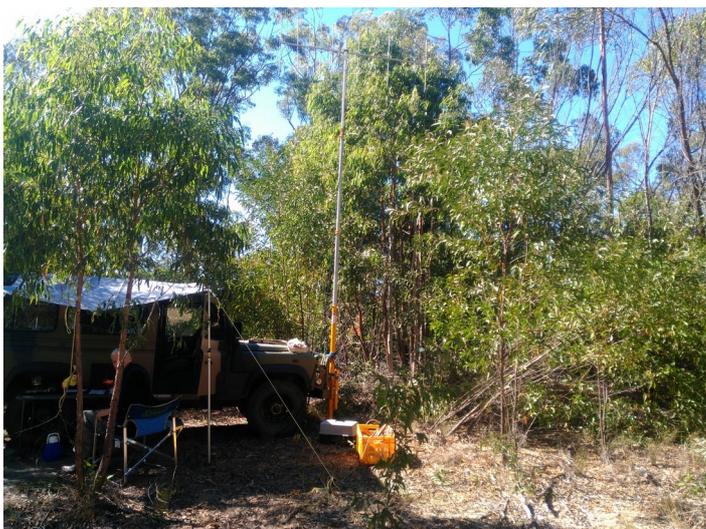
## *Spring Mountain Horse Enduro:*

The Spring Mountain Horse Enduro was run today (Sunday) by the Big Country Endurance Riders at Spring Mountain on the southern outskirts of Brisbane. Once again they asked for SARC to provide the safety and progress reporting radio network covering their event. VK2ACD Chris, VK2PMG Paul, Roger VK2LRB, Kris VK2KWW, Maeva VK2MWL, Rob VK2ARL and Duncan VK2DLR covered the event. With the experience gained last year, the event was tackled without a repeater. Instead of the logistical issues of establishing a repeater in the middle of the ride area, long Yagi antennas were used at ride base and the most distant checkpoint. 2M signals worked very well with good signal strength received when using modest power levels. The two distant checkpoints were established Saturday afternoon and the operators stayed in the field overnight to be ready in time for the 0530 start on Sunday morning. The "emergency training exercise" announcement required to be transmitted at regular intervals came from a computer feed of a top quality pre-recorded announcement by Dave VK2ZDR. This event marked a milestone as the first formal SARC exercise rather than a Wicen (with or without SARC support) event.

Rob and Maeva at base provides a level of service that is now becoming the expected norm at these events. They received the information from all checkpoints and presented it in electronic form for the convenience of the organisers and the competitors support teams. The Spring Mountain course is laid out such that the riders pass through two physical locations twice. From the message handling point of view, it's easier to split these checkpoints into separate outgoing and incoming checkpoints. This means that in reality the five operators in the field actually operated five checkpoints over three physical locations. There were times when the two - way horse traffic became quite a handful. But the experience and skill of our SARC operators shone through and all riders were accounted for, from start to finish. The weather was reasonably cold over night but the clear blue skies during the day made for a great time.

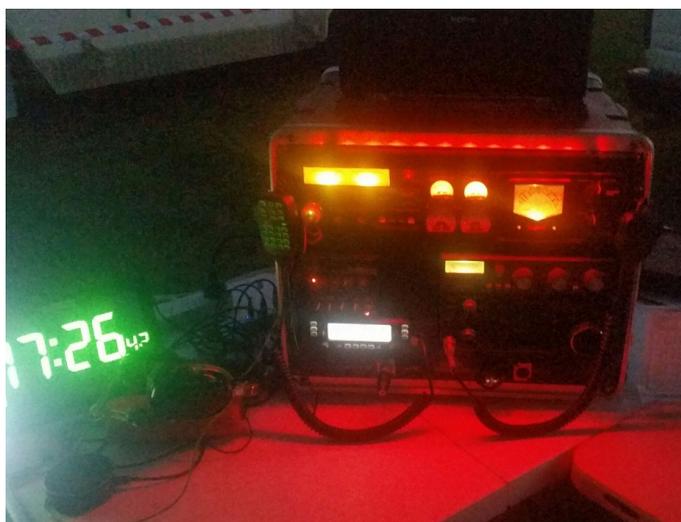
Interested? Look out for similar SARC events in the future.

de DLR



*{Chris ACD's setup during this Enduro}*

*{Rob ARL's "Go-Box" at night}*



## WIA CONVENTION:

As part of the WIA annual convention on the Gold Coast the WIA Board extended an invitation to the executive of all clubs to join them for a BBQ lunch and open discussion at the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society clubrooms on Friday. President Ross VK2ARD and Vice-President Duncan VK2DLR represented SARC at the meeting. About 21 people were there.

The event was billed to start at 12:30 but ran late with the BBQ starting at 1:30 and the discussion starting at 2:30. The two hours weren't lost as the representative of the various clubs discussed things of common interest and concerns. Of the two hours left for open discussion, about an hour and a half largely focused on the past and present issues with the administration of the WIA. The remaining 30 minutes covered topics such as AR magazine, the exam assessor system and the need for more volunteers to work under the WIA umbrella. With the pressure of a SarcNews editorial deadline just minutes away, here's a few dot points as recalled by DLR:

- . The WIA board has found that past boards may have adopted inappropriate practices but nothing corrupt has been found.
- . The WIA board is busy managing the half million dollar revenue per year business that the WIA is and doesn't have much time to do "amateur radio stuff"
- . Past and ongoing attacks by members and non-members has created a "siege mentality" amongst some board members.
- . The WIA board is currently working on practices to streamline the administrative processes and make them more efficient.
- . If you want to get things done then you need to volunteer your time to see it succeed.

A potentially good outcome came at the end of the meeting. One club member took the contact details of about half a dozen interested clubs (including SARC) who want to talk to each other and share ideas. Clubs need to help each other because the WIA board is too busy to lead the way.

### **On the topic of sharing ideas:**

Tamworth has gotten involved with local astronomy groups and Maker groups.  
Ipswich is involved in parks activation and "emergency training exercises"

Finally; to quote the outgoing President when told that SARC runs 5 day advanced licence courses:

*"You must be the only club in Australia that does that".*

de DLR

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