SARCNEWS

Sarc Radio Net numbers/check ins:

HF Dawn Patrol – 53 for the week ending 19th Oct.

Sarc Digi Net -- (see full report below)

Wicen Net -- 8 - Wicen (NR)

Wed Tech Net -- 7 - Remote control radio transceivers

Thursday Night Net – no net this week.

Friday Night Net -- 6

Lunch --7 - Health, cooking & names on maps

UPCOMING EVENTS

WICEN NR MEETING
October 14 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

COMMITTEE MEETING
October 14 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

GOLD COAST HAMFEST
November 10 @ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

JOTA-JOTI 2018 — 19, 20 & 21 October

Well, the first JOTA for VK2ARL and VK2MWL, and what a weekend. We arrived at the Brunswick Heads Girl Guides Hall on Friday afternoon and set up the radios. We used the go box with the IC7300 for HF, the ICOM 2730 on UHF, and the Ailunce HD1 for DMR.

There were eight girls attending and after a little initial reticence, one decided to try the DMR. First call? The Netherlands! This sparked the interest of the rest, especially once they had looked at the world map and seen how far the call had gone. ARL checked QRZ and showed the photo of Erik (with a K). Next call? Malta with again a photo being retrieved from QRZ. Two hours later after calls to various Australian locations we had to end the session as it was time for their evening routine.

Saturday saw the arrival of two very young guides from Ballina so we now had 10 children in two groups of five. There was a bunch of calls to various spots, initially to Norway then mostly Australia, the Philipines and New Zealand, firstly by SSB but then back to DMR as it was a lot clearer for the girls to understand. The highlight of these sessions was when one girl spoke to Marie, at JL2JOTA, the NZ organiser of JOTA NZ! On SSB 40 metres today we spent about an hour chatting to a group of scouts at Cotter Dam just out of Canberra. The older girls were very impressed.

All in all, we were impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the girls. Many questions were asked about how radios work and what sort of people use them! There were also sessions on the phonetic alphabet and morse code which they all seemed to enjoy.

Altogether, we put in about 10 hours of radio time in 5 sessions logging 55 calls. Each time a session ended the girls asked if there would be more. Talk about keen. For us, the highlights would have to be speaking to Marie in NZ, speaking with an Australian boy living in Norway, and speaking to a young lad in NZ who is still at kindergarten.

This was an interesting experience for us, one that we would happily repeat.

73 from Maeva & Rob   *{photos next page}*
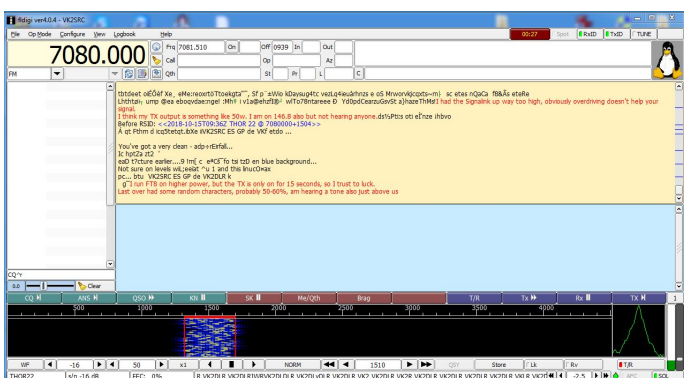
DIGITAL MODES:

Monday 15 OCTOBER 2018

For tonight's net we had VK2PMG/SRC as net control with John VK2JWA and Duncan VK2DLR, Kris VK2KWW and Tom VK2FTNB. It was good to welcome Tom VK2FTNB. It was decided to be brave again and try FlDigi on HF (USB) 40 metres using the mode Thor 22.

Duncan and I were the only ones who could maintain contact using Fl-Digi. A measure of the band conditions and noise was that high power - 30-50 watts was needed to maintain contact with 100% decoding of the message. Anything less than 30w wasn't making it. We had a few overs that worked well but decoding percentage then dropped quite a bit in spite of using 50-70 watts. Normally you would not need anything like that power level for Fl-Digi.

A quick change to MMSSTV for an experiment resulted in a successful image transmission each way and the test card images were recognisable but pretty noisy. Duncan's transmissions then ceased as the Linux Mint system on his computer apparently locked up while using Fl-Digi and MMSSTV to the soundcard together. So, was the net a success, well yes, sort of, transmissions were made successfully but it was a battle. I suppose that's why we have repeaters!!! Thanks to all who logged in and battled the elements.

Paul VK2PMG

"That's it for this week, 73"