



## *Sarc Radio Net numbers/check ins:*

**HF Dawn Patrol** – 53 for the week ending 26th Oct.

**Sarc Digi Net** -- (see full report below)

**Wicen Net** -- 10 - Log sheets, landscape or portrait

**Wed Tech Net** -- 5 - Kit building

**Thursday Night Net** – no net (again) this week.

**Friday Night Net** -- 5

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **GOLD COAST HAMFEST**

November 10 @ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

### **FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSE**

November 10 @ 9:00 am - November 11  
@ 5:00 pm

### **Spring VHF/UHF Field Day**

November 24 @ 12:00 pm - November  
25 @ 12:00 pm

## **NEWS ITEMS:**

### *Coffee Morning:*

"Next Coffee Morning due on the 7th of November will be delayed by one week to the 14th.

VK2DLR is the problem. He'll be running a course on the 7th and as he is the driver for four of the usual crowd, numbers would be very thin if his car full don't turn up. Chinese Lunch will still be on the 21st." de Duncan {DLR}

### **SARC courses:**

SARC Standard course and Foundation course next month

Just a reminder that SARC Education will be holding a Standard course on the 5th to the 8th of November and a Foundation course on the 10th & 11th of November. Contact [vk2src@gmail.com](mailto:vk2src@gmail.com) for more details.

## **6 METER LISMORE REPEATER OFF AIR**

The repeater on 53.550 MHz is turned off (again), awaiting antenna work due to a high SWR.

### **Its the VHF/UHF Field Day again! {November 24th}**

SARC members Graeme VK2QJ and Dave VK2CDG, will be again going to Vista Point for the Spring field day, operating as VK2SRC in the 24 hour multi-op portable category. The location is near Mt. Hyland, in the nature reserve of the same name, in the mountains west of Coffs Harbour, at an elevation over 1000m. Several club members are likely to operate as home stations.

More details as the event gets closer.

## VK2RBB mast pointing skyward again

Friday. "It had to be Friday" as that was the day enough people were available and the final pinch getting up to the VK2RBB site was nice and dry. For Rob VK2ELH, John VK2JWA, Roger VK2LRB, Brian VK2FMAN and Duncan VK2DLR; it was also clear blue sky and very hot. The job sounded simple. The new antennas and cables had been attached on earlier visits. Just stand the mast up. At 12m long with another couple of metres of antenna on top, that's a long and heavy mast. Fortunately we'd done a heap of planning based on our experience when lowering the mast. Critical items were a 6M tall gin pole bolted to the back of DLR's 4WD and the winch on ELH's 4WD.

The gin pole with heave pulleys, wire rope and nylon ropes was harder to put in place than expected. It was also harder to dismantle at the end. However it gave the winch the angle of lift it needed to make raising the mast smooth and trouble free. Human power hauling on the rope attached nearer the top of the mast took out the sag caused by the weight of the antennas and mounts. Once upright the mast was lashed to the gin pole and the task of terminating and tensioning the new guy wires took place.

Even club senior JWA who often describes himself as "an ornament" on these occasions got physically involved keeping tension on ropes as required. Did everything go like clockwork? Of course not! Did we overcome every minor twist and turn as the day progressed? Yes we did! The basic plan of safely and smoothly erecting the mast remained in place with each and every one of the volunteers on site contributing to the success of the day. Teamwork had triumphed over gravity as five tired and dehydrated volunteers headed for home at the end of a very successful day. Will we do it again? Hopefully not. It was hard work and needed a lot of people and resources. Already there are possibilities being discussed for a better solution for VK2RBB and other sites.

Can we work out a mast that we can afford, be raised and lowered by one person with everything accessible from ground level? Look for further developments in upcoming editions of SARC News.

Cheers,  
Duncan



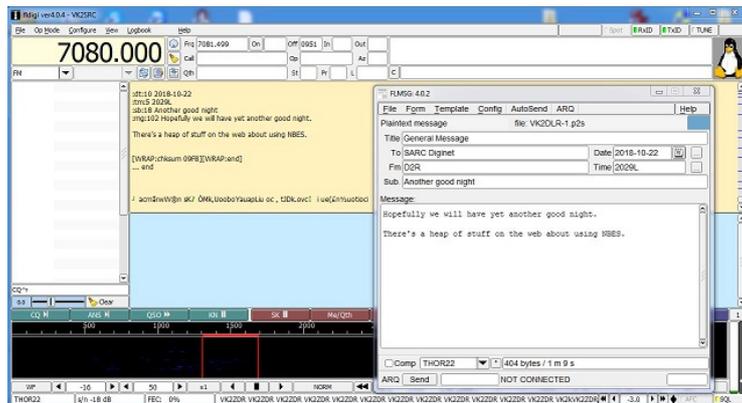
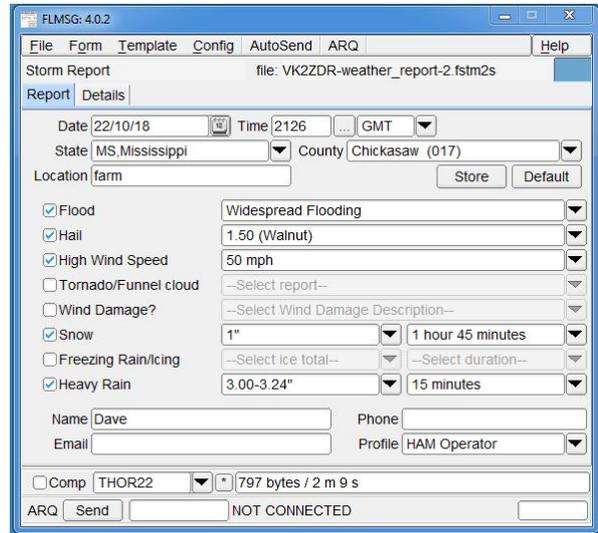
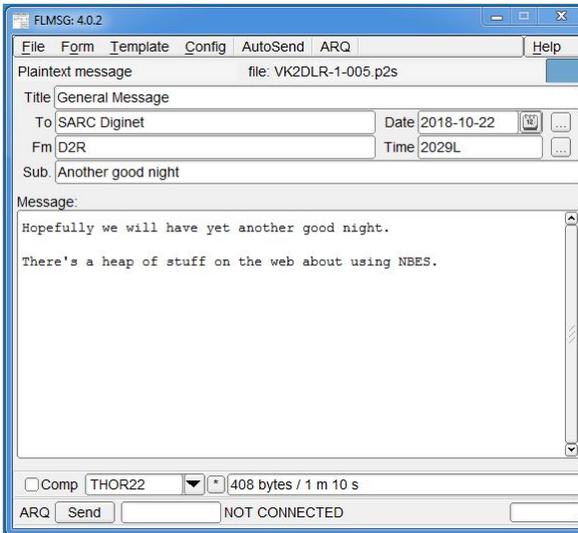
## [DIGITAL MODES:](#)

Monday 22 OCTOBER 2018

For tonight's net we had VK2PMG/SRC as net control with Duncan VK2DLR, Kris VK2KWW, Tom VK2FTNB and Dave VK2ZDR logging in. After last week's battle with HF and its noise, we decided to make life a bit easier and go back to VHF and the ever reliable Woodburn repeater. We used FLDigi and Thor 22. Duncan and Dave were ready, so off we went.

Thor performed perfectly as you would expect and to be truthful it also worked last week on HF, the problems we encountered were computer related. Modes like Olivia and Thor excel in noisy conditions. A switch to FIMessage was made and it took a bit of time to remember how it worked. Once the memory kicked in we all had success using a variety of the message forms already built in to the FIMessage software, which works through FIDigi. The standard message forms are very much USA based but the plaintext and blank ones are very simple and versatile. Dave also tried out the weather form. Weatherfax mode on FIDigi was tried at the end but the transmission time was too long and, frankly, the results are pretty horrid compared to the image transmission software MMSSTV or Easypal. A very interesting night and thanks to all who logged in.

Paul VK2PMG



***“That’s it for this week, 73”***

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