



“HAPPY NEW YEAR”

Hi & Good Evening, this is the final Newsletter for 2018, I hope you all enjoyed these weekly NL's each week & we (Sarc) will continue to bring you all the news each Sunday Evening in 2019, CHEERS... :)

Sarc Radio Net numbers/check ins:

HF Dawn Patrol – 48 for the week ending 28th December.

Sarc Digi Net – 2 - JWA plus visitor

Wicen Net – 2 - JWA plus visitor again

Wed Tech Net – 3 - quite Christmases

Thursday Night Net – 5 – software

Friday Night Net – 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVANS HEAD FLY-IN

January 11, 2019 @ 12:00 pm - January 13, 2019 @ 4:00 pm

COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2019 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

NEWS ITEMS:

New Year Net Times

Just because there won't be a net; give a call and see who's about for a chat!

Monday 31st December - Will anyone be about for a New Years Eve Diginet? Probably not.

Tuesday 1st January - Wicen net. Back to normal. Hangover or not.

And.... Don't forget that the next SARC committee meeting will be held a week later than normal on Sunday 20th January 2019 as most of us will be at the ***Evans Head Fly-in on the 12th & 13th.***

Cheers, de DLR

COFFEE MORNING: Just a remindar that our usual 1st Wednesday Coffee Morning has been called off this week. The day after New Year is just too busy.

SARC Software

No Diginet report this week but here's a list of software used by various SARC members. You may find it handy or you may find something else suits your needs. The main thing is to explore, find what works for you and then tell others. Some of it is digital related. Some of it isn't.

fldigi <http://www.w1hkj.com/>

The fldigi suite is the No.1 choice for software that handles PSK, Olivia, Thor, RTTY and a host of other mainly text based modes. The suite also includes rig control and automatic (ARQ) operating modes.

MMSSTV <https://hamsoft.ca/>

MMSSTV has been around for a while but it's very robust, reasonably user friendly and has rudimentary picture editing facilities. It's an analogue mode so you can still receive noisy images under difficult conditions. It's the software many of us use to capture images from the ISS.

WSJTX <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsجتx.html>

Where would amateur radio be today without Joe Taylor K1JT? The WSJTX software covers the range of weak signal software developed by Joe Taylor, Steve Franke and others. Modes like FT8 and WSPR are included. This software is for weak signal and beacon enthusiasts. Rag chewers will find it disappointingly minimalist. Remember that weak signal is not the same as QRP.

VA <http://www.sillanumsoft.org/>

A well written piece of software that turns your PC and sound card into an Audio oscilloscope and spectrum analyser. It is also a tone generator. Don't drive too much audio voltage into your sound card microphone input.

Xcorder <http://www.iw5edi.com/software/xcorder>

Simone IW5EDI has a heap of software on his site. Xcorder by MM0BFF is a great piece of software to record audio. It's VOX operated and writes a text log so you can determine the time and date of a particular audio string. Great for analysing and recording use (or abuse) of a repeater or audio channel.

Echolink <http://echolink.org/> Amateur radio or PC or smart phone? Use any one to connect with another station. A great way to stay in touch with the local echolink node no matter where you are or what gear you have with you. Requires registration of your genuine amateur radio callsign. If you think Echolink is great; check out Echo Producer <http://echoproducer.com/> It's a whole new level of enhancements you can add to an Echolink station.

Simplex <http://f6dqm.free.fr/software.htm>

Gabriel F6DQM has written a heap of software. Simplex is the pick for me. It's the software you need to drive a simplex (parrot) repeater or a duplex (normal) repeater. It also works as an announcement machine or beacon.

Know some software that works for you? Write a line of a paragraph; preferably including a web link and send it to sarcnews@gmail.com and our Editor will do his thing.

Grounding and Bonding

This item was inspired by an ARRL e-mail promoting a book titled " Grounding and Bonding for Amateur Radio".

I'll make no comment about the book as I've not read it and have no idea of it's value. Go chase it on the ARRL website if you're interested.

<http://www.arrl.org/shop/Grounding-and-Bonding-for-the-Radio-Amateur/>

However the promotional e-mail does list the three main points as shown in the extract below:

Every station needs a good ground:

electrical safety, lightening protection, and RF management.

- AC safety:** protects against shock hazards from ac-powered equipment by providing a safe path for current when a fault in wiring or insulation occurs.
- Lightning protection:** keeps all equipment at the same voltage during transients from lightning and dissipate the lightning's charge in the Earth, routing it away from equipment.
- RF management:** prevents unwanted RF currents and voltages from disrupting the normal functions of equipment (also known as RF interference or RFI).

We're in the middle the Northern Rivers storm season right now. Perhaps it's time to review how well our stations stack up on those three points. Might even be worth a check to see how well your AC Safety Earth is faring. The MEN (Multiple Earthed Neutral) system serves us well but this dry weather may have allowed your main earth stake to be near useless sitting in a dry patch of insulating soil. Worth a check?

de Duncan VK2DLR

WANT TO JOIN SARC or renew your membership?

******* Membership subs are due January 1, 2019 *******

The rate is \$40 for membership in 2019 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 a discounted rate. Download a form for renewal/new membership here – [Membership + Information 2019](#)

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. Make sure you add <your callsign or name – subs> to the transfer reference.

To receive the SARC weekly Newsletter you **DO NOT** have to be a member, it's available to all.

Simply send your email address to sarcnews@gmail.com with <please subscribe me> in the subject line.

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