



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

**HF Dawn Patrol** – 58 for the week ending 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**LAST WEEK** – 60 for the 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Sarc Digi Net** – full “*Digital Modes Report*” below

**Wicen Net** – 7 - The last Wicen NR net

Next **COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 12 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Wed Tech Net** – 6 - Internet of Things

**Thursday Night Net** – 5 - Power bills

**Friday Night Net** – 4

## **News Items:**

### **New Era and New Nets**

With no more Tuesday night Wicen nets, we decided at the last SARC committee meeting to re-arrange some of our nets starting Monday 22nd April.

**Monday** 2000 (Local) 146.800 SARC Net – News, upcoming operations and events, Mode and frequency for Tuesday night's Digital Net.

**Tuesday** 2000 (Local) 146.800 Digital Net - Start on 2 metres Lismore 146.800 then QSY to Woodburn 147.250 or a simplex frequency.

**Wednesday** 2000 (Local) 438.675 - New net on 70cm Mt. Nardi.

**Thursday** 2000 (Local) 147.250 2m net on Woodburn repeater as a temporary fill-in for the inactive 6m net.

**Friday** 2000 (Local) 146.800 No change; it's the Friday night net with Steve VK2SLM.

*And of course there'll be no changes to the Dawn Patrol on 3.604 Monday to Friday at 0630 NSW time.*

### **Coffee at Caroona**

The first Wednesday at 1000 Coffee Morning has changed location. Leith VK2EA and YL Shirley aren't as mobile as they once were so we've relocated the first Wednesday of the month coffee morning to the Caroona Retirement Village Café at 65 Rous Road Goonellabah.

## The end of an era – WICEN Northern Rivers Region closes down

At the annual General Meeting held 14th April, the motion was carried to dissolve the region. This came about mainly due to membership numbers declining below that required to maintain a region. Another factor was the difficulty of meeting the increasing demands of new training arrangements.

State WICEN has very generously passed on the assets of the region to SARC, who will now undertake activities such as horse enduros and other community assistance. Several SARC members will stay with WICEN / VRA, operating as required under the NSW state-wide organisation.



### **DIGITAL MODES**

**Monday 15 APRIL 2019**

This week we had Leith VK2EA, John VK2JWA, Steve VK2SLM and Duncan VK2DLR logging in. There was a short couple of rounds of general chat. Duncan was the only operator ready for digital modes, so we QSY'd to our VHF USB digi frequency of 144.230.

We started off with the relatively new chat derivative of FT8, JS8Call. To describe the mode I can do no better than quote from the JS8Call website:

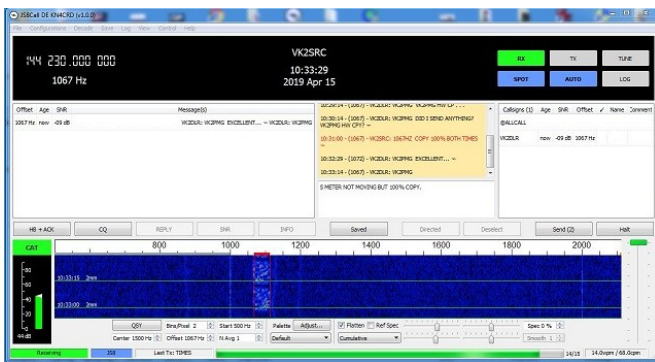
“The idea with JS8Call is to take the robustness of FT8 mode and layer on a messaging and network protocol for weak signal communication on HF with a keyboard-to-keyboard interface. JS8Call is heavily inspired by WSJT-X, Fldigi, and FSQCall and would not exist without the hard work and dedication of the many developers in the amateur radio community.”

I started off running about 50 watts, way too high for a digital mode but the S/N ratio was +13dB at Duncan's station, power was soon dropped to 5 watts and the signal strength hardly changed. The mode is still limited to short overs, not for rag-chewing but the decoding ability is astonishing. Using VHF USB is another big advantage with its low noise levels compared to HF. After a few rounds we switched to MMSSTV and sent around a variety of images, Duncan had a number from the ISS on its last series of passes. Yes, another 2-man net but a good one. Thanks as always to Duncan for his continuing support and for all who logged in.

Cheers from Paul VK2PMG

{photos continues next page}





**MEMBERSHIP - have you renewed?**

The April 1 deadline for membership renewal has passed. If you were a member in 2018, but have not renewed, your membership is now cancelled, as required by the club constitution. To renew or join, go to here – [sarc membership info](#).

To check if you are a financial member, go to here – [sarc members list](#)

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