



Sarc Radio Net numbers/check ins:

Weekly HF Dawn Patrol – 48 week ending 24th May 2019

Monday_INFO Net – 9 - news

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

Wed_70cm Net – 4 - keeping warm

Thursday_(ex 6mtr) Net – 6 - operating systems

Friday Night Net – 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMITTEE MEETING

June 9 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

BOM BOM ENDURANCE RIDE

June 15 @ 9:00 am - June 16 @ 4:00 pm

WINTER VHF/UHF FIELD DAY

June 22 @ 12:00 pm - June 23 @ 12:00 pm

News Items:

A mixed but productive day at SARC

Another perfect Summerland day helped Brian VK2FMAN, Dave VK2DLR, Rob VK2ARL, Kris VK2KWW, Steve VK2SLM, Paul VK2PMG and Rob VK2ELH to a very productive day at SARC today. The day started with some serious excavation of the gutters on the clubrooms. Nobody could remember when they were last cleaned but Brian managed to rescue a fig tree that was growing in one of the gutters. Surprisingly no dinosaurs or coal seams were discovered as the gutters were cleaned.

While the gutters were being cleaned another team sorted through the antennas found when cleaning out the side shed last time. The antenna analysers in use indicated that most were rubbish and consigned to the scrap bin. The few good antennas were tagged and stored. As fast as the antennas on the ground were tested, new ones appeared from off the side shed roof.

Lunch of corned beef and salad kept us quiet for a while before the final task of sorting out the corner of the main shed. Slow progress but some clear space is forming in the far corner. Hopefully JWA's collection of telegraph apparatus, heliographs and other curios can be displayed there in the not too distant future.

Rob ARL provided technical entertainment by displaying his home made electric “Box” guitar, DMR hand-held (complete with wifi hotspot) and a demonstration of a new propagation website. Check out <https://soundbytes.asia/proppy/> It's an amazing site for HF radio propagation. Where was this kind of stuff last sun spot cycle??

Cheers,

Duncan



{ARL info on Propopy below}

DIGITAL MODES

Monday 21 MAY 2019

Tonight we had Leith VK2EA, John VK2JWA, Duncan VK2DLR and Steve VK2SLM logging in. This week it was just Duncan and I ready to go. Over to the Woodburn repeater. Initially we started on F1 Digi and tried a couple of overs. There were problems at the start with Duncan reporting that there was no decode and my signal was weak and scattered all over the waterfall.

This was something I had not experienced before so I switched antennas, trying the M2 4 element beam. That seemed to be no better so I switched F1 Digi modes from IFKP to Thor 22 which is normally a solid reliable mode and that made no difference. Rather than have the net a washout we switched to MMSSTV and after a few false starts from both of us, results good started to flow. Changes involved reducing the computer audio levels by half and Signalink levels also reduced.

The successful decoding was patchy and the real reason remains elusive. Normally I use the vertical antennas on the roof but one has had a connector fall off and the other one has a 10-1 SWR problem hence the beam antenna. A net full of frustration, hopefully better results next week.

Cheers from Paul VK2PMG



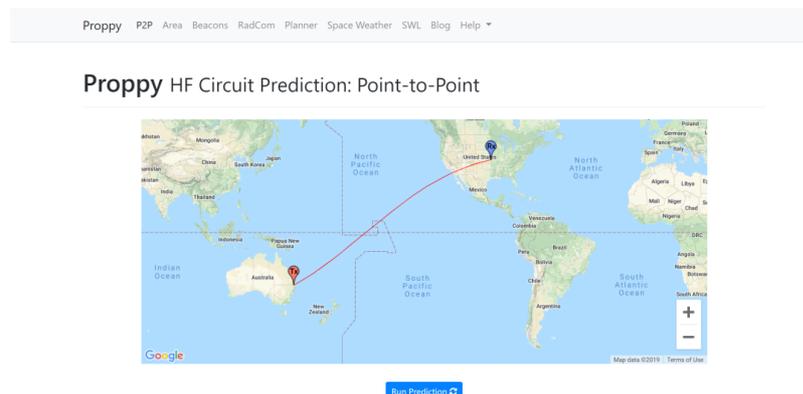
Proppy:

During the lunch break at the club working bee today I was pointed in the direction of an interesting piece of software for propagation prediction.

While there are many sites which offer space weather forecasts, this software simplifies the predictions to give a prediction for a particular path and frequency.

The link for the webpage is <https://soundbytes.asia/propy/p2p>

The path you want is selected on the world map with a simple drag and drop for TX and RX location as seen below.



Some parameters are selected from drop down lists.

Plot

Source Text

System

Date: May 2019

Power (W): 100.0

Traffic: FT8 (BW=50Hz / SNR=-3dB)

Man Made Noise: Quiet Rural

SSN Source: Standard Curves

Tx. Site

Latitude: -28.9216

Longitude: 152.1094

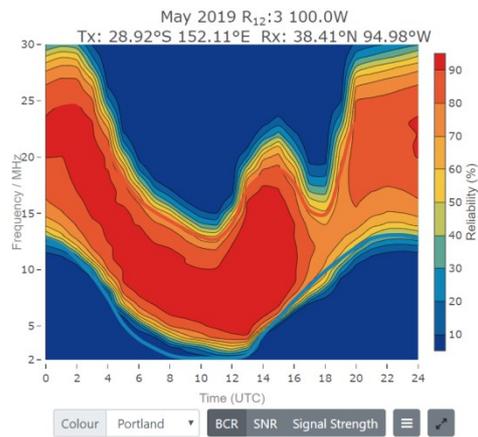
Antenna: Dipole @40m

Rx. Site

Latitude: 38.4106

Longitude: -94.9805

Antenna: Dipole @40m



Then it is just a matter hitting the button and viewing the results on the colour graph.

I have yet to try this over an extended period but initial tests seem to indicate it is accurate, easy to use and well worth a try.

From VK2ARL with acknowledgements to VK2DLR

A Transformative Morning at the Dayton Hamvention May 17 2019.

Transformative it was, as I joined the swelling crowds at Xenia Fairgrounds as VK4YE, and emerged as AG5US. I had two objectives in going to the Hamvention, one was to visit the largest gathering of amateur radio operators on the planet, and the other was to secure a USA Extra Class licence.

I arrived at the fairgrounds mid-morning after battling my way through a mile long traffic jam. The organisers of the event, Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) had numerous ubiquitous yellow school buses lined up in the car park to ferry wannabe amateur radio operators and upgraders down the road to the examination centre, which was a very spacious multi-roomed church building.

The lobby of the centre was awash with 'meet and greet' volunteers from DARA. After checking my ID and which licence grade I intended to sit, I was guided to yet more volunteers who explained the rules for taking the assessments, and handed me the first paper – a Technician Class examination booklet with separate answer sheet. I was then ushered into a very large room with well-spaced tables, each supporting a Volunteer Examiner (VE) and examinees. A quick head count gave around 20 examinees scattered around the room.

After being seated, I made a quick start on the paper at hand and completed and checked the answers to 35 questions in about 15 minutes. I was then taken back out of the room, the paper passed to another VE to grade and I was then given the General and Extra Class exam booklets. Apologies abounded as the volunteers realised I should have been handed all three papers first up. Back into the exam room, I resumed my previous seat and breezed through the two papers. After handing these in for grading I was taken to another spacious room – the Waiting Room – where anxious faces awaited the call from one of two volunteers who delivered the good/bad news.

After half an hour, my name was called, a handshake given along with hearty congratulations on passing all three assessments. A total of 120 questions and just one error! I was also given completed paperwork which specified the exams (or elements as they are known) that I had successfully completed and then informed that the results would be sent to the FCC data base that same day.

{continued next page}

Next morning at five o'clock, a cursory check of emails showed one from the FCC. Attached was my licence grant with 'next available callsign' of AG5US. I was stunned.

Clearly the USA assessment procedures and regulator are far more effective in delivering paperless results in near real time than the dinosaur like bureaucratic nonsense that goes on here.

And the sweetener for all of this was zero cost to me.

Chris Bourke VK4YE & AG5US



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, check the information page – **SEE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS

Here we have a short-term archive of SARC newsletters – each weekly issue from the start of the previous year.

If you want to find an older issue, please send a request to the committee and we can send it to you providing it is in the long term archive at the clubrooms.

CONTACT US

The club email is vk2src@gmail.com This goes to all the committee. If wish to contact a particular committee member, note their name or position in the subject line.

The postal address is 412 Richmond Hill Road, Richmond Hill, NSW 2480.

The club does not have a telephone number.

Our Disclaimer:

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