



Sarc Radio Net numbers/check ins:

Weekly HF Dawn Patrol – 60 week ending 13th September.

Monday_INFO Net – 7 - Fires & Club Info

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

Wed_70cm Net – 7 - Lack of Rain

Thursday_(ex 6mtr) Net – 4 - DLR's Travels

Friday Night Net – 4

More things to do:

Coffee morning:

1000 on the 1st Wednesday of the month
Rous Hotel (cnr) Keen/Zadoc St. Lismore

Lunch day:

1200 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
Ying's Chinese & Thai Restaurant
142 Keen St. Lismore

News Items:

Tenterfield Enduro Ride 2019

It is official, the Tenterfield Ride for this year has been cancelled due the current fire & water situation in Girard State Forest.

The Bruxner Highway remains closed as at 7am this morning (thurs 12th) to allow for back burning between Drake & Slatey creek which includes the ride base.

Cheers
Ross, vk2ard

RF for Phones

While Duncan VK2DLR and Lachlan VK2FOOD were travelling through the Northern Territory where there are still hundreds of kilometres of NT highway without mobile phone reception, they came across a great solution at a few roadside rest areas. The NT solution? Set up a satellite TV style dish aimed horizontally towards a remote mobile phone tower. Erect a post with a rudimentary holder for a mobile phone at the focus of the dish. Add instructions and you're away. Our travellers can confirm that they improve mobile phone reception "by a bar or two" making all the difference between marginal or non existent service and a workable service. Self powered, low cost and minimum maintenance.

“Outback Australia. Where innovation and simple solutions still part of the culture.”

Cheers, Duncan VK2DLR (vk2Food)

{see photos on next page}



DIGITAL MODES

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

Tonight was a quiet net with just *Leith VK2EA and John VK2JWA* logging in. No one who was capable of using digital modes dropped in so we had a chat for about 20 minutes and turned off. As a substitute for the report here are a few useful URL's of the main software we use and some tips on using the weak signal software FT8:

MMSSTV – analogue image transmission software – excellent - <https://hamsoft.ca/pages/mmsstv.php>

Fl Digi – keyboard digital modes (some images TX possible, also forms) <https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/>

Weak Signal digital modes (FT8 and others) - <https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt/>

JS8Call - 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. <http://js8call.com/>

A few comments on FT8. I have used this for some time. Some operators do not approve, but, for me, it allows me to log QSO's from all around the world with compromise antennas and high noise levels. Combine these two perennial amateur radio problems with poor to patchy propagation and it is a game changer. One very useful tool is the web site PSK Reporter. I can log on to this and see on a world map which monitors (other amateurs) are hearing me. It also displays the stations I am hearing. Therefor receive and transmit performance can be viewed, very handy. Another mode from the same stable as FT8 is WSPR, a propagation testing beacon type software. It allows you to test propagation of your WSPR transmissions – who are receiving them – at levels close to the limits of receive and decode at very low TX power. Another piece of software that is essential for any of these weak signal modes is some form of time management software. These modes are very tightly time synchronised. The standard clocks fitted to computers are nowhere near accurate enough to allow weak signal digital modes to be decoded successfully. A few seconds of clock error are enough for decode to fail completely. You can hear signals via the receiver, you can see them as traces on the waterfall but they will not decode until the clock is synchronised. Dimension 4 is the software I use, a recommendation from Chris VK2ACD. There is a list of time servers from all over but I use Deakin University's atomic clock – very reliable – I have it as the only time server to use and it adjusts the computer clock to the Deakin time server every minute. Another piece of software that is very handy is JTAAlertX. This is a plug in that works with WSJT-X and provides alerts for stations calling CQ and also has a handy text message feature – a nice personal touch. The other web pages on view are my QRZ page and log and also eQSL . Persistence is the key, propagation changes all the time and band activity is changing constantly.

Good DX and cheers from

Paul VK2PMG

EDUCATION: Upcoming Courses

ADVANCED LICENCE COURSE 4th - 8th November

FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSE 9th-10th November

If interested contact by email vk2src@gmail.com attention: VK2DLR or phone VK2DLR Duncan
0419 229 370

MORE INFO:

Here's a terrific website I found while researching old aircraft radio equipment.
It has a huge collection of material, all downloadable.

www.americanradiohistory.com

Chris VK2ACD

SES looking for communication specialists from SARC

Representatives of SES and SARC met recently to discuss a new SES unit to be formed on the Northern Rivers. Rather than SARC members being recruited as message handling radio operators, this unit is looking for members who want to increase their technical knowledge and put their skills to good use. SARC endorses this new concept and asks that any interested members check the details at the links below. Some of our members who have seen the letter are very interested. If you decide to join, please let SARC know and we'll put you in touch with other like minded individuals so you can support each other. SARC will not be formally involved with the unit but will support our members who join SES.

[SEE DETAILS](#)

[GO TO SES VOLUNTEERING](#)

WANT TO JOIN SARC?

To renew or join, check the information page –

[SEE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION](#)

WHAT'S ON AT SARC

[DOWNLOAD THE SARC 2019 CALENDAR](#)

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