



## Sarc Radio Net numbers/check ins:

**Weekly HF Dawn Patrol** – 72 for the week ending 27th November.

**Monday\_INFO Net** – 9 - News

**Tues\_Sarc Digi Net** – full “*Digital Modes Report*” below

**Wed\_70cm Net** – 14 – Travel

**Thursday\_6mtr Net** – 5 – all on Woodburn repeater 147.250

**Friday Night Net** – 8 – Field day set-up

## Upcoming Events

**Committee Meeting**  
December 13 @ 1300

**Summer VHF/UHF Field Day**  
January 16 & 17 2021

**Committee Meeting**  
January 17 2021 @ 1300

**Australia Day**  
January 26 2021 – AX prefix

## SARC News needs a new Editor

After many editions of SARC News our long time Editor Dave VK2ZDR had decided to step down. SARC desperately needs a replacement. The duties involve compiling the newsletter from material supplied and sending out a handful of bulk e-mails. It's a relatively simple computer related task that requires an hour or two every Sunday night. All of the files are set up on a laptop dedicated to the task. It doesn't require your presence at the clubrooms. It can be done from anywhere in the world with a basic internet connection. The original instructions to the editor were "You're the editor / compiler. You're not expected to be an author or reporter". These instructions still stand even though Dave often stepped up and added extra items that made SARC News just that extra bit special. SARC news is meant to be a weekly news publication and while technical articles are always welcome, news is what SARC news is about.

**We need an editor very quickly, otherwise SARC News may fold before the end of the year.**

SARC News is the vital link we have with friends and members world wide. Can you do it at least until the SARC AGM in February next year? E-mail [sarcnews@gmail.com](mailto:sarcnews@gmail.com)

## 6-Day Lismore Weather (forecast)

“36 on Wednesday!  
Come on Friday shower”... :)

Mon Nov 30	Tue Dec 1	Wed Dec 2	Thu Dec 3	Fri Dec 4	Sat Dec 5
Cloudy	Mostly sunny	Sunny	Cloudy	Possible shower	Mostly sunny
27°C	32°C	36°C	27°C	33°C	33°C
18°C	17°C	18°C	17°C	16°C	18°C
10%	5%	70%	70%	90%	40%
< 1mm	< 1mm	1-5mm	< 1mm	5-10mm	< 1mm
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme			
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

*“Please be respectful and courteous” – ACMA*

## ACMA Update – 24 November 2020

The ACMA took the unusual step of asking the amateur radio community to treat their staff with courtesy and respect. There's never an excuse for abusing front of house staff. Never. The people who provide the human face of the ACMA, AMC or any other organisation are trapped in the same system as you and I. They have precious little say in the decisions made somewhere higher up the chain. Don't treat them as the enemy; treat them as allies that can help us change the system. One of our newest members Peter, notes that abuse of ACMA staff is indeed counter to “The Radio Amateur's Code” as articulated at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-code>

Why is this happening? 2020 has been a trying year for all of us. Bushfires, floods, Covid-19 and political shenanigans at many levels have put all of us on edge. Mental Health, a subject often ignored by “Grumpy Old Men” is real and a symptom of the traumatic events of 2020. One of the indicators of sound mental health is not lashing out at others and accommodating those who may not be travelling as well as we are. This is particularly important when dealing with the people who front the counter in retail businesses or their “virtual” equivalent who answer phone calls. Take the approach that they are obliged to follow a set of rules when dealing with customers. They may not like the rules but they are required to follow them. In a recent (non amateur radio) encounter with a large bureaucratic organisation I finished by saying to the excellent person who answered my call “If there is a customer satisfaction survey in the background then give yourself 10 out of 10 but give your organisation 5 out of 10.”

I don't think the ACMA won many hearts with their line

“...which have been caused by factors out of the AMC's control...”

Hard to blame the ACMA for bushfires and Coronavirus. Not convinced that the ACMA can use the “not my fault” excuse for everything. Sure, when Covid-19 struck they extended the AMC 15 day exam turnaround out to 45 days as they can under the deed of arrangement. The AMC then passed this information on to Assessors. Were the Assessors as the third layer in the system suppose to do the public relations work required? A WIA report suggests that delays of up to 90 days happen. We can't say we weren't consulted about Foundation licensees having three letter callsigns. Can we say that the resultant “any three letters for anyone” approach has been handled well? The ACMA change included a procedure that has overwhelmed the AMC with callsign change requests. How many times did the ACMA circumvent their own process and process changes over the phone? The “callsign for life” style decision has now relegated the numerical part of a callsign to “State of origin” status. In reality it formalises the decades long ACMA failing to enforce their own State based callsign rules.

Love the ACMA or hate them, they're what we have and we have to work with them.

***The important thing is remain civil and don't shoot the messenger.***

de.. Duncan VK2DLR 29 November 2020.

# DIGITAL Report:

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2020

For this week's digi net we had logins from Malcolm VK2OTA, Leith VK2EA, John VK2JWA, Duncan VK2DLR, Pat VK2FAAD and Chris VK2ACD. Another good rollup. After the normal two rounds of chatter Duncan and Chris followed me to our normal frequency of 144.230 USB.

We used Fldigi this week, making use of its numerous modes. Tonight we tried Domino Ex-16. Here is a technical description from: <http://www.w1hkj.com/FldigiHelp-3.21/Modes/DominoEXdesc.htm>.

*DominoEX is a family of offset incremental multi-frequency shift keyed modes with low symbol rate. A single carrier of constant amplitude is stepped between 18 tone frequencies in a constant phase manner. As a result, no unwanted sidebands are generated, and no special amplifier linearity requirements are necessary. The tones change according to an offset algorithm which ensures that no sequential tones are the same or adjacent in frequency, considerably enhancing the inter-symbol interference resistance to multi-path and Doppler effects. The mode is normally used without Forward Error Correction, as it is very robust. The default speed (11 baud) was designed for NVIS conditions (80m at night), and other speeds suit weak signal LF, and high speed HF use. The use of incremental keying gives the mode complete immunity to transmitter-receiver frequency offset, drift and excellent rejection of propagation induced Doppler.*

As the description indicates, we found that DominoEX-16 was excellent, maintaining decoding accuracy at low transmit powers and with good speed. Duncan was S4 and Chris S7, even at 1 watt output. Another good modern mode that would be fine under difficult conditions. Thanks to Duncan and Chris for participating and to everyone who logged in.

**Cheers from Paul VK2PMG**

The screenshot shows the Fldigi software interface. At the top, the frequency is 5096.000. The main window displays a text chat with the following messages:

Certainly can pull some serious stuff as I see FT8 contacts on 6M between different States virtually every day.

Over to Chris  
VK2ACD es GP  
de VK2DLR

brÄTWe\$ re, çob  
Before RSID: <<2020-11-24T09:58Z DominoEX 16 @ 5096000+1504>>

.....de VK2ACD ok, justto clarify re digi on the field day. A contact is a contact, whatever the mode, there is not sepearte log or category. So if you do a CW or d

.....Frogs here are having a croaking good time. The damn things will keep me awake!!

Digi covers quite a field, I don't know if the rules specify anything.  
Perhaps it is time for field days and contests to cover digital modes  
and specify sme guidelines, otherwise we're guessing.

The interface also shows a signal strength indicator at the bottom right, which is currently at -3.0 dB. The status bar at the bottom displays various settings and a signal strength indicator.

## VHF/UHF FIELD DAY 2020

The Spring field day has just finished. SARC operating as VK2ARC portable from Vista Point put in another strong performance. Graeme on 6M and 23CM, Pat on 2M and David on 70CM kept the airways alive over the 24 hours. The fun they were having at Vista was being matched by a swag of SARC members operating from home.

Propagation varied considerably over the weekend. Readability would vary between unworkable to Q5 in a matter of minutes. Ducting? Aircraft enhancement? Perhaps. Sporadic -E on 6M? Maybe. Certainly some interesting moments.

Another great event where participation and experimentation is part of the fun. Good gear, good operating technique certainly play a big part in the final score. Big score or not, there's a lot to be learnt from using whatever you have and discovering just how far you can go.

Hmm..... What can I do before the Summer Field day on January 16/17?  
BTW the BIG ONE – the John Moyle Field Day is on 20/21 March 2021.

### Location, Location, Location

The right man with the right gear in the right place makes a big difference. Dave VK2ZDR is located on the southern edge of the Alstonville Plateau and has a line of site path to Vista Point.



A good location, a simple Yagi and a handheld is all it takes sometimes.

OK the it's a 36 element Yagi on 23CM isn't all that simple. But as you can see from the photo it's not a long way off the ground and surrounded by trees.

The Transceiver is an inexpensive Alinco DJ-G7T tri-band handheld. The Alinco produces 1 Watt of FM on 23CM.

That was still enough for Dave to produce S9+ signals at Vista Point consistently through the contest.

A lot of points from a elegantly simple setup.

### Our Disclaimer:

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