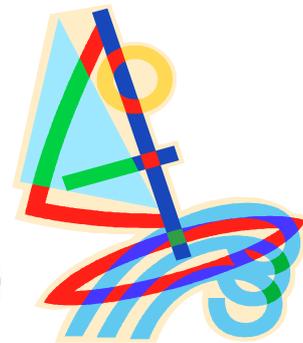


Waves...



The monthly newsletter from S.P.A.R.C.—The Southern Peninsula Amateur Radio Club !
May, 2008

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(Plus More !)

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Presidential Ponderings:

Hello Everyone;

As the President of S.P.A.R.C., I have observed a good growth in membership, and, as we grow, I feel very fortunate to be a part of this club.

I would like to thank all our members for their input, and hope that they enjoy all that the club has to offer. I'd particularly like to thank the present committee. We are most fortunate to have such a line-up, especially our Secretary, John VK3NJR, noted for his ability to address matters and get things done.

John has introduced the use of email as a means of getting information out to members quickly (for those that have volunteered their email address). He has also acquired a new Newsletter Editor, Tim VK3MIT, very much needed. Tim has volunteered to try to produce a high standard of Newsletter, which will rely a lot on membership input, so if there is any material that is newsworthy or of general interest to our readers, please email, post or pass on the item to John Ross at any meeting.

So, to conclude, we, as the Committee, are here for you, so if we can help with anything, give us a call.

Thank you to all members, and especially the Committee.

Owen, VK3XAX on the air!! >>>

Pictured using the Club's 70cm radio, participating in the regular Tuesday night net on VK3RPU.



Get to Know your Fellow Member:

LEWIS LAGARTO VK3FLPL

One of our newer members, Lewis is the subject of our first “Get To Know Your Fellow Member” articles for the SPARC newsletter.

Lewis lives in Rosebud along with his wife Alice, Daughters Natalie and Isabelle, two chooks and a golden retriever.

Starting life in Portugal in 1948 he worked in the Portuguese army and obtained his first Amateur radio licence at the age of 16 through the Portuguese Army Academy of electronics (pity we have no reciprocal licence agreement with Portugal).

This very clever fella is quite a linguist, being fluent in Portuguese, French, Spanish, Italian and English, along with some other dialects.

He moved to Australia at the age of 21, working as a draftsman with skills learnt while in the army.

In later years from 1972 he lived at Windward Falls in the Blue mountains where he pursued one of his many hobbies, growing 200 old time roses.

As well as showing the roses, he donated them to Katoomba

hospital, where he also worked as a volunteer interpreter.

Lewis continued his interest in all things radio by being a member of the Blue mountains Radio Club, as well as his continued membership of the Australian DX club of which he has been a member since the seventies.



The other hobbies that take up the time of this busy young man are: Collecting and restoring old morse keys, Australian made AM radios and Eddystone radios.

Lewis has a nice boat that gets wet when it rains, but he assures that it will hit the water very soon when he gets to fully retire.

Another thing on the drawing board for retirement is to upgrade his licence and get to fully utilize the magnificent radio station that he has set up.

It is doubtful that he can ever be a true amateur with such a neat and tidy radio room, but maybe with some training you never know.

Thanks Lewis for letting us into your life for this short time.

Member

Profiles are

compiled by

Colin Schultz

VK3COL

Silent Key: Harold Tribe VK3AVH:

A "wake" was held on 29 April 2008 for SPARC Member Hal Tribe VK3AVH who died on 10 April 2008. Several S.P.A.R.C. members attended the small function which was arranged at the Royal Hotel, Mornington by Hal's son Tony.

A private cremation was held shortly after his death and Hal's ashes are expected to eventually be placed in the remembrance wall at Sorrento Cemetery.

Tony made a point of thanking S.P.A.R.C. members for being present and also expressed his thanks to the Club for arranging the transceiver for Hal to use when he was in "Ranelagh Gardens" at Mt Eliza. It brought him great joy to have several contacts back on the air prior to his death.

John Ross VK3NJR

From your Committee:

These are a couple of the issues "on the boil" at the moment:

- An equipment review is underway with a view to determining the operational status of all radios in the SPARC Clubrooms.
- Discussions are to be held with the Community House and the Shire with a view to improving the outside lighting, particularly the pathway to the toilet facility. This is to improve safety for people attending nighttime activities at the Clubrooms.
- Evening meeting activities include the continuing antenna building course with any interested members being instructed in building 2metre and 70 Centimetre antennas.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 22; at 19.30, at the Clubrooms.

It was also proposed that the next business meeting of the Club could be held on the same day as the Annual General Meeting, with a feature of the meeting being a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of SPARC moving into the present clubrooms.

The proposed date for these meetings, to which ALL of the SPARC membership are encouraged to attend, is Saturday 5th of July 2008.

The suggested schedule for the day is:

11.00 Business meeting and Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Clubrooms

12.00 Barbecue lunch at the Clubrooms

13.30 Annual General Meeting, which of course will include the elections for Committee and other club positions for the new financial year. It is not known at this stage if "someone else" will be at the AGM, so it would be best for our Club if everyone else showed up, including YOU.

Take a Step Back in Time:

Pictured here is Tage Pihl, who was a member of SPARC for many years before moving to Central Victoria.

Tage is pictured here in a very familiar pose....

The location is one of the car parks near Koonya Ocean Beach (Blairgowrie area), with Arthurs Seat in the background.

Image and information supplied by Paul VK3DPW



A Note for W.I.A. Members:

Hello All; as you may have noticed, I have changed my email address to vk3col@wia.org.au.

This does not mean that I have changed ISP, what it means is that I am availing myself of a free service supplied by the WIA to members.

What happens is when you use the @wia.org.au address, the mail gets to them and they then forward it on to your

ISP who then sends it to you.

The advantage of this is that you can change ISP's as often as you like, but still keep the same email address. To avail yourself of this service simply go to the WIA web site and follow the info.

Go to: www.wia.org.au

Colin Schultz: VK3COL



Net Controllers Needed:

Our club currently runs two nets a week, one on Tuesday evenings on 70cm (VK3RPU) and the other on Sunday mornings on 2m (VK3RSP).

We need more club operators to take a turn at being the net controller so the job can be shared around amongst several people. If 8 people volunteer, that works out to one turn each per month—not a big commitment, is it??? It isn't a difficult job, and as the nets usually run for 45 minutes to an hour, its not a huge time commitment either. The nets can be run from your home QTH using the Club call sign, or from the Clubrooms.

It is also an easy way to contribute something back to the Club.

Please let John VK3NJR know you are interested so a roster can be drawn up.

Photos wanted for our W.I.A. web page:

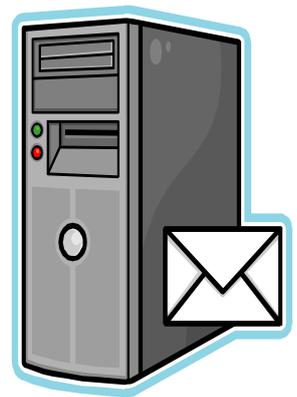
The W.I.A. now has a Club Directory page within its web site. This is going to become our primary web presence.

Each club name in the list is clickable, and takes you through to a page with contact information, the names of the main committee members, and other basic information about the club.

The page also has a facility for carrying a single image for display. The image can be either the club logo, or a photo.

If you have a photo which you think may be suitable for putting onto our club page, please let John VK3NJR know.

This is going to become our primary web presence, so if we could have a variety of photos available, we can change the displayed image as we please.



Learning Assessors Course:

S.P.A.R.C. is known widely for its efforts in the education area, assisting people with obtaining or upgrading their licenses. We are looking at running a "Learning Assessors" course to expand our number of people qualified to assist in this area.

Fred VK3DAC has made an offer to run a suitable course within the Club for anyone interested in becoming a Learning Assessor; the proposed date for the course is the evenings of the 14th and 15th of May, at the clubrooms.

Please advise John VK3NJR as soon as possible of your interest in participating in the course.

Meetings and Nets:

Club meetings:

These are held every Thursday morning from 9.30 a.m. until 12 noon, and every Tuesday night from 7 p.m. until 9.30 p.m. at the SPARC Clubrooms, which are located near the corner of Boneo Road and Besgrove Street, Rosebud, adjacent to Rosebud Community House.

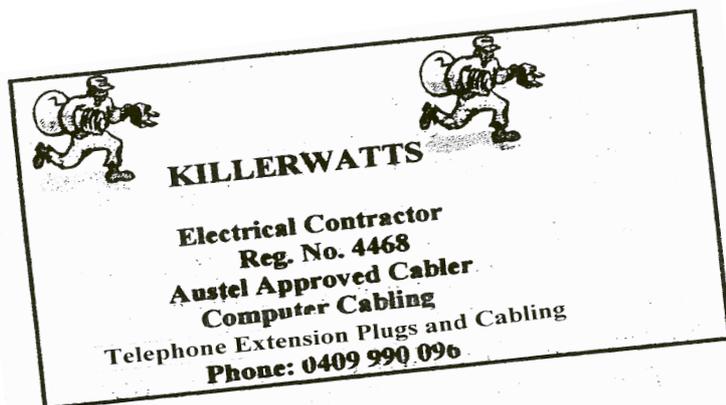
Club Nets:

SPARC members conduct a 2 metre net every Sunday morning at 9.30 a.m. via VK3RSP on Mt Martha which has an output frequency of 146.675 MHz and a negative offset of 600 KHz. VK3RSP is sponsored and maintained by SPARC as a service to Amateur Radio operators in the area and also provides a free access IRLP Node, Node 6330 connected via this repeater.

A 70 cm net is conducted every Tuesday evening at 7.30 p.m. via VK3RPU on Arthur's Seat which has an output frequency of 439.825 MHz and an access tone of 91.5 Hz with a negative offset of 5MHz.

**Club Meetings
and Nets are
held for all
members to
participate in...**

A Word from our Sponsors:



**Killerwatts Electrical
Contractor
(VK3XAX—Owen Clarke)**



If club members need a 12 or 240 volt “S.P.A.R.C.” in their system—these are the guys to call on....

**Mobile Battery Service
(VK3YGE—Graham Eldridge)**

Listen Up !!!

These guys are sponsoring 60% of the S.P.A.R.C. annual contribution to the Community House for the provision of the ADSL Broadband service that the club enjoys.

Re-pay the favour by calling them FIRST for your electrical repairs, alterations or standby batteries to keep you on the air when the 240 volts goes down.....

Coming Events:

Proposed visit to the “Victorian Telecommunications Museum—Hawthorn”

The Club is proposing a group trip to the “Victorian Telecommunications Museum” in Hawthorn.

Owen and Ashley recently visited the Museum themselves, and think that the outstanding collection would be of interest to many Club members. The date proposed is Tuesday 27 May in the evening, and would include light refreshments on the bus before arriving at the Museum and participating in a tour of the premises.

Expressions of interest should be directed to Secretary John VK3NJR as soon as is possible, so arrangements and details can be attended to.



Items for Sale from Alan Johnson VK3AYN:

Alan Johnson, a former member of our Club, is suffering from ill-health, and has decided to surrender his Amateur License and sell his radio equipment.

The following items are available, for which offers are invited.

Allan can be contacted on 03 5975 8330

- Icom 728 Transceiver—100 watt in original box with handbook.
- Icom PS15 Power Supply—20 Amp in original box.
- Icom 706 Mobile Transceiver—100watt with handbook.
- MFJ949D Antenna Tuner—In original box with instructions.
- Coman Multiband Vertical Antenna—10 metres to 80 Metres.
- Tet-Emtron TE23M—2 Element 3 Band mini beam antenna with instructions.
- M20—Mobile Antenna
- M40—Mobile Antenna
- M80—Mobile Antenna
- 2Metre—Mobile Antenna
- Various Antenna and Amateur Radio Handbooks.

(Some items may have been sold prior to Newsletter publication)



*Visitors and
Guests are
always welcome
at our club
meetings, and to
participate in
our weekly nets !*

Joke of the Month:

Junior asks his Dad, “Daddy, how was I born?”

His dad sighs and replies, Ah, my son, I guess one day you would have to find out anyway.”

“Well, you see your Mum and I first got together in a chat room on MSN. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your Mum and we met at a cyber-café. We sneaked into a secluded room, where your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, but it was too late to hit the delete button.”

“Six weeks later your Mum sent me an instant message saying that her operating system was showing signs of unauthorized program activity from a self-extracting file which had implanted itself in her BIOS. Then, nine months later a little pop-up appeared and said: You’ve got male”.....



Items for Sale from Owen Clarke VK3XAX:

SPARC President Owen Clarke has for sale a large quantity of aluminium flight cases of various sizes. (Pictured below) They are lightweight, strong and suitable for transporting or storing radio equipment, electronic equipment or photographic equipment. A sample of the units can be viewed at the clubrooms. Each case is for sale at \$100 regardless of its dimensions.

If interested contact Owen on 0409 990 096.



Newsletter Contributions:

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome; it would be fantastic if we can have at least two member contributions each month.

Articles, Items for Sale or Wanted, or other items for inclusion need to be sent in by the 20th of each month.

Please forward any suitable items to either:

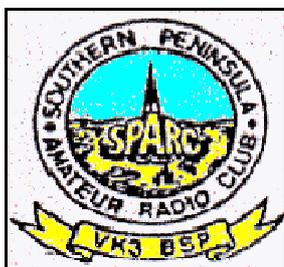
John Ross VK3NJR

J.ross@tpg.com.au

Tim Mc Bain VK3MIT

mcbain.tr@bigpond.com





The Premier Radio Club on the Mornington Peninsula

Our Addresses:

Clubrooms—

111 Boneo Road (Cnr Besgrove Street) Rosebud Victoria Melway Ref 170 A4

Postal—

Post Office Box 206 Rosebud Victoria 3939

Email—

J.ross@tpg.com.au

IRLP—

Node 6330, attached to the club repeater VK3 RSP 146.675, located at Mt Martha

Our Committee and Club Contacts:

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