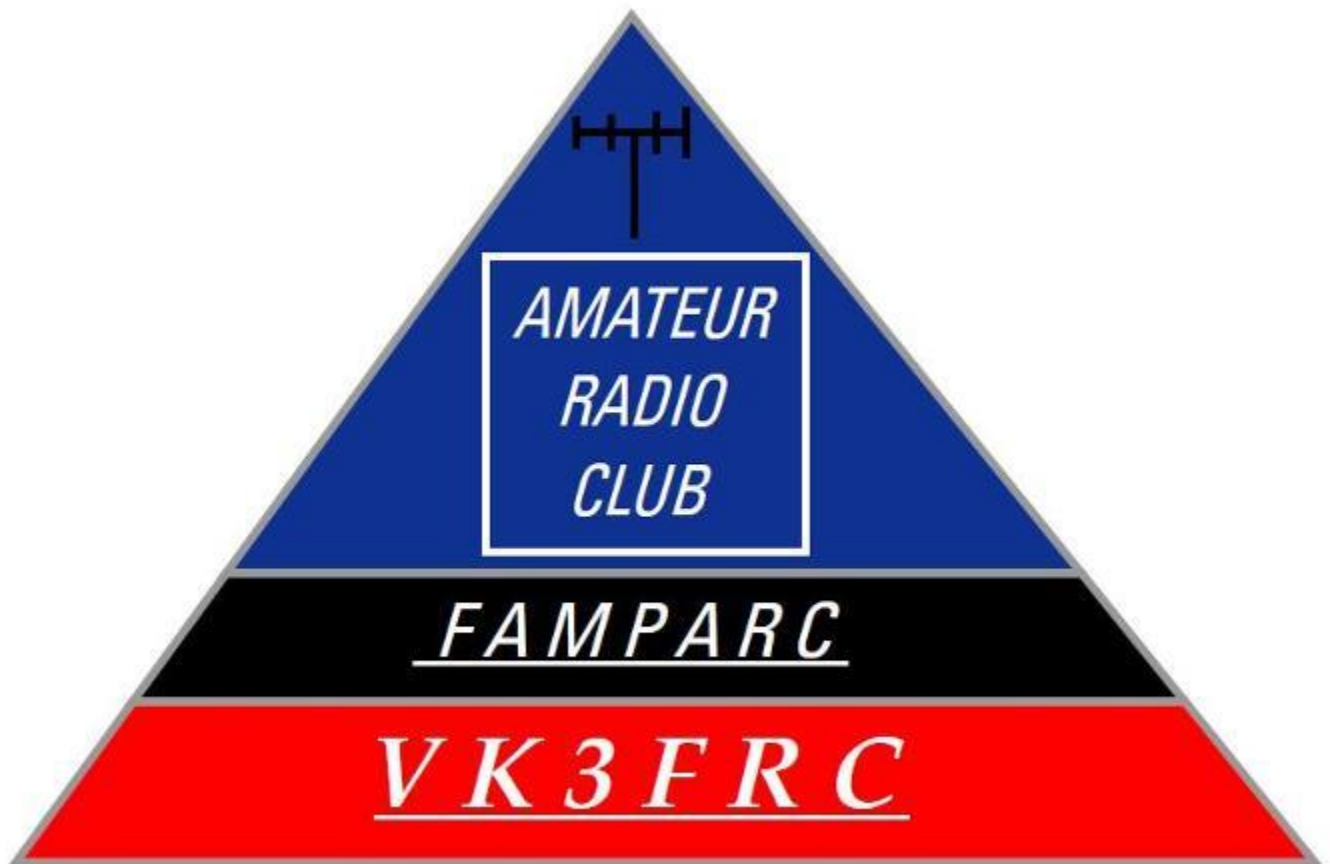




FAMPARC - VK3FRC

FRANKSTON AND MORNINGTON PENINSULA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

September / October 2013



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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

President	Roy Seabridge	VK3GB	5971 4782
Vice President	Allan Bengtsson	VK3AB	9584 5685
Secretary	Peter Collins	VK3IJ	9551 4591
Treasurer	Brian Rich	VK3VBJ	9747 3872
Committee Member	Michael Lammer	VK3UUU	0428 880 500
Committee Member	Ken Halse	VK3ZER	9773 2563
Committee Member	Barry Gardner	VK3THE	
Committee Member	David McAulay	VK3EW	0417 358 095
Committee Member	Andrew Stewart	VK3AEJ	0430 476 489
Committee Member	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
Other Committee Positions..... (Note these are A/H Numbers)			
Exam / Class Admin (Temp)	Allan Bengtsson	VK3AB	9584 5685
VK3 Nominated Assessor	Peter Willmott	VK3TQ	0434 623 423
WIA Exam Assessor	Michael Lammer	VK3UUU	0428 880 500
Contest Manager	Roy Seabridge	VK3GB	5971 4782
Class Instructor	Ken Halse	VK3ZER	9773 2563
Public Officer	Jeff Fletcher	VK3EUL	0419 877 447
QSL Manager	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
Equipment Officer	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
Homepage & Newsletter	David Roitman	VK3LDR	0439 037 203
Newsletter Assistant	Peter Collins	VK3IJ	9551 4591

All Surface Mail & QSL to P.O. Box 65, Patterson Lakes Vic 3197

The club location is Cornish College, Riverend Rd Bangholme Melway Map ref 93 J11 or UBD Ref Map 276 A3. **Please take careful note for Sth heading traffic, take Wells Rd not the freeway.**

Follow the road into the college, observing speed limits, take a left turn at the roundabout, go left around to the car park and turn left at the tennis courts, then follow slowly to the club. In winter please do not park on the grass and please angle park on Saturdays. We would be happy to see members, guests and anyone interested to come along.

- **Weekly Net:** Tuesdays at 8pm club members (and friends) meet on 146.425 MHz controlled by Bill VK3MMM.
- **Weekly Wednesdays 9am - 2pm at the club rooms.**
 - Meet other club members no longer in the work force and reflect on those busy days. Some work may be done on projects at your leisure.
- **Weekly Saturdays 9am - 2pm at the club rooms.**
 - Get together by club members (and friends). Have a chat on HF or VHF, join in with various projects, or at least discuss them over a cup of coffee.
- **Last Saturday of the month.**
 - Member business meeting starting at 10.30 am
- Club Regular Frequencies: 2m 146.425MHz Simplex & 70cm 439.900MHz Duplex
- D-Star Repeater: 2M Port C 146.7625 MHz Output & 70cm Port B 438.125 MHz Output

A few words from the president

Dear Members,

I am finally home after a very pleasant holiday up the east coast. The weather has been kind to me whilst I have been away, however, the tee shirts and shorts together with the sandals are back in the cupboard waiting our Victorian summer.

Whilst up in Queensland I took the opportunity of calling in to the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society. When I called several members were taking down a three-element beam and the rotator for servicing. Although they were very busy they took time to make me welcome. Tim VK4LZE invited me to call the following Saturday which I did, and was pleased to find a demonstration of two vertical antennas and one inverted vee dipole. If any Famparc members are in the area during a holiday I can recommend making a call at their club in Nerang.

Some weeks ago I sent out an e-mail to all club members regarding remote access to the clubs HF radio via the Internet. The trial works being carried out by Peter VK3IJ our club secretary and with help from Collin VK3CR. Their work is progressing and last Saturday 31st August. Peter put on a presentation highlighting their works up to date. Colin VK3CR send his apologies for not being present, however, he asked me to read out his comments on his behalf.

Collin would like to acknowledge Peters effort and commitment to this project, and would like to move a motion that the club purchase a Pigremote (most if not all the software in a box) and a Elecraft KX3 160-6 metre all band all mode rig which is a state of the art unit featuring SDR (software define Radio) architecture including RX I/Q the software is updateable from time to time. It was felt that as the KX3 has a ten-watt transmitter, during trials and testing, unlikely to create any damage should anything go wrong.

Collin's motion was put to all members present and it was very pleasing to see a unanimous show of hand in favor of Collin's proposal. I might add at this point, this is the first time I have seen a unanimous show of hands whilst I have been President and is clearly an indication of the level of support. Peter VK3TQ sent me an e-mail and made some valid observation. I particularly liked two of Peter's comments, which are. He can see the benefits for members who are geographically or operationally constrained and Famparc is providing a really good service to its members.

What is required at the operator's home? A computer with ADSL Internet connection. A headset to connect to the computer and the installation of software to access the remote Radio. Currently you can download the software and have 30 days free trial use. Should you decide you would like to keep the software; there is a very reasonable cost to you of five dollars.

Roy. Famparc President.

A few words from the EDITOR

Dear Members,

I've finally moved house! A few hurdles encountered along the way with regards to settlement of our sale but it all went through ok ready for our purchase settlement on Friday afternoon (6th September). The kids were handed off to the in laws Thursday night whilst we then dismantled there beds etc. ready for the moving truck Friday and pack up the remaining things and so that they were well looked after whilst we were busy on Friday. We cleaned our former home to reasonable standard today. It was a good thing I put a 2 day gap between sale/purchase for any issues, as we almost had to move the sale settlement! We had some dramas with our electricity retailer, when we arrived with the removal truck there was no power... an out of hours call was put into the wholesaler and at approx. 7pm, we had power but by that point we didn't get the kids brought home yet.

Full proper two car garage with some good storage space in the garage for my radio "stuff" too, and a couple of large palm trees on the block to perhaps aid in sustaining my wire dipole. Ironically, SP Ausnet are doing maintenance work in our area on September 11th, and cutting our power all day...

Not quite sure what radio equipment will go where yet, and how soon after moving in either. The moving truck moved all my antennas and masts atleast, I even left one antennas assembled! The garage does not fit one of the masts lying down though! Ethan did manage to lose 1 screw and 2 washers for one of my aerials though... my own fault I guess!

Hope you all had a good fathers day! Below is a picture of my baby daughter Isla, who turns one this week! She's now thankfully and finally sleeping through consistently and started to self settle as well, but she's also walking around, trying to climb up steps and garden rocks, trying to walk through doorways and is quite the seagull while we're eating trying to get our food. There's also a picture of Ethan at his 3rd birthday party, as you can see it was a police theme party.

So, as you may appreciate, I was "flat out" with the house move and related items, so the newsletter was finalised later than expected.

73,

Dave VK3LDR



Meetings & NEWS

As you know, there's a monthly business meeting on the last Saturday of each month. There are generally around fifteen to twenty members in attendance. Here's a **rollup summary** of some of the items discussed at club meetings.

July 27th Meeting opened 10:30am, closed 11:30am

Correspondence in: None.

Correspondence out: None.

- Allan AB told members that Colin CR had investigated the operation of the club's new AA54 analyzer and kindly written up operating procedures. He also explained that if anybody wanted hands on guidance to speak to Colin.
- Peter IJ then gave a brief talk and demonstration on his recent purchase of a Pigremote which allows connecting a suitable radio to the internet for remote operation. Colin CR asked if this unit would be suitable for our club to interface one of the club's radio to the internet for members to remotely access and there was some discussion followed on from that. In essence it is feasible but something that would have to be looked into and approved by the committee.
- David EW told members he attended Cranbourne Hamfest and was asked by many attendees where was FAMPARC and he told them that the FAMPARC whip was no longer made but also said it was a good day at the hamfest. There was some discussion followed as to whether it could be outsourced or if there were other arrangements that could be made to continue producing the antenna.

August 31st Meeting opened 10:15am, closed 11:15am

Correspondence in: Bank statement, term deposit renewal .

Correspondence out: None.

- There was some discussion regarding rolling over the term deposit and it was proposed by Peter IJ seconded Ed GD to roll it over and carried.
- Allan AB spoke about the repairs to the club generator. The generator had a new base plate fitted and when tested it was found the inverter was faulty through a contact of Barry VK3THE the repairs were carried out at a very substantial saving.
- Mark ABT said he had received a letter from ACMA stating that the trial high power license had been terminated. He was very upset with this result and after a lot of discussion it was decided that our President Roy GB would write a letter to ACMA asking for an explanation of various points raised in ACMA's letter and report the results back to the members.
- Roy had a request from the Frankston Scout group regarding JOTA. Roy asked if anybody was available and nobody was so he was to reply in the negative.

Next Business Meetings

- Saturday September 28th
- Saturday October 26th

We are always planning to arrange a lecture/talk each month. If any club members would be willing to give a talk on something they feel would be interesting and informative for club members please telephone Roy on 59714782 to make arrangements.

FAMPARC REMOTE HF PRESENTATION

On Saturday 28 August Peter VK3IJ gave a presentation at the club on the proposed Remote control HF Station. Peter's proposal is to install a Elecraft KX3 HF transceiver and a Pigremote at the club rooms using the existing antennas and wireless internet connection. This will allow club members to access the station from their homes via the internet.

The Pigremote designed by Pignology is a remote station control which accomplishes the bi-directional audio streaming and the RS-232 rig control, there is no computer required it is all done in the Pigremote. <http://pignology.net>

Part of Peters presentation was a live remote connection to KJ6UV in USA, which was arranged by Pignology's Nick N3WG. This was displayed on the clubs projector showing the user interface that a user would see when connected to the remote radio.

The initial installation is a fairly modest step allowing evaluation of the setup but leaving room to expand the setup in the future for higher power and include antenna and station control.

Peter also outlined what was needed in the home for users to connect to the Remote Radio. There are 2 items of software that have to be installed. One is for the audio and one for the user interface. Headphones are connected to the computer and PTT is via the mouse.

Following the presentation Roy read a motion from Colin VK3CR that the club proceed with the remote station that Peter has proposed and that was unanimously carried.



Pictured above is a picture of the Pigremote and the actual user interface seen on screen. Included over the page is an extract of slides of the presentation given.

FAMPARC REMOTE HF PRESENTATION

FAMPARC REMOTE HF RADIO

What is Remote HF Radio?

Remote HF Radio operation allows operators to access a Remote Radio via the internet.



Why would we want to do that?

- Responding to Roy's email when he asked members who was interested in the Remote Radio one of our members Peter 3TQ summed up some very good points ...
- Because it's something new
- He can see the benefits for members who are geographically or operationally constrained
- It gets members "off the couch" and playing ham radio
- FAMPARC is providing a really good service to it's members

What has to be setup at the Club?

- The Remote station or Server comprises:
- A suitable radio
- A suitable interface that connects the radio to a router that connects to the internet
- A suitable internet connection

What is required at the operators home?

- A computer with ADSL internet connection
- A headset to connect to the computer
- Installation of software to access the Remote Radio

How difficult is it setup the client software?

- There are 2 items of software to be installed.
- The first one is called PRAudio which controls the audio transport
- The second one is the User Interface (UI) as seen on the previous slide.
- The software is available for MAC, Windows, iOS and Android in various stages of development
- For Windows 7 Microsoft .NET is required and if not already installed it will automatically be downloaded as part of the installation process.

What are we proposing?

- We are proposing to setup the Remote Station in a number of steps.
- The first step is to purchase a suitable radio and interface.
- The radio we are proposing to purchase is an Elecraft KX3
- There are a number of reasons for suggesting the KX3

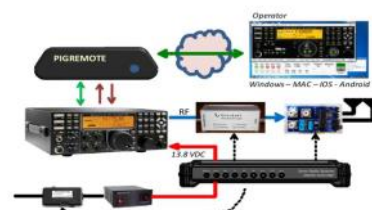


- The KX3 is a state of the art unit featuring SDR architecture includes RX I/Q soundcard outputs. 10W transmitter and the User Interface provided is exceptional.

What would be the next step?

- Having proved the low power setup is working satisfactorily the next step is to set up a system to manage users of the Remote Station.
- When that has been established a Station Control setup needs to be implemented.
- The Remote Station Controller by Sierra Radio Systems allows remote on/off switching of the radio and power supply. Monitoring of voltage, current, temperature, SWR and switching antennas. It is Bluetooth controlled via the PR.

Sierra Radio Systems RemoteStation Controller



POWER METER PRESENTATION

Author: Barry VK3THE

On Saturday 9th August 2013 at 10.30 the FAMPARC clubhouse was buzzing with such excitement no chairs left unoccupied. All were there to see Mark Cvik VK3ABT show his Home Brew 2kw, dual channel power SWR meter. Mark had purchased the kit for \$106US (included freight) from FOXDELTA.com. Prior to Marks presentation at the club he had assembled and tested the kit and was delighted with its performance.

The unit is CPU micro chip controlled and comes pre programmed and maybe powered by USB or battery. The RF unit can be QRP or up to 2kw. Connection to the display is by RS232 serial cable up to 25 meters length

The unit provides simultaneous measurements of forward and reflected power.

The high level of accuracy can be further improved by replacing the 10% tolerance trimpots and resistors supplied with the RF unit with 1% tolerance components .

This is a simple and easily constructed kit where everything is supplied including the case. The display itself is not large, but can used as a stand alone, or viewed on a PC. running windows XP, Windows 7 upgradeable. Due to the low price of the kit (\$55US) it is envisaged that some operators would have one of theses monitors on each antenna. The unit is easily calibrated with a dummy load on CW or FM. Alarm output is available for high level SWR.

Thank you to Mark for the interesting and informative presentation.

More official info of the kit at:

<http://www.foxdelta.com/products/swm3.htm>



What's on & Coming up??

Contests & Hamfests

For popular local contest see the WIA Calendar: <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/events/>

For popular DX Contests See the following websites & calendars:

ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

WA7BNM's calendar: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

- All Asian DX Contest (September 7th - 8th)
 - http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2013AA_rule.htm
- Shepparton Hamfest (September 8th)
 - <http://www.sadarc.org/hamfest.php>
- ICOM D-Star QSO Party (September 20st - 22nd)
 - http://www.icomamerica.com/en/media_events/news/NewsArticle.aspx?id=201310
- CQ WW RTTY DX (September 28th - 39th)
 - <http://www.cqwwrtty.com/>
- Oceania DX Phone (October 5th - 6th) & Oceania DX CW (October 12th - 13th)
 - <http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/>
- Asia Pacific Sprint CW (20th October)
 - <http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt>
- Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Hamvention
 - <http://www.barg.org.au/hamvention.htm>
- CQ WW DX Phone (October 26th - 27th)
 - <http://www.cqww.com>



September

Alex VK3FEAB, Peter VK3TE, Brian VK3AJX, Franco VK3KFJ,
Ken VK3ZER, Russell VK3VH & Simon VK3ZSJ

October

Terry VK3BMX, Gerard VK3GEE, Roy VK3GB & Andrew
VK3AEJ

Birthdays!

If your birthday isn't at some stage in this newsletter we may not have your details so please supply to Allan VK3AB.