



## Scout Radio & Electronics Services Unit Meeting Minutes

<b>Date/Time:</b>	Tuesday, 06 June 2021 - 7:30pm		
<b>Place:</b>	Online via Zoom		
<b>Chair</b>	Luke Byrnes	<b>Minutes</b>	Andy King

**Meeting Opened:** 7:34pm

<b>Attendees:</b>	Andy King, Bryan Ackerly, Daniel Gutsell, Greg Lipschitz, Kent Cochran, Kevin Bedford, Luke Byrnes, Matt Cengia, Murray Taylor, Neil Wilson, Philip Adams, Quintin Coutinho
<b>Apologies Received:</b>	Alberto Scelsi, Allison Burdon, Alan Stratford, Karen Merlo, Mark Perkins
<b>Absent:</b>	Hayden McManus, Jenny Adams, Peter Chaplin, Peter Fraser

### Meeting Items

#### Administration

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##### 1. Chair's Comments

- a. Condolences to Allison on behalf of the team on a recent death in the family.
- b. Sincere thanks and gratitude on behalf of Luke and SRESU to Philip for the time and effort he has put in during his term as State Leader – Radio and for his work across Scouting and Amateur Radio. Thanks also to Philip for his continued enthusiasm in training.
- c. Luke requested a copy of the receipt for the recently purchased marine radio so this may be reimbursed and gifted to Philip to acknowledge his service. A discussion will occur offline.
- d. Philip acknowledged the thanks and noted the continued team effort.

##### 2. Finance Report

- a. *to be provided at the next meeting due to Treasurer apologies.*

## Program Review

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### 3. ScoutHike Review – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

- a. Kevin reported that ScoutHike went well and thanked all team members who assisted at sleep points and headquarters.
- b. Most notable radio issue related to generator noise at some sleep points.
  - i. Kent/Dan had trouble at SP1 (Boroondara District)
- c. Kevin reported that ScoutHike will be looking into their procedures concerning crisis management.
- d. Greg reported that headquarters functioned much more efficiently this year with the move to digital scoring and there was less stress. There were some technical issues resulting in vehicle traffic to rectify these issues on the fly. Greg estimated two hours less radio traffic each day due to not manually processing check-in data. Buses were able to leave earlier as there were not as many delays in reconciling data.
- e. Kevin noted that delegating patrol mergers etc. to sleep points was another positive, reducing double handling of information. There was also no “chasing of ghosts” at the end of the camp as merged/withdrawn patrols were known through more accurate record keeping.
- f. Neil noted that the checking in of youth worked well but there was not a procedure for checking in adults.
  - i. Who is ultimately the LIC for the event? Is this a HQ responsibility or a Sleep Point Coordinator responsibility?
- g. It was noted that one sleep point encountered an issue with the laptop going flat and being unable to recharge due to not having a generator. Consider external battery, etc. for next year if no generator is available.
- h. Kent noted a software limitation of not being able to check a patrol into a sleep point if they arrived at an unexpected point.
- i. Discussion about some Sleep Points providing UHF CB for communications with their Activity Sites and noted that this is not a reliable solution. Respective Sleep Point coordinators seemed comfortable with the perceived availability of communications despite unreliability.
- j. We need to investigate repeater power in the form of additional batteries and/or a remote start generator in the trailer. Peter Chaplin is looking into the draw of the two repeaters in the trailer.
  - i. Current batteries are four of at least 100Ah each.
  - ii. We did run a generator over the weekend, but it didn't last long.
  - iii. Overgrowth at Rocky Track location is resulting in solar panels on the trailer being less effective.
  - iv. Given previous offers from ScoutHike to assist with financing a generator, we should put forward a request outlining estimated cost.
  - v. **A small group should be formed to work with ScoutHike on this project.**
- k. Over the weekend Dan was able to work the following HF stations:
  - i. VI100AF – Special call for centenary of the Australian Air Force
  - ii. NR6Q - California

#### 4. Murray Taylor – Jamboree on the Trail (JOTT) – Weekend of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

- a. A successful weekend with an amateur station at each of five checkpoints around the Clifton Hill area. Each checkpoint had Scout Leaders and an amateur operator.
- b. Operators were from local amateur radio clubs.
- c. **Murray will provide a list of operators involved.**

### Program Enrichment

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5. *Skipping for the month due to Zoom meeting reducing the effectiveness of this item.*

### Program Planning

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#### 6. VicJam - Wednesday 29th December 2021 to Saturday 8th January 2022 at Elmore

- a. CubJam activity request cancelled.
- b. Program Ideas for the Amateur Radio Station base
  - i. Philip noted that we will aim high for a start as far as activities are concerned and can scale back if required. We have a better location for the AR base than originally planned.
  - ii. ARISS – Space Station Contact
    1. Philip reported that preparations are progressing well with approvals from both Scouts and ARISS. We will need to provide a COVID management plan to ARISS in September.
    2. The Space Station cross will likely use a mobile phone patch, but details are TBC.
  - iii. Satellite tracking
    1. A focus on radio using fox hunting as a demonstration and stepping this up with satellite tracking.
    2. There are some team members interested as well as operators from further afield.
      - a. David Timms (VK3GP) from Horsham (GL 4<sup>th</sup> Horsham, and Western Vic JOTA) has previously expressed interest.
    3. Philip noted that we may need to be aware of other radio noise around the site during these passes.
  - iv. Software Defined Radios (SDR)
    1. Would like to have multiple SDR sites running, including potentially around the VicJam site and offsite (e.g., Scout halls and campsites).
    2. Discussion to be had with AREG in South Australia about use of their SDR's during VicJam.
  - v. Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) Sites
    1. It would be good to have WSPR nodes located at different sites across the state to demonstrate propagation.
    2. **If anyone is interested in setting one up, please speak with Philip.**
  - vi. Phil's newest toy
    1. Flex 6600 radio. It will be available for use at VicJam if it arrives on time.

- vii. Getting radios into Troop lines
  - 1. To increase Scouts' exposure to radio technologies it would be good to have several radios available to be used in Troop lines.
    - a. Luke advised that ammo box radios from RadioActiv8 activity will be available outside activity times.
    - b. Other suggestions included larger "go boxes", backpacks. Anything available to increase interest in radio across the site.
- viii. Evening workshops aimed towards Scouts.
  - 1. e.g., constructing a Milo tin antenna. Need to consider financing for this if the Scouts build something to keep.
- c. Show of hands requested to establish staffing capabilities.
  - i. Exact availabilities TBC:
    - 1. Andy King, Dan Gutsell, Kent Cochran (possibly), Luke Byrnes, Matt Cengia, Murray Taylor (depending on availability), Neil Wilson, Philip Adams
  - ii. We may need to approach operators from outside the team to supplement and ensure adequate staffing.
- d. Call-to-Action and invitations to previous Amateur course participants
  - i. Data to be mined from past course information.
    - 1. **Alan Stratford had been compiling a list some time ago. Andy will liaise with Alan.**
    - 2. **Refer to assessors' logbooks for course participants.**
- e. Establish a subcommittee to meet regularly outside of the SRESU meeting.
  - i. **Luke asked Philip to lead a VicJam AR sub-committee.**
- f. **Philip will compile a Google Sheet to collate equipment availability.**
- g. Further discussion to be had about fundraising to subsidise cost for leaders attending VicJam. Philip has had early discussions with Sarah Thom.
- h. Philip said that letters will be going to organisations including Icom and Wireless Institute (Vic.) requesting support. Possibly other organisations, amateur radio clubs, etc., too.
- i. Luke advised that RadioActiv8 activity will purchase a roll of suitable rope for guying towers and donate all not required that that activity to SRESU for AR activity base. Luke is discussing this with Murray.
- j. **Team members attending VicJam are asked to register. There is a STEM/Amateur Radio option that members can select, otherwise choosing "Other" and write radio is fine too.**
- k. Some activities may have to be available focused on Venturer age group. More to come on this.
- l. Kent asked how many masts will be required. Philip advised 3 to 4, and that the tri-band beam on site is not able to be used due to both location and damage. A further site visit is required to plan antenna arrangement given change of location for activity base.
- m. Philip requested fox hunting equipment from Bryan for VicJam.
- n. Timeline:
  - i. 29<sup>th</sup> November (indicative) – Elmore Events Centre available to Scouts Victoria
  - ii. 26<sup>th</sup> December – Luke planning to be onsite for setup.
  - iii. **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – VicJam**
    - 1. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – Visitors Day

## 7. Program Activities

- a. Hallam Scout Group – Nagy Mourad, GL  
*“I am the Group Leader of the Hallam Scouts and I would like to explore available programs and suitability for numerous sections please, I can then get section leaders to discuss details including dates. We have all sections from Joeys to Venturers but in varied numbers.”*
- i. **Allison has been in touch with Nagy. Luke will liaise with Allison.**
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> Reservoir Joeys – Phillip Bailey  
*“Hi there, I manage the 1st Reservoir Joey Group. I've seen your advert for activities in this weeks edition of Be Informed. What introduction activities could I organise with you for my Joey section please? Regards Phil”*
- i. Murray suggested fox hunting.
- ii. Philip suggested conductive play dough, there was interest in this given time of year and age appropriateness.
- iii. Neil is local and volunteered to assist.
- iv. **Luke will contact the group and CC email to Neil.**
- v. Activity will cost \$5/head and include a Radio Active Scout badge.
- c. JOTA 2021 - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- i. Start compiling a list of known locations and associated events at that site.

Andy King	Western Vic (Cooinda Burrong, Grampians)
Bryan Ackerly	Gilwell Park
Dan Gutsell	Clifford Park
Greg Lipschitz	Gilwell Park
Kent Cochran	Gilwell Park, available elsewhere if required
Luke Byrnes	Mafeking Rover Park, or across the state
Matt Cengia	Unsure
Murray Taylor	Melbourne suburbs, unsure exactly where
Neil Wilson	Treetops
Philip Adams	Nillumbik District or Zoom
Quintin Coutinho	Unsure

- ii. Gerard Hook has contacted Bryan requesting 12 sniffers and 6 foxes for JOTA at Bay Park. Bryan advised that antennas could be an issue, but other equipment should be available.
- d. Murray noted two further activities:
- i. 1<sup>st</sup> Brunswick Joeys/Cubs – weeknight held over due to COVID. Likely Term 3.
- ii. Murray received a request from 1<sup>st</sup> Sandringham who are interested in finding out more about activities for Cubs, possibly a fox hunting activity.

## 8. Amateur Events

- a. Trans-Tasman Low-band Contest – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021
  - i. **If anyone is interested in running a station with a Scout callsign please get in touch with Kent for callsign allocation purposes. It would be good to have S-calls on air.**
- b. ALARA Contest – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021
  - i. ALARA have modified their rules meaning that the event is more accessible for club stations. All Scouts and Guides are welcome to participate.
  - ii. This coincides with a Foundation AOCP course at Mafeking.

## 9. Upcoming Training Events

- a. Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Marine SROCP – Ivanhoe
- b. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Foundation AOCP – Geelong  
Currently has 5 people booked in to course number 106519 Closes 11 Jun 2021
- c. Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Marine SROCP – Williamstown (has been rescheduled)
- d. 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August – AOCP (Foundation) – Location TBC, Metro Melbourne
- e. Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August – Foundation AOCP – Mafeking Rover Park  
ALARA Grant may be available to females applying for a Foundation Licence or upgrading to a Standard or Advanced Amateur Radio Licence. The grant is equal to approximately half the cost of the fees for assessment, licence and callsign. In addition, we would provide a complimentary membership to ALARA for one year.  
<https://www.alara.org.au/>

## Program Support

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### 10. Upcoming Support Events

- a. Night Owl - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Barry's Reef

## Additional Business

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11. Murray asked about monitoring incoming requests (amateur radio badges, requests for service, general queries) and keeping track of when they have been actioned.
12. Kent asked for the status of a request for an FM transmitter for VicJam, to report back to his contact who has one available. Next step is to follow up with VicJam radio station team to see if the transmitter is still required.

**Meeting closed: 9:00pm**

**Next meeting: 7:30pm, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at the BATCave, Legana Street, Mt Waverley**