



Scout Radio & Electronics Service Unit

Minutes - March Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 8th March 2022, 7.30pm

BATCave, Legana Street, Mount Waverley

Chair: Luke Byrnes

Minutes: Andy King

Meeting Opened: 7.47pm

Attendees

Andy King, Daniel Gutsell, Jenny Adams, Kent Cochran, Luke Byrnes, Matt Cengia, Murray Taylor, Neil Wilson, Peter Chaplin, Philip Adams

Online: Bryan Ackerly, Karl Donald

Apologies

Alan Stratford, Allison Burdon, David Timms, Gemma Nash, Greg Lipschitz, Hayden McManus, Karen Merlo, Kevin Bedford, Mark Perkins

Absentees

Alan Kanowitz, Alberto Scelsi, Alister Blaney, Andrew Canet, Ash Clark, Ben Hodder, Benjamin Hamilton, Bradley Clarke, Francisco Rojo, Jodie Bedford, Juliet Montague, Kieran McGuinness, Peter Fraser, Peter Watkins, Quintin Coutinho, Sarah Thom

Action Items Summary

Expected Delivery	Reference	Description	Lead	Assist
Sep 2021	Jul 2021 > Program Support > ScoutHike	Liaise with ScoutHike re: equipment	Kevin	Kent
Nov 2022	Nov 2021 > Program Review > JOTA/JOTI 2021	Provide complete set of JOTA 2021 Logsheets to Kent	Andy	
Feb 2022	Sep 2021 > Program Planning > Activities	Revisit 1st Upwey Scout Unit Activity Request	Kevin	

Expected Delivery	Reference	Description	Lead	Assist
Mar 2022	Oct 2021 > Additional Business	Explore First Aid training opportunities for team	Luke	
Mar 2022	Feb 2021 > Program Planning	Work with Heany Park Joeys re Activity Request		
Mar 2022	Feb 2021 > Program Activities	Work with 19th Camberwell re Activity Request	Murray	
Mar 2022	Feb 2021 > Program Planning	Work with 1st Torquay Cubs re Activity Request	Luke	
Mar 2022	Feb 2021 > Program Planning	Work with 4th Brunswick Scouts re Activity Request	Neil	
Mar 2022	Feb 2021 > Program Planning	Work with 1st Tally Ho/Whitehorse re Activity Request	Daniel	
Mar 2022	Feb 2021 > Program Planning	Work with 1st Alphington Scouts re Activity Request	Luke	Neil?
Mar 2022	Feb 2021 > Program Planning	Work with 1st Glen Iris re Activity Request	Luke	Murray?
Mar 2022	Feb 2021 > Program Planning	Work with Oakleigh Coptic Scout Group re Activity Request	Luke	
Mar 2022	Mar 2021 > Program Planning	Provide full details of 'Requests for Service' to Activity Leads	Andy	
Mar 2022	Mar 2021 > Program Planning	Provide details of Heany Park Joeys request to STEM	Andy	
Apr 2022	Sep 2021 > Program Planning > Activities	Planning for Moreland Darebin District Joeys Day Request	Neil	
Apr 2022	Mar 2021 > Program Planning	Work with 19th Camberwell (Monday Cubs) re Activity Request	Murray	Andy
Apr 2022	Mar 2021 > Program Planning	Work with Hazel Glen Scouts re Activity Request	Philip	
Apr 2022	Mar 2021 > Program Planning	Work with Narre Warren South Scouts re Activity Request	Murray	
Apr 2022	Mar 2021 > Program Planning	Propose training dates for marine and amateur courses	Philip	

Meeting Items

Administration

Previous Minutes

It was moved by Murray Taylor and Philip Adams that the minutes of the SRESU meeting held Tuesday 8th February 2022 be adopted. Carried unanimously.

Finance

Account	Balance on Monday 7 March 2022
STEM - State Radio (Bendigo Bank)	\$7,435.00
Cheque Account (ANZ)	\$6.86
Savings Account (ANZ)	\$0.04

Further details are included in the finance report attached as *Appendix 1*.

- New bank account at Bendigo Bank has been opened and most of our funds from the ANZ accounts has been transferred. We are monitoring the ANZ accounts and will transfer income from outstanding invoices when appropriate.
- Finance Report lists fees being charged on new bank account but this is being looked into.

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- Due to costs and lack of use, including the lack of payments received by cheque, we have decided to cancel the PO Box in Box Hill.
 - Andy thanked Philip and Allison for their patience and assistance with ongoing ANZ matters.
 - Luke thanked Andy and Sarah for their work setting up the new bank account.
 - Jenny enquired as to whether PayPal is still being used. We no longer use PayPal on the SRESU website, so this does not need to be changed to the new bank account. There is the potential in the future to integrate with Scouts Victoria's digital payment solution to look at accepting online payments.
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Program Review

Formation	19th Camberwell
Section	Cubs
Date	Tuesday 1st March 2022
Lead	Murray
Assist	Neil

- Activity went well, with three activities running:
 - Fox hunting in the park next to the hall
 - Message passing worked well when moved outside and participants were out of sight of each other
 - Noughts and crosses and radio procedure

Program Planning

Program Activities - Dates Known/confirmed

No currently confirmed activities with known dates.

Program Activities - Dates not set/not confirmed

Original requests and full activity details are in Appendix 2. Activities to be revisit or followed up are in Appendix 3.

New requests

Formation	Hazel Glen Scout Group
Section	Scouts
Contact	Gurteg Singh
Request	<p>Hello! I am Gurteg, from Hazel Glen scout group. I am planning a radio and electronics night for my scout group with my friend, Mason. We are looking at doing fox hunting, an electronics activity of some sort and an activity about using and learning about amateur radios. We came across this website during our research and thought to contact you to ask if you could provide the activity for us. Our scout nights are Tuesday, 7-9 pm and the date we are looking to run this night is 5/4/2022. Our scout group's email is hazelglenscouts@gmail.com. Thanks, please reply soon.</p>

- Tentative Lead: Philip
- Andy will provide details to Philip

Formation Narre Warren South Scout Unit

Section Scouts

Contact Andrew Stelling

Request We would like to borrow the equipment for fox hunting in Term 1, let the Scouts have a go, and then discuss some strategies that will improve their game

- Lead: Murray
- Andy will provide details to Murray
- Unit night is Thursday

Formation 19th Camberwell Cubs (Monday Night Unit)

Section Cubs

Contact Christian Burns

Request Hi Team, I am one of the leaders for the Monday night Cub Scout pack for the 19th Camberwell Group. We would love it if you could come and run a fox hunting night and other activities the Cub Scouts might enjoy relating to Radio and Electronic communications. We typically get around 20 Cubs in an evening. The feedback from your recent night for the Tuesday Cubs for our group was very positive so a similar program would be ideal. Thanks

- Lead: Murray
- Assist: Andy
- Andy will provide details to Murray
- Aiming for Term 2

In progress

Formation Moreland Darebin District Joeys Day/1st Reservoir

Section Joeys Cubs

Date TBC

Lead Neil

Assist Andy, Alli, Luke, Kevin

- No further updates. Neil will follow up.

Formation	1st Torquay
Section	Cubs
Contact	Claire Passlow
Request	We had a group of cubs attend CubJam and visited your space - for some it was the highlight of their day. They were interested in Radio and Electronics communication. At our recent unit council, they expressed interest in some further activities in this area. Any support or resources would be welcome. Claire, Parent Helper.
Lead	Luke
Assist	

- Will look into program resources we can send to the Unit.

Formation	4th Brunswick
Section	Scouts
Contact	Lachie Kelly
Request	Hi we would like to organize a fox hunting night for our scouts
Lead	Neil
Assist	

- Neil has a Scout who wants to run a fox hunt night - possible combined night with his group.
- Neil is following up, including what night they meet.

Formation	1st Tally Ho/Whitehorse
Section	Scouts
Contact	Adam Clyde
Request	Hi some of our scouts liked Fox Hunting at VicJam & would like to give it another go.
Lead	Daniel
Assist	

- Dan is planning a RadioActiv8 night combined with fox hunting
- Term 2

Formation 1st Alphington

Section Scouts

Contact Tessa Hughes

Request Hi , we would like to invite you to a Tuesday evening session to engage scouts about general information to build radios and other information you think would be helpful We have 7- 9 pm sessions Thanks Tessa Hughes - leader

Lead Luke

Assist Neil?

- Offer RadioActiv8
- Luke will follow up.

Formation 1st Glen Iris

Section Scouts

Contact Mike Lukins

Request HI! I am a scout leader for a unit of 50 scouts. We are starting to plan our 2022 program, and are interested in a scout radio event at some stage. What do you offer that would be interesting / fun for a scout troop such as ours? Could you come along on a Wednesday evening and run a night for us? Thanks for your help, Mike

Lead Luke

Assist Murray?

- Offer RadioActiv8
- Luke will follow up.

Formation 1st Upwey

Section Scouts

Contact Tim Allchin

Request Pre-JOTA Activity Night 2021 - revisit in 2022 to see what we can offer. Original request in Appendix 3.

Lead Kevin

Assist

- No further updated received.

Formation Heany Park, Knox District Joey Camp

Section **Joeys**

Contact Louise Robertson

Request Hi, we are running a District Joey camp [at Heany Park Scout Hall, Makeham Avenue, Rowville], for approx 60 joeys. Would you be interested in running an activity base on Sunday 20th March 10am to 12 (noon). Thank you

- We are unlikely to be able to assist due to other commitments.
- Andy will contact STEM team to see if they are able to assist.

Formation Oakleigh Coptic Scout Group

Section **Scouts**

Contact Philip Awadalla

Request Generic request - JOTA activity base and electronics kit building queries.

- Luke will contact to scope more information on what they are looking for.

StarTrek:Survival Camp - Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd July

- STEM-based camp at Mafeking in conjunction with the STEM Youth Council
- Please contact Luke if you are interested in assisting with an amateur radio station of VicJam style - aiming to line up with Scout camps across Australia for contacts.
- Opportunity for any range of activities - building antennas, building radios, crystal sets, etc.

Amateur Events

- John Moyle Memorial Field Day (JMMFD) - Sat 19th/Sun 20th March 2022
 - Mafeking Amateur Radio Group at Mafeking Rover Park
 - Future idea: *Activ8 the State* - reach out to major Scout camps, find out who's camping, and offer JMMFD as an activity
 - Jamboree on the Trail (JOTT) - Sunday 15th May
 - Murray would appreciate any operators who are available for the Sunday
 - Any other amateur events in the first half of 2022 that would be of interest in a Scouting context?
-

Training Courses

- Marine
 - Philip would like to run a training course at Sandringham
 - Philip was asked to propose dates for marine courses.
 - Amateur
 - Mafeking
 - Backlog of interested participants here
 - Philip is considering running a two-weekend workshop/training series
 - Philip will also look into possible dates pre-June and liaise with Luke, Kent, Neil
 - Planning for a metro, non-residential event at Wattle Glen or the Whitehorse STEM Centre
 - Aiming to have multiple courses in the second half of the year across our rural locations
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Program Support

- Cuboree 2023 (September 2023)
 - Possible fox hunting as spare time activity
 - Plan to have appropriate equipment available
 - What cost to Cuboree?
- Fox hunting equipment
 - Murray proposed having the fox hunting equipment more accessible.
 - Murray will oversee the Unit's fox hunting equipment, including keeping track of its location, condition and upcoming activities. Maintenance requests will be directed to Bryan.
 - Stocktake in August to ensure availability and condition of equipment for JOTA.

Support Development

ScoutHike Equipment Working Group

- Lead: Kevin
- Assist: Kent

No report provided.

- Kent will follow up with Kevin.

Upcoming Support Events

- Hoadley Hide - Easter weekend, Friday 15th to Monday 18th April 2022 - trailer & comms support requested as per previous hires.
 - Kent is available to assist
 - *Who is collecting and returning the repeater trailer, and when?*
 - Luke will liaise with Peter Chaplin regarding trailer and requirements.
 - Replacing Rogaining activity with a RadioActiv8 activity.
 - Register at hoadleyhide.com.au for \$45
- ScoutHike - Friday 13th to Sunday 15th May 2022
 - Luke is intending to run a radio activity base at ScoutHike off the back of the success of VicJam
 - If there are interested Scouts at your sleep point, put out a CQ! Encourage them to have a go.

Puffing Billy Running Festival

- Possibly rescheduled to August.
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Program Enrichment

Next month: Overview of RadioActiv8

Additional Business

- 'Welcome pack' for new licensees
 - Please send ideas to Neil
 - Antenna 'masts' available - speak to Murray for details
 - Return of VicJam items via QStore is in the process of happening. All equipment will be returned.
 - Requests for marine radio training coming through Philip - see Training section above.
 - Murray prepared an article about Amateur Radio at VicJam, and this has been sent to the 'Amateur Radio' magazine, Scout Magazine, and Icom
 - Karl is proposing a district Cubs day for the Bayside District, currently aiming for Term 3, with a radio/comms/tech theme.
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Meeting Closed: 8.37pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th April 2022, 7.30pm

Appendix 1



Scout Radio & Electronics Service Unit

Finance Report - March 2022 Meeting

Prepared Monday 7 March 2022

Account Balances

Account	Balance on Monday 7 March 2022
STEM - State Radio (Bendigo Bank)	\$7,435.00
Cheque Account (ANZ)	\$6.86
Savings Account (ANZ)	\$0.04

Outstanding Items

- Awaiting payment for ScoutHike 2021 invoice (\$1,682.50)
 - Awaiting payment for VK3SCM, Mafeking Amateur Radio Group
 - Awaiting payment for VK3RMP, Mafeking Rover Park
 - Awaiting payment for VK3SBP Costs
 - Awaiting payment for Sandringham Cubs Activity Night
 - Awaiting payment for Sandringham Scouts Activity Night
 - Awaiting payment for 19th Camberwell Cubs Activity Night
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Scouts Victoria STEM - State Radio (633000 190363002) - Bendigo Bank

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
22 Feb '22	Opening Balance			\$0.00
22 Feb '22	Transfer SRESU Cheque (ANZ) to STEM - State Radio (Bendigo Bank)		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
23 Feb '22	Transfer SRESU Cheque (ANZ) to STEM - State Radio (Bendigo Bank)		\$2,450.00	\$7,450.00
1 Mar '22	Monthly Service Fee	\$15.00		\$7,435.00
7 Mar '22	Closing Balance			\$7,435.00

Savings Account (013599 268169069) - ANZ

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
8 Feb '22	Opening Balance			\$7,437.95
22 Feb '22	Transfer Savings to Cheque	\$0.45		\$7,437.50
22 Feb '22	Transfer Savings to Cheque	\$7,437.50		\$0.00
28 Feb '22	Interest		\$0.04	\$0.04
7 Mar '22	Closing Balance			\$0.04

Cheque Account (013599 268166933) - ANZ

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
8 Feb '22	Opening Balance			\$606.81
11 Feb '22	Brad Griffiths Amateur Radio Badge		\$6.10	\$612.91
11 Feb '22	mugshots.au VicJam T Shirts	\$594.00		\$18.91
22 Feb '22	Transfer Savings to Cheque		\$0.45	\$19.36
22 Feb '22	Transfer Savings to Cheque		\$7,437.50	\$7,456.86
22 Feb '22	Transfer SRESU Cheque (ANZ) to STEM - State Radio (Bendigo Bank)	\$5,000.00		\$2,456.86
23 Feb '22	Transfer SRESU Cheque (ANZ) to STEM - State Radio (Bendigo Bank)	\$2,450.00		\$6.86
7 Mar '22	Closing Balance			\$6.86

Appendix 2

Activities: Details for upcoming activities

Moreland Darebin District Joeys Day/1st Reservoir (Phillip Bailey)

- **Lead: Neil**
- **Assist: Andy, Alli, Luke, Kevin**

Previous details (Neil Wilson):

After a brief email introducing myself/ the unit - Phil from 1st Reservoir Joeys indicated that they'd had significant interest in this activity at a district level and would like to run it as a Radio Unit Come and Try day for their district, which has 12 Joey mobs.

Their preference is for it to happen on a Sunday in term 4 preferably a Sunday in the back end of November/ start of December.

I indicated that from our perspective term 4 is likely to be reasonably busy with JOTA, VicJam prep and other activities so we would need to consider it at our next team meeting and get back to him with some potential dates.

From the previous list of activities I'm thinking it would be best set up as a series of bases with patrols rotating between them. From our list, potential activities for this age group could be:

Activity ideas:

- + Using conductive play dough to build simple circuits
- + Playing games such as battleships or hangman with a twist by using the Phonetic Alphabet and learning some simple radio procedures along the way
- + Building a simple skill tester and using it to compete against others
- + Fox hunting - patrols of hounds hunting out hidden radio transmitters using sniffers (specialised radio receivers coupled with a directional antenna to sniff out a signal).
- + Teaching component identification and using circuit building blocks to create simple circuits.
- + Potentially an SSTV activity - trial run for VicJam activity

- There will be other sections attending, Cubs and Scouts so we have been asked to target the 5-9 year old age group in designing the activities.
- It is expect there to be approximately 150 children in Joeys and Cubs attending
- The location will be around the Pascoe Vale swimming pool, either on the grounds around the swimming pool or in the park next door
- Contact is Alison - District Leader

Update, Tuesday 8th February 2022

- Neil spoke to organisers tonight
- Now proposing a date in May
- Ideas include fox hunting, conductive play dough, hands on activities
- May extend activity to four-five hours

- No clarity yet on numbers of youth members, duration of rotations, etc.
 - Original concept was to get as many youth members to experience radio in some form as possible
 - Neil will suggest Saturday 28th May, and find out -
 - How many sessions?
 - How many youth members per session?
 - How long is a session?
 - Neil will liaise with Luke. Luke/Andy will advise pricing for this activity.
 - Luke will advise Sarah of request and explore possibility of STEM Youth Council running an activity.
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Appendix 3

Activities: Dates not set

New activity requests received this month are provided within the agenda body under Program Planning.

1st Upwey Scout Unit (Tim Allchin)

- **Lead: Kevin & family**
- **Assist: Dan**
- Nothing further has been heard from the group regarding a pre-JOTA activity.
- Contact the group again in 2022 to see how we can assist with program delivery.

Original request:

Thanks for all your work! We would like to have a radio night at our hall on Thursday 2nd or 9th September this year (2021). We have had a number of these nights over the years as our introduction to JOTA which we have attended for many years. These nights have generally been a series of rotational activities including fox hunting, radio battleships, mast erection and talking over a short wave radio. We start opening parade at 7.30 but arrive at 6.45-7pm to setup and finish with closing parade at 9.20. There is generally a window of 90 minutes for the rotations.

Appendix 4

VicJam article

Contributed by Murray Taylor, and distributed to Amateur Radio Magazine, Scout Magazine, and Icom.

Amateur Radio at VicJam 2022

VicJam 2022, Elmore, Victoria, Australia
29 December 2021 to 08 January 2022

The Scout Radio and Electronics Service Unit ([SRESU¹](#)) ran 2 Amateur Radio activity bases at the recent Scout Jamboree event.

So what is a Jamboree?

A Jamboree is often described as an “experience of a lifetime”. How else would you describe ten days packed solid with adventure, excitement and fun? How else would you describe a city of 10,000 where everyone is a friend? How else would you describe a Scout camp that is so big it has its own medical centre, post office, newspaper, radio station, bus station and mall?

This describes an Australian Jamboree . . . The 2022 Jamboree (AJ2022) was supposed to be a full Australian Jamboree, held here in Victoria, with Scouts from all states, but due to the current uncertain situation re border closures/restrictions etc., it was decided to cancel AJ2022. States could decide to run state-based Jamborees if possible, so Scouts Victoria decided to continue with the existing planning, rescale it a bit and run it as VicJam 2022.

VicJam was nearly four years in the making, and the uncertainty of the past two years made planning harder than usual. But we delivered what we promised, for our Scouts and Venturers attending (all 5000 of them).

“We’re essentially building a town the size of Kyneton in the Macedon Ranges. It’s the equivalent of 200 school camps all happening on the same site at the same time, so we’ve had to build infrastructure, including recycling, a medical centre, a radio station, nightly concerts and lots of activities.” [See the full article from ABC news](#)

This was thanks to an incredible effort by 1100 adult volunteers who paid their VicJam fee and then gave two weeks of their holidays to work long days in Program (aka Activities), Catering, Site and Services, as Line Leaders with Scouts and Venturers, and in many other roles.

The Amateur Radio teams had a lot of competition from other Activities on offer – herewith a *partial* list of the Activities at VicJam 2022:

- Onsite activities
 - Vertical World – Abseiling, Rock Climbing, and Zip-lining
 - Outback World – Axe Throwing ?!, Archery
 - Water World – Water slide, Water cannons, Mud racing

¹These are clickable links to more information

- Tech World – **Amateur Radio, RadioActiv8**, 3D printing, Drones, Electron Microscopes, Solar energy, Virtual Reality
- Active World – Outdoor Laser Tag
- The Village – VicJam FM radio station, Scout Heritage, Icecream & hotdogs, Chill out zone
- The Arena – The nightly Concert stage. Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Big bands (BABBA-the ABBA tribute band, Rock Academy Australia, . . .), New Years Eve Party with fireworks, Class Clowns and Comedy Acts (by the Scouts), Master Chef and Magic (Scouts again), eSports Motocross Spectacular, and a DJ to fill in the gaps
- Offsite activities – 13 offsite activities in total, some were for Scouts who could not go to Elmore, some were for the Venturer Scouts assisting with the VicJam activities. VicJam Scouts bussed out to the sites, some were overnight camps, some were day trips.
 - Lake Nagambie – Paddle Away
 - Lake Nagambie – Wet, Wild and Windy
 - Whittlesea – Funfields Theme Park
 - Echuca - Echuca Explorer
 - Torrumbarry – Swim, Skim & Skim
 - Bendigo CBD - Amazing Race
 - Koolamurt Scout Camp – Bicycle Adventure, Hiking & Biking
- Visitors Day(s) – Mums, Dads, Siblings come visiting to see it all! One big day and 2 smaller days with about 1300 extra people onsite
- CubJam – a special 5 day ‘inner event’ for the Cub Scout Section, with each Region visiting for one day. About 2000 Cubs came to CubJam.
 - There was a Cub Scout activity area with about 8 dedicated activities
 - And time to wander around and look at what they might experience when they ‘grow up’ and come to the next Jamboree
 - They had a splash on the water slide
 - Some even came in and checked out the Amateur Radio activity! (And were given badges too! Special!)

Plus of course camping, eating, sleeping, and the opportunity to meet and make long term friendships, and to grow as a stronger, more confident individual.

Here is a link to the VicJam website for some more information: <https://www.vicjam.com.au/>

Contact! with the ISS

17 lucky Scouts at the Victorian Scout Jamboree participated in an Amateur Radio contact with US Astronaut Mark VandeHei aboard the International Space Station on the evening of January 4th 2022.

This is ‘our’ camera recording of the ISS session, with “Compere” Phil VK3JN1 at the microphone and “Floor Manager” Murray VK3MJT in the background.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VYmahPS11s>

Here is the ‘official’ clip shot from a different angle that is more focussed on the participants ...(has audio sync issue – sigh technology)

<https://youtu.be/xQWL1ma1G3I>

The ISS connection

What does it take to connect to the ISS? About 9 months of time for overall co-ordination between Phil VK3JNI and Shane VK4KHZ, the local end practical setup managed by Kent VK3TER, and then the event requires the assistance of a series of Amateur Radio volunteers around the world.

Details here <https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>

Elmore Scouts used the ARISS Telebridge box connected to a POTS line (actually a VOIP connection) into the Internet ->

Queensland Shane Lynd VK4KHZ, the Australian co-ordinator-located in Queensland continued the linkage into the ARISS Telebridge network and provided overall moderation of the contact ->

New Hampshire Fred Kemmerer AB1OC, at the ARISS ground station in Hollis, New Hampshire, USA, managed the tracking antennas and the initial contact ->

ISS Mark VandeHei NA1SS, onboard the International Space Station !

Worldwide The contact was also broadcast worldwide via the Amateur Radio Echolink and IRLP networks by Bob Pittman VK2ADF

Sponsor Agencies ARISS is supported by the following agencies (some were listening in also):

ARRL American Radio Relay League

AMSAT Amateur Radio Satellite Corporation

CSA Canadian space Agency

ESA European Space Agency

JAXA Japanese Space Agency

Roscosmos Russian Space Agency

NASA National Aeronautics and Space Agency

Amateur Radio Bases - Activities and demonstrations

Main base

- The SSTV link. This was operated on the 6m band, between the central Tech World activity site and the AR base. The challenge was to initiate the image, then race to the end point to see (some of) the picture being received. Transmission time – about 2 minutes. Distance (by radio) – 183m, (on foot) – 200m or 250m via the ice-cream stand . . . the success rate climbed as the temperature dropped (the first 3-4 days > 35°C and no shade!)
- KiwiSDR stations x 2. Very popular with Scouts once they found the first one or two signals. Mental images of kids playing with a crystal set from the days of yore... many of them noted down the URL for later use at home. This was a Night Owl favourite! The link to the KiwiSDR site <http://kiwisdr.com/public/>
- Morse code practice station – on a Raspberry Pi. A major hit also, especially when they achieved sending the complete A-Z alphabet with the morse key. Great comments re how “my name sounds like music” when listening to the Pi sending morse. The link to the code and setup for the Pi <https://github.com/YesmynameisPerry/MorsecodeGUI>
- WSPR demo – running on a big Flex radio via program control, with realtime monitoring on the [WSPRNET](#) web page. Many incredulous looks when they realised how far 2 watts goes, especially when contrasted with the typical mobile phone.
- Echolink station – this worked via the radio, but struggled on the PC's with a initially flakey internet link.

- Satellite tracking – automated. This was a system based on the SARCNet satellite tracker created by Joe (VK3YSP) and Julie (VK3FOWL) Gonzales. Image captures from the ISS and several QSO's were achieved. The link to the current tracker <https://www.sarcnet.org/products.html#SARCTRACKit>
- Satellite tracking – handheld. An activity with an Arrow VHF/UHF Yagi and a Yaesu handheld. Several ISS images were captured by holding a mobile phone (with the decoder app) in the same hand as the HT, as well as some QSO's.
- HF Station **VI3JAM** – Thanks to Icom for loaning 2 HF radios (IC-7600, and IC-7610) to the Unit for the Jamboree (the dust will blow out – really!). Many QSO's made by Scouts at various times – and some learning about propagation too. The explanation of why we could not talk to Melbourne, yet get to Adelaide ok took some doing, until it was proved (by a Scout) that reception in Adelaide was fine (picked up in KiwiSDR) while we talked to Joe in Melbourne on a mobile, where he could hear nothing on the same frequency. Practical demonstrations work the best. We also linked in the WSPR maps, and the grey line effect.
- Foxhunts – With 6 fox transmitters, and 10 sniffers, this was a popular activity, especially in the early evening when the temperature dropped. It became a challenge for the Scout christened 'Fox-Meister' (Murray VK3MJT) to find better (more obscure) hiding places over the course of the Jamboree, as many hunters kept coming back to try again. A look of joy when the penny dropped as to how the sniffer worked, and the fierce concentration that often followed as the hunters went on the chase.
- Construction – We supervised several Scouts making a Milo-tin antenna, including tuning it with careful trimming while checking the analyser SWR value. The vertical is swappable on our version. Looks silly – works well! http://www.amateurradio.bz/coffee_can_antenna.html
- Badges - All Scouts who came to our base and spent some time 'playing radio' with us at any / all of the activities received a set of old (some say pre-historic) Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) badges. We had 5 different sets which we rotated daily. Notably, the avid badge collectors actually came and stayed for an appreciable time, and were interested and involved in our hobby.

Contacts Summary

After a slow start due to the heat, and noting that most of our contacts were made in the late afternoon or by the 'night owl' Scouts after teatime, we racked up 89 solid contacts in our logs.

The breakdown of the logs	Band	mode	count	Locale	count
	80m	SSB	13	VK1	1
	40m	SSB	51	VK2	12
	20m	SSB	10	VK3	60
	6m	SSTV	lots	VK4	8
	6m	FM	1	VK5	4
	2m	FM	7	VK7	2
	2m	PKT	1	ZL3	2
	70cm	FM	5		

Some specific log notes:

- VK3PF/P – SOTA VK3/VE-265 on 40m
- VK3BSE – Parent helper with one of the VicJam Scout Troops
- VK3EHG – Via PO-101 satellite
- VK3SAT – AR operator onsite with VicJam Troop 225
- VK4FNQ – Via AO-92 satellite
- VK4ZPK – was actually portable VK6
- Many VK3s appear multiple times while working on skeds

RadioActiv8

RadioActiv8 was part of the broader TechWorld activity rotation and included STEM activity bases and puzzles. The concept, equipment and program was designed and built by members of Scout Radio Victoria.

RadioActiv8 involved youth members participating in a site-wide scavenger hunt challenge co-ordinated over commercial radio frequencies by youth members themselves. Scouts in the field called back to Mission Control via Ammo Box radios – commercial units mounted into ammo boxes providing an all-in-one radio solution in the field.

A number of bases were setup around the Jamboree site with either an activity to do (an Active base) or a question sheet (a Passive base). Each base had either a UHF or VHF 'ammo box' radio to talk back to 'Mission Control'. The Scouts were to report the 'intelligence' provided to them by the activity team at the completion of the activity, or the answer to a question from the sheet. It was great to hear how many of the Scouts picked up on radio procedure during the course of the activity session and 'learned by doing'. It was very satisfying to be able to walk around the site and hear the ammo box radios blasting some very capable operating by youth members.

Mission Control was staffed by Venturer Scouts and Activity Leaders. The Leaders were expecting to do most of the radio operating work for at least a few days, but within 10 minutes into the second of approximately 20-odd sessions of the game, the Venturer Scouts took over the operator and logging chairs and were capably managing the net, dispatching up to 41 Patrols using about 10 radios across 3 channels – a great effort to build confidence on the air!

We used a custom-developed logging program called RadioActiv8 to record the intelligence received from Patrols and allocate associated score values. The program was also used to determine and assign the next destination for the Scout patrols, based on the real-time capacities at the Active bases. Each Patrol was also allocated a LoRaWAN GPS tracker which provided Mission Control with locations of each Patrol as they moved around during the challenge.

Overall, it's clear that radio communications is a very present interest in young people – the more we do to make the process accessible to younger participants, the more our hobby will naturally grow.

<https://github.com/radio-active-scout/radioactiv8>

The Antennas

A comment was heard that our site looked a bit like a "spikey hedgehog" with all the antennas that we stood up – and which stayed up through out all the windstorms we had (one downdraft blast was apparently clocked at approx 200 kph)

- 80m OCF oriented N-S for the IC-7610
 - Mast #1 (9m) at North end
 - Mast #2 (12m) at the balun (shared mast)
 - Mast #3 (9m) at South end
- 40m OCF oriented E-W for the IC-7600
 - Mast #2 (12m) at East end (shared mast)
 - Mast #4 (12m) at West end
- A 10m squid pole with wire spiral and local ATU for HF on the Flex radio
- Mast #5 (9m) with a Diamond X-series antenna for VHF/UHF for Echolink
- Mast #6 (5.5m) actually a pool brush pole, with a Diamond CR-8900 whip for the 6m SSTV link receiver
- Another CR-8900 on a mag mount up at the fibreglass panels near the roof inside(!) the remote shed for the 6m SSTV transmitter

- Mast #7 (9m) and mast #8 (9m) located at the RadioActiv8 activity Master control site with several antennas – a J-Pole, a folded dipole, and another vertical
- The repeater trailer mast #9 (10m) carrying a dual band VHF/UHF vertical, a DMR node, and a GSM antenna for Echolink/Internet connectivity. (Repeaters VK3RSR and VK3RSS)
- A late entry, mast #10 (3m) with a WiFi point-to-point link on it to improve our internet connectivity–installed for ‘Plan C’ when it looked like the ISS contact would need to be run at our base, rather than on the stage for all to see.

Examinations

We ran a Foundation theory and prac exam for several Scouts, as well as an Advanced theory exam, and two sittings for the Marine operators license for the Scout Water Activities team leaders. The Pracs were all passed ok, now waiting on AMC for the theory results, and (hopefully) AOCP certifications. We think the candidates did a good job, so fingers crossed for them.

Stop Press: Just heard one result–96%, AOCP(F) and a new callsign soon to be on the air !

The VicJam teams

Main base

- Philip Adams VK3JNI
- Murray Taylor VK3MJT
- Kent Cochrane VK3TER
- David Timms VK3GP
- Neil Wilson VK3IG
- Daniel Gutsell VK3NZD
- Ross Swinton VK3ZNR
- Peter Watkins VK3TKK

RadioActiv8 base

- Luke Byrnes VK3BYR
- Andy King VK3KAJ
- Matt Cengia VK3MCN
- And a team of Venturer Scouts trained up ‘in situ’ as Controllers.

Wrapup

It was a busy, exhausting, hot and windy/dusty event, but well worth it. Many Scouts now have a much greater appreciation of what our hobby is about – it’s not just what they see at JOTA ...

And a number of Scouts took away the Foundation Manual, hopefully to get ready for their license. “This radio science stuff isn’t hard – it’s fun.”

I am still getting the Elmore dust out of things, and looking for a new tent – mine did not survive the second windstorm. It became a tent with a large ‘skylight’ as a pole snapped and tore through the tent fly – sigh. Slept in the van for the last 3 nights.

Odd moments

– – Here are the winds at VicJam as seen by some fixed video stream cameras!

https://fb.watch/ahdAbamI_c/

– – From the CubJam team: “A special note of thanks to those at VicJam who helped with the reconstruction of the CubJam base after the windstorm the day before we opened. It was Scouting at its best with everyone pitching in to ensure the Cub Scouts could enjoy their ‘Big Day Out!’ ”

Their very open-plan activity base was almost completely flattened by the downdraft windstorm the day before the first busloads of Cubs, and was rebuilt and ready for action by the time the buses arrived. (Lots of tied down marquees traumatically buckled under the very high wind load).

– – An announcement from the Emergency Management Team: “Please *DO NOT* try to dash into a willy-willy!”

Several 50-60m tall willy-willy’s visited the camp site one day, and managed to take a marquee or two on a surprise trip.

– – It did rain once. About 42 drips worth – just enough to settle the dust for an hour or so.

– – The grandson of the Founder of Scouting came to VicJam to visit his own grandson. Lord Baden Powell, the 4th Baron of Gilwell, and Lady Baden Powell came up from Melbourne for the day to visit their grandson in Unit 122.

Lord Baden Powell stressed the importance of Scouting, particularly in the last two years. “The spirit of Scouting is the one thing in the world that has the ability to bring us together,” he said. “Keep enjoying life, keep living life and keep meeting Scouts from not only your Group but other Groups. That’s important.”

– – Jamboree in Space? Maybe. . . (Items below from the Camp Newsletter after the ISS contact)

What do Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin have in common? They were the first people to walk on the Moon and both were Scouts. So were nine of the 10 other moonwalkers, plus the entire crew of Apollo 13.

As NASA said in 2011: “Of the 312 pilots and scientists selected as astronauts since 1959, at least 207 have been identified as having been Scouts or active in Scouting.”

Fun fact: although Neil Armstrong was an Eagle Scout (like a Queen’s Scout), one badge he never got was Space Exploration.

Covid

The camp was also inspected a number of times by COVID-19 Compliance & Enforcement Authorised Officers from the Department of Health Events team, and local health authorities. Despite our rigid protocols, some contracted Covid. But with 99 per cent of eligible attendees double-vaccinated, VicJam was one of the safest places in Victoria, and our infection rate was well below the rapidly growing State rate.

Murray Taylor VK3MJT
SRESU member
Cub Scout Commissioner – Melbourne Region
VicJam 2022 Survivor!

Images

On the Air



Joining into a net for about 20 minutes

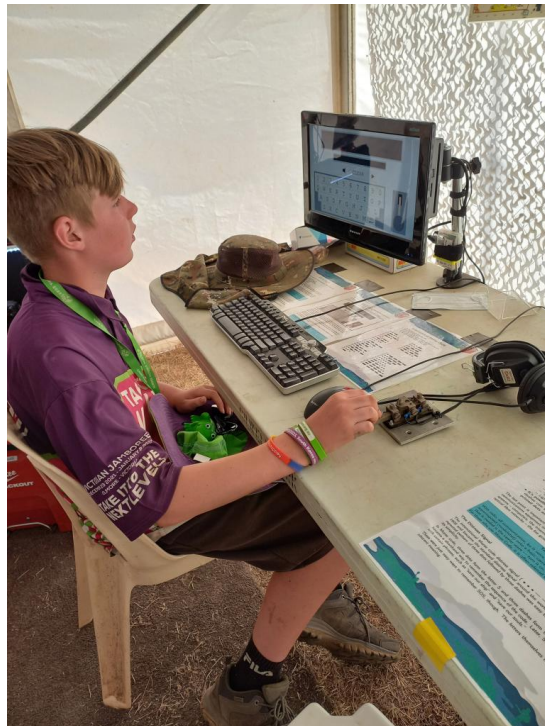


I can do this

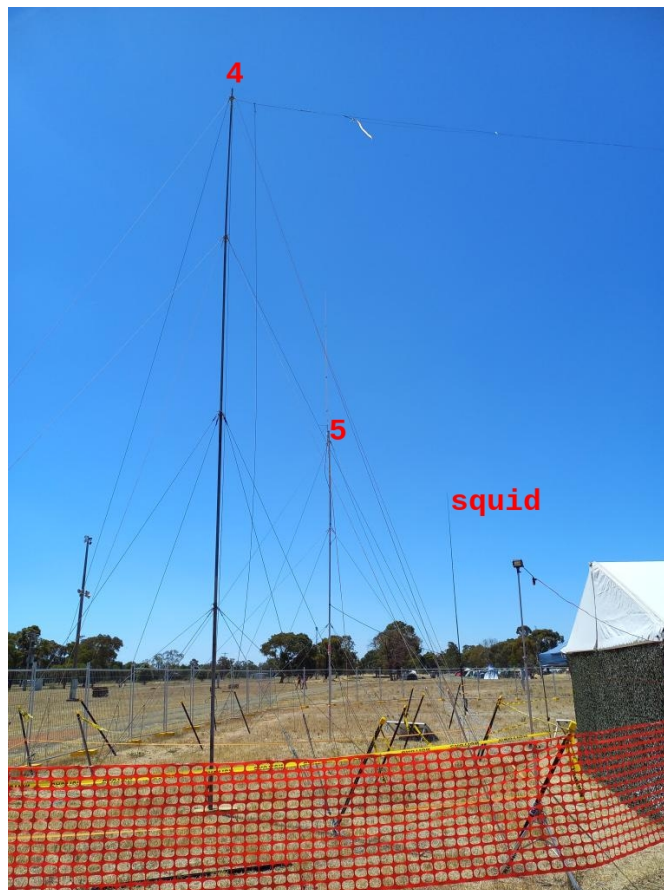
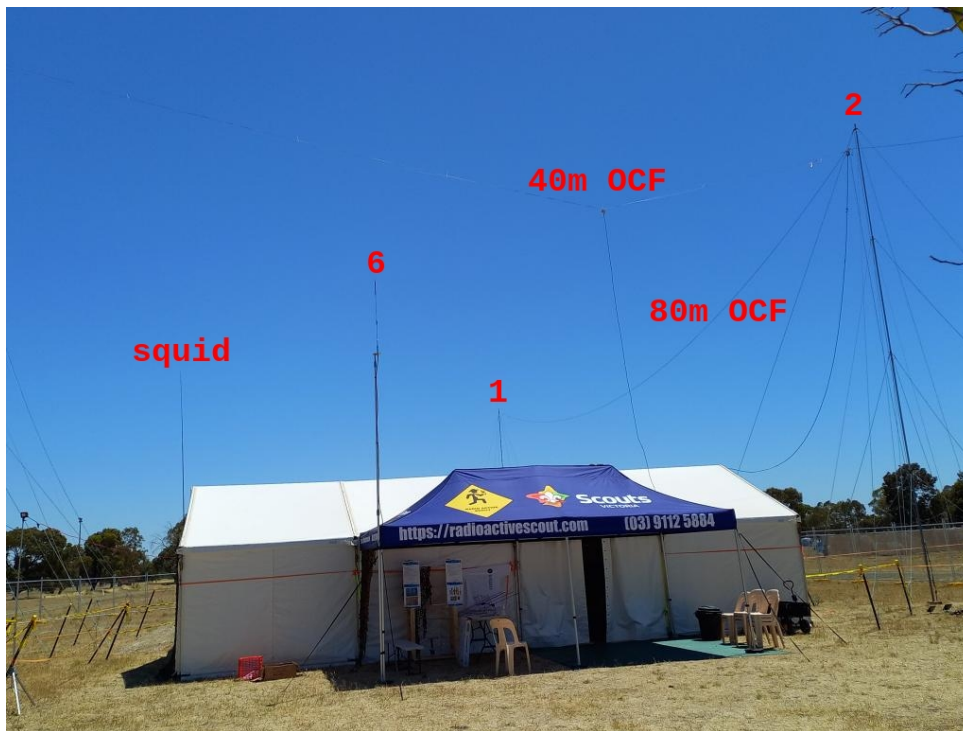
Night Owls



KiwiSDR and MorsePi



Antennas



ISS contact



ARISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station



Shane VK4KHZ



Fred AB1OC

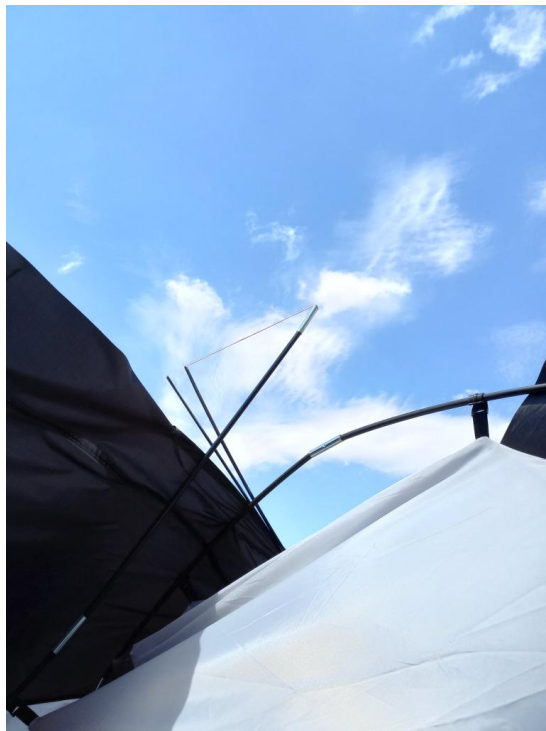


The ground station antennas – New Hampshire

The Storm ...and the 'skylight'



Uh oh



Sigh