

Omega Radio Club Inc

www.omegaradioclub.org

News Letter

Vol. IV Issue 8 October 2018

Rally Communication Events:

Most members would be aware by now that the Darryl Tunbridge rally scheduled for the Saturday 27th October has been cancelled. Apparently the course spanned two state fire districts and a communications mix up within DELWP meant one of the districts was not fully aware of the event. Once this problem came to light there was insufficient time to meet the necessary lead times for public notice. This leave our next event as the George Derrick rally on Saturday 24th November. This event too has had it's share of problems with permission to use roads withdrawn after planning was well under way. As a result the organisers have had to move the event to a completely new area, unfortunately even further away now, in the Maffra Boisdale Briagolong area. This has also meant the site we were to use for our repeater setup would be now totally unsuitable.

We are currently planning a test day on Monday 29th October to prove the new site will cover the event. At the time of writing we still have vacancies for control and SOS point operators. We understand this will not be a particularly long event starting around the middle of the day and concluding mid evening around 8pm. If you are free to attend on Saturday 24th November please contact Len 124 as soon as possible.

Member of the month:

This months winner is Alex 510 for all his work at rally headquarters. Running HQ radio is probably the most intense job at the events we attend. Not only is it necessary to set up and man the HQ radio but radios have to be installed in course cars and other vehicles as needed then recovered at the end of the event. Usually the HQ operator is one of the first to arrive and is often still there chasing up radios when most members are on their way home. It is a position we all rely on but few are prepared to do.

If it wasn't for Alex's constant efforts we would struggle to cover this vital role. Well done Alex.

New Member:

A warm welcome to our newest member, Grant Martin of Bairnsdale. Grant has been involved in the car rally scene for some time and has decided he would like to be involved with the work we do at rallies. Hopefully he will be organised with a radio in time for the George Derrick rally down his way in November.

Once Grant has been allocated a membership call sign we will include him on the members contact list.

Christmas End of Year Doo:

Again we find the end of the year rapidly approaching. We are planning a similar function to last year as this concept has proved very popular with all who have attended. Again we will have the "exclusive" use of the Messmate Shelter at Emerald Lake Park. It will be the last year we will be able to use this shelter as it will soon be demolished to make way for a new development for the Puffing Billy Railway.

Please note the date 1st December in your diaries. As in recent years the venue and all food will be supplied by the club. Those attending will only need to bring themselves and something to drink.

More information will be available closer to the time.

New radios available:

A reminder to any members needing VHF club radios to contact Barry 671 via the club's email address omega.radio.club@gmail.com to order.

Thought for the day:

The nice thing about meditation is that it makes doing nothing quite respectable.



Events Calendar—Club Diary

2018

October

Thursday 25th

General Meeting

Carwatha College

Saturday 27th

Daryl Tunbridge Rally (**CANCELLED**)

November

Tuesday 6th

Committee meeting

Bill 478's Home

Thursday 22nd

General Meeting (Last for the year)

Carwatha College

Saturday 24th

George Derrick Rally

Maffra / Briagolong area

December

Saturday 1st

End of year Christmas Doo

Emerald Lake Park

Tuesday 4th

Committee meeting (last for the year)

Location TBA

News from the ACMA:

Most of us these days don't like all the Spam messages we receive. Not only do these clutter up our email inboxes but more and more seem to arrive as SMSs.

Recent media statements from the ACMA indicate they do take these issues seriously and will take action where appropriate.

Here is an extract from one such statement:

Sydney-based ValueAd Marketing Pty Ltd (VAM)—which promotes product sampling/testing and 'mystery' shopping opportunities—has been formally warned for sending commercial SMSs without sufficient company contact information.

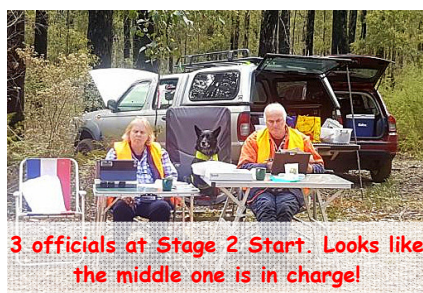
The Spam Act 2003 (the Act) regulates unsolicited commercial electronic messages in Australia. Commercial electronic messages can be emails, SMS messages, MMS messages, instant messaging or any other similar message that includes a marketing or commercial element.

'Commercial electronic messages must include accurate information about how a recipient can readily contact the authoriser of the message', said Australian Communications and Media Authority acting Chairman, Richard Bean. 'Businesses must understand these obligations. They play an important role in keeping consumers informed and protected.'

The ACMA found that VAM sent the messages with the consent of the recipients and included a functional 'unsubscribe' facility as required by the Act. However, VAM's contact details could not be accessed without first clicking through to a survey where there was a link to these details. This information was not contained in the message itself as required by the Act.

If you receive a marketing email that you think may not comply with the Spam Act, you can report it to the ACMA by forwarding the message to report@submit.spam.acma.gov.au. You may also forward SMS spam to the Spam SMS service on 0429 999 888.

From the Akademos Rally:

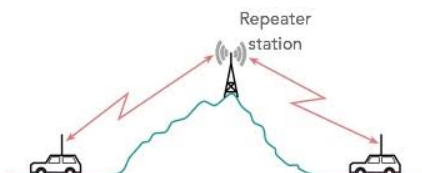


What is the difference between our Repeater and Translator system:

At last months Yarra Valley Stages Rally and also at the recent Akademos Rally it was necessary for us to use our Translator system in conjunction with the normal repeater. This set up is needed when it isn't possible to have one repeater site covering all of an event course.

I was recently asked what the translator was and how was it different to the repeater? In essence they are similar in that they both receive a signal and simultaneously retransmit it on a different frequency (or channel).

As we know, a radio on a repeater channel actually operates on two separate frequencies however we simply refer to it as a channel. A repeater always receives on frequency "A" (up link) and retransmits on frequency "B" (down link). These two frequencies make up our repeater channel. A repeater consists of one receiver and one transmitter. Our mobile radios operate in reverse of the repeater receiving on frequency "B" and when we talk they transmit on frequency "A". In this way our coverage area is extended to the full range of the repeater which would be situated on a high hill.



So how does the translator fit in? In radio the term Translator is most commonly used in broadcasting to describe a low powered transmitter used to fill in a small area with poor coverage from the main broadcast site. In our case the principle is the same however our translator operates as a two way device. It is used in the same way to fill in a smaller area not accessible via the repeater. In our case it allows us to make use of our Ch0 to help fix such problem locations, thus "translating" our repeater channel to Ch0.

The Translator operates by receiving signals which have been transmitted by the repeater (on frequency "B" as above) in much the same way as a mobile radio does, however instead of that signal being heard on the mobile's speaker it is retransmitted on (in our case) Ch0. As we know Ch0 is a "simplex" channel meaning mobiles transmit and receive on the same frequency. So when our mobile transmits back on Ch0 the translator radio receives this signal and retransmits it on the repeaters frequency "A" as if it has been transmitted directly by a mobile radio. This is then heard by all the other mobiles listening on the repeater channel. As we use it the translator has two receivers and two transmitters.

Suggestions when using Channel 0 and our translator system:

As we know, when using a repeater there is always a delay between when the repeater station stops receiving an incoming signal and turns its transmitter off. This is commonly referred to as the "repeater tail" and heard as the "kirchuck" sound at the end of each over. When the translator is in use this delay is effectively doubled as the translator continues transmitting until the repeater stops, then has its own delay before it turns its transmitter off.

It is important to remember this extra delay because if we are too quick to start talking after someone else stops the translator may continue to transmit, effectively doubling with the next person to talk. There can be an additional problem as channel 0 is a "simplex" channel now connected to the repeater. If two stations in the channel 0 area can not hear each other they may both transmit at the same time and block each other out.

When using Channel 0 at a rally checkpoint it is very important to listen before calling in to be sure there is no other conversation going on. Just because Channel 0 momentarily sounds quiet this does not necessarily mean no one else is transmitting on it. It is very important to be aware of the traffic on the system when you are about to call in so as not to jam out someone who is already talking. As you can imagine if one station is transmitting numbers to HQ and someone else calls over them, those car numbers have to be sent again which ties up the network for that much longer.

In being aware of others talking before calling in all operators should know that when HQ asks everyone to "stand by" they are handling some particular situation. It is very interesting to note the number of times HQ will say "All stations please Stand By" and within 15 seconds someone else calls them. Clearly these callers have not been listening and have just heard the channel quiet so jumped in.

If we all keep this in mind and take a little more notice of what is happening before calling it makes life a lot easier for HQ operators who have to sort everyone out.

Hopefully this article will help clear up how our network operates at car rallies.

Mike 220.

