

Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club

President's Report for the Club Year ending 5th November 2008

The Club has had an busy year with projects and activities in many areas.

Club membership has increased a little over last year in that there were 24 members as at the beginning of November. Attendance at meetings has generally been in the range of 10 to 20.

The venue for meetings was changed late in the previous year from the Elizabeth South Watertower to the Grove Venue with two meetings being held at the Elizabeth Grove Scout Hall. The adoption of the Grove Venue as the meeting place has turned out to be entirely satisfactory as it has all the required amenities at a reasonable cost. A 2m/70cm J-pole antenna made by Dennis VK5FDEN has been mounted on the roof and coax cable run to a fixture in the kitchen. In addition a cable for an HF antenna has been included. Steve VK5AIM has donated an 80/40m dipole for use on occasions when the need arises.

An upgrade training course for those with a Foundation Licence was provided by Will VK5AHV during the year. The course required a significant amount of effort on the part of the presenter and at the subsequent exams, 3 people were successful in gaining Standard or Advanced Licences.

The Club's repeaters at the Watertower and Lower Light have continued to give good service with the RLZ 2m and 70cm repeaters having been replaced with more modern Tait units. Some maintenance work on the Lower Light 70cm repeater has improved its performance. A new Tait repeater is being prepared for installation at the Lower Light site. The 6m repeater and the 23cm translator have not required any work. In conjunction with the replacement of the 70cm RLZ repeater, a new automated system of relaying the Sunday morning broadcast on the 70cm repeater was put into operation. This system is designed to do the relay without any intervention from Club members and has worked successfully. The repeater upgrades were largely as a result of work by Brian VK5VI of the NE Radio Club and Keith VK5OQ, with assistance from John VK5NI and others. The Club's 70cm repeater at Lower Light has been connected to Echolink by Joe VK5RQ.

Club members have given considerable time to assisting other groups and organisations. These include Scouts Australia with the Jamboree on the Air and Internet. JOTA stations were set up at Salisbury and Gawler Scout Halls to give Scouts a taste of radio communication. The Classic Adelaide car rally and Rally SA have also been supported by Club members. In addition, an amateur radio station has been set up at Craigmore High School with input from Club members. The school expects to have an amateur radio contact with the International Space Station early in 2009 using equipment at the school. A donation was made to assist the Roxby Downs Radio Club to establish a 2m repeater in the town.

A significant effort by Club members for the John Moyle Field Day saw a large station established in a park in Elizabeth Vale and 99 contacts were made under the club callsign. This relatively small number belies the enjoyable time had by all who attended. Club members also took part in Spring and Summer Field Days.

A Club website has been set up by Dave VK5ADC and Andrew VK5AKH at www.earc.org.au. The site gives information about the Club's activities and repeaters, meetings, nets and broadcasts.

Next year, 2009 sees the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club and we need to start some serious planning to celebrate this milestone in an appropriate way.

Keith Gooley
VK5OQ
President, Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club
4th November 2008