

Orana Region Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Day trip to Boona Mountain Repeater on Saturday 22nd June, 2013

Present: Joshua Beahan, James Cameron, Petria Cameron, Peter Ferrari, Bob Fullerton, Noel Kirk.

Apologies: Jon Bennett, Ross Fraser, Scott Habgood, Jeff Wilson.

The weather was pleasant, the access road passable in 4WD, great views, and plenty of time to talk.

Boona Mountain Repeater

The Club's repeater on Boona Mountain has the transmitter and receiver in separate locations, about 200 metres apart. The repeater is powered by solar panels and a battery bank.

Receiver Antenna

The tilt-over tower was lowered and the existing antenna was replaced with an Isopole antenna. The Isopole antenna was one of the original antennas on this repeater, and had been refurbished by Peter. See <http://www.repeater-builder.com/aea/pdf/aea-isopole-144-antenna.pdf> for more details on this unusually shaped antenna.

Thanks to Brett Barbary for trying out the new antenna for us.

Repeater Linking Radios

The link radios were turned off, as they were consuming power, but not being used.

The Club's three 2 metre repeaters used to be linked, so that, for example, someone in Coonabarabran could talk by radio to someone in Condobolin, via the Mt Cenn Cruaich, Sappa Bulga and Boona Mountain repeaters. When the repeater on Sappa Bulga was moved to Brocklehurst, the Sappa Bulga to Boona Mountain link was broken.

According to measurements made with the charge controller, the link radios were pulling 400mA at 12V, with the 2m radios pulling 100mA.

Equipment Check

The health of the battery and other equipment was tested.

Brett Barbary had reported that the repeater died after half an hour of continuous use. Several potential causes of the problem were ruled out. More pondering is required if the problem persists.

The battery was at 13.2V.

Fire Risk Reduced

Fallen branches, etc were relocated to reduce the fire hazard to the repeater equipment.

Thankyou

Thankyou to our hosts, Noel and Sharon Kirk.

Thankyou to Noel and Peter for bringing all the gear required to do the work.
Thankyou to everyone else who contributed to making the trip a success.