

Proposal for New ATV Studio

By ATV Experimenter's Group

1 June 2009

Background:

The ATV group has developed over the last three years into a dedicated group of about 10-15 regulars including amateurs and non-amateurs whose interest is in both Amateur Television (Analogue and Digital) and general radio and television related experimenting.

Many donations of equipment and ATV material have been made to the group from across the state and we acknowledge these donations and note that much of functionality that we have developed is due to these donations.

We have recently received a large amount of commercial television broadcast and test equipment from the ABC that we would like to put into service but space in the current location prevents us from doing this. This equipment is currently stored off-site.

This leads to our request to move the ATV studio into the back room of the garage to provide more space along with a quieter and more flexible studio environment.

Proposal:

Our proposal:

1. Construction of a stud wall with gyprock/plasterboard skin in the garage back room approximately 2.8 metres from the roller door to house the ride-on mower and existing shelving units (see attached layout). Re-hang the door on the other side of the current door-way to optimize the space;
2. The test bench in the back room would be brought into the repeater room along the Western wall to complement the existing long bench on the Eastern wall. Keith Millen's transmitter and the Micor repeater cabinet would be moved to the Northern end of the repeater room;
3. The ATV studio would then be moved (see attached scale layouts) into back room along with:
 - a. Supply and installation of a movable curtain to dampen the sound environment around the studio area;
 - b. The existing desk, cameras, control desk and equipment would be moved into the new area;
 - c. Installation of the existing close-up camera on the ceiling above the studio desk;
 - d. Supply and installation of two 19" racks for the video and joint audio & transmission components and monitoring/test equipment;
 - e. Supply and installation of cable conduit/trays to facilitate structured cabling between studio equipment and the ATV tower; and,

- f. Supply and installation by a qualified electrician of additional power points around the Southern and Western walls of the back room of the Garage and relocated workbench.

Moving the studio into the other area will provide the space for installation of the donated commercial TV equipment and further development of the facility as we move into the digital era of broadcasting. We have been able to test and experiment with digital ATV (DVB-S) over the last 4-5 months thanks to Jack Swart VK2TRF and we are currently assessing our options to continue this experimentation and move permanently to the DVB digital standard. The ATV group is currently evaluating the DVB-S and DVB-T standards with the view to making a purchase of a Digital ATV transmitter in the near future.

Peter Young VK3MV at the WIA AGM painted a disturbing picture about the 400MHz spectrum and therefore planning for movement off the analogue (400MHz) and into digital standard in a 2-4 year time frame is a realistic goal.

The new area will also not suffer from repeater fan noise and provide a more flexible space that will facilitate interviews with more than two people which is the limit currently. The sound reduction curtain will reduce interruptions from control room conversations within the studio area and this curtain can be drawn to facilitate a larger production area.

The time frame for the change over would be approximately two months and is a great winter activity.

Options:

Do nothing. However this does not address space, noise issues or the ability to utilise the donated commercial equipment.

We have consulted widely and received many ideas from a broad range of members in relation to the layout. The attached scale diagram of the proposed layout has taken many of these ideas into account and has built in some flexibility for future requirements and accommodated the existing shelving and current storage requirements along with the ride-on and push mower and not limit future options.

Recommendation:

Our proposal is to swap the ATV studio and the test bench area and install a wall in the back room as outlined in 1-3 above and the attached scale diagram.

We will supply the equipment and racks as outlined above and undertake all work to a professional standard.

The only assistance we are requesting from the Association is a contribution toward the stud wall timber to the order of \$150 and we will be supplying gyprock for both sides of the new wall.

One additional request is for a 600 ohm balanced line audio feed into Repeater Two. We can supply a fully isolated 600 ohm balance feed and PTT signal from the new audio rack and this would greatly improve the audio quality into R2 and reduce the amount of RF required within the Studio.

We are happy to discuss any aspect of this proposal and we look forward to the committee's approval to proceed.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Proposed ATV Studio Layout.

