

## **VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST**

**FOR SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2005**

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### **VK7 WIA DIVISIONAL HONOUR ROLL FINALISED**

I thank all those people who contributed to the finalisation of the WIA VK7 Divisional Honour Roll (1925 to 2004) especially Richard, VK7RO who was responsible for much of the research as Divisional Historian.

The VK7 Division Honour Roll is now being “set in gold” and will be hung in the Queen’s Domain clubrooms.

<http://reast.asn.au/wiaVK7honourroll.php>

73, Phil Corby, VK7ZAX, VK7 Advisory Committee Chair.

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### ***VK7 Events Calendar***

A quick heads-up on VK7 amateur activities in the next few months:

This weekend – REAST foundation course and assessment.

Dec 7 – REAST End of 2005 BBQ at Domain.

Dec 10 – NWTARIG BYO BBQ at Legion Park, Ulverstone.

Dec 14 – NTARC end of year BYO BBQ at Myrtle Park, Launceston.

February 2006 is AGM month in VK7.

And don’t forget the regular VK7 broadcasts:

Monday Nights at 19:30, Spectrum Tasmania is broadcast on 2, 40 & 80m;

The REAST Experimenter’s broadcast in the South on R2 & UHF CB on Wednesdays at 19:30,

Thursday Nights at 19:30, Spectrum Extra airs on 2 & 6m; and,

Thursday nights are the CHARCT Tassie Devil & Tassie Trout net from 20:00-20:30 and then the Quiz net commences and this all takes place on 3.585MHz.

If you have any events, meetings or gathering you would like publicised please let the VK7 News and Broadcast Coordinator know, details at the end of the broadcast.

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## **VK7 GIVE AWAY, FOR SALE & WANTED**

We see the return of the give away, non-commercial for sales and wanted section and we have a range of items this week:

### ***Give Away***

Charles, VK7PP now lets us know that there is some equipment from an deceased estate John Grace, VK7ZJG, which will be given away if someone wants it:

1 only tower approximately 6 - 7 metres

1 only vertical antenna Diamond type F-23A (maybe 6 metres )

1 only 3 element Yagi ( maybe 6 metres )

Contact: Charles, VK7PP on R2 or [charlespayne@keypoint.com.au](mailto:charlespayne@keypoint.com.au)

### ***For Sale***

Have for sale ICOM HF T-CEIVER Model IC775DSP,Built in power supply, auto atu,as new hardly used, one owner boxes manuals mic. etc.230-watts output. Doss 40-amp power supply built in volt & amp meters, new in box , Heil HMM-IC hand mic. for ICOM transceivers wired 8-pin,new in box. Contact Allen, VK7AN on 0417-354410 or email: [allen.burke@bigpond.com](mailto:allen.burke@bigpond.com)

For Sale a second hand all band HF 7 Element Log Periodic Beam. Boom length of this beam is 21 and half feet. The beam requires a little repair work in that 3 element mounting brackets need repair or replacing.

It is very reasonably priced and can be inspected at the QTH of Jim VK7OW at 15 James Street, Latrobe or alternatively give Jim a call on 6426 1520.

Joe, VK7JG is selling his antenna array comprising:

6M - 9Element M2 yagi 39Foot boom

2M - 15Element Jaybeam Quad Yagi 21 foot boom

432Mhz 88 Element Jaybeam about 15 feet long

The lot for \$600.00.

Buyer to collect. If interested contact Joe on R8 or 6327 2256

### ***Wanted***

Dave, VK7DM is looking for an FL101 CW filter to suit Icom 728. If you have one spare then please contact Dave VK7DM on R2 or 600ohm on 6244 4433.

Two Miniature B7G; seven pin valve sockets from the old battery valve receivers early 50 ' s. Phone Dale VK7DG on 6232 5756.

Damien is soon to be a Foundation Licensee and he is looking for a Yaesu 7800H 2m/70cm Rig and a Phillips FM900, Contact for Damien is 0410 927 060.

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## **VK7 REGIONAL BROADCAST**

### ***HF Rebroadcasters Needed***

We currently have a team of 20 people who put together, read and rebroadcast the VK7 Regional News each Sunday morning. This is a dedicated team who provide this service on a voluntary basis each Sunday on behalf of the VK7 Advisory Committee.

We welcome anyone who would be interested in helping out. We currently have spaces on the roster for 80, 40 and 20m rebroadcast stations. Especially 80 & 40m.

We have designs for patch boxes to connect VHF/UHF rigs to HF rigs and we can even make one up if required.

It's not an onerous job and a great way to blow the cobwebs from those HF rigs. I encourage those newfound standard licensees to please consider this? Our roster is structured so you only have to do it once a month.

If you are interested then let the VK7 Regional News and Broadcast Coordinator know, details at the end of the broadcast.

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## **NORTH WEST NEWS**

### ***North West Tasmanian Amateur Radio Interest Group***

<http://vk7ax.tassie.net.au/nwtarig/>

A brief report of NWTARIG General Meeting held 12 November.

Attendance at the meeting was very pleasing with 15 persons taking the time and interest to turn up and it was also great to see some of our newer members present.

The Membership Officer stated that the membership was now 36.

The main item on the agenda was the proposed Centenary Celebration of the first radio transmissions by Marconi across Bass Strait in 1906.

NWTARIG in conjunction with the GARC (Geelong Amateur Radio Club) and other public utilities would be running the Celebrations in July 2006.

A Steering and Planning Committee was formed and consists of the following: Tony VK7AX, Ron VK7RN, Ivan VK7XL, Winston VK7EM and Keith VK7YBP.

Bryan VK7KBE offered his service and expertise to organise all required antennae.

The meeting resolved to order a quantity of the new Foundation Licence Manuals for purchase and use by those interested in the Foundation Licence procedures and requirements.

It was also decided to run a club family picnic and BBQ day on Saturday December 10th. at Legion Park, Ulverstone.

(Those notes from Tony VK7AX - President NWTARIG)

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## **NORTHERN NEWS**

### ***Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club (NTARC)***

#### ***Northern Amateur "Does It Again".***

Barry Hill, VK7BE, has been awarded a Certificate Of Appreciation by Commander P Wilkinson of the Tasmanian Police Force in recognition of his commitment to the youth of Launceston when being interviewed by Police under the Youth Justice Act. Barry is committed to being on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week for callout by Police. Gee don't know what would be worst – a huge Sergeant or Barry Hill across the table hihi. Onya Barry!

NTARCs last meeting was the "Meet The Prez - Michael Owen" night which after talking to most attendees, seems to have gone of extremely well.

Michael filled us in (so to speak) with where the WIA is headed and the problems associated with the last 12 odd months and, I guess, put a different perspective on how the whole shabang operates. A most enjoyable night.

Next meeting - well get-to-gether - will be at Myrtle Park on December 14.

Bring your own everything! Myrtle Park is a picture perfect spot for just about anything you could think of - if you haven't been there then you

should definitely make the effort - and if you have then you will know exactly what is meant.

See you all there I hope.

Until next week

(David, VK7HAH NTARC Secretary)

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## **SOUTHERN NEWS**

### ***Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania***

<http://reast.asn.au/>

#### ***BPL***

As reported on the National WIA news there was notification recently on the ACMA website for two more areas where Aurora Energy is rolling out BPL infrastructure. This includes Burnie and Hobart in the 7000 postcode area.

A reconnaissance was undertaken this week of the Hobart roll-out areas and the results are available on the REAST BPL watch page.

<http://reast.asn.au/vk7bplwatch.php>

I encourage every amateur and 11m CB operator with mobile/portable equipment to head up to Mt Nelson or North Hobart and take a listen at what BPL sounds like and what it is doing to the HF spectrum. It is currently affecting the upper HF bands and is easily detected at the top of the bends and Federal St between Argyle and Letitia Sts.

#### ***Are you experiencing interference?***

<http://reast.asn.au/vk7bplwatch.php#whattodo>

If you believe you are being affected by BPL interference we suggest you take a listen to the many sound files that are available on the REAST website.

If these match the type of interference you are experiencing, and you wish to make a complaint then take a look at the website for the process, forms and contact details.

If you require assistance with making a complaint then please contact myself or a REAST Committee member.

We have distributed BPL information papers and there are copies of this paper available in the Domain clubrooms.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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### ***First Foundation Licence Course***

This weekend sees the first VK7 Foundation licence course and we have 14 people who expressed interest in the course. Yesterday (Saturday) was the training day including theory and hands-on practical and both today (Sunday) and next Sunday are the Foundation written and practical examinations.

Experience on the mainland has indicated that about 5-6 written and practical examinations can be done a day so we have spread it over the next two Sundays.

If you wish to reserve a place for the next available session in January 2006 please complete an application form available on the REAST web site or contact me: Reg Emmett VK7KK on 6248 6824 or [regemm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:regemm@ozemail.com.au).

<http://reast.asn.au/amateurradio.php#exams>

I now have a quantity of Foundation Licence manuals available. Please contact me if you would like to purchase one.

(Reg, VK7KK)

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### ***Do we have a club project?***

Information on The Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society's dual band J-pole antenna project has been available at the clubrooms over the past few weeks.

Justin VK7TW has one and took it along to the Sewing Circle barbeque for inspection - raising further interest.

The antenna is a dual J pole design with a common driven element for both antennas and two grounded resonator rods. All made from 10 millimetre aluminium rod and mounted on 6 millimetre aluminium angle.

A quite robust piece of gear with good performance over wide bandwidth. Gain is said to be better than a quarter wave whip. A ground plane is not required but mounting on a well grounded metal pole is recommended.

We've priced up the components and come up with about twenty five dollars. The final figure depends on choice of connector and how many are made.

Dale VK7DG has offered to turn up the plastic insulators for the driven element. Other machining of parts would best be done on a small lathe but two small deep holes could be drilled and the element threads die cut.

If there is enough interest we have a couple or three choices:

One - bulk buy the material, cut it up and supply on a do it yourself basis,

Two - divide up the work amongst those equipped to do it then hold a put together day,

Three - given a suitable workshop - hold a full blown manufacturing day from go to wo.

Options two and three might include making a few extras for sale at a small margin with the profit going towards future projects.

If you're interested please contact Gavin VK7HGO, Dale VK7DG or Roger VK7ARN.

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### ***2006 Callbooks***

Dale, VK7DG lets us know about callbooks for REAST.

We have ordered 23 callbooks this year for REAST and will be selling them on a first come first served basis. There are a few people who have already reserved one so, get in quick!

If you would like to purchase one then please contact me on R2 or via email at [vk7dg@wia.org.au](mailto:vk7dg@wia.org.au). Cost is \$22.00 for WIA member or \$30.00 for non-WIA member picked up from the Domain.

(Dale, VK7DG, REAST Secretary)

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### ***How about doing some simple homebrewing?***

If we think about the increasing number of Foundation licence aspirants that will soon be visiting the clubrooms how useful would it be to have a resource pool of simple gizmos to illustrate some of the basics.

If you have any about the shack or the workshop or fancy building something simple to illustrate a point or two of theory or to practice a basic skill then give it a go and bring it along to the clubrooms.

But please - no junk - just items of interest to people starting out, especially the younger end.

The more bells, whistles and flashing lights the better.

(Roger, VK7ARN)

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### ***Experimenter's ATV Broadcast***

As heard on the National WIA news, last Wednesday night from the domain there was a simulcast of ATV on 444.25MHz with sound carrier on 449.75MHz and audio was also put out on Repeater 2.

The material was the hour long talk by Michael Owen, VK3KI, WIA President given to REAST a week ago.

Tony, VK7AX was our very welcome guest and watched the Michael's presentation along with Ian, VK7ZIF and Graham, VK7ZGK. We had 8 reports including video and audio reports and a couple of UHF CB callbacks as well.

Interestingly, we were running the AHARS dual band j-pole antenna mounted on top of an extension ladder in a location favouring West Hobart, Moonah and Glenorchy.

This week will be a couple of RSGB Amateur Radio Promotional videos and will be approximately 30 minutes long. We look forward to your vision and audio reports.

(Ken, VK7DY)

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### ***REAST Visits/Presentations/Meetings***

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php>

Now Justin, VK7TW tells us of REAST happening:

Firstly, a get-well soon call to John, VK7JK who ended up in hospital last week after a fall. We send you our get well soon wishes, look after yourself John!

Good luck to all our Foundation Licence course attendees this weekend. You are in very good hands with Reg, VK7KK our REAST Education Officer.

The third REAST newsletter hit member's email mailboxes and letter boxes this week. It is another jam packed edition with 11 pages of info and photos of club happening, history and even some practical home-brewing hints. I am always looking for anything for the newsletter so, if you come across something that you think is interesting chances are that other club members will think it is interesting so, SEND IT IN to me!

Our December meeting is an end of year social gathering at the Domain with a BYO BBQ and gathering starting at 6pm. 2005 is our first full year of REAST and we want to make this a REAL celebration of a most successful year. See you there.

Till next time...

(73 Justin, VK7TW, REAST President)

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## **GENERAL INTEREST**

### ***Is it Possible to be a Ham Radio Contest Addict?***

by Robert Calver VE3UUH

If we use the criteria of other forms of addiction the answer to this question quite simply put is yes. How would we know if we or someone we love is a contest addict? Like other addictions the changes are subtle in the beginning but the warning signs become more transparent and obvious as this addiction develops. Some of the early signs are a lack of interest in other hobbies or interests. This progresses to a lack of interest in friends, work and family. The contest addict will avoid more and more social or family events. His/her need to be involved in more and more contests grows until they are involved in the most miniscule or insignificant contest. They are now living, breathing and functioning from one contest to another to the detriment of their own personal lives.

Who becomes the "Contest Addict" well science alone can not answer this question as it could be the result of many factors, genes, social environment or learned behaviour. The Contest Addict is someone who needs to come out on top and he/she is trying to impress people and validate personal worth based on achievements. The bigger the score, the more important the person feels, but why this need to gain self esteem ? The answer may be that this person is compensating for some real or perceived shortcoming. This shortcoming could be sexual, emotional, physical or the result of some early trauma in this person's life that left them feeling inadequate.

Not every person who is a contester is a "Contest Addict" just as not every person who has a social glass of wine is an Alcoholic. When your world revolves around nothing but contests, how big your score was and you have lost track that you have a wife/husband, family, kids, the fact is you have a serious problem. I have met at two ham radio fleamarkets in the last couple of years people who have lost it all. I do mean lost it all, wife is gone they are divorced and other than the radio equipment pretty well bankrupt. I notice the same names and callsigns in Canada over and

over again in every contest even the most obscure ones and the first thought that comes to mind is "The Contest Addict". Like anything else in life Contesting taken in moderation can be a good thing for you and will help to channel competitive urges and even minor aggressive behaviour into an appropriate arena.

When you can not remember the last time you took your significant other out for a meal, or you had some quality time with your children. When all you can do is live, breath and excrete contests you are becoming one dimensional and obsessive. When this activity gets in the way of your family, personal life, your day to day functioning it is time to get some help. What price are you willing to pay to be number one in the CQWW, ARRL sprint or whatever contest ? Life is about balance, whether it is the consumption of food, sleeping, dieting, exercising. Balance produces peace, harmony and is conducive to a longer and more rewarding life.

(Bob Calver, VE3UUH who is also a Youth & Behavioural Counselor via the Canadian Amateur Radio Bulletin (CARB))

<http://www.hfradio.net/bulletin/oct3005n.html#addict>

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If you are interested in becoming an amateur radio operator or upgrading your licence then we suggest you take a look at what the Radio and Electronics School has to offer. They have a range of courses that can be delivered through a variety of methods.

They can be found at: [www.radioelectronicschool.com](http://www.radioelectronicschool.com)

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Finally today, a reminder to those people rostered for next week's broadcasts

Newsreader: VK7TW

80m: 80m Group

40m: VK7SA

20m: VK7AR

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7ZCR

HF CB: VK7HDS

Thanks to all people and organisations who assisted with this broadcast.

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NEWS FOR THE VK7 REGIONAL BROADCAST CAN BE SENT TO  
THE BROADCAST COORDINATOR, JUSTIN, VK7TW

BY EMAIL [justingc@ozemail.com.au](mailto:justingc@ozemail.com.au)

OR BY PHONE 6223 1351

OUR REGIONAL BROADCAST HOME PAGE WHICH INCLUDES A  
TRANSCRIPT OF THIS BROADCAST AND OTHER INTERESTING  
FACTS AND FIGURES CAN BE FOUND AT [REAST.ASN.AU](http://REAST.ASN.AU)

THE DEADLINE TO GET ITEMS TO THE COORDINATOR FOR  
THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST IS 21:00 ON FRIDAY  
PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY OF THE BROADCAST.