

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST 2006

WIA ANNOUNCES CLUB GRANTS FOR 2006

As announced on the WIA National news the President of the WIA, Michael Owen announced on August 17 the grants to be made to WIA Affiliated Clubs under the Club Grants Scheme for 2006.

Notably five grants were made and it included a \$1,900 grant to the Northern Tasmania Amateur Radio Club.

The grant is being used toward the purchase of a commercial diplexer to allow mounting of the transmitter and receiver antennas at single point on its Mt Barrow site, covering a wide area of Tasmania. This grant is subject to the condition that the club can, within 6 months, satisfy the WIA that it can either access the funds to complete the purchase or find another source for the diplexer with the grant.

Congratulations to NTARC.

The full report of the Grant Committee can be found on the WIA website.

The Board thanks all who offered proposals for consideration, and particularly thanks the members of the Grant Committee for a detailed, carefully considered and well presented report.

<http://www.wia.org.au/news/2006/20060817-01.php>

(Sourced from the WIA Web Site)

VK7 RD LOGS

As also heard on the WIA National News – September four is the deadline for submitting your RD log to the contest manager.

It is even more important that you submit your log this year as it solely relies on the number of logs and contacts made in each state!

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE submit your log!

If that sounds desperate, you're right and as a certain sports company say...**JUST DO IT!!!**

(Justin, VK7TW)

TRANS/TASMAN 160M RESULTS PUBLISHED

The Complete and Concise Final Results for the 2006 160 Metres PHONE and CW Contests have been published.

The winner in the phone section was VK3IO and the winner in the CW section was ZL6QH.

There were 42 ZLs and 108 VKs in the Phone section and 15 ZLs and 30 VKz in the CW section.

Thanks to you all.

(73's, Bruce Renn, VK3JWZ - Contest Manager)

It was great to see quite a few VK7s participate in the contest notably – Vince, VK7VH who came fifth in the phone section. Franck, VK7CK who came 21st and Roger who came 25th. Martin, VK7GN came fifth and Richard VK7RO came 19th in the CW section.

On ya Guys!

BPL NEWS

Latest BPL Emission Report Released

The third round of measurements have just been released from the Tasmanian BPL trial from the Mt Nelson, Tolmans Hill, North Hobart and Mount Stuart trial areas. There is also a new area within the Suburb of West Hobart that we have detected emissions from.

The VK7BPL Watch pages also contains a second round of measurements taken in Burnie on the North West coast of Tasmania. The address is available on the email and internet editions of this broadcasts.

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

In the Hobart trial areas there is continuing degradation of the noise floor, caused by emission levels ranging from 5dB (3 times higher) to 37dB (5,000 times higher) above the measured ambient noise floor (level).

In the Burnie trial the degradation of the noise floor continues with emission levels ranging from 9dB (8 times higher) and up to 42dB (15,850 times higher) than the measured ambient noise floor.

The nightmare continues.

Ever thought of going HF portable in Hobart, try it the trial areas and experience first hand the interference levels created by BPL technology!

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

VK7 FOR SALE AND WANTED

This week we see some interesting items in our non-commercial for sale and wanted segment:

Tom VK7LF is keen to find a new owner, especially a recent F or Standard call, for his:

Kenwood TS-820 at \$800

Kenwood TS-120V at \$200

Yaesu FT-707 at \$350

All in excellent condition, with some accessories. If interested give Tom a call 6295 0950.

Don VK7LDH has an Icom IC751 transceiver in very good condition and good working order.

Recently fully serviced by technician in Adelaide with new internal memory battery installed. Original matching power supply also available Icom PS30, again in very good condition. Selling as I have purchased a new radio. \$950.00 the lot, or radio \$750.00 on its own. Please note I will not sell the power supply separately.

Don can be contacted on 0427-016052 or email: hody@dodo.com.au

NORTHERN NEWS

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

The last meeting was a real hoot with the talk being antennas.

Stuart and Phil did great presentations which were quick and full of useful tit-bits that are sure to have stirred some enthusiasm.

Membership reached 69 on the night with 2 new members, and with another signing on Friday, we are really striding ahead, and with WIA membership at almost 60% it's not doing to badly at all!

Next month's meeting will be a dinner meeting at the TAFE cafeteria with special guest speaker Mr David Murray, a senior executive with Centre Link. Come and hear the latest info and legislation and what you can and can't do with your savings to maximise your benefits.

All this and a meal to boot! Cost will be around the \$20 per person, a small price to pay for a feed and the information you are sure to pick up.

Please let Al - VK7AN - know if your coming and bringing the XYL so he can arrange for the catering.

Foundation Licences.

Next exam will be on the first Friday in Sept - so start studying!

There is a new WIA assessor in Tassie! Peter Rumble - VK2IY - has seen the light and moved here permanently setting up base in the North West at South Riana. Peter is also a facilitator for Ron Bertrand's Radio and Electronics School, so if your thinking of upgrading your licence then he could be just the man to see. Peter can be contacted on 6437 6280. If your in the NW and want to sit your Foundation license, then there is now someone local.

Special Note.

Bill - VK7MX - is about to place another bulk order for those 2m or 70cm handhelds. You've probably seen them advertised for \$99 but - hold your money!

Bill will do them for the discounted price of just \$92 each. There are quite a few of them doing the rounds and they are performing as well as "the big boys" are, at a much reduced price. Accessories are cheap as chips too so if your after a 2 or 70cm portable you'd be mad to miss out on these. If you'd like one, register your interest with Bill on repeater 8 at the end of this broadcast.

Until next week,

(73, David VK7YUM, NTARC Secretary)

SOUTHERN NEWS

Snug Tiers Repeater 7RHT

Work has been completed to overcome recent signal degradation.

Both RHT and RAD use the same type of antenna - Diamond X-300 and have both have experienced similar problems related to the location of the antenna base in its mounting tube.

The base is held in the tube by a single grub screw.

Wind exposure causes looseness and movement of the base in the tube.

RHT has been reinforced by splitting the mounting tube and fitting a stainless steel clamp to secure the base in the tube.

This will be monitored and if it proves a long term solution the same modification could be made to to R2 RAD.

(Roger VK7ARN)

Repeater Six (7REC) Still Needs Your Help!

Donations are still being received for the repeater 6 upgrade which is being undertaken by Joe VK7JG, Alan, VK7ZAR and many other volunteers. VK7REC is on Snow Hill and covers the East Coast, Southern Tasmania and even as far as Burnie! This repeater was originally installed and maintained by the Bruce Amos VK7ZBA now sadly silent key.

There is currently \$215 that has been donated by generous amateurs so it is now up to the users of R6 to contribute to this maintenance/upgrade work. Please seriously consider donating to assist in the upgrade of this repeater.

Donations can be sent to REAST and these will be forwarded on.

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania

WICEN at Southern Tasmanian Endurance Riders Event

WICEN's Channel group provided checkpoint communications around, that is around, not in, the Wielangta forest and the coast south of Rheban.

VK7s ARN, BW, FDNA, HAW, JGD, MBD, NXX and ZZ headed for the East Coast last weekend to enjoy an early rise - like 0400 and the relatively relaxed pace of horse endurance riding.

Unfortunately the relaxation also seems to cover passing of some of the information necessary to planning and organising a communications system capable of meeting requirements - without last minute run arounds.

This year, early planning was thwarted allegedly by stag horn beetles, swift parrots and wedge tail eagles, the presence of which imposed late restrictions on our access to the most difficult of the checkpoints.

An alternate access plan was developed and organised, only to suffer a last minute change when the keys to the gate to beetle country were unexpectedly made available.

This is where the Amateur network proved it's worth.

Mobile phone coverage at our location was zero but RAF could be accessed.

VK7HGO heard our calls and contacted VK7MBD still at home in Kingston and ready to depart well pre sparrow, to access the wayward checkpoint from the south, thus avoiding the beetles etc.

The new arrangements were passed and Bruce and friend Essie joined us on Saturday via the northern route to pick up the gate key. Here's the twist. The track has two locked gates and, you guessed it, the key only opened one of them.

So back track through beetle country, head south, and in the way originally planned before all the heartache of the previous evening.

The checkpoint was being established just as the first horses and riders arrived, so none were missed.

Our set up included a 2 metre repeater at the Three Thumbs Lookout, together with an APRS digipeater.

Base was at the shearing shed on the Ringrove property and included a PC displaying the positions of the checkpoint vehicles.

Comms with the southern checkpoint were a little scratchy via the repeater - the late arrival prevented optimal positioning - so a 40 metre relay filled the gap.

Four checkpoints were covered by three teams, stretched to four due to another late change in ride arrangements.

VK7s JGD and FDNA were separated and FDNA established in ARN's trailer at the road side with a portable pack radio.

This set up took place well before dawn when temperatures were at the overnight lowest.

FDNA had expected to be sat in a heated vehicle and dressed accordingly.

An almost Pan Pan call to Base, claiming the loss of both feet to frost bite and rising rapidly to include lower legs and knees, resulted in the delivery of a sleeping bag.

A suggested alternative involving the use of the still warm residue of the passing of the first horses was rejected.

A few frustrations but a nevertheless enjoyable and successful deployment.

(Roger, VK7ARN, WICEN Southern Coordinator)

REAST Education

Congratulations to Steve VK7FSRC, Peter VK7FTAZ, and Greg VK7FGGT who qualified for a foundation license and Harvey VK7HLE and John VK7HJS a standard license on 30 July assessment sessions.

If you are interested in taking the Foundation Licence course examination then please complete an applications form that can be found on the REAST Web Site.

http://reast.asn.au/2006/Training_application_May_06.pdf

We now have stocks of all classes of examinations and Foundation Licence Manuals and CD's are available for purchase at McCann's Model World in Elizabeth St. Hobart at \$20.

More information from Reg, VK7KK on 0417 391 607

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

REAST Meetings & News

Justin, VK7TW updates us on REAST happenings....

If you were up early, around 6:15am, on Friday morning you may have heard the dulcet tones of Roger VK7ARN on Ric Paterson's program on ABC local radio. Roger was talking with Ric about the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend.

Roger and crew have been operating a ILLW station using VK7OTC at Cape Bruny lighthouse AUS-024. On ya Roger.

<http://illw.net/>

Whilst on radio programs I understand that Dave, VK7DM and Miles VK7MF, have been involved in an interview with a person researching a radio program on amateur radio's role during the 1967 bush fires. Excellent PR for our hobby, keep up the great work!

Our September visit is shaping up to be a visit not to missed. A guided tour of the National Foods milk processing facility at Lenah Valley. The focus will be on the modern computer controlled process electronics that is used in this factory with our tour guide Dale, VK7DG who is the engineer at the facility.

Please note there are some strict requirements associated with this visit. This is a modern milk processing facility and they are required to following a strict code of practise:

- Sturdy footwear preferably Blundstone style boots - There are some pretty nasty chemicals for cleaning and sanitation.
- Visitors must wear sensible clothing - absolutely NO shorts.
- No children or minors under the age of 12.
- Dale will be supplying dustcoats and hats which must be worn for the duration of the visit.
- ALL watches, jewellery including wedding bands must be taken off prior to the visit.
- Visitors must wash their hands on entry to the factory. (*We have currently a record of 120 days eColi bacteria free which we are proud of and diligent to retain and improve on*)
- Cameras and photos are not allowed.

Please respect the above requirements, this is a working facility and there has been a lot a work done by Dale to arrange this tour.

This will be a fascinating tour of a leading edge milk processing facility by the person who looks after the process electronics and mechanics.

See you there.

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

October is our focus on Men's Health and the inside line on all the issue with Dr. Michael Boxhall. Another not to be missed talk.

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

November will hopefully see the much awaited visit to Novaris to check our their surge generator and manufacturing facility at Kinston. Stay tuned for more.

(73 Justin, VK7TW, REAST President)

GENERAL NEWS

2.4GHz and 10GHz distance report

On Saturday August 5, VK2ZTY and VK2TRF completed a record of 195.2 Km through a 2415MHz ATV QSO. Nick, 2ZTY was located on Mt Nardi, North of Lismore and Jack 2TRF with Dan, 2GG, were at a point about 40Km west of Dorrigo near Ebor.

Nick used 25W into a 22dB gridpack antenna while Jack had 18W into an identical antenna.

Picture quality at both ends was P5++ meaning no noise or interference at all.

2 days later, Jack travelled to Mt Nardi with his 10GHz gear and Dan was joined by Gary, VK2UNI. After waiting most of the day for rain to clear along the path (10GHz doesn't like getting wet on a direct path) contact was made just before 4pm. A 2 way QSO was completed with P4 signals at the Mt Nardi end and P3 signals at the Dorrigo end.

Dan used a 1.2m dish for RX while Jack used a 1W TX into a 17dB horn about 3 inches across.

Dan then fired up his 200mW TX into his 60cm dish and Jack received the signals on another 17dB horn.

Both systems were on 10236MHz.

The 10GHz path was 194.4 Km as Jack had to descend the mountain to avoid some trees which are impervious to 10GHz.

Both of these contacts are, as yet, unofficial VK records.

(Jack Swart via the Tassie-ATV mailing list)

ACMA NEWS

Mobile Phones from Planes Trial in Australia

The ACMA on Friday 4 August 2006 through a Special Australian Government Gazette notified a quarantine on Scientific Assigned apparatus licences on the frequencies 825-845 and 870-960MHz for the for the purposes of trialling radiocommunications devices designed to facilitate the operation of mobile phones in a particular manner on-board aircraft in flight.

The ACMA is seeking comments about the amendment to the Declaration as proposed. Representations should be in writing and addressed to:

The Manager, Regulatory Development Section, Pricing and Policy Branch, Australian Communications and Media Authority

PO Box 78, BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Or email: radiocommunications.licensing.policy@acma.gov.au

(Australian Government Gazette via Gavin, VK7HGO)

BPL NEWS

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

Newsreader: VK7IR

80m: VK7TW

40m: VK7SA

20m: VK7AR

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7HGO

HF CB: VK7FTML

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

DETAILS TO SEND NEWS FOR THIS BROADCAST CAN BE FOUND AT REAST.ASN.AU AND THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS IS 21:00 ON FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY OF THE BROADCAST.