

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST 2006

VK7 RD LOGS

You only have until September four to submit 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!!!

VK7 Needs Your Support!!!

VK7 FOR SALE AND WANTED

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

Gary Pfeiffer of Scamander Drive, Scamander.

1 x 20 amp home brew power supply

1 x Hills 40 foot telomast

1 x HF ATU

1 x 70 meg. fibreglass ant.

1 x 5 element 6-metre beam.

Various components eg. variable caps, .alum tubing, alum. Sheeting and capacitors, etc.

Any offer accepted, must sell, items are to numerous to mention.

To get in contact with Greg phone 6372 5024 or 0407 931 810.

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.

NORTH WEST NEWS

North West Tasmanian Amateur Radio Interest Group

ISS Devonport Contact 18Aug2006

The long awaited contact with the ISS (International Space Station) between students of the Reece and Devonport High Schools in Tasmania took place at approx. 1040 UTC or 2040Hrs. Local time.

The contact was conducted using the Telebridge network located at the Devonport Reece High School Auditorium and the ground station W6SRJ located at the San Rosa Academy in California.

Approximately 100 people including students and parents, local radio amateurs and local dignitaries were in attendance at Reece to witness the event.

Plans were for a total of 20 questions to be asked of the Astronaut Jeff Williams alternatively, 10 from each school.

Initial contact was established at the scheduled time and students began to ask their questions.

Unfortunately there was only time to ask 6 questions before contact with the ISS was lost, the reason still not known!

There appeared to be a problem with communication between the ground station at W6SRJ and the Space Station.

This was rather disappointing, particularly for the students who had put a lot of preparation into the project over several weeks.

Due to many of the students unable to ask their question, a request has been made to ARISS and NASA for the possibility of another scheduled contact in a few months time to allow those students missing out on the experience to speak to the Astronauts.

Overall, the Contact was claimed as a success, with everything running smoothly at the Devonport end.

For those interested, a 20 Minute mp3 recording with edited highlights of the contact can be downloaded from the link that can be found on the email and internet editions of this broadcast.

<http://vk7ax.ausport.net/ftp/ISS-Devonport-18Aug2006.mp3>

The Contact was facilitated by the North West Tasmanian Amateur Radio Interest Group (NWTARIG) in conjunction with the Australian Co-ordinator Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI and was originally scheduled for 13th. July 2006 as part of the Marconi Centenary Celebrations, but was cancelled due to the delayed launch of the Space Shuttle.

Everyone is thankful to NASA for re scheduling the contact for 18 Aug.

(Report by Tony VK7AX)

Training and Assessments in N/West Area

We heard on the news last week that the North and North West of the state is now fortunate to have the facilities of a WIA Assessor in Peter Rumble VK2IY now residing in Riana.

Peter possesses all the requirements to conduct assessments and tests for Foundation, standard and advanced licences.

Anyone wishing to avail themselves or apply for any of these training and assessment sessions in the N/West Area should now contact NWTARIG in the first instance and not directly to Peter as previously suggested.

Enquiries should be directed to Tony VK7AX on 6425 2923 or Ron VK7RN 6424 6366

Alternatively email NWTARIG - nwtarig@spamex.com.

All necessary training material, Foundation Manuals can now be purchased or made available from the Club.

(73's from Tony VK7AX, President NWTARIG)

NORTHERN NEWS

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

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 so he can arrange for the

catering. And especially don't forget - its a mixed night so bring the ladies along!

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.

Until next week,

(73, David VK7YUM, NTARC Secretary)

Special Note from Bill, VK7MX.

Bill, VK7MX advises that he has received enough orders to warrant a further group purchase of Quansheng 2 metre and 70 cm 5 watt handheld radios. He will place the order this coming Tuesday morning. Delivery is expected at the start of the following week.

These are very worthy little rigs, as the owners from the first group purchase all attest. If you would like to take part and get a brand new handheld for \$92, a price at which you can afford to throw one in the glove box, lose or have stolen, you should contact Bill now by telephone on 6398 6100 or mobile 0409 608 183 or on Repeater VK7RAA after the broadcast.

Some of those being ordered next week are destined to become very compact APRS stations, combining with postage stamp sized GPS engines and TinyTrak terminal node controllers. Hopefully, if lost, these rigs should be easily found, along with their owners?

This offer is not limited to members of NTARC. It is open to any interested VK7 but you should act now. Any further group purchase will be entirely dependent upon there being sufficient interest at the time. The arrangement relies upon sufficient quantities being ordered to make the effort viable.

(Cheers from Bill VK7MX)

SOUTHERN NEWS

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend - 2006

Roger VK7ARN reports on the WICEN groups International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend - 2006 - operating at Cape Bruny as VK7OTC/p.

We contacted 21 of the 30 Australian lighthouses listed as entries, plus another seven not listed. Some of these were multiple contacts on different bands. Three of the six listed New Zealand entries were also contacted.

Approximately 130 non-lighthouse contacts were made including Ken K6SAD in California - at 5 and 9 on 20 metres.

Conditions were generally poor. Several Australian and US stations commented on disappointing results. Oddly, there were contrary reports from Manukau lighthouse in New Zealand with 1,400 contacts and the Falkland Islands with 580 QSOs in 46 countries.

Our station was manned throughout the 48 hours but there were long quiet periods.

This was a return to Cape Bruny after a two year absence. The weather seems to follow a two year pattern because the wind was almost as strong as in 2004 but the temperatures were lower, so about the same wind chill.

The crew was bigger and the amateur status of some had risen. VK7's ARN Roger, FAME Steve, FRAE Rhonda, MBD Bruce, TPE Peter and ZZ John with support crew Maureen and 'Essie' headed overseas and south to Cape Bruny to be hosted by Lighthouse Keeper Andy VK7WS. Operating under the REAST call sign VK7OTC/p, four stations were established in the lighthouse environs.

John VK7ZZ was at the base of the lighthouse working mainly 40 metres on his Kenwood 430S and MFJ AT300 with a FAMPARC multi-band whip, which out performed a long wire strung to the top of the lighthouse.

Bruce VK7MBD and Essie were half way up the hill to the lighthouse, focussing on 20 metres, working his vehicle mounted IC-706MkIIG on a long-wire via AH4 tuner.

Peter VK7TPE worked 80 metres, on his 706MkII with a long-wire and AH3 tuner. He worked in the car park not far from the comforts of our warm base in the No.2 Keeper's cottage where Roger VK7ARN's Icom 706MkIIG was set up via an Icom AT-180 tuner to the Off Centre Fed dipole strung between two masts. This station was established mainly for

listening around the bands to pass likely contacts via 2 metres to those "out in the cold". In the event, very little use was made of it.

Chris VK7FCDW and harmonic young Chris paid us a visit on Sunday morning and joined us for the VK7 broadcast, which was best heard on 160 metres AM, getting in with a good strong signal. This was followed by a tour of the lighthouse - guided by Andy and much enjoyed by those who took time off the main business at hand.

With the exception of John VK7ZZ, the group departed for the mainland mid Sunday afternoon. John remained on station until close of business at 10:00 local on Monday, but found conditions worse than ever. The only new station of interest, a German lighthouse, was busy for a long time and just as things were quietening down and John thought he was in with a chance, the Woodpecker started up and that was the final straw.

Though not the most productive, the weekend experience was enjoyed by all with a return planned for 2007.

Special thanks to Andy VK7WS and his XYL Beth and to Parks and Wildlife Tasmania.

(Roger, VK7ARN)

IRLP Node Anti-Social Behaviour

Some may have noticed that there is some very anti-social behaviour going on with the IRLP node 6720 on RAD/RHT. This person down-links IRLP connections when amateurs use the node.

One of the advantages of our RAD/RHT linked repeater arrangement is that we can locate the area the signal is coming from and it appears to be in the VK7RHT area and with the help of amateurs within that area we can find where the signal is emanating by using direction finding techniques. So if you hear an unexpected DTMF, "73" please log the time, date, strength and if possible direction so we can build a picture of where this signal is emanating from and refer it to the ACMA.

Jing Tong Hand Helds.

REAST currently has a few Jing Tong Handhelds available for purchase by 'F' Calls. Cost for 'F' Calls who are currently REAST members is \$70, and \$85 for non-members, that will also include membership until the next subscription period. Enquires can be made to the secretary by email - secretary@reast.asn.au

Professional Conduct

Due to the increasing number of licensees, the REAST Committee wishes to restate that there is an expectation of all operators to maintain professional behaviour as outlined in the Radiocommunications License Conditions Determination.

(REAST Committee)

Targa Tasmania recognises long serving WICEN members

Targa's latest Officials' Newsletter includes Gavin VK7HGO and Rod VK7TRF in the list of those achieving 10 years as a Targa Official following their participation in 2006 the fifteenth Targa Tasmania.

On ya Guys.

(Roger VK7ARN)

REAST Education

Next Examination for all grades and Foundation Training will be held at the REAST Clubrooms on Saturday 9 September from 9:00 am. Contact Reg Emmett 0417 391 607 to book a place.

And remember Foundation Licence Manuals and CD's are available for purchase at McCann's Model World in Elizabeth St. Hobart at \$20.

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

REAST Meetings & News

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

Our September visit in two week's time 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 in excess 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)

BPL NEWS

Demand For HF Radio Strong

ASX-listed communications equipment manufacturer, Codan, revealed this interesting fact in its full year results released on 17 August 2006.

"Demand for HF radio arising from world security concerns remained strong. Sales revenue was less than FY05 but was the second highest annual sales ever achieved."

Global security concerns were expected to deliver higher sales of HF equipment during the 2007 financial year, the company said.

Makes you wonder how BPL deployments may impact "global security concerns".

BPL proponents have been pushing the line that demand and use of HF radio is low and declining.

Get the facts from the Codan website address that can be found on the email and internet edition of this broadcast.

<http://www.codan.com.au>

(Roger Harrison via the Spectrum mailing list)

GENERAL NEWS

Some Maths Humour

Some humour to finish off today's broadcast:

London 11th August - A public school teacher was arrested today at Gatwick Airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set square, a slide rule, and a calculator.

At a morning press conference, Home Secretary John Reid said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the Met Police with carrying weapons of maths instruction.

"Al-gebra is a problem for us," Reid said.

"They desire solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in a search of absolute values. They use secret code names like 'x` and `y` and refer to themselves as `unknowns,` but we have determined they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with co-ordinates in every country.

As the Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, "There are 3 sides to every triangle".

When asked to comment on the arrest, Prime Minister Tony Blair, speaking from his holiday resort before the planes stopped flying, said, "If God had wanted us to have better Weapons of Maths Instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes."

(Courtesy of Roger VK7ARN via the OZAPRS Mailing list)

If you are interested in becoming an amateur radio operator or upgrading your licence then we suggest you contact your local club for details or 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

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.

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.