

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2006

Seasons Greetings to all on frequency and we hope you have a happy, safe and relaxing New Year from the VK7 Regional News Team.

EXCEPTIONAL XMAS CONDITIONS ON 2 METERS

On 22 and 23 December 2 meters was open in many directions from VK7 with Joe VK7JG working VK6AO in Perth Western Australia for a new VK7 2 meter record at around 2964 km. Joe's contact seems to be a combination of Sporadic E and tropo-ducting while most other contacts were single hop Sporadic E.

Norm, VK7AC, worked ZL and VK2, 4 and 5 from the North and in the South Rex VK7MO, Ian VK7ZIF and Scott VK7HSE were working pile-ups with the following stations worked:-

On Friday 22 December: VK4KDD, VK4WS, VK4ZBH, VK4APG, VK4ZAA, VK2YO, VK4ADM, VK4EME, VK5AKK, VK5EME, VK5UK, VK5ZBK, VK5ZK.

On Saturday 23 December the following stations were worked: ZL4LV, ZL4DK, ZL3TY, ZL3NW, ZL3OZ, ZL3AAU, ZL3AIC, ZL3MF, ZL3CU.

Scott VK7HSE, worked ZL using only an omni-directional vertical and 50 watts.

2 meters opened again from Hobart on Boxing day when Rex VK7MO heard some weak signals on 144.1. This time he was minding his grandchildren who decided they could help Pa by twisting a few knobs!

Rex finally worked VK4KAY at Mackay at 2422 km and in a later email exchange the VK4 said he could tell Rex was excited. Rex responded that "what you heard in my voice was a combination of excitement and panic as I was minding my 2 and 4 year old grandchildren who were helping me adjust the radio and the 2 year old demanded a pooie nappy change in between when you first heard me and when we actually worked.

The panic was to complete the nappy change without getting it all over the carpet in the shack while at the same time trying to convince the four year old that it would not really help if he randomly adjusted every knob he could see.

While Rex worked only the one station in Boxing Day opening he also copied VK4FTDX near Mackay who was running only 10 watts.

(73 Rex, VK7MO)

MEET THE VOICE

The "Sewing Circle net" is sponsoring a "MEET THE VOICE" BYO BBQ at the ROSS Caravan Park on Sunday March 18 2007 and invite ALL amateurs state-wide to attend and take the opportunity of meeting those fellow amateurs with whom you have talked to or heard on Air but never met in person.

The invitation is extended particularly to amateurs who have joined our hobby in recent times. Here is a great opportunity for you and your families to get to know your fellow amateurs and take advantage of the help and knowledge that can be available to you from the many very experienced and friendly members of long standing.

The suggested time of the MEET THE VOICE BBQ will be 10.30am onwards - Registration, 11.30am -Group discussion on BPL, 12.30pm - BBQ and fellowship.

A cover charge of \$5.00 per amateur will be used to cover costs and any surplus will go to Repeater maintenance funds throughout the state.

A gas BBQ is available, and of course Ross is well known for it's abundance of top class Bakeries and Food stores.

We look forward to seeing you so, PUT ROSS SUNDAY MARCH 18 2007 IN YOUR DIARY NOW.

(73, Don, VK7AY)

IRLP/ECHOLINK ETTIQUETTE

Just a quick reminder when using IRLP or Echolink nodes about identifying yourself with a callsign prior to using IRLP or Echolink node.

This is a common courtesy and more importantly fulfils our requirements under the licence condition determination.

It also enables other stations to assist if you are having trouble with DTMF codes, noise or other node factors.

(73, Gavin, VK7HGO)

VK7 NON-COMMERCIAL FOR SALES AND WANTEDS

This week in our non-commercial for sale and wanted segment we have a few items for sale and a wanted notice and we start with the wanted notice from Tom VK7FTAA.

Tom is looking for a second-hand VHF marine radio. If you are prepared to part with one then please call Tom on 62297749 or mobile: 0414967954.

NTARC have for sale a number of Philips PRM8010 2M radios @ \$50.00 for a basic unit. Mike holders, mounting brackets and DC plugs missing. Ideal for APRS operation.

Contact Joe, VK7JG on R8 or VK7RAB if you want one.

Joe can also supply a LIMITED number of radios programmed with 10 frequencies and with a mike, DC plug and external speaker for \$65.00. Get in quick if you want one.

(73, Joe, VK7JG)

The antenna bases that Dave, VK7DM advertised in last week's broadcast sold like "hot cakes" at the REAST's Wednesday gathering. As a consequence there are only a couple left so get in early if you are after one.

The bases are complete with coax lead, connector and a boot mount bracket. All for 5 dollars. It may be possible to obtain some more in limited quantities, so if you do miss out you will need to let Dave, VK7DM, know ASAP.

All you will need is a whip with a standard fitting for the band you want to operate on.

(Dave, VK7DM)

NORTHERN NEWS

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

Just a quick reminder that the AGM is our next meeting. All positions are up for grabs - which one would you like? Contact Al for a nomination form.

As another year draws to a close, I'd like to thank the many who bring this broadcast out each week, the compilers, the readers, the rebroadcasters, the callback operators, thank you to them and all listeners I hope one and all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas, may Santa bring you all you deserve - HIHI

Until next week,

(73 David VK7YUM NTARC Secretary)

SOUTHERN NEWS

WICEN Volunteer Radio Ops Needed

The weeks leading up to Christmas saw a WICEN activation to assist the Tasmania Fire Service to operate radios at their Cambridge control centre.

This was just the start of what is expected to be a very busy fire season. We need more resources if we are to continue to be able to meet the challenge.

We only get short notice of the requirements and therefore we need to quickly call upon volunteers.

If we are to continue to be able to rise to the challenge it's essential that Amateurs pre-register as available to be called on. Please consider contributing to assist the many volunteers and professionals who protect our lives, property and environment.

All that's necessary is a little time and some knowledge of "prowords". They and the necessary procedures can be learned very quickly. Physical and most other limitations are not an issue. The shift teams are made up to provide a capable unit.

Please contact Roger VK7ARN or Gavin VK7HGO to register.

This to say that you may be contacted if the need arises not a commitment to specific times.

<http://wicen.taswireless.net/>

(Roger, VK7ARN, WICEN South Coordinator)

HF CB Re-Broadcasters Wanted

We are looking for some help to re-broadcast the Sunday broadcast onto channel 22 - HF CB. Do you have the ability to receive on two metres

and patch this through to your HF CB radio? This is all you need to do and take callbacks at the end of the broadcasts to find out how many were listening.

This would only be every 2nd or 3rd week so, if you are interested then please contact Damien on email at vk7hds@tasmail.com.

Damien lets us know he is now committed to full-time employment and this is putting quite a strain on Toby VK7FTML to cover for me every week.

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

(Cheers, Damien, VK7HDS)

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania

Secretarial Bits!

Apologies for the callsign caps that were ordered from Bill, VK7MX at the Hamfest, not being at the Domain. They will be there this Wednesday for collection.

The nominations form for REAST committee positions for 2007 is now available on the REAST site and I encourage everyone to consider nominating for an official or ex-officio position in the club.

Do you have a gift for administration, love dealing with people and know how to use a computer then the Secretary/Public Officer is a job for you! Please contact me if you are interested and would like more information about what the secretary does.

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

(73, Ben, VK7HAH, REAST Secretary)

REAST Happenings

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

Justin, VK7TW lets us know about REAST happenings....

Happy New Year for tomorrow,

2007 is already shaping up as a big year in amateur radio! REAST start the year officially with our Annual General Meeting which will be on Sunday February 11, 2006 at 11am followed by a special guest speaker and a BYO BBQ at the Domain clubrooms.

In March, Mike VK7DMH has offered to give us an illustrated talk on the history of Radio Control along with early equipment and some equipment Mike is rebuilding. This should be a fascinating talk.

I encourage everyone to attend the "Meet the Voice" gathering in Ross on the 18th of March. Then there is Novaris, the Met Bureau, the hands on project nights, the TasCOLT tour, the BPL fight and much, much more, as you can see 2007 is shaping up as a big REAST year.

We have already received two nomination for the committee and are looking forward to many others as we lead up to the AGM in February.

Just because we already have nominations doesn't mean you can sit back and think that the club doesn't need you! We need as many people as possible to lighten the load from already overloaded office holders. I encourage all financial members to consider nominating for an official or ex-officio position in the club.

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

I wholeheartedly thank all people who have been involved in the club and amateur radio in Tasmania in 2006 and especially all those people who regularly contribute, read, rebroadcast and callback to this broadcast for 51 week in the year.

Have a safe and restful New Year.

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

(73 Justin, VK7TW, REAST President)

GENERAL NEWS

Sydney Hobart Yacht Race Frequencies

For those along the East coast of Tassie and in and around Hobart who are interested in following the Sydney Hobart Yacht race as it happens then I suggest you monitor the following frequencies:

On HF try listening on 6516kHz with a secondary frequency on 4483kHz.

On marine VHF try on channel 16 and also keep an ear on channels 27, 81 & 82.

There are regular skeds with the yachts at 0735 and 1705.

Thanks to the AusRadio mailing list for that info.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AusRadio/>

Also a wider search of the Rolex Sydney Hobart website reveals an interesting story from the 2002 race where Army Signallers surveyed the race radio efficiency.

Signallers from the Army's 110 Signals Squadron have played an important, behind-the-scenes, role in the 2002 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, looking towards the future of race radio communications.

Three signallers, together with two Cruising Yacht Club of Australia volunteers, have spent the duration of the Race at Green Cape on the Far South Coast of New South Wales, assessing the quality of radio communications with the yachts, monitoring the twice-daily position reports and also talking by radio to a selected group of yachts.

In addition, the Rolex Sydney Hobart boats that participated in the trials, communicated with the Army Radio Station on other selected frequencies at pre-determined times to measure the effect of the frequency change and distance.

There were six boats in the trial that were supplemented by other boats that used the Army Radio Station to test their reception.

The Signals Squadron team used four different antennae and a variety of high-tech military radios to survey the strength and clarity of voice radio reports, from the start to the finish of the 630 nautical mile race.

The CYCA and the Army will analyse the data from the Army Signals Squadron's project at Green Cape which, in the case of the Rolex Sydney Hobart, could be an ideal position for a mobile land base.

Looking to the future, the CYCA is examining the role of the radio relay vessel and the future use of mobile land stations.

"This report will be distributed to all major yacht clubs in Australia to enable even greater efficiency of marine radio communications during an ocean race, of which there are many in Australia each year."

<http://rolexsydneyhobart.com/news.asp?key=714>

(Rolex Sydney Hobart Website & AusRadio Mailing list)

GENERAL NEWS

Fenarcom - The first amateur radio hamvention of Brazil

FENARCOM is an event conceived by Radiohaus Radiocomunicação. The idea of creating a Ham Radio Fair in Brazil came up many years ago, due to the need for such an event in our country.

Fenarcom is inspired by the American experience of the Hamvention held in Dayton, Ohio, which has been happening for over 50 years. It is considered to be the most traditional event for Amateur Radio Operators all over the world. Dayton became a worldwide capital for all Amateur Radio Operators. Every year, thousands of them visit the Dayton Hamvention, which is held in a huge Conference & Exhibition Center called Hara Arena.

The city of Indaiatuba meets all the requirements necessary to host an event like the one in Dayton. It provides easy air and land transportation has an excellent location, big hotel and food networks. Moreover, it is a very pleasant and organized city.

Naturally, (due to the size of the Brazilian market) we have no pretensions to hold an event as large as the one in the American city, but we do believe that Fenarcom will become traditional among Amateur Radio Operators all over Brazil.

Fenarcom is being supported by several exhibiting companies, including Icom, of which Radiohaus is an Authorized Dealer.

<http://www.fenarcom.com.br/>

(Ray Novak, N9JA and Erwin, PY2QI)

GENERAL NEWS

100th Anniversary of SOS

I'm sure many of you are aware that on the 3rd of November 2006 it was the 100th anniversary of the international distress signal SOS.

Many regional and national radio stations carried news stories about this. Interesting fact that I must admit to not knowing was that SOS did not stand for Save our Souls or as some think Save our Ship but in fact had no specific meaning at all, the letters SOS where chosen so the signal would not be misunderstood ...- - - , in fact before the use of this internationally agreed distress signal the most commonly used signal was CQD , CQ being used meaning the same as CQ now days i.e. a general call , and the D was added to mean Urgent.

www.fists.co.uk

(Sourced from KeyNote - Fists Newsletter for December 2006)

GENERAL NEWS

'You' named Time's person of the year

In an unusual move, Time magazine has designated millions of ordinary Internet users as its "person of the year".

The cover for the December 17 issue has a mirror surface to reflect the reader's face with the headline "You" and is dedicated to people who are creating items on the Internet.

Time editor Richard Stengel says what is known as user generated content (UGC) is changing society.

"Time's person of the year for 2006 is you, the consumers and creators of the user generated content who are transforming the information age," he said.

"From YouTube this year to MySpace, individuals all across the planet were changing the way we do business, changing the way we perceive each other, changing the way we perceive the work."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200612/s1813476.htm>

(Originally from the BBC and sourced from the ABC News Website)

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

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

Newsreader: VK7RS

80m: VK7ZK

40m: VK7TW

20m: VK7IL

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7ZCR

HF CB: VK7HDS

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

THAT CONCLUDES OUR VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST
FOR THIS WEEK.

YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO VK7WI. NEXT WEEK THE
NATIONAL WIA NEWS CAN BE HEARD AT 0900 FOLLOWED BY
THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS AT 0930 HOURS.

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.