

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2008

SILENT KEY

Sjoerd Jongens (Sojo) – VK7ASJ - Formerly VK7ZSJ/VK0SJ/ZL5BA

Tom Maggs and Alan Jeffrey (VK7KAJ) from the Australian Antarctic Division and Harvey Skegg VK7HK bring very sad news. Sjoerd "Sojo" Jongens died on Thursday 13th November in hospital in Amsterdam, surrounded by his family.

He did not regain consciousness after his push bike accident. He was a good mate and a tireless worker and a superb engineer, that "flying Dutchman".

Sojo was very involved in the 1983 Heard Island Dxpedition.

Sojo also worked for Greenpeace International and Alan sent through some words by one of his GPI colleagues:

Sjoerd Jongens joined Greenpeace in 1987, when he took on the job of radio operator at World Park Base in Antarctica -- a place he loved for its beauty, its solitude, and the clarity of its atmosphere as a transmission medium for radio waves.

He was a veteran of two winters in Antarctica with the Australian Antarctic Division (Mawson '80 and Maca '86) before he joined Greenpeace at World Park Base. He was most at home there or on the ocean, and he sailed with Greenpeace as a radio operator on many missions over the years, including voyages into the Southern Ocean to save the whales.

He moved back to his native Netherlands in 1989 and joined our international office as a new brand of staff member, a network support engineer. But that title hardly does justice to the role he played. I say this with the deepest affection: Sjoerd was all geek. His single-minded obsession with all things digital meant that he was constantly finding new ways to bend new technologies to Greenpeace's purposes, and he broke new ground for two decades.

Sjoerd foresaw that a new thing called " the internet" might be something we'd want to use in future, and he started a gopher, WAIS, and FTP server before back in the late 80s. He registered the domain www.greenpeace.org and put our first website up in 1992.

He set up our first web server on a second-hand 386 PC with a 20 megabyte hard disk running Xenix. Keychains today have more memory

than that, and Sjoerd was proud that his Linux skills allowed him to take a computer that most people would have thrown away, and not only make it work for Greenpeace, but turn it into a piece of cutting-edge technology.

He did a great deal for Greenpeace that will remain unsung -- both because he laboured so often in solitude and the nature of so much of his work was simply that it enabled others to do their's. All most people knew was that Sjoerd was the server master, a practitioner of dark digital arts, the guy who stayed late into the night and made it all work. And the guy who couldn't take a vacation, because his beloved machines, like pouting pets, would throw a fit whenever he left the office and refuse to work for anyone else.

He was possibly the grumpiest support person in the history of IT support. And yet beloved by everyone who caught a glimpse of the heart behind the gruffness. His managers, myself among them, quickly learned to keep him close to the computers, far from the staff. Mike Townsley once approached him to say he was having trouble with his laptop. "No, Mike. I suspect we'll find that your laptop is actually having trouble with you," was the unironic response.

There was a rainbow over Amsterdam yesterday morning, about the time Sjoerd would have been setting off on his last journey. I take some comfort in the thought that it may have been among the last things he saw, and in imagining that it might have been a tiny farewell gesture from the Earth, to one of the gentlest of her Rainbow Warriors.

Sojo was due back in VK7 for Christmas and was to have Christmas lunch with Harvey VK7HK and family, it is a great loss to all who knew him.

Vale Sjoerd.

(Tom Maggs, Alan VK7KAJ, Harvey VK7HK and Greenpeace International)

WSPR WORLD RECORDS TUMBLING

VK7DIK & K1JT set 23352km Record

As reported last week by Bob VK7KRW it appears that he has sparked some interest in VK7 and some incredible low level signals are being received around the world using the (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) application written by Joe Taylor K1JT.

The moderator of the WSPR net is Patrick, F6IRF and has posted the record holders who are as of writing of this broadcast.

On 160m a bilateral contact was made between F6IRF & W8TN over 4304km using 10watts. On 80m a bilateral contact was made between ZL1RS and F6IRF over 21547km using 5watts. On 40m a bilateral contact was made between K1JT and Dick VK7DIK over a distance of 23351km using 5watts.

<http://mangafight.free.fr/LBDC.png>

Congratulation to Dick and Joe.

There are some remarkably small signals being received. Bob VK7KRW passed on some interesting logs from David, VK6DI.

It seems that Larry WB3ANQ was able to get through to VK6DI using just 5mW (+7dBm) over a distance 18615Km.

Larry is using a vertical and David has an Inverted V.

URL is: <http://wsprnet.org/drupal/>

(73's, Bob, VK7RW)

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF TASMANIA HAM FEST

20 Sleeps To Go

Dave VK7KDO reminds us that there are not many more sleeps before the big event on Saturday December 6th. It starts at 10am at the community centre at Miena alongside the Great Lake in central Tassie.

Major traders will be there and if past experiences are anything to go by should be a roaring success.

Entry fee will be \$5.00 per person or family and will include entry in the lucky door prize, and free tea and coffee. Soft drink will be available at a reasonable cost. Inexpensive BBQ type food will be available from approx 11.30 am until 1.00pm. Other opportunities to win prizes will be available on the day.

There will also be pre-loved stands and anyone requiring space should contact the coordinator and register an interest.

There will be a couple of repeaters available on the weekend of the Hamfest. On Barren Tier there will off course be the VK7RIN repeater on 438.500MHz as well as a stand alone repeater at the Ham Fest site on 438.600 with no tone requirement. This will be monitored on the day to assist attendees to locate the community hall and for general traffic.

Talking to the traders about the event I have been made aware of some of the specials to be available on the day and believe you me there are some super bargains, my advice would be if you are anticipating a purchase

hold off until the 6th December and your back pocket may be rewarded for your patience.

Ample car parking is available with the current cost of fuel car pooling would appear to be a sensible alternative. There are a number of amateurs who need a ride and are prepared to pay their share of the petrol so, if you have a spare seat then contact the coordinator or broadcast officer.

We are also looking for some volunteers to provide a small amount of time on the day to assist with the running of the event and anyone who is prepared to assist should please contact the coordinator Dave VK7KDO on telephone (03)62730642 or mobile 0429 123080 or email: penstock@netspace.net.au

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#hamfest2008>

(Dave, VK7KDO)

VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

And a quick reminder of the events and broadcasts across VK7:

REAST – November 18 – Second Assessment Night

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

WICEN South – November 22nd – Regular meeting at Kingston Library Meeting Room 09:30

<http://tas.wicen.org.au/index-old.htm>

NWTARIG – November 29th – General Meeting, Lions Club Facility, Show Ground, West Ulverstone, Commencing 2.00PM.

<http://www2.vk7ax.id.au/nwtarig/>

WICEN South – November 29th – End of year lunch at the Red Velvet Lounge, Cygnet 12:30 – XYLs welcome.

<http://tas.wicen.org.au/index-old.htm>

REAST – December 3rd – Digital ATV Presentation by Jack VK2TRF in Queen's Domain Clubrooms at 8pm.

VK7 HAMFEST – December 6th – Central Highlands of Tasmania Hamfest – Miena – starts 10am.

<http://www.qsl.net/charct/>

NTARC – December 10th - End of Year BBQ – Myrtle Park with Slippery Trout Award starts 6pm.

<http://www.wia.org.au/clubs/vk7/NorthernTasmaniaAmateurRadioClub/>

NON-COMMERCIAL FOR SALE & WANTED

For Sale

Al, VK7AN has for sale a Yaesu FT8900, Quad bander in excellent . condition. Complete with manual, box, mic, etc. Covers 10meters to 70cm with 50 watts output.

If interested then contact Al on mobile: 0417354410

(Al, VK7ZN)

Wanted Tower Plan

Vince VK7VH needs a copy of Bill Lesters' (ex VK7WL, now a silent key) antenna tower plan. Who remembers this tower?

The tower plan was a free standing, tilt over, 60 foot high design. I was Education Officer of the North West Branch of the WIA, in late 1979, and I asked Bill to design the tower and make a presentation to a WIA branch meeting. This was back in the days when we met at Lakins Hall in Ulverstone.

I am sure that if we can dig up a copy of the original plan, it will prove useful to many amateurs that may plan to build their own tower. The best part is that it was designed with wind loading for multiple antennas and could be used as a single section 20 foot tower. a double section 40 foot tower or the full blown 60 foot version. The design also included details of the concrete footing.

I believe that the design was included in an edition of the old Tasmanian amateur radio newsletter (QRM) during the early to mid 1980's. Surely someone out there has a copy!

Hope you are able to help. I would be forever grateful.

Best regards

(Vince, VK7VH)

NORTH WEST NEWS

North West Tasmania Amateur Radio Interest Group

Foundation Licence Assessments

Congratulations to Brian Poke of Ulverstone and John Brownrigg of Devonport for the successful completion of their assessments for the Foundation License on Thursday 6th. Nov.

Both candidates expressed their appreciation of local club members for tuition and assistance with preparation for the assessment. They also thanked Assessor Peter VK2IY and Learning Organizer Tony VK7AX for their time in conducting the Assessment.

Keep an ear out for 2 new calls expected to be heard on air as soon as they receive their Licence from ACMA.

General Meeting NWTARIG

The next General Meeting of NWTARIG is scheduled for Saturday 29th. November at the Lions Club Facility, Show Ground, West Ulverstone, Commencing 2.00PM.

There are a quantity of motions placed on the agenda for this meeting. Members please note that if you are interested in any changes affecting the operation of your Club, we suggest you make every effort to attend.

Meeting date again... is Saturday 29th. November 2008.

<http://www2.vk7ax.id.au/nwtarig/>

73's until next time

(Tony VK7AX, President, NWTARIG)

NORTHERN NEWS

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

Can you believe it's only 5 and a bit weeks until the big guy in the red suit visits, hopefully with a sack full of goodies for you. And of course the traditional NTARC Christmas BBQ is on again at Myrtle Park, about half an hours leisurely drive East of Launceston. Most people start arriving at 6 or 6.30, and some even camp overnight. It's THE social event of the year as far as the club is concerned, so come along and enjoy a wonderful evening out. Mark your calendars for Wednesday the 10th.

The November meeting was an absolute ripper. Ian Hart from the Tasmania Ambulance Service came along to give us an insight into the technology & methods of their communications, and a fascinating insight to the Tas Ambulance Services' response to the Beaconsfield Mine accident of 2006. Thank you Ian for a highly entertaining evening.

VK7RAA repeater has been given a boost with the installation of the long awaited repeater antenna. Early indications are that some of the unexplained noises heard after recent rain have been banished, and the phenomenal coverage has been maintained. I'm sure all NTARC members will join me in thanking everyone who helped install the new

antenna and has contributed to the on-going maintenance of VK7RAA repeater.

Speaking of on-going maintenance, all these little tweaks, improvements, and upkeep all cost real money. If you use VK7RAA, perhaps you'd like to make a donation? It would be greatly appreciated to help keep this amazing repeater in tip-top condition.

Lastly, have a think about office bearer positions for NTARC in 2009. If you're thinking of nominating for a position, but not quite sure what it all involves, have a chat to one of the present office bearers, we'd be more than happy to explain what goes on.

<http://www.wia.org.au/clubs/vk7/NorthernTasmaniaAmateurRadioClub/>

Thanks from

(Jason, VK7ZJA, NTARC Secretary)

SOUTHERN NEWS

WICEN Tasmania (South)

On 29th November we have planned an end of year lunch at the Red Velvet Lounge, Cygnet at 12:30. We already have 22 places booked. So don't miss out on this opportunity to say thanks to your XYL for letting you play radio over the past twelve months.

Last Saturday saw the first of a series of practical workshops titled WUDNTPARCEABUS ("wouldn't pass a bus") or What You Don't Need To Pass the Amateur Radio Certificate Exam But You Should.

Brian VK7BW hosted a session led by Garry VK7JGD on coax connectors. Garry discussed the pros and cons of the various types of coax cable and connectors and how to fit them. Nine attentive attendees learned from and contributed to the three hour session. Garry also showed several interesting examples from his collection of TV antenna system bits which he'd discovered when called to fix sub standard installations. These usually being found after being assured by the owner that their system had been professionally installed by the house builder and electrician.

Thanks to Chris VK7FCDW for supplying the mid session feast.

The next WUDNTPARCEABUS workshop will be on 13th December at Roger VK7ARN's QTH covering power cables, fuses, connectors and emergency power supplies. January 24th will see the third session, when Andrew VK7AD will introduce soldering skills.

<http://tas.wicen.org.au/>

(Roger, VK7ARN)

WICEN organises heavy resupply lift for Maatsuyker Island.

When Tad VK2LNX and Sue VK2FSMJ volunteered as Maatsuyker Island caretakers, Ted Thrift, WIA Clubs Coordinator, asked if WICEN Tasmania (South) could provide any local assistance they may need. Happy to oblige, especially as Stu VK7NXX would be in regular contact with the islanders via Coast Radio Hobart scheds.

Between times fixing his wind blown antenna, Tad decided he would like to try some HF digital but had a problem in that his PC audio in and his radio audio out didn't enjoy each others levels. Jaycar's Maatsuyker branch never really got off the ground, unlike most other things on Maatsuyker, so he was short of a few resistors to make his levels compatible. A mention to Stu on the next sched, resulted in 14 resistors and 3 trimpots being despatched by chopper. WICEN funds being a tad short (s'cuse the pun), an airlift of 10 Friends of Maatsuyker, off to do some weeding, was utilised for the supply run. Stu took the package to the Parks office in Huonville, a hoe or two was offloaded to make space for the essential resistive components and Tad's needs were met, though a day late due to weather conditions.

A reminder that the Maatsuyker net happens each Thursday evening between 1930 and 2000 EDST on 3.590MHz \pm QRM. Last Thursday's net was joined by Tad VK2LNX/p7 on Maatsuyker, Chris VK3JU in Melbourne, Chris VK7FCDW, Derek VK7MAX and Roger VK7ARN.

<http://tas.wicen.org.au/>

(Roger, VK7ARN)

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania

Saturday Afternoons at the Domain

The Saturday afternoon group had another wonderful trip to Hobart airport yesterday where they observed the sending of the weather balloon into the heavens and watched the results on the radar as the balloon sent its data back to the meteorology site at Hobart Airport. A trip to the tower was another key feature of this trip.

Stay tuned to next weeks broadcast for more details of future events.

The group, who are now all aviation experts, hihi, are very curious about the aircraft problems that have been highlighted in the media lately. And

no, they are not thinking that VK7MO and his magical plane bouncing signal are to blame, hihi.

Cheers, Tony VK7FTCL

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

73's

(Tony, VK7FTCL)

Tour of Heart 107.3 FM Studios

Last Wednesday night a group of amateurs were treated to a tour of the HeartFM and SEAFM FM radio studios by Chris Morrison who is the technician at the station.

A big thank you to Brett Marley (Marls) VK7FMMM who organised the tour and Chris for showing us through.

The tour started with the control room and the many black boxes, controls and wiring that go into the highly technical side of running a couple of commercial FM radio stations.

Graham VK7ZGK spotted that the station was still running Poal Kirke Electronics equipment throughout the radio station and let the group know he used to work for this company back in Perth.

Graham then spotted the label on the back of some equipment in the control room with his signature on it!

We were then shown through the Charles Woolley studio and onto the HeartFM 107.3 studio where Marls does his breakfast show every morning and has provided much promotion of the hobby during the morning. I understand even a listener response segment where he asks the audience to answer questions from the Foundation Licence sample paper!!

Venturing into the SEAFM studio Graham spotted another mixer he QA'd and it was there we found out that Steve VK7OO was also a technician at this radio station and in discussion with Chris he was able to clarify a few modifications and additions to equipment throughout the station.

A quick tour of the news studio and then onto the roof to see the satellite feeds and microwave links upto the mountain which feed the signal to their 6kW transmitters in the main transmitter hall on Mt Wellington.

This was a wonderful look at a commercial FM radio station by Chris and a big thank you is in order.

There are picture of the station and the tour on the REAST website.

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

(Justin, VK7TW)

Education and Training

We have four new Foundation Licensees who passed their assessments on Tuesday night and are eagerly awaiting their callsigns.

Congratulations to Michael, Ashby, Ross and Scott who all passed their foundation licence assessment.

There is another assessment taking place this Tuesday night at 7:30pm and we have two candidates. One for the Foundation and one for Advanced so, if you are interested in attending the assessment and it could be an assessment for any licence then please let Reg VK7KK know ASAP and he can be contacted by ringing mobile: 0417 391 607 or email: regemm@ozemail.com.au ASAP.

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

(Reg, VK7KK, REAST Education Officer and Assessor)

ATV Experimenters Night

ATV nights return this Wednesday night the 19th November at 7:30pm where we will be installing a new, well rejuvenated 70cm omnidirectional horizontally polarised loop antenna. So, our signal should be getting around Hobart even better.

How do you receive ATV on an ATV night well, ATV goes out on 444.25MHz – just below SBS on the UHF TV Band.

If you have an antenna pointed somewhere toward the Domain why not try tuning down the low end of the UHF TV band and give us a call on what you are seeing and hearing.

See you there.

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

(Justin, VK7TW)

CONTEST NEWS

Spring VHF-UHF Field Day 2008

John Martin VK3KM reminds us of a few contests and their deadlines:

Spring VHF-UHF Field Day 2008 - November 15/16 – this weekend.

A final reminder that logs for this field day will be due in by December 3.

For a copy of the rules and a scoring sheet, please check the contest web page on the WIA website.

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/>

Summer VHF-UHF Field Day - January 17/18

The dates for the Summer Field Day will be January 17/18. Full details are on the WIA contest web page.

Ross Hull Contest 2009 - begins January 1

There have been major changes to the rules for the Ross Hull Contest. The new scoring system is based on grid locators rather than distance calculations, and this will make log-keeping much simpler. The rules are available on the WIA contest web page.

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rosshull/>

Please note that as well as major rule changes, the contest starting date has been changed to January 1 - six days later than it has been in previous years.

vhf-contests@wia.org.au

(John VK3KM – Contests Manager – WIA)

WEB & EMAIL EDITION EXTRA BITS!!

Star Size

<http://mysite.du.edu/~jcalvert/astro/starsiz.htm>

Astronomy Interest Page

<http://mysite.du.edu/~jcalvert/astro/astrohom.htm>

VK Contest Club

<http://www.vkcc.com/>

Ladybirds Census

<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/ladybirds/default.htm>

Have your say on Public Broadcasting

<http://www.abc.net.au/corp/haveyoursay/>

Australian Computer Museum Society

<http://www.acms.org.au/>

Southern Sky Watch

<http://home.mira.net/~reynella/skywatch/ssky.htm>

Decommissioning Voice of America in Delano

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=qLLhWIDbKbI&fmt=18>

Solar Cycle 24 Off and Running

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/07nov_signsoflife.htm?list1098418

Do you have some interesting amateur related sites you have some across in the last week – send them in to justingc@ozemail.com.au

VK7 Virtual BPL Tours Update

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdcY0Eetvsw> - Mt Nelson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gsxpya3CnQ> - North Hobart

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7DfdxjRkpU> - RU ready for BPL?

If you are interested in becoming an amateur radio operator or upgrading your licence then we suggest you contact your local club for details and/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: VK7FB

160m: VK7DM

80m: VK7TW

40m: VK7RO

20m: 20M Group

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7FTAZ

HF CB: VK7TED

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 OR JUST MISSED 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.