

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2008

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF TASMANIA HAM FEST

Only a Fortnight Away

Thirteen sleeps to the biggest ham radio event in VK7 happens.

On Saturday December 6th. It starts at 10am at the community centre at Miena alongside the Great Lake in central Tassie.

Many major traders will be there and there will be specials on the day.

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

For those in the South, I understand that a bus has been organised which is a great way to get cheaply to and from the Hamfest and you can leave the driving to someone else. Details later in the broadcast.

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

See you there.

(Dave, VK7KDO)

VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

And a summary of the events across VK7:

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.

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

WICEN South – December 13th – next workshop covering power cables, fuses, connectors and emergency power supplies at VK7ARN's QTH

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

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

Roger VK7ARN has for sale an Icom W2A VHF/UHF dual band handheld radio with lots of accessories.

Original price in 1994, would you believe \$1,195.

This is a true dual bander i.e. two sides to the display and separate main controls for VHF and UHF.

Tx power when fed 13.8V is 5W/3.5W/1.5W or 500mW

The radio is in excellent condition. Some of its special features are:

- Cross-band repeat, Tone code/decode
- Can be run on external power of 6 to 16V so can be used in a vehicle/boat without the battery pack and has dual speaker sockets (plus internal speaker), one suited to a speaker-mic.

It comes with:

- Original BNC dual band antenna (BNC connect makes it easy to attach an external antenna)
- User & Service Manuals
- BC-72 Desktop charger with 240V AC adapter (the charger can also take 12V input)
- BC-77V 240V AC “plug in” charger
- UT-63 Tone Squelch unit is fitted
- AD-20 Battery Charge adapter (clips on spare battery to enable charging with a 12V lead)
- 2 x BP-84 1000mAh battery packs (these were repacked in 2003 and could do with being done again)
- 2 x BP-90 double A battery holders
- And last but not least, a well used soft case which has protected the radio since new.

Priced at \$200 for the lot. A handheld radio with features not often seen and just about every available accessory.

Call Roger on 6267 4285 or email vk7arn at arrl.net

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. 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

General Meeting NWTARIG

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

YES! THAT'S NEXT SATURDAY!!!!

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 next 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

Not a lot of news for the North this week... to begin with a reminder that if you appreciate using VK7RAA, then consider making a donation to the maintenance and upkeep.

Getting closer to Christmas, as we all get busy, and as the weather gets warmer, it might be a good time to keep in mind your safety over the holiday period. Increased road traffic, the ever present danger of the sun's rays, and those summer rooftop antenna projects all expose us to increased risks, so take extra care – we want to hear you on air in 2009.

Of course, lets not forget that the NTARC Christmas BBQ is on at Myrtle Park starting at 6pm on Wednesday the 10th – bring your own meat, drinks, tents, pets, entertainment and whatever else you would like.

Lastly, NTARC membership fees are due on the 1st of January. Get in touch with Ann VK7FYBG if you have any queries about your membership fees and status.

So that's all, short and sweet for this week.

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

Thanks from

(Jason, VK7ZJA, NTARC Secretary)

SOUTHERN NEWS

HamFest Visits

Graeme VK7HO lets us know that friends of Vick, VK6VK may be interested to know that Vick Kitney will be arriving in Tasmania on the 27th November with his partner Patricia and will be staying with Graeme VK7HO and wife Eyvonne for a couple of weeks.

Vick as many people knew him was VK7VK, also VK0VK when at Mawson base attending the 10Kw transmitters in the 1980's.

Vick usually make the trip from Bunbury to attend the Miena Ham fest and catch up with friends.

(Submitted by Graeme, VK7HO - Formerly VK7GAJ)

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.

There's been lots of good feedback on the first practical learning session on coax cable and connectors, facilitated by Garry VK7JGD. The next hands on workshop will be on 13th December at Roger VK7ARNs QTH, looking at power cables, fuses, connectors and emergency power supplies, with the usual WICEN emphasis on mobile and portable operations.

Don't forget the Thursday evening Maatsuyker net with Tad VK2LNX/p7 at 19:30 local time on 3.590MHz ± QRM. Numbers have increased each week.

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

(Roger, VK7ARN)

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania

Clubrooms

Could any REAST member who notices that the clubrooms are low on coffee or toilet paper please let Clayton know on 61050446 or email on president@reast.asn.au.

(Clayton, VK7ZCR)

Bus it to HAMFEST

For those in the South - the Saturday Afternoon Group has negotiated a price with Redline Coaches for the Ham Fest event. The bus to be provided is their top of the line luxury coach that is equipped with a toilet, AirCon, TV monitors, seat belts as well as airline style reclining seats. It is anticipated that the coach will leave Hobart at around 7.30 am and stop at a few pickup points along the way. These points will be determined by the locations of those travelling on the bus. It will arrive at Miena at around 10am and we anticipate leaving at around 2.30pm.

The cost? An approximate cost will be around \$30 return, yes that's right just a mere \$30. This may vary by a few dollars as the more that travel on this bus the cheaper it will be. If we reach the capacity of 50, the price per person will be a mere \$23 return. This is FANTASTIC value when you consider the ticket price return on a regular passenger bus to Launceston is \$74 return.

Were you thinking of driving? Think again... The cost of Petrol, wear and tear and the chance to have a good old chin wag up and back. This is an offer too good to refuse. It will be restricted to a maximum of 50, so first in best dressed.

To confirm your seat please contact Tony, VK7FTCL by either email toneman@bigpond.com or on mobile 0418136596 or normal landline on 62370700.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE COMPLACENT, we need to know the numbers by next Sunday, lack of numbers will inevitably lead to the bus trip not going ahead so urge those considering this to make a decision and act on it. There are many members that will rely on this mode of transport to make it to the event (Or not make it if this does not go ahead), so please support those members by supporting this initiative.

So act now and confirm your seat to travel to this fantastic event. So tell your mates, tell your friends, even tell your dog if he will listen and ask them to confirm their seats as well. Not everyone has access to the Net and Email, so your help will be greatly appreciated.

<http://reast.asn.au/events.php#Bus2HamFest>

(73, Tony, VK7FTCL)

Education and Training

We have another new Foundation Licensee who passed his assessment on Tuesday night and a new Advanced Licensee who are both eagerly awaiting their callsigns.

Congratulations to Paul and Len and we look forward to hearing you on the airways with your new callsigns.

If you are interested in attending a foundation licence course or an assessment for any licence then please let Reg VK7KK on mobile: 0417 391 607 or email: regemm@ozemail.com.au.

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

(Reg, VK7KK, REAST Education Officer and Assessor)

ATV Experimenters Night

ATV in Hobart returned last Wednesday night and the night started with the installation of the newly refurbished 70cm halo antenna thanks to Ian VK7ZIF. It was great to see Peter VK7KPC pay us a visit.

We now have an omnidirectional horizontally polarised halo antenna which should be delivering a signal all over Hobart around the Queen's Domain.

We showed a slide show of last weeks visit to the Bureau of Meteorology and Control Tower at Hobart Airport.

Rex VK7MO and Justin VK7TW gave a commentary of the equipment and visit as the slides were shown over ATV.

Reports of audio and video from listeners and watchers were good with a comment from our resident QA officer Steve VK7OO that it is the best it has ever been.

How do you receive ATV on an ATV night well, ATV goes out on 444.25MHz (Channel 16) – 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)

ACMA NEWS

On the November 18, 2008 Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) released its review of trading of radiofrequency licences for public and industry comment.

The ACMA is seeking public and industry comment on the effectiveness in Australia of the secondary market for radiofrequency licences.

Current academic consensus is that the liberalisation of licensing improves efficiency. In Australia, spectrum licences have been fully tradeable since the first such licences were issued in 1997. Apparatus licences have generally been transferable between licensees for over ten years. In this, Australia was a global leader. Spectrum trading is now being discussed in a number of jurisdictions worldwide.

‘As ACMA’s instinct is to continue to move away from command and control regulation, it is vital that we have the right legislative and technical structure in place to allow spectrum to move to its highest value use, said Chris Chapman, ACMA Chairman.

The consultation paper, Spectrum Trading, is available on the ACMA website. The closing date for comment is 23 January 2009.

See the web and email editions of this broadcast for more information.

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_311534

(ACMA Media Release)

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New Device To Improve Transistor Quality

The following is a summary of an article from the ScienceDaily website and was posted on November 14th, 2008.

The engineers at the University of Southampton have created a new device which can correct faults in newly manufactured transistors and can

be implemented in mainstream devices such as mobile phones and computers.

The team at the University's School of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS), have created the Configurable Analogue Transistor (CAT). The CAT approach can be applied to batches of transistors which in testing after manufacture prove to have an unacceptably high variability.

According to Dr Wilson, the manufacturing process for deep submicron technologies is currently very expensive, with the cost of failed devices running into huge figures.

"One of the biggest challenges we face when shrinking devices in these new technology nodes is that there is increasing variability in the resulting devices and this is causing unacceptably poor yields in the circuits being produced" said Dr Wilson. "Now with CAT, we can take whole batches of chips and tighten their performance characteristics resulting in massive improvements in yield. Improvements in variability of up to 80 percent can be achieved using this approach."

According to Dr Wilson, the CAT technique can also be applied to existing products to improve their performance and longevity.

"As technology changes over time, the CAT technique allows us to reconfigure devices so that products continue to work," said Dr Wilson. "For example, remote circuits in satellites and sensor devices can be "reprogrammed" and effectively recalibrated to take account of changing characteristics over time and environmental conditions."

The team at Southampton has applied for a patent to cover this new technology.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081105083538.htm>

(Sourced from the ScienceDaily Website)

HISTORY NEWS

Tektronix – The Rolls Royce of Test Equipment

Tektronix Incorporated was founded in December 1945 in Portland, Oregon, by Jack Murdoch, Howard Vollum (two recently discharged US Coast Guard radar technicians), Glenn McDowell and Miles Tippery. Their stated goals were to develop, sell and support very high quality technical instrumentation. Using newly developed technology and war-surplus resources, new oscilloscopes were developed at a rapid pace.

By 1949 these were the most advanced scopes for their time, with calibrated amplifier and timebase, triggered sweep, and other technical advances.

Competition started to come from another scope company run by some friends of the Tek founders - Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard - and from 1956 onwards, a friendly but strong rivalry with HP was to be an integral part of Tektronix company life.

Tektronix became one of the major high-tech companies involved in the "space-race" of the 50's and 60's, and established its first overseas manufacturing plant...on Guernsey in the Channel Islands. Another European plant was opened at Heerenveen in northern Holland.

In 1961, Tektronix filed suit against the US government for patent infringements by the US Air Force - the famous "D-holes" case. Despite considerable resistance from the US government, the case was finally settled in favour of Tektronix in 1979 (ie. 18 years later), and is considered a landmark case in patent law.

In 1961, Tektronix Australia Pty Ltd opened its doors, in Forster Street, Sydney. In 1969 a completely new site was built in North Ryde. Field and sales offices were set up in all state capitals except Hobart and Darwin. In the mid 1980's, the Australian office was used as the pilot site for Tektronix's first international email system.

By the late 1970's Tek had spread its technology coverage very far indeed: Oscilloscopes, programmable instruments, design automation, information displays, TV test instruments and monitors, desktop computing, and sundry other high-tech product lines.

During the 1980's Tektronix continued to be the "Rolls Royce" of test and measurement instrumentation, chiefly to the military and communications industries.

In the late 1990's, Fuji Corporation bought out all the Tektronix graphics product divisions, including the Phaser printer technology. Tektronix has since been concentrating entirely on its original product market - test and measurement instrumentation. The Sydney office was sold, and the company moved to new premises in North Ryde.

<http://www.acms.org.au/museum/tektronix/tektronix.shtml>

(Sourced from the Australian Computer Museum Society website)

WEB & EMAIL EDITION EXTRA BITS!!

WikiMedia Donations

<http://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Donate/en>

Ace Day Jobs – Astrophysicist

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/328902/957242/6182/0/>

GPS – They Know Where You Are

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081110071243.htm>

NASA's ISS Smell Detector

<http://gizmodo.com/5094171/nasa-adds-smell-detector-to-space-station-insert-fart-joke-here>

Nokia's Damage Test Lab

<http://gizmodo.com/5094602/a-look-at-the-nokia-damage-test-labs?skyline=true&s=i>

USB – Cassette Tape Hub

<http://www.iwantoneofthose.com/usb-tape-hub/index.html>

IARU Region 1 Conference

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/november2008/iaru_r1_cavtat.htm

AMSAT

<http://www.amsat.org>

Cubesats from ESA

http://www.esa.int/esaED/SEMAYTRTKMF_index_0.html

St Thomas' ISS Contact Brisbane

<http://www.members.optusnet.com.au/jandnclark/?reload>

Following Links Courtesy of CG Communicator

This is an outstanding Website with 118 video clips, one for each element on the periodic table. Be sure to check out the demonstrations for H, Na and Hg:

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

Why the printer won't work. Must-viewing for all Managers of Information Systems:

<http://tinyurl.com/55t24k>

Remember LIFE Magazine? Search millions of photographs from the LIFE photo archive, stretching from the 1750s to today. Most were never published and are now available for the first time through the joint effort of LIFE and Google:

<http://images.google.com/hosted/life>

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: VK7IR

160m: VK7DM

80m: VK7EM

40m: VK7TW

20m: VK7AR

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7HGO

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.