

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER 2008

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The VK7 Regional News Broadcast Team wishes everyone a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2009.

I'm not sure if too many realise that there are 23 people in the VK7 Regional News Team from all around VK7 who each week work to bring you this news.

There are four readers, ten MF & HF rebroadcasters, three repeater switchers, four CB rebroadcasters, a callback gatherers and broadcast writer/coordinator and these people work each week to bring you the latest amateur radio news.

Next week we will have the 2008 broadcast callback statistics and we are looking forward to another bumper year with that trend line rising up at a great rate of knots.....HIHI.

The 2009 VK7 Regional News Broadcast Roster is out and available on the REAST website and can be found at the link on the email and internet editions of this broadcast.

There are many opportunities in the broadcast roster for anyone who is looking to become a rebroadcaster on the many bands we go out on each Sunday. If you would like to fill one of those gaps on either a regular or irregular occasion then please contact the broadcast coordinator. We have designs and built patch boxes just for this application if necessary.

Why not give it a go and become part of the hard working team that brings you a broadcast 51 weeks of the year!

I look forward to hearing from you.

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

VK7 Regional News Group Email Addresses

Post message: vk7regionalnews@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe: vk7regionalnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: vk7regionalnews-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

List owner: vk7regionalnews-owner@yahoogroups.com

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

And a summary of the events across VK7 during the silly season:

REAST – January 7th, 21st and 28th – ATV Experimenter’s Night –
Queens Domain Clubrooms – 7:30pm.

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

WICEN South – January 24th – next workshop covering power cables,
fuses, connectors and emergency power supplies at VK7ARN’s QTH.

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

NTARC – February 11th – Annual General Meeting – 7:30pm Alanvale
TAFE college – Block B.

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

NON-COMMERCIAL FOR SALE & WANTED

For Sale

Charles VK7PP has for sale headphones complete with footswitch
suitable for Kenwood 930 or 940 radios. Price what offer?

Charles is downsizing in preparation for moving to a smaller house. If
you are interested in this item then you can contact Charles on phone
6243 7396

(73, VK7PP)

NORTHERN NEWS

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

Christmas is always a hectic time for everyone, so we hope you take time
out to relax during these holidays, enjoying the company of family and
friends. Hopefully you also get some time to enjoy working on the
amateur bands too. NTARC is taking a little holiday too, our next
meeting won’t be until February the 11th which will be the Annual
General Meeting.

I know you might all groan when you hear me say that all office-bearer
positions in NTARC will again be up for election, and that if you’ve ever
thought about taking on such a position, please do give it some serious
consideration. Without people to fill these positions, the club ceases to
operate. And even if you can’t commit to such a position, you can help
support the club with your membership fees which are now due for 2009.

Call book sales are going quite well, so if you want to get your call book at a handy discount from the 'street' price, then see Ann VK7FYBG as soon as possible, as once they're gone – they're gone!

That about it for another week, stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

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

Thanks from

(Jason, VK7ZJA, NTARC Secretary)

SOUTHERN NEWS

WICEN Tasmania (South) - Next Hands-On Workshop

The next hands on workshop will be on January 24th. It will look at power cables, fuses, connectors and emergency power supplies, with the usual WICEN emphasis on mobile and portable operations.

Maatsuyker Net

Reminder of the Maatsuyker net each Thursday at 19:30 local time on 3.590MHz ± QRM with Tad VK2LNX/p7 on Maatsuyker Island IOTA OC-233.

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

(Roger, VK7ARN)

NEW MOTOR SPORT - COMMS TEAM NEEDED

New Targa Wrest Point Event

Gavin VK7HGO puts out the call for anyone interested to try out for one day or two with the New Targa Wrest Point event which happens on Saturday, 31 January and Sunday, 1 February 2009.

New people are welcome that may only want to be involved in a quickie event or use it as a training exercise for Targa Tasmania later in the year.

WICEN members who have let Roger or myself know are included in our team, so this call is for new people or any one that don't already know about the event.

Stages are South of Hobart on Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday has Glenlusk and Risdon Brook before going South again.

If interested please contact –

Gavin VK7HGO on mobile 0407724431 - Targa Communications Team
or
Roger VK7ARN on mobile 0418508435 - WICEN South.
(Gavin, VK7HGO)

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania

AGM and Callbooks

Clayton VK7ZCR also reminds members that the Annual General Meeting is coming up in February 2009 and there are some of the committee who are not re-standing so, if you would like to be involved in running your club please contact Clayton to discuss on 61050446 and he will send you a nomination form.

The 2009 call books are now in stock. \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non members. You can get one from the Caltex Service Station on 133 Main Road Moonah Corner of Amy St. Clayton VK7ZCR will be there all week end or they can be obtained at any time from there. Also the Foundation Books are also at the servo.

(Clayton, VK7ZCR)

ATV Experimenters Night

A quick reminder that the ATV night get back underway on Wednesday January 7th and apart from January 14th they will be happening throughout January 2009 starting around 7:30pm.

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. You will need an antenna with some gain pointed toward the Domain to receive our signal so, 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>

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

CONTEST NEWS

QRP Day 2008 – Great VK7 Participation

The CW Operators QRP club runs two contests each year. The QRP Hours and QRP Day contest. In the latest edition of the clubs newsletter – Lo-Key the QRP Day contest results were published and congratulations to Vince VK7VH/QRP who came first in the SSB section with 53 points.

Also congratulation to Tom VK7LF/QRP for coming third in the CW section of the contest with 32 points.

The club has one of a best club mottos as it sums up exactly what QRP is all about namely – “It’s not the amount of dog in fight that counts – It’s the amount of fight in the dog.”

<http://www.users.on.net/~zietz/qrp/club2.htm#Contests>

(Sourced from Lo-Key Newsletter No. 100 December 2008)

CONTEST NEWS

RSGB Commonwealth Contest (BERU)

This contest happens over the 14 & 15 March 2009 from 1000Z (14th) to 1000Z (15th) – All Bands – CW Only.

Contests Rules and other operating information can be found at the address in the email and internet editions of this broadcast.

<http://www.vhfcc.org/hfcc/rules/2009/beru.shtml>

<http://uk.geocities.com/beru2004@btinternet.com/>

(NZART News & BERU Website)

SOFTWARE NEWS

VK3UM EME Calculator Updated

The latest release of the VK3UM EME Calculator Ver 5.38 is now available from the websites that can be found on the email and internet editions of this broadcast.

<http://sm2cew.com/download.htm>

<http://www.ve1alq.com/vk3um/>

Significant additions and improvements have been added to this release that include in part:

- Selectable Dish Feed Types (6 in total).
- Linear / circular polarisation correction calculations implemented.
- Moon and Sun aperture / beam fill beam correction calculations refined.

- Real time Source (Quiet and Noise) position Screen added with improved calculation accuracy of Moon and Sun positions.
- Additional coaxial types and user Station data files, and an
- Updated Help file which now includes hints where appropriate.

Enjoy

(73 Doug VK3UM via the VK-VHF Mailing List)

FIELD DAY NEWS

Wyong - Central Coast Amateur Radio Club Annual Field Day

This very popular field day will again be held on Sunday 8 February 2009 and it happens as usual at the Wyong Race Course on the Central Coast.

Entry fee is \$10 per adult and children 17 years and under are free.

There will be a huge range of exhibitors as well as the Fleamarket.

An Amateur Radio Station (VK2WFD) will be operating both HF and VHF on the Field Day. A good opportunity to show non-amateurs what our hobby is about.

The Central Coast Potters Society will be having a display. These people make very good high class pottery. Don't miss this display.

See You There

(Sourced from the CCARC Web Site)

SATELLITE NEWS

ARISS Discusses ISS L-Band Operating Parameters

ARISS US Hardware Manager Lou McFadin, W5DID provided a summary of expected parameters for those considering trying to make a contact with the ISS on L-band to VHF crossband repeater experiment planned for December 28 to January 3.

Lou reported, "The measured sensitivity of the L band receiver on a D700, as the radio aboard the ISS, is -105dBm for full quieting. The cable loss from the radio to the antenna is 9.3db. The antenna gain is zero db. The polarization is LHCP."

Extending the calculations to cover the entire system path, Lou said, "The path loss at the horizon on L band is -160dB. That means the required EIRP for a full quieting contact at the horizon is 65dBm.

The path loss decreases by 15dB at 80 degrees elevation so that means you can get full quieting with 50dBm in that case. To further elaborate if you use a 20dB gain antenna (a small dish), it is estimated that you can complete a QSO with 32 watts at the horizon or 1 watt at 80 degrees elevation."

The planned operating frequencies include:

Uplink on 1269.650 MHz FM

Downlink on 145.800 MHz FM

<http://amsat.org>

(AMSAT News Service and Lou, W5DID)

GENERAL NEWS

NASA's Gift to Mr. Claus

Last year, a certain Mr. Claus got a very nice gift. That is Terry Claus, captain of a 53-foot charter boat called The Qualifier, received something that helped him avoid a disaster at sea--namely, data transmitted onto his GPS screen. If "data" isn't your idea of a Christmas gift, then take a listen.

"One night, my wife, children, and I were fishing for swordfish 25 miles off the Miami coast," says Claus. "We saw black clouds to the west. That's not unusual where we live. Florida storms sometimes build over land and then dissipate. But that night, when I checked the radar on my GPS, I saw an incredible line of severe thunderstorms moving towards us -- and fast."

"I checked the lightning strike screen, and it looked like a chained link fence of continuous lightning," he continues. "I shouted, 'Reel in the lines! We have to get out of here fast!' I could see on the screen where the cloud mass was weakest, so I followed that route. A 747 jet flew overhead and seemed to be following the same route we were following. We must have been looking at the same data! We made it to port safely."

NASA's SPoRT program (short for Short-term Prediction Research and Transition) at the Marshall Space Flight Center, helped make Claus's bird's eye view of the weather possible that night.

The SPoRT team assists a small company called WorldWinds, Inc. NASA supplies WorldWinds with high resolution satellite data on ocean and atmospheric conditions. WorldWinds repackages the data, along with other weather/data products they generate themselves and some radar data from WxWorx, for the mariners along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

With the push of a button, a boat captain can choose from among views of sea surface temperatures, Doppler radar, wind speed, wind direction, lightning strikes, and more, both real-time and forecasted.

High chlorophyll concentration, indicated in satellite data by greenness (the greener the more chlorophyll), means lots of plankton. More plankton equals more fish.

"When we take out charter clients, we follow the environmental laws concerning limit numbers and size," explains Claus. "And when we fish in tournaments, we use circular hooks for bait. It's a tournament rule. The fish can't swallow the hook, so the fish aren't hurt. Once we catch a fish, we release it immediately. In fact, an angler's tournament score is based on the number of releases he or she makes."

The fish are happy. Mr. Claus is happy. NASA's happy.

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/24dec_sport.htm?list1098418

(Written by Dauna Coulter and sourced from the Science@NASA website)

HUMOUR TO FINISH

Political Correctness Gone Berserk!

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the summer solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of our choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all . . .

and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2009, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make Australia great, (not to imply that Australia is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only "AUSTRALIA" in the southern hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual preference of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms. This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of

the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/amsatvk/>

(73, John VK2XGJ via the AMSAT-VK Mailing List)

The broadcast team wishes Season's Greetings to all our listeners and have a safe, relaxing and fulfilling Holiday season.

WEB & EMAIL EDITION EXTRA BITS!!

VK7NML's Pics Site:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/arctanx/with/3121403667/>

Summary of Proposed Changes for NZ 40 Metres Band Plan

<http://www.nzart.org.nz/pdf/2009/2009-40m-band-changes.pdf>

WorldMap of ATV Stations

<http://home.roadrunner.com/~cbeener/GMapATVQ.html>

Path Calculation

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

Morse Runner Software

<http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>

Make a 80m QRP transmitter out of the components in a CF lightbulb (from Steve VK7OO)

<http://mjrainey.googlepages.com/dasderelicht>

Interesting Structures

<http://www.artificialowl.net>

FFTDSP Amateur Application:

<http://www.af9y.com/radio10.htm>

Spectrum Lab:

<http://freenet-homepage.de/dl4yhf/spectral1.html>

DSP Discussion Forum:

<http://www.dsprelated.com/comp.dsp/keyword/FFT.php>

FFT Source Code:

<http://www.fft.org/index.html>

Links:

<http://www.fft.org/links.html>

FFT Tutes

<http://www.eg3.com/WebID/dsp/fft/blank/tutorial/a-z.htm>

FFT Chips

<http://www-star.stanford.edu/~bbaas/fftinfo.html>

Rainbow LED Circuit

http://home.comcast.net/~prutchi/pdf_files/rainbow_led.pdf

Some interesting Applications:

<http://hjem.get2net.dk/jjn/index.htm>

DSP Tricks:

<http://www.dspguru.com/howto/tricks/overvw.htm>

DSP Dictionary:

<http://www.bdti.com/articles/dspdictionary.html>

An Intuitive Explanation of Fourier Theory:

<http://cns-alumni.bu.edu/~slehar/fourier/fourier.html>

Fourier Song:

<http://eceserv0.ece.wisc.edu/~sethares/mp3s/fourier.html>

Exomusicology:

http://eceserv0.ece.wisc.edu/~sethares/otherperson/all_mp3s.html

<http://eceserv0.ece.wisc.edu/~sethares/otherperson/sierpinski.html>

Fractals:

<http://math.rice.edu/~lanius/fractals/>

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=pcY0Eetvsw> - 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: VK7TW

160m: VK7DM

80m: VK7EM

40m: VK7RO

20m: VK7PP

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.