

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2010

VK7 EVENT NEWS

Meet the Voice BBQ Update

A quick reminder to mark March 21st in your diary as the date for the Sewing Circle Net – “Meet the Voice” BBQ at the Ross Caravan Park which gets underway from 10am. \$5.00 admission per amateur or amateur family is all we are asking and this will go toward a repeater fund.

Ray VK7VKV lets us know that this event will again feature an opportunity for those of us with too much pre-loved equipment to pass it on to others.

This years Bargain Bonanza will commence at 12.00 on Sunday in the Ross Caravan Park. As you are all aware proceeds of the event assist in paying repeater site and license fees, so it has been decided to ask sellers this year to pay a \$5.00 fee to go towards the cause.

An area will also be set aside for sellers so that potential buyers can find all items for sale in the one area of the park. There is no need to register until you arrive.

Last year so many people walked away with real bargains, and there is no reason why this year’s event won’t be bigger and better. Remember, its not just rubbish on sale, the previous events have seen the sale of transceivers, test equipment and really useful items.

So, sellers start getting that valuable pre-loved gear together and buyers start saving, if you miss the 2010 Bargain Bonanza you'll kick yourself. See you there.

Ray, contact email address is vk7vkv@hotmail.com for further information.

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

(73, Ray, VK7VKV)

QSL delivery at Ross

Norm VK7AC and Brian VK7RR have collated many 1000s of QSL card for amateurs across the state and these will be brought to Ross at the Meet

the Voice BBQ for distribution to the amateur in question or to a nearby amateur for delivery.

(73, VK7AC & VK7RR)

VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

A summary of the events across VK7 over the coming months:

WICEN South – February 7 – Hobart Run the Bridge - fun run - Bellerive to Salamanca – event communications – on site 04:00 a.m.

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

REAST – February 10 & 17, 24– ATV experimenter’s nights – Queen’s Domain Clubrooms – around 7:30pm.

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

NTARC – February 10 - Annual General Meeting – Tasmanian Skills Institute at Alanvale, Block B – 7:30pm.

NWTATVG - February 13 – Annual General Meeting – 2pm at QTH of VK7XL.

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

CCARC – February 14 – Garage Sale - Old Penguin Railway Station from 9.00 am

<http://www.my-x15.net/ccarc>

REAST – February 21 – Annual General Meeting starts 11am at Queens Domain Clubrooms with BYO BBQ after.

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

REAST – March 3 – Receiving Antennas Presentation by Richard VK7RO – Queen’s Domain Clubrooms from 8pm.

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

SEWING CIRCLE NET – March 21 - Meet The Voice BBQ at Ross.

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

NORTHERN NEWS

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

I’m sure many of you will be glad to hear that this will be the last time that I’ll harp on about the NTARC Annual General Meeting at Alanvale

Tasmanian Skills Institute campus, which will be at 7.30pm this Wednesday night.

Don't forget to bring along \$2 to be in with a chance to win two bottles of wine. We'll also be talking about a few items of topical interest to the club. We hope to see as many members there as possible to participate.

Also, if your membership fees are not paid by the AGM, you won't be able to vote, so get in quick if you haven't done so yet. For those who have paid, your membership card will be available for collection on the night.

Tony VK7YBG has set up a yahoo mailing group for those who might be interested in getting involved in WICEN in northern Tasmania. If you are interested in this, go to yahoo groups on the web and search for "wicennorth". I'm sure that Tony would be very pleased to hear from you.

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

Thanks from

(Jason VK7ZJA, NTARC Secretary)

NORTH WEST NEWS

Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)

CCARC News

<http://www.my-x15.net/ccarc>

The CCARC Inc is holding a garage sale on SUNDAY the 14th of FEBRUARY 2010 in conjunction with the Penguin History Groups Annual Bazaar. This will be held at the Old Penguin Railway Station and normally gets under way about 9.00 pm

This fund raising for the Club will to help cover yearly ongoing costs of our infrastructure which is in place for all to use.

Now if any amateur has some stuff in the shed that they are thinking of taking to the tip but are having trouble doing so because it might be a bit to good, then we have a very good solution to your problem, donate it to the garage sale, after all it will benefit your Club and the general amateur community rather than the tip shop.

If for some reason you cannot bring your goodies on the day, the drop off points are with Dick VK7FORF and David VK7EX.

So remember the sale date, SUNDAY the 14th of FEBRUARY 2010

If you are a non amateur or a short wave listener living in the North West, or West coast of Tasmania, and would like to become a licenced amateur radio operator, then come along to a meeting and find out about this interesting hobby. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to find out more about the hobby then contact the learning facilitator, Keith Winkler VK7KW, or any of the committee members.

Full contact details are available on our website which can be easily found by a "Yahoo" or "Google" search of CCARC TASMANIA

Cheers from

(David, VK7DC, Secretary, CCARC)

North West Tasmania Amateur Television Group

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

Scheduled Club Meetings

Two Meetings of the NWT-ATV Group are scheduled for Saturday 13th. February 2010. YES! That's next Saturday!

The first of these will be the Annual General Meeting of the Club and as per the rules, all 5 executive positions of the Club will be declared vacant at this meeting.

Any financial member of the Club is entitled to nominate for any of the positions. By now, all members should have received the mail outs, including Nomination forms, Membership Renewal Forms & notice of AGM.

If any member feels he/she would like to have a go at holding an executive position within the Club, here is your chance. So please give it some thought.

The second meeting will be a General Meeting of the Club and will take place at the conclusion of the AGM.

Meeting venue will be the QTH of Ivan VK7XL, 9 McNaughton Drive, Gawler.

Starting time 2.00 PM. and the date again is Next Saturday 13th. Feb.

AMSAT-VK Net Tuesday Night

The Monthly National Satellite Net of AMSAT-VK will again take place this Tuesday 9th. February.

The Net commences at 8.30 PM concluding around 9.30PM, with check-ins from approx. 8.20PM.

The net is available by connecting to the EchoLink Conference server or via IRLP reflector 9558 and RF in the North West of VK7 via the Club's VK7RTV Repeaters on 53.775 and 146.775. MHz. and their associated IRLP Nodes.

All Amateurs and SWL's within range of these repeaters, are welcome and invited to join in. You do not have to be active in working the satellites to be involved with the Net. It is a good way of learning how to become involved with communicating in AR via the "Birds". Why not take a listen, you may become interested in yet another mode of Amateur Radio.

Random Node Call on IRLP Nodes.

A facility known as "Random Node Call" has been reactivated on the Club's IRLP Nodes. By dialling a special DTMF code (in this case 4 x hashes #####) free and idle nodes anywhere in the world can be called by a random selection process.

This required an update in the nodes scripting as the central server had changed it's status page script to a compressed file in lieu of a standard text file to conserve download overheads on the server.

The facility is now again working as normal. All amateurs are welcome to use the Nodes. Why not give it a try. The DTMF code again, is 4 hashes.

73's until next time

(Tony VK7AX, News Officer NWT-ATV Group)

SOUTHERN NEWS

WICEN Tasmania (South)

WICEN Tasmania (South), assisted by other Amateurs, has been providing support to the Tasmania Fire Service for the Wayatinah fire in the Derwent Valley, since 1st February. The fire involves over 6,000 hectares. Fire fighting effort is divided into several sectors and has had multiple helicopter support. An incident management team, IMT, was established at Tas Fire Service at Cambridge. WICEN supplies radio operators for the team.

Three shifts, 0800 to 1300, 1300 to 1800 and 1800 to 2000 or 2200 are worked each day, with some operators doing 'doublers' or 'triplers'. The job involves contacts with IMT staff, helicopters, and with Tas Fire, Forestry and Parks personnel on the fire ground. It includes message passing and collating weather reports.

Each radio operating team of two includes at least one who has completed training arranged by WICEN with the Tas Fire Service. This led to the awarding of certificates of attainment PUAOPE002A Operate Communications Systems and Equipment. The training recognised prior learning, satisfied by holding an Amateur Operators Certificate of Proficiency, and thus was able to focus on Fire Service systems, procedures and protocols. The need for the training was highlighted during a previous WICEN activation during the Wielangta Forest fires, and is consistent with the WIA emergency radio operator training initiative.

Those involved, in order of hours worked (to Sunday night) are:

Scott, VK7HSE, 48 hours

Peter, VK7TPE, 27 hours

Michael, VK7FMRS, 20 hours

Chris, VK7FCSM, 15 hours

Rod, VK7TRF, 12 hours

Ian, VK7IR, 10 hours

Cedric, VK7CSL, 10 hours

Garry, VK7JGD, 6 hours

Steve, VK7FAME, 6 hours

Reg, VK7KK, 5 hours

Dale, VK7DG, 5 hours

Clayton, VK7ZCR, 5 hours

Chris, VK7FCDW, 4 hours

Brian, VK7HSB, 4 hours

They are supported by:

Stu VK7NXX on rostering and

Roger VK7ARN on admin

The duration of the activation is yet to be determined. Suitable volunteers are still being sought to assist experienced operators. Contact should be to Stu VK7NXX on 6267-9537

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

(73, Roger, VK7ARN)

TARGA Wrest Point Report

WICEN in southern Tasmania has a long association with motor sport, especially Targa Tasmania and, in earlier years, the Australian Rally championship heat under its various sponsor related guises.

Tasmania's loss of the championship heat was also sadly missed by WICEN. The differences between the two events, from WICEN's perspective, was that Targa involved radio and repeater deployment and operation using Targa owned equipment, whereas the championship task was to design, establish and operate a whole system.

Rallies normally have at least three radio networks – Stage, Command and Results. WICEN's role on Targa Tasmania involved Stage nets. On the championship event it had been Command or Results. WICEN's interest dwindled.

Discussion with Targa's Communications manager, Ron Brown VK7ZRO, led to Ron having a think about something with a bit of a technical challenge for WICEN to get its teeth into. Ron is well known for at least two of his attributes, both associated with his head. The first is that lots of it is visible. The second, more important, is that Ron does a fair bit of thinking, usually with interesting outcomes.

In 2009, a new event was introduced - Targa Wrest Point - a sort of mini Targa, run only in the south of the State over two days, versus the five days of Targa Tasmania. The first event in 2009 suffered some problems which were designed out for 2010. One of the changes was the use of one stretch of road four times, twice in each direction. This road leads from Geeveston in the Huon Valley to the Tahune Airwalk, a spectacular tree top height walk way in the deep and winding Huon River valley.

The stages Starts/Finishes were almost at the Airwalk a very difficult location for radio communications. The Airwalk visitor station has satellite phone communications for voice and data but this was only available for the rally in case of dire emergency. The challenge for Ron was getting reliable communications between there and Rally Command at Wrest Point Casino, back in Hobart.

Solution? Come up with an outline plan and call in WICEN Tasmania (South) to develop and implement it. Fixing two problems at the same time, comms and WICEN's dwindling interest.

Take a look at the internet version of this report for more details about the linking along with some great diagrams of the long and torturous network path that these signals took from the airwalk to Wrest Point Casino!

http://tas.wicen.org.au/Activity_Reports/TargaWP_2010_Report.htm

The task was completed successfully, despite a few early pre rally start hiccups. Lesson learned that although each of the sections was tested

prior to the event and worked successfully, linking throughout caused new issues to arise which needed to be fixed on the run.

Logistics precluded a full system test on site. In future we will test the paths on site, but also establish a facsimile of the full system across a 'paddock' to indicate any trouble points.

(73, Roger, VK7ARN)

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania

Annual General Meeting

The REAST AGM will start at 11am on Sunday the 21st of February 2010 following the broadcast at the Queen's Domain Clubrooms.

There will be a BYO BBQ after the AGM.

All committee positions are open for nomination and nomination forms can be found at the clubrooms or on the REAST website.

(REAST Committee)

Education and Training

If you would like to participate in a future training and/or assessment and it could be for any assessment (foundation, standard, advanced or practical) then let Reg VK7KK know 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)

March Presentation

Some years ago, Richard, VK7RO, experimented with a few receiving antennas for 7MHz. These trials were mostly conducted at the Domain clubrooms and provided some entertaining exercise for the Wednesday afternoon group as they hauled wire through the bush.

On Wednesday the 3rd March at 8pm, at the Domain clubrooms, Richard will talk about the theory and practice of his attempts to improve reception on 7MHz.

See you there.

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

(73, Ric, VK7RO)

ATV Experimenters Night

We get back underway this week with the ATV Experimenter's nights and we have some great presentations from 7TW & 7MO productions on the 10GHz record breaking attempt from Mt Barrow to Mt Fatigue in VK3 and from Randy K7AGE who is a prolific video maker and he has some great material that we will be showing on the ATV night and future ATV nights.

So, if you are interested in receiving analogue ATV on a Wednesday night from around 7:30pm and you have a UHF TV antenna pointed toward the Queen's Domain then try tuning your analogue TV down the UHF TV band to SBS and then tune a little lower and you will probably find our ATV signal on 444.25MHz.

We also have a signal going out on digital Satellite TV standard - DVB-S on 1283MHz and you will need a digital satellite receiver and suitable antenna to receive this signal.

We get underway around 7:30pm in the ATV studios. So, if you would like to be involved in ATV come up to the domain and see and experience what amateur television is all about. We guarantee you'll be impressed....HIHI.

Hope to see you along.

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

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

WEB & EMAIL EDITION EXTRA BITS!!

W5GFE – SPLAT Coverage and Path Profiling site (thanks to Phil VK7JJ)

<http://splat.ecok.edu/>

Want to know Sunset and Sunrise?

<http://www.ga.gov.au/geodesy/astro/sunrise.jsp>

Attenuators:

http://www.zen118213.zen.co.uk/RFMicrowave_Circuits_Files/Attenuator.pdf

<http://www.electronics-tutorials.com/basics/attenuators.htm>

The Toroid King!

<http://kitsandparts.com/>

An HF In-Line Return Loss And Power Meter

<http://n2pk.com/RLPmtr/RLPv1c.pdf>

RF Test and Measurement Equipment

http://www.prof-robertson.com/index_files/measurements.pdf

Cable size calculator (Thanks to Rod VK7TRF and Roger VK7ARN)

<http://www.solar-wind.co.uk/cable-sizing-DC-cables.html>

Spirals of Archimedes

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archimedean_spiral

Hyperbolic Spiral

<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/HyperbolicSpiral.html>

Some ATV sites

<http://atv-tv.org/atv-tv.php>

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

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_television

<http://www.batc.org.uk/>

Digital TV Antenna Systems Handbook

<http://www.digitalready.gov.au/media/MDUHandbook.pdf>

Digital TV Antenna Systems Handbook for Homes

<http://www.digitalready.gov.au/media/SingleDwellingHandbook.pdf>

Digital TV in Australia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_terrestrial_television_in_Australia

Digital TV for Dummies

<http://digitaltvdummies.synthasite.com/>

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

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

VK7 Virtual BPL Tours

<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: VK7TW

40m: VK7RO

20m: VK7IL

10m: VK7ZGK

UHF CB: VK7ZCR

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.