

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 6 JUNE 2010

VK0 GREETINGS

Greetings from Macquarie Island

Warren VK7FEET reports from the REAST news desk on Macquarie Island. Last Saturday night after dinner our station leader showed the film "The Ship That Shouldn't have" on the big screen. And as recently mentioned by the REAST ATV group it is about a daring DXpedition in 1983 to Heard Island. It turns out that our station leader Jeremy Smith was one of them on that hair raising trip.

Warren has finally made contact with another amateur radio operator. Though not quite very long distance. Denis ZL4DB is also at Macquarie Island working for the Pest Eradication Program. He is part of the NZ helicopter team and provides ground support. Like Warren, Denis is disappointed that there is no ham suitable equipment on Macquarie Island. The only HF radios used here today are Codans which are programmed for various HF frequencies outside of the ham bands. Anyway we worked each other at 2 meters on 2 meters and will be exchanging special VK0-portable QSL cards.

The days are counting. Soon all the cargo off the Aurora Australis will be discharged. She'll then be steaming back to Hobart. I'll be boarding and while travelling home I certainly will investigate the ships radio. You never know...HIHI.

Greetings from the sub-Antarctic,
(73, Warren VK7FEET/VK0)

WIA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

AGM Weekend – A Quick Précis

Firstly it was great to also see Reg VK7KK, XYL Annette and Rex VK7MO at the AGM weekend as the VK7 contingent.

The Friday night saw a great tour of the Black Mountain communications facility and then dinner in the revolving restaurant.

Black Mountain is a fantastic facility and a great demonstration of what you can do when you build a very impressive purpose built communications building.

Black Mountain is a 195.2m high tower consisting of five layers starting with TV and Radio layer, then the Mobile Phones, microwave, fibre and telecommunications layer. At the 58.5m level is the revolving restaurant which affords a commanding view over Canberra and revolves at a rate of once every 83 minutes. Above the restaurant are the observation decks then the tower.

The tour started in the television and radio transmitter halls. In both areas you are confronted by large copper and aluminium coaxial cables of at least 100mm in diameter that run from large powerful transmitters into combiners, filters, dummy loads and eventually head up the tower to the antenna. This is major plumbing!

We then ventured upstairs to the mobile phones area and the microwave links, optic fibre equipment and the trunked radio services on 160 and 80MHz.

It was then up to the observation decks and down to the restaurant for a delicious meal whilst you slowly moved past Canberra.

The Saturday morning saw the official parts of the weekend with the WIA Centenary AGM and Open Forum. There were over 150 people at the AGM and it flowed smoothly under the guidance of President Michael Owen VK3KI.

Lunch was served and it was in to the afternoon of historically oriented talks which included early WIA records, formation of ALARA, early pioneers, experimental methods over the ages, ARISS history, broadcasting, and finishing with a talk by Justin VK7TW on modern communications technologies and the future.

Then about 200 people attended the Centenary Dinner. This was a highlight with 10 students from Trinity Christian School asking questions of Astronaut Tracy Caldwell-Dyson KF5DBF. This was a fantastic public demonstration of the nature of our hobby. The keynote speaker at the dinner was given by the Patron of the Centenary – Dick Smith VK2DIK and this was very entertaining. There were many guests who came from all over the world including the IARU President, representatives from the ARRL, President of the Indian Amateur Radio, IARU regions 1, 2 & 3, NZART, Bulgaria, Korea, JARL and many others who presented gifts and congratulated the WIA on reaching 100. It was a great night.

Justin VK7TW was up early Sunday morning to place a Geocoin in a nearby geocache and then attended the live broadcast by the WIA Directors on the VK100WIA weekend broadcast. Unfortunately the encoding and uploading took longer than anticipated however the broadcast was uploaded and available only 10 minutes late. It was great to get so much material from each WIA director on our National broadcast.

Later in the morning it was then off to Dick Smith's property called the Bowylie Flying Club at Gundaroo which was about a 30 minute drive North from Canberra for the WIA Centenary BBQ.

Dick Smith has created a great "oldie worldly" feel to the flying club and the detail is phenomenal with even a past presidents board that includes the likes of Bert Hinkler, Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, Nancy Bird, Major Bigglesworth and Lester Brain. There are restored aircraft, engines, the flying club lounge and a replica of his Uncle's amateur radio shack. There is a narrow gauge railway that runs around the property and a large hanger with the sign "Dick's Toy Shed" proudly displayed on it.

As the Yaesu sponsored BBQ started four army helicopters flew in low and landed next to the air strip. These guys were flying from Sydney to Adelaide and were forced down due to bad weather and could not get into Canberra. There guys were invited to lunch and I don't think could believe their luck. Not sure what they told their CO...HIHI. We talked with these guys whilst eating our delicious lunch.

After the BBQ Dick Smith then told the story of his solo round the world helicopter trip in 1983 and the dangerous trip from Japan to Alaska. He had to land on a container ship to refuel. It was a fantastic story and Dick is a great story teller. The Army Helicopter pilots were riveted to his every word.

A great big thank you was given to Dick Smith for opening up his property from all who attended and the day wound up around 4pm with people heading back home.

All in all this was a very successful and well attended weekend and great big thanks you to all who were involved with organising it.

Justin VK7TW has put together a photo montage of the weekend from all the photos he has take and this will be shown at the next REAST ATV Experimenter's group night on Wednesday.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

NTARC – June 9 - BBQ meeting at the Mt Barrow interpretation centre.

www.ntarc.net

REAST – June 9, 16, 23, 30 – ATV Experimenter's Group – Queen's Domain Clubrooms starts around 7:30pm.

<http://reast.asn.au/atv/>

REAST – July 7 – Constructors Night – Optical Transceiver with VK7TW starts 8pm in the Queen’s Domain Clubrooms. BYO Soldering Iron.

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

NON COMMERCIAL FOR SALE AND WANTED

For Sale

Mark VK7FZZZ has for sale one near new, rarely used Alinco 2 metre DR 135 mark 3 - 50 watt transceiver

Mark is selling because he wishes to buy or swap for 10/11 metre gear.

The Alinco is selling for \$185 - worth much more than this and still has the plastic protection on the screen. A few cosmetic scratches on the sides due to fitment as a mobile for a few months.

If interested you can phone or text Mark on 0406 250 500

(73, Mark, VK7FZZZ)

Wanted

Mike VK7FB would like to contact the amateur who bought his HF trapped vertical. Mike has located the complete handbook for the antenna.

Please contact Mike on 0408121755 to arrange delivery.

(73, Mike, VK7FB)

NORTHERN NEWS

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

www.ntarc.net

It’s been a rather quiet week for any radio related news in this part of the state.

Monday mornings’ coffee meet at Lilydale was a very subdued affair with only a handful of people enjoying the good food & coffee there.

Tony VK7YBG has received the crystals for the new 70 centimetre VK7REC repeater, and NTARC is currently awaiting for WIA and ACMA to officially approve all the paperwork. Tony will take some time over the next few weeks to build up the new repeater, and once we get the

go ahead, everything should be tested and ready to go. Thanks Tony for all your hard work in getting VK7REC back on air!

Wednesday is of course the BBQ meeting at Mt Barrow interpretation centre. Lets hope that the forecast rain doesn't eventuate, but a little bit of snow could make things interesting for the evening. Getting to the Mt Barrow interpretation centre isn't too difficult. On the Tasman Highway at Nunamara, turn south into Bingham's Road, then follow the red arrows all the way up. The road is gravel and is a one way loop only, so drive carefully. Dress warmly too... that earlier comment about snow was no joke, given the right conditions, snow could be a very real possibility.

Thanks from

(Jason VK7ZJA, NTARC Secretary)

NORTH WEST NEWS

Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)

CCARC News

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

The latest meeting of the CCARC on Saturday the 29th of May, went extremely well. The club held an antenna construction session, with the main project being a 2m end fed dipole suitable for portable or base use. These simple, low budget antennas were constructed under the guidance of David, VK7DC. Once the antennas were constructed, tuning was quickly and easily done outside the rooms, thanks to Bill VK7MX, who by lucky co-incidence brought along his antenna analyser. It was great to see the team efforts, as all the antenna took shape over the course of the 2 hour session. Many thanks to all the members and visitors who come along to make this all worthwhile. For those that missed out, basic construction details can be found on the project page of the club website.

The next meeting will be on the 27th of June, and will feature Vernon VK7VF giving a talk on using the HP8924 RF test set, and afterwards, the RF tools software package.

Regards from

(David, VK7DC, Secretary, CCARC)

North West Tasmania Amateur Television Group

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

Members on Sick List

We were saddened to hear that Steve VK7ZSJ is currently in a Launceston Hospital undergoing substantial cancer treatment and is expecting to undergo surgery in the near future. Members and your amateur friends on the Coast are thinking of you Steve and wish you well for the future.

Steve is able to keep in touch via Echolink and is regularly available via the eQSO Chat server of VK7AX.

Another member, Graham VK7FGAA has been in and out of the Burnie Hospital with continuing problems associated with a knee replacement recently, returning home once again last Thursday. We believe that Graham uses the excuse of a bad knee just to be re admitted so as he can chase the nurses!!! Get well soon Graham, we miss your voice on the repeater.

100 Percent Renewal of Club Membership

We are pleased to report that the Club has experienced a 100% renewal of its membership for the current financial year 1st. Jan. 2010 – 31st. Dec.2010.

Membership now stands at 35.

This is a VERY satisfying & encouraging result. The Club has achieved much and come a long way since its formation in February 2009, and indicates that members were happy to retain their membership in a progressive Radio Club and more importantly, a Club with a happy and friendly environment.

Non Members who would like to join the Club, please contact the Membership Officer, Tony VK7AX, for a Membership Application Form.

eQSO Chat Room

The Club now has a chat room available on eQSO courtesy VK7AX.

The Server and chat rooms can be found on eQSO under the Call sign of VK7AX.

Two Rooms are available at the moment, “101English” and “ATV & SSTV” Chat.

An eQSO RF gateway with a link to the VK7RTV 2M. Repeater is permanently connected to the 101ENGLISH Room, which effectively means all 2M. VK7RTV repeater bothway traffic is available when connected to the 101ENGLISH Chat room of VK7AX. It is suggested that NON RF type traffic use the “ATV & SSTV” Chat Room where it is more private and clients need not worry about being connected to a repeater network.

Amateurs interested in eQSO can download the software which is free and available at <http://www.eqso.org> Alternatively the link can be found on the Club's Web Page.

Registration of the software is the same procedure as EchoLink in that applicants need to verify that they are licensed amateurs by submitting a copy of their current Lic. to the eQSO Admin Team. Once the Station is verified, a user password and Registration Key is returned by email within 24 hours.

Interested persons may care to note that the Club's nightly Amateur Radio Broadcasts and Podcasts, including the WIA National & VK7 Regional news can all be heard by connecting to this eQSO Chat Room.

AMSAT-VK Net Tuesday Night

The Monthly National Satellite Net of AMSAT-VK will again take place this Tuesday 8th. March.

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

The net is available 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.

73's until next time

(Tony VK7AX, News Officer – NWTATVG)

SOUTHERN NEWS

WICEN Tasmania (South)

Members of WICEN South and WICEN groups from CCARC and NTARC descended, or ascended as the case may be, on St Helens on May 21-22 to provide checkpoint communications for 40, 80 and 160 km equine endurance rides. The 160 km, or "100 miler" ride was to test the course proposed for the 2012 Tom Quilty national championships, which will be held in Tasmania in the St Helens area. 2009 saw the ride in Victoria and it's to be near Tamworth in New South Wales this year. Tassie expects about 200 riders in 2012, which will see a fast and furious pace of on air reporting from checkpoints.

The 100 miler ride starts at midnight and continues over five legs, with one hour breaks between each leg. There were 12 checkpoints along the St Helens course. The first rider completed the course in 18 hours and the last in 23 hours, including breaks. Fortunately, the course was relatively dry, morning mist and frost being the only precipitation. Visibility was also reduced by a forestry burn involving almost the whole of Leg 1. Though lit the week prior, it was still burning as we left St Helens on Sunday morning. It did provide hotspots for checkpoint crews to attempt to stay warm, though not enough to beat the lowest overnight temperature reported from checkpoints of minus 3.9 degrees. Garry VK7GJD had to abandon his bed at ground level and climb into the back of his vehicle to escape the smoke accumulating in the ground mist.

Horse endurance riding is a balance between maintaining a good pace and maintaining the mount in good condition. Riders are disqualified if the horse's vital signs have not returned to set levels within a short time of returning to Base at the end of each Leg. Horse welfare is paramount. Checkpoint operators are well down the chain, and have to be self reliant and contained! Vet checks were offered for some radio operators but were rejected, probably due to the size of some of the probes used to measure internal temperatures.

The test run highlighted a number of communications issues to be managed and planning is already underway.

The 2012 Tom Quilty will be a major event with horses and riders travelling from all parts of Australia to compete. Like last weekend, it will be based at the St Helens recreation ground. It's also a great opportunity to promote Amateur Radio and to maybe combine a family holiday break with some Amateur radio and worthwhile volunteering in support of a terrific family sport. Pencil in September 2012 for what will be a great radio event as well as an equine one.

Pictures from the event can be found from the link in the web edition of this broadcast

http://tas.wicen.org.au/Photo_pages/sthelens1005.html

Similarly, a map of the course

<http://maps.google.com.au/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=116876763353176361571.00046ffd8f640a9c8cf15&z=12>

The course map has been updated to reflect the track of one rider who carried a back pack APRS unit.

(73, Roger, VK7ARN via the WICEN North Mailing List)

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania

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

VK100WIA REAST Operation

We are looking for operators to cover the 22-24 June 2010 when REAST will be operating the VK100WIA callsign.

We are organising to operate the station from a range of public locations as well as the Queen's Domain clubrooms.

If you are interested in helping out then please contact Justin VK7TW ASAP via email VK7TW@wia.org.au or 0439 016 622.

Licence Examinations

If you are interested in sitting an exam then contact Reg VK7KK on 0417 391 607, or email on regemm@ozemail.com.au.

(73, Reg VK7KK, REAST Education Officer and Assessor)

June Presentation

Amateur Radio and Telemedicine in Antarctica

Dr Graham Denyer VK7JN gave a great talk last Wednesday night about his experiences as a medical doctor based in Antarctica and his experiences operating an amateur radio station in the frozen continent.

Graham has been an amateur for about 20 years although he joke he has been active for only about 2 of those years. He wintered at Davis base in 2006 and is now based in Kingston supporting the Doctors that are down at the three Australian bases.

Graham gave a short history of communications and medicine within Antarctica and the support models that are being employed by the Division. Telemedicine is developing and Graham used the example of the ultrasound machines and soon to be purchased updated xray machines that will make it much easier to get digital images for review back in Kingston.

This was a fascinating presentation and a big thank you to Graham for his time and thanks to Paul VK7PAH for organising.

The presentation was videoed for the ATV Library and will be available within the next few weeks.

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

(Justin, VK7TW)

July Presentation

Constructor's Night – Optical Transceivers

We will be putting together simple light transmitters and receivers during the night and then taking them outside to test them.

Please bring along your soldering irons, some solder and simple tools for a fun night of construction.

Kits will be available for a small fee to cover the component cost.

Please let Justin VK7TW know if you will coming along so we can have enough kits available on the night.

This occurs on Wednesday 7th July 2010 starting at 8:00pm.

See you there.

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

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

ATV Experimenters Night

We get back underway with our ATV nights this Wednesday night with the main presentation being the photo montage from the WIA AGM weekend with commentary.

We will also be playing another video from the 1983 Heard Island DXpedition.

We get underway around 7:30pm.

Hope to see you along.

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

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

HUMOUR TO FINISH

Latest Scientific Discovery

Oxford University researchers have discovered the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, Governmentium (symbol=Gv) has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called pillocks. Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second, to take from 4 days to 4 years to complete. Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2 to 6 years. It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes. This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as critical morass. When catalyzed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium (symbol=Ad), an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium, since it has half as many pillocks but twice as many morons.

(Sourced from the VK-VHF Mailing List)

WEB & EMAIL EDITION EXTRA BITS!!

STS-132 Launch Video

<http://vimeo.com/11821446>

Solar Panel Deployment Mechanism Video

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/may2010/cubesat_solar_panels.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AmateurRadioNews+%28Southgate+Amateur+Radio+News%29

Loran Tower Comes Down

<http://www.rwonline.com/article/100502>

History of Batteries Video

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/slideshow/consumer-electronics/portable-devices/the-power-of-batteries>

Wireless Power

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/green-tech/mass-transit/a-critical-look-at-wireless-power/3>

US Debt Clock

<http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

The following links are courtesy of CG Communicator:

GRADE A OFF TOPIC MATERIAL

Airborne broadcast stations, Air Force style:

<http://tinyurl.com/CommandoSolo>

Breaking into a garage in six seconds – Scary!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMz1tXBVT1s>

Checking out Saturn: <http://tinyurl.com/BigSaturn>

CGC #1004 linked to the first 35mm motion picture reportedly made, a trolley ride through San Francisco just days before the 1906 earthquake (first URL). Now, take the photo journey again, same route but 100 years later (second URL). Enjoy!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=NINOxRxze9k

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Vqcz_tllnwM

A quick and delightful video tour through the International Space Station:

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=H8rHarp1GEE

Honolulu, Hawaii, August 14, 1945. This video is in honour of US Memorial Day and captures the spontaneous celebrations that broke out on hearing the first news of the Japanese surrender:

<http://vimeo.com/5645171>

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=pcdY0Eetvsw> - 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

80m: VK7EM

40m: VK7JGD

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.