

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 7 August 2011

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vk7regionalnews/>

Silent Key

James (Jim) Glegg Davis VK7OW

It is our sad duty to inform you of the death of Jim Davis VK7OW at 98 years old on the 4th of August 2011.

Jim got hooked on wireless in 1923 with the local post master who had a 2 valve battery set! Jim got his own radio in 1926 but never got really serious until 1976 when he passed his Novice licence.

During the war Jim worked as a maintenance mechanic in a Tasmanian flax mill in Latrobe that was used to make parachute material. Jim was also a projectionist at the local cinema.

Jim went back into the motor trade after the war and also into selling cars. One of his claims to fame was that he personally wrote to Sir William Lyon at Jaguar cars with a suggestion about padding on the dash to prevent serious injury in the event of an accident and from the 420G there were new dash designs.

Jim contacted many famous people around the world including Grote Reber and talked fondly of his work mapping the Milky Way. He even bought Grote lunch one day at the Bothwell pub.

Jim is survived by wife Betty and family.

He will be sadly missed.

Vale Jim.

(Winston VK7EM & Ian Ellings VK7QF & RAOTC)

VK7 Regional Broadcasts

Remembrance Day Contest – Next Weekend.

Please note that there will be no WIA or VK7 Regional News broadcasts next Sunday.

This is the one weekend on the broadcast calendar that the broadcast team all gets a rest and can play some radio...HIHI.

Broadcasts resume on Sunday 21st August 2011.

The Remembrance Day opening address will be broadcast prior to the contest start.

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

(Justin VK7TW VK7 Regional News Broadcast Coordinator)

VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

NTARC – August 10 - Social dinner at the Queen's Head Hotel in Perth from 6:30pm.

www.ntarc.net

REAST – August 10, 17, 24, 31 – DATV Experimenter's Group – DATV Studio Queen's Domain from 7:30pm.

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

WIA – August 13 & 14 - Remembrance Day Contest

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

ILLW – August 20 & 22 – International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

www.illw.net

JOTA – October 16 – Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet.

http://scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota

Northern News

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

www.ntarc.net

Repeater News - The Broadcast Link

Just a reminder that Joe VK7JG advises us that unfortunately the Northern Broadcast link cannot be repaired till the weather improves and in any event, it will likely be sometime in September, due to other commitments.

General News

With no news on the repeater front, NTARC needs to look wider for a little bit of technical input this week.

We have John VK7XX to thank for first drawing our attention to this item – and no, we are not referring to John's recent attempts to either disprove or repeat Isaac Newton's findings.

John arrived at the NTARC Lilydale coffee session, back in June, agog with his recent discovery of a Youtube video demonstrating the incredible power handling ability of a recently released LDMOS power amplifier transistor from the NXP Corporation.

This offering, the BLF578XR, is being marketed as "Unbreakable" by its manufacturer. Their video demonstrates a single device producing 1200 watts output into a 50 ohm load, then withstanding severe load mis-matches up to an SWR of 125:1, yet again producing 1200watts out after that mis-matched load was removed and replaced by the 50 ohms expected by the designers.

Naturally this was met with some disbelief by the assembled bunch of experienced (and dare I say advanced call) amateurs, although they have all had to also marvel at this development after going home and viewing the video. Subsequent discussion has tended to focus on the cooling needs of the device and how any of us might be able to afford the slab of copper needed for that task, assuming that we could afford to buy the BLF578XR in the first place.

Such considerations are of course mere challenges for the enterprising amateur so we are confident they will be overcome by the ingenuity the fraternity usually shows in the face of such emerging technology. In the meantime, if you haven't seen the video, we suggest you do a Youtube search on "NXP BLF578XR" and you will immediately understand our interest.

It goes without saying that others elsewhere have also been attracted to this video and the horizons it promises to open. It has been a recurring theme on many of the various ham internet chat and mail groups of late. Some of that discussion has drawn attention to the fact that the reported SWR figures were derived from running a pulsed output at a relatively low 20% duty cycle. While that may well be the case, the device remains impressive, nonetheless.

The international web discussion has also served to focus attention on recently announced rival products, offering similar performance and all completely unimaginable just a few years ago. One of those is from Freescale, previously known as the semiconductor arm of Motorola. One of its products, the MRFE6VP1K25H, operating on a 50 volt DC supply, is cited in the relevant Application Note as delivering 1.25KW at 235 MHz, from a single device operating in Class C, at 83.5% efficiency. That would be very attractive indeed to the CW operator. For those preferring SSB, a single device in Class AB2 promises 920 watts output using 1dB compression, or 80% efficiency, falling to 800 watts at 65% efficiency, again at 235 MHz. Again, very healthy looking data.

Those figures, particularly the Class C set, have one Malta based experimenter very interested in this particular device - although he too wonders how he might provide adequate cooling, given current world copper prices!

He also noted that the existing Application Note refers only to usage at VHF, whereas his interest lies in a linear amplifier covering 1.8 through 54 MHz. While attempting to glean greater understanding from the published data of how it might perform at HF, he thought he might as well pop the question to the engineers at Freescale. To his surprise, the response was immediate. While they freely acknowledge that they don't really know, they are optimistic and further, they have now started to gather together components to build a test amplifier!

If you would like to follow this emerging story, you might care to join the "home-brew radios" Yahoo group. You will find at least a couple of other VK7 operators already resident there.

Education and Training

At this time, NTARC has no formal classes planned although that situation would be reviewed in the light of demand. In the meantime individual training sessions and assessments can be arranged by contacting either our Learning Facilitator Idris VK7ZIR or our Education Officer Peter VK7PD, who is also the appointed WIA Assessor here in the north, through the club website.

So, to any of our listeners who may be thinking of embarking on a Foundation licence, or to any of our Foundation or Standards licence holders who would like to upgrade to the next level, we remind you that Idris and Peter are eager to hear from you.

Lighthouse weekend 20 – 21 August

To any of our members who will be taking part in the Lighthouse weekend, your reporter awaits with baited breath your report for the news. We understand that both Eddystone Point and Low Head lights have been registered this year, the latter not by the usual crew who were beaten to the punch this year.

JOTA

Just a reminder that JOTA will be held on Sunday 16 October at the Kings Meadow Scout Hall commencing at 10.00 am until late afternoon. Peter VK7KPC would be happy to hear from any of our members who are willing to lend a hand in setting up on the Saturday and assisting on the Sunday. So please don't be shy.

Next meetings

NTARC's next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 August. This meeting will take the form of a social outing – dinner at the Queen's Head Inn in Perth. Planned get together time is 6.30 for 7.00pm. The dining room is open between 6.00 and 8.00 pm so this time should suit our working members.

For those thinking of attending the dinner, take a look in the in the Examiner on Wednesdays. There you will find a promotional coupon from the Queen's Head, enabling you to receive your main course at half price (one per person). That should make the night out even more tempting so come along and enjoy a night of good food and company.

Also, those members who are planning to attend could you please indicate such when calling back to this morning's broadcast, so that I can firm up on our bookings with the Queen's Head. We currently have a table for 20 booked but that can be readily increased, if numbers dictate.

The September General meeting will return to our usual venue, Block B, the Skills Institute at Alanvale. As usual, the meeting will commence at 7.30pm followed by tea/coffee and light refreshments. The post-meeting presentation will be by Bill VK7MX, who tells us his talk has the working title "Between a rock and an Arduino. What a place to be!"

The October meeting will be our annual pilgrimage to the Mount Barrow Interpretation Center for an open fire and barbecue, with overnight camping for those so inclined.

We look forward to seeing you at each of these events.

Yvonne VK7FYM would like to remind members if they have any suggestions for topics for discussion or possible guest speakers at our future meetings, your contributions and ideas will be warmly welcomed. You can do this by contacting any of the committee members via the NTARC website.

A reminder too that if any of the NTARC members have any items of news they would like added to the Sunday broadcast, please contact Yvonne at ypmaxwell@... or via the NTARC website.

Finally, a reminder that NTARC meets informally for coffee each Monday and Friday at Friends Cafe, in Jimmy's shopping complex off Charles Street, Launceston between 11.00am and noon. A reminder too that on the last Monday of each month, the coffee venue switches to Lilydale, where we visit David VK7YUM and Norma VK7FOOD at their cafe in the main street between 11.00am and noon.

(73, Yvonne, NTARC Inc. Secretary)

NORTH WEST News

Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)

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

Club meeting

The July meeting of the Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club was held last Saturday and proved to be an interesting day with large gathering with members plus local and interstate visitors attending. After the business session an amount of pre-loved equipment was disposed of and the proceeds donated to the club.

With the weather improving later in the afternoon we then followed up with a Squid Pole display session, with 3 different versions of Squid Poles being set up and tested on the lawns around the Lions club rooms.

Peter VK7KPC and Winston VK7EM both displayed vehicle mounted versions and Dion VK7DB setup an elaborate lawn mounted version. Local traffic was slowing down and looking at the display, wondering what was happening with all the poles in the air.

After a bit of testing the systems all proved to be working well. Not one to let an opportunity go by, Scott VK7NWT, managed to get a hold of the respective microphones and work some DX, including a Spanish station in a pile-up on 20 metres with 5 x 9 signals exchanged.

We would like to thank Dion, Peter and Winston for bringing along their equipment and putting on this extremely interesting and well attended display.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is fast approaching, and teams are planning to activate several lighthouses on the north-west and west coast. At Devonport, Winston VK7EM, and Scott VK7NWT, are preparing to activate Mersey Bluff lighthouse.

Eric VK7NFI, and Wayne VK7NET, are doing the usual at Wynyard with the Table Cape lighthouse. After last years event the Wynyard Municipal council offered to make available the lighthouse building which is now open for inspection tours, so there will be much opportunity to improve the antenna locations as the lighthouse is in the order of 20 m high.

Dion VK7DB will be doing a first time activation of the Sandy Cape lighthouse on the rugged west coast. Getting to this location will be an adventure in itself as the only access is via about 20km of beach and tracks heading south from Temma.

The event will be run on the 20th and 21st of August. Please drop in and give some support to these operators doing their bit to promote Amateur Radio and keeping the airwaves active. They will look forward to both personal visits and on air contacts.

Regards from

(David, VK7DC, Secretary, CCARC)

North West Tasmanian ATV Group (NWTATVG)

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

Live Video Broadcast Friday Nights

A reminder for those interested in Amateur Radio related broadcasts. The prime broadcast 'HAM NATION' from Spectrum and VK7AX is still airing on Friday Nights at 8.00 PM Local.

The audio is available via local Repeaters and EchoLink.

The show is produced and recorded earlier in the week, downloaded and encoded to DVD which is available via ATV in the Ulverstone area and Video Stream via <http://vk7ax.camstreams.com>

For information on all Broadcasts from Spectrum ...please visit the club website.

<http://www.vk7ax.id.au/spectrum/>

Amateur Radio Assessments and training

Persons in the N/West Area of VK7 interested in Training and Assessments for all classes of Amateur Radio Licenses are advised that the Club can provide these requirements and much more.

Maybe someone wishes to upgrade. Well the club has the appropriately trained personnel with Facilitators from the Radio and Electronics School who can attend to all requirements should candidates so desire.

For more information, please contact the Club's Learning Organizer Tony VK7AX, or the Club.

Contact details can be found on the Club Web Site or the WIA site under VK7 Clubs.

73's until next time

(Tony VK7AX, President - North West Tas. ATV Group)

Southern News

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania Inc.

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

REAST News.

Committee Meeting:

Due to a double booking the REAST committee meeting is now on Thursday 18th August at 7pm.
Visitors welcome.

Presentation night.

Last Wednesday we had the great privilege of having Barry VK7TBM present to us the history of Coast Radio Hobart from its humble beginnings of a test base radio and portable unit through to current day with is an extremely sophisticated network which is the best of its type in Australia servicing some 1300 members. It just goes to show what a man with a vision, and a broken down runabout on a rainy night wishing he had someone to call for help can do. Thanks Barry, it was a truly great presentation and the large crowd at the Domain clubrooms enjoyed the presentation immensely.

Grant Scheme

REAST has applied for a WIA grant again this year with the emphasis again being on training youths in the community that have an interest in radio. The 2010 grant that we were successful in gaining is going along well with 5 New Town High lads making their way through the curriculum and should be in a position to sit the exam very soon. The level of electronics knowledge that they have is brilliant, So much so that they could quite easily be able to sit the Standard exam and do quite well. Once we brush their skills up on the RF side of things they will be in good stead to sit the exam. This year we are looking at training up a teacher as well with the hope that it may get included as an extra curricular course.

Boot sale

Just a reminder that the car boot sale is on 4 September at the domain clubrooms with plenty on offer including that free BBQ. If you are north of the border, why not consider coming down for a day trip, enjoy our hospitality and you may even buy or sell a bargain.

Radio Console

Work is still moving along well with a data cable on the way to use digital modes on the Yaesu FT-920. An ad was placed on VKHAM for an FM board for this radio to utilise 6M FM with a couple of overseas amateurs offering this board to us at varying prices. The first offered the board at \$350 with an email moments later from another location in the world wanting \$120. Strangely both insisted on a postal address upfront even before confirming that a purchase was going to be made. Both also asked for the funds to be paid ASAP via Western Union. An email back to the pair asking about the condition of the boards got a reply within moments of each other stating they were in good condition and for me to make payment ASAP. I requested that if we were to consider a purchase that we choose an alternative payment method as Western union is known to be a hazardous way to send money. I did not get a reply. A search on google and QRZ.com had threads about the 2 callsigns that were being quoted in the emails that unknown persons were using their callsigns to sell items on the net and the real operators of the callsigns were alerting others to not buy anything purporting to be from them. A little research can save a lot of heartache down the track.

(Tony, VK7VKT, Secretary REAST)

REAST Training, Education & Assessment

If you are interested in undertaking an amateur radio exam and/or training and this could be for foundation, standard, advanced, regulations or practical then contact our learning organiser Reg VK7KK on 0417 391 607, or email on regemm@...

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

DATV Experimenters Night

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

We get back underway with our DATV Experimenter's this Wednesday night August 10 from 7:30pm. Our subject matter returns to hobby robotics and a few other examples of robotics, Arduinos, TI Launchpads and much more. This will include how to use ultrasonics to test distance using the Ping module which is popular with hobby robotics builders.

Our video presentation next week will be continuing with our Antarctic theme with a wonderful historic video of Frank Hurley's film "South" of the Shackleton 1914-16 expedition to the South Pole thanks to Mike VK7MJ.

What do you need to receive DATV?

The Digital TV frequency is 446.5MHz and it is standard DVB-Terrestrial broadcast which means that many standard and high definition set-top boxes and Digital TVs may be able to tune into the broadcast.

A directional antenna pointed toward the domain with a reasonable amount of gain and a set-top box or TV that can tune 446.5MHz is all you need.

Take a look at the link on the email and internet editions of this broadcast for a list of those Set Top Boxes that can tune the frequency.

See you in a fortnight's time at 7:30pm.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

DX News

ILLW – NW Microwave Activation

On the weekend of 21 and 22 August Rex VK7MO will be joining Eric VK7NFI and Wayne VK7NET for the International Lighthouse Weekend operating from Table Cape Lighthouse in QE29 North West Tasmania. The top of the lighthouse gives an excellent take-off all across Bass Strait. Rex will operate on 144, 432, 1296 and 10368 both SSB and digital on XXX.225. Rex will also try meteor scatter during the normal activity sessions on 144.230.

(73 Rex VK7MO via the VK-Microwave mailing list)

Satellite News

ARISSat-1 Finally Deployed from ISS

After a delay of almost four hours, cosmonauts Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS, and Alexander Samokutyaev, successfully deployed Amateur Radio's newest satellite: ARISSat-1/KEDR. The deployment was originally scheduled to occur at 1457 UTC on Wednesday, August 3 and was delayed due to antenna concerns.

The following is a summary of the ARISSat-1 frequencies and modes:

- 145.950 MHz FM Downlink.
- 435 MHz - 145 MHz Linear Transponder
- 145.919 MHz/145.939 MHz CW Beacons.
- 145.920 MHz SSB BPSK-1000 Telemetry

AMSAT needs your telemetry from ARISSat-1/KEDR after deployment from the International Space Station. Recorded ARISSat-1/KEDR and Kursk telemetry CSV files can be sent to the address that can be found on the email edition of this broadcast.

www.amsat.org

(AMSAT News Service)

Web & Email Edition Extra Bits!!

Reminder of National AMSAT-VK Net - Tuesday 9 August 2011 20:30 - 21:30 - Operators may join the net via Echolink by connecting to either the *Amsat* or *VK3JED* conferences. Past experience has shown that the VK3JED server offers clearer audio. The net is also available via IRLP reflector numbers 9558. In addition to the Echolink conferences, the net will also be available via RF on the following repeaters and links: VK7 - VK7RTV 6M. Repeater Gawler 53.775 MHz IRLP 6124. VK7RTV 2M. Repeater Gawler 146.775 MHz. IRLP 6616

Space Forum in Adelaide

<http://spaceboomerang.blogspot.com/2011/07/space-industry-forum-in-adelaide.html>

Marine Traffic (Thanks VK7TBM)

<http://www.marinetraffic.com/ais/>

Air Traffic

www.flightradar24.com

Man tries to build nuke reactor in kitchen (Thanks VK7FEET)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-05/swedish-kitchen-nuke-reactor/2825356>

Ham Nation

<http://twit.tv/hn>

Ham Radio Social Networking

<http://hamradionation.com/home.php>

Phil Harman VK6APH – Chapter 7:

http://www.fanarco.net/books/geology/Pulinets_Boyarchuk_Ionospheric_Precursors_of_Earthquakes.pdf

National Science Week in VK7

<http://www.scienceweek.gov.au/YourState/TAS/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.scienceweek.gov.au/Pages/EventsMap.aspx?state=tas>

Big splat could explain Moon's far side

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/08/04/3284476.htm>

Cold electrons provide sharper focus

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/08/02/3283534.htm>

The problem with physics

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/08/04/3285522.htm>

Japanese Tsumani from a Car – v.scary!

<http://www.wimp.com/japanesetsunami/>

JBot – Office Robot

<http://www.jameco.com/Jameco/workshop/diy/jbotrobot.html>

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

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

Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vk7regionalnews/>

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

Please note there are no broadcasts next Sunday as it is the Remembrance Day contest.

This is the one day in the broadcast calendar where the broadcast team gets a rest and can play radios...HIHI.

The following is a reminder for those people rostered for the broadcast in two week's time – the 21 August 2011:

Newsreader: VK7RS

80m: VK7JGD

40m: VK7TW

20m: VK7AR

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. ON THE 21ST AUGUST THE NATIONAL WIA NEWS CAN BE HEARD AT 0900 FOLLOWED BY THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS AT 0930 HOURS.

ITEMS FOR THE BROADCAST CAN BE EMAILED TO THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS & BROADCAST COORDINATOR, JUSTIN VK7TW AT VK7TW@.... FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE BROADCAST CAN BE FOUND AT THE [VK7 REGIONAL NEWS YAHOO GROUP](#) AND THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS IS 21:00 ON FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY OF THE BROADCAST.