

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 18 September 2011

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

<Following the WIA National Broadcast after short break>

0930 IT IS THE 18TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2011 AND THIS IS THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST AND IT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY VK7WI AND READ TODAY BY BARRY VK7RS.

THIS BROADCAST UTILISES REPEATERS AROUND VK7 THANKS TO MIKE VK7MH, TONY VK7AX, TONY VK7YBG, AND THE FOLLOWING HF REBROADCAST STATIONS:

ON 3.570 MHZ BY GARRY, VK7JGD

ON 7.090 MHZ BY JUSTIN, VK7TW

ON 14.130 MHZ BY HARRY, VK7AR

ON 28.525 MHZ BY GRAHAM, VK7ZGK

AND IN HOBART ON UHF CB CHANNEL 15 BY GAVIN, VK7HGO AND HF CB CHANNEL 22 BY HARVEY, VK7TED.

VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

REAST – September 21 & 28 – DATV Experimenter's Group – DATV Studio Queen's Domain from 7:30pm.

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

NWTATVIG – October 8 - General meeting of the Club with Peter VK7IY presenting at QTH of Jim VK7JH.

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

NTARC – October 12 - Annual pilgrimage to the Mount Barrow Interpretation Centre.

www.ntarc.net

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

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

NON-Commercial For Sales & Wanteds

Wanted

Tony VK7YBG is looking for a dead PRC25 or 77 set or similar, doesn't have to be working, internals not even necessary, just after the radio body and the battery cover. Any ex-military or marine die-cast radio body considered.

Please contact me on 0418 517129 or email: dodgem37@...

(73, Tony VK7YBG)

For Sale

An Ameritron 811A linear amplifier for sale on behalf of a third party.

If interested contact Dave VK7OB on 0429 123080 or (03) 62730642.

(73, Dave, VK7OB)

Northern News

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

www.ntarc.net

Repeater News

As advised last week, the winds again blew and now we need to replace the feedline to the Digipeater on Mt Barrow, following the antics of an errant cable tray that took out a significant chunk of the coax.

All is in readiness to carry out the repairs but, as always seems the case these days, we are again awaiting favourable weather so that the crew can scale the tower to install the new, and hopefully heliax, feedlines. Joe VK7JG also hopes to have the new angle reflector antenna installed on the tower at the same time, to restore useful gain on the path to Barren Tier for the broadcast link.

Speaking of the new angle reflector for the repeater link, NTARC would like to express its appreciation to Andrew Snadden and Tasmanian Electronics and Communications Services Pty Ltd for the very kind and generous donation of that angle reflector.

As to the broadcast Link itself, Joe reports he now has to juggle not only the weather conditions on Barren Tier and the fishing conditions on the nearby lakes but also the work about to be undertaken on Mt Barrow. Ah well Joe, such is the life of a repeater engineer. Just as well the fishing season has a finite span!

General News

Notwithstanding the fact that it coincided with the final week of the school holidays, the September General meeting last Wednesday saw twelve members and two guests roll up to the Skills Institute at Alanvale.

There they heard Bill VK7MX reminisce over his personal experiences with the digital side of our hobby over some 40 years, before introducing us all to the mysteries of the Arduino, the open platform microcontroller platform that has rapidly become probably the most useful digital building block for the radio amateur.

Unavoidable technical gremlins, allied with the suspected activity of twin four year-old grand-daughters in hiding a critical pcb, meant that the practical demonstration of Bill's Arduino talk had to be deferred. This will now become the focus of NTARC's November general meeting.

JOTA

A reminder that the next major public event on the NTARC calendar is JOTA.

As advised over the past few weeks, there has been a slight change of plans. The venue remains the Kings Meadows Scout Hall, adjacent to Carr Villa.

However, Peter VK7KPC, our JOTA co-ordinator, advises that it has become necessary to move the activity to Saturday, 15 October at the Kings Meadow Scout Hall, rather than the Sunday as previously announced.

Activities on the site will commence at 10.00 am on the day and run through to around 8.00 pm. Set-up will be on Friday evening and first thing Saturday. Peter VK7KPC would be happy to hear from any of our members who are willing to lend a hand in setting up and/or in operating on the day.

WICEN

NTARC's WICEN Co-Ordinator Norm VK7KTN reminds us that the next major WICEN involvement in the north is assisting in the State Equine Endurance Championship at St Helens over 26 and 27 November. He would like to hear as soon as possible from any NTARC member able to lend a hand over that weekend.

Norm also advises that he is keen to hear from NTARC members willing to assist with the communications for next year's very major outing, the Tom Quilty, the Australian national event, also to be held at St Helens over the period 8-10 June 2012.

If you think you may like to get involved with that major happening, Norm suggests you make it to the State event in November to either get acquainted with the WICEN role or to brush up on procedures, if you haven't taken part for a while.

Along with his counterparts from the other VK7 organisations, Norm has recently been pondering the impact of the recent WIA initiative in emergency communication, Emcomm. Unlike WICEN, this development involves formal training and accreditation.

Norm would be interested to hear from any NTARC member who would be willing to commit to satisfying the following EmComm requirements:

1. Complete the two full weekends of WIA emcomm training.
2. Regularly practice and update knowledge and skills.
3. Be available when required.
4. Be sufficiently physically and mentally fit.
5. Be endorsed by someone as suited to work within and/or attached to an NGO or emergency service.

Education and Training

At this time, NTARC has no formal classes planned although that situation would be reviewed in the light of demand, perhaps including Emcomm training.

In the meantime individual licence 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 at www.ntarc.net.

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.

Next NTARC meetings

The October 12 meeting will be our annual pilgrimage to the Mount Barrow Interpretation Centre for an open fire and barbecue, with overnight camping for those so inclined. The Interpretation Centre has been booked but the first arrivals will need to stop off at the Nunamara Shop and get the key from Brendan, the caretaker. Ideally, the first arrivals should be around 4.00 pm to ensure everything is in order.

Brendan also asks that we bring our own firewood this year. Apparently some other users last year actually fell some trees for firewood at the site and then left the Centre in a mess, with food scraps, bottles etc in the fireplace. We suspect this might have resulted from the attempt to burn that very green wood.

In any event, let us all ensure that there can be no valid criticism of NTARC's use of the facility. In addition to bringing some dry firewood, members are urged to bring camping lanterns if they have them. The venue is not lit and while somebody usually arrives with a light, it can become quite dark if that person happens to also be one who needs to leave early.

The November meeting will be held on 16 November, back at our Skills Institute site at Alanvale. The meeting topic will include the practical demonstration of VK7MX's talk on the Arduino microcontroller platform. More details will be advised in future broadcasts.

The December meeting will be another social event - the yearly pilgrimage to Myrtle Park on 14 December for another open fire and barbeque, with overnight camping also available for those

wanting to stay. Usual meet time is from 5.00pm until whenever. We hope the weather is much kinder this year than it was in 2010. Sites 7 and 8 have been booked in NTARC's name. Wood can be purchased on arrival at \$15.00 per large bucket. For those staying overnight the cost is still \$3.00 per van/tent and we look forward to seeing you at each of these events.

A reminder that if any of the NTARC members have any items of news they would like added to the Sunday broadcast, please contact Yvonne VK7FYM at ypmaxwell@... or via the NTARC website.

A reminder too 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 Tasmanian ATV Group (NWTATVG)

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

Club News from NWT-ATV Group

Members are advised that the next General Meeting of the Club is scheduled for Saturday 8th. October. Venue for this meeting is the QTH of Jim VK7JH, 31 Menaire Rd., Stowport.

This meeting promises to be a very interesting one, as the Guest speaker following the meeting will be Peter VK7IY. Peter's work is currently associated with shipping in Bass Strait and he intends to provide us with some interesting material including work with the Bass Strait Oil Rigs. Peter comments that few people would have been privileged to see some of the pictures of activity he intends to show us.

The meeting will be kept as short as possible, to allow Peter sufficient time to present, what promises, to be a very informative talk.

As usual, an open invitation is extended to everyone to attend.

General News from the North West

Video Archive Material.

Tony VK7AX is presently sorting through his recorded video tapes which encompass many Amateur Radio activities and functions

over the last 35 - 40 years.

The material is being edited and archived to DVD for history archive purposes.

It is planned to air some of this material from time to time.

It is planned to air the Next of these on Saturday 24th. September at 8.00 PM.

The show is titled "Gladesville Amateur TV Test transmission via Aussat" with a Title AUSSAT' recorded 27th. Nov. 1991.

This transmission was perhaps unique in that it was the first time that an ATV Group was able to avail itself of a free ride so to speak courtesy of the Aussat Satellite.

The show will be aired via ATV in the Ulverstone area and streamed live via the BATC streamer at <http://www.batc.tv>

When connected to the Streamer, go to the button marked 'Members Stream' and click on VK7AX.

Again, a reminder that you DO NOT always need ATV gear to receive ATV.

If you have a broadband connection, just use your favorite browser and got to the streamer.

<http://www.batc.tv>

The date again for Gladesville Test Transmission via Aussat Tape is Saturday 24th. September, 8.00PM Local Time.

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/>

Car Boot Sale

On Sunday 4th September REAST hosted a car boot sale at the Domain club rooms. It was a great day with around 40 or so licenced operators in attendance and quite a few non amateurs enjoying the day. Wet weather greeted us but it soon cleared up to a fine day. Damian, VK7SD, had a nice bit

of kit on hand courtesy of the ABC in the form of an Outside broadcast unit complete with a hydraulic telescopic mast.

The sausages sizzled as buyers and sellers wheeled and dealt but the best part of the gathering was the socialising. Thanks to all that attended that made this a memorable gathering.

October Presentation:

The October presentation at this stage is most likely going to be what I think a topic that will be both interesting but also make us very jealous. Winston, VK7WH attended the Dayton Hamfest this year and has some tales to tell about the event. This will be confirmed very soon. Keep an eye on the REAST website for details.

For sale and wanted:

On the back of the popularity of the boot sale, the idea was raised to have a website where those who have a nice bit of gear for sale can advertise locally via the REAST website with the idea being that instead of us buying interstate and selling interstate there could well be a buyer or seller locally. The service will be available soon and this will be a free service for REAST members to list items and a fee of \$5.00 for non REAST members. This makes REAST membership an even better proposition for those who may wish to sell items locally. Keep an eye on the REAST site for more on this one.

Do you have an idea for a REAST activity? Please let us know and we will get the wheels in motion.

73's

(Tony VK7VKT Secretary REAST)

REAST Training, Education & Assessment

At an examination session last Tuesday week Paul Tudor-Stack gained his Standard Licence . Paul is a yachtsman from Darwin and is having a break in Hobart before crossing the Tasman to ZL.

There are two candidates studying hard for their Standard licence so an exam session will be scheduled shortly on a Saturday. Please contact me if you wish to join in.

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/>

Another packed DATV studio and clubrooms for a very full night of amazing show and tell and video presentation.

Justin VK7TW started with a review of the latest QRP Club of Australia magazine – Lo-Key then moved to a demonstration of the HPSDR and the recently installed "Alex" band pass filters using the on screen display feature in the ATV studio for our DATV and BATC.tv viewers.

We then moved to the Simon Singh Code Book CD-Rom where Justin took the audience through the transposition and substitution methods of cryptography.

Patrick VK7FPJB then took the audience through an amazing display of his Monsterbot 3D printer that he showed partially built a couple of weeks ago.

Patrick took the audience through the operation, the software and then proceeded to print, in 3D, a geared cog in ABS plastic.

The printer is able to print a 3D object up to 120mm cubed and the very smart open source software breaks the 3D picture down into slices and prints them a layer at a time. Thanks Patrick for the demo it was fantastic and we look forward to seeing your wearable electronics creations.

<http://store.makerbot.com/makerbot-thing-o-matic.html>

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

Thanks to VK7PAH for expert video and audio mixing.

Our video presentation was given by Barry McCann OAM VK7TBM and is an illustrated history and operation of Coast Radio Hobart.

We also had a good virtual audience via the BATC.tv site.

This week we are back on the Arduino, hobby robotics and the video presentation will be the DATV talk given to CCARC a couple of week's ago. We will also be experimenting with higher power levels and quality degradation on the DATV transmitter signal.

Do you realise that you do not actually need any ATV equipment to participate in the DATV Experimenter's nights!

We now stream the DATV Experimenter's nights on the internet compliments of the British Amateur Television Club. The details can be found on the email edition of the broadcast and the member stream is VK7OTC.

http://batc.tv/ch_live.php?ch=5

What do you need to receive DATV in Hobart?

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 on Wednesday night from 7:30pm.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

Satellite News

KiwiSAT Students Win Grant

Massey University engineering students have been awarded a grant to work on software for the Amateur Radio satellite KiwiSAT.

Scoop reports that:

Four fourth-year honours students and a Masters student from the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology at the Albany campus have been awarded a \$7,500 grant from the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters' Radio Science Education Trust to develop the software. The micro satellite is the size of a basketball and will be launched from a Russian rocket in the northern hemisphere when the project is finished.

KiwiSAT is being designed and built by a team of volunteers from New Zealand Radio Amateurs supported by Massey and various corporate sponsors. It will connect with amateur radio stations globally and will carry out experimental work in small satellite Attitude Determination and Control (ADAC) - a low cost control system that works through interaction with the Earth's magnetic field to position the satellite at a specific attitude.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/ED1108/S00164/massey-students-create-space-satellite-software.htm>

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

(Southgate via the AMSAT Mailing List)

Technology News

Ultrasonic beam = wireless charging

The day when we don't have to plug in our consumer electronics is getting closer, claim a new startup firm named uBeam that has developed a safe way of beaming power to your devices.

Rather than using inductive charging, which has a very short effective range and usually requires that the charger and device be in close proximity to each other, uBeam uses an ultrasonic transducer to convert power from your wall socket into inaudible sound energy. On the device side, there's a battery adapter that converts the sound energy back into power to charge your batteries. The ultrasonic frequency used is well above the range that can be heard by humans or dogs.

The product idea was developed by two recent University of Pennsylvania graduates, Meredith Perry and Nora Dweck, and they demoed a proof of concept device made from off-the-shelf parts at a recent conference.

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

<http://i.tuaw.com/2011/06/20/ubeam-developing-wi-fi-for-energy-to-enable-wireless-charging/>

The uBeam charge station will emit ultrasound at frequencies and amplitudes well below OSHA regulations. Ubeam founders Meredith and Kate anticipate their current model to beam energy to up to 7m.

<http://www.elektor.com/news/ultrasonic-beam-wireless-charging.1947086.lynkx>

(Sourced from the Elektor website)

Web & Email Edition Extra Bits!!

Tattoo of Schematic Brings Geek-Chic to New Level

<http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2011/09/tattoo-of-schematic-brings-geek-chic-to-new-level.html>

Why Google Choosing Arduino Matters and Is This the End of "Made for iPod" (TM)

<http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2011/05/why-google-choosing-arduino-matters-and-the-end-of-made-for-ipod-tm.html>

Amplified crystal set tunes 80 metres – VK3YE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vRf1qxUs1U>

School bus wheelie

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSzOd__felw&

Flying School Bus that Transforms - RC

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

Mini Concorde - RC

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52CVrcCydig&>

2012 Cygnet Folk Festival Program Released

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

Huge Defunct Satellite to Plunge to Earth Soon, NASA Says

<http://www.space.com/12859-nasa-satellite-falling-space-debris-uars.html>

Space.com Infographics

<http://www.space.com/infographics/>

Funcube Dongle running under Linux

<http://webshed.org/wiki/FUNcube-Dongle-Linux>

ACMA fighting online child abuse

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD..PC/pc=PC_410161

Antenna Basics

<http://www.radiocomms.com.au/articles/47814-Down-to-basics-with-antennas>

Laughter really is the best medicine

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/09/14/3317397.htm>

Circuit design/simulator app runs on iPhone, iPad and MacOS

<http://www.elektor.com/news/circuit-design-simulator-app-runs-on-iphone-ipad.1947727.lynkx>

AM/FM/SW receiver integrated on a single CMOS chip

<http://www.elektor.com/news/am-fm-sw-receiver-integrated-on-a-single-cmos.1939613.lynkx>

Do you have some interesting internet sites you have some across in the last week – send them in to vk7tw@...

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

Finally today, a reminder to those people rostered for next week's broadcasts:

Newsreader: VK7TW

Repeaters: VK7MH, VK7AX & VK7YBG

80m: VK7ZK

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.

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

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

AND THE DEADLINE FOR ITEMS IS 21:00 ON FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY OF THE BROADCAST.

VK7WI IS NOW CLOSING BUT WILL REOPEN SHORTLY FOR CALLBACKS AND RELAY REPORTS. CALLBACKS WILL BE TAKEN ON THE FREQUENCY TO WHICH YOU ARE LISTENING.

RELAY STATIONS WILL USE THEIR OWN CALLSIGNS DURING THE CALLBACK.

FOR THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS IT'S GOOD MORNING FROM BARRY VK7RS.