

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 23 October 2011

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

<Following the WIA National Broadcast after short break>

0930 IT IS THE 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2011 AND THIS IS THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST AND IT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY VK7WI AND READ TODAY BY PETER, VK7PD.

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 BILL, VK7ZK

ON 7.090 MHZ BY RICHARD, VK7RO

ON 14.130 MHZ BY JACK, VK7IL

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO 10M BROADCAST THIS MORNING

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

Microwave DXpedition News

Activation of QF40 Flinders Island on 10 GHz

Yesterday Eric VK7NFI (the pilot and owner of the light aircraft), Peter VK7KPB (the on-site transport and accommodation provider) and Rex VK7MO activated QF40 on Flinders Island from about 0930 EDST to around midday.

While there are four grids that intersect on Flinders Island, QF40 is the only one that is not accessible from the mainland of Tassie or Victoria. Thus this is probably a once only opportunity to get this rare grid square on 10 GHz.

The 6 character grid locator is QF40ca. Rex and crew operated on 10368.225 first period JT65c and SSB. The equipment was a cut-down 10 GHz system with 2 watts output to a 47 cm plastic dish that fitted in the minimal space behind the seats of the two seater aircraft.

Eric and Rex flew to Flinders Island last Friday afternoon and spend the night with Peter VK7KPB. Saturday morning they drove to a site near Mt Middle Patriach.

Operations needed to cease around midday in time to get back to the Lady Barron gravel strip and then fly to Wynyard in daylight.

(73 Rex VK7MO)

Editor's note: we look forward to a more comprehensive report in next week's broadcast and thanks to Rex for this report.

History News

Grote Reber memorial project in Indiana

Firstly thanks to Warren VK7FEET for passing on an email exchange between a number of amateurs and the University of Tasmania in relation to a special event station to commemorate what would have been the 100th birthday of Grote Reber.

Mark Williams K9GX who is Observatory Director at the Louisville Astronomical Society Baker Astronomy Center in Louisville, Kentucky is proposing to use of amateur radio to celebrate Grote Reber's 100th birthday on December 22nd 2011. The Society's club station callsign is K9LAS.

Mark writes to explore the possibility of collaboration with these projects and commemoration.

Secondly, to commemorate Reber's 100th birthday, I am proposing a worldwide amateur radio special on air event in December.

Mark is applying for a "special event" callsign, W9G, which we would put on the air probably the first two weeks in December. These special callsigns are issued for two week periods. While Mark would prefer to be on air on Grote's birth date, 22 December, with the Christmas holiday and family commitments I'm thinking the first two weeks in December might be a better plan.

One other consideration to be mindful of is that December, 2011 will mark the 50th anniversary of OSCAR 1 the first ham radio satellite. OSCAR is the acronym for Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio.

Look forward to hear from you.

(Mark Williams, K9GX, Baker Astronomy Center, Louisville)

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

<http://old.louisville-astro.org/>

Thanks to Warren VK7FEET, Ken White, Colin VK7ZCH and UTAS staff.

VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

REAST – October 25 - Examination sessions – Contact Reg VK7KK if interested.

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

REAST – October 26 – DATV Experimenter's Group – DATV Studio Queen's Domain from 7:30pm.

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

NTARC – November 16 –Skills Institute site at Alanvale for practical demonstration of VK7MX's talk on the Arduino microcontroller platform starts 7:30pm.

www.ntarc.net

WICEN – November 26 & 27 - State Equine Endurance Championship at St Helens.

NON-Commercial For Sales & Wanted

Wanted

Wanted four 6KD6 valves or any part thereof for an amplifier restoration project- any valves welcome.

Contact Alan VK7ZAR repeater 2 or phone 03 62728393 or mobile 0439627283, I can collect.

Thanks

(Alan Ruthven VK7ZAR)

Northern News

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

www.ntarc.net

JOTA

From NTARC JOTA Co-ordinator Peter Dodd VK7KPC

NTARC's major JOTA activity took place last weekend at the Kings Meadows Scout Hall and the station opened for business at 9am Saturday morning and was active until 8pm Saturday night.

During that time we had 9 groups attend for approx 3/4 hour sessions with 3 of the larger groups having double sessions.

HF contacts were made to Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania.

Other activities included CB walkie talkies, morse code lights, battleship game using an intercom system plus word find and crossword puzzles with JOTA / radio theme.

Antennas used were squid pole and broad band folded dipole.

In spite of Tony VK7YBG's efforts to get IRLP up and going in time for JOTA we did not have much success using it. Nobody seemed to want to talk to us.

Scouts all seemed to have had a good time, although as usual some were microphone shy.

Thanks to Tony VK7YBG, Norm VK7KTN and Kevin VK7HKN for helping out with operations on the day and setting up and dismantling.

Thank you to Ann VK7FYBG for the supply of scones, jam and cream which was enjoyed by all and kept our stamina going.

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.

Education and Training

At this time, NTARC has no formal classes planned although, as always, that situation would be reviewed in the light of demand.

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 November meeting will be held 7.30 pm on 16 November, at our usual site, Block B , Skills Institute at Alanvale, Launceston. The meeting topic will include the practical demonstration of VK7MX's talk on the Arduino microcontroller platform.

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 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.

(73, Yvonne, NTARC Inc. Secretary)

North West Tasmanian ATV Group (NWTATVG)

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

Club News from NWT-ATVG

Brief Meeting Report.

The General Meeting of the Club was held Saturday 8th. October at the QTH of Jim VK7JH and wife Janine, located at Stowport.

The meeting business was kept to a minimum. It was resolved to not have a formal Christmas Dinner this year, but to have a BBQ luncheon at the conclusion of next general meeting scheduled for Saturday 3rd. December at the home of Bob VK7MGW and Ursula VK7FROO.

Final arrangements for JOTA were discussed, and noted that we would be operating at one camp only this year, Paton Park.

Following the meeting, Peter VK7IY provided those present with a very informative and interesting slide show giving them a good insight into the activities surrounding the many Oil & Gas Rigs, situated in Bass Strait.

Peter works on the supply ships which ship material and supplies to and from the Oil Rigs. Thanks Peter for a very interesting talk.

A big thank you to Janine for the extensive afternoon tea following Peter's talk.

JOTA report.

Five amateurs provided equipment and their time to operate in this years JOTA at Paton Park. EchoIrip Nodes 6124 & 6616 were utilized to establish many of the contacts via VOIP both inward and outward. Several contacts were also made on HF.

Thanks to Neil VK7ZNX, Ross VK7WP, Paul VK7HPD, Jim VK7JH and Tony VK7AX for their time and equipment for a job well done.

General News from the North West

Transmission of Video Archive Material.

The next show scheduled for airing is titled " WIA News Readers of the Past" which includes edited highlights of the news readers of the day when the then North West Branch of the WIA read the Divisional News on a rotational roster system between the South, North and North West.

The program is scheduled for airing Saturday 22nd. October @ 8.00 PM Local Tassie SUMMER Time.

The show is aired via ATV on 70CM. in the Ulverstone Area and streamed live via the BATC streamer at www.batc.tv

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

The date again for the next historical Tape is Saturday 22nd. October, 8.00PM Local Time.

Transmission of Southern Digital ATV Night Activities

In an exciting, possibly the first for the North West Area, the ATV Stream of the Southern ATV Activity Night of Wednesday 12 October was decoded and retransmitted on 70CM. ATV in Ulverstone by VK7AX.

The video quality was excellent and congratulations to the Southern Group for producing an excellent show.

It is planned to again retransmit the stream from this coming Activity Night (Wednesday Night 26th. October) from around 7.30 PM on 70 CM. Analogue ATV in Ulverstone (Vision 444.25 & Sound on 449.75).

Viewers in Ulverstone are looking forward to the next transmission. Stay tuned for further updates.

73's until next time

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

Southern News

WICEN Tas (South) – JOTA 2011

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

Last Saturday and Sunday, seven scouts from the 1st Huonville troop participated in the 2011 Jamboree on the Air as a patrol activity. Four camped overnight and three visited on Saturday.

With the help of WICEN South, a station was set up under canvas at an excellent camp site on VK7TPE's property near Coningham.

Forty individual scout contacts were made on 20, 40 & 80 meters, with the longest individual QSO being almost an hour on Saturday evening. This was after a DVD show of the DXpedition VP8ORK to South Orkney in the Antarctic. Everybody felt much warmer afterwards. Hi Hi.

VK7JGD brought along a sample packet of the new Vegemite flavoured Smiths Chips to try, but it seems the packet had more air space in it than chips. (At least that's what we led Gary to believe)

The success of the chip tastings led to nearly all contacts being asked "Have you tried the new Smiths Vegemite Chips . They`re awesome" The ad hoc patrol adopted the nick name "Vegemite Chip Patrol".

A fantastic weekend was had by all even though it was a little damp outside at times. The new WICEN tent served its purpose in keeping the equipment & us very dry.

A huge thank you must go out to VK7TPE Peter & XYL Maureen for the camp site preparation and use of their property, WICEN South's VK7TRF Rod, VK7JGD Gary, VK7ARN Roger & Dad VK7FMRS for their time & loan of equipment over the weekend & also the other Jota station operators we contacted.

73's from

(Nicole VKFNJS - 1st Huonville scout troop).

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania Inc.

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

Repeater News

Last Wednesday saw two of our technicians, Alan, VK7KAJ and Dave, VK7DM, suffering from withdrawal symptoms at the club lunchtime gathering and they decided to repair the 6M transmitter.

The repeater system is now fully operational and the Sunday broadcast will once again go out on 6M.

(73, Bob, VK7ZL)

REAST News:

Car Boot Sale

The next car boot sale is being planned for early December which will also include another BBQ to celebrate the start of the festive season. Stay tuned for more details.

Buy and Sell online

The REAST members buy and sell site is almost ready to go live. Members are able to submit items for sale or items they wish to buy free of charge with a fee for non-members. Details will be on the REAST site shortly,

73's

(Tony VK7VKT Secretary REAST)

REAST Training, Education & Assessment

There are two examination sessions planned this month.

Tuesday 25 October - Examination sessions

If you are interested in participating in the examination session 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/>

After some on air discussion at our last DATV night we have decided to make the next couple of DATV night an expose on Surface Mount Solder techniques.

A number of regular DATV's have recently purchased surface mount kits and we will be using the close-up camera and camera microscope (thanks to Tom VK7TL) to show our ATV audience techniques for surface mount soldering and cleanup.

You definitely cannot say we don't take direction from our listening and watching audience – interactive DATV...HIHI.

If we have time our video presentation will be the latest edition of amateur logic.tv.

Do you realise that you do not have to be a radio amateur or 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

You can also receive the DATV signal in Hobart.

The Digital TV frequency is 446.5MHz and it is a standard DVB-T 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 editions of this broadcast for a list of those Set Top Boxes that can tune the frequency.

www.vk3rtv.com

See you there from 7:30pm on Wednesday 26th October 2011.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

Microwave Activation News

Activation and Testing on 135, 243 and 324 GHz in VK3

On the 21st October 2011 the 135 GHz, 243 GHz and 324 GHz Microwave Bands were activated in VK3.

Despite the most unfavourable weather conditions.. Michael – VK3KH and Alan VK3XPD went out to Casey Sports arena in Cranbourne, east of Melbourne to test a pair of new Transverters that Alan had just finished building.

Our initial On Site testing over a 10 Metre path was to check the functionality of the gear.

We started with 324.48 GHz. Signal Reports for our SSB signals were 5+9 both ways. At this time, I'm unsure if we in VK have any allocations in this Band segment. There have been recorded Amateur QSO's on 322 GHz in the USA and Europe.

The next frequency we activated was 243.36 GHz. Signal Reports were 5+9 +10 both ways. Our final frequency was 135.20 GHz, again with 5+9 +10 both ways.

Having seen such big signals over our 10 Metre path, we decided to try our luck with an optimistic 400 metre path.

We failed to hear anything on 135 GHz.

This was not surprising with all the recent wet overcast weather, water sitting in puddles in the nice green grass and the very high Relative Humidity at the time.

Tests over a 200 metre path yielded much the same results. Nothing heard. Clearly we had too much atmospheric attenuation.

A 100 metre path yielded mixed results. We heard our 135 GHz Ident signals but they were so very weak that SSB was going to be impossible.

Despite much effort to optimise our Dish pointing and the gear sensitivity the signals finally disappeared as the afternoon passed.

On each series of Tests using non Amateur Band Frequencies, we noticed that conditions (propagation) for these upper Microwave frequencies were changing very fast - even over these relatively short paths.

As the afternoon progressed towards 1600 hours local, it became somewhat chilly. With time running out, we decided to run our last tests over a 25 Metre path.

Our 135 GHz QSO was 5+9 both ways. The 243 GHz QSO was also 5+9 both ways. Our final QSO on 324 GHz was 5+5 from Michael to my 5+2 report.

All in all it was a very successful day despite the obvious poor weather. Amazingly, the QSO's we achieved on these 3 widely spaced Band segments were achieved by this single pair of Transverters.

At this time, we have not decided whether to claim Australian Distance Records for these 25 Metre QSO's. Clearly with some better weather and accompanying low Humidity, these distances will certainly be improved on.

A full Write-Up on the Equipment used will be published shortly. Suffice to say that the hardware is very similar to the 78/122 GHz Transverters Alan built previously.

Our VK9NA Website has more information on the techniques used.

www.vk9na.com

Related articles will also appear in DUBUS 4/2011.

Cheers,

(Alan – VK3XPD and Michael – VK3KH via the VK-Microwave Mailing List)

Web & Email Edition Extra Bits!!

Concept 21st Century LED Lamp

<http://www.elektor.com/news/concept-21st-century-led-lamp.1976193.lynkx>

RD 2011 Results

http://www.via.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest/documents/2011_RD_Results.pdf

Team Tokai wins 2011 World Solar Challenge

<http://www.gizmag.com/team-tokai-wins-2011-world-solar-challenge/20223/>

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

World's first 100 watt equivalent LED replacement bulb

<http://www.gizmag.com/worlds-first-100-watt-equivalent-led-replacement-bulb/18659/>

Geocaching: High-tech treasure hunts are growing in popularity (thanks to VK7FEET)

<http://m.nwfdailynews.com/articles/treasure-44506-high-tech.html>

MAKE's Exclusive Interview with Bre Pettis of MakerBot: Life, \$10M in Funding, and Beyond

<http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2011/10/makes-exclusive-interview-with-bre-pettis-of-makerbot-life-10m-in-funding-and-beyond.html#more-112725>

Interesting AR Related Website – but be quick!

<http://www.vk6fh.com/>

Ultrawideband communication technology revived!

<http://www.elektor.com/news/ultrawideband-communication-technology-revived!.1971100.lynkx>

Bible's authors decoded by computer

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/10/17/3341326.htm>

Cracked! Maths solves old war code

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2005/08/09/1432633.htm>

Pollen up close (Amazing Photos)

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/photos/2011/10/18/3342395.htm>

Eureka Prize for Science Photography (Amazing Photos)

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/photos/2011/08/17/3264540.htm>

What causes women to have menopausal hot flushes?

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/10/18/3342564.htm>

The following links are courtesy of CG Communicator:

A special drill makes square holes:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=L5AzbDJ7KYI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=Jeli04JoAoo>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iz3pDMP7IsE>

The cube gear: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7J5tVFmXI>

Homemade rocket climbs over 100,000 feet with video cams onboard. Fasten your seat belts: <http://tinyurl.com/HomemadeRocket>

Cows vs. black bear -- memorable still photos: <http://tinyurl.com/CompressedBlackBear>

LightSquared Might Take Legal Action Over GPS

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/241053/lightsquared_might_take_legal_action_over_gps.html

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

VK7 Regional News Group Email Addresses

Post message: vk7regionalnews@yahoo.com

Subscribe: vk7regionalnews-subscribe@yahoo.com

Unsubscribe: vk7regionalnews-unsubscribe@yahoo.com

List owner: vk7regionalnews-owner@yahoo.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: VK7FB

Repeaters: VK7MH, VK7AX & VK7YBG

80m: VK7TW

40m: VK7JGD

20m: VK7AR

10m: No Broadcast

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.

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 PETER VK7PD.