

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2011

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

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Silent Key

Clifford Victor de Plater VK7CD

NTARC is sad to report the passing of one of VK7's most senior amateur radio operators, Clifford Victor de Plater, VK7CD, on 29 June 2011, just 29 days short of his 99th birthday.

Cliff had moved to Tasmania to live with family on a tourist host farm at Lilydale some years ago. He had previously lived at Narrawallee on the NSW South Coast, following retirement in 1979 from a long and very distinguished career as a botanical scientist with the CSIRO in Canberra. Prior to his CSIRO career, Cliff had served during World War 2 with the RAAF.

While failing health and mobility had much reduced his activity of late, Cliff had been interested and involved with radio and electronics from boyhood. He had long enjoyed his amateur radio hobby, both in VK1 and VK2; and over the past few years had re-equipped his station to mark its return on air, from his new VK7 QTH at Lilydale.

His passing leaves a wide circle of on-air acquaintances, who all will miss his friendly voice and readiness to engage in discussion on many subjects but none more deeply than those touching his scientific training.

NTARC is particularly saddened that in a year in which a number of VK amateur operators turn 100, and are rightly being acknowledged in the current issue of Amateur Radio, we in VK7 have lost our friend so close to that significant milestone.

Our sympathies are extended to Cliff's wife Hazel and family.

(Yvonne, NTARC Inc. Secretary)

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AR in the Media

ABC Collectors to Feature QSL Collection

Next Friday night ABC1 from 8pm on the 29th July the ABC collectors program will have a feature on the QSL collection of Martin Luther VK7GN.

Martin is a world-class contester and has an enormous QSL collection which will be featured on the Collectors program.

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/guide/abc1/201107/programs/FA1018T013D2011-07-29T200000.htm?program=Collectors>

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/collectors/>

Collectors is produced and edited here in VK7!

The program is also repeated on ABC1 the following Saturday around midday. Well worth a watch.

(73, Justin, VK7TW & Winston VK7WH)

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Non-Commercial FOr Sale & Wanted

WANTED - Small Tower

Matthew VK7HMR is after a small tower to support a dipole from the centre and a 2M antenna at the top.

Prefer the NW area and will pick up.

If you have something that fits this description then please contact Matthew Rostan, VK7HMR on Ph: 0418306206 or 64 331684. Email: [rostan\\_matthew\\_p@cat.com](mailto:rostan_matthew_p@cat.com)

Regards

(Matthew Rostan, VK7HMR)

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VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

REAST – July 27 - DATV Experimenter's Night - starts around 7:30pm in the Queen's Domain Clubrooms.

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

CCARC – July 30 - Squid Pole antennas and buy and sell from 1.30pm at the Penquin Lions Clubrooms, Ironcliff Rd Penquin.

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

WICEN (South) – July 31 – AGM and General Meeting at TPE's QTH, Lower Snug – 2.00pm following BYO BBQ from noon

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

REAST – August 3 - How, Why and Where, of the newly commissioned Coastal Radio Hobart Network with Barry, VK7TBM – starts 7:30pm with committee meeting from 7pm.

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

WICEN (South) – August 5 & 6 – Comms for endurance ride at Boomer Creek, Little Swanport. Survey on Friday afternoon. Event on Saturday, early. A good opportunity for a ride out to see what it's all about.

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

NWTATVG – August 6 – General Meeting at QTH of Ivan VK7XL.

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

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

[www.ntarc.net](http://www.ntarc.net)

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#### Northern News

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

[www.ntarc.net](http://www.ntarc.net)

#### Repeater News - The Broadcast Link

It appears the gremlins still have the upper hand, as Joe VK7JG tells us that at this time, he cannot give a definite time for replacing the link aerial as it will have to be done on a snow free day. Joe has promised to advise when that task has been achieved. Neil VK7NT has also offered to join the snow bunnies by transporting the corner reflector for us once we are ready to go.

It seems though that the gremlins are not content to play just on Mt Barrow and Barren Tier. Joe also reports that on Monday 18 July, he and Ian VK7IH travelled up to Ben Lomond, in the hope of replacing the batteries at the RBH repeater site. A new set of batteries had been donated by Jason VK7ZJA and were to be transported by 'Skidoo' to the top by Errol Williams. Unfortunately there was a major malfunction of one of the ski tows and it appears our intrepid crew will have to wait till at least next weekend for the batteries to be transported. There are six batteries each weighing 35kilos so our crew will need at least three trips and this is also snow dependent.

Let's hope that St Bernard has a full flask around its neck.

#### General News of Interest

For all our members that know Tim VK7TIM, now residing on the big island, Joe VK7JG reports that Tim is now living in VK2. He became a father for the third time on Monday 18 July with his wife presenting him with another son. Congratulations to them both.

#### 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 at [www.ntarc.net](http://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.

## 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. If any of our members have some time on their hands, Peter VK7KPC would be happy to hear from you. As we are all aware more hands make light work in setting up the venue on the Saturday and also assisting on the Sunday.

## 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 just throw on the coat, hat and scarf and come along.

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@bigpond.com](mailto:ypmaxwell@bigpond.com) 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. By

my reckoning of the calendar, coffee this coming Monday 25 July will therefore be at Lilydale.  
Hoping to see you there.

(73, Yvonne, NTARC Inc. Secretary)

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NORTH WEST News

Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club (CCARC)

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

The next meeting for the CCARC will be held at the Penguin Lions club rooms on the 30th of July.

The main event for the meeting will be a help and demo session for those building "Squid Pole" antenna, and weather permitting Dion, VK7DB, will erect and test his unique version of the squid pole outside the meeting room.

There will also be some club surplus components and equipment for sale. Other members are welcome to bring along unwanted amateur related bits and pieces to sell at the same time.

Meeting time will be 1.30pm and all welcome.

Assessments

Potential amateurs and those wishing to upgrade are reminded that exams can be conducted across the north west coast at a mutually agreed time and place by the Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club examiners. For further details on gaining a licence or upgrading, contact the Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club learning organiser, Keith Winkler, VK7KW. Contact details are available on the club website.

Regards from

(David, VK7DC, Secretary, CCARC)

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North West Tasmanian ATV Group (NWTATVG)

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

Next General Meeting of NWT-ATV Group

Early notification is given of the next scheduled meeting of the Club. Saturday the 6th. August is the date and the venue at this time is the home of Ivan VK7XL, Gawler.

Further details of the meeting closer to the event.

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)

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Southern News

WICEN Tasmania (South) Inc.

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

WICEN will be heading to a new East Coast equine endurance ride site on the 5th and 6th August, to provide checkpoint and safety communications at Boomer Creek, about 30km north of Orford. Being a new site for us, surveys will be conducted on the Friday afternoon to be ready for an early start on Saturday morning. Why not come along and see what it's all about. Either camp with us on Friday night or make an early start and come out on Saturday morning. Shearing shed accommodation available if you don't have your own.

An ideal amateur radio family opportunity, supporting another great family activity. You won't be dropped in at the deep end, but partnered up with an experienced operator to learn what it's all about.

Give a WICEN member a shout if you fancy coming along.

[http://tas.wicen.org.au/Diary/coming\\_events\\_7.htm](http://tas.wicen.org.au/Diary/coming_events_7.htm)

(Roger, VK7ARN, Secretary WICEN Tas Sth)

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Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania Inc.

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

REAST News.

Next month we have Barry, VK7TBM talking us through the How, Why and Where, of the newly commissioned Coastal radio Network.

(Tony, VK7VKT, Secretary REAST)

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REAST Training, Education & Assessment

Congratulations to Paul Kirby for successfully passing his Standard assessment and Theo Klop for successfully passing his Foundation assessment.

We look forward to hearing you on the air with your new callsigns.

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@ozemail.com.au.

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

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DATV Experimenters Night

What a huge night last Wednesday night was! Our show and tell started with an article on solar amateur radio astronomy which was featured in last month's Sky and Telescope magazine. This article went through the history and then the RF spectrum that the SUN produces for the many events that happen on the Sun.

This is especially important for us amateurs who are eagerly waiting for the Sun spot cycles to improve and propagation along with it. Dependent on the event happening on the sun the spectrum can range from microwaves down to HF and different events have different signatures.

We then moved the MOSFET H bridge and the application of microcontrolling DC motors on robotic platforms. There a number of different configurations and with the advent of cheap high current MOSFETs the solid state switching has become a reality. However there area few "gotchas" with using them and Justin VK7TW explained these and how to overcome them.

Justin then showed a little iBot and it's line following capabilities and the modular form factor that makes the robot up. Paul VK7PAH then showed one of his latest projects which is a little stepper motor driver boards that can operate off the Arduino microcontroller platform.

Paul then brought out his mystery box of goodies! This consisted of a FunCube Dongle radio. This is a DC to Daylight Software Defined Radio which is the size of a USB flash drive and plugs directly into the USB port.

Paul showed the driving software and later in the night with the assistance of Richard VK7RO managed to get it talking to the Funcube dongle. These dongles are sold to experiment with the many Funcube amateur satellites that are being built and launched by various amateur organisations.

We finished with out video presentation of Mike Groth VK7MJ's talk on the three Rs – resistance, reactance and resonance.

Next week we will have the second chapter of the H bridge control along with many other interesting robotic and amateur radio related show and tell.

Our video presentation next week will be the latest Amateur Logic and Hobby Robotics presentations.

A reminder that we get back underway this Wednesday 27th July from 7:30pm.

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.

<http://vk3rtv.com/atvrx.html>

It happens on Wednesday night from around 7:30pm in the DATV studio of the Queen's Domain clubrooms.

See you there.

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

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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DX News

Interesting DX

MICRONESIA, V6. Look for V63FAA to be QRV from Kosrae Island, IOTA OC-059, from July 26 to 29. Activity will be on 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct via W6ANM.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. HARA OA group operators will be QRV as VK9HR from July 23 to August 2. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with a few stations active simultaneously. QSL via EB7DX.

(Sourced from the ARRL Mailing List)

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Satellite News

SUMBANDILASAT SO-67 Recovery Successful

SO-67 has returned to operation after recovery from a cosmic ray upset.

Operation over Australia, New Zealand, Japan has been planned for July 18-31.

There is no activation tone required so LEO satellite operation is now even easier.

The AMSAT-VK mailing list has been reporting many successful contacts made on passes over VK and NZ.

For more information about the activation schedule take a look at the website address on the email edition of this broadcast.

<http://www.amsatsa.org.za/>

(AMSAT News Service)

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ACMA News

Enhanced protections for the Mid West Radio Quiet Zone

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has enhanced the radio quiet protections for the Mid West Radio Quiet Zone (RQZ) in remote Western Australia (near Boolardy Station), around 200 km east of Meekatharra.

The RQZ was established in 2005 to provide an environment that protects highly sensitive equipment used for radio astronomy from unwanted radiocommunications signals. These arrangements protect the radio telescopes currently in place at the Murchison Radioastronomy Observatory, as well as those proposed in the Australian-New Zealand bid to host the square kilometre array (SKA).

'A clear regulatory framework to support radio quiet arrangements will further assist Australia to create the world's best radioastronomy facility,' said ACMA Chairman, Chris Chapman. 'This will provide a platform that should be ideal for future radioastronomy projects, including the €1.5 billion SKA project.'

The introduction of the enhanced protections for the RQZ follows a very extensive consultation process in which the ACMA sought the views of interested stakeholders. The ACMA has also released a Response to Submissions paper that outlines the rationale behind the final package of measures. Stakeholder submissions are available on the ACMA website.

[www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC\\_100628](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_100628).

(Sourced from the ACMA Website)

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HUMOUR to finish

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married.

The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!

(Thanks to VK7BEN and his Mother for that little gem)

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Web & Email Edition Extra Bits!!

Hubble detects Fourth Moon around Pluto

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/07/21/3274475.htm>

Important Steps to Protect your Identity online from the ACMA

[http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC\\_410093](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_410093)

2.3GHZ auction results

[http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC\\_410084](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_410084)

Postcard Radio from Bletchley Park

[http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk/shop/view\\_product.rhtm/133066/238534/detail.html](http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk/shop/view_product.rhtm/133066/238534/detail.html)

GWhip Antenna Products

<http://www.gwhip.co.uk/>

Modern computers create wasted data

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/07/18/3271804.htm>

Superconductors are so cool right now...

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/07/20/3273635.htm>

FT-847 Knowledge Base

<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=6994>

Model FA-18A!

<http://www.youtube.com/user/bananahobby?v=jY7Pc3RbZCA>

The following links are courtesy of CG Communicator:

Restoring Old Audio Mixing Consoles

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89G3\\_XqM28U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89G3_XqM28U)

The Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (EO DAS) for the F-35. This is hot:

<http://tinyurl.com/ElectroOpticalView>

Parahawking Over Nepal: <http://www.flixy.com/parahawking-over-nepal.htm>

Dancing with a shark -- the ending is astonishing:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=WK2LpUoqX6A&vq=medium](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=WK2LpUoqX6A&vq=medium)

Hang Son Doong. The world's largest cave is found in Vietnam: <http://tinyurl.com/5vl5388>

An American robin lays her four eggs in a hanging flower basket and the homeowners set up a camera to film the results: <http://tinyurl.com/AmericanRobinNest>

Saving a humpback whale (leaving not a dry eye in the audience):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBYPlcSD490>

Do you have some interesting internet sites you have some across in the last week – send them in to [justingc@ozemail.com.au](mailto:justingc@ozemail.com.au)

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VK7 Regional News Group Email Addresses

Post message: [vk7regionalnews@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vk7regionalnews@yahoogroups.com)

Subscribe: [vk7regionalnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vk7regionalnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Unsubscribe: [vk7regionalnews-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vk7regionalnews-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

List owner: [vk7regionalnews-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:vk7regionalnews-owner@yahoogroups.com)

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

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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](http://www.radioelectronicschool.com)

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

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.

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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@WIA.ORG.AU. 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.

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