

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 25 December 2011

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

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<Following the WIA National Broadcast after short break>

0930 IT IS CHRISTMAS DAY 2011 AND SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL LISTENERS, THIS IS THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST AND IT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY VK7WI AND READ TODAY BY MIKE, VK7FB.

THIS BROADCAST UTILISES REPEATERS AROUND VK7 THANKS TO MIKE VK7MH AND TONY VK7YBG.

THE BROADCAST THIS WEEK WILL ONLY BE HEARD ON 2M REPEATERS VK7RMD IN THE NORTH WEST, VK7RAA IN THE NORTH AND VK7RAD IN THE SOUTH.

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Silent Key

Dietmar Schoenfeld VK7FDIE SK

It is with sadness that we report the death of Dietmar on the night of Sunday 18 December 2011.

Dietmar was 69 years old and suffered poor health over the last few years with diabetes and heart trouble and died from a heart attack.

As Southern amateur will certainly know - Dietmar was one of the characters on the repeater and was always listening to the repeater and other frequencies and was not afraid to make a comment or three...HIHI.

Some amateurs were fortunate enough to have spoken with Dietmar last Sunday morning after the broadcast.

He would regularly callback to the broadcast and visit the Wednesday afternoon group although this had tapered of in recent times.

We will certainly miss Dietmar on the repeater.

Vale Dietmar.

(Chris VK7FCDW, Mike VK7FB & Justin VK7TW)

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BROADCAST News

VK7 Regional News

A big thank you to Mike VK7FB for reading and recording today's broadcast, it is really appreciated.

Next week's broadcast will see some new faces – Garry VK7JGD will be rebroadcasting on 20m.

A big thank you to Jack VK7IL and Harry VK7AR for many many years of rebroadcasting on 20m. Harry made the comment that he had been doing it for 22 years!

A big thank you to also to Alan VK7ZAR who will be filling some HF rebroadcast gaps over the coming weeks as well.

There are always gaps in the roster and these gaps mean that there is either no broadcast or our hardy band of regular rebroadcasters have to step in....again!

Our rebroadcasting team are highly dedicated group however they do appreciate when they can just sit back and listen to the broadcast.

Maybe you are looking for a New Year resolution? How about helping out once a month with rebroadcasting on one of the HF bands?

If you listen to the broadcast on a repeater and have HF re-broadcasting capability especially on 14.130MHz and would be prepared to undertake a rebroadcast once a month then Justin VK7TW would like to hear from you. We even have designs for patch boxes between VHF Rx and HF Tx.

You can contact Justin at email vk7tw@... or call him on 0439 016 622.

(73, Justin, VK7TW, VK7 Regional News Broadcast Coordinator)

PS. If Max VK7MBP is listening then please call Justin on 0439 016 622.

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VK7 Events News

Sewing Circle Net Meet the Voice BBQ and Auction

The Sewing Circle Net "Meet the Voice BBQ" is set for Sunday 18 March 2012, at Ross. Put the date in your calendar now and organise a day out in Ross. Make sure you bring the family.

This year will see the addition of an auction of quality equipment. As in previous years, all funds raised at the BBQ event will go towards repeater maintenance.

The Sewing Circle Net is looking for suitable items that you are able to donate for the auction. As an indication of what type of equipment can be donated, we have our first donation of a fast, modern HP computer system, complete with LCD monitor, that has been refurbished for use as a ham shack computer. It comes loaded with XP pro operating system and lots of software. This includes many ham radio software programs, along with a ham library of over 400 books, including current handbooks, antenna handbooks and books on almost any ham related subject that you could imagine.

If you have any suitable equipment that you are able to donate to the auction, take it to the REAST club rooms on the domain, as they have made a collection space available. Put your item in a suitable cardboard box and include your name, call sign and a full description of what you donated. Alternatively, you can contact Vince, VK7VH via -vk7vh at hotmail dot com-. Let us know a description of what you have available and we will put the description, along with a thank you by-line, your name and call sign, into a web page that will be available for all to check out, during January 2012. If you are unable to attend the Ross event, we can arrange for someone to deliver it to Ross.

We encourage you to make a big effort and consider what equipment you have that you no longer use, and donate it to the auction. Remember, every dollar raised goes towards repeater maintenance around Tasmania. So, have a look about the shack and select an item or two that you would be willing to donate to the auction.

This is your chance to give something back to amateur radio in Tasmania. We feel that it is important to say thank you to the hard working volunteers and radio clubs that give of their time and money to keep our repeater systems operational. The auction will be one way of saying thank you. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

If you need more information, just come up on the nightly Sewing Circle Net, held from 5pm to 6pm on 3.590 MHz. Or, send an email to -vk7vh at hotmail dot com-.

We will let everyone know how things are progressing with the auction donations in up and coming broadcasts. We will also let you know details of the web page that will contain a full description of what will be on offer at the auction.

Thanks for reading.

(From Vince VK7VH and all the crew on the Sewing Circle Net)

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#### VK7 EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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

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

REAST – January 4, 11, 18 & 25 – DATV Experimenter's Group – DATV Studio Queen's Domain from 7:30pm.

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

WICEN Tasmania (Sth) – January 15 – Meeting/Muster

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

CCARC – January 28 – Meeting – Penquin Lions Club Rooms.

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

WICEN Tasmania (Sth) – January 28 & 29 – Targa Wrest Point Communications.

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

NWTATVG – February 4 – Annual General Meeting and general meeting.

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

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Northern News

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

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

Seasons Greetings from NTARC

On behalf of NTARC members and their families I would like to extend seasons greetings and a happy and safe New Year.

As for myself, Peter VK7PL and my wife Lois, we are glad to be back in Tasmania after a most enjoyable cruise around New Zealand. We are back refreshed and ready for 2012. I went away an early retiree and came back an aged pensioner all in a fortnight.

Our trip also brought home in grand manner the plight of our friends in ZL, we spent a emotional day in Christchurch. This beautiful city is in a terrible mess, due to the recent earthquakes and the New Zealanders are in need of all the support we can offer.

All the best from VK7PL and the gang in the North

(Pete, VK7PL, President NTARC)

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NTARC News

With it being Christmas Day, and with 2011 rapidly dwindling, we will dispense with our usual NTARC news items for this, the final broadcast of the year.

Instead, may we take this opportunity to wish all listeners and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and propagation-rich New Year.

May the bands all behave and provide the very best of operating conditions for you, especially if Santa left some new RF toys under the tree for you, or even in a stocking for that matter. With the miniaturisation we have seen in recent years, even a 100 watt all-band HF rig can probably have been stuffed into a stocking, if Santa or the elves had any energy left once they reach your QTH.

Next week sees the arrival of 2012 and with it, the start of a new NTARC club year. It is tempting to commence this segment by saying, "My Old Man and I ..." and then reflecting at length on the events of 2011 but that is probably best left to another lady whose Christmas broadcast has far greater reach than can be achieved by this reporter and VK7WI.

I'll content myself with the observation that 2011 was a year of quiet consolidation for NTARC, rather than one of rampant growth. As such, it continued the trend of recent years.

We would now seem to be well past any surge of people wanting to qualify for the Foundation licence, at least in this little corner of the world. Sadly, some of those who joined the ranks after the Foundation licence became available, now appear to have decided that radio is not for them and become inactive. Perhaps that is putting too gloomy a slant on things. Perhaps life's other priorities have simply intervened and the radio hobby has merely been parked, ready for reactivation in years to come. Be that as it may, gaining new recruits to the hobby now seems to require far greater effort than was previously the case but that is the challenge to which NTARC, and I suspect most clubs, must now rise.

Our numbers were also reduced by untimely deaths in 2011, including that of our oldest member Cliff VK7CD and our very dear friend John (Mac) VK7CCC. We were particularly saddened to lose Cliff and also Jim VK7OW, both at age 98, so close to reaching the century and in the year of WIA reaching that milestone.

2011 was certainly a year in which Murphy and his ally, the VK7 winter weather visited NTARC and once here, certainly outstayed their welcome! Our repeater and broadcast link facilities suffered seemingly endless hits, forcing our technical and broadcast team into various workarounds to keep the weekly news coming to you. Their success in doing so is a testament to their knowledge and skill. We thank all involved in that effort but particularly Joe VK7JG and Tony VK7YBG. Happily, as the year ends all seems to back working the way the designers intended.

Winter temperatures also served to keep numbers down at the relevant monthly meetings this year, although the meeting topics selected certainly appeared to be enjoyed by those who braved the elements. One aspect that was not dented by the winter weather or Murphy was the club's social activity, with very good attendances and good company enjoyed at each social event.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without acknowledging the effort put in by my predecessor as Secretary and broadcast reporter, Jason VK7ZJA. Jason had carried on these roles for some years, in the face of ever-increasing work pressure and changed domestic circumstances. Clearly, something had to give and in June, Jason found it necessary to tender his resignation from these positions. We all owe Jason a huge vote of thanks.

Finally, for anybody curious about such things, my personal Christmas wish was that all members of NTARC will contribute items of news to me for inclusion in 2012 weekly broadcasts and all will promptly pay their membership renewals.

My New Year's resolution? Well, if members don't freely contribute news items in 2012, my resolution is to invent the news and nobody can expect to be spared.

Seriously though, have a wonderful day but be sure to raise a glass to our wonderful hobby and to absent friends. For the Scots among us, we can do all that again for Hogmanay next week.

(73, Yvonne, NTARC Inc. Secretary)

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Central News

Central Highlands ARC of Tasmania

Christmas Greetings

<http://www.qsl.net/charct/>

Seasons greetings and best wishes to all from the Central Highlands Amateur Radio Club of Tasmania.

Don't forget we still have a weekly quiz net on Thursday at 8.30pm on 3.585Mhz

(73, Claireen, VK7KMB)

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North West News

Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club

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

Christmas Message from CCARC

A Christmas Message from, David, VK7EX the President of the Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club Inc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our club members for the interest and help that they have given during 2011 at our club meetings and many special events that we have been involved with during the year.

Your support has been very beneficial to the smooth running of the club and we have progressed in a very positive way, the coming year, 2012 looks to be an even better year for the club both in activities and financial support.

For all Amateurs out there whom may not know, we do have a serious battery problem on our Mt Duncan repeater site but early in the new year we intend to undertake a major upgrade which will be announced early in the new year, be warned we will be looking for many fit able body people the day we do this and let me say now that you don't have to be a member of CCARC to offer your support and help on the day, after all the repeaters are there for every ones benefit.

I would also like to make a few special mentions of people that have put so much more effort into this wonderful hobby over the last 12 months and they are our Broadcast team headed by Justin, VK7TW and the ever reliable relay team, you ladies and blokes know who you are and there are a lot of people out there that appreciate what you do every Sunday morning.

I would also like to thank some of the technical boys, those who come to mind and that I know are Joe, 7JG, Dave, 7DC, Dick, 7DIK, Winston, 7EM (our mountain man), Dion, 7DB (our compulsive builder) and to all those I have missed we thank you all for putting so much into the hobby that we all enjoy so much, I personally would like to thank my committee for running such a good ship over this past year.

On behalf of the Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club I wish all the members, their families and friends, our shortwave listeners, non members and the many on air acquaintances that could be listening today a very safe, happy and merry Christmas and new year with your family and friends and I look forward to catching up with you all in the new year.

A very special thank you from,

(David, VK7EX, President CCARC)

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Callbooks

Mike VK7MH has received a shipment of callbooks and would like to hear from members of CCARC who would like to purchase a 2012 Callbook.

Please contact Mike on phone: 6425 6380.

Thanks

(Mike 7MH)

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North West Tasmanian ATV Group (NWTATVG)

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

Meeting Advice

The next meeting of the NWT-ATV Group will be on the 4th. February 2012. Members please note, this will be the AGM followed by a general meeting.

As per the Club rules, all positions on the executive will fall vacant at this meeting. If members are interested in taking up a position on the executive committee, then please contact the Club for a Nomination form.

Members should also note that renewal of membership falls due on the 1st. January 2012. We are pleased to advise that there will be NO change to the Club Membership fee for 2012.

If you are not a member of this very friendly Club, and would like to join, then please advise the Club and we will see what we can do to accommodate your request.

Contact information can be found on the WIA Website under Clubs.

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

73's until next time

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

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Southern News

WICEN Tasmania (South)

Ho Ho Ho from WICEN Tasmania (South)

I would like to wish everybody a very happy Christmas and a happy new year from WICEN Tasmania (South) members and thank all those people that supported us during a very successful year in helping us provide non profit organizations with radio communication so that they could have a high standard of communication for their event during 2011.

Happy Christmas from

(Chris Webb, VK7FCDW, Chairman, Wicen Tasmania (South))

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Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania Inc.

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

Seasons Greetings from REAST

Another year is almost over with today being a significant day in the calendar whether it be for religious beliefs, a time to spend with family and friends or just a well earned rest and wind down for the year.

This time of year does lend itself as a time for reflection. Personally as the Secretary of REAST I am reflecting on the events that took place during the year such as the monthly presentation nights, the fun and sometimes frivolity of the DATV nights as well as the days where the club opened up its doors for some BBQ's for members as well as friends of the club which has created a bonding amongst amateurs in the south of the state whether they are REAST members or not.

I also am reflecting on those amateurs that I have spoken to and met over the years that are sadly no longer with us, most recently Dietmar who passed on this day last week.

I often think of a saying that I read once and has stuck with me over the years.... Yesterday is history, Tomorrow a mystery, Today is a gift, that's why its called The Present.

Talking of presents, I hope the jolly old fella in the red suit has bought to you everything that you asked of him, may all of your families enjoy this festive season and may your 2012 be everything that you want it to be.

Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year from REAST.

(Tony VK7VKT, Secretary REAST)

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REAST NEWS

2012 Call Books - OUT NOW

LIMITED NUMBERS LEFT-HURRY

The RRP is \$30 however REAST members can purchase these for \$25 and those with WIA membership can purchase one for \$22.

Available from: Caltex Main Road MOONAH (Many thanks to Clayton).

They will also be available at the Wednesday Lunch Group this week and at the DATV night.

Foundation Manual - New Edition - Now available from Caltex Moonah as well as via secretary@...

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Membership

2012 memberships are now being accepted. Membership expires at the end of December if you want to ensure you have full membership rights at the upcoming AGM. Please see the links below with the current membership info. Payment has never been easier with payment possible via online banking or at the teller of your bank.

For those friends of the club who have enjoyed interacting with the club, why not consider becoming a member. We will never hound you into membership however the invitation is there if you wish to take it up.

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#### Summer Antenna Project

Over the summer we plan on an afternoon event to erect the tower via the generous donation from VK7GK. We plan on firing up a spit roast with all the trimmings early in the arvo with a few hours of erecting the tower, topping off the day with some delicious meats and a quiet drink and chat. Date TBA

73's

(Tony VK7VKT, Secretary REAST)

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#### DATV Experimenters Night

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

We had a slow start to the DATV Experimenter's nights but we soon got underway with a show and tell item from VK7TW's favourite recycling store...HIHI. Justin picked up two pipe/bore camera

assemblies and these proved to be a great purchase with two colour lipstick cameras being salvaged from assemblies that will be used in the DATV Studio and OB work.

Justin then moved to a presentation on Crystal Holders both past and present which concluded with the disassembly of a FT243 holder to show the audience the assembly inside and why these holder are preferred by radio amateurs because they are so easy to apart and re-grind the crystal to the frequency required.

We then finished off with the BS7H Scarborough Reef DXPedition video from James Brooks 9V1YC.

We got some great comments from both our virtual and physical audience and thanks to the British Amateur TV streaming site.

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](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

We get underway on Wednesday night from 7:30pm.

See you there.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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RECORDS NewS

New VHF-UHF records

The latest email from John Martin VK3KM the WIA DX records coordinator included a familiar name.

The following new Digital EME record have been added to the list:

50 MHz: VK7JG to OY3JE, 17134.2 km, 7 April 2008

Full details, and a list of all Australian VHF-UHF records since 1947, are on the WIA web site.

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/records/data/>

(John VK3KM via the VK Microwave Mailing List)

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Seasons Greetings

A behalf of the VK7 Regional News Broadcast team I wish you all a relaxing and safe Christmas and 2012.

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Web & Email Edition Extra Bits!!

ISS Commander Captures Unprecedented View of Comet over Tasmania

[http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?media\\_id=125774121](http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?media_id=125774121)

Psychedelic gecko highlights diversity hotspot

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/12/12/3389174.htm>

Life possible on 'large parts' of Mars

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/12/13/3389765.htm>

Science year in review: 2011

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/12/23/3395789.htm>

Czech Morse Keys

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

G3LIV Isoterm data interfaces

<http://www.btinternet.com/~g3liv/>

Mill's role in Titanic drama

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/southeastwales/hi/people\\_and\\_places/history/newsid\\_8117000/8117208.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/southeastwales/hi/people_and_places/history/newsid_8117000/8117208.stm)

VHF and UHF Area Prediction

[http://www.ips.gov.au/HF\\_Systems/7/1/12](http://www.ips.gov.au/HF_Systems/7/1/12)

Music creation at the touch of a button with Tabstrummer

<http://www.gizmag.com/tabstrummer-guitar-shaped-midi-controller/20932/>

How nuclear icebreakers work - and the reversible ships that will replace them

<http://www.gizmag.com/nuclear-icebreakers-double-acting-ships-azipods/20903/>

Researchers create invisibility cloak for sound

<http://www.gizmag.com/invisibility-cloak-for-sound/20933/>

Self-healing electronics may result in less expensive, longer-lasting devices

<http://www.gizmag.com/self-healing-electronics/20923/>

Live Satellite Info

<http://aar29.free.fr/sat/index.html>

A look inside the space shuttle Atlantis

<http://www.theverge.com/2011/12/22/2656148/a-look-inside-the-space-shuttle-atlantis>

NORAD Tracking Santa

<http://www.noradsanta.org/en/>

30 Years of Elf Handiwork

<http://www.ultimatecoupons.com/blog/2011/12/30-years-of-elf-handiwork-the-most-popular-toys-since-1981-infographic/>

A Gallon of Gas Can Power an iPhone for 20 Years

<http://gizmodo.com/5870501/a-gallon-of-gas-can-power-an-iphone-for-20-years>

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

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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: VK7TW

Repeaters: VK7MH, VK7AX & VK7YBG

80m: VK7EM

40m: VK7RO

20m: VK7JGD

10m: VK7ZGK

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@.... 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 MIKE VK7FB AND SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL.

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