

VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST

FOR SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2011

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

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<Following the WIA National Broadcast after short break>

0930 IT IS THE 6TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2011 AND THIS IS THE VK7 REGIONAL NEWS BROADCAST AND IT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY VK7WI AND READ TODAY BY JUSTIN, VK7TW.

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 WINSTON, VK7EM

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 CLAYTON, VK7ZCR AND HF CB CHANNEL 22 BY HARVEY, VK7TED.

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## Propagation News

### SunSpot Upgraded

NOAA forecasters have upgraded the chance of X-class solar flares on November 4 to 20%. The source would be AR1339, one of the biggest sunspots in many years. The active region rotated over the sun's eastern limb on 1 November and now it is turning toward Earth.

The sunspot has already unleashed one X-flare on Nov. 3rd around 2027 UT.

The flare created waves of ionization in Earth's upper atmosphere, altering the normal propagation of radio waves over Europe and the Americas. In Ireland, the flare's effect was felt even after dark.

A cloud of plasma or "CME" raced away from the blast site at 1100 km/s. The CME is not heading for Earth. It is, however, heading for Mercury and Venus.

Analysts at the Goddard Space Weather Lab say the CME hit Mercury on Nov. 4th around 16:14 UT. NASA's MESSENGER probe in orbit around Mercury monitored the effects of the impact.

If the CME overwhelms Mercury's relatively weak magnetic field, it could scour material off the planet's surface creating a temporary atmosphere and adding material to Mercury's comet-like tail. The CME should hit Venus on Nov. 5th; the gossamer cloud will probably break harmlessly against the top of planet's ultra-dense atmosphere.

<http://spaceweather.com/>

(Sourced from the Spaceweather.com website)

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

NTARC – November 9 –Skills Institute site at Alanvale for practical demonstration of VK7MX's talk on the Arduino microcontroller platform starts 7:30pm.

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

REAST – November 9, 16 & 23 – DATV Experimenter's Group – DATV Studio Queen's Domain from 7:30pm.

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

CCARC – November 19 – Talk from Paul VK7HPD on earthing in the radio shack at the Penguin Lions club rooms, 19 Ironcliff Road from 1:30pm.

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

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

NWTATVG – December 3 - Next General Meeting – QTH of Bob VK7MGW and BBQ.

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

NTARC – December 14 - Pilgrimage to Myrtle Park from 5.00pm - Sites 7 and 8.

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

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## NON-Commercial For Sales & Wanteds

### 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)

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Northern News

Northern Tasmanian Amateur Radio Club

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

The Prologue

Contrary to what you may have been told at the commencement of this broadcast, today the northern relay switching is not being handled by Tony VK7YBG.

Tony, Ann and family are having a very rare weekend off; the first that we can remember in a very long time.

Normally, Tony is still able to operate the switching when away from home QTH but not so while the Broadcast link is out of action. As they are camping beyond direct switching range, the task this week is being handled by Greg VK7YAD.

We thank Greg for stepping in to fill this gap and hope that Tony and Ann are enjoying their brief break.

We are also very confident that all will go well for Greg today. After all, he had an inadvertent practice run last weekend.

It seems that President Peter, VK7PL managed to misread Ann's email advising of Tony's unavailability today. As a result, Peter spent all day Saturday last week, frantically organising Greg as the replacement ..... but for the last week's broadcast!

We dare say all three were surprised when both Tony and Greg appeared on air last Sunday, ready to perform the switching and conduct callbacks, hi hi.

Ah well, at least it demonstrated that NTARC has the depth of membership interest and capability to rise above such temporary setbacks

Naturally, VK7PL is suitably embarrassed by this gaff, especially since he can't really put it down to one of those inexplicable senior moments.

Possibly a more sympathetic reporter might have let the occasion pass without comment but hey, this would otherwise be a very light week for news here in the north.

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Broadcast link

Surely, you didn't really think we could let more than an occasional weekly news segment pass without some comment on this old news standby?

Completion of repairs to the Broadcast Link are in sight.

Joe VK7JG also had something of a practice run this week, visiting Arthur's Lake on a fishing reconnaissance prior to returning in earnest to replace the Barren Tier radio and finally get the link onto its new frequency. Joe tells us he has the radio work now scheduled for late next week and that it will be undertaken regardless of the weather. The same probably can't be said for a second onslaught on the trout.

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#### Callbooks

Arrangements are in hand to order a supply of 2012 WIA Callbooks for on-sale to NTARC members.

As on previous occasions, it is proposed to order a box of 25 but a few reservations have already been received. We expect that our stock will be sold out shortly after its arrival. Once gone we will not be ordering more.

We suggest that you let either Idris VK7ZIR or myself, Yvonne VK7FYM know of your interest in getting a 2012 Callbook as soon as possible.

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#### 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. While now very late in the process, Norm would still like to hear as soon as possible from any additional 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.

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#### Next NTARC meetings

The November meeting will be held Wednesday 9 November, at our usual site, Block B, Skills Institute at Alanvale, Launceston commencing at 7.30pm. 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.

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#### 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](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.

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#### NTARC Coffee Mornings

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 10.30am and 11.30 am.

Please note though that this Monday is a public holiday and Gary and Wilma have advised us the Cafe will be closed. In these circumstances, we move coffee to the following day. Therefore, this week coffee will move to Tuesday 8 November, with the commencement time of 10.30am. Hopefully we will still see a considerable number of members there. Friday's coffee session remains unchanged.

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#### Epilogue

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@...](mailto:ypmaxwell@...) or via the NTARC website.

(73, Yvonne, NTARC Inc. Secretary)

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North West News

Cradle Coast Amateur Radio Club

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

The October meeting of the Cradle Coast Amateur Radio club was held on the 29th. At the meeting the membership rate was set for the 2012 year at \$25. Members are reminded that renewal notices will be sent in the mail soon.. Potential new members can obtain a membership application on the club's web site, which can easily found by doing a google search of CCARC TAS, or by contacting the secretary, or one of the other committee members.

Dion VK7DB brought along the almost complete APRS DIGI which will be soon installed on Mt Montgomery. This will give much improved coverage along the coastal strip centred around Penguin and as far as Devonport, Sheffield, etc. The Mt Montgomery site will be wearing the callsign VK7RMM

The UHF 70cm beacon will soon be activated at the Don Heads site VK7RAE, thanks to Joe VK7JG who has replace the aging device with a newer, more stable radio. The Beacon has been in a state of limbo due to interference problems concerning a nearby radio controlled roller door which became inoperable due to de-sense problems in it's receiver when the beacon was running. A new strategy has been adopted by using interrupted continuous wave (ICW) instead of FSK.

The 70cm beacon switches on and off with a 0.6 second burst every 2 seconds and then a fast ident occurs every 30 seconds. This allow a reasonable amount of time for the roller door control key presses to get though with only a minor chance of being blocked. The beacon controller was purpose built and programmed by David VK7DC.

The CCARC has also been asked to provide radio coverage for a new bicycle event, The Pure Tasmania Cycle Challenge. The gruelling road event is to be run on Sunday Feb 26th 2012, and starts at 6am in Devonport, travels though Sheffield to Cradle mountain lodge for lunch. It then continues across to the Murchison Hwy, through Rosebery and Zeehan and finishes in Strahan by 7pm that evening. The event coverage will be run on commercial VHF radio channels. If any one would like to assist, a couple of extra persons would be handy.

Please contact David VK7DC if you think you could help.

By the time this gets to air Eric VK7NFI, Wayne VK7NET, and Laurie VK7ZE will be operating portable from King Island at the Cape Wickham Lighthouse as part of the Cape Wickham Lighthouse 150th Anniversary celebrations. Please keep an ear out for these operators on the HF bands and make their trip worthwhile. They will be on the island from the 1st of November until the 8th.

The CCARC will be holding its last meeting for the year one week early this month. The new date is the 19th of November.

For this meeting we have Paul VK7HPD coming along to talk about earthing in the radio shack. Paul comes to us with considerable experience in this field.

Please come along and make Paul welcome.

Don't forget, the meeting will be on the 19th of November at 1.30pm at the Penguin Lions club rooms, 19 Ironcliff Road.

Regards

(David Cleland, VK7DC, Secretary, CCARC)

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North West Tasmanian ATV Group (NWTATVG)

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

Next General Meeting

The Next General Meeting of the Club is scheduled for Saturday 3rd. December at the home of Bob VK7MGW and Ursula VK7FROO, Malonga Drive, Burnie.

At the last meeting It was resolved to not have a formal Christmas Dinner this year, but to have a BBQ luncheon/evening at the conclusion of next general meeting.

Bob informs us he has all the BBQ facilities in top shape and that both Ursula and himself are looking forward to being hosts for members and friends. All welcome.

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#### 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.,

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#### General News from the North West

Transmission of Video Archive Material.

Interested viewers are advised that there will not be any historical DVD's for the next couple of Saturdays as Tony VK7AX will be taking a short holiday break. Stay tuned for advice of their return

73's until next time

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

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Southern News

Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania Inc.

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

November Presentation

Firstly it was great to see Carl, a VK5 f-call who has recently moved to VK7 and Paul who came along to the presentation night.

Last Wednesday we had a very informative presentation from Mike, VK7MJ, giving us a talk on Single Side Band and related topics.

Mike went into the history and development of SSB and then went into the elements of theory then into the four method of generation and demodulation of single side band signals using examples from his vast home-brewing experience.

The four methods being the filter, phasing, weaver and quad phase audio switching.

Mike finished off with the summary of each method and then some observations of SSB which included – go for quality not quantity and emphasised that home-brewing and construction is a definite possibility with SSB rigs.

Thanks Mike for a very informative presentation.

We have videoed the presentation and will present at a future DATV night.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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REAST Scholarship News:

The 5 New Town High students have their heads buried in the books and are very much up to speed to sit their Foundation Licence very soon. They have their paperwork all filled out and their REAST membership as well as their WIA membership is almost complete. I time in the near future that will fit in with both their school schedule and the learning facilitators will be organised in the near future. Good luck guys but I am sure you will not need luck.

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REAST for sales and wanted:

The REAST For Sale and Wanted area is just about to go live. If you have any items you wish to place on the site simply email secretary@... with the details so the site can go live with some content.

73's

(Tony VK7VKT Secretary REAST)

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REAST Training, Education & Assessment

If you are interested in participating in the examination session contact our learning organiser Reg VK7KK on 0417 391 607, or email on [regemm@...](mailto:regemm@...)

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

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DATV Experimenters Night

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

Our DATV nights get back underway on Wednesday night from 7:30pm.

We will be continuing a little more on Surface Mount soldering techniques and actually putting together a Tony Park KB9YIG Softrock 2/4/6m SDRx.

We will finish off with the video of Winston VK7WH's presentation on his trip to Dayton, USAF Museum and the Logic8 logging software.

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](http://www.vk3rtv.com)

We get underway on Wednesday night November 9th from 7:30pm.

See you there.

(73, Justin, VK7TW)

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History News

## Mt Nelson Signal Station Bicentenary

As heard on the National News - the following message has come through from Christian Bell who is one of the organisers for the Bicentennial celebrations of the Mt Nelson Signal Station which is happening on 30 November 2011.

Christian is looking for amateur radio operators who would be prepared to operate a station from Mt Nelson and possibly include CW, voice and digital operation.

What Christian is looking to set up are various forms of communication used at the Station over the last 200 years. They would appreciate it if some Radio Amateurs could assist Coast Radio Hobart to set up some transmitters both (VHF and HF) to demonstrate on the day.

Having some amateur operators who would like to demonstrate Morse code via radio would be good. If you are interested in helping out then please contact Barry VK7TBM who can pass on Christian's contact details.

mccanns@...

Coast Radio Hobart has had a long involvement with the Signal Station and until recently I understand your transmitter was at the Signal Station. This provides an opportunity to promote the work of Coast Radio Hobart, we are expecting the ABC drive time Local Radio program will be broadcasting live from the Signal Station in the afternoon of our event.

A program featuring signalling from the Mt Nelson Signal Station will take place on Wednesday, 30 November, 2011.

This is the 200th anniversary of the date that Governor Macquarie selected the site for the Signal Station upon inspection.

From 12pm until 4.30pm, demonstrations of signal flags, Morse code (utilizing HF radio) and the operation of Aldis lamps (using visual Morse code) are being planned. A time ball will be raised at 1pm to celebrate the Signal Stations role in providing the time to the City of Hobart. These are all

some of the methods of communication operated at the Mt Nelson Signal Station during the last 200years.

Displays of local Mt Nelson children's artwork about the Signal Station will also be able to be viewed at the Station Cafe & Restaurant.

At 4.30pm, there will be a speaker acknowledging the role of the Signal Station in the history of Hobart (expected to be the Lord Mayor of Hobart). At 5pm Band music from The Australian Navy (Tasmanian Jazz Band) and Australian Navy Drill Team will perform, At 6pm, the Tasmanian Police Pipe Band will perform.

(Cheers Christian)

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Satellite News

AMSAT-VK Net

The VK National Satellite net takes place this Tuesday the 8 November 2011 at 20:30 - 21:30.

This event repeats every month on the second Tuesday of the month.

Please note we will be taking check-ins from 8.20pm-ish.

Operators may join the net via Echolink by connecting to either the \*Amsat\* or \*VK3JED\* conference servers. Past experience has shown that the VK3JED server offers clearer audio. The net is also available via IRLP reflector numbers 9558.

In addition to the Echolink conferences, the net will also be available via RF on various repeaters and links and in VK7 it is available on:

VK7RTV 6M. Repeater Gawler 53.775 MHz IRLP 6124

VK7RTV 2M. Repeater Gawler 146.775 MHz. IRLP 6616

(73 from the AMSAT-VK Team)

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Web & Email Edition Extra Bits!!

New record claimed for highest airship flight

<http://www.gizmag.com/highest-airship-flight-record/20379/>

On wheeled self balancing cycle

<http://www.gizmag.com/ryno-one-wheeled-scooter/20385/>

RFI Tools – iPhone App (thanks Warren VK7FEET)

<http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/rfi-tools/id468627282?mt=8>

Movember – supporting prostate and depression initiatives for men

<http://au.movember.com/?home>

<http://mobro.co/justingc>

Satellite Flybys for iPhone and Android

<http://simpleflybys.com/>

If co-workers were dogs

<http://joshspector.com/2011/10/31/dogs-coworkers/>

How to sell a used car???

<http://joshspector.com/2011/10/31/used-car-commercial/>

Photographer builds fully working DSLR camera costume for Halloween

<http://www.gizmag.com/halloween-camera-costume/20331/>

Law of nature 'not so constant' after all

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/11/02/3353491.htm>

Particle physics quiz

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/games/quizzes/2011/physics/>

Making Waves

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/video/2011/11/01/3353059.htm>

Do you have some interesting internet sites you have come 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: VK7RS

Repeaters: VK7MH, VK7AX & VK7YBG

80m: VK7JGD

40m: VK7TW

20m: VK7AR

10m: No Broadcast

UHF CB: VK7HGO

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@.... 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 JUSTIN VK7TW.