



The Wireless Institute of Australia

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WIANEWS - JUNE 22 - VK NATIONAL NEWS

THE BEST NEWS YOU'LL GET ALL WEEK

Oh... and to contact us with your news because
If It Matters To You It Matters To Us!

Email nationalnews@wia.org.au

<http://www.wia.org.au> (click news in member area) Submit your audio news

TWITTER <http://twitter.com/VK1WIA>

Please... If you are only submitting text and not audio, write your story as you would expect to hear it being read back and NEVER send just links & url's. When you upload audio email us the txt version.

WIANEWS WEEK COMMENCING JUNE 22 2014.
HEADING TOWARDS OUR 20TH YEAR OF NON STOP NEWS

WIA ANZAC 100 a series of articles is to appear in Amateur Radio magazine by WIA Historian, Peter Wolfenden VK3RV

WIA Amateur Radio magazine the digital edition is coming !

WIA Increases EMR knowledge in our syllabus

THESE STORIES AND MORE IN THIS EDITION OF NEWS FROM THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA FOR WEEK COMMENCING JUN 22 2014.

File Uploads

Contributors Upload Area

Upload Area Now Password Protected

For upload password please contact
nationalnews @ wia.org.au

TRENDING ON VK1WIA TWITTER ACCOUNT
<http://twitter.com/VK1WIA>

#WIA AR GOES DIGITAL

#WIA ANZAC100

#WIAemr

THIS NEWS IS HAPPENING NOW

In a note from Fred VK3ADC sent to VK7REAST he says

Good morning all
ACMA have advised that the Amateur Radio Licence fee
has been increased to \$74.00. Variation to licence fee
remains at \$49.00.
Regards
Fred.

Amateur Radio magazine the digital edition is coming !

This is Roger Harrison VK2ZRH.

As foreshadowed a few months ago, AR magazine will be available in digital
format from the July issue.

From the 26th of June - that's next week - you will be able to view or
download the July 2014 edition of AR Magazine in PDF format from the WIA
website, <http://www.wia.org.au>

Here's how you collect your digital edition. First, you need to be registered
for Memnet.

Haven't done that yet? Never mind. It's easy. On the WIA website, under the
"For Members" menu, you will see - right at the top - "Log into Memnet". This
opens a page where you can register by clicking on the "Register" link.
Obvious, isn't it? This will get you a Memnet password once you have entered
your WIA Member Number, name and callsign. You will find your member number
on the address flysheet that came with your previous print editions of AR
magazine.

Armed with your Memnet password - on or after the 26th of June, go to the WIA
website. Look under the "For Members" menu and select "AR Magazine". Look just

below the page headline for "Digital Edition" and click the link there.

Once you have downloaded your July AR digital edition, you will see that it has been personalized with your Name, WIA member number and date you downloaded it. That will happen for each digital edition of AR you download in future.

The WIA Board decided to synchronise the release date for the digital edition with the expected date that the print edition will be available in member's letterboxes in the eastern states.

AR digital edition - another of the many growing benefits of WIA membership.

This is Roger Harrison VK2ZRH for VK1WIA News

TRAINING

Melbourne Rail commuters travelling the City Loop will soon suffer fewer dropped calls when mobile coverage is switched on in the tunnel later this year.

Optus, Telstra and Vodafone Hutchison Australia have announced a partnership with the Victorian Government and VicTrack to turn on 3G and 4G mobile coverage at the Flagstaff, Melbourne Central and Parliament underground stations and through the tunnels between them.

ANZAC 100

To commemorate ANZAC 100 a series of articles is to appear in Amateur Radio magazine by the WIA Historian, Peter Wolfenden VK3RV. Here's a summary of one of them.

Air Marshall Sir Richard Williams was born in South Australia in 1890 and the first pilot to graduate from the Point Cook Military Flying Course in 1914.

During 1916, Williams commanded the No. 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps in Palestine. In 1921, the RAAF was formed and he became its first Chief of Air Staff.

A little like George A. Taylor, the WIA founder and others back in 1910, Williams felt that Australia's threat was from the air than by sea, and sought a strong, independent Air Force.

Controversy continued to surround Williams and his "threat theorems", but he was eventually proved right when on the 19th February, 1942, Darwin was attacked from the air.

Ironically he was in Darwin to see the devastation unfold and filmed some of it from his hotel using a home cine camera.

He retired from the RAAF in 1946. Then he became Australia's Director General of Civil Aviation for 10 years, coinciding with the government's two-airline policy.

In 1971, Sir Richard Williams, the 'Father of the RAAF' provided the Remembrance Day Contest Opening Address, on the 50th anniversary of the RAAF.

He recalled active service with Number 1 Squadron of the Australian Flying Corp. At its very early stage only two experienced men had been ship wireless operators.

The rest expressed an interest but knew nothing about it. After being taught Morse code they did very well. Williams described it as his first experience with amateur operators.

Wireless in aircraft was limited. Aircraft sent messages by a spark transmitter to crystal receivers on the ground. Aircraft engine noise prevented messages being received in the air.

During World War I progress had been made increasing the distance of signals from aircraft.

The 1971 Remembrance Day Opening Address showed a man of great integrity and foresight. He died on the 7th February, 1980.

In 2005, Sir Richard William's Australian Flying Corps wings were on board the space shuttle Discovery with Australian-born astronaut Dr Andy Thomas VK5MIR.

(Jim Linton VK3PC)

WIA BOARD TALK

President Phil Wait VK2ASD vk2asd@wia.org.au
Vice President Chris Platt VK5CP vk5cp@wia.org.au
Secretary David Williams VK3RU vk3ru@wia.org.au
Treasurer John Longayroux VK3PZ vk3pz@wia.org.au

Increased EMR knowledge in our syllabus

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has amended the Amateur Radio regulations syllabus, to expand the demonstrated knowledge of Electromagnetic Radiation or EMR.

Safety has been on ACMA's agenda for a considerable time, and it is seeking to minimise risk and promote safety across all its operations, including Amateur Radio.

The process to include EMR in the existing Amateur Radio Syllabus at all three licence levels, commenced about 18 months ago.

One of the outcomes of the high-power trial for Advance Licence holders, the ACMA in consultation with the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA), found that EMR knowledge could be increased.

The teaching of prospective radio amateurs already includes the importance to keep all persons (and animals) a safe distance from antennas, their orientation, the role of Effective Radiated Power, and radio wave danger with higher frequencies and power levels.

The ACMA has gone further with its amended syllabus to spell out that knowledge of EMR is a condition for all classes of amateur licence, and recall where to locate the ACMA document titled "EMR Assessment Guide for Amateur Radio".

It also wants known that the "Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency" ARPANSA sets the standard for Maximum Exposure Levels, 100 kHz to 300 GHz, its principles and methods of measurement.

New licence assessment papers from the WIA Exam Service issued to assessors from June 2014 will reflect the new EMR provisions.

The additional teaching time should be minor, but it will reflect knowledge of the licence requirements and community concern about radiation from transmitters.

(Jim Linton VK3PC)

HAMS ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

VK2

web service:- http://www.arnsw.org.au/html/news_vk2wi.htm

The next ARNSW Foundation course and assessments is over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of July. Bookings are required by an email to education@arnsw.org.au

The next Trash and Treasure is on Sunday the 27th of July.

CCARC club meeting June will have a lecture on "Electricity in the Home" by Bruce Holland VK2ZAD. This will take place on Saturday the 28th of June at 1300 hrs. at the CCARC Club rooms. All are welcome.

Waverly club in Sydney is now able to offer scholarships valued at over \$200 to enable a number of young people under 25 and not in full time employment to obtain their first licence and be supplied with a radio at no cost.

The scholarships have been funded by the sale of radio equipment from the estate of the late Colin Marks, VK2LV.

For more information please contact education@vk2bv.org

Waverley's training weekends occur regularly, with the next one on the weekend commencing 13th September at clubhouse in the Scout Hall at Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay with parking available in the grounds.

Visitors are always welcome at club's functions.

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club meets in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

The very successful ORARC 2014 Field Day was held in Port Macquarie over our Queens Birthday weekend in fine sunny weather.

There were 95 registrations and 41 people enjoyed the Saturday night Field Day dinner at the Golf club.

Between the traders and disposals there were bargains for all tastes.

FOX HUNT CHAMPION? Chris Williams VK2YMW from Hornsby.

Jeff Pages VK2BYY was the runner-up Fox hunt champion.

The 40th annual Field Day will be on the June long weekend 2015, next year venue the same as this year, Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Hall.

Mark your 2015 diary now.

Summerland Amateur Radio Club

The club's email address is now
vk2src@gmail.com

Thanks
Chris Meagher
VK2ACD
Club Treasurer

VK3
web service:- <http://www.amateurradio.com.au/news/>

North East Victoria Amateur Radio Club

Are you from the north eastern region of Victoria?

Are you looking for a club in the area that will suit your needs as an Amateur?

The newly formed North East Victoria Amateur radio club may be the place for you.

Come along on the 29th of June to the inaugural meeting and Bar B Q to hear what activities and benefits the club has to offer you.

There will also be a fund raising raffle on the day with many prizes including a New LG 55 inch 3D Television.

The meeting will be held at Brenton VK3CMe's QTH 102 Hogan Lane Tangambalanga.

A map to help you find the place will be on the club website www.nevarc.net.au

Feel free to register on the website which is freely available to all amateurs and short wave listeners.

(Frank VK2HFS publicity officer.)

All VK3BWI broadcasts are now broadcast over VK3RPL - Portland on 146.825 offset with 91.5.

VK4 - QNEWS

Send your stories for news. SCRIPT to qnews@wia.org.au
send audio to <http://www.wia.org.au/members/broadcast/upload/>

get local audio news www.wiaq.org.au/ftp/vk4_qnews_64.mp3
get local news emailed qnews-vk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The 2014 HAMFEST on the Gold Coast is October 25.

Albert Waterways Hall Cnr Hooker Blvd. & Sunshine Blvd. Broadbeach Waters
Qld Australia

Table holders can set up from 07:00
Doors open to the public at 08:30

Entrance fee: \$7:00 single person / \$10 Family

Table bookings, please contact: hamfest@gcars.com.au

Or Bryn VK4GF on 04 222 76830

VK7

NTARC has been given the job of providing Communications for the Lebrina
Equine Endurance ride Saturday 28 June.

NTARC need radio operators to assist in manning the base station as well as
checkpoints.

If anyone can assist then please contact Rick VK7RI, NTARC Assistant
Community Communications Coordinator be email rick.polden@bigpond.com.au

(Yvonne Maxwell Secretary, NTARC Inc. text edition only)

DISCUSSION POINT

What use is an F-call? 20130630

Last week I was reading a report from another Amateur, a QRP station who has made it his aim to have a DX contact every day. John N8ZYA, living in Charleston West Virginia, wrote on his blog that he'd made a contact with Japan.

Initially that made me laugh, since for him, that contact was noteworthy, for me, it's one of six Japanese contacts I've made while QRP, in fact my very first QSO on HF was with Japan, sadly the information about what station that was is not recorded by me.

After I stopped laughing I had a look at what the implications were. For John, getting to the rest of the US is perhaps not trivial, but at least about as hard as it is to get across Australia for me. I then realised that for John, Japan was on the other side of the planet, for me it was next door.

I joked with John that one day I'd be reporting that I'd worked all states - in the USA, and that he had probably already achieved that, to which he responded that he still had to work Alaska.

So my learning for the week was to grok for the first time that my contact with Japan is not the same as your contact with Japan. Every station and location is different, all the time.

So when you next hear someone share their latest contact, perhaps it's a great opportunity to reflect on how hard that might be for you to achieve.

I'm Onno VK6FLAB

INTERNATIONAL NEWS With thanks to IARU, RSGB, SARL, Southgate AR Club, ARRL, Amateur Radio Newsline, NZART and the WW sources of the WIA.

HEARD ABOUT HEARD?

June 14th, it was announced about the proposed Heard DXpedition on vk0ek.org

"Unfortunately, in the past two months five team members withdrew, including the team leader, citing conflicts or the desire to participate in a shorter, less challenging DXpedition.

This circumstance has relatively suddenly left the DXpedition short of a team leader and committed operators, and therefore have decided to completely re-organize the radio team.

The new team leader will have the authority and responsibility for re-building the radio team and for managing the amateur radio operations on Heard Island."

More on Heard as we hear it.

SOCKETS FOR SOCCER.

Ghana is buying 50 megawatts of electricity from the Cote D'Ivoire so its citizens can watch their team play in the World Cup.

"These plans are put in place for consumers to watch uninterrupted football matches during the World Cup," said Ghana's Public Utilities Regulatory Commission.

The nation has been suffering from a power shortage due to low water levels in the Volta River, which supplies most of Ghana's power through hydroelectric dams.

The IARU honours long-time volunteer

Timothy Ellam VE6SH/G4HUA, President of the International Amateur Radio Union, has formally presented Dr David Wardlaw with the IARU's inaugural Michael J Owen Award.

The presentation at the Wireless Institute of Australia's headquarters in Melbourne on Friday June the 13th was before a small gathering of those involved with the IARU, WIA, family and friends.

Tim Ellam thanked those who organised the morning tea, later followed by a city luncheon joined by Nan Owen and daughter Jen.

Tim said that the WIA remains one of the most important IARU member societies and is valued for its participation.

He acknowledged the presence of IARU Region 3's President Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN and Director Geoff Atkinson VK3TL as well as Monitoring System Coordinator Peter Young VK3MV, and the Chairman of the Disaster Communications Committee Jim Linton VK3PC.

Speaking of the Michael J Owen Award, Tim said the IARU was of course immensely saddened with Michael's sudden passing in 2012.

The IARU Administrative Council (AC) felt that no other radio amateur better exemplified the IARU volunteer, and introduced the Michael J Owen Award.

The IARU AC appointed two radio amateurs for their dedication and work for the IARU.

Wojciech Nietyksza SP5FM was presented with the award by IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad LA2RR, in Warsaw in May, for decades of exceptional service.

Now Dr David Wardlaw VK3ADW has received the same award. He became involved with the IARU in 1968 as part of the Secretariat provided by the WIA for the inaugural conference of the IARU Region 3 in Sydney.

His dedication over many years with the IARU is well known. In presenting the Michael J. Owen Award, the IARU President said he could think of no one more fitting to be presented with this award.

A humble Dr David Wardlaw received the accolade describing it a deep privilege. He quipped that ITU committee chairman would refer to him by his name, rather than a country like other delegates, giving him some added importance.

David is known for his quiet and diplomatic approach to important matters, but his truly thoughtful effectiveness on them can never be challenged.

In other IARU News, the IARU Region 3 Directors have met in Brisbane.

The recent annual gathering of the Directors followed the important Asia Telecommunity or APT meeting of delegates to consider a bloc view on agenda matters at next year's World Radio Conference in Geneva.

All six IARU Region 3 Directors met - Shizuo Endo JE1MUI, Peter Lake ZL2AZ, Professor Rhee HL1AQQ, Geoff Atkinson VK3TL, Wisnu Widjaja YB0AZ and Chairman Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN.

They were assisted by Secretary Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP and joined by IARU President Tim Ellam VE6SH, and Region 1 President Hans Blondeel Timmerman PB2T.

They reviewed progress on a number of tasks identified at their last meeting in August 2013 in Tokyo.

Directors reported on their various responsibilities, with coordinators and other reports read. In addition reports were tabled from the IARU in Region 1 and 2 which broadly outlined their activities.

A special report from the IARU Region 3 Directors Peter Lake ZL2AZ and Shizuo Endo JE1MUI was received on their participation at the Asia Telecommunity meeting.

Two items of special interest to Amateur Radio were considered including the possible secondary allocation near 5 MHz.

The pair reported on Memorandum of Understanding between the IARU and APT being agreed in principle that was anticipated to be signed at the APT Plenary in November this year.

Amateur Radio in some of the Pacific Islands had become inactive due to the departure of expatriate operators, but the Directors noted with pleasure that some are now wanting to revive activities there, and offers of assistance are being developed.

The Region 3 Conference in Yogyakarta in October 2015 was discussed, with the venue to be decided in November 2014.

Two directors, Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN and Wisnu Widjaja YB0AZ will represent IARU Region 3 at the next IARU Administrative Council meeting and IARU Region 1 Conference in Varna, Bulgaria in September.

(Jim Linton VK3PC)

Ofcom amateur radio licence FAQ

Ian G3ZHI has been looking through Ofcom's 'Frequently asked questions' and, under the sub-heading 'I have more than one licence. Must I revalidate all of them?', he found this rather interesting answer.

IN PART IT READS:

If you have more than one personal licence, it is likely that we shall be contacting you in the future to ask you which one you wish to keep and we may require you to relinquish all but one of your licences.

Read the Ofcom FAQs here

<http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/radiocommunication-licences/amateur-radio/faq/?a=0>

13 cm band threatened in Netherlands

It appears that Dutch radio amateurs may lose a substantial segment of the 2300 MHz (13 cm) band

In the Netherlands, from Monday, June 23 the segment between 2330-2400 MHz was not to be used in a radius of 35 km around Assen.

Dutch radio amateurs outside this area may not point their antennas to Assen.

This is because these frequencies are used for the Dutch TT.

A prelude to a permanent ban.

<http://tinyurl.com/BelgiumUBA>

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WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

POT GROWERS LIGHTS VS. THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

Marijuana growing operations using what are called indoor grow lights are making life miserable for hams and S-W-L's. That's because many of these units emit wide-band interference all across the High Frequency radio spectrum. Some can even wreak havoc on the bands from 6 meters and above.

Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has more:

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A recent story picked up by USA TODAY and the Associated Press from the pages of The Coloradan newspaper reports on this new source of interference for amateur radio operators.

The story tracks the problems faced by Thomas Thompson, W0IVJ, of Boulder, Colorado, who discovered RF interference which he traced to the ballasts of the grow lights being used by some of his neighbours. Thompson reported his findings to the ARRL and also posted a page about the problem on the web.

<http://tomthompson.com/radio/GrowLight/GrowLightBallastFilter.html>

He notes the interference problem is significant on 40 meters.

Thompson, a retired electrical engineer, was able to find the source of the interference with direction-finding equipment, according to the news stories. He then decided that the best way to address the problem was to build filters for his neighbours to take care of the interference.

The ARRL, according to the Coloradan, filed a complaint with the FCC about the grow lamps.

The Coloradan says the FCC told its reporter that agency is aware of the interference, but didn't say what it was going to do about it.

The ARRL has produced information about the problem at a link on its website.

www.arrl.org/grow-light-rfi

It recommends filters and choke to alleviate the problem, if you know the neighbour where you've identified the source.

For the Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V.

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One word of caution to any ham thinking of confronting a suspected Marijuana grower, especially if it's someone you do not know. In three words: "don't do it." While there may be some people out there who are growing these plants for medical use, you could easily run into a large scale cultivating operation being run by members of the underworld who are armed and dangerous. Instead, if you T-Hunt down such a location just file a report of the interference and where you believe it's coming from with your closest FCC office and let the professionals handle it from there.

(The Coloradian, FaceBook and others via ARNewsLine)

OPERATIONAL NEWS - DATELINE 2014

June 21-22 - Winter VHF-UHF Field Day weekend (thanks to NERG in VK3)

SGARS 80 METRE TROPHY CONTEST July 26

10-10 INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CONTEST Aug 2 - 3

WIA REMEMBRANCE DAY (THE RD) CONTEST Aug 16 - 17

Manly-Warringah Radio Society's Flagpole contest September 20.

Amateur Radios International Air-ambulance Week, 9 days from Sep 28.

The IARU HF Championship takes place on the second full weekend of July.

The contest begins on Saturday 12 July at 12:00 UTC and ends on Sunday 13 July at 12:00 UTC.

The objective of the IARU HF Championships is to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metre bands.

No contest QSOs on 12, 17, 30 or 60 metres are allowed.

On any band, a station may be worked once on Phone and once on CW. Both Single and Multi operator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

(sarl)

WRTC2014 Chase

Everyone is encouraged to work the World Radiosport Team Championship teams on as many bands and modes as possible.

All contacts with WRTC2014 stations will be confirmed by QSL card via the bureau for DX stations.

All contacts will also be confirmed through ARRL's Logbook of the World.

The "WRTC2014 Chase" will run concurrently with the IARU HF Championship beginning on July 12 at 1200Z.

Complete rules for the WRTC2014 activity award program are available at <http://www.wrtc2014.org/competition/participation-awards/>

(irts)

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS, DX, BEACON REPEATER AND NET ADVICE

New mode trial for the Mildura medium wave beacon

After being heard in all Australian states and New Zealand identifying in CW that resulted in 95 reports, the VK3FI beacon on 473 kHz has changed to the QRSS-3 a very slow CW mode.

It will be on this weekend, go QRT Monday and Tuesday, but back on air Wednesday June 25 for a few weeks and hopefully attracting new and further afield reports with the new mode.

Some antenna improvements are planned later and the VK3FI beacon will resume then with 12-words-per-minute CW transmissions. All reception reports please to vk3fi@wia.org.au

(Jim Linton VK3PC)

An unusual callsign is airing 19 - 22 June.

Look out for VX 9 MOSKVA which commemorates the 75th anniversary of the forced landing on Miscou Island of an Iluyushin bomber which was attempting a non-stop flight from Moscow to New York in connection with the 1939 World's Fair.
QSL manager for this special event station is VE 9 GFD.

VK 3 VTH will be active stroke 7 from King Island between August 14th to the 17th. His operation will be on 40 and 20 meters using SSB only.
QSL VK 3 VTH via the bureau.

VK 3 ATX will be operational stroke P from Gabo Island on August 16th and 17th. Activity will be on the High Frequency bands.
QSL via VK 3 ATX home callsign, direct only.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police amateur radio Group in Ottawa will be operating Special Event Station VE 3 RCMP during the Field Day contest weekend, June 28-29, 2014.

They plan also to activate the call sign during the RAC Canada Day Contest July 1st.

The Special Event Amateur Station will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the first RCMP owned and operated radio-to-patrol-car dispatch system that was commissioned in the fall of 1939

(rac)

Lastly, AF 1 G is reported operational from Andros Island on the weekends, U.S. holidays and some contests. His activity is on 80 through 6 meters using SSB and the digital modes. QSL Logbook of the World or direct with a self-addressed stamped envelope direct only.

AWARDS

Lining up to activate the parks

The 4th Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award weekend may be five months away, but some of those into portable operation are getting ready now.

Victoria's National Parks will be on air Friday the 14th to Sunday the 16th of November. These include the Alfred, Lind, Erinunderra, Coopracambra and Wilson's Promontory National Parks.

Just in is that Paul VK5PAS will cross the border in the Cobboboonee, Lower Glenelg River, Mount Richmond and Mount Eccles National Parks in south-west Victoria.

There has not been such an early activation commitment indicating that this annual activity is off to a good start.

The free Master Class - Portable session to be held by Amateur Radio Victoria in July for would-be portable operators, is also proving very popular and will be an enormous help in obtaining your KR Award..

(Jim Linton VK3PC)

INTRUDER WATCH - ENFORCEMENT ZONE

Region III IARUMS Coordinator Peter Young VK3MV

VK IARUMS reflector email to subscribe intruders@wia.org.au

INTRUDER NETS

Friday 0730 UTC 7.065.5 with VK4CEU David.

Amateur exclusive frequencies where any non-amateur signal is definitely an intruder.

Amateur HF Spectrum world wide
7.050 to 7.100
14.000 to 14.250
14.250 to 14.350 No broadcasters
21.000 to 21.450
24.890 to 24.990
28.000 to 29.700

Intruding radar mysteriously disappears

Peter VK3MV says our IARU Monitoring System was alerted recently to a radar-like signal on the 20-metre band and gathered potential evidence of the intrusion.

Suspected, but by no means confirmed, was a southern hemisphere source. The intrusion resulted in inquiries to the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

No-one has officially claimed the radar-like signal, but it quickly disappeared after its presence was questioned.

It is suspected the errant transmission on 14.050 MHz was an inadvertent mishap, resulting from a mistuning of frequency.

(Jim Linton VK3PC)

WW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS --- DIGITAL

Matt Robert VK2LK tells us Australian, New Zealand and Hawaiian APCO P25 Digital repeaters are linked via the Internet.

P25 was originally a public safety grade commercial digital voice mode that has recently gained popularity within the Amateur radio community. As equipment has become cheaper and more readily available on the used market interest in this mode has started to increase. There are several repeaters located around the Sydney area that support P25, in particular the VK2RCG P25 repeater located on Governor Phillip Tower in the Sydney CBD.

VK2LK, has added this repeater in Sydney to an internationally linked

repeater network that has repeaters in New Zealand, Hawaii and Australia. The linking is particularly interesting as traditionally, P25 repeaters have been difficult to link and have required expensive telco grade equipment or specialised microwave links to connect them together.

This linked network has been implemented in true HAM radio fashion and uses very cheap and commonly available second hand networking equipment that costs well under \$100 each and also provides an extremely solid and reliable commercial grade link. The network uses a star topology with Hawaii as the central site, this means that all traffic is received, sent across the link to Hawaii and then sent back to the remote repeaters for transmission.

All appropriately licensed operators with P25 equipment are more than welcome to hop on anytime. This network is permanently linked, so all P25 capable hams are more than welcome to put out a call, Matt would love to see more activity on this excellent system and says you will be pleasantly surprised at the audio quality of the overseas stations!

The GPT repeater has an output frequency of 438.200 MHz., input of 432.800 MHz. (note the -5.4mhz split) and uses the default P25 NAC of 0x293 (that is 293 hexadecimal)

Finally, Matt, VK2LK would like to express thanks and gratitude to Justin Lavery, VK2CU, and Keith from Metwide Communications for their generous contributions towards 70cm in Sydney.

WW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS --- INTERNET --- THE HAMS DOMAIN
TWITTER <http://twitter.com/VK1WIA>
www.HamRadioNation.com
websdr.org

Another Facebook page for Ham Radio has emerged and is a work by one of our F calls, VK3FVKI

The (Facebook) group is called, VK amateur radio.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vkhamradio/>

(Epoch Xenomania, vk3fvki)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS - VHF AND ABOVE

New microwave distance records set in Australia

Using both digital and SSB on 78 GHz or the 4-millimetre band in the Super High Frequency allocation, Alan Devlin VK3XPD and David Smith VK3HZ have been busy setting record distances.

To show how much further the latest contact is, the record on that band VK3XPD to Russell Lemke VK3ZQB was about 32 kilometres in December last year.

The new records on May 15, had VK3XPD Mt William in Western Victoria and VK3HZ on Melbourne's Mt Dandenong Observatory, extending their efforts over two days to notch up a path of 139.8 kilometres.

A warm, bright and sunny sky and high-ish humidity, not really ideal for 78 GHz propagation, the record contact was first on digital WSJT/JT65C with -10 to -12 reports, then SSB had a 4 by 1 report.

The microwave exponent Alan VK3XPD points out that it not only sets a record SSB distance, but also the inaugural digital record on that band. That distance of 139.8 kilometres has been officially confirmed.

The lack of accessible high spots makes it very hard to find line-of-sight paths greater than 150 km, so Alan VK3XPD believes the current world record of 252 kilometres is unlikely to be challenged by Australians.

Alan VK3XPD and VK3HZ used 10 GHz as their liaison frequency to guide their very sharp 78 GHz dish antennas measuring 300 millimetres, which have a gain of about 45 dBi, feed with a mere 1 Milliwatt.

VK3XPD has also worked David Minchin VK5KK on 47 GHz and 78 GHz, over a distance of 10 kilometres. The 47 GHz contact is claimed to extend the VK5 Record on that band.

Additionally, VK3XPD has claimed VK5 records on 78 GHz with Iain Crawford VK5ZD of 114 kilometres, on both SSB and digital modes. The three claims of VK5 distances are still to be officially verified.

Alan VK3XPD now at HamRadio in Friedrichshafen Germany, is expected to further talk about his exploits at the GippsTech conference in Churchill east of Melbourne on July the 12th and the 13th.

(Jim Linton VK3PC)

WW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS --- CW
FISTS Club - East Asia www.feacw.net
FISTS Club - Australasia www.fistsdownunder.org

FISTS Club - UK & Europe www.fists.co.uk

FISTS Club - Americas www.fists.org

Hello this is James VK4TJF the CW OPS ambassador for the Oceania region

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check out www.cwops.org

SOCIAL SCENE 2014

Jul 12-13 VK3 GippsTech Conference

Jul 19 VK3 GGREC 2014 HAMFEST Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club.

Jul 19 VK4 Caboolture Radio Club HAMFEST at Scout Ground, 169 Smiths Rd.

Jul 27 VK4 GOLD COAST AR SOCIETY 11am Social at Logan Central Gardens

Aug 3 VK6 Northern Corridor Radio Group Hamfest.

Sep 13 VK4 Sunshine Coast AR Club's SUNFest, Woombye School of Arts

Oct 25 VK4 GCARS HAMFEST on the Gold Coast.

Nov 2 VK5 HamFest Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society

Nov 15 VK7 Miena Hamfest (My-enah)

Nov 30 VK3 SPARC HamFest at Rosebud (howardjones155@gmail.com)

2015

June, Queens Birthday weekend 40th annual Oxley Region Field Day
Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Hall.

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VK1WIA broadcasts, please email your item in text to nationalnews@wia.org.au

to submit audio read "how to submit items" in the weekly news page on
wia.org.au

Remember the sooner you submit material the more the likelihood of it being
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be broadcast once, if you want a couple of mentions, please submit different
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item write in the 3rd person.

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