



OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5

Issue 7

May 2015

SOTA, VK5 PARKS AWARD, WWFF, PORTABLE, QRP, PEDESTRIAN MOBILE

Welcome to the seventh issue (May 2015) of '***Out and about in VK5***'. This newsletter is dedicated to SOTA, the VK5 Parks Award, WWFF, portable operation, QRP, & pedestrian mobile operation.

The past month has been an extremely busy one for me. Lots of family commitments, an extremely busy workplace (including some interstate training courses), and of course plenty of amateur radio activity. So I have put this month's issue together rather hastily, and a few days late to boot. I am sure I have probably missed a few award recipients and SOTA/park activations, so I am sorry for that.

I would like to thank Rob VK4FFAB who posted Issue 6 up onto the Amateur (HAM) Radio Australia Facebook site. This has resulted in lots of very favorable comments from interstate & overseas amateurs. I am pleased to report that this newsletter is now viewed by many hams all around Australia and also overseas. In fact you will see some overseas contribution in this issue from SOTA & park activators in Europe and the UK.

I am still having to 'chase' some people for stories. Personally I would like to see a reduction of my call sign in print in this publication and see a few more contributors. I know there are a lot of people out there with lots to contribute. So please send me any stories of activations you have undertaken, interesting portable contacts you have made, articles you have come across, etc.

I have also received an email with a suggestion that I reduce the number of columns in this publication from 3 to 2, to make reading a little easier. So I will do that for the next

issue and see what people's responses are. I would appreciate your feedback on what style you prefer. I am not going to be able to please everyone, so majority rules.

Just a reminder that this newsletter is released at the start of each month and can be found online at the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio (AHARS) website at:

<http://www.ahars.com.au>

It can also be found on the VK5 Parks website at:

<http://www.vk5parks.com/>

I am no longer in a position to send out the newsletter via email.

Remember, please send me anything that you believe may be of interest to your fellow hams. You can email me stories and photos to:

vk5pas@wia.org.au

73 & have fun out in the field,

Paul, VK5PAS

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Anyone about to construct a linked dipole antenna will be interested in this

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Hamsports is where you can track all WWFF spots

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VK5PAS recently travelled to the Riverland for a get together and some parks

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Dave G4AKC is a well known portable operator from the UK

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David VK5NQP has updated Log4OM with parks info

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Where can I find the latest issue of “Out & About in VK5”?

By Paul VKSPAS

I am sorry, but I no longer have the time to send the latest issue/s of Out & About via email. Plus, the email list was getting bigger than Big Hur and my email system did not like so many recipients.

‘Out and About in VK5’ can be found at the start of each month on any of the following 3 websites.....

- AHARS
- VK5 Parks
- WWFF Australia

VKFF/WWFF online newsletter

By Paul VKSPAS

The following info is provided by Doug VK2FMIA.....

Hi all,

I have created an online newsletter for activation stories from VKFF & WWFF that are posted on the web. It is still in its preliminary stages but if there is enough interest I will keep it going.

The idea is to put out the newsletter once a week on Thursdays. You can subscribe by entering your email address & it will be automatically posted to you. At the moment I can only use articles that have been posted online but hope in the future to be able to include stories from those that do not have a blog or website.

The newsletter is a collection of links to

different stories. All you have to do is click on the link to go to that persons blog or website.

For those using Wordpress, Twitter or Google +, using the vkff or wwff hashtags will automatically submit the stories to the newsletter. I should be able to add Facebook posts as well, still learning how to do this.

Due to the amount of different Blogs, Forums, Websites & other social media it is difficult to keep up with all the news from VK & WWFF, hopefully this newsletter will make it a little easier.

If you would like to submit something I have created an email address for the paper, just send me the link for the article to be included.

Any ideas you might have feel free to email me.

The email address is vkffnews@gmail.com

The link to the Newspaper is [VKFF & WWFF NEWS](#)

Real HF Mobile Yahoo group

By Paul VK5PAS

I have mentioned this group, before, but it is well worth highlighting the 'Real HF Mobile' Yahoo group again. 'Real HF Mobile' is an international Yahoo group for mobile and portable amateur radio operators.

The discussion forum is for all aspects of portable and mobile radio operation in amateur radio, e.g. HF pedestrian mobile, HF portable operating, HF bicycle mobile, or any other HF mobile variants.

The group can be found at....

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/REALHFMOBILE/info>

I need your logs

By Paul VK5PAS

A number of the VK5 Conservation Parks now qualify for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program. So, **please send me your log as an ADIF file or csv file, so that I can upload the log to the WWFF LogSearch platform.**

<http://logsearch.wwff.c/o/index.php>

If I don't receive your log for upload, it means that all those people who worked you and are keen on the WWFF & VKFF awards, will not be able to claim your activation.

I need your log as either an **ADIF or a csv file.**

An ADIF file can easily be created by most, if not all, electronic logging programs. If you run one.

ADIF stands for....

Amateur

Data

Interchange Format
(ADIF) .

If you don't run an electronic log and want to create an ADIF file, then I highly recommend "**Fast Log entry**" (FLE).

<http://www.df3cb.com/file/>

Or you can provide me with a csv file.

Csv stands for Comma separated value. A csv file template can be found in the files section of the WWFF Australia Yahoo group.

Don't forget to include some form of reference in the file to the VK FF reference number or at least in your email. This saves me having to scroll through the WWFF Directory to find the reference number.

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to drop me an email

Remember, I only need your logs from South Australian Conservation Parks that qualify for the World Wide Flora Fauna program. I do

not need logs for the other South Australian parks.

You can view what SA Conservation Parks qualify for VKFF, by having a look at the WWFF Australia website at.....

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

Or they can be located in the WWFF Directory which can be downloaded from....

<http://www.wwff.co/p/wwff-downloads.html>

And PLEASE double check your logs before sending them to me.

Larry VK5LY up on air

By David VK5KC



Many of the Parks and SOTA operators know

of, have heard of, or have worked Larry VK5LY. Larry lives in the Riverland and has operated far and wide with various Park activations.

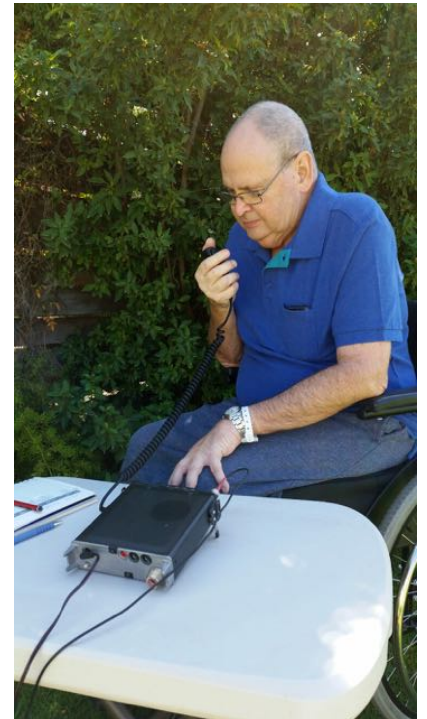
Recently Larry has been receiving treatment in a number of Adelaide Hospitals and was eventually transferred to the Hampstead Rehabilitation Hospital for rehabilitation on a spinal injury.

John VK5BJE and I, David VK5KC decided to take my portable Parks setup to site and give Larry some air time. A notice was duly posted on the Parks and Peaks site for the afternoon of Easter Saturday.

Outside the Eastern end of his building was a covered area with lots of fencing to support the squid pole. Should we ask permission? We decided to seek forgiveness if anyone asked. No one did.

The FT817 running on a LiPo battery and feeding a linked dipole

was duly setup on a small table. Larry came out in his wheelchair and got bogged in the wet grass, so we moved the radio closer.



Above:- Larry VK5LY on air. Image courtesy of David VK5KC

We had 10 contacts on 40 metres in all.

- VK3FQSO
- VK3VTH/p
- VK5PAS
- VK5KLV
- VK5WG
- VK3DAC
- VK5CZ
- VK3ANL/p
- VK5AV

• VK5FMID

The local noise level was not too bad for a city location. To say Larry was “*Happy as Larry*” is an understatement. He enjoyed the time on air and catching up with some well wishers.

We all (including Di his XYL) adjourned to his room for a real cappuccino from the shop over the road. Hospital coffee is not the best.

The whole process will be done again soon by Paul VK5PAS in the near future.

So portable operation has many uses other than a Park or Summit.

73.

David VK5KC, John VK5BJE

p.s. Larry can be contacted at.....

tiki2002au@hotmail.com

Behaviour on air

By Paul VK5PAS

I have been in conversation with a few park activators recently about on air behavior.

They, and I have shared some concerns about ‘some’ on air behavior by ‘some’ amateurs.

Personally, my own big dislikes are people that call in between overs and do not wait in line like all other patient SOTA & park chasers/hunters, and those that tune or come up on frequency calling for another station without asking if the frequency is in use.

Last week I heard a VK3 SOTA activator operating QRP from a peak, working a large number of chasers. A VK2 came up on frequency and started calling another VK2 without even asking if the frequency was in use. This resulted in a VK1 amateur informing the VK2 that the frequency was in use. What resulted was a

‘slinging match’ between these 2 guys for 30 seconds or so, including a number of expletives.

I think a few amateurs have either forgotten or do not know the DX Code of Conduct. Here is the Code.....



- I will listen, and listen and then listen again before calling
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full callsign
- I will call and then listen for a

reasonable interval.
I will not call continuously.

- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

There is now an Amateur (Ham) Radio LID list website. It can be located at....

<http://www.lidlist.com/dx-pileup-behavior-name-and-shame/>

Final stats for the 2nd year anniversary

By Paul VK5PAS



Well, what a huge success the 2nd anniversary weekend was for the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award.

A total of 41 activators took part.

There were a total of 111 park activations. Of those, 81 were unique parks (in other words different parks).

More than 3,000 QSOs were made by the activators all around Australia and throughout the world.

I would like to thank all of the activators who took part and to all of

the park hunters who called in.

Many thanks to Tony VK3VTH & Tim VK3MTB who travelled over the border to activate South Australian parks.

It was also very pleasing to hear a number of first time park activators including Greg VK5GJ and Norm VK5GI who activated parks on the Fleurieu Peninsula, and Roy VK5NRG who ventured out with David VK5KC.

Here is a list of activators who took part.....

- Chris VK4FR/5
- David VK5AAH
- Andy VK5AKH
- Tim VK5AV
- Doc VK5BUG
- Ian VK5CZ
- Tom VK5EE
- Alan VK5FAJS
- Adrian VK5FANA
- Gary VK5FGRY
- Peter VK5FLEX
- Bob VK5FO
- Tom VK5FTRG
- Norm VK5GI
- Greg VK5GJ
- Gordon VK5GY
- Col VK5HCF
- David VK5HDW
- Geoff VK5HEL
- David VK5KC
- Andrew VK5KET

- Peter VK5KX
- Lesley VK5LOL
- Bill VK5MBD
- Matt VK5MLB
- Andrew VK5MR
- Nigel VK5NIG
- David VK5NQP
- Roy VK5NRG
- Keith VK5OQ
- Peter VK5PET
- Mark VK5QI
- Steve VK5SFA
- Hans VK5YX
- Tony VK5ZAI
- Arno VK5ZAR
- Greg VK5ZGY
- Richard VK5ZRY
- Paul VK5PAS

In due course I will be sending out a participation certificate to all those amateurs who took part as an activator. Hang in there, I have a bit on my plate, but you will receive these.

Here's hoping that next year's 3rd year anniversary is even bigger and better.

Parks in the Mid North for the 2nd anniversary

By David VK5NQP



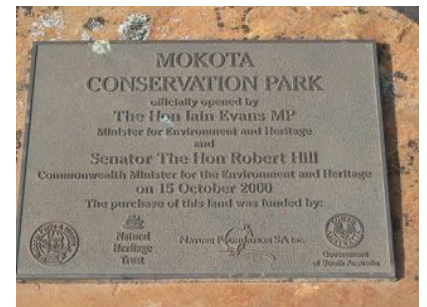
Friday

For the 2nd Anniversary weekend, I had decided to activate some parks in the mid north of SA that do not get activated much. My wife Sue decided that we should make a weekend away together with our two dogs Barney & Chloe, so Friday afternoon we set off with the Little Guy camper in tow up to Burra.

A couple of hours later we arrived & visited my sister for a while who was staying there before driving to the caravan park & setting up.

Saturday Day 1

The next morning we set off about 7:30 am, leaving the camper behind in the safety of the caravan park, to our first Conservation Park near Mt Bryan. We drove east from the town along some small dirt tracks & found the small gate to Mokota CP.



Above:- Plaque at the Mokota CP.
Image courtesy of David VK5NQP

There were a couple of convenient signs to tie the antenna ends to & I was soon set up on the ridge with nice views either side.



Above:- On air at the Mokota CP.
Image courtesy of David VK5NQP

It was rather windy up there but with hardly a tree in the park it was easy to watch kangaroos hopping across the grasslands & wedge tailed eagles riding the early thermals looking for a feed.

The farmer across the road stopped as he passed by for a chat & was amazed I was talking interstate. He said he had trouble getting phone coverage if he was out in the paddocks.

After about an hour I had 17 contacts including 6 park to park (1 Victorian park) & it was time to move to the next park, so a quick pack up & we were on our way.

We drove past the base of Mt Bryan, a SOTA summit but I was not tempted to activate as it was a huge climb to the top. Past the old Mt Bryan East schoolhouse now a Heysen Trail rest stop, then turn left on the Mt Dare tourist drive then shortly after a turn right onto the Heysen Trail leading to the Carroona Creek CP.

We drove in a little way and at the top of a creek saw this.....



Above:- Rough roads leading to Carroona Creek CP. Image courtesy of David VK5NQP

A quick recce & I thought the 4WD would be OK, so very slowly down & up the other side & a short drive to the gate at the park entrance.



Above:- Carroona Creek CP. Image courtesy of David VK5NQP

It was not as windy here even though we were on top of the hills above Tourilie Creek.

I quickly unloaded my gear & set up & was soon on the air & being a little later there were more people around so I was busy making contacts.



Above:- On air at the Carroona Creek CP. Image courtesy of David VK5NQP

Sue was in the car reading her book & the two kids lay in their beds watching.



Above:- The dogs enjoying a rest. Image courtesy of David VK5NQP

I was in the park for nearly 100 minutes for 20 contacts with 6 park to park. Time to move on & back down the road thru the creek & onto Dust Hole Creek Road heading south. There are quite a few creeks crossing this road but being a more major road the crossings are much smoother. There are also half a dozen gates to open & close & on the way you pass the gold mining area at

Mongalata.

It was 2 hours since the last contact at Caroon Creek & the first one at Redbanks CP. I parked off the side of the road at the north side of the park & again found a handy sign for antenna attachment.

We were there less than an hour but made 15 contacts, amazingly all of them park to park from the Lower Glenelg River on the Victorian border through the SE area to Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsular, Barossa Valley, Riverland & Caroon Creek (the park we had just been in) & the Murray Mallee near the Victorian border. We just about worked every area that was activated. So back to Burra we headed to eat & sleep.

Sunday Day 2

The next day, again about 7:30 am we hitched up the camper & headed toward the Riverland & our first park for the day, Whites Dam CP. I had studied Google Earth & picked a

spot in the middle of the park amid a small mallee area. Sue walked the dogs while I set up.



Above:- Whites Dam CP. Image courtesy of David VK5NQP

I had a quick tune around & listened to the WIA broadcast for a while, then went looking for park stations/hunters.

At 23:00utc I made first contact with Paul VK5PAS in Leven Beach CP, then a steady stream of hunters & a few activators, in a quiet spot I even had time to check in to Hans VK5YX after the broadcast, still booming in.

At home quite often I can't hear the broadcast too well by this time. After an hour and a half I had 27 contacts, with 13 park to park & 1 SOTA (Andrew VK1NAM in Canberra). Then time to move on

again.

I filled up with petrol at Blanchetown, then headed west along the bitumen to the Brookfield CP. This was one of the parks recently added to the VKFF award so I thought would be eagerly sought after.

Because we had the dogs with us we could not drive into the park so I stopped at the parking bay on the south side of the park & hopped the fence to set up, attaching the ends to the fence. I set up with the car/camper between me & the road to try & screen out the noise from passing traffic, it did not really work.

I started getting a few contacts & was in the middle of working Peter VK3PF, when a small gust of wind added some extra force to the tip of the squid pole which was enough to bend it a little more & the center insulator pinged off & the wire fell to the ground. I hurriedly lowered the pole, reattached the insulator, raised the

pole & adjusted the guy ropes so the pole was straight all the way to the top, then got back on & luckily Peter was still there so completed the contact.

I had wondered why Paul VK5PAS was not around when we heard from someone that Peter VK5FLEX had got bogged & Paul was busy phoning Peter's mates to try & get him out, which he eventually did. Peter was actually my last contact for the day. He had set up in the park where he was bogged to get help & kept listening & calling while he waited for rescue to come.

I had intended to do a couple more parks but the family, including me was all radioed out so after a couple of hours with 25 contacts, 11 of them park to park & another SOTA (Ian VK5CZ on the South Hummocks near Pt Wakefield) we packed up & headed down the bitumen & home.

All in all a fun weekend with 104 contacts, 50 park to park, 2 SOTA, 43 different parks & of

those 22 were new parks I had not worked before.

As a PS, for these activations I used my end fed half wave antenna for 40m into my Xiegu X1M Transceiver running 5 watts, day 1 used my LiFePo4 4200mAh battery & day 2 I used a 12v lead acid car battery.

73,

David VK5NQP

Activating Lake Torrens National Park (VKFF- 278)

By Tony VK3VTH



(First activated by Larry VK5LY August 1 2014)

As part of my planning for the second anniversary VK5 Parks Award activations, I was scouring the VK5 map in search of Parks that would be eligible for both the VK5 and the VKFF Awards. This makes sense as many amateurs, Hunters and Activators alike, are involved in both programs, so best to accommodate as many "Parkers" as possible in my view. In doing so, I came across what appeared to be an interesting park activation..... **Lake Torrens National Park.**

Lake Torrens is a salt lake which lies between the Arcoona Plateau in the West and the Flinders Ranges in the East. At 250km long and 30 km average width, the descriptive word "huge" comes to mind. It is Australia's second largest lake (Lake Eyre being the biggest) and when filled with water encompasses an area of 5,745 square kilometres. Of course the last time it was actually full was back in 1989, so I did not expect

any flash flooding to spoil the activation!

Now finding the Lake as a suitable activation site was the easy bit. Getting to the Lake from the East Side was going to be the hard bit..... At least I thought so, until I came across a Homestead located on the East side which offered not only access to the lake via various 4WD Tracks but also offered very convenient Station accommodation. This is exactly what Sheryl and I required! So “**Merna Mora Station**” was booked for the duration of the VK5 weekend and became our Base Camp for our Lake Torrens activation and the 4 other Park activations in the vicinity: Flinders Ranges (2) / Gammon Ranges / The Dutchmans Stern.

Getting to the Lake: The Station owners charge \$45 for the self-guided Lake Torrens tour. You will be supplied with very comprehensive track notes, detailing 26 points of interest along the 86km of station tracks, along with an excellent Mud Map.

Only high clearance 4WD vehicles are suitable, as there are areas of travel along loose creek beds and steep jump ups encountered on the trek. Once you reach Marker 18 (a 2.5 Hour journey) you have arrived at the very edge of Lake Torrens within the Lake Torrens National Park. Now marker 18 at this location is worth noting! It is a solid star dropper picket and ideal for lashing a squid pole. Funny how one takes note of such luxuries in the Outback!



Above:- Typical landscape up north.
Image courtesy of Tony VK3VTH

So after a quick setup we were on the air from Lake Torrens National Park.

Being a Monday, traffic was lite, but steady, from VK with 47 Contacts in the log on 40m in 2 hours. First QSO was Karl VK2GKA who was waiting for me to be QRV. Traffic

continued with many good 59 reports in both directions.

Adrian, VK5FANA, even had time to play a brief QRP experiment..... Our 1 Watt transmission was easy copy both ways..... But my 100mW level did not cut the mustard! Well it was worth a shot.

LP EU (20m) got off to a good start with me running 100Watts at 0500z with Sergei RA3PCI ready to pounce the moment I called CQ Parks on 14.244MHz! Sergei and others are often sitting waiting to get in before the Parks Pile Up starts. A sign of an experienced DX'er!!



Above:- Image courtesy of Tony VK3VTH

DX (and a few VK 20m regular Hunters) went well for next 60 mins or so before I pulled the plug during a large QSB null. The last contact was with Gunnar

SA5ACR. 47 DX
Contacts.

It was time to pack up and head back to civilization before dark. Not a smart idea to leave the return trip, on unknown tracks, to the blackness of night.

Equipment Used:

Elecraft K3 / 7m Squid pole (busted version) / LNR Precision End Fed antenna. Configured Inverted L sloper on the day / 100AH AGM Sealed Battery/s / Heil Headset / Footswitch TX control

Tony Hambling
VK3VTH/5

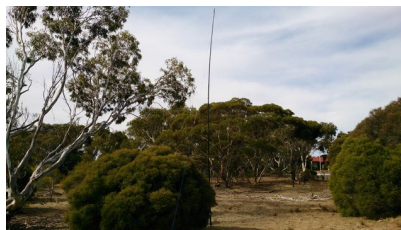
Hallett Cove CP

By Hans VK5YX & Lesley VK5LOL

Although I haven't received a 'story', I did manage to get some photographs from hubby and wife team Hans VK5YX and Lesley VK5LOL who headed out on both Saturday and Sunday to activate

the Hallett Cove Conservation Park.

All images below are courtesy of Hans and Lesley.



Report from Kangaroo Island

By Chris VK4FR/5



Overall summary.....

10 Parks, made up of 9 CPs, One NP, 4 VKFFs
193 contacts
54 Park to Park
1 SOTA activated (VK5 SE-108)
1 other SOTA worked (VK1 AC-048)
VK2,3,4,5,6,7 worked
USA and Canada

worked
SSB and PSK31 used

Friday evening (local)
Dudley CP, VKFF-809,
Kangaroo Island, OC-
139. Contacts 44.

Saturday Morning
Baudin CP, Kangaroo
Island, OC-139.
Contacts 8



Above:- Baudin Conservation Park.
Image courtesy of Chris VK4FR/5

Saturday morning.
Pelican Lagoon CP,
Kangaroo Island, OC-
139. Contacts 9

Saturday morning
Beyaria CP, Kangaroo
Island, OC-139.
Contacts 18

Saturday afternoon
Seddon CP, Kangaroo
Island, OC-139.
Contacts 22



Above:- Baudin Conservation Park.
Image courtesy of Chris VK4FR/5

Saturday afternoon
Parndana CP. Kangaroo
Island, OC-139.
Contacts 22



Above:- Parndana Conservation Park.
Image courtesy of Chris VK4FR/5

Sat evening/Sun Morn
Flinders Chase NP,
VKFF-173, Kangaroo
Island, OC-139.
Contacts 15

Sunday morning Kelly
Hill CP, VKFF-810,
Kangaroo Island, OC-
139. Contacts 10

Sunday morning Mt
Taylor CP, Kangaroo
Island, OC-139.
Contacts 24

Sunday morn/afternoon
Vivonne Bay CP, VKFF-
811, Kangaroo Island,

OC-139. Contacts 21

Best 73,

Chris VK4FR/5

**SANPCPA 2nd
year
Anniversary
weekend**

By Amanda VK3FQSO



For most people reading this, you would know by now that I am a regular hunter/chaser in all things radio! So, it will be no surprise to you, that over the weekend I chased a whole bunch of activators out and about in VK5 for the 2nd year anniversary of the SANPCPA (South Australia National and Conservation Park Award). I managed to score 22 unique parks and had a total of 61 contacts....as successful weekend of radio I say!

I honestly can't remember the first time I heard of the SANPCPA program, but I was hooked from then on. I don't know what it is that appeals to me about these sorts of award programs with radio, but I like it. Perhaps it is the ongoing sense of achievement when one more park is crossed off my master list or maybe it is the short and concise (for the most part) exchange for the contacts; I'm not really one to chat for extended times on air, I usually either have nothing to say, or too much to say, that I fumble as my mouth tries to play catch=up with my brain. I'm essentially a very shy person and even hate to talk on my phone most of the time, so why the radio bug has hit me, I'm not sure but I am very glad. I've met and talked with some wonderful people, all of whom I would never have known existed if it wasn't for amateur radio.

Since gaining my F call I have filled up a few logbooks with many contacts, mostly VK, but

some DX....I am studying for my upgrade but I guess that I am having too much fun with my measly 10W, that it is not really foremost in my mind....not to mention that IO have a family and household to run as well so my time is limited (except of course when it comes to chasing/hunting).

I would love to have access to the 20m band so I will get there eventually, I just need to devote as much time to studying as I do to chasing/hunting because electronics has never been a part of my life until now so it's a sharp learning curve!

Anyway, I digress...I get the easy job of sitting in my comfy shack at home whilst, you the activator, slug it out getting to the top of a summit or going portable in a park somewhere around the country and ultimately aid me in getting more certificates for my shack walls.

THANK YOU!!!

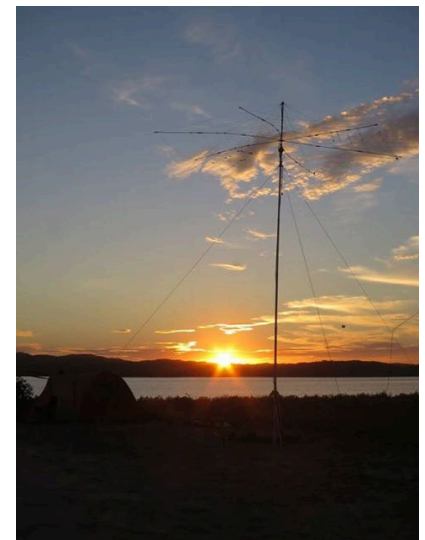
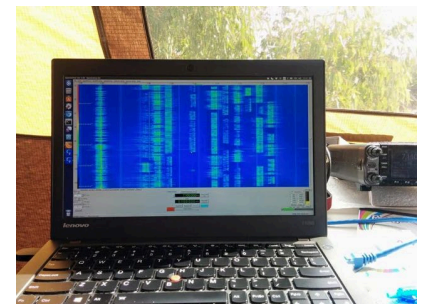
I hope to repay you later

on down the track.

The Coorong

By VK5PAS

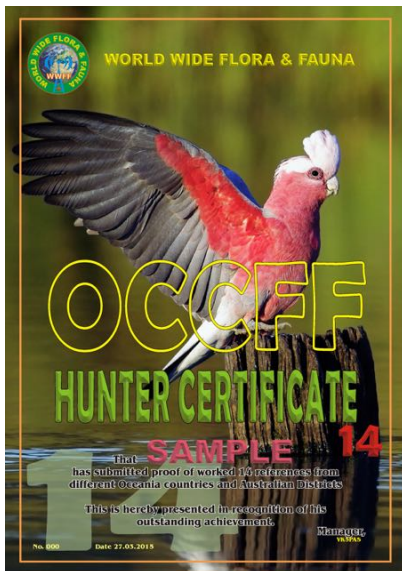
Here are some interesting photos provided by Mark VK5QI and Andy VK5AKH from their activation at the Coorong NP for the 2nd year anniversary. The first shows the activity across the 40m band and the 2nd shows an amazing sunset at the park.



New OCCFF Award

By VK5PAS

Pit YO3JW is still working on an OCCFF award. Below you can see a template on what the certificate is going to look like.....



Thankyou to the spotters

By Paul VK5PAS

The following operators get a 'pink elephant stamp' for spotting VK5 activators on either parksnpeaks,

SOTAWatch, the Yahoo groups, Facebook, etc.

If your name does not appear here, why not?

- Arno VK5ZAR
- Rob VK4FFAB
- John VK5BJE
- Gordon VK5GY
- Ian VK5IS
- Mick VK3PMG
- David VK5NQP
- Col VK5HCF
- Greg VK5GJ
- Les VK5KLV

Try some other bands

By Paul VK5PAS

I think that we as southern SOTA & park activators, often forget to try bands other than 40m. This is not so much the case with SOTA, but in my experience is certainly the case with VK5 Park activations.

There are now a lot of Europeans showing interest in the VK5 Parks Award, so please,

if you get a chance and are feeling game, why not give 20m a go. Also 15m. Many of the keen park hunters like Rob VK4FFAB & Doug VK2FMIA cannot obviously work on 20m, but can get on to 15m where signals are often very good.

VK5 Parks Facebook site

By Paul VK5PAS



I have mentioned it before, but we now have a Facebook site for the VK5 Parks Award. It is proving to be quite popular with park activators and hunters.

It can be found at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/528980233908284/>

Please check your WWFF logs

By Paul VK5PAS

When you submit your WWFF logs to me, can I please ask that you double check your log/s prior to sending them to me. There have been quite a few errors lately with logs, e.g. wrong reference numbers, incorrect call signs, etc.

If this happens, I have to send off an email to Andrew in the UK for the log to be deleted, and I then have to upload the log again.

So just a quick check of your log before sending it to me, would be greatly appreciated.

The steady flow of errors and requests to have logs deleted, tends to reflect a little poorly on us down here in VK.

Also, please place some reference to the VKFF number when you send me your log. Either in the file itself, or in your email. Otherwise I need to look up the reference number in the list. Not

much of an effort I know, but I upload dozens of logs each week.

Thanks in anticipation.

Overseas SOTA & WWFF activators worked

By Paul VK5PAS

This is a new column where I will record a selection of overseas SOTA & WWFF activators that are worked by VK5 hams.

More & more European SOTA & park activators are now listening out for VK chasers & hunters. But be patient, the pile ups are quite big and trying to break through the European callers can be a challenge.

Keep an eye out on SOTAWatch and Hamspots (which is dedicated to WWFF).

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

<http://www.hamspots.net/wwff/>

<http://www.hamspots.net/wwff/>

So, please, if you do work an overseas activator, please drop me an email with some information so I can include it here.

Paul VK5PAS

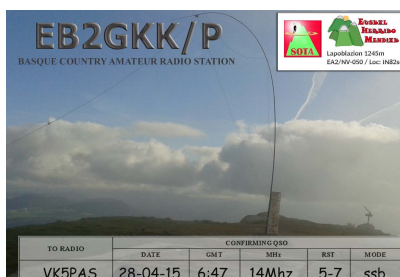
- Francois, EA5/N4LO/p, EAFF-167 (30/4/2015)
- Mike 2WoYYY/p, SOTA GW/ NW-076 (30/4/2015)
- Mike 2EoYYY/p, SOTA G/ SP-013 (28/4/2015)
- EA5/ON4LO/p, EAFF-167 (28/4/2015)
- SP5ZIM/p, SPFF-459 (28/4/2015)
- Inaki EB2GKK, SOTA EA2/ NV-050 (28/4/2015)
- YQ9oIARU/p, YOFF-248 (24/4/2015)
- ON4WRC/p, ONFF-461 (24/4/2015)
- EA7/ON4LO/p, EAFF-013 (23/4/2015)
- F4ELJ/p, FFF-212

- (23/4/2015)
- Danny OT4V, ONFF-395 (23/4/2015)
- Mike 2EoYYY/p, SOTA G/ SP-013 (23/4/2015)
- Danny OT4V/p, ONFF-469 (16/4/2015)
- DG3NEU/p, SOTA DM/ BM-253 (14/4/2015)
- ON4WLR, ONFF-296 BELGIUM (14/4/2015)
- DG3NEU/p, SOTA DM/ BM-254 (14/4/2015)
- SNoWFF/p, SPFF-1042 (14/4/2015)
- DF9PE/p, DLFF-144 (13/4/2015)
- SP9YFF/p, SPFF-620 (12/4/2015)
- SP9YFF/p, SPFF-148 (11/4/2015)
- DL8CBM/p, SOTA DM/ BM-354 (10/4/2015)
- DL3SBA/p, SOTA DM/ RP-224 (10/4/2015)
- Danny OT4V, ONFF-467 (10/4/2015)
- Mike 2WoYYY/p, SOTA GW/ NW-070 (10/4/2015)
- IZ5YHD, IFF-509 ITALY (9/4/2015)
- Swa ON5SWA/p, ONFF-074 (9/4/2015)

- DG3NEU/p, SOTA DM/ BM-256 (6/4/2015)
- Chris G1PCR/p, SOTA G/ CE-005 (6/4/2015)
- ON4WLR/p, ONFF-113 (5/4/2015)
- EA1GMP/p, SOTA EA1/ PL-020 (5/4/2015)
- EA2IF/p, SOTA EA2/ NV-105 (5/4/2015)
- PD2KRG/p, PAFF-018 (3/4/2015)



Above:- ON4WLR on air. Image courtesy of ON4VLM



New general rules for SOTA

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently read on the SOTA Australia Yahoo group that the SOTA General rules had changed slightly.

The new notes for 3.7.1

8. At least one QSO must be made from the Summit to qualify it as an activation. In order for the activation to qualify for the points attributed to that Summit, a minimum of four QSOs must be made, each of which must be with a different station. QSOs must comprise an exchange of callsigns and signal reports, it is strongly recommended that the summit identifier be given during each

contact. Where the summit identifier is not given in each contact (for example in slow CW QSOs) it should be repeated frequently every few QSOs. Note; Summits are commonly mis-identified by chasers when 'spotting' on the SOTA Reflector. Ask the Activator for the summit reference if you have not heard it stated.

QRP Hours Contest

By Trevor VK5ATQ



The QRP Hours contest was held on the evening of Saturday April 4th during Easter.

The Contest manager this year is Andrew VK2UH who became involved just a couple of weeks before the event. Andrew has connections to some additional operators

who would boost our numbers, and provide some practice on 80 at night along with a chance for some CW experience. These operators are involved with SOTA and also Adelaide Hills ARS Parks Awards so they usually operate in daytime on 40 metres or higher. 80 metres would involve adding another 10 metres of wire to at least one half of the dipole, and preferably both sides.

Conditions were reasonable with many QRP stations on both CW for the first hour, and SSB for the second hour. There were also some digital stations during the first sector.

Most were home station while others braved the weather and were portable. I did not hear many mountain top portables and it may have been rather cool at this time of the evening. From my location in VK5 I heard VK1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. I think I copied a VK4 at one stage.

The strongest signal to me was a local, VK5ARG/Portable. Andrew and Mark had a great antenna made as an 80 metre dipole in an inverted "V" formation at a quiet location with the support about 16 metres above ground. Listening during the contest a VK6 said it was the strongest interstate station for them.

I wonder if the time of the contest is suitable for you. It certainly allows the ionosphere to settle down and the "D layer" to dissipate. Time wise it may be erring on the later side for the Eastern states, but it allows a path to Western Australia. I did hear a couple of VK6 stations but not strong enough for me to work them easily.

The actual contest was most pleasant and all operators were true gentlemen. If we have more entering we may need to spread a little more over the band, or move frequency after 15 or 30 minutes during

the sideband section. Your thoughts please.

The QRP Hours contest is run by the CW Operators club, also known as the VKQRP club. We champion all modes, digital and phone, but with the focus on low power and also home brew activity.

Visit.....

<http://vkqrpclub.org/>

Trevor Quick VK5ATQ

QRP Hours Contest

By Bob VK5FO



Last month, on Easter Saturday I participated in the QRP HOURS

Contest for 2015. This year, the contest got a bit of a boost with promotion among the many portable activators including SOTA, VKFF and SANCPA Yahoo Groups.

The concept is simple, it is 2 hours long, split into 2 x 1 hour categories.

The first hour is CW and Digital including PSK31 and RTTY, the 2nd hour is Phone (SSB) and is on 80M. Rules are simple, QRP stations (5W CW/Digital or 10W SSB) get 1 point for every station worked and no repeats.

Given the very nature and the fact that the noise floor at home is only s9 when it is quiet, I headed up to my favorite SOTA summit, Mt Gawler, VK5/SE-013 for the contest. I decided on this for 2 reasons - the obvious being that the noise floor should be a bit lower than home, and the fact that nobody had

done an 80M activation of this summit.

Arriving only 15 minutes before the start (nothing like being prepared) it was a bit of a mad scramble to get everything set up, got the table out, set up the laptop with the KX3, then rolled out the 80M dipole and hung it up a 9M squid pole at around 8M. I should have planned better and borrowed a 12m pole to get the antenna a bit higher, but hey you do what you can.

Saturday night was pretty chilly up on the hill and it was down around 10 deg and a decent wind made it feel more like zero!

Only 2 minutes late starting, I finally got on air running PSK with only 3W to find a reasonable number of signals. Now, I was going ultra-low-tech here and was only using the KX3 Utility program and relying on the built-in features of the KX3 to decode signals. Yes, no waterfall display, just tuning the

approx 3khz and trying to land someone calling cq.

The difficulty here was that I had never actually had a PSK31 contact using the KX3 beforehand so other than reading the manual and watching a few YouTube video's on how to set it up earlier in the day I was totally unprepared for the first hour. As a result, I probably did miss out on at least 5 or 6 more contacts that went begging during this hour.

It was pretty tough operating like this, and there were quite a few incompletes that I did not log. Yes, there was a bit of noise about on 80M, but still nowhere near as bad as at the home QTH.

It was only moderately successful as far as the contest was concerned but did manage to complete 4 contacts, VK1, VK3, VK5 and VK6.

From a SOTA perspective, this was great, I qualified the summit on 80M DATA -

2 firsts for this often activated summit.



Above:- Headset-check, Foot switch-check, Torch-check. Everything in order...contesting/p. Image courtesy of Bob VK5FO

SSB - the 2nd hour

At the start of the 2nd hour, I unplugged the computer, cranked the power up to a massive 5W and went about doing the "hunt and peck" and worked the 5 or 6 stations whom I could hear across the voice segment. As soon as I had worked as many as I could, I found a clear frequency and started calling CQ. It was a case of calling and waiting for them to come to me.

There were bursts of

activity and long periods of no replies and the unfortunate fact that with storms between VK5 to the East it made some contacts quite difficult!

There were probably a lot that I missed out on no doubt.

At the end of the night I had 23 contacts in my log, only to find that on checking later there was 1 dupe, so it will not count towards my score, with contacts to VK1, VK2, VK3 and VK5.

I already know that there were several other stations who managed bigger scores than myself - as 1 serial number I was exchanged was 39 - and that was about the 42 minute mark!

This sort of contesting taught me quite a few things and things I could have done better....

- Get set up early!
- Make sure beforehand how to operate a particular mode
- Antenna, Antenna, Antenna
- Trial the location

beforehand

What made this a bit more interesting for me is that I normally operate on the higher bands and rarely use 80M. All in all it was a somewhat cold, but interesting evening of Radio Sports and yeah, like Arnie say's "I'll be back"

Bob, VK5FO

Other QRP Hours Contest participants

By Paul VK5PAS

Other VK5 participants in the QRP Hours Contest that I am aware of were:-

➤ Adrian VK5FANA.
Adrian said this about the contest.....

I managed 25 contacts being made up of, 1 from VK1, VK2 5, VK3 7, VK4 0, VK5 9, VK6 1, VK7 2 all on SSB only.

Those in VK5 were

*BJO, WG, ARG, CZ, EE, F
O, ATQ, LJ, BB.*

It was a bad night as far as noise on the band but I still had fun working with my 5 watts.

➤ Ian VK5CZ

➤ Ian VK5IS

And interstate participants included:-

➤ Andrew VK1DA

I worked VK5s: LJ, CZ, IS, ARG, FANA, FO, ATQ on ssb and CZ and IS on cw.

➤ Tim VK3MTB

I worked FO, FANA, EE and ARG.

Drop me an email if you also participated and I will place the info in the next issue.

VK Summits and Parks Conference.

By Paul VK5PAS

The date and venue has now been decided for this event.

Where:- Wagga Wagga Amateur Radio Club

When: 24th and 25th October 2015.

It is planned that the weekend will start at midday at the clubrooms. A dinner will be hosted on Saturday night at a venue to be decided upon.

Sunday will involve activations of local SOTA summits and WWFF parks.

About 20 people have shown there interest in attending.

A poll was recently held on the SOTA Yahoo group and the WWFF Yahoo group. The polls are now closed and here are the results:

SOTA

1Y 8M 1N

Antenna

Recruit New Operators

Logging Software

Power supplies

Rugged radios

beyond 40

Multi-Activation

CW Activation

WWFF

oY 11M 1N

Logging Software

Stylish Park Activation

Recruitment of New

Operators

Antenna

Rugged radios

CW Activation

proposing some new WWFF Awards. They include an EUFF Award (Activated & Worked Europe) and an OCFW Award (Activated & Worked Oceania-mentioned above).

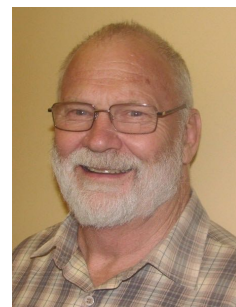
The certificates would be issued for activating from or working a certain number of European WWFF references. And the same would apply for Oceania.

The awards would be in steps of seven (7). So the first certificate issued at 7, the next at 14, the next at 21, then 28, etc.

awards, either on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group and/or in this newsletter.

SOTA as it may have begun, circa 1982 in Queensland

By Doc VK5BUG

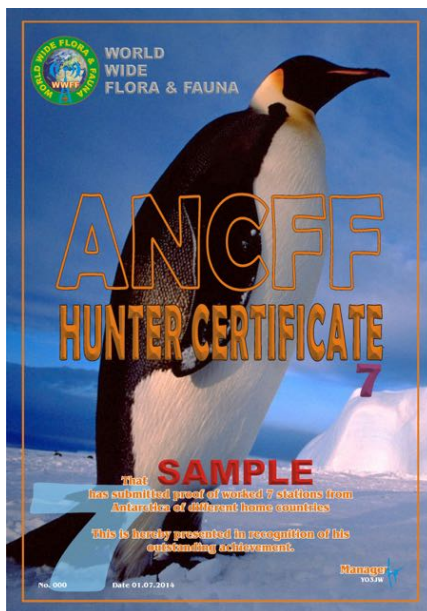


WWFF Awards

By Paul VK5PAS



I recently received an email from Pit YO3JW who is on the WWFF Council with me. Pit is

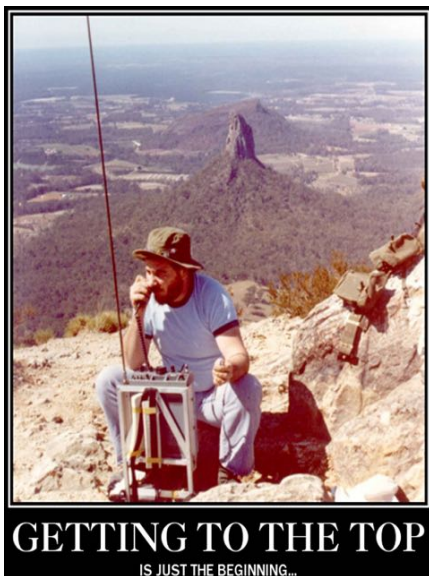


Pit is still developing these, but they sound like a great idea. I will keep everyone updated on the progress of these

In 1992, as VK4CMY, I first met Bob Harper, now VK4WG, when we were both TAFE lecturers @ Southern Downs Community College in Warwick, & members of the Southern Downs AR Club. We struck up a friendship that continued until Bob was relocated to another provincial TAFE setting.

He had made the first attempts at Mountain-

topping a decade before that. The picture shows Bon atop Mt Beerwah with his portable station of the day: motorcycle battery, analogue Yaesu FT-7 transceiver, homebrew aerial coupler, an ex-Army tank whip & counterpoise, all on a homebrew back frame.



Above:- Bob Harper, VK4WG. Image courtesy of Doc VK5BUG

From the peak of Mt Beerwah, Bob managed local SSB contacts on 10 & 15m before also working VK5 on 15m

Bob said recently 'Turned out the ATU was OK on high power but not for QRP FT7. All was mounted on a HB frame which I carried up Mt Beerwah

& others, but it never caught on'.

His callsigns in that era were VK4NLU & VK4ZRI but they blended to become VK4KNH some time during 1982. On Mt Beerwah, Bob Ron Grandison VK4RG & about four others climbed, but his companions only brought 2m handhelds.

Bob also climbed Mt Mitchell beside Cunningham's Gap & Mt Barney near Boonah with the same kit in tow, working San Francisco & Midwest USA with never more than 10w of sideband.

He soon discovered that he was the only one ready to do that kind of operating at that time, so he is certainly a SOTA pioneer.

We have certainly re-established email contact after a 20 year hiatus & I was pleased to gain his permission to assemble this piece for 'Out & About' & acknowledge his early mountain-topping efforts.

73 de Doc/VK5BUG (ex VK4CMY, VK5HP & VK7CQ)

RECENT VK5 SOTA ACTIVATIONS / ACTIVATORS



Here is a list of recent VK5 SOTA activations.....

1. VK5/ SE-007 New Campbell Hill, Ian VK5CZ/p (3/5/2015)
2. VK5/ SE-010 Tothill Range, Ian VK5CZ (26/4/2015)
3. VK5/ SE-008 Lagoon Hill, Ian VK5CZ (26/4/2015)
4. VK5/ SE-008 Lagoon Hill Hugh VK5NHG/p (26/4/2015)
5. VK5/ E-010 Tothill Range, Hugh VK5NHG/p (25/4/2015)
6. VK5/ SE-005 Mount Lofty, Bob AX5FO/p (25/4/2015)

7. VK5/ SE-013 Mount Gawler, Bob VK5FO/p (21/4/2015)
8. VK5/ NE-055 The Battery, Ian VK5CZ/p (19/4/2015)
9. VK3/ VE-237 Huon Hill, John VK5BJE/3 (14/4/2015)
10. VK5/ SE-014 Illawarra Hill, Ian VK5CZ/p (11/4/2015)
11. VK5/ SE-005 Mount Lofty, Bob VK5FO/p (6/4/2015)
12. VK5/ SE-016, Black Bullock Hill, Bob VK5FO (5/4/2015)
13. VK5/ SE-013 Mt Gawler, Bob VK5FO/p (4/4/2015)
14. VK5/ SE-005 Mt Lofty, Bob VK5FO/p (1/4/2015)

ON4WLR

By Paul VK5PAS

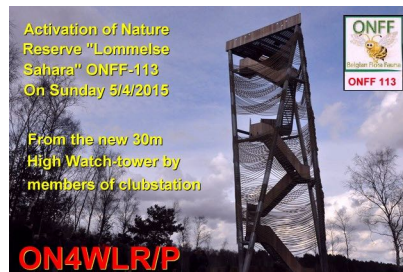
In the past few weeks I have spoken with ON4WLR (Belgium club station) a few times whilst they have been out

in the field (in WWFF parks).

There are a few interesting videos that have been placed on YouTube from ON4WLR.

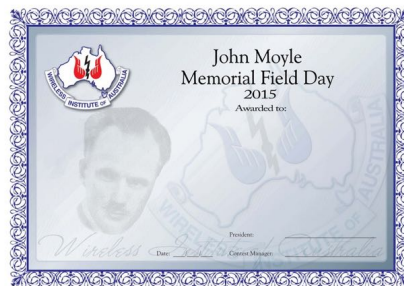
https://youtu.be/6TK-5XY_Txo

<https://youtu.be/sJUOTd63cV4>



John Moyle Field Day

By Paul VK5PAS



The 2015 John Moyle Field Day was held on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March 2015. The Field Day ran from 0100 UTC on

the Saturday to 0059 UTC on the Sunday.

The aim of the JMMFD is to encourage and provide familiarization with portable and field operation, and provide training for emergency situations.

I headed down to the Coorong National Park, VKFF-115, for the JMMFD and I set up at Parnka Point, a short distance from 'Hell's Gate' which is the narrowest point of the Coorong.



Above:- Sunset at the Coorong.
Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

I competed in the 6 hour section. I ended up with a total of 238 QSOs. Thanks to everyone that called.

More information on the JMMFD can be found at....

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle/>

RECENT VK5 PARK ACTIVATIONS

Again for this period, some excellent park activations.

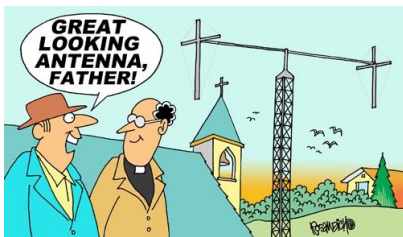
Below are the activations I am aware of.

- Flinders Ranges National Park, Rob VK4AAC/5 (30/4/2015)
- Flinders Ranges National Park, Rob VK4AAC/5 (29/4/2015)
- Morialta Conservation Park, VI5ANZAC (28/4/2015)
- Monarto Conservation Park, Paul AX5PAS (26/4/015)
- Cleland Conservation Park, Bob AX5FO (25/4/2015)
- Monarto Conservation Park, Paul AX5PAS (25/4/2015)
- Wills Creek Conservation Park????, Stef VK5HSX/p (22/4/2015)
- Clinton Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (22/4/2015)
- Winninowie Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (21/4/2015)
- Clements Gap Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (21/4/2015)
- Ngarkat Conservation Park, John VK5BJE/p (20/4/2015)
- Mount Brown Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (20/4/2015)
- The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (20/4/2015)
- Hogwash Bend Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (19/4/2015)
- Ramco Point Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (19/4/2015)
- Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (19/4/2015)
- Flinders Ranges National Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (19/4/2015)
- Murray River National Park, Paul VK5PAS (18/4/2015)
- Pooginook Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (18/4/2015)
- Mount Remarkable National Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (17/4/2015)
- Brookfield Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (17/4/2015)
- Black Rock Conservation Park, Stef VK5HSX/p (16/4/2015)
- Mount George Conservation Park, Bob VK5FO/p (11/4/2015)
- Black Rock Conservation Park, Gordon VK5GY/p, (6/4/2015)
- Cleland Conservation Park, Bob VK5FO (6/4/2015)
- The Dutchmans Stern Conservation

Park, Gordon
VK5GY (5/4/2015)

- Kenneth Stirling
Conservation Park,
Paul VK5PAS
(4/4/2015)
- Murray River
National Park,
Tony VK3VTH/5
(4/4/2015)
- Little Dip
Conservation Park,
David VK5HDW
(3/4/2015)
- The Dutchmans
Stern Conservation
Park, Les VK5KLV
(3/4/2015)
- Brookfield
Conservation Park,
Tony VK3VTH/5
(2/4/2015)
- Flinders Ranges
National Park,
Tony VK3VTH/5
(31/3/2015)

For a laugh



Cartoon courtesy of danscartoons.com

Recent Award recipients (from VK5)



Just a reminder that if you wish to apply for VK5 Parks awards, **please ONLY use the spreadsheets which can be found on either the VK5 Parks Yahoo group or the VK5 Parks website.**

I no longer have the time to go through other forms of applications.

SOTA of course has its own excellent database and all awards are applied for on line.

<http://www.sota.org.uk/>

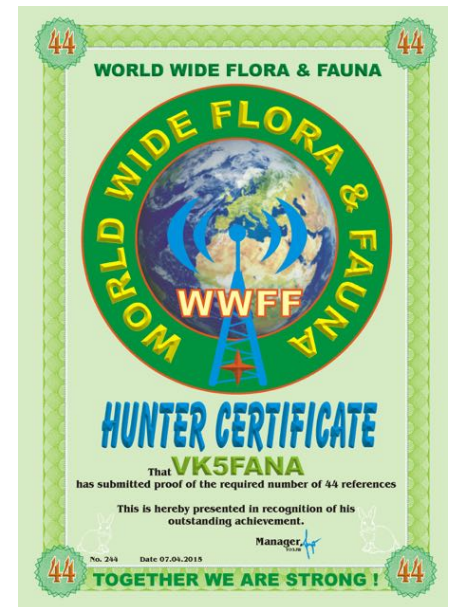
And this is also the case with the WWFF program which uses the LogSearch program. With WWFF I no longer accept spread sheets or emails. You can only apply for VKFF awards via LogSearch.

<http://logsearch.wwff.co/index.php>

WWFF

Adrian VK5FANA

- 44 references
WWFF Hunter
(global)



David VK5NQP

- Bronze VKFF
Hunter

SOTA

Adrian VK5FANA

- 100 points Chaser
(QRP).



VK5 Parks Award

Local recipients

Peter VK5FLEX

- Bronze Hunter.
- Silver Hunter
- Gold Hunter
- Platinum Hunter
- Bronze NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver NP Uniques Hunter
- Bronze CP Uniques Hunter

Peter VK5PET

- Bronze Hunter.
- Silver Hunter

David VK5NQP

- Bronze NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver NP Uniques Hunter
- Gold NP Uniques Hunter

- Bronze CP Uniques Hunter
- Silver CP Uniques Hunter
- Gold CP Uniques Hunter

Stev VK5HSX

- Bronze Activator

Interstate recipients.

Tim VK3MTB

- Bronze Hunter
- Silver Hunter
- Gold Hunter
- Bronze Park to Park
- Silver Park to Park
- Gold Park to Park

Brett VK3FLCS

- Silver Hunter
- Gold Hunter

Mick VK3PMG

- Gold NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver CP Uniques Hunter

Marc VK3OHM

- Bronze Hunter
- Silver Hunter
- Gold Hunter

- Platinum Hunter

Andrew VK3ARR

- Platinum Hunter
- Silver Conservation Parks Uniques Hunter
- Silver National Parks Uniques Hunter
- Gold National Parks Uniques Hunter

Rob VK4FFAB

- Gold Hunter

Amanda VK3FQSO

- Gold NP Uniques Hunter
- Gold CP Uniques Hunter

Fred VK3DAC

- Platinum Hunter
- Bronze NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver NP Uniques Hunter
- Gold NP Uniques Hunter
- Bronze CP Uniques Hunter
- Silver CP Uniques Hunter
- Gold CP Uniques Hunter

Peter VK3PF

- Bronze NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver NP Uniques Hunter
- Gold NP Uniques Hunter
- Platinum NP Uniques Hunter
- Bronze CP Uniques Hunter
- Silver CP Uniques Hunter
- Gold NP Uniques Hunter

Overseas recipients

Swa On5SWA

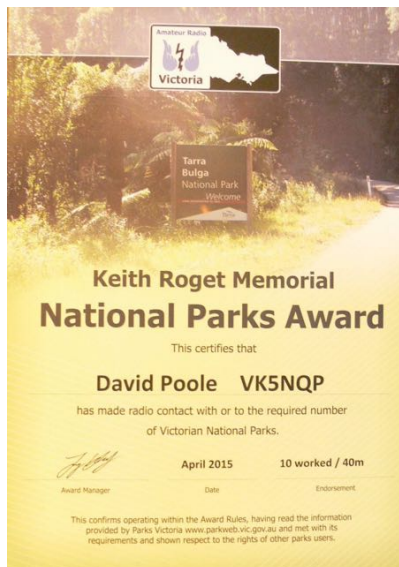
- Bronze Hunter

Danny OT4V

- Bronze Hunter

KRMNPA

David VK5NQP



PLEASE, if you have qualified for an award for SOTA, the VK5Parks Award & WWFF let me know, so I can add it to the list.

VK5 Parks & WWFF is not so important, due to the fact I am the Awards Manager.

But please send me any info on your global WWFF awards, and also info on your SOTA Awards. These are harder for me to track down.

As such, a quick email would be appreciated.

2015 WIA Convention

By Paul VK5PAS



A reminder, that in June, 2015, I am heading over to Canberra for the 2015 WIA Convention. I will be delivering a presentation on Saturday about the VK5 Parks Award and WWFF, with specific emphasis based on the involvement of Foundation calls.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Foundation licence, thus the emphasis on that subject.

Andrew VK1NAM will also be delivering a presentation on the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program.

If you have any park activation news and info that pertains to Foundation operators, I would be very keen to hear from you.

ANZAC Centennary

By Paul VK5PAS



Image courtesy of wikipedia.org

I have successfully applied on behalf of the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS) to use the special call signs of VK100ANZAC and VI5ANZAC on a number of occasions during 2015.

One of those will be for Sunday the 4th October, 2015, when permission has been given to operate as VI5ANZAC from the Belair National Park.

There is an avenue of California Redwood trees that were planted in 1962 as a memorial to the Australian and American Allied Forces who served in WW2 & Korea. I, in company

with other members of AHARS, will be operating at this location.

So keep a listen out for VI5ANZAC on 4th October 2015 at Belair National Park, VKFF-022.

Recent videos

By Paul VK5PAS

Here is a list of recent activator videos.....

ON4WLR/p

https://youtu.be/6TK-5XY_Txo

Col VK5HCF & Tom VK5EE at the Narracoorte Caves National Park.

<http://youtu.be/oAPKYSeCDmQ>

Bob VK5FO also has some videos on his Wordpress site at.....

<http://vk5fo.com/>

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS

Welcome to the following new members of the VK5 Parks Yahoo group:

- David VK5HDW
- Frank VK2HFS
- Alan VK2ALH
- VK5ZUC
- VK5FAJS
- Tim VK3MTB
- Andrew VK5CV
- Alan VK5FAJS
- Danny ON4VT
- Adrian VK5AW
- Andy VK5LA

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS

Welcome to the following new members of the VK5 Parks Facebook site:

- Stef VK5HSX

- Adrian VK5FANA
- Andy VK5LA
- Daniel VK5DF
- Ken ZL4KD
- Grant VK5GR

What do you need to go portable?

By Paul VK5PAS

Husband and wife team Julie VK3FOWL and Joe VK3YSP have put together an excellent publication on operating portable.

It can be found at.....

<http://www.informationtechnologies.com.au/files/Amateur%20Radio%20Portable%20Operation%20Notes.pdf>

QSL cards

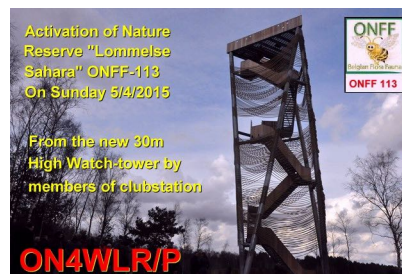
By Paul VK5PAS

This is a new section, where I will place any QSL cards received

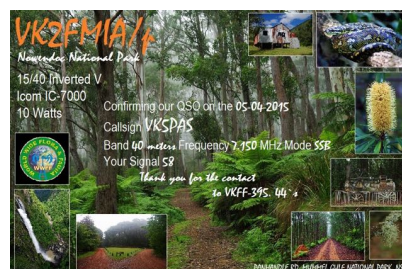
from stations activating SOTA peaks and parks.

If you have any QSL cards that you've received from a SOTA or Park activator, please send me a scanned copy, and I will place them in the newsletter.

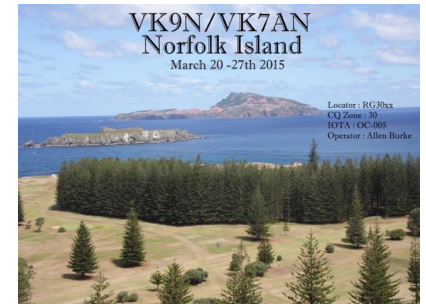
ON4WLR



VK2FMIA



VK9N/VK7AN



An afternoon with Larry

By Paul VK5PAS

On Friday afternoon (10/4/2015) I headed down to the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre and caught up with Larry VK5LY.

This was a follow up activation to the one conducted earlier by David VK5KC and John VK5BJE.

We set up the station on the lawn at the back of the hospital. It was a nice little spot. We used my Yaesu FT-857d, 40

watts and my 40m/20m linked dipole supported on a 7m telescopic squid pole.



Above:- Larry VK5LY on air being watched by his wife Di. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

Larry worked the following stations.....

- Tom VK5EE
- Adrian VK5FANA
- Ivan VK5HS
- Gordon VK5GY/p
- David VK5KC/3
- John VK5BJE
- Mick VK3PMG/p
- Andrew VK1NAM
- Arno VK5ZAR
- Tony VK3CAB
- Nev VK5WG
- Fred VK3DAC
- Paul VK3DBP
- Rod VK5VRB
- Andrew VK2UH

Thanks to everyone that called.

Larry on air again

By Paul VK5PAS

On Saturday 11th April, Ivan VK5HS headed down from the Riverland and paid a visit to Larry. And Larry was back up on air again.



Above:- Larry VK5LY on air being watched by Ivan VK5HS. Image courtesy of Ivan VK5HS

ON to VK

By Danny OT4V



Balenberg is also known as the 'Sven Nys' hill, for those who follow off road cycling. My location for this activation was on top of

this hill, 43m asl with around only flat areas.

Very strange conditions here, at my start around 6:00 UTC groundwave QSOs on 40m were almost impossible. Most QSOs had an average distance of +/- 2000 km. On 20m it was much better with two VK's in the log: VK5SRV/M from his car and secondly Paul VK5PAS. Great to work those guys with very good signals. Listened for more VK but I think Dow Under was asleep...a pity with this awesome conditions.



Image courtesy of Danny OT4V

I tested also my new antenna: G5RV junior with homebrew RF choke. Worked fine, especially on 20m I improved my signal.

A second run on 40m was much better for the locals, groundwave did the job OK this time. Made also a few QSO's on VHF and UHF and ended with 12 CW QSOs

on 30m. But still my excuses for my poor CW....still getting nervous from CW pile ups.



Image courtesy of Danny ON4VT

Many thanks to brand new HAM ON3FY David, for the excellent catering service and for taking some nice photos. Thanks a million mate!

I ended with 191 QSOs with 32 DXCC (personal /P record) and 3 continents.

Regards,

Danny ON4VT

Great Blogs to check out

By Paul VK5PAS

I have listed a few Wordpress sites and blogs previously which are well worth a look. I will place details of

interesting sites as I come across them.

If you have seen an interesting site, please drop me an email.

Danny ON4VT

<http://www.on4vt.be/>

Doug VK2FMIA

<http://vk2fmia.com/>

Amanda VK3FQSO

<https://vk3fqso.wordpress.com/>

The poor old lonely tree

By Ian VK5CZ



I decided to activate on cw only on my last activation at Illawarra Hill VK5/SE-014, so I took my You Kits HB-1B

grp cw rig and the link dipole.

These days it is a lot easier to qualify a summit on cw and I was lucky to work 9 vk cw ops on 40m 4 on 20m and 2 on 30m, so that is a very pleasing effort to have so many VK cw chasers these days.



Above:- on the summit. Image courtesy of Ian VK5CZ

I took my hand held and made a qso with Nev VK5WG on 2m FM then it was time to spot on 20m cw and I worked a steady pile up of European stations totalling 11 qso's and 4 vk stations.

I saw a spot from LA5XTA on a summit but I just could not hear him on 30m but I could copy his chasers quite well, it was the vk7 stations who were very strong on 30m really strong just around dusk.

The link dipole I have is

a 40/20 Sota beams antenna and I also use it on 30m with only one of the 40m links engaged and the other open it becomes a half wave OCF for 30m and works quite well with a low SWR.



Above:- the lonely tree on the summit.
Image courtesy of Ian VK5CZ

Both the KX3 and HB1B work quite well on this antenna and it saves having another set of clips and joint to tangle up in things.

I was hoping maybe some USA stations would be out of bed and chasing on 30m but I did not hear any and when I went back to 40m there was a JA contest starting so it was time to pack up and head down to the Ute.

The weather was really calm none of the wind turbines were moving it was so nice up there for a change.

See you on the next one.

73 de Ian vk5cz.

Compression kit for FT817

By Paul VK5PAS

I have just purchased a compression kit for the Yaesu FT-817. I will place a review in the next issue of Out & About once I receive it and have tried it out.

For more information, have a look at.....

http://www.box73.de/product_info.php?products_id=945

Congrats to David VK5NQP

By Paul VK5PAS

A 'little bird' told me that David VK5NQP had recently passed his Advanced exam.

Well done David. No doubt we will hear you from a park soon under a new call sign

Norfolk Island

By Allen VK7AN



Above:- Norfolk Island. Image courtesy of DX World.

DX-Operation from IOTA OC-005

Allen VK7AN and David VK7YUM visited VK9N for 10 days on an organised SOTA VK/NO-001 - IOTA/OC005 DX-Pedition.

Call signs allocated were VK9N/VK7AN, VK9N/VK7YUM.

Upon arriving at Whispering Pines Lodge after 3.05 hours flying time, 1680 nautical miles into the Pacific courtesy of Air New Zealand, a plan of action was implemented with haste to assemble our station (Icom IC706Mk.2G and 40-6 meter off centre fed

dipole plus power supply).

David was busy in setting up his digital contact modes and equipment, of which many contacts were made around the globe.

Allen was inundated with hundreds of dx calls worldwide by SSB mode while VK7YUM logged each contact electronically.

SOTA -Activation.

After a hairy drive up Mt. Pitt searching for Mt. Bates the inevitable site was found: Mt. Bates 321 Meters ASL.

After removing the battery from our rent-a-car, David began the struggle up Mt. Bates zapping most of his energy carrying our power source and arriving at the venue ready to commence transmitting.

After erecting the antenna attached to the old world war two radar station relics, David arrived full of energy from carrying our power source. Twenty contacts were made overseas from VK/NO-

001, upon realisation that we were running 100 watts from the Icom radio, a discussion about the capacity of the battery came to the decision that we cease transmitting as the battery charge was diminishing fast and that we may not be able to start our automatic vehicle. As you can realise there is no push start allowable in auto mode.

Special thanks must go to John Anderson VK9JA and Ray Sills VK9NMZ for their local hospitality and assistance, John VK9JA also operates a local museum with visual displays of WW2 radio equipment and original DME equipment from the Norfolk Island airport. Apart from the early morning alarms at 4-00am of wild roosters the dx-pedition was a great experience and success.

Norfolk Island would have to be the friendliest and environmentally pleasant haven in the Pacific.

QSL Info from QRZ.com VK7AN/VK7YUM

73s

Allen & David.

ANZAC Day

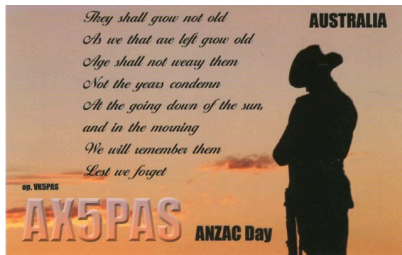
By Paul VK5PAS

On ANZAC Day I had intended to get out to the Belair National Park VKFF-022 for an activation. However a 'grace day' at work turned in to Afternoon shift which then turned in to Day shift. The nature of my job unfortunately. Plus the weather was lousy.

But on Sunday, the weather had fined up quite a bit, so after arriving home from work at about 3.30 p.m. I packed the car (with Marija's help) and headed off to the Monarto Conservation Park, which is just a short drive from home.

I operated at the park with the special AX prefix for about 2 & 1/2

hours and worked a total of 84 stations including 42 DX contacts.



For more information on the activation, please have a look at.....

<http://vk5pas.org/2015/04/27/monarto-conservation-park-vkff-828/>

If you also activated from a park with the special AX prefix, please drop me an email with some information so I can include it in the next issue of Out & About.

Fate of the DM SOTA Association

By Paul VK5PAS

Apparently it is not just DM in Germany, but OE, HA, EA Associations are also in

the sights of the British SOTA moderators.

The following recently appeared on the SOTA reflector.....

The MT is sad to announce that the DM Association will be administered from today by the MT. We have been trying for some time to bring DM into line with the scheme rules but have not been able to progress this and so this drastic step is the only way we can see of making DM meet its requirements.

The current situation is that DM is supposed to be a P100 compliant association but 144 of the summits are not even 100. Removing those summits leaves around 800 P100 summits in the association. It still fails the tests applied to all new associations since 2010 that gives an objective value for whether an association can be allowed to relax the P150 requirement to P100. Analysis shows that there are somewhere between 286 to 339 P150

summits in DM. The range in figures is due to the fact that the forested nature on many DM summits causes a degree of error in using SRTM DEM data in locating summits.

A cut off date has been applied to all DM summits of 1/Feb/2016. i.e. all DM summits cease to be valid on that date. This is the date when DM would have become fully P150 had things progressed as we expected and it would have given a 9 month window for any activators to activate summits that were going to be deleted. Unfortunately, with the association under MT administration it becomes a battle against the current workload for the MT now to produce the P150 summits list before this cut off date.

All sub-P100 summits will now be removed from the association on 31/May/2015. We hope to have a list of 286 summits which are definitely P150 ready for

upload before 1/Feb/2016 but this does depend on the MT workload. We have a number of associations in preparation in the Americas and Asia who have been working with the MT for some time and preparing and uploading these associations will take precedence, the DM work will have to fit in when we have time.

The remaining 53 summits which are potentially P150 cannot be added without some further work involving checking against accurate relief mapping. The MT members have no time available to do this for the foreseeable future and so these summits will not be added until DM is released from direct MT administration.

To be clear, no points already credited to any activator or chaser will be lost.

We are sorry that things have progressed to this point. However, we believe strongly that the rules should be applied

fairly and equally to every association involved in SOTA. The MT wishes to make it known now that if similar situations like this arise in future then we will have no option but to bring any association back into MT administration in order to make it compliant.

The MT will not enter into any further discussion of this issue.

QRP portable to VK

By Tom G0SBW



The RaDAR Trolley Mk11 went out for a field test this morning, It performed well. I've put some photos below to show the set up on location and some of the rough ground and

muddy sand it travelled over with no problems.

I worked three stations on 20m. The first was the Russian special event R120D. There were a lot of VKs around but all had big pile ups. I did not have the patience to wait my turn. I did, sort of, break the pile up working JW/F8DVD in Spitzbergen (interesting QRZ.com page).



Above:- the trolley. Image courtesy of G0SBW

Eventually I heard Paul VK5PAS asking the QRO operators to standby while he worked QRP stations. I managed to work him and got a 56 report to his 58 signal.

It was very good of Paul to make the effort to work QRP stations only, for quite a long period.

I forgot to take my radio watch with me (it is fastened to the KX3 chest table, where it is not needed-the KX3 has its own built in clock). It must be retrieved. However I was out doing the test between 06:30 and 07:30 UTC.



Image courtesy of GoSBW

I now need to spend some time making a cushioned cradle to hold the rig (almost certainly the Icom 703) nice and securely on the trolley. It is going to be very easy to operate while actually walking with the trolley.

Best 73,
Tom GoSBW.

2015 WIA AGM

By Paul VK5PAS

Don't forget that the 2015 WIA AGM is coming up as of Friday 8th May in Canberra.

Andrew VK1NAM will be delivering a presentation on SOTA, and I will be delivering a presentation on park activating.

Saturday 9th May
"Celebrating 10 years of the Foundation Licence"

The Saturday afternoon program will commence straight after lunch and it will be a celebration of 10 years of the Foundation Licence with a number of special guest speakers.

The afternoon programme includes ..

- Afternoon presentation welcome - Fred VK3DAC
- Assessment and education in amateur radio - Fred VK3DAC
- The WIA role in the assessment system - Matt Brooks and Dianne Ashton
- ACMA development and audit structures for delegation of assessment
- Summits on the Air (SOTA) - Simon VK5FAS and Andrew VK1NAM
- World wide flora and fauna - Paul VK5PAS
- Special and remote assessments - Eric VK5CE
- EMR and training requirements - Roger VK2ZRH
- Upgrading licences from foundation to advanced - Gail VK4ION
- An F call perspective
- Wrapup - Fred VK3DAC



IOTA DXpedition to St Peter Island

By Craig VK5CE

Recently Craig VK5CE travelled to St Peter Island, OC-220 which is

located in the Nyuts Archipelago Conservation Park in South Australia.



Image courtesy of Craig VK5CE

This was a one man operation in the classic tent and generator DXpedition style.



Image courtesy of Craig VK5CE

For more information, check out Craig's blog at.....

<http://iotaoc220.blogspot.com.au/>



Image courtesy of Craig VK5CE

Latest version of MacLogger DX released

By Paul VK5PAS

Version 5.60 has now been released for MacLogger DX.

MacLoggerDX is the Total Mac Ham Radio Assistant and premier Mac logger:

Organizing and filtering the spots from your favourite DX Cluster for DXing, Contesting or casual rag-chewing.

It supports close to a hundred radios, automatically tuning to the spots you are interested in and optionally swinging your beam around.

Alerting you to rare contacts or Band Openings and looking up, displaying on 2D, 3D and Satellite Maps and logging your contacts to a super fast sql database.

MacLoggerDX can also email you when the Bands are open or that rare DX is spotted.

Awards Tracking, Band Activity, Schedules, Memories, QSL Generation, ADIF import, export, eQSL, LoTW Confirmations and much more.

Linked dipole calculator

By Paul VK5PAS

For those putting together a linked dipole, you will probably find this very interesting.....

<http://reflector.sota.org.uk/t/linked-dipole-designer/9234>

The 'Golden Shovel Award'

By Paul VK5PAS



I cannot put this issue to print without awarding the 'Golden shovel award' to Peter VK5FLEX.

Peter recently got bogged in the Peebinga Conservation Park during the 2nd year anniversary weekend. Peter had no mobile coverage out there. But fortunately Peter was able to make contact with myself and Richard VK5ZRY during our activation of Warrenben CP on the Yorke Peninsula.

After a number of phone calls and relating of messages via HF, we were able to get some help out to Peter.



Image courtesy of Peter VK5FLEX



Image courtesy of Peter VK5FLEX

So Peter is awarded the 'Golden shovel award' which I previously held for getting bogged in Billiatt Conservation Park/Wilderness Area.

On a more serious note. Peter's bogging incident displayed the great camaraderie that exists in the amateur radio community. And proves that when all other communication systems fail, amateur radio shines through.

Hamspots

By Paul VK5PAS

If you would like to keep a track of all WWFF activity around the world, check out Hamspots.

You can find it at.....

<http://hamspots.net/wwff/>

Receiving emails on Yahoo groups

By Paul VK5PAS

Recently, a member of the VK5 Parks Yahoo group 'unsubscribed' because they believed that 10 posts per day (10 emails they received) was excessive.

However, the whole idea of these Yahoo groups, is to share information. They are designed for people to

submit posts. We shouldn't have to worry about not placing some info on the group, simply because we have reached a particular threshold of messages per day.

So if you think you are getting too many emails from the Yahoo group/s that you are a member of, then **there is a SIMPLE answer.....**

There are a number of different options with regards to receiving emails in Yahoo groups. You can choose to have:-

- **INDIVIDUAL EMAILS**

messages are delivered to you one at a time, each time somebody posts on the group

- **DAILY DIGEST**

messages are delivered in batches of 15 or daily, whichever comes sooner

- **SPECIAL NOTICES**

Only 'Special Notices' sent by the group's moderator are emailed to you

- **NO EMAIL**

messages posted on the group are only available to be read on the Web

For more information, on the options above, and how to edit your membership, please see.....

<https://au.help.yahoo.com/kb/groups/frequently-receive-group-emails-sln2509.html>

So before you pull your membership to a particular Yahoo group, have a look at what your membership settings are.

If all else fails, there is the delete button on your keyboard.

Riverland Radio Group get together

By Paul VK5PAS

The trip to the Riverland region of South Australia was great. The Riverland Radio Club had a great show on the Saturday at the historic Overland

Corner Hotel. A very nice egg & bacon roll and a snag or 2 for breakfast, lots of war stories, a car boot sale, the Riverland Radio Club's Saturday morning net portable from the hotel, and then lunch served from the pub (one of the best schnitty's I have had for a while).



Hopefully this will become an annual event. I believe that in the coming week or so there will be some photos up on the RRC website at.....

<http://www.rrc.org.au/>

And of course I snuck in some park activations Fri-Sun.

- **Brookfield CP,**
VKFF-822:- 63 contacts
(quite bit of DX on 20m)
- **Pooginook CP** - 43 contacts

- **Murray River NP**
VKFF-372:- 75 contacts
(including DX on 20m)
- **Maize Island Lagoon CP,**
VKFF-827:- 48 contacts
- **Ramco Point CP:-** 35 contacts
- **Hogwash Bend CP:-** 62 contacts.(again, quite a bit of DX on 20m)

Total of 326 contacts from the 6 parks.

A few very pleasing things came out of these activations. Tony VK3VTH had noticed this previously and mentioned it to me, but the number of DX VKFF hunters from areas other than Europe was very noticeable. I had a number of callers from the USA & the Caribbean.

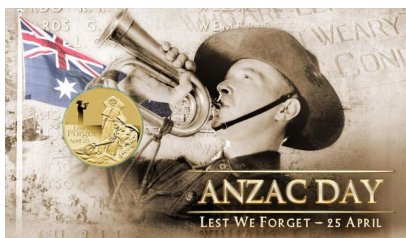
And secondly, I have already received an email from a Belgium station applying for some of the VK5 Park award certificates. Whilst I was in Hogwash bend CP working the European guys, I told

many of them about the VK5 Parks award and they seemed very interested. So I expect to get a few more DX applications.

Thanks to everyone that called me.

SOTA peaks on ANZAC Day

By Paul VK5PAS



Did anyone activate a SOTA peak on ANZAC Day. If you did, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

VI5ANZAC at Morialta CP

By Paul VK5PAS

On 28th April, 2015, a group of park activators headed out to the

Morialta Conservation Park in the Adelaide Hills and operated with the special call of VI5ANZAC as part of the ANZAC centenary commemorations.



Andy VK5AKH working 40m. Image courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

Ops were:

- Bob VK5FO
- Ray VK5RR
- Gary VK5FGRY
- Andy VK5AKH
- Grant VK5GR
- Paul VK5PAS



IAbove:- Bob VK5FO on air, being watched by Gary VK5FGRY and Ray VK5RR. Image courtesy of Peter VK5PAS

More information can be found at.....

<http://vk5pas.org/2015/04/29/morialta-cp-as-vi5anzac/>

<http://vk5fo.com/314/vi5anzac-activation-report>

<http://www.areg.org.au/?p=1229>

New to activating?

By Paul VK5PAS

If you are new to either SOTA or park activating, you will find a wealth of information on the various activators blogs that you can find on the internet.

Also, don't rely on Google maps. It does not show up a lot of the smaller parks. I have found Mapcarta to be an excellent resource.

New award scheme for portable operators

By Paul VK5PAS

The following info is courtesy of Southgate Amateur Radio News....

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

The **Amateur Radio Portable Operators Club** (ARPOC) unveils a new award scheme that encourages operators to get out and about.

Spring has arrived, and the Amateur Radio Portable Operators Club has launched a fun and exciting award scheme that's been designed to encourage its members to take full advantage of their radio equipment.

Matthew Payne, MOLMK, from ARPOC said: "We hope that the award scheme encourages operators to get out in the fresh air with their radio equipment and enjoy the benefits that portable operating can bring as well as help with promoting the hobby to the public."

Any licenced operator can take part in the award scheme and individuals can apply for and claim their

personalised award certificates online. Downloadable certificates cost £2.00 each or are free for full members of ARPOC which costs just £5 a year. Funds raised from the award scheme go towards ensuring the scheme can be continued for many years to come.

There are a number of different award certificates that can be gained each with their own challenges. These include awards such as:

- Life's A Beach
- Portable Professional
- Lighthouse Lurker
- Operating Within Tent

While many licence holders have shacks at home and associated QRM issues, ARPOC want to encourage members to get out and about and experience the joys of operating a portable station away from the noise.

The names of the awards themselves hint towards what situations and locations the members will experience when they work towards these certificates. For instance, a few trips to the seaside will be needed for the Life's A Beach award, while members will have to travel to five other countries if they opt to work towards their European Sun Seeker award. This award tasks members with operating a station from two different beaches that are in no less than five different European countries. Operators will also need to complete a standard exchange with at least one station at each location.

Once members have successfully completed their tasks, they can apply for the awards they have worked towards. All of these new ARPOC awards are available to download. That means these prized

certificates can be downloaded and printed off quickly and easily, ensuring members are able to enjoy them almost immediately.

More information about ARPOC and this new awards scheme can be found on the website at <http://www.arpoc.org>

Report on the Sunraysia 600 Rally

By David VK5KC

For the purist readers of this newsletter, this is not a Park or a Peak. It is however a portable setup, in the field operating voice and data over 2 days. This is how I did it at the Sunraysia 600 Rally.

The track is 100km long, zig zagged around a 12km square semi desert paddock near Cullulleraine, halfway

between Renmark and Mildura.



Image courtesy of David VK5KC

Requirements.

- 9 checkpoints for tracking and safety reporting to a central Control.
- 147.3 FM voice.
- 438.050 packet.
- CB Ch 16 for recovery
- CB Ch 26 Car to Car.
- Equipment used.
- FT8900
- MFJ TNC
- Asus Netbook.
- Wouxin H/H
- 2 Uniden Hand held CB.
- 300w pure sine wave inverter.
- 60w portable solar panels.
- 12 lead acid battery.
- Dual band mobile whip.

Program used is called Trak and written by a VK3

The inverter was setup to provide 240v power to run the laptop and

TNC. Charge the CB's and Wouxin.



Image courtesy of David VK5KC

The FT8900 was set to transmit packet on the left hand side with FM voice being monitored on the RHS.

As cars passed my checkpoint their number was entered, transmitted to control. Control auto acknowledged and added it to a map display on my PC and removing it from the display of the previous checkpoint.



Image courtesy of David VK5KC

All worked fine over the 2 days.

Two laps on Saturday afternoon and 4 on Sunday commencing at 8am. Dust was a major problem along with flies.

One car pulled off near me with their engine on fire and another with loss of power steering.

Overall I was happy with my operation.



But I set it all up at home, confirmed operation then packed ALL the bits away. Well worthwhile as I found a couple of dodgy connectors and a problem with finding the correct USB port on the PC.

73,

David VK5KC

Italian Abbeys Award

By Paul VK5PAS

An award that you might find interesting is the Italian Abbeys Award.

In order to promote the knowledge and the cataloguing of the medieval buildings consecrated the Christian cult, the ARI Section of Busto Arsizio proposes to all OM/YL and SWL over the world the D.A.I.: **Diploma delle Abbazie Italiane (Italian Abbeys Award)**.

I often work the Italian guys operating from Italian abbeys. One of those is Danilo IK2SAV who recently sent me the photos below from one of his activations when I made contact with him.



Image courtesy of Danilo, IK2SAV



Image courtesy of Danilo, IK2SAV



More information on the Italian Abbeys Award can be found at.....

http://www.aribusto.it/dai_multilingual_rules.htm

USA SOTA chasers

By David VK5NQP



I saw these posts on the SOTA reflector recently. It sounds like there might be other than VK looking for VK SOTA activators.

Maybe try a higher frequency above 7.125 or try 15m if using a 40m dipole. If you can use a bit more power with a bigger battery you might get some unexpected DX.

"See Spots here night after night on VK Activators working 40M below 7.125 American Phone band Do any of you guys Down in VK do CW ??? So NA might work you I do hear some of the VK's on SSB but I cant TX on the Freq they are working. Maybe a Split ??? Listen up in the NA Phone band above 7.125

With a KW and my SuperLoop 80 I know I can work you guys down-under.
Dow (W4DOW)"

"Hi Dow,

Keep an eye on the alerts as well as the spots and you will find regular CW activators although much less numerous than phone. 7.028 - 7.032 are popular with VK activators.

Mostly we look for DX on 20 m and higher - mornings for 10/15 m to US and afternoons for 15/20 to Eu. It's the wrong part of the sunspot cycle (in theory) for reliable VK-USA 40 m contacts but hey if you can hear the activator call him.

Many of those who call on SSB can read CW so you could call on CW at 10 to 12 wpm and listen on SSB. Don't forget to offset your CW signal 600 Hz low so it can be heard in the SSB mode.

73 Ron VK3AFW"

"I've seen plenty of VK CW spots. Also some spots on bands other than 40 metres, though

40 metres does still seem to be the band of choice for quickly qualifying a summit as it gets the local chasers well. I remember hearing quite a bit of broadcast QRM above 7.1 last time I was in VK, which is at least part of the reason VK operators stay below that. There has been talk of moving somewhere above 7.2, but I don't think anything much came of it.

I've been trying to persuade VK folk (and others) who're using 40 metre dipoles that they could probably give 15 metres a try without having to change antennas, just on the off-chance that the band's open...

73, Rick 5Z4/MoLEP"

Updates to SOTA General Rules

By Paul VK5PAS



There have been a number of changes to the SOTA General Rules.

Particularly 3.7 Rules for Activators.

Version 1.20 has been published by the SOTA Management Team (MT) on 30th March 2015, to clear up some of the vagueness of some of the rules.

Previously 3.7.1 part 3 stated:

The method of final access to the Summit must be non-motorised. Operations must not be in, or in the vicinity of a motor vehicle. No part

of the station may be connected in any way to the motor vehicle.

It now states:

Operations must not be in, or in the close vicinity of, a motor vehicle. No part of the station may be connected in any way with the motor vehicle. However, the use of a bike (non-motorized) or animals to enter the Activation Zone is permitted.

The requirement to enter the activation zone by non-motorised means has been removed.

In essence, what is now accepted is that you can arrive at the summit by motorised means, e.g. car. You then need to pick up all your equipment from within the activation zone that you intend to use for your station. And then walk or use some other non-motorised means of transport away from your vehicle, set up and operate.

Most of the VK ARM's have been altered to

reflect these new changes.

The latest SOTA General Rules can be found at.....

<http://www.sota.org.uk/docs/SOTA-General-Rules-April-2015.pdf>

Some more Belgium-Australia contacts

By Paul VK5PAS

A well hidden and very small reference.....might be the reason it never has been activated! I took a look at it a few days ago and it took me more than one hour to find the sign and a place to operate: ONFF-395 De Werft in Veerle-Laakdal (AN).

But this abandoned area was a paradise to activate. Started at 05:57 UTC with I5FLN Luciano as first station on the log. Temperature 5C and cloudy. Cold nose, feet and hands were soon part of the fun. A good run on 40m with lots of European stations, then

QSY to 20m. Wide open to VK/ZL but unfortunately again only 2 VK stations in the log (both with 57 signals on the meter), VK3PSR and faithful VK5PAS are the lucky ones.



For more info, please visit Danny's blog at.....

<http://www.on4vt.be/>

Logs coming for VK9

By Paul VK5PAS

I have confirmed that Charlie VK3ZD will be providing me with his log for upload to WWFF LogSearch from his recent visit to North West Island, VKFF-085.

To clear up some confusion

By Paul VK5PAS

I have recently been sent a couple of emails regarding the recent DXpedition by VK6ISL to

VKFF-445 is Scott National Park, which is located in the South West region of Western Australia, about 265 km south of Perth. See map below.....

VK6ISL was operating from Sandy Islet which is part of Scott and Seringapatam Reefs in the Timor Sea, about 300 km northwest of Cape Leveque in Western Australia. This is NOT a VKFF reference area. See map below.....

They are thousands of kms apart.

Hope this helps clear up any confusion.

Please keep these freqs clear

By Paul VK5PAS

For the coming weeks, please stay clear of the following frequencies due to the 9N1 Emergency.....

14.300

It was 14.205, but has now moved to 14.310.

http://www.dxzone.com/amateur-radio-helping-nepal-video/?fb_ref=Default&fb_source=message

Is one program better than another and are such comments helpful?

By Paul VK5PAS

Today I came across a post on the SOTA

reflector entitled 'What makes SOTA better than other portable operating award schemes?' It had been posted by Ed DD5LP (formerly VK2JI).

In the past few weeks I have read a few 'negative' comments about park activations by a very small group of SOTA activators. I really can't put my finger on what their motivation is. I believe that all portable programs can co-habitate together very successfully. Each has their own unique components that attract particular amateurs.

Here is what Ed wrote.....

There are many other portable operating award schemes as well as SOTA, for example WWFF and RADAR, so why is SOTA "better" ? In my "not so humble" opinion, I can list the following reasons

1. the ability to communicate ones intentions in advance to a hoard of willing chasers

2. the ability to indicate when you are operational and on what frequency and mode, which almost guarantees more than enough contacts after your fight to get to the top of the hill.
3. the ability to centrally record and produce reports on your achievements and if you wish to, compare them against others.
4. the camaraderie between all involved (at least until recently)

The first three of these points would not be possible without a group of willing, unpaid volunteers, their time and their finances. The Management Team have to make hard decisions from time to time that you may not agree with, but without the MT the first three items on the list above simply could not happen and SOTA would not be the addiction that it is to most of us.

THINK ABOUT IT !

Please do not extend the current P100/150 discussions here, rather lets be POSITIVE. What do you all think is good about SOTA? I'm sure my list only covers part of the attraction of the scheme.

Ed DD5LP / VK2JI / G8GLM.

This was my response to Ed.....

Hi Ed,

I have bitten my tongue on this subject for quite some time now. There seems to be 'some' SOTA activators who view park activators as their 'poor cousins' in the portable field.

To show my hand, I am the co-ordinator here in Australia for the WWFF program, so of course I am going to stick up for WWFF, but in response to your comments....

1. the ability to communicate ones intentions in advance to a hoard of willing 'hunters'. This can also be done with

WWFF via the Forum.

2. the ability to indicate when you are operational and on what frequency and mode, which almost guarantees more than enough contacts after your fight to get to the top of the hill. Again, this can also be done with WWFF via various spotting platforms.
3. the ability to centrally record and produce reports on your achievements and if you wish to, compare them against others. This can be done on WWFF LogSearch
4. the camaraderie between all involved. The camaraderie between park activators and hunters is no less than SOTA.

You are of course entitled to your opinion. By all means sing the praises of SOTA, but don't attack other portable programs. I believe they all have their own unique attractions to a varied group of amateurs and

can all cohabitate together in harmony.

Best 73,

Paul,
VK5PAS
WWFF co-ordinator
Australia (and also a
keen SOTA
activator/chaser).

John Moyle Field Day results

By Paul VK5PAS

The results for the 2015 John Moyle Memorial Field Day are out. The total number of eligible logs submitted was 184, which was a slight increase from last year. Based upon submitted logs, there were 21.405 contacts.

There were a total of 18 VK5's who ventured out to participate as portable stations.

A full report on the 2015 JMMFD can be located at.....

It is interesting to note the following from the JMMFD report.....

A suggestion was made by a few stations that a QRP category could be allowed.

The suggestion was that only a station that can be carried in a backpack should be allowed for the operation of the station. There was only five logs entered indicating that all operation was on low power.

They are acknowledged on their certificate.

It is still not thought to be necessary to create another category just yet (see above) but interest is still growing and may soon require a rule change.

So it looks like we will be waiting for a while yet before there is a QRP section in the JMMFD which is a shame.

Here is a list of the VK5's that participated as portable stations.....

24 hour Portable operation-Multiple Operator.

Multi Phone HF

1st PLACE

- VK5WIA
 - 2,282 points
 - 1,141 QSOs

5th PLACE

- VK5KDK
 - 590 points
 - 295 QSOs

6 hour Portable Operation-Multiple Operator.

Multi Phone ALL

1st PLACE

- VK5SR
 - 896 points
 - 187 QSOs

24 hour Portable Operation-Single Operator.

Single Phone ALL

1st PLACE

- VK5KBJ
 - 1,510 points
 - 232 QSOs

3rd PLACE

- VK5OQ
 - 844 points
 - 144 QSOs

Single Phone VHF

1st PLACE

- VK5TE
 - 1,846 points
 - 231 QSOs

2nd PLACE

- VK5KK
 - 1,742 points
 - 213 QSOs

Single Phone HF

2nd PLACE

- VK5RN
 - 624 points
 - 312 QSOs

5th PLACE

- VK5MH
 - 206 points
 - 103 QSOs

6 hour Portable Operation-Single Operator.

Single Phone ALL

1st PLACE

- VK5RX
 - 1,314 points
 - 123 QSOs

Single Phone VHF

1st PLACE

- VK5ZT
 - 1,451 points
 - 83 QSOs

Single Phone HF

1st PLACE

- VK5PAS
 - 476 points
 - 238 QSOs

8th PLACE

- VK5RR
 - 178 points
 - 89 QSOs

9th PLACE

- VK5FO
 - 168 points
 - 84 QSOs

12th PLACE

- VK5KLV
 - 86 points
 - 43 QSOs

18th PLACE

- VK5FJEN
 - 54 points
 - 27 QSOs

19th PLACE

- VK5KPR
 - 42 points
 - 21 QSOs

20th PLACE

- VK5ZAT
 - 40 points
 - 20 QSOs

2E0YYY and SOTA

By Paul VK5PAS

Mike 2E0YYY is one of the most active SOTA activators in the UK/Europe who regularly works VK & ZL.

Here are some details on Mike's most recent activation.....

My activation of Mynydd y Cwm GW/NW-076 on Thursday morning was wet! As soon as I arrived at the cairn, the skies opened up with a mixture of rain, hail and sleet. At least the trees gave me a reasonable wind break. This summit is surrounded by thousands of trees, making the HF take off a little tricky.



Netherless, a self spot on the 20m band brought an immediate response from Gerard VK2IO, followed by a combination of Europe and North Americans, including Erik WX4ET in Tennessee and Bill K5WI in Texas.



A further 10 VK's entered the log, making a total of 11 for the activation. At 0800 z I was pretty much drenched, so I packed up and left the summit to do some work.

73 Mike 2E0YYY

Bicycle mobile in the UK

By Paul VK5PAS

The other day I spoke with Dave G4AKC who was bicycle mobile at Blackpool in the UK.

Dave is a regular on 20m either working pedestrian mobile and/or bicycle mobile, and always has a magnificent signal.

To get a good idea VK2BSY has a nice video on You Tube of his contact whilst pedestrian mobile with Dave G4AKC who was bicycle mobile. It can be found at.....

<https://youtu.be/stvwuPE6gO8>

Log4OM updated

By David VK5NQP

I have updated the WWFF award in Log4OM to add in all the new VK3 & VK5 parks that were added on 1/3/2015. I have sent the updated XML file to Claus, EI7JZ & he will upload to the awards site.

If you use this log program the award should automatically update when Claus uploads & you next log in.

David
VK5NQP