

The West Australian VHF Group Bulletin

July 2003



Calendar

Jul	14	VHF Microwave Net
	21	Committee Meeting
	28	General Meeting
Aug	11	VHF Microwave Net
	18	Committee Meeting
	25	General Meeting
Sep	8	VHF Microwave Net
	15	Committee Meeting
	22	Annual General Meeting
Oct	13	VHF Microwave Net
	20	Committee Meeting
	27	General Meeting
Nov	10	VHF Microwave Net
	17	Committee Meeting
	24	General Meeting
Dec	8	VHF Microwave Net
	15	Committee Meeting
	22	General Meeting

Committee

President	Alan	VK6ZWZ
Secretary	Don	VK6HK
Vice President	Terry	VK6ZLT
Treasurer	Cec	VK6AO
Activities		
Materials		
Publicity		
Librarian	Al	VK6ZAY
Museum Rep	Tom	VK6ZAF
Bulletin Editor	Ben	VK6IC
Councillor	Luigi	VK6YEH
Councillor	Wally	VK6KZ
Councillor	Terry	VK6TRG

The official newsletter for the West Australian VHF Group (Inc), PO Box 189 Applecross. Email for the editor can be sent to vk6ic@amsat.org.

Editors Notes

Ben Rampling, VK6IC

Welcome to the July Bulletin. This bulletin brings news of the Spring Scramble, the Annual General Meeting and the all important details for renewing your subscription and nominating committee. We also have late news of the ACA proposals for the future of amateur licenses.

To renew your membership please return the completed form at the end of this bulletin with your subscription fee. If you have recently set up an email address or would like to switch to getting the bulletin by email, please include your address with your renewal. The electronic bulletins can be read or printed by downloading the Adobe Acrobat viewer, and are sent out as attachments that are typically no larger than 50KB.

In late news, the *Review of Amateur Service Regulation Discussion Paper* has been released, and is available on the ACA web site. The ACA is seeking submissions on a number of proposals. These proposals must be made in writing and must reach the ACA by close of business on 31 October 2003. It is important that all amateurs make individual submissions on these proposals, to add weight to the submissions made by the WIA, the VHF Group and other clubs.

One of the most important proposals in the paper is “6.5 Interference protection for other radiocommunications services”. Under my interpretation, it is proposed that the ACA will remove any obligation for the person affected by the interference to assist in resolving the interference, regardless of technical standards of the amateur operator or poor quality or state of repair of the of the affected equipment or receiving antenna system. At present the policy encourages mutual cooperation, and in the event that the amateur equipment is operating properly, improvement of the receiving equipment and antenna system. The current policy, at least for television and radio reception, is described in the brochure “Interference from CB and Amateur Transmitters” available from the ACA. In this document it is stated that “If the person affected by the interference has not applied relevant measures in an attempt to resolve the interference, the ACA may decide to take no further action to resolve the interference”. It has to be asked if this would disappear from any brochure produced after the introduction of a “no interference” policy.

Other concerning questions surrounding the proposal is the potential for the new policy to be applied more widely than interference to broadcast services. I have requested clarification from the ACA and have been informed that discussion on the proposal will include interference to:

- broadcasting services;
- non-broadcasting apparatus-licensed services; and
- class-licensed services.

If a blanket “no interference” policy was enacted on class and apparatus licensed services, would we find ourselves forced completely off 430 MHz, 2.4 GHz and 5.7 GHz and others due

to the potential for interference to our neighbours video and audio senders, wireless networks, alarms and other cheap-and-nasty gadgets? With out specific provisions, could we even find ourselves unable to verify the true source of interference or the authenticity of an interference complaint? Would amateur radio become the lowest form of radio communications and hobby, forced to accept interference from \$9.95 remote control senders and prohibited from interfering with a 2 code receiver with a 10 MHz wide receive band? It is in the interests of the importers and retailers of shared band class license equipment for this proposal to be as far ranging as possible and “trouble free” for their customers. It would be surprising if these companies did not respond to this proposal. Your submissions are required to answer these questions and keep the interference policy as workable as possible for both amateurs and mass media consumers.

If you do not have access to the Internet, the particular section of the discussion paper is quoted below. You may also wish to contact the local office of the ACA or WIA to request a full copy of the discussion paper. It has been reported that the local ACA office is happy to send out copies fairly promptly, via post.

There are many other proposals requiring response, including a new set of license divisions and testing requirements, and a proposal to class-license amateur radio transmitters. Will this require homebrew equipment to undergo expensive certification for type approval?

6.5 Interference protection for other radiocommunications services

A feature of domestic environments is the widespread use of radiocommunications equipment such as television, radio and regulated non-broadcasting transmitters, including those used for the amateur service. Examples of domestic equipment include televisions, video cassette recorders, digital television set top boxes, stereo systems, cordless and wired telephones, security alarm systems, and computers.

Interference to domestic television and radio receivers can often arise from the operation of nearby amateur transmitters. Such interference generally occurs in domestic equipment because of their inability to reject unwanted amateur transmissions, even though those transmissions are on different frequency bands from those used for radio and television stations. Less frequently, interference occurs as a result of faults in amateur transmitters.

Licensing conditions ensure that amateur transmitters meet certain emission requirements; however, radio and television receivers vary in quality and many do not have a high level of immunity from interference. The Act defines interference in relation to radiocommunications as:

The ACA interprets ‘substantial interference’ as that level of interference that degrades domestic television and radio reception, under normal conditions, by a considerable degree.

The operation of an amateur station, which is essentially a hobby, should not disturb another person’s activities, such as television viewing or radio listening, or affect commercial activities.

The ACA is considering the introduction of a ‘no interference’ policy for amateur operators. This policy would mean that an amateur must not cause interference to other radiocommunications services. If causing interference to another service, the obligation will be on the amateur to resolve the problem, possibly by:

Moving the location of their transmitter; coming to a mutually agreed arrangement with the complainant regarding the costs associated with fitting a filter to the domestic television or radio; reducing the output power of their transmitter; or restricting their hours of operation to outside peak viewing times for television reception.

The ACA proposes to: introduce a ‘no interference’ policy for amateur operators in relation to interference caused to domestic equipment.

A Review of Amateur Service Regulation, Discussion Paper, August 2003

http://www.aca.gov.au/aca_home/issues_for_comment/discussion/amateur_review_disc_paper.htm

Public meetings are also planned for the near future, numbers permitting. The following information regarding meetings has been distributed by the ACA to clubs and club members:

“As part of the public consultation process for this review of the amateur service, the ACA is considering holding a series of public meetings in cities around Australia. The meetings are intended to provide a public forum to facilitate discussion between the ACA and interested parties about the issues and proposals set out in the discussion paper.

[The proposed date for Perth is Monday 29th September, Queens Birthday Holiday.]

Meetings are expected to commence at 7:30pm and to finish by 9:30pm. Meetings will be confirmed once the ACA receives sufficient indications of interest from prospective attendees. This is particularly the case for the proposed meeting in Darwin as the number of amateur licensees in the Northern Territory is relatively small.”

Spring Scramble

Sunday, 21 September 2003

1. 1030-1130 WST (0230-0330 Z), Sunday, 21 September, 2003.
2. The object is to contact as many different stations as possible, on as many bands, 50 MHz and above, as possible. All licensed modes may be used. To encourage those stations who are halfway to being on another band, **CROSSBAND CONTACTS ARE PERMITTED**. Under special conditions, **SATELLITE CONTACTS ARE ALSO PERMITTED**.
3. To take into account cross band operation, points are based on **SERIAL NUMBERS** rather than contacts. A serial number consists of three digits, to which an optional signal report may be prefixed.
4. Starting with 001, transmit a different serial number to each station on each band. Aside from satellite contacts, **ONLY ONE SERIAL NUMBER SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO ANY GIVEN STATION ON ANY GIVEN BAND**. It may be retransmitted to the same station on the same band, at any time during the scramble. The receiving station must confirm reception of the serial number for points to be scored, but may give this confirmation on any VHF/UHF/SHF (or higher) band.
5. A station scores half a point for each serial number it successfully **TRANSMITS**, and half a point for each serial number it **RECEIVES**. The usual sort of two-way contact on a single band involves 2 serial numbers, so scores 1 point.
6. Serial numbers count double if at least one of the stations involved (transmitting or receiving) is a country station, meaning at least 60km from GPO Perth.
7. Serial numbers count double if the **OTHER** station (transmitting or receiving) is a novice or limited novice.
8. Transmission of serial numbers, and/or confirmations via terrestrial repeaters is not permitted.
9. In addition to terrestrial contacts made under rule 4, any pair of stations is allowed one contact per satellite, provided that both stations are in the VK6 call area, and that all uplink and downlink frequencies used are in the VHF/UHF/SHF Amateur bands.

10. The scramble is primarily for FUN, so works on the honour system. Add up your total points. Then

11. CALL BACK: on 146.5 MHz FM at 1135 WST, or on 144.120 MHz SSB at 1140 WST. Alternatively, communicate your call sign and score to the September Meeting of the West Australian VHF Group at Wireless Hill, Applecross, commencing at 8pm on 22 September, 2003, preferably by coming along!

REMEMBER: HALF A POINT PER SERIAL NUMBER, double for country stations and double if the other station is a novice.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FREQUENCIES:

SSB: 50.175 MHz, 144.120 MHz, 432.120 MHz, 1296.120 MHz

FM: 52.525 MHz, 53.5 MHz, 146.5 MHz (+/- QRM), 439 MHz, 1296.3 MHz

Liaison: 145.375 MHz (FM), 144.175 MHz (SSB), 432.175 MHz (SSB)

VK6 Foxhunt

Hello to All on VK6 Foxhunt,

The July 2003 foxhunt was held on Saturday July 19th, 2003. It was a cold night and three hounds gathered at the Pioneer Women's Memorial Fountain in Kings Park for the 8.00pm start.

The fox for this month's hunt were Lik Wei (VK6YLW), Ben (VK6XC) and Ian (VK6CR). The hunters were VK6AD, VK6JRC team VK6YBN team.

The fox hid himself up in a tree along the river at Ascot, just up the road from the Sandringham Hotel. In fact the fox does have a bit of an affinity with the water, having hid himself before along the river at Mosman Park, Ascot, Shelley, Ferndale and Scarborough Beach on previous hunts.

The first team in the carpark where the fox was setup this month was VK6YBN in 35 minutes, followed 3 minutes later by VK6AD and another 10 minutes behind was the VK6JRC team. VK6AD found the fox transmitter first and the VK6YBN team located it second. The official results are:

1st place: VK6AD (Hunting solo)

2nd place: VK6YBN team

3rd place: VK6JRC team

All hunters later retired to McDonalds at Belmont to warm the chills of the hunt! Next foxhunt will be held on Saturday, August 26th, 2003. The fox will be VK6AD team. All are welcome to attend and the start time, place and frequencies will be as per usual.

Time: 8.00pm

Place: Pioneer Women's Memorial Fountain, Kings Park

Freq's: 144.600MHz - Fox
146.700MHz Repeater - Liaison

Further information will be posted closer to the date.

Regards,

Rob VK6JRC

West Australian VHF Group Inc.

Annual General Meeting

22 September 2003

Nominations for Group Representatives

Position nominated:



Proposer:

Name	Signature	Date
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Seconder:

Name	Signature	Date
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Nominee:

Name	Signature	Date
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West Australian VHF Group Inc.

Annual Subscription

Send to **The Treasurer**

The West Australian VHF Group Inc.

PO BOX 189 Applecross 6953



Callsign: VK6

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Enclosed: _____

The 2003/2004 subscription is \$20 per Annum.