



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

Welcome to the first edition of '*Out and about in VK5*'.

This newsletter is dedicated to amateur radio activity in South Australia (VK5), centred around the following:

Summits on the Air (SOTA), the VK5 National & Conservation Parks award, the World Wide Flora and Fauna Program (WWFF), portable operation, QRP, and pedestrian mobile.

This newsletter will be released at the start of each month and emailed as a PDF. It will also be found online at the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio (AHARS) website at:

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

I welcome any news and photographs relating to the subject material.

You can email me stories and photos to:

simmopa@iprimus.com.au

If you know of anybody who would like to go on the mailing list for the newsletter, please get them to send me an email to the above address.

73 & have fun,

Paul, VK5PAS

OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5

Issue 1

November 2014

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The adventures of Ian and Hugh

By Ian VK5CZ



(On 27th & 28th Sept 2014, Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG activated 3 SOTA peaks near Yunta)

"Hugh and I went to Yunta to activate 4 summits but only found 3 but we now know how to get to number 4 next trip.

Great food and accommodation at the Yunta pub and a publican who was involved in the early 1960's youth radio scheme run by WIA when he was a lad. Some SOTA information was stuck on the pub notice board for the local ewe chasers to peruse.

They all seem to have these cool hats up that way and drink Southwark by the can??? Very strange, some

modern city slicker would be taking a stroll back in time.

They all seem to have these cool hats up that way and drink Southwark by the can??? Very strange, some modern city slicker would be taking a stroll back in time.

It's really funny to see them at the bar in such garb checking their iPhones.



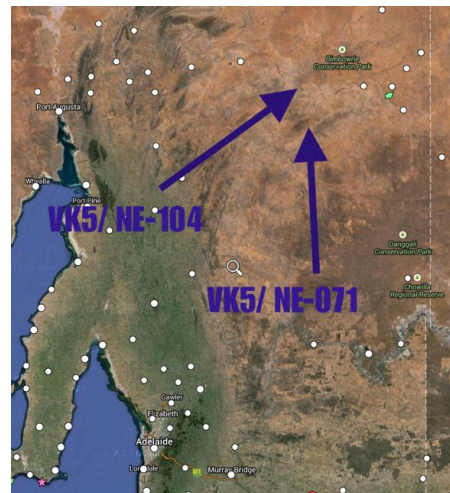
Ian scaling to the top of Karkala Ridge, VK5/ NE-104

Great that Hugh found access to these summits via the local managers, that way we don't have to deal with disinterested pastoral

companies to gain access, and to meet the local owners was great and you could not ask for better service in directions and things to watch for.

It's a great feeling to climb up to the top and find a name inscribed in a rock dated 1887 when you are probably the first radio ham to activate but surely not the first person to be on that hill.

With 5 local summits at the ready, Yunta is a great SOTA weekend destination I can recommend.



My next summit activation was Coomooroo Hill north of Morchard via Booleroo Centre. This is a 2km hike from leaving the 4B4 as a track will take you to a lower saddle before the ascent. The summit is 645 m asl with great views of the Flinders to the west and the Horse Shoe Range and those very

friendly Oladdie Hills off to the north easy.

South is Maurice Hill and the HogsHead so at this late time in the activating season you can recount all those winter activations that you have done previous for the year.



Really great friendly farmer making a life for his family on marginal country on his square mile of property as it was first subdivided back in the 1850's with the first water source being a single 90 foot deep well dug by the government at 'the Whim' a creek crossing and site for the first school for these unsuspecting farmers at the time.

Man, we got it hard. This year at least the crops are looking like more than a few bags per acre so they should make another year of it and total up the over draught.

A great activation with lots of 40m qso's and some on 20m as well.

WX was cool and flies limited but I did get out my slouch hat with fly vale for the first time this season. I got Mount Arden to go later in this month and that may be my last activation before the summer heat comes.

73 all cu next year de lan VK5CZ in premium wine country".



INTERESTING WEBSITES

SOTA

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

VK5 Parks Award

<http://www.vk5parks.com>

WWFF

<http://www.wwff.co>

<http://www.wwffaustalia.com>

Mapcarta

<http://mapcarta.com>

Peakery

<http://peakery.com>

G4AKC (pedestrian mobile)

<http://www.g4akc.co.uk>

VK5HCF

<http://vk5hcf.wordpress.com>

VK5BJE

<http://vk5bje.com>

VK5PAS

<http://www.vk5pas.com>

<https://vk5pas.wordpress.com>

VK5NQP

<http://vk5nqpblog.wordpress.com>

VK5FO

<http://vk5fo.com>

Lawnmower mobile

By Roger VK5NWE

"Nearly all our local group had an interest and were operating portable stations in some way or another. From Squid poles tied to fence posts or mounted on plates under vehicle wheels to sack trucks, trolleys, electric wheel chairs and gophers, converted TV antennas on broom sticks, all were being used or contemplated.

One day while sitting in my shed pondering the situation my eyes fell on my LA105 currently lying idle so I decided to experiment with the possibility of using it as my portable set up.



As the pictures will show it all turned out rather well.

My first antenna choice for HF was a Stationmaster vertical 11m antenna with a few extra meters added to the top of it, the tuning coil removed and fed with a homebrew 4:1 balun.



After some testing I decided I would incorporate a 2m component to the station so a converted channel 5A Yagi was installed in place of the Stationmaster and an end fed long wire to cover the HF side of operations.



Roger VK5NWE behind the wheel of his John Deere LA105.

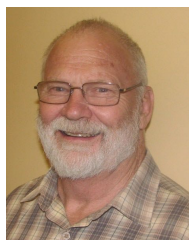
After some test QSO,s both antennas worked well. The equipment consists of a Kenwood TS50 with the 10w low power setting reduced to 5W for QRP work and an LDG Z100 Plus tuner to handle the coupling to the long wire.



A Kenwood TM231A is used for VHF operations. Ample power comes from a 105AH deep cycle battery located between the operator's feet.

Pedestrian mobile

By Doc VK5BUG



"Had a couple of good scores @ the local fortnightly auction today - pictures are of a NSW-built 12V electric-assisted, belt drive golf bag cart that I will turn into another pedestrian portable trolley.



For \$20, it came with a high-performance Century NS40Z lead acid battery (9.77Kg & retails for \$110), spring-loaded padded seat/storage compartment, golf tee storage rack which will become connecting leads rack, brilliant balance/weight

distribution & touch-easy steering, wire aerial (once coiled up) storage pod, chrome plating, large wheels for cross-country terrain, knock-down (2 x large knurled plastic knobs) for car or caravan transportation, & the overall physical design dimensions provide for a very stable base upon which to mount a squid pole, alloy vertical aerial or PVC mast etc.

I have a 20W solar battery charger for it already. Also in the picture is a 200 x 90mm & 100m roll of insulated 2.5mm² wire for aerals or radials - \$12



RECENT VK5 SOTA ACTIVATIONS

1. VK5/ NE-102 Waroonee Hill, Ian VK5CZ & Hugh VK5NHG (27/9/2014)
2. VK5/ NE-104 Karkala Range, Ian VK5CZ & Hugh VK5NHG (27/9/2014)

3. VK5/ NE-071 Oulina Hill, Ian VK5CZ & Hugh VK5NHG (28/9/2014)
4. VK5/ SE-001 Mount Bryan, John VK5BJE (29/9/2014)
5. VK5/ SE-005 Mount Lofty, Nigel VK5NIG (1/10/2014)
6. VK5/ NE-058 Mount Ngadjuri, Paul VK5PAS (2/10/2014)
7. VK5/ SE-004 BrownHill Range, Paul VK5PAS (3/10/2014)
8. VK5/ NE-051 Hogshead Hill, Paul VK5PAS (3/10/2014)
9. VK5/ SE-003 Hallett Hill, Paul VK5PAS (4/10/2014)
10. VK5/ SE-013 Mt Gawler, Bob VK5FO (8/10/2014)
11. VK5/ NE-088 Coomaroo Hill, Ian VK5CZ (11/10/2014)
12. VK5/ SE-013 Mt Gawler, Bob VK5FOZ (12/10/2014)
13. VK5/ SE-013 Mt Gawler, Nigel VK5NIG & Allen VK5LAM (24/10/2014)
14. VK5/ NE-034 Mount Arden, Ian VK5CZ (28/10/2014)

The VK5 Parks award

by Paul VK5PAS

The VK5 National and Conservation Parks award has now been running since April, 2013.

The award encourages portable operation from South Australia's 21 National Parks and 267 Conservation Parks.

In that time, over 100 different parks have been activated across the State. Nearly 130 award certificates have been issued to hams in VK2, VK3, VK5, VK6, & ZL.



Greg VK5ZGY operating at the Wolsley Common Conservation Park in the South East (Photo courtesy of Col VK5HCF).

Many hams have embraced the program. But particular praise goes to activators: Col VK5HCF, John VK5BJE, and Larry VK5LY, and Hunters: Brian VK5FMID, Peter VK3PF, Nick VK3ANL, Nev VK5WG, John VK2AWJ,

Amanda VK3FQSO, Tony VK3CAT, Tim VK5AV, and Peter VK3TKK (all have reached PLATINUM Hunter level)



Col VK5HCF operating at the Mary Seymour Conservation Park in the South East (Photo courtesy of Col VK5HCF).

Sadly we do not have a database to record activator and hunter information at this stage.

Despite my best efforts I have not been able to enthuse any of the computer 'geeks' that I know to create a database for us. So, if you do know of anyone that is prepared to put something together for the award, please let me know. I am sure that AHARS would be prepared to financially contribute to such an endeavor.

We also do not have an audible alerting application for mobile telephones, such as SOTAGoat and Rucksack Radio for the SOTA program. So again, if you do know of anyone who may be

able to put together such an 'app', I would be very keen to hear from them.



Paul VK5PAS operating at the Conservation Park Bridgewater in the Adelaide Hills

And a reminder, that the 2nd year anniversary of the VK5 Parks award will be held on 11th & 12th April, 2015. If you do intend to activate a park, please let me know so that I can keep everyone updated on who is activating what park.

Last year, there were a total of 98 park activations by 29 amateurs. I expect that next year will be even bigger and better.

More information on the award can be located on the VK5 Parks website at:

<http://www.vk5parks.com>

RECENT VK5 PARK ACTIVATIONS

- Spring Mount CP, Paul VK5PAS (25/10/2014)
- Yulti CP, Paul VK5PAS (25/10/2014)

- Stipiturus CP, Paul VK5PAS (25/10/2014)
- Black Hill CP, Mark VK5QI, Andy VK5AKH & Gary VK5FGRY (19/10/2014)
- Aldinga Scrub CP, Paul VK5PAS (19/10/2014)
- Giles CP, Paul VK5PAS (18/10/2014)
- Horsnell Gully CP, Paul VK5PAS (18/10/2014)
- Innes NP, Larry VK5LY (16/10/2014)
- Carribee CP, Larry VK5LY (16/10/2014)
- Warrenben CP, Larry VK5LY (16/10/2014)
- Leven Beach CP, Larry VK5LY (15/10/2014)
- Clinton CP, Larry VK5LY (13/10/2014)



John VK5BJE operating from the Red Banks Conservation Park (Photo courtesy of John VK5BJE).

- Black Hill CP, Paul VK5PAS (12/10/2014)
- Morialta CP, Paul VK5PAS (12/10/2014)

- Morialta CP, Mark VK5QI & Gary VK5FGRY (12/10/2014)
- Horsnell Gully CP, Mark VK5QI & Gary VK5FGRY (12/10/2014)
- Giles CP, Mark VK5QI & Gary VK5FGRY (12/10/2014)
- Port Gawler CP, Steve VK5AIM & Damien VK5FDEC (12/10/2014)
- Morgan CP, Chris VK4FR/5 (12/10/2014)



Col VK5HCF & Owen VK5HOS at the Douglas Point Conservation Park in the South East (Photo courtesy of Col VK5HCF).

- Swan Reach CP, Chris VK4FR/5 (12/10/2014)
- Murray River NP, Chris VK4FR/5 (12/10/2014)
- Pike River CP, Chris VK4FR/5 (12/10/2014)
- Coorong NP, Paul VK5PAS (11/10/2014)
- Maize Island CP, Chris VK4FR/5 (11/10/2014)
- Kaiserstuhl CP, Chris VK4FR/5 (11/10/2014)

- Douglas Point CP, Col VK5HCF & Owen VK5HOS (6/10/2014)
- Nene Valley CP, Col VK5HCF & Owen VK5HOS (6/10/2014)
- Carpenter Rocks CP, Col VK5HCF & Owen VK5HOS (6/10/2014)



John VK5BJE operating from the Mokota Conservation Park (Photo courtesy of JHohn VK5BJE).

- Canunda NP, Col VK5HCF & Owen VK5HOS (6/10/2014)
- Mokota CP, Paul VK5PAS (4/10/2014)
- Spring Gully CP, Paul VK5PAS (2/10/2014)
- Spring Gully CP, John VK5BJE (2/10/2014)
- Red Banks CP, John VK5BJE (1/10/2014)
- Mokota CP, John VK5BJE (1/10/2014)
- Spring Gully CP, John VK5BJE (27/9/2014)

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

By Paul VK5PAS



Introduction.

World Wide Flora and Fauna in amateur radio (WWFF) is an international and non-commercial program run by the co-ordinators of a large number of National Flora and Fauna programs. The WWFF program wants to.....

'draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna'.

Amateurs are encouraged to operate portable from designated nature parks and protected nature areas.

The WWFF program is run by the Chairman Lars PH0NO, and Vice chairman Max IK1GPG, and the national co-ordinators of the member countries. There are currently a total of 38 participating WWFF member countries in Europe, North

America, South America, Asia, and the Pacific.

More detailed information on the WWFF program can be found on the WWFF 'global' website at.....

<http://www.wwff.co>

History of WWFF.

The Flora and Fauna movement within ham radio was initiated in 2008 by the Russian Robinson Club as 'World Flora and Fauna' (WFF). In late 2012, the program was relaunched as 'World Wide Flora & Fauna in amateur radio' (WWFF). The Australian WWFF program (referred to as VKFF) commenced in March, 2013.



Qualifying Parks.

Qualifying parks for the WWFF program in Australia, are those National Parks that were established prior to 2008. A full list of all qualifying Australian National Parks and detailed information on the Awards

available can be found on the Australian WWFF website at.....

<http://wwffaustralia.weebly.com>

or in the WWFF Directory.

WWFF Directory.

The WWFF Directory contains all the qualifying National Parks and Nature Reserves around the world. The Directory can be downloaded from.....

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

What is the term '44'?

During a WWFF QSO you may hear the term '44'. What does this mean? The first digit '4' represents the four elements: earth, water, air, and fire. The second digit '4' represents the four directions: north, south, west & east.

WWFF LogSearch.

Activators are encouraged to submit their activator logs to the relevant National WWF co-ordinator, so that they can be uploaded to the WWFF LogSearch facility.

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

There is currently a total of 3,635,731 QSO's in the database, from 4,149 different references in 85 DXCC's.

WWFF Awards.

The WWFF program offers a multitude of award certificates. WWFF features a global award program for all hunters and activators of WWFF references. The participating National programs in WWFF also maintain various National award programs (this includes Australia). A list of national award programs can be found by clicking on the following link.....

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



In October 2013, the WWFF Global Award program was launched. These awards are based on the WWFF LogSearch database. A number of global awards are offered including.....

WWFF Hunter

The WWFF hunter award starts at 44 references with upgrade steps of 44 up to 444 and then steps of 100. A "novice" award has been added, especially for new hunters of the WWFF program.

WWFF Activator

The WWFF Activator award starts at 11 references and has upgraded steps of 11 references.

WWFF DXCC (DXFF)

WWFF Continents (ACFF)

VKFF Australian program

The Australian VKFF Award program is open to:

- Activators
- Hunters
- SWL's



John VK5BJE operating from the Eurobodalla National Park in New South Wales (Photo courtesy of John VK5BJE).

The threshold for QSO's and activation time has been lowered for the VKFF Awards. For global WWFF

awards, a minimum of 44 QSO's are required and an operation time of 2 hours. **Please note that for VKFF awards, a minimum of 10 QSO's is required, with an activation period of 30 minutes.** Also note, that this can be over multiple activations.

For VKFF Activators, there are five levels as follows.....

- Bronze (10 VKFF references)
- Silver (20)
- Gold (30)
- Platinum (40)
- Diamond (50)



For VKFF Hunters and SWL's there are also five levels as follows.....

- Bronze (work/hear 10 references)
- Silver (20)
- Gold (30)
- Platinum (40)
- Diamond (50)

WWFF Forum

WWFF has a dedicated Forum, where there is a variety of interesting information, and you can stay up to date with the latest news and activities. You are also encouraged to post your intended park activations on the Forum.

Facebook & Twitter.

<http://forum.wwff.co>

WWFF has a Facebook site.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wwff44>

And WWFF is also on Twitter. The link is on the WWFF global website.

How do I activate a WWFF park ?

In essence:-

- You and all the equipment you use need to be within the perimeters of the park
- For Australian awards you require 10 QSO's & 30 minutes activation time
- For WWFF global awards you require 44 QSO's & 2 hours activation time.

How do people know I am in a WWFF location ?

- Post your intended activation on the WWFF forum
- Post your intended activation on the Australian WWFF Yahoo group
- If possible use the Flora & Fauna frequencies (not always possible)
- When CQing, mention where you are.
- Once worked, you are likely to be spotted on the DX cluster

How do I confirm an activity / send in a log ?

- Send your log in ADIF format to the National co-ordinator