



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 9, July 2015

Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 9, July 2015, of 'Out and About in VK5'.

Well, I had two emails commenting on the new format. Thanks to Kym VK5FKYM and Peter VK3PF. So I can only presume that the new format is OK with everybody else? In any event, I have decided to stick to the 2 column format, as it appears to read a little better

I would also implore more hams to contribute to this newsletter as authors of an article. The same names keep appearing as contributors each issue. Surely, there is something out there that you would like to share with your fellow hams regarding portable activity, mobile, QRP, etc. It might have been an article you read, a home brew project, a favourite park, a recent activation. So come on, I welcome any contributions. It would be terrific to see some new names and call signs appear in Out & About. Please email me at....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

The month of June was quite a busy one for me. I travelled to the South East for the South East Radio Group's Convention, and whilst there activated a number of Conservation Parks. I also travelled to the Flinders Ranges, Gammon Ranges, and Far North with John VK5BJE and David VK5KC, & our dedicated wives, where we activated as VK100ANZAC at Farina, and also activated a number of rare SOTA peaks and parks for both the VK5 Parks Award & WWFF.

And Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG were busy again in the Mid North of South Australia, activating some rare and unique summits as part of the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program.

The usual suspects from the South East, including Col VK5HCF, were out as well activating Conservation Parks. And Rob VK4AAC/5 has been having a lot of fun working VK's and DX from parks on Kangaroo Island.

Best 73,

Paul, VK5PAS.

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VI5MCP at Morialta CP

By Bob VK5FO



Hi all,

Just giving everyone an early warning - and more info to follow in the coming weeks.

On the 17th July 2015, it is 100 years since the proclamation of Morialta Conservation Park - and AREG (Amateur radio Experimenters Group - www.areg.org.au) have applied for and been granted a special event callsign for the occasion.

Callsign VI5MCP will be active between 11-JUL-15 to 26-JUL-15 (ACST) in various capacities from - yes, you guessed it Morialta CP.

VI5MCP = Morialta Conservation Park - and to pre-empt, this is an advanced callsign even though it is MCP -- :)

We are finalizing all plans at the moment on exactly how we will be operating and we will be providing updates as the time approaches.

So, please keep in mind the dates, especially the

weekend of the 18th and 19th - as we will be looking to work DX on that weekend. We hope to have other low power activities as we can during the rest of the 2 weeks to give all VK activators the chance to get this Park and the special event QSL card.

So as to allow the DX the best chance over the 18-19th QRO activation (if we get it all approved, it will be 400W and multi-elements on 20-10M), and of course 160, 80 and 40M as well.



I will do my best to provide updates to the WWFF Australia & VK5 Parks lists and also keep an eye out on both my personal blog –

<http://vk5fo.com/>

and the AREG blog

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

and QRZ.com

<http://www.qrz.com/db/VI5MCP>

for updates.

Cheers, Bob VK5FO

Access to SOTA summits

By Paul VK5PAS



The issue of access to SOTA summits has risen its head again on the SOTA Australia Yahoo group. This was due to a post from VK4DMC who had seen a video posted on the SOTA Facebook site of some VK3 hams activating a summit who rode motorbikes direct to the summit and then set up on the seats of their bikes and commenced making contacts. It appeared that the hams were using batteries independent of the motorcycles, but were using the bike seats to support their transceivers.

See the video below.....

<https://youtu.be/rZKS5eo87jM>

I read with great interest the thread that followed with people's 'understanding of the rules and their interpretation. But I think Andrew VK1DA summed it up accurately in that the rules are vague and that 'it is up to each person to decide what he will do to observe the rules of the award'.

I noted that one or 2 hams were still talking

about 'final approach to the summit'. I am not sure what document they are looking at, but there is no reference to 'final access' anymore. This has been removed, as Rick MoLEP pointed out in the thread on the Yahoo group re this discussion.

Wayne VK3WAM, the VK3 Association Manager, in response to the video stated:-

Hi all,

I noted this while I was up in PNG and have had a conversation with a small group of active activators.

It is clear to me that the SOTA general rules have been breeched:

3.5.4 "Summits that are accessible by road can still be included in the programme, although operation from within vehicles or the near vicinity of activator's vehicles is not permitted."

3.7.3 "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. (see <http://reflector.sota.org.uk/t/first-activation-in-a-long-while/5619>)"

It appears to be the first activation of one of the activators and there was some confusion about the rules. The VK3 association is not going to request either the activators to withdraw their logs or to ask the SOTA MT to cancel the activation, however if any of these activators do the same thing again, we reserve

these rights. SOTA participants are entitled to expect that all activations shall comply with the SOTA general rules.

If anyone is in contact with the activators, could you please give them a gentle reminder of the above SOTA general rules.

73 de Wayne VK3WAM
VK3 SOTA AM

In March this year, the SOTA General Rules underwent major revision. This included clarification of the rules re operation ‘within’ or ‘near’ a vehicle.

Rule 3.7.1 note 3 states.....

“Operations must not be in, or in 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”.

Rule 3.7.1 note 5 states.....

“All equipment must be carried to the site by the Activation team”.

Rule 3.7.1.1 note 6 states.....

“All equipment must be operated from a portable power source (batteries, solar cells, etc). Operation is expressly forbidden using permanently installed power sources or fossil-fuel generators of any kind”.

For the very latest SOTA General Rules, please see.....

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

How to save a VKFF file in the correct format

By Col VK5HCF

I have placed on You Tube, a brief tutorial on how to upload your VKFF Park log as an A.D.I.F. file and name it correctly for sending to the administrator.

Click on the link below to view the video.....

<https://youtu.be/6bYPLW9Juso>

Trip to the South East

By Paul VK5PAS

At the start of June, I made a trip down to the South East of South Australia. I had a great time at the South East Radio Convention held on the Saturday and Sunday. I highly recommend this to anyone who hasn't attended. Congrats to the SERG team for putting it all together.

I set up a small display on Saturday promoting

the VK5 Parks Award & WWFF.



Above:- The parks display. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

I also activated a few parks whilst in the area, including a joint activation with Alan VK5FAJS. It was very pleasing to pick a number of new 'regular' park hunters who have gained an interest in the VK5 Parks Award & WWFF.

And also some regular calls on 40m from Ken ZL4KD (even during the middle of the day).

Not all the activations went to plan. There were a couple of parks I did not get to.....Talapar and Mullinger Swamp. This was due to a combination of the terrible weather & not being able to access Talapar.

But I did sneak in some others.

Here are some stats from my activations.....

- Total of 17 parks activated
- 11 unique VK5 parks for me
- 8 unique WWFF parks for me
- Total of 751 contacts
- about 1700 km driven over the 6 days
- countries worked: VK, ZL, USA,

Belgium, Italy, Germany, France, Poland, Spain, Israel, Hungary, England, Belarus, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Canada.

Thursday 4th

- Aberdour Conservation Park.....25 contacts
- Christmas Rocks Conservation Park.....21 contacts
- Naracoorte Caves National Park VKFF-380.....63 contacts

Friday 5th

- Fairview Conservation Park.....36 contacts
- Vivigani Ardune Conservation Park.....35 contacts
- Mary Seymour Conservation Park.....27 contacts
- Big Heath Conservation Park VKFF-792.....45 contacts
- Hacks Lagoon Conservation Park.....32 contacts



Above:- The 'shack' at the Vivigani Ardune CP. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

Saturday 6th

- Penambol Conservation Park VKFF-802.....52 contacts

Sunday 7th

- Ewens Ponds Conservation Park.....66 contacts
- Piccanininnie Ponds Conservation Park.....35 contacts

Monday 8th

- Telford Scrub Conservation Park VKFF-805.....63 contacts
- Tantanoola Caves Conservation Park VKFF-804.....49 contacts
- Nene Valley Conservation Park VKFF-801.....49 contacts

- Penola Conservation Park VKFF-803.....73 contacts

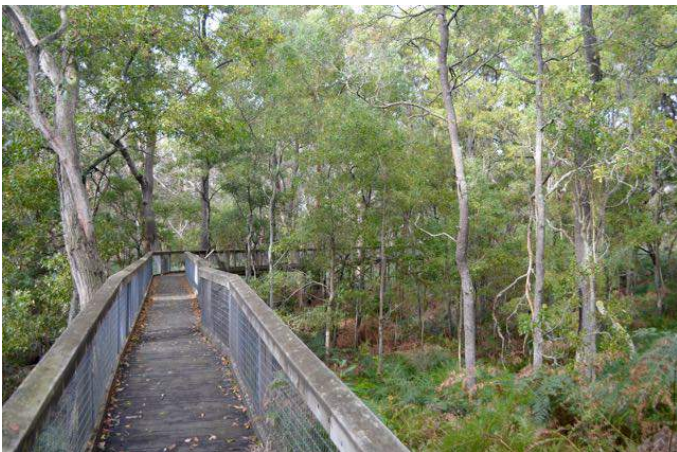
For more information on the activations, and to view photographs, please have a look at my Wordpress site at.....

<http://vk5pas.org/>

Thankyou to everyone that called, and thanks to those who took the time to spot me on either parksnparks and/or the DX Cluster. It really does help.

Best 73,

Paul,
VK5PAS



*Above:- Boardwalk in the Telford CP.
Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.*

Tuesday 9th

- Gower Conservation Park VKFF-798.....50 contacts
- Calectasia Conservation Park.....30 contacts

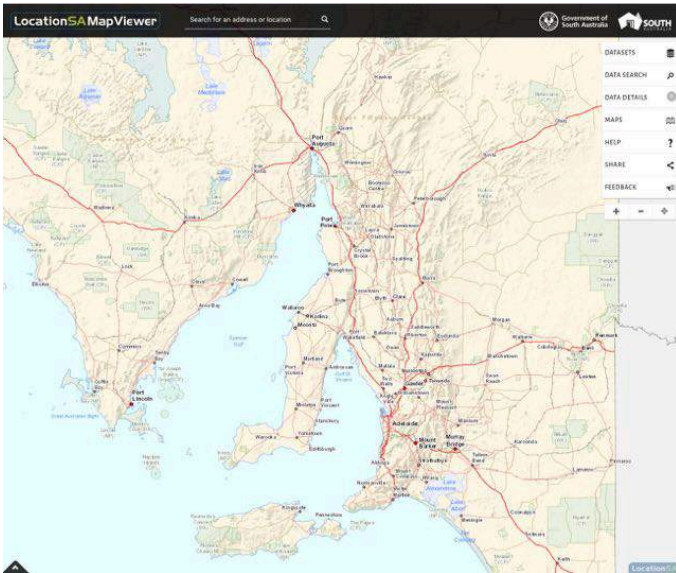
New SA web site

By Colin VK5FCJM

New SA web site shows National & Conservation Parks (and a lot more)

<http://www.location.sa.gov.au/viewer/>

Cheers from Colin.
VK5FCJM



Editors note:- I have checked out this website and it is terrific. It will be incredibly useful for both SOTA & parks activators. It contains some good topographic maps.

Recent Park Activations

Here is a list of recent park activations by VK5's (that I am aware of). Again, a busy month, with lots of activity. But a lot of the same calls keep appearing. Come on new activators, give it a try.

- Kelly Hill Conservation Park, Rob VK4AAC/5 (28/6/2015)
- Penambol Conservation Park VKFF-802, Col VK5HCF (27/6/2015)



Above:- Col VK5HCF & Owen VK5HOS at Penambol CP. Photo courtesy of Col VK5HCF

- Cox Scrub Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (27/6/2015)
- Kyeema Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (27/6/2015)
- Lake Torrens National Park VKFF-278, John VK5BJE (21/6/2015)
- Lake Torrens National Park VKFF-278, Paul VK5PAS (21/6/2015)
- Vivonne Bay Conservation Park VKFF-811, Rob VK4AAC/5 (20/6/2015)
- Flinders Ranges National Park VKFF-176, John VK5BJE (20/6/2015)



Above:- John at Flinders Ranges NP. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

- Flinders Ranges National Park VKFF-176, David VK5KC (20/6/2015)
- Flinders Ranges National Park VKFF-176, Paul VK5PAS (20/6/2015)
- Gammon Ranges National Park VKFF-189, Paul VK5PAS (19/6/2015)
- The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park VKFF-817, Paul VK5PAS (15/6/2015)
- Mount Brown Conservation Park, David VK5KC (15/6/2015)
- Mount Brown Conservation Park, John VK5BJE (15/6/2015)
- Mount Brown Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (15/6/2015)
- Morialta Conservation Park, Steve VK5SFA (13/6/2015)
- Telford Scrub Conservation Park, Alan VK5FAJS (13/6/2015)
- Telford Scrub Conservation Park, Col VK5HCF (13/6/2015)
- Winninowie Conservation Park VKFF-820, Paul VK5PAS (13/6/2015)
- Clinton Conservation Park VKFF-813, Paul VK5PAS (13/6/2015)
- Flinders Chase National Park, VKFF-173, Rob VK4AAC/5 (13/6/2015)
- Penola Conservation Park VKFF-803, Paul VK5PAS (10/6/2015)
- Calcectasia Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (10/6/2015)
- Gower Conservation Park VKFF-798, Paul VK5PAS (10/6/2015)
- Nene Valley Conservation Park VKFF-801, Paul VK5PAS (9/6/2015)

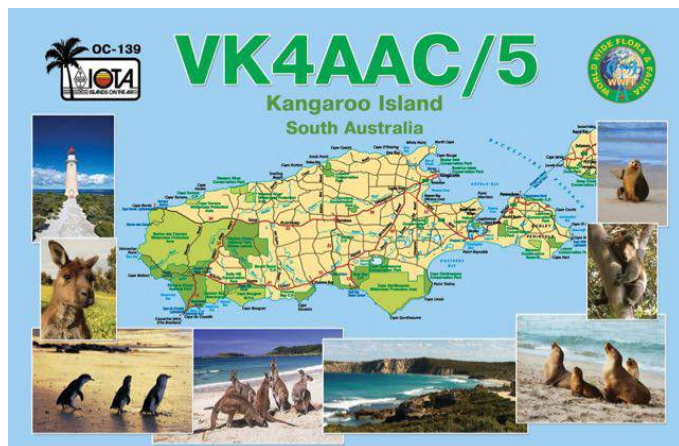
- Tantanoola Caves Conservation Park VKFF-804, Paul VK5PAS (8/6/2015)
- Tantanoola Caves Conservation Park VKFF-801, Alan VK5FAJS (8/6/2015)



Above:- Alan VK5FAJS at the Tantanoola Caves CP. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

- Telford Scrub Conservation Park VKFF-805, Paul VK5PAS (8/6/2015)
- Cooltong Conservation Park, Gordon VK5GY/p (8/6/2015)
- Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (7/6/2015)
- Dudley Conservation Park VKFF-809, Rob VK4AAC/5 (7/6/2015)
- Ewens Ponds Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (7/6/2015)
- Penambol Conservation Park VKFF-802, Paul VK5PAS (6/6/2015)
- Hacks Lagoon Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (5/6/2015)
- Big Heath Conservation Park VKFF-792, Paul VK5PAS (5/6/2015)

- Mary Seymour Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (5/6/2015)
- Viviganni Ardune Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (5/6/2015)
- Fairview Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (5/6/2015)
- Naracoorte Caves National Park VKFF-380, Paul VK5PAS (4/6/2015)
- Christmas Rocks Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (4/6/2015)
- Aberdour Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS (4/6/2015)



Above:- QSL card for Rob VK4AAC/5 whilst on Kangaroo Island. Image courtesy of Rob VK4AAC/5

For more information on the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award please have a look at.....

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

And for more information on the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, please have a look at.....

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

Recent SOTA activations



Quite a lot of SOTA activity this month due in large to the efforts of Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG, and the trip north by John VK5BJE, David VK5KC, & Paul VK5PAS.

Mount Gawler summit continues to be a regular hangout for Bob VK5FO and Nigel VK5NIG.

And it was great to see Ben VK5BB out for the first time at Mount Gawler.

Come on VK5, there are 3 very accessible summits in close proximity to Adelaide, which require very little walking.

For more information on SOTA in VK5, please check out.....

<http://www.sota.org.uk/Associations/viewAssociation/prefix/VK5>

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

- Depot Hill VK5/ NE-048, Ian VK5CZ (28/6/2015)
- Depot Hill VK5/ NE-048, Hugh VK5NHG (28/6/2015)

- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Ben VK5BB (28/6/2015)
- Black Rock VK5/ NE-035, Ian VK5CZ (28/6/2015)
- Black Rock VK5/ NE-035, Hugh VK5NHG (28/6/2015)



Above:- Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG on Black Rock summit. Image courtesy of Ian VK5CZ

- Eke Hill VK5/ NE-069, Ian VK5CZ (27/6/2015)
- Eke Hill VK5/ NE-069, Hugh VK5NHG (27/6/2015)
- Marchant Hill VK5/ NE-043, Ian VK5CZ (27/6/2015)
- Marchant Hill VK5/ NE-034, Hugh VK5NHG (27/6/2015)
- Mount Arden VK5/ NE-034, David VK5KC (22/6/2015)
- Mount Arden VK5/ NE-034, John VK5BJE (22/6/2015)
- Mount Arden VK5/ NE-034, Paul VK5PAS (22/6/2015)



Above:- David VK5KC, John VK5BJE, & Paul VK5PAS on the top of Mount Arden. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

- Mount Scott VK5/ NE-111, John VK5BJE (19/6/2015)
- Mount Scott VK5/ NE-111, Paul VK5PAS (19/6/2015)
- The Devils Peak VK5/ NE-080, David VK5KC (15/6/2015)
- The Devils Peak VK5/ NE-080, John VK5BJE (15/6/2015)
- The Devils Peak VK5/ NE-080, Paul VK5PAS (15/6/2015)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Bob VK5FO (14/6/2015)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Bob VK5FO (13/6/2015)
- Hallett Hill VK5/ SE-003, Ian VK5CZ (7/6/2015)
- Mount Cone VK5/ SE-002, Ian VK5CZ (7/6/2015)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Nigel VK5NIG (5/6/2015)



Above:- David VK5KC and John VK5BJE operating from The Devils Peak. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

If you have put together a video or seen a video on a website or on You Tube that you think is related to the subject material in this newsletter, please drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Bands other than 20m

By Rob VK4FFAB

Recent videos

By Paul VK5PAS

Here are some links to some recent videos posted by SOTA & Park activators.....

Alan VK5FAJS and Col VK5HCF in Telford Scrub CP

<https://youtu.be/q7TAxadftsA>

VK5HCF, VK5EE, & VK5FAJS at Lower Glenelg Conservation Park.

<https://youtu.be/-o5k4xmDwg4>

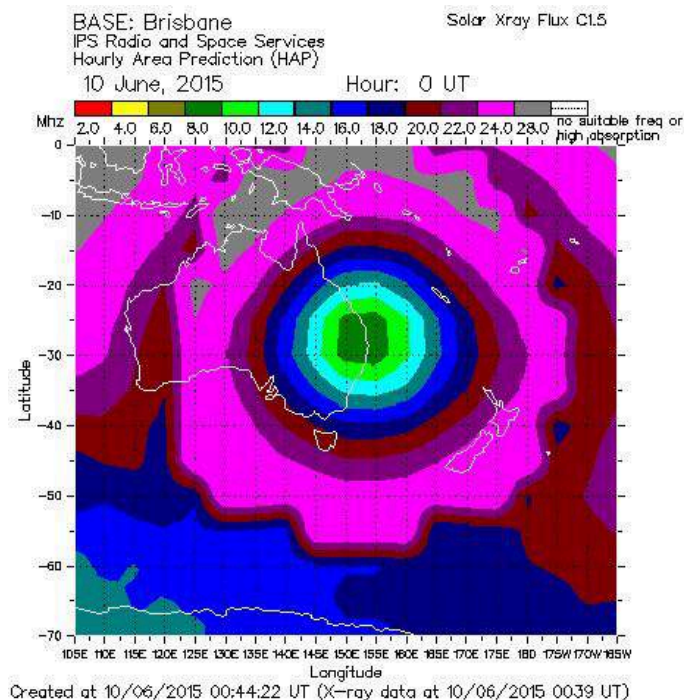
2EoHPI/p (GFF-208) contact with VK5PAS

<https://youtu.be/PN4x8gYTHNA>



I was having an interesting discussion the other day with a couple of guys about the bands we use and how 40m is not always the best answer for making VK contacts. If you are like me and live in VK4, 40m is more often than not, a total failure to work VK3 and 5 where the bulk of the chasers reside. So what can we do?

Well the first thing I do is consult the HAP Chart. What is the HAP Chart you may ask, well its a nice bit of information that shows you the upper frequency range that is usable between any 2 given points.



Above:- IMAGE 1: Brisbane Hap Chart

Image 1 is a typical HAP Chart centred on Brisbane. Each colour represents a band and it becomes an easy task to just draw a line between where you are, in this case its me in Brisbane and the location you wish to work, Adelaide, Perth and most of Tasmania all fall within the 20-22mhz range, which our 15m band falls right in the middle of.

This chart was taken in the morning about 10am, but as the day progresses Melbourne will come in to the 15m band also. A few weeks ago, Steve VK3MEG and myself had a 40min CW QSO on 15m after consulting the HAP Chart, with signals both ways in the S9 40+db over range. Steve was actually peaking 60db over to me.

Now, you can also test your theory to see if the

band is open by using the Reverse Beacon Network. To do this all you need to do is call cq using CW then look up on the web to see just where you are being heard.

showing spots for DX call: VK4FFAB
search spot by callsign

rows to show: 15

| de | dx | freq | cq/dx | snr | speed | time |
|--------|---------|---------|--------------|-------|--------|--------------|
| VK4CT | VK4FFAB | 21044.2 | CW CQ [LoTW] | 31 dB | 21 wpm | 0055z 10 Jun |
| ZL2HAM | VK4FFAB | 21044.1 | CW CQ [LoTW] | 23 dB | 20 wpm | 0054z 10 Jun |

[IMAGE 2 Reverse Beacon Network](#)

Image 2 shows the output of a RBN search, showing that I was being heard in ZL and VK4 whose station is 1 suburb away from me, about 1km as the crow flies, so you can see just how strong my signal is to ZL compared to someone very close to me, not much difference at all.

Now a lot of people think you need a special antenna to use 15m. You don't. In fact your 40m dipole will work just fine without a tuner in most cases. I use the Sota Beams 80,40,30,20 linked dipole on 15m without a tuner and the radio is more than happy with the SWR presented, giving the full 10w out with an SWR of about 1.7:1.

So don't be afraid to give 15m a go, be that as a chaser or an activator. The only way we can get critical mass for WWFF, VK5 Parks, SOTA etc in places like VK4, 6, 8 is if we have chasers. And as most of the chasers live in VK3 and 5, this means using 15m more often to access them.

Cheers and thanks for reading,

Rob VK4FFAB

LINKS:

HAP CHARTS:

http://www.ips.gov.au/HF_Systems/1/1

REVERSE BEACON:

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/srch.php>

Special call ON1418WOD

By Paul VK5PAS

Many WWFF park hunters would know Swa ON5SWA who is a regular working into VK from ONFF reference areas in Belgium. Here is some info on a special event portable call from Belgium coming up.....

Leon ON4VLM, Rene ON3VS, Swa ON5SWA, Eric ON3EE and Joris ON3JL are going to commemorate all the victims of the Wire of Death between 1915 and 1918 in Hamont-Achel.

The BIPT granted the members of WLBR a license with the special callsign "ON1418WOD". WOD stands for Wire of Death.



The special event station will be on the air on Sunday the 19th of July 2015 from 8:00 o'clock local time in the morning till.... First on 80m and on 40m. And in the afternoon you can find the station on 20m.



There is also going to be a Livestream available from time to time on the 19th of July 2015:

<http://www.brainrepublic.com/en/livestream.php?uid=9ee4ca9fb-3ede-4250-8644-bfb03f4e3a79>

QSL via PA3249 (QSL MANAGER)

<https://ssl.qrzcq.com/call/PA3249>

Or Direct via Harry de Jong, Broekdijk 59, 7695 TC Bruchterveld, The Netherlands.

Or via buro

We hope to put you in our log on the 19th of July.

Until then....

Leon ON4VLM, Rene ON3VS, Swa ON5SWA, Eric ON3EE and Joris ON3JL

A request re logs for WWFF LogSearch

By Andrew M0YMA



When submitting logs to Paul VK5PAS, can you please use the following format.....

callsign @ reference YYYYMMDD

Log files can have multiple references (using the MY_SIG and MY_SIG_INFO fields) – in which case use “Various” for the reference in the filename. Likewise, if the activity is over a number of days, it doesn’t matter whether the first or last date is used – the information is not important, nor is the filename format enforced!

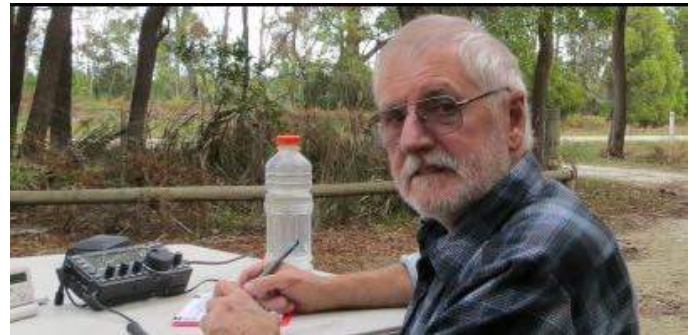
The reasoning is that I’m using the filename as a (very simplistic) duplication check, and logs simply named (eg XXFF-123.adi) are triggering the “Dupe Check” when someone else tries to upload XXX-123.adi

My thanks to all activators

Andrew MoYMA
WWFF LogSearch Administrator

How to set up a portable station

By Col VK5HCF



Hi,

For some strange reason quite a few experienced amateurs seem to be hesitant about setting up a portable station. Paul, VK5PAS has suggested that he believes that many are not sure how to go about it.

I recorded this video of Greg, VK5ZGY demonstrating his set up in the back yard a few months back but I have only now got around to finishing it off.

All of the antenna is homebrew and the whole set up is very simple and quick to put up. Greg uses homebrew reels for storing the antenna parts as well.

Have a look and get out there and give it a try.

There is something “magic” about going into a park, setting up and getting on air with minimal or no RF noise at all.

We hope that this short video might inspire some more of you to give it a go.

<https://youtu.be/a1QXyjidEi4>

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

- Adrian VK5FAJH
- Ben VK5TX

A reminder that the VK5 Parks Award Yahoo group can be found at.....

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sanpcpa/info>

It is FREE and EASY to join.

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

- Allen VK3HRA
- Danny OT4V
- Peter VK3ZPF
- Iain VK5ZIF

The VK5 Parks Award Facebook site can be found at.....

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

I am pleased to report that we now have 63 members from around Australia.

Tips for a successful park activation

By Paul VK5PAS

Are you planning on heading out to activate a park for the first time. Well, if you are, here are some tips on how to fill up your log book and attract more park hunters.....

- The secret is in the antenna
- Try different bands
- Place your intentions on as many forums as possible, e.g. Facebook, Yahoo group, parksnparks
- Consider the time of day/know when the various bands are open
- Look at the solar figures/propagation conditions
- Be patient. You may not get any callers at first, so persevere and keep calling CQ
- Know how to manage a pile up. Even on 40m, there is a good chance that you will end up with one of these.
- Try to keep your overs short, to keep those park Hunters waiting, interested.
- Explain on air, what you are doing, and that you need a certain number of QSOs to qualify the park
- Time your activation so it coincides with other park activations.
- Try booking in to one of the various Nets if things are slow

- Ask someone to place you on the DX Cluster. Remember, the DX Code of Conduct for the cluster....it is impolite to self-spot
- Consider setting up an SMS group on your mobile telephone
- Try a group email to all your amateur friends
- Use the local repeater to let people know that you are there

2016 IUCN Congress

By Paul VK5PAS



Planet at the crossroads
Call for Contributions
Forum of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016



The next IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place in Hawaii, USA, from 1 to 10 September 2016.

Please try to keep it short

By Paul VK5PAS

On the weekend, Andrew VK1NAM activated the Oakey Hill Nature Reserve, VKFF-858, and was called by a station amongst the pile up, who did not quite know when to put down the mic.

Here's what Andrew posted on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group.....

Hi all

Thanks to the hunters who chased me today on VKFf-858. 37 unique chasers including 4 EU park chasers. I did fall short of the 44 contacts, which will mean a revisit to Oakey Hill Nature Reserve. :)

Thanks also to those that waited patiently while I convinced the VK2 station I really was operating on battery power and I didn't have time for a long QSO. The chap isn't a regular chaser.

73 Andrew VK1NAM

So, please, keep your overs short if the SOTA or park activator has a bit of a 'pile-up' going. It can be incredibly frustrating for both the activator and all the patient chasers and/or hunters who are waiting in line.

Homebrew, How about You?

By Rob VK4FFAB



Some say that Homebrew and CW are the pinnacle of all Amateur Radio, me, I am no so

fussy one way or the other. However, a lot can be said for making things with your own hands that work.

On a recent SOTA activation John VK2YW took a \$10 Pixie kit radio along and successfully activated the peak using less than 1w CW (Image 1) so a lot can be said for using home brew gear in the field be that scratch built or kit built for WWFF, SA Parks or SOTA.

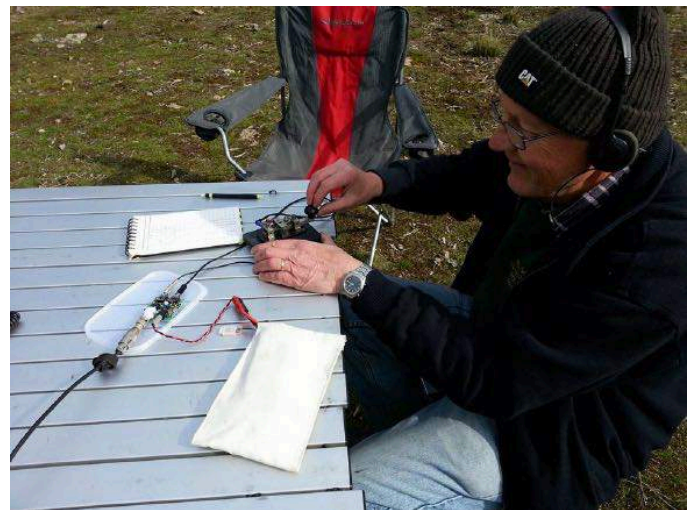


IMAGE 1: John VK2YW and Pixie Transceiver.

So over the last few weeks I have not been well and have not had the drive or energy to be going out and making park activations, but I have been keeping my mind and hands busy with other interests, which for me means, home brewing radio gear.

My method of building is called Manhattan or Ugly style and while it might look like a pile of junk, this method of building does produce very good results. Ultimately, my experimentation will lead to the construction of what I have termed my Ultimate Survival Radio.

So, what are the essential things I must have in a home brew survival radio. The first obvious thing is low power consumption, SSB and CW operation, at least 40m and preferentially 20, 15 and 10 as well and 10w out. It should also contain keyboard cw keying, DDS based VFO, T-Match Tuner, variable width audio filters for CW and SSB.

I started this project with no real plan or goal in mind, just picking bits and pieces out of Experimental Methods in RF Design by Hayward, Campbell and Larkin, as well as the Homebrew Cookbook and Building a Transceiver by Eamon Skelton building them, testing them and then wondering about how to make them better.

And so I have come to formulate a plan out of the things I have learned, what I liked about various projects and thing I considered to be uncomplicated. My approach had been to be as modular as possible that way as I find a better way of doing things, I can replace just the module and not have to rebuild the entire project. With each module to eventually be connected together with RG318 and SMA connectors.

IMAGE 2: 40m Direct Conversion Receiver

So far I have built and tested a 40m Direct Conversion Receiver (IMAGE 2), pulled out the local oscillator and replaced it with a VFO (IMAGE 3) that gave coverage from 7.000 to 7.060, and used this receiver to complete a CW qso with a station in VK2.

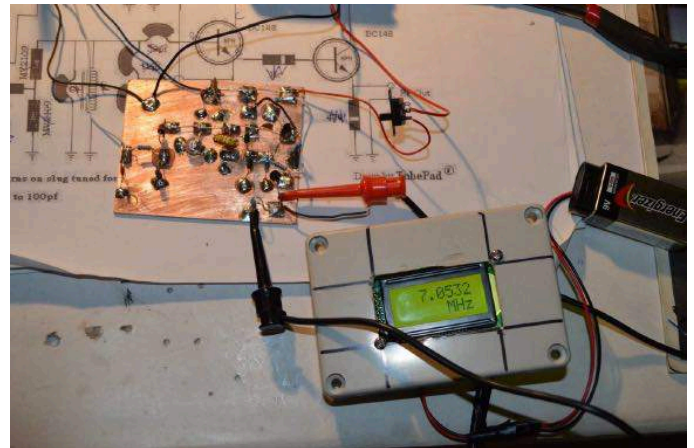


IMAGE 3: Simple 40m VFO

The drift of this VFO was very noticeable so it was removed and replaced with a DDS VFO which gave full 40m band coverage and no drift at all, built using an Arduino and AD9850. (IMAGE 4)

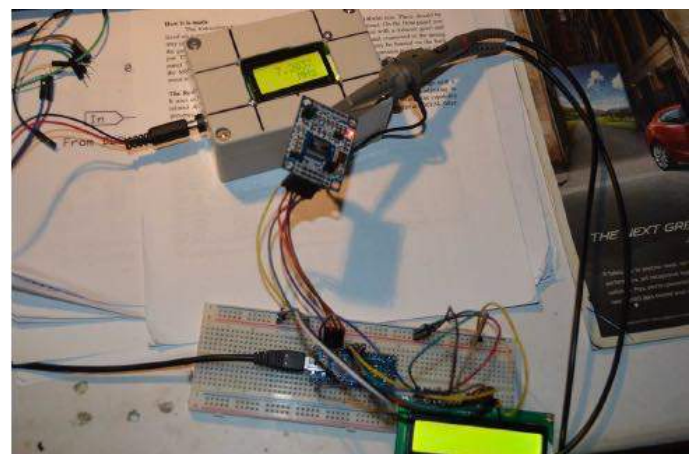
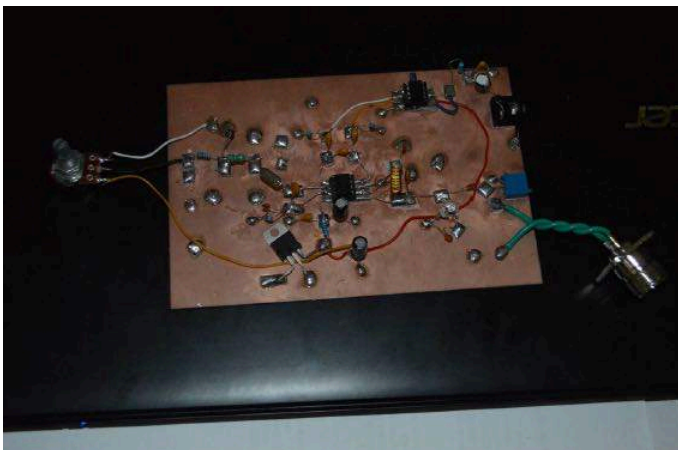


IMAGE 4: Arduino DDS VFO

To improve the out of band signal rejection of the receiver a 7th order Band Pass Filter was built, aligned and added to the circuit. (Image 5)

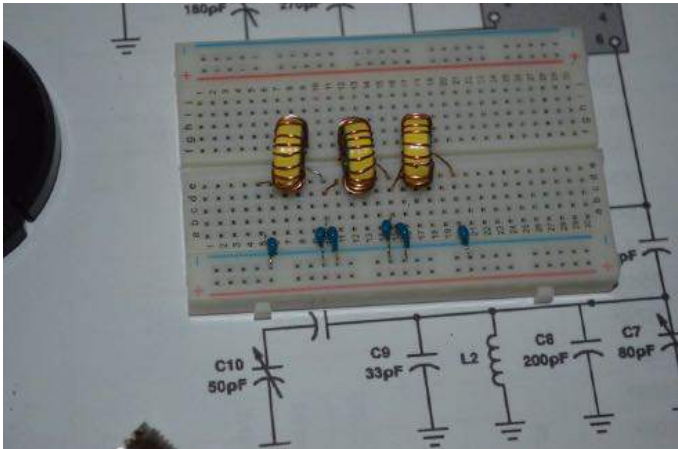


IMAGE 5: 7th order Chebyshev BPF

Other things on the horizon for this part of the project include active CW and SSB filtering using either active capacitance or op amp active filtering, building the TX and integrating it all together.

So it won't be long and I will be sitting a license upgrade and be able to use my other home brew gear on the air rather than into a dummy load, and I cannot wait to be doing activations with my homebrew SSB rig. So watch out world HIHI.

Well I hope that this long read has not been too boring or uneventful for you HIHI and that you have been suitably inspired to give home brew a go the goal being to use that home brew gear for an activation or 3. If you have any questions about anything I have shown here you can email me direct

vk4ffab@spin.net.au

or hit me up on the WWFF Yahoo Group or facebook.

Cheers,

Rob VK4FFAB

Activation of G/SP-013 Gun

By Mike 2E0YYY

Activation of G/SP-013 Gun, Wednesday 10/06/2015.

For those Activators amongst you who are looking to work some DX early in the morning, you may be in for something of a rude awakening. At 0540z, I was QRV on the 20m band and in 25 minutes of calling, had just two contacts to show for it :-)



Above: The trig point. Photo courtesy of Mike 2E0YYY

DX was as rare a rocking horse manure, with Paul VK5PAS the sole VK of the activation to make my log. The only other SOTA DX Chaser worked was Alberic NP3MR, from Puerto Rico. A couple of summit to summits were about the only saving grace of what were very difficult band conditions. Just 32 contacts logged for 2 hours of calling.

73 Mike , 2EoYYY

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS

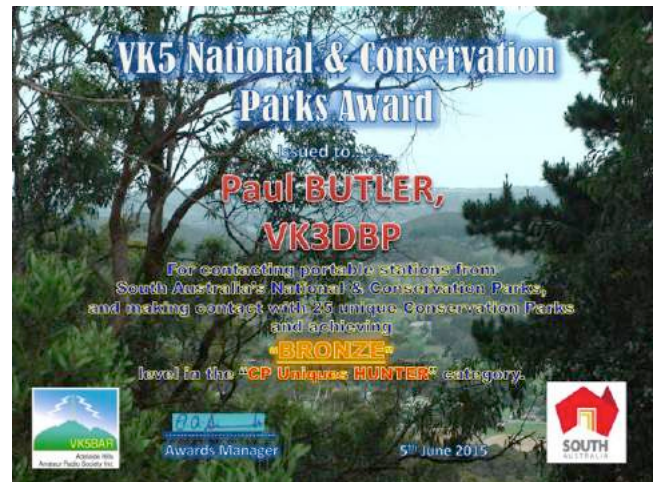
SOTA

NIL known

VK5 Parks Award

Paul VK3DBP

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



Jeff VK5JK

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



Ken ZL4KD

- Bronze Hunter
- Silver Hunter

Rob VK4FFAB

- Bronze CP Uniques Hunter
- Bronze NP Uniques Hunter
- Silver NP Uniques Hunter

Rex VK3OF

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



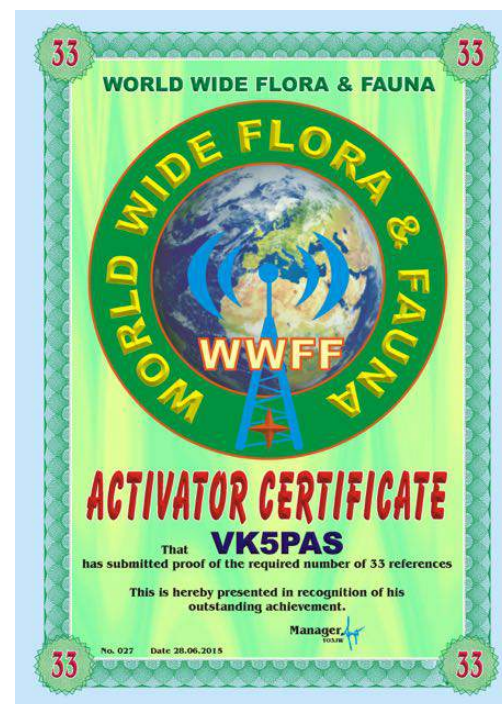
WWFF

David VK5NQP

- Diamond VKFF Hunter

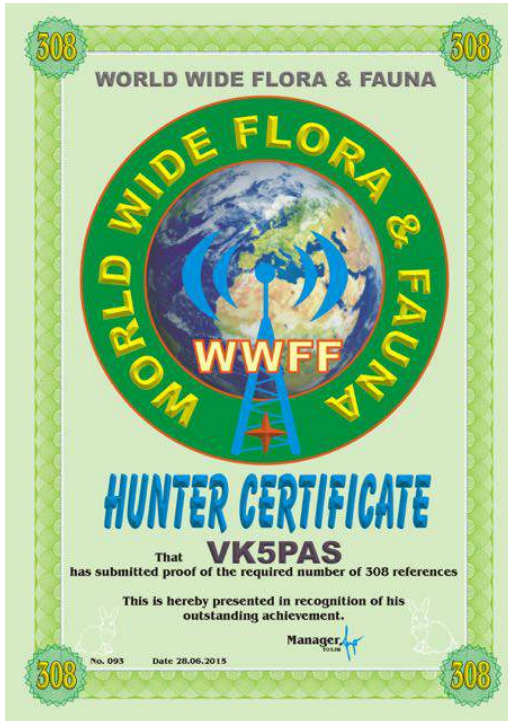
Paul VK5PAS

- 33 ref areas activated



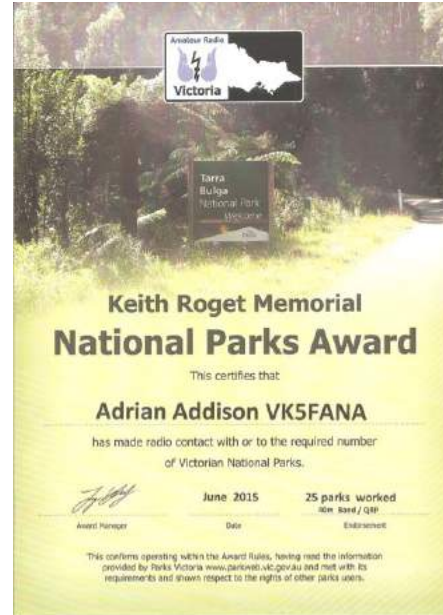
Paul VK5PAS

- 308 ref areas worked



Adrian VK5FANA

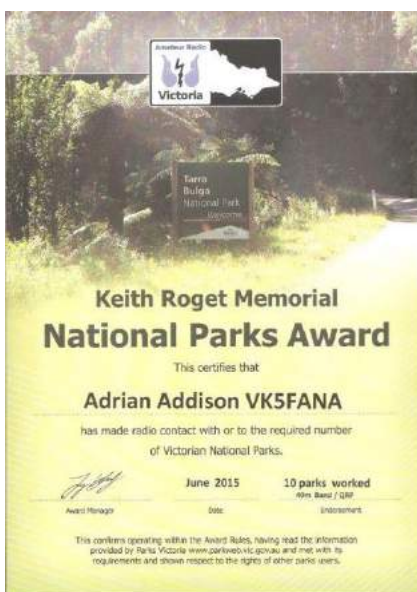
- 25 Victorian National Parks



Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

Adrian VK5FANA

- 10 Victorian National Parks



Pixie CW kit

By Paul VK5PAS

The Pixie is a small CW QRP transceiver. It operates on one of several different bands (10-160m) and runs all day on a 9 volt battery. For more information have a look at.....

http://www.kenneke.com/Ham_Radio_Kits.html



Has anyone put one of these together and used it. If you have, I would love to hear from you. Drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS

If you have worked an overseas SOTA or WWFF station, please send me the details to....

vk5pas@wai.org.au

...and I will include it here.

To work the SOTA & WWFF DX, keep an eye on SOTA Watch....

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

And WWFF Hamspots.....

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

Below is a list of VK5 to DX (SOTA & parks contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.

Slim pickings for me this month, as I did very little DXing from home.

- Franco IZ5YHD/p, ITALY IFF-664, (12/6/2015)
- Dave G4AKC pedestrian mobile (12/6/2015)
- Swa ON5SWA/p, BELGIUM ONFF-201, (11/6/2015)
- Danny OT4V/p, BELGIUM ONFF-143 (10/6/2015)
- Mike 2EoYYY/p, ENGLAND-SOTA (10/6/2015)
- SP9YFF/p, POLAND SPFF-945 (3/6/2015)
- Carl 2EoHPI/p (running 2.5 watts), GFF-208, (3/6/2015)
- SP5ZIM/p, POLAND SPFF-695 (3/6/2015)

AR promotion at Cobbler Creek

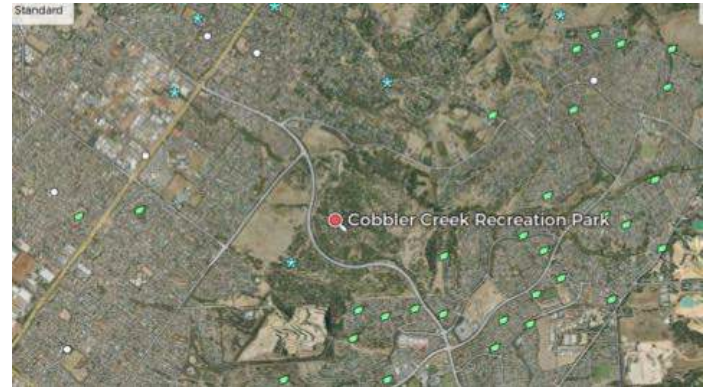
By Chris VK4FR



Sunday 31st May The Friends of Cobbler Creek (FOCC, normally referred to as FOCCers) held their open day which was attended by several dignitaries including the SA Environment, Water and Natural Resources Chief Executive, Sandy Pitcher.

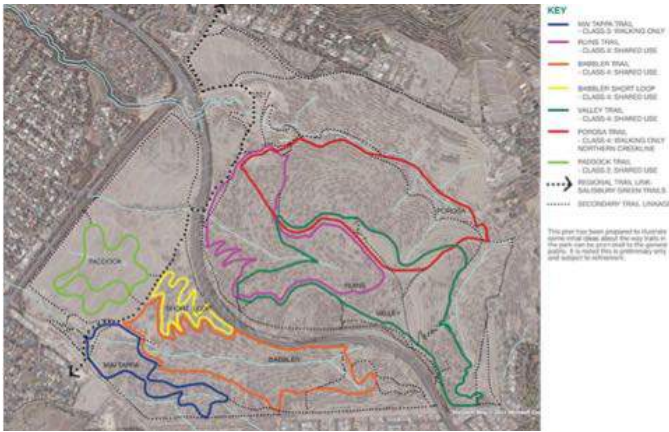
The president of the FOCCers, Steven Rodgers, extended an invitation to have a site for the day as the aims of both VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award are broadly aligned.

Cobbler Creek Recreation Park is located approximately 19 km north of Adelaide between the urban areas of Salisbury and Golden Grove. The main park entrance is located at the corner of Bridge Road and Smith Road, Salisbury East. The park is open from sunrise to sunset except on total fire ban days.



The park contains some of the last stands of mallee box grassy woodland in Adelaide. Prior to European settlement, the Kurna (‘Gar-na’) people lived on the Adelaide Plains and foothills. Kurna used the park area for food, medicine, textile gathering and shelter during the winter months. In summer, Kurna probably moved to the coast to escape the inland heat. Since settlement in the 1800s, houses and suburbs have gradually encroached on Adelaide’s natural areas. Cobbler Creek not only offers a precious reminder of the plants and animals that once lived in the area we now know as Golden Grove and Salisbury, but it is also an important example of a grassy woodland.

The European name ‘Cobbler Creek’ originated from the occupation of early settler, William Pedler, who was a shoemaker (cobbler). The ruins of his homestead property ‘Trevalsa’ are located in the north-west of the park. Pedler was one of the first settlers to graze and crop this area, a practice which continued until the early 1970s when it was purchased for recreation and conservation by the state government. Some of the intended uses for the park included housing estates and at one time was considered the location for the free range zoo now established at Monarto.



I had hoped to make a number of park contacts on the day but I was kept reasonably busy talking to the public and answering questions. Most people were very interested in listening to signals from outside the region. I broadcast the news from the local repeater and also on 40M from VK6.

Contacts were made with VK1, VK6 and VK7 into VKFF parks and SOTA. This in turn provided great segways into the various aspects of amateur radio and I was able to explain the VK5 Parks, VKFF and SOTA awards.

Later in the afternoon I moved to 20M digital and the masses were again very interested in the integration of computing and radio. I worked Russia on JT65 and with mobile coverage I was able to present information on the contact via QRZ.

I was able to speak with a new scout leader from the North Adelaide area who was unaware of the Jamboree On the Air (JOTA), what it was and how the scouts could participate in conversations, internet, foxhunting and the like. His scout group also filled him in on the merit badge potential!

Overall it was a rewarding day even though it was a 'recreation' park and provided a window to the world of amateur radio for those who may not have previously been aware. I think a two man operation in these instances is the preferred option to allow an 'interpreter' while another member operates the equipment. Consideration should also be given to putting on a display for scout groups to allow them to see what is available for their JOTA, i.e. Satellites, foxhunting, APRS and the like.

Cheers
Chris
VK4FR/5

Not a VKFF area

By Paul VK5PAS

I have had a few queries re the proposed trip by members of the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia to South Solitary Island, IOTA OC-194, from 26 to 28 July, 2015.

This is NOT a VKFF area. It is IOTA only.



Photo courtesy of wikipedia

A nifty gadget from Leatherman

By Paul VK5PAS

Something for the SOTA & park activator who has everything else.....

<http://www.leatherman.com.au/products/leatherman/multi-tools/tread-stainless-box/c-25/c-79/p-1952>

Barefoot table returns

By Ian VK3VIN

Hello everyone.

Following many enquiries and requests, the Barefoot Table Net is returning to the airwaves.

The net will run on 2 evenings a week, Sunday and Thursday. There will be a mixture of discussions, QRP nights, rag chew and a barefoot DX net when conditions allow or when DX stations are available.

Full details for the Barefoot Table net are:

Sunday nights beginning 7 June

Frequency: 3.565 plus or minus QRM

Time: 10.15 UTC

Thursday nights beginning 11 June

Frequency: 3.565 plus or minus QRM

Time: 10.15 UTC

When Day light savings time returns we will revert to 40 meters on a frequency yet to be arranged.

At this stage 7.110 is being considered plus or minus QRM.

The Barefoot Table Net will continue to favour stations running barefoot power, that is usual power of most Transceivers without Linear amplifiers usually 100 Watts or less.

Although barefoot power output is encouraged and is the reason for the Barefoot Table Net, stations running more than 100 Watts with amplification will not be excluded. When DX is available, stations running Barefoot power will be given preference for making contact with the DX stations available.

For ease of operation Foundation Lisencees running 10 Watts or less are considered Barefoot stations.

Net conduct:

The Barefoot Table Net will continue to operate under the Round Table method with the Net Control/Coordinator managing the net and providing Net identification after each 4th Participant's over.

People joining the net during the net's operation but after the initial logging time will be acknowledged as quickly as possible, logged in appropriately and added to the list of

Participants in order.

Cross chat amongst Participants will be encouraged with a 2 overs per person requested. This limitation is only to allow the net to proceed with as little as possible slowing of the flow.

Please spread the word that the Barefoot Table Net is operational again.

Thank you in anticipation of your participation beginning Sunday, 7 June at 10.15 UTC on 3.565 Mhz plus or minus QRM.

73

Ian Westerland, VK3VIN

Amateur Radio Portable Operators Club

By Paul VK5PAS

The Amateur Radio Portable Operators Club (ARPOC) is dedicated to amateurs involved in portable operating. They offer a number of award certificates which can be applied for and are delivered as a downloadable certificate.

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

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

Well done David

By Paul VK5PAS

Congratulations to David (formerly VK5NQP)....now VK5PL.

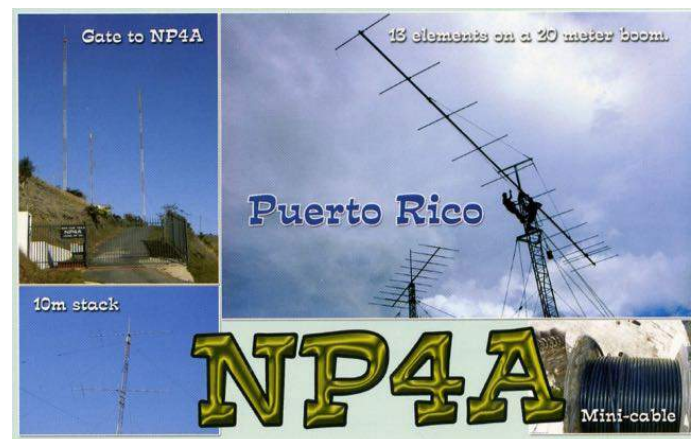
David has asked the question if he needs to start over again. The answer is NO. All contacts carry over.

QSL cards received

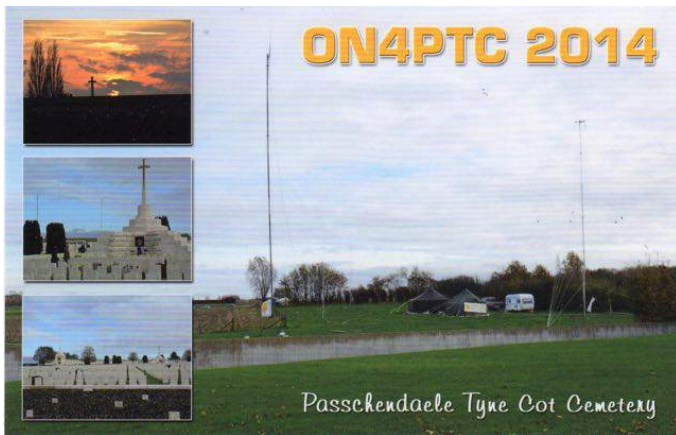
By Paul VK5PAS

If you have received any QSL cards from SOTA, Park, QRP, pedestrian mobile stations, etc, please send me a copy via email so I can include them here.

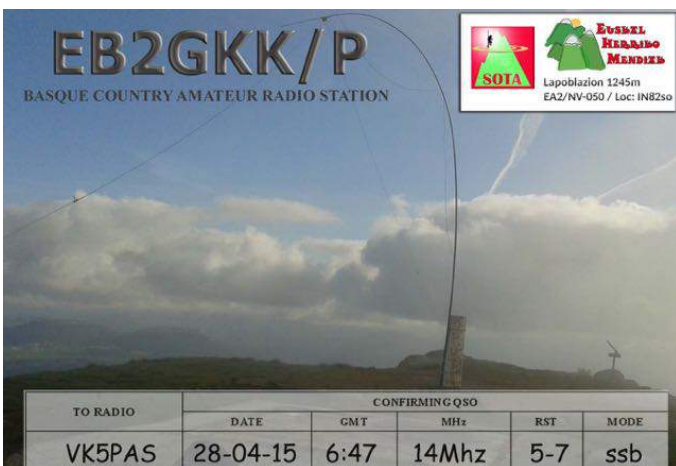
Pedro NP4A (worked Paul VK5PAS whilst in Bullock Hill CP & Kenneth Stirling CP)



ON4PTC portable at Tyne Cot cemetery BELGIUM (worked Paul VK5PAS)



EA2NV/EB2GKK, SOTA peak (worked Paul VK5PAS)



Japan SOTA to go live soon

By Paul VK5PAS

Rumors abound that SOTA is soon to go live in Japan. But I can't find much on the internet. Anybody else heard anything more definitive?

The Satnav – by Pam Ayres

By Les VK5KLV



I have a little Satnav,
It sits there in my car
A Satnav is a driver's friend,
it tells you where you are.
I have a little Satnav,
I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones,
My Satnav is my wife.
It gives me full instructions,
Especially how to drive
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says,
"You're doing sixty five".
It tells me when to stop and start,
And when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever,
Safe to overtake.
It tells me when a light is red,
And when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively,
Just when to intervene.
It lists the vehicles just in front,
And all those to the rear

And taking this into account,
It specifies my gear.
I'm sure no other driver,
Has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car,
It still gives its advice.
It fills me up with counselling,
Each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it,
And get a quieter sort?
Ah well, you see, it cleans the house,
Makes sure I'm properly fed
It washes all my shirts and things,
And keeps me warm in bed!
Despite all these advantages,
And my tendency to scoff,
I only wish that now and then,
I could turn the bugger off.

Presentation in the Riverland

By Paul VK5PAS

A little bird (well actually it was a big ugly bird) informed me that Larry VK5LY had recently delivered a presentation to the Riverland Radio Group on SOTA & the Parks Awards.

Do any of you Riverland guys have any photos that you could email, so I could put them in the next issue?

Dogs in parks

By Paul VK5PAS



NO DOGS ALLOWED

Just a subtle reminder that dogs (and cats) are restricted in South Australian National and Conservation Parks. Dogs can only be taken into certain parks (listed on the DEWNR website) along designated walking trails, provided that it is on a lead and it remains under your effective control all the time.

Those parks include:-

- Anstey Hill
- Belair National Park
- Brownhill Creek Rec Park
- Cobbler Creek Rec Park
- Greenhill Rec Park
- Marino CP
- Morialta CP
- Mount George CP
- O'Halloran Hill Rec Park
- Para Wirra Rec Park

- Shepherds Hill Rec Park
- Sturt Gorge Rec Park
- Totness Rec Park

I would hate to see the parks and/or SOTA programs fall into disrepute after an activator gets caught out with their dog in a park.

There are many reasons for restricting dogs and cats in National Parks and Reserves. These include the need to protect native wildlife as well as consideration of the rights of other park users.

1. Our native wildlife is vulnerable to the predation, disturbance and disease that dogs may cause.
2. Barking and unrestrained dogs are enough to scare away native wildlife, spread disease and attract other dogs which may invade from surrounding areas.
3. Escaped pets can become feral and pose a major threat to many native species.
4. A national park is a refuge for the animals and plants living in it. Even if your dog does not chase birds, or ground critters, it still presents the image and scent of a historical predator. The result is stress on the native wildlife.
5. Finally, other people come to enjoy the peaceful nature of our parks, and its wildlife, and do not appreciate a dog barking or growling at them, or frightening animals in the backcountry.

For more information, please check out.....

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/Visiting/Dogs_in_parks

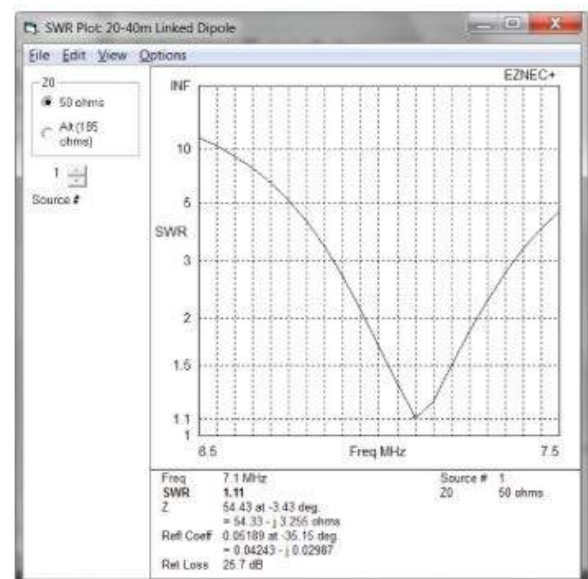
Getting an extra band for free

By Paul VK5PAS

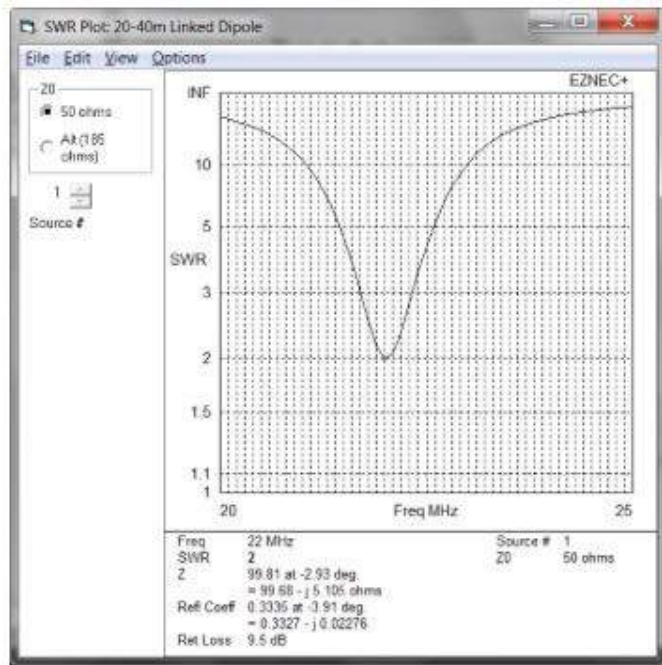
I recently received the following info in an email from SOTA Beams in the UK.....

Most folks will tell you that you can use a 40m dipole on 15m. The reason is that the bands are harmonically related and importantly 21 MHz is an odd harmonic of 7 MHz. All things being equal, a dipole that is resonant on 7 MHz will have a current node (point of maximum current) at the the feed-point on 21 MHz. But are "all things equal"?

One way to explore this is to model the antenna. So I set up a simple model of a 40 m dipole set up as an inverted Vee with a feed-point at 7 m above ground level. As you would expect, the SWR at resonance for this antenna is low (see below).

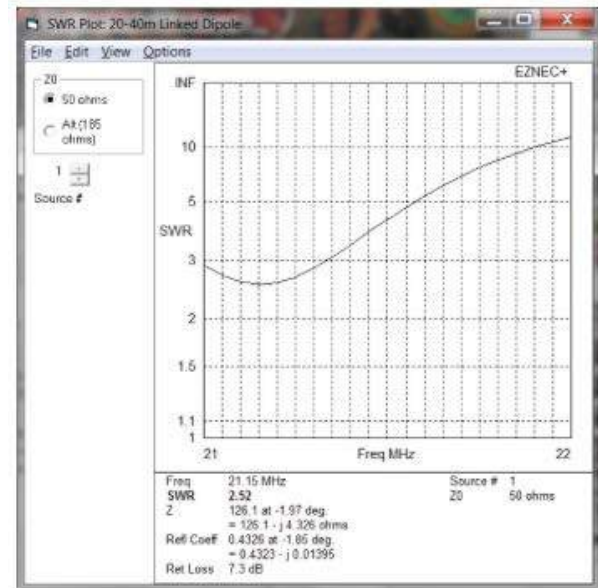


Our 40 m dipole is working as expected and it is resonant at about 7.1 MHz. We might hope that it will also be resonant at $3 \times 7.1 = 21.3$ MHz. An SWR plot shows a problem.



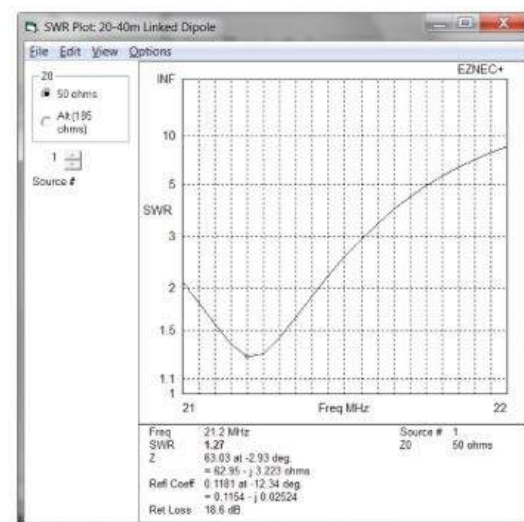
So our dipole shows a resonance at 22 MHz - far too high for our purposes. What to do?

To bring the 22 MHz resonance down in frequency we need to extend the antenna a little. In the case of our low inverted Vee extending the ends might not be a great idea as they will end up very close to the ground so another way to move the resonant frequency is to add some wire that hangs down about halfway along each side of the antenna. If your antenna is a linked dipole for 20 m and 40 m, you are in luck because you can clip some wire extensions at the link locations. For the model I added wires that were 1.2m long. These wires simply hang down.



So now the resonant frequency is 21.1 MHz but you will notice that the SWR is not very good. But when you try this you will get a better result in practice. The reason is that the model assumes no feeder loss. If we assume that there is a feeder loss of 1.5 dB this will reduce the VSWR from 2.5 to 1.9:1; not great but usable.

So can we do better? Sure! instead of the wires hanging down, let's insert some inductors into the antenna at the same point. I decided to try 1.1 uH.



Wow! The inductors give a far better result with a nice low SWR. Again, this is easy to do with a 20-40 m linked dipole as you have access to the centre of the dipole legs. And if your linked dipole uses crocodile clips as ours do, its even easier!

So there we have it, another band although perhaps not quite for "free".

In conclusion:

- an unmodified 40 m dipole will give poor results on 15m and if it shows a good SWR, it's probably an indication of high feeder losses
- bits of wire hanging down will lower the resonant frequency but the SWR will still be poor
- inductors lower the frequency but give a low SWR too.

Penambol CP VKFF-802

By Col VK5HCF

I was shopping in town on Friday when I bumped into Owen, VK5HOS, who was out on his daily walk. He asked when we were doing our next park and the light bulb glowed brightly. “How about tomorrow?” I asked. “Done deal” he replied and so when I got home I posted all the details on Parks n Peaks and the Yahoo group sites for the S.A.N.&C.P. and VKFF sites and we were set to go.



Above:- Owen VK5HOS & Col VK5HCF in Penambol CP. Photo courtesy of Col VK5HCF

We arrived in Penambol nice and early but Murphy had hitched a ride as well.



Once set up I turned on the KX3 and hit the tune button. The swr came up as 29:1. Oops. There followed a process of elimination which left the only possible culprit being the coaxial cable. (I hoped). Luckily I had a 2 metre length in the boot of the shopping trolley and after moving the operating position to directly under the matchbox of the PAR 40 metre end fed and connecting it all up, bingo, 1:1 (Beauty)!

Owen is still very active and enjoys coming along on these sessions and helping to set up,

pack up and generally act as a gopher but just enjoys relaxing in the great outdoors and has no desire to operate the radio so while I started to bounce my gums he got out my small el cheapo multi meter and checked the offending coax. Sure enough, a faulty solder joint in the centre pin on one end. (easily fixed at home).

Conditions were pretty good, with no rf noise and seemingly good propagation and we started out well. We finished up having worked 34 stations after waiting about 20 minutes for Paul, VK5PAS to get to Cox's Scrub C.P. and set up. As soon as we had worked Paul we packed up and headed home. It was starting to come in cold and with poor circulation I find it hard to cope with. (Too many years of smoking the dreaded fags even though I gave up 15 years ago).

First to reply to my plaintive cq calls was Tony, VK3VTH in Werribee Gorge S.P. (VKFF-775). Tony was chased by the following callers: Paul, VK5PAS/5 in the Kyeema C.P. (VKFF-826) Ian, VK1DI/1 in the Percival Hill Nature Park, (VKFF-859) Peter, VK3PF, Roy, VK5NRM. Julie, VK3FOWL/3 at the Melbourne Museum. Michael, VK3FIRM, Tom, VK5FTRG, Paul, VK3BDP in Melbourne, Brian, VK5FMID, Mick, VK3PMG, Charlie, VK3ZD, Jack, VK5CJC, Alan, VK3HRA in Ballarat, Neil, VK4HNS in Goondiwindi, Peter, VK3YE who was using 2 watts from home. (You are a legend Peter). Amanda, VK3FQSO, Greg, VK5GJ, Rob, VK4AAC/5 on Kangaroo Island, Col, VK5FCDL in Murray Bridge, Ray, VK3NBL in Keilor, Gerrard, VK2IO in Sydney, Rex, VK3OF, Nev, VK5WG, Greg, VK5ZGY/m, John, VK5FTCT, Paul, VK1ATP, Paul, VK5PAS/m requesting that we wait for him to get set up in Cox's Scrub, John, VK5TD, Les, VK3FLES, (who had

called earlier but I was unable to copy his report), Dennis, VK3DPG, Phil, VK5GM, Grant, VK2LX in Canberra, and the tail end Charlie, Paul, VK5PAS/5 in the Cox's Scrub C.P. (VKFF-824) I could also hear VK4FFAB/4 well enough to call but, unfortunately he could not hear me.

Many thanks to all who took the time to give us a call and I have now added another 4 VKFF parks to my slowly growing tally. I am not sure if I will post the video as muppett accidentally turned off the microphone in the camera so we have no sound track. I will have a play and see what happens. (Silly me!)

Fun in the Far North

By Paul VK5PAS

On Saturday 13th June 2015 I travelled to the Flinders Ranges and Far North with my wife Marija, John VK5BJE and his wife Jenny, and David VK5KC and his wife Joy. We returned home on Monday 22nd June.

Our main reason for heading north was to operate as VK100ANZAC at the ghost town of Farina, about 620 km north of Adelaide.



*Above:- A Wedge Tailed Eagle.
Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.*

During our 11 days away, Marija and I travelled nearly 2,500 km in 11 days.

I activated 4 Conservation Parks, 3 SOTA summits, and 3 National Parks.

And operated as VK100ANZAC at Farina in the Far North on Wed & Thurs.

Total of 666 QSO's (scary hey, the devil's number).

Also squeezed in a bit of operating from Argadells and in the mobile as well.

Thanks to everyone that called, and thanks to those who took the time to spot us on parksnpeaks, the DX cluster, here on the group, etc. For most of the time away we had no phone coverage.



Above: Coming down off the top of The Devils Peak. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS.

Here are the parks, summits I activated and the total number of QSO's from each.

Saturday 13th June

Clinton Conservation Park VKFF-813

67 contacts

Winninowie Conservation Park VKFF-820

128 contacts

Monday 15th June

The Devils Peak VK5/ NE-o8o

18 contacts

Mount Brown Conservation Park

31 contacts

The Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park VKFF-817

47 contacts

Wednesday 17th June

VK100ANZAC at Farina

108 contacts

Thursday 18th June

VK100ANZAC at Farina

57 contacts

Friday 19th June

Gammon Ranges National Park VKFF-189

52 contacts

Mount Scott VK5/ NE-111

28 contacts

<http://vk5pas.org/>

Saturday 20th June

Flinders Ranges National Park VKFF-176 (at Aroona Ruins)

43 contacts

And also on John VK5BJE's Wodrpess site at.....

<http://vk5bje.com/>

Flinders Ranges National Park VKFF-176 (at Wilpena Pound)

29 contacts

And David VK5KC's site at.....

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

Sunday 21st June

Lake Torrens National Park VKFF-278

47 contacts

Best 73,

Paul,
VK5PAS.

Monday 22nd June

Mount Arden VK5/ NE-034

11 contacts



Above:- Operating at the Gammon Ranges National Park. Photo courtesy of Paul VK5PAS

More detailed information and lots of photographs can be found on my Wordpress site at.....

A new VK5 park

By Paul VK5PAS

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Protected Areas Information System

Additional and Reclassified Land Report

from 25-NOV-2014 to 08-APR-2015
for enabling Act: All acts

1500 Gazette Date: 26-MAR-2015

Notice Type: Constitute

Mimbara CP (CP)

Parcel
D02164 A100
D02164 A101
H200300 S223

Park Additional Area:

Overall totals Additional Area:

Page: 1323

Enabling Act: National Parks and Wildlife Act (1972)

First Proclaimed: 26-MAR-2015

Area (ha)
879
497
25

1,402 ha

1,402 ha

Notice: 1

Enabling Act: National Parks and Wildlife Act (1972)

Area: 1,402 ha

Purpose:
New Park
New Park
New Park

in 3 parcels

in 3 parcels

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Produced: 08-Apr-2015 12:58



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

I received an email recently from Greg VK5GJ advising me of the establishment of a new Conservation Park, called Mimbara. Sure

enough, when I googled Mimbara, there it was. The following is from the DEWNR website.....

Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister Ian Hunter today announced a new Conservation Park in South Australia’s mid-north which will protect an important section of Burra Creek.

In the region for the State Government’s Country Cabinet, Minister Hunter said Mimbara Conservation Park is located 22km south-east of Burra, and has high conservation value as one of the few healthy watercourses protected in the state’s agricultural areas.

“At Mimbara, Burra Creek is lined with River Red Gums, extensive sedgelands and semi-permanent pools,” he said.

“It’s an important and attractive example of the type of environment which would have once been far more common in the area.

“I’m pleased to be in the mid-north to announce this proclamation, which is part of the State Government’s commitment to increase South Australia’s system of parks and reserves to protect our wonderful perse environments.

“Mimbara Conservation Park provides around 1,400 hectares of habitat for seventeen fauna species of conservation significance, including the White-winged Chough which is listed as rare in South Australia under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

“It also supports the vulnerable ecological communities Bullock Bush Tall Shrubland and False Sandalwood semi-arid Woodland.

“The proclamation of Mimbara Conservation Park brings the total number of parks created since Labor came into office to 68.

“Approximately 2 million hectares of land has been reclassified to a higher conservation status and more than 200,000 hectares of land has

been newly added to South Australia’s reserve system.

“All new additions are carefully targeted to improve the long-term sustainability of the state’s environment.”

Much of the new park was purchased with assistance from the Commonwealth’s National Reserve System Program.

Black Rock and Depot Hill - SOTA

By Ian VK5CZ

Early start again after a very friendly night in the pub, meeting and raving about SOTA to the locals who all seemed interested and some wanted to know why their hill is not a summit which has to be positive. So some explaining about prominence with a lot of hand waving or making the pint glass the summit and the bar the low lands is a good way to explain prominence. Pint is a 8 pointer, Schooner 6 points and Butcher 4 points and a Pony not worth climbing, probably only a South Aussie will understand this analogy.



First gate of many for today with Black Rock in the distance. This is a tricky 4 X 4 climb up near the top and much to my relief Hugh decided against the danger and we walked the last bit which is a similar distance from where you can drive to anyhow.

The Mitsi did this part with ease and we had a good ascent also this track is not used very much so it was very solid under foot and grown over with grasses to good traction. This is my last picture of the climb. The view is really great with a 360 deg view for many miles. This summit has no mains power close by so none of the tele service use it but there are a couple of solar powered radio installations here.



The team at the top, this time we got set up and Hugh had 3 minutes to make 4 contacts before UTC rollover, then I could take over for the next UTC day. All weekend Hugh went first leaving me to activate second and every time I was struggling to find enough to qualify, it was amazing. Hugh would have a pile up then I was trying on ssb, then cw to find enough. But in the end we both got a score and not having the

masses chase you will make my logging short work for the same points.



Making hard work of it but I did get some ssb and cw qso's. I even tried 15m but no answer there.

Time to get back down and on to Depot Hill

This summit is south of Black Rock but is such a massive uplift of rock on the northern side, we had to travel probably 25 km to the southern side to find a track to get to the summit. We did not know which track to take, so we decided on the one on the CFS map along the main ridge but it ran out, but the GPS told us it was about 1 km to the top, so we walked. During the walk we found the track again in the high spinifex grass that grows in this area and the Mitsi will not get off lightly next time.



That is a great view from south west of Black Rock, Depot Hill has no stone cairn so we got straight into activating. Hugh on 40m ssb, then I went to cw because again not one chaser on 40m ssb answered me. Maybe nobody loves me after all. But I qualified with Vk's on 40m cw and my first S2S for the weekend, then I got 5 DX stations on 20m cw, with my old mate OK2PDT being the first to QSO with me. He must have been up early.



Another great view out to the west and the area is looking really green as they have had good rains this winter so far, but looking at some of

the yellowing crops down on the flat lands they could do with more rain asap.



Hugh on the job for the last activation of a greet weekend.



Ian on the key working some dx, but it may have been too early for Europe to be out of bed. We had to get off the hill and drive home. Hugh had 540 km in the speedo by the time he got home.

Thanks to the land owners for access to the summits and Mitsi for getting us there safely.

Cheers Ian VK5CZ and Hugh VK5NHG

In the KRMNPA activity period in 2014 there were 34 national parks on air. With the participation certificate now on offer, who knows how many will be activated this year. You can also still work those in national parks from your own home, and the activity period is ideal to get your tally started or increased.

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

<https://www.amateurradio.com.au/awards>

KRMNPA weekend coming up

By Tony VK3VTH



The Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award activity period is November 15 to 19, and with this year something special is to be introduced. A participation certificate will be available for those who have not obtained an award certificate, provided they operate within a VK3 National Park and make five contacts. The aim is to encourage even more interest in operating portable.

‘Liking’ and leaving comments on Wordpress

By Paul VK5PAS

With the many Wordpress sites and Blogs now for activators, please take the time to click the ‘Like’ button on a particular post/page that you’ve read. And/or, take the time to leave a message on the page.

It will be appreciated by the owner of the site.

Share this:



One blogger likes this.

Interesting info from DEWNR website

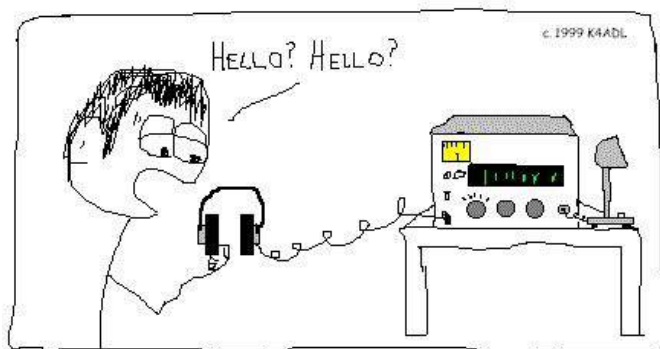
By Paul VK5PAS

The DEWNR website often has some very interesting info. This month, there is an article on the expansion of two parks on Kangaroo Island, and the draft management plan for the Breakaways Conservation Park.

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home/Full_newsevents_listing/News_Events_Listing/150625-ki-parks-additions

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home/Full_newsevents_listing/News_Events_Listing/150605-breakaways-cp-consultation

Ham humour



THE TRANSITION FROM SHORT-WAVE-LISTENER TO HAM OPERATOR WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT FOR EDMUND.

courtesy of www.radiointel.com