

"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 22, August 2016

Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 22, August 2016, of 'Out and About in VK5'. This newsletter focuses on VK5 activities relating to Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

Wow, what a wet and wild month July was in South Australia. Adelaide had its wettest July in around 3-4 years. We even had snow up here in the Adelaide Hills. There were certainly a significant number of frosts here at home and numerous days where we had heavy rain and hail. July saw some of the windiest conditions in 20-30 years in some parts of VK5. Cape Willoughby on Kangaroo Island saw wind gusts of up to 139 kmh and here in the Adelaide Hills we experienced wind gusts of up to 120 kmh.

As a result, there was not a lot of portable activity from either SOTA peaks or parks. I

took the opportunity of activating a few parks when we had the occasional sunny day, and Ian VK5CZ kept the SOTA flag flying with a handful of activations in the north of South Australia.

Other than work and life in general, I was kept busy by adding more parks to most of the Australian States and Territories for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program. In fact I have now almost doubled the number of parks that qualify for the program here in Australia. Nobody can complain now that there are no parks to be activated close to their home QTH.

Thanks to a number of enthusiastic amateurs, the VK Shires program has been 'relaunched'. A net takes place on 20m and 40m each Friday and the award is being reviewed. Allen VK3ARH has even integrated VK Shires into the already brilliant parksnpeaks program.

You can read more about the VK Shires program in this issue of Out and About.

During July I attended the Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club and delivered a presentation on operating portable. I took along with me a variety of portable equipment, including transceivers, antennas, batteries, and sundry portable gear. If you would like a presentation at your club, don't hesitate to contact me.

I've also been kept very busy with WIA duties, including a trip to Melbourne with WIA Director Andrew VK6AS, to view the operations at the WIA National office. It was a lightning trip, with the red eye flight over and then flying back later that evening, so unfortunately I was not able to sneak in any portable activity. We experienced 3 seasons in a day whilst in Melbourne, so it wasn't an ideal day to be out in the field anyway.

Band conditions continue to be quite poor at times. Close in propagation continues to prove a challenge, particularly during the mornings. Whilst DX on the 20m and 15m bands has been slim pickings.

August sees the VK1 SOTA QSO Party, which I would encourage everyone to take part in. Andrew VK1AD is the organiser of this event, and more information can be found on the SOTA Australia Facebook page or the SOTA Australia Yahoo group.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend will also take place during August. I hope to travel to Kangaroo Island to operate from the Cape Willoughby lighthouse, which is located within the Conservation Park.

Later in the year we have the VKFF Team Championship (on 16th October); the 6th annual Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award Activation Weekend (11th-14th November); and then the VKFF Activation Weekend (26th and 27th November). So there arte plenty of opportunities coming up to get out into the field.

If you have any information that you would like to see in the next issue, please drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

It would be nice to receive articles, rather than chasing people for them.

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting. Paul, VK5PAS.



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MF Downunder



I have commenced assembling a sequel to "MF Down Under": An edited VK-compendium of articles and projects for the 630m & 160m bands which sold out within 19 days of being released on 20 June 2016 to the USA Europe, NZ & all VK States.

The book sequel is "Enjoying LF-MF amateur radio away from home: 2200, 630 & 160m" and is aimed at encouraging those already operating outdoors to activate and chase all-mode activity on the low bands

Its release timeline is approximately 12-months hence, less if contributions arrive early enough to enable that.

I am calling for expressions of interest in being collaborative contributors to this adventure into this exciting, challenging yet under-utilised aspect of Amateur Radio. Quite a few submissions have already been received, but submission does not guarantee inclusion, as an appropriate balance of material is necessary.

I am also soliciting input from amateurs around Australia & NZ as to what projects, information, advice and anecdotal feedback they would like to see included in such a compendium.

As the compendium Editor, I will determine book content and layout, as well as projectmanaging the production and promotion for a similar publication format & quality that we have just enjoyed. It is a not-for-profit, costrecovery undertaking, as was its predecessor.

The draft content plan includes:

Traditional QRP but on LF-MF bands as an extension to current SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, the VK Parks award activations & general club field day events. Worth noting is that neither

2200 nor 630m bands allow for contesting, which is in itself is not conducive to encouraging wider participation on these bands, in my opinion. Special ANZAC callsign activations on

both MF bands (as detailed in "MF Down Under" Chapter 1 Article 3) has paved the way for sustaining this approach & also the inclusion of 2200m this time round.

Mobile from the vehicle or boat/houseboat while underway.

Portable, including from a stationary small "tinny" boat.

Transportable – the option amateurs never seem to mention – where the home base station or a spare 100W rig & amp is taken on a holiday in the caravan, motorhome, campervan

or boat. For those times when we are away for perhaps a week to 3 months & it might be worth the effort to plug into 240V AC @ caravan parks etc. Perhaps even a trailer-mounted MLA or other array.

Construction projects: 630 & 160m transmitters, dedicated receivers, a transceiver or two, accessories and all-mode operation items.

A range of effective **aerial** and **ground system** options to enhance the "away from home" activity, including some "outside the square" possibilities.

In the toolbox: portable testing equipment & doing modifications on the run.

Sharing of contributors' LF-MF anecdotes.

Commercial LF-MF kit and equipment reviews.

Miscellaneous LF-MF Matters: maybe even some items that missed out last time round?

This is a suggested inclusion list only & will obviously be tempered by the requests from amateurs as above, and material actually forthcoming from contributors.

I have invited a couple of eminent overseas LF-MF colleagues to offer submissions for consideration. They have extensive & illuminating pedigrees, including international publication in the field, and have capacity to provide rich enhancement to this forthcoming publication.

I may be contacted in the first instance via.....

d.wd@bigpond.com

Vy 73 de Doc/VK5BUG

Islands on the Air



If you are involved in the Islands on the Air (IOTA) program, you can download a kmz file to use with Google Earth. It contains the outlines and group numbers of each of the IOTA groups. It can be found at.....

https://www.rsgbiota.org/help/googleEarthFile.php

There is also an IOTA Mapping Project which can be found at.....

http://iotamaps.org/index.php

VK5 Parks patches



I have a quote for cloth patches for the SANCPA. A local SA company can produce a sublimated badge which is the same as how AFL jerseys are printed, then backed, cut out and the edges trimmed and finished.

I have quotes for 25, 50 and 75. Obviously the more we order the cheaper they will be.

Current breakdown of costs are:

25 - \$11.60 ea

50 - \$9.80 ea

75 - \$8.80 ea

So if you want one (or three) the most you will pay is \$11.60 each. As we hit each batch number (25, 50 and 75) I will advise through Facebook, unless you don't have it then, if I have your email, I will notify you of the likely price reduction.

Please let me know by COB 19 August and I'll put in an order.

Cheers Chris VK4FR/P vk4fr@wia.org.au

VK1 Winter SOTA QSO Party



Hi folks,

The annual VK1 Winter SOTA QSO Party will be held on Sunday 7 August 2016. 2016 is the fourth consecutive year where VK1 SOTA tragics brave the Canberra cold weather to promote and demonstrate amateur radio to the ACT community. If you are new to SOTA or VKFF the VK1 Winter SOTA QSO Party is something to experience, either as an enthusiastic winter activator or chaser.

For the uninitiated activator the VK1 Winter SOTA QSO Party is a coordinated activation of multiple VK1 summits where chasers and activators scramble to gain chaser or S2S points, pre and post UTC day change.

Weather permitting, this year the VK1 SOTA QSO party will commence at 23:00 UTC +/- (15 min) and run for about 1.5 to 2 hours or for as long as the activator's battery/s holds out.

Many of the VK1 local SOTA summits are within ACT Nature Parks (VKFF). No doubt there will be additional interest in P2P contacts

plus the opportunity for VKFF hunters to pick up new VK1 Nature Parks.

For activators in VK2, VK3, VK4, VK5, VK6, VK7 and VK8 please join in for a frantic session of S2S pileups as you compete with SOTA chasers to earn S2S and P2P points. Past VK1 Winter SOTA QSO Parties have proven to be so popular with chasers the SOTAWatch website didn't keep pace with the volume of VK spots.

How do activators join in on the VK1 SOTA QSO Party? No permissions required, simply post a SOTA or VKFF alert for Sunday morning 7 August 2016. If you are considering visiting Canberra on Sunday 7 August 2016 pleas drop me an email. Following the mass SOTA activation, the VK1 group will hold a lunch at a local sports club, you are very welcome to join us.

For SOTA and VKFF chasers now is the time organise a leave pass and plan an early breakfast in the comfort of your warm radio shack. :)

The VK1 SOTA crew are looking forward to your participation.

73, Andrew VK1AD

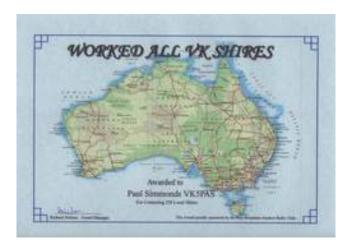


The VK Shires program is currently undergoing significant change and promotion. A net is held

each Friday at 0630 UTC on 14.240 and then moves to 40m, usually around 7.185.

There is now a VK Shires Facebook page which can be found at.....

https://www.facebook.com/groups/544877775 683852/]







The WWFF Agenda is the place to find upcoming WWFF activations and WWFF related events. It can be found at.....

http://wwff.co/agenda/

New portable radio Facebook site

By Paul VK5PAS

Yes I know. I can hear you now. Another Facebook site! This time it's called 'Portable Radio Communications'. It can be found at.....

https://www.facebook.com/groups/375162659 182051/

The admins for the group are Paul 2EoVCU and Pete G7VHJ. The group is for anyone interested in portable radio communications.

A no no!

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently worked a ZL SOTA activator on 15m who signal was very very weak. But we made it (3/3) with my 5 element yagi pointing straight at him. He was then called by another VK5 and clearly they were having great difficulty hearing each other. Sadly another ZL who was listening on the frequency came up and relayed the call sign and signal report. To my surprise, it appears the contact was logged.

I certainly do not want to become the 'band police' but in my opinion that is a non contact. Certainly on some of the big DX Nets that I

participate in, this would be a real 'no no' and make the contact invalid.

PLEASE do NOT relay call signs and signal reports. You may think you are helping but in reality, you are technically making the contact invalid.

Weekend Notes

By Paul VK5PAS

If you are seeking information on VK5 Parks, you may find the following website, "Weekend Notes" of interest. It can be located at.....

http://www.weekendnotes.com/

2016 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder that the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend is fast approaching. It will be held on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November 2016.

The weekend is designed as a promotion for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program. It is NOT a contest. Just head out to a qualifying WWFF park and make contact with other amateurs.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, PLEASE drop me a quick email with your intentions. I am maintaining a spreadsheet which records all planned

activations. The spreadsheet can be found on the WWFF Australia website, or on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group (in the Files area).

More information on the VKFF Activation Weekend and the WWFF program can be found on the WWFF Australia website at....

http://www.wwffaustralia.com/

Or please drop me an email should you have any queries.

vk5pas@wia.org.au



WWFF wildlife photography Facebook page

By Paul VK5PAS

A WWFF wildlife photography Facebook page has been created. You can post photos here from your WWFF activations.

https://www.facebook.com/Wildlife-photography-wwff-1750841368531034/

IOTA activation cancelled

By Paul VK5PAS



Andy VK5MAV who is an avid IOTA activator, advises that his planned activation of Lacepedes OC-214 will not take place. This has been due to issues with the Department Parks and Wildlife (DPaW).

Recent Park Activations

Wet, wet, wet. That's what July was, and as a result, not much park activity. Bring on the warmer months!

Here is a list of recent park activations by VK5's (that I am aware of).....

Kyeema Conservation Park VKFF-0826 and 5CP-107, Paul VK5PAS/p (29/7/2016)



- Mount Brown Conservation Park VKFF-0914 and 5CP-145, Les VK5KLV/p (29/7/2016)
- Cudlee Creek Conservation Park VKFF-1023 and 5CP-050, Paul VK5PAS (23/7/2016)
- Mowantjie Willauwar Conservation Park VKFF-0919 & 5CP-, Paul VK5PAS/p (17/7/2016)
- Morialta Conservation Park VKFF-0783 and 5CP-142, Marcus VK (17/7/2016)
- Coorong National Park VKFF-0015 & 5NP-005, Paul VK5PAS (17/7/2016)



Coorong National Park VKFF-0015 & 5NP-005, Marija VK5FMAZ/p (17/7/2016)

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.wwffaustralia.com/

Recent SOTA activations



Despite the very wet and cold conditions that were experienced in South Australia during July, Ian VK5CZ kept flying the flag here in VK5 for SOTA.

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

- Mount Bryan VK5/ SE-001, Ian VK5CZ/p (30/7/2016)
- ➤ The Bluff VK5/ NE-065, Ian VK5CZ/p (17/7/2016)
- Mount Cone VK5/ SE-022, Ian VK5CZ/p (16/7/2016)



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

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

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members



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

Nil for this period

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

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

It is a great way to keep up to date with the latest news, who is activating what park and when, etc.

It is FREE and EASY to join. Why not check it out and consider joining.

The 3rd anniversary activation weekend for the VK5 Parks award is coming up early next year.

Talk at Elizabeth ARC

On 20th July I headed out to the Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club and delivered a presentation on operating portable, with specific content relating to the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award.



If you would like a presentation delivered at your club, please drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au





If you are interested in the Islands on the Air (IOTA) program, then a new Facebook page may interest you.

https://www.facebook.com/VKIOTA/

This page informs amateur radio operators around the world about exciting IOTA DXpeditions to remote Australian islands by Craig VK5CE.

Geocaching and Waymarking

By Paul VK5PAS

GEOCACHING

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a global positioning system (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called 'geocaches' or caches'. More information can be found at......

https://www.geocaching.com/play



Waymarking is a way to mark unique locations on the planet and give them a voice. For more information on waymarking, please have a look at.....

http://www.waymarking.com/

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 89 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

Welcome to the following new members to the site....

> NIL for this period

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

https://www.facebook.com/groups/528980233 908284/

Recent Award recipients



Here is a list of VK5's who have recently qualified for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA awards.

Interstate recipients of the VK5 Parks Award are also included.

If you do receive a certificate, please drop me an email to let me know, with preferably a copy of the certificate, so I can include it here.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

NIL known

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

Adrian VK5FANA

o VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 375



Paul VK5PAS

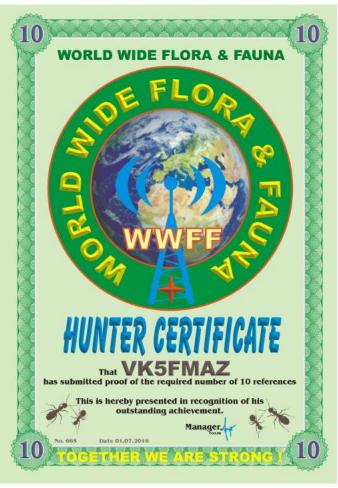
o VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 450



Marija VK5FMAZ

- Bronze VKFF Hunter
- o WWFF global Hunter-10





VK5 Parks Award

• NIL for this period

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

NIL known

Other.

Paul VK5PAS

o 2016 John Moyle Memorial Field Day



Field Radio flags & mechandise

By Paul VK5PAS



FIELD RADIO FLAGS are now available!!!
LIMITED SUPPLY
\$30 USD (free delivery)
12inch x 18inch
Horizontal, Single Sided Reverse (1 Layer)
Printed on 200D Polyester (Outdoor Use)
2 Brass Grommets

Payable to field_radio@mail.com

www.paypal.com

Field Radio also have various other mechandise including clothing. Please see.....

http://www.fieldradio.org/field-radio-merchandise

VK0ANT a pirate

By Paul VK5PAS



Info has surfaced that a station signing as VKoANT in Antartica is in fact a pirate. The individual has been giving his name as Michael.

VK Shires on parksnpeaks

By Bill VK4FW

Great news...... on behalf of the VK Shires Committee I am very pleased to announce that we are now being hosted at...

www.parksnpeaks.org

This system is without doubt a great tool for amateurs to utilise if you are chasing VKFF, SOTA and now VK SHIRES. Be sure to go take a look and watch how it all works and be sure to use the system for spotting. I do not fully understand how the whole thing works but I have used it to great effect when chasing vkff. I used it today to spot the 40m net and listed the shires that I had on there. In time to come

when we get all the PR published in AR Magazine along with word of mouth we fully expect many posts alerting everyone what shire is on what frequency at what time. Please also note that we hope to have our own web site online within the next 2 weeks.

VKFF Team Championship 2016

By Paul VK5PAS

The VKFF Team Championship will be held on **Sunday 16th October 2016 between 0000 UTC and 0600 UTC.**

- Create a team of 2 or more amateurs (maximum of 4)
- Create a name for your team (please be sensible)
- Register your team with the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS (failing to register will make your activation void for the VKFF Team Championship).
- Activate from a qualifying VKFF park.
- Make as many contacts as possible within the 6 hour period (0000 UTC - 0600 UTC).
- Stay in the park for as long as you like.....6 hours, 3 hours, 1 hour. What ever you choose.
- Operate on as many bands
 (excluding the WARC bands) as
 desired (but remember VKFF rules,
 in that repeaters, IRLP, Echolink do
 not count for valid VKFF QSOs).

- Operate as many stations as you would like, e.g. one op on 40m, another on 10m, etc.
- Ensure you abide by all VKFF rules.
- There is no requirement for a contest exchange, e.g. 5/9 001.
- Suggested call: CQ VKFF Team Championship
- At the end of the VKFF Team
 Championship, submit your log to the VKFF co-ordinator, Paul VK5PAS.
- The log MUST be in ADIF format or by using the CSV file template.

A variety of prizes are on offer. Sponsors include.....

- Pages of Cobram
- SOTABeams





More information can be found on the WWFF Australia website at.....

http://www.wwffaustralia.com/



Australia is on the move

By Paul VK5PAS

Compton VK2HRX recently posted a very interesting link on the SOTA Australia Yahoo group with respect to Australia's latitude and longitude. Here is the link to the article on the ABC new website......

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-28/aust-latitude-longitude-coordinates-out-by-1-5m-scientists/7666858 This article sparked a bit of interest and conversation on the Yahoo group, which can be found at.....

https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SOT A Australia/conversations/messages

A portable contact from York

By Paul VK5PAS

Back in March whilst I was operating on 20m, I was called by Lee M6BHQ. Lee is a Corporal in the 50 Signal Squadron and was operating portable at an Army base at Strensall, near York and was involved in a 'squadron challenge' to make the longest contact. As it turned out, our QSO was in fact the winner of the challenge, and won a crate of beer for his efforts.

Lee has kindly sent me some photos of his set up on the day.









If you happen to receive a QSL card from an overseas of local SOTA or parks or portable operator, please send me a copy to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Danny OT4V, BELGIUM (WWFF)



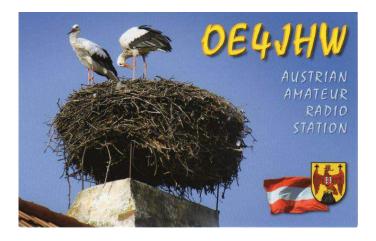
Wlad, IZ2GTO (Italian Castles Award)



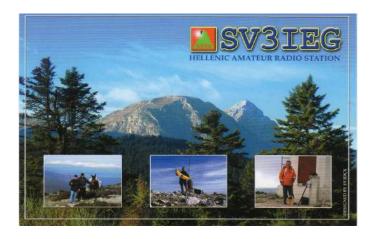
Francois EA5/ON4LO/p (WWFF)



Jurgen OE4JHW (SOTA)



Kris SV3IEG (SOTA)



Herbert OE9HRV (SOTA)



Ham Humour



Worked All Britain – Trig points award

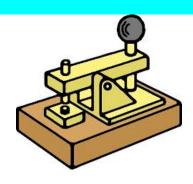
Recently Mike VK6MB brought the following award to my attention – the Worked All Britain trig points award. This award is based upon working the pillar type triangulation points (commonly known as 'Trig Points') which were used to carry out the surveying for Ordnance

More information can be found at.....

Survey maps.

http://wab.intermip.net/Trig%20Points%20Award.php





Just a reminder, the QRS Slow Morse Net is on each Wednesday night

QRS Slow Morse Code Net

Net controller: Garry VK2GAZ (VK2FDU) Wednesday nights 8PM (Sydney NSW local time)

November - April 7.028MHz +/- QRM May - October 3.528MHz +/- QRM

Call: CQ CQ QRS Net de VK2FDU

Power: any level



Hi All,

Just a reminder that the 2016 Keith Roget

Memorial National Park Award activation weekend will take place across 4 days....... Friday November 11- Monday November 14.

This will be 6th activation weekend and is designed to provide a sharp focus on the 45 VK3 National Parks for both hunters and activators alike, many of whom may be attempting the somewhat difficult task of reaching the targets of: Merit Award- Hunter / Merit Award- Activator or the perhaps the ultimate Award...... The "Grand Slam", which is 45 VK3 National Parks activated and 45 VK3 National Parks worked. The Grand Slammers, to date, are Peter VK3ZPF, Peter VK3PF, Julie VK3FOWL and Joe VK3YSP. On the way to the Grand Slam can be found 2 levels of progress and information on these Awards can be viewed at

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

I encourage everyone to use the Parks and Peaks resource for information relating to the 45 Parks already you will find 6 Parks listed that are intended to be activated in November. Parks and Peaks can be found at

http://www.parksnpeaks.org/index.php

Should you have any questions please contact me direct or via the Group.

Best 73

Tony VK3XV / VK3VTH

Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF By Paul VK5PAS



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

vk5pas@wia.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.

- Warren ZL2AJ/p, SOTA ZL1/ HB-114 (24/7/2016)
- o Danny OT4V/p, ONFF-0255 (22/7/2016)
- o Swa ON5SWA/p, ONFF-0545 (22/7/2016)
- Wynne ZL2ATH/p, SOTA ZL1/ WK-076 (19/7/2016)
- o W7ISG/p, NPOTA MN71 Tuzigoot National Monument (14/7/2016)
- o John ZL1BYZ/p, SOTA ZL1/ AK-018 (10/7/2016)

Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS



If you have put together a You Tube video, or spotted a video of interest somewhere, please let me know.

VK5 Parks Award promotional video.

https://youtu.be/ovguZtR8KUQ