



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 18, April 2016

Welcome



Hi all, and welcome to Issue 18, April 2016, of 'Out and About in VK5', a small newsletter dedicated to VK5 activities relating to SOTA, Parks, portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

Due to the great weather, the month of March saw a lot of park activity again, across all of South Australia. The kind weather saw two more Friday afternoon/evening events for the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award.

The month of March saw revamped web pages for both the SOTA and WWFF programs. The Murray River Parks Award was launched and this has proven to be very popular.

I expect that as we go into the cooler months in the very near future, the number of SOTA & Park activations will dramatically drop. This is a great time of the year to perhaps climb that

SOTA summit that was a little too difficult in the warmer weather.

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



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

Contents.

Freeze your Butt Off	4
Field Radio – Coming Events	4
Revamped SOTA website	4
New KFF co-ordinator	5
BRL gathering	5-6
WWFF Park to Park award	6
Revamped WWFF website	7
KML file with all VK5 Parks	7
2016 VKFF Activation Weekend	7-8
John Moyle Memorial Field Day 2016	8-9
Snakes	9
Ham introductions	9-11
Recent park activations	11-14
Recent SOTA activations	14
New VK5 Parks Yahoo members	14-15
Friday VK5 Parks event	15
Just passed the Foundation course	16
KRMNPA Activation Weekend 2016	16
New VK5 Parks Facebook members	16-17
Recent Award recipients	17-19
VKFF Team Championship 2016	19-20
Whasapp for Real HF mobile group	21
JAFF co-ordinator	21
A Good Friday activation	21-24

Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF	24-25
Coffee morning	25-26
Latest videos	26
Promotional video for the VK5 Parks Award	26-27
XYL certificate	27
VK5PAS portable QSL card	27

Freeze your Butt Off

By Paul VK5PAS

Ian VK5CZ is thinking about an Australian equivalent of the ‘Freeze your Butt Off’ (FYBO) Day which is held in the USA.

FYBO is for those portable ops who like to operate outdoors in all kinds of weather, with scoring based on the temperature. The colder it is the higher your score.

If you are interested please drop Ian an email at....

vk5czqrp@gmail.com

Here is some info re the USA FYBO Day.....

http://www.azscqrptions.org/FYBO2016_Rules.htm



Image courtesy of www.frugal-café.com

Field Radio - Coming Events

By Paul VK5PAS

The Field Radio website has a dedicated page relating to ‘Coming Events’. If you are planning an event that involves portable ham radio and think it would be of interest to the members of the Field Radio group, then you can post details of the event on the Coming Events page.

Here is a link.....

<http://www.fieldradio.org/coming-events>

Revamped SOTA website

By Paul VK5PAS



Some you may have noticed that the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program has a revamped website.

The SOTA website can be found at.....

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

New KFF co-ordinator

By Paul VK5PAS



The United States of America now has a new KFF co-ordinator for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program. Jason W3AAX has stepped into this role. Jason is a dedicated SOTA and NPOTA activator and chaser, and the WWFF Committee are very confident that Jason will do his very best to promote and expand WWFF in the USA.

Welcome aboard Jason.



BRL Gathering

By Ron VK5MRE



Gday to all,

The BRL gathering is on again at the idealic location of Overland Corner South Australia.

Attached is a flyer of the planned order of events for the weekend , please let us know if you plan to come by email or on one of the BRL nets ,it would be great to catch up with you all again.

The Riverland Radio Club has put a lot of effort to make the gathering a great success again and we extend a warm welcome to all hams and their partners.

Please pass this flyer onto as many hams as you wish.

73,

Ron
VK5MRE (VK5BRL Net controller)



BRL Gathering
16th & 17th APRIL 2016
Overland Corner
S.A

Saturday:
0730: Breakfast
0830: BRL Group
1000: Boot sale
1200: Lunch Riverland Radio Club cooking
1330: Meet and greet & photo's
1430: presentations
Dinner: Hotel meal
Sunday: 0730 Breakfast

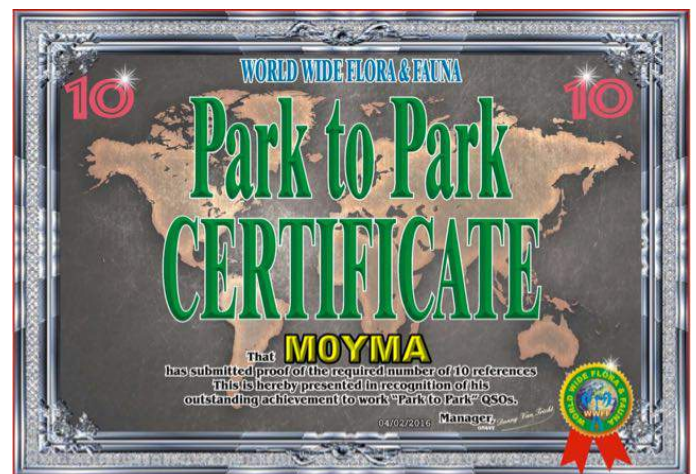
WWFF Park to Park Award

By Paul VK5PAS

The new WWFF Park to Park (P2P) Award is continuing to be very popular, with a number of VK amateurs now having the P2P 44 certificate.

More information can be found at.....

<http://wwff.co/park-to-park-new-level/>



Editors comment.....

Andrew is still working on a mechanism to allow existing logs to be updated for Park to Park (P2P) info.



Revamped WWFF website

By Paul VK5PAS



The WWFF program has also revamped its global website, with further work yet to be done. The new look WWFF global website can be found at.....

<http://wwff.co/>

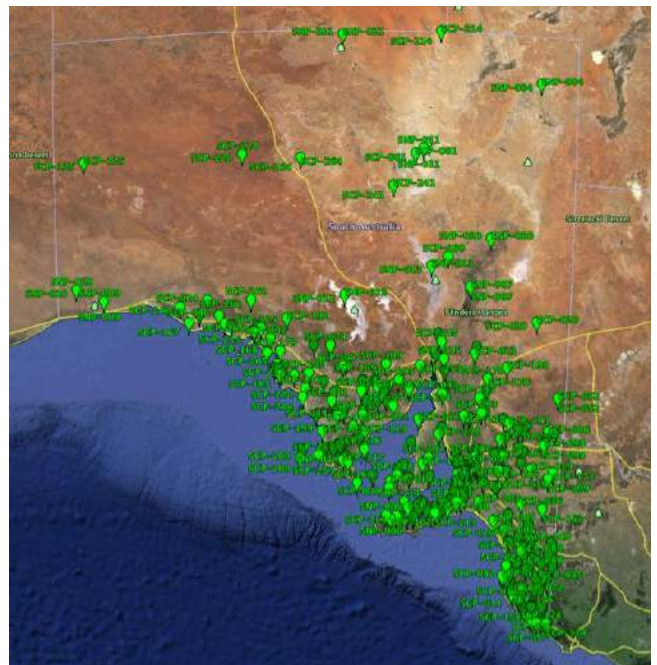
KML file for VK5 Parks

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder that you can find the most recent KML file with all of the VK5 National & Conservation Parks, on either the VK5 Parks website, or in the files section of the VK5 Yahoo group. I have also posted it on the VK5 Parks Facebook site.

The KML file can be downloaded and used in Google Earth and Google maps, to show you

where each park is located.



2016 VKFF Activation Weekend

By Paul VK5PAS

A reminder that the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend will be held on.....

**Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th
November 2016.**

Last years inaugural VKFF Action Weekend (held in November just gone), saw a total of 51 amateurs venture out to activate 77 unique parks all across Australia. There were over 3,200 QSOs made over the 2 day period.

Again, please drop me an email should you be intending on activating a park.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au



John Moyle Memorial Field Day 2016

By Paul VK5PAS



I would be interested to hear how people got on with the John Moyle Memorial Field Day.

I headed out to the Monarto Conservation Park and entered in the 6 hour section, and ended up with a total of 238 contacts. You can read a bit

more about the activation and watch a video at my Wordpress site at....

<https://vk5pas.org/2016/03/20/john-moyle-memorial-field-day-2016/>

The Amateur Radio Experimenters Group (AREG) fielded 5 stations in the contest this year: VK5AKH, VK5MTM, VK5KX, VK5CP and VK5GR.



Above:- The station of Andy VK5AKH. Image courtesy of www.areg.org.au



Above: The station of Theo VK5MTM. Image courtesy of www.areg.org.au

For more info on AREG's involvement in the JMMFD 2016, please see....

<http://www.areg.org.au/archives/2654>

If you did compete in the JMMFD 2016, please send me some info and photos, and I will place it in next months issue.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Snakes

By Paul VK5PAS



Although its probably now getting on in the season for encountering snakes whilst you are out portable, here is an interesting website.....

<http://www.whatsnakeisthat.com.au/sa.html>

Ham introductions

By Paul VK5PAS



Hi all, my name is Rob and my callsign is VK4AAC. My wife and I were living in Townsville until we retired on the 28th of March 2014. Two days later we hit the road with our 4wd and caravan and haven't looked back. So far it has been approx. 2 years travelling and thoroughly loving it. The plan is to spend approximately 1 year travelling around each state and then..... probably do it all over again!! We are both originally from South Australia and have been in Queensland about 10 years. I grew up in Port Augusta, a small town about 350kms north of Adelaide.

I am a licensed electrical fitter and my working life has seen me involved in the power distribution industry, firstly with ETSA (now SA Power Networks) in VK5 and the last 8 years before retirement with Ergon Energy in VK4 as a Power System Controller in the Queensland Far Northern control room.

In the late 1970's I was involved in 27Mhz CB radio and my local CB Radio club. This is where I saw and heard my first amateur radio, a Yaesu FT-7B (I have one of these packed away at home). From there my interest in radio was helped along, when I was an apprentice, by one of my instructors who was a VK5 license holder. In the early 80's I sat for my license exams and failed the morse test, I lost interest and moved on to other endeavors. By late 1988 I gained interest in amateur radio again through a chance find of an old CB radio I had packed away and forgotten about. I sat again for the exams including morse code and gained a “K” call, VK5KNJ, then soon after a full call, VK5CS. After moving to Queensland I applied for and received the callsign VK4AAC and then let my VK5 callsign lapse.

My main interest is HF DX but I had not been very active on the bands for many years. In retirement I was very interested in taking up the hobby whilst travelling. At this stage I knew nothing of the WWFF/VKFF and the various other park activities, until I made contact with a chap with the callsign VK5PAS who told me all about the programs. This was about March 2015 and now I am hooked and the various park programs have brought new life to the hobby for me.

My wife and I love to get out into parks and do a bit of bushwalking and generally enjoying the outdoors. We try to do as much free camping and camping in national parks, with the caravan, as possible depending on the weather. Now we also activate parks for the VKFF program and I actively hunt them as well.

Our campsite in 2015 at Arkaroola in far north VK5...



My shack consists of an Icom IC-7000 mounted in the front of the 4wd, it has a modified microphone (courtesy of AB5N) and the power source is a 120aH AGM auxiliary battery and an MFJ-4416b voltage booster. My antennas on the car consist of a “Ramtune 360” mobile tuning antenna for HF and a dual band 2m/70cm whip.

The antenna for my park activations is a homebrew 40m dipole with 300 ohm TV ribbon for the feedline.

Some of my other interests include flying RC helicopters (not very well!!), gold detecting (not very lucky!!), bushwalking and reading scientific material specifically astrophysics and earth sciences.

My wife and I also do a little “Farm Sitting”, this is like house sitting except on farms. We move onto the farm with our van and look after things while the farmer is on holidays. It's great, we get to stay for free and enjoy some fantastic farm properties for just a couple of hours work each day. The best part is being out in the isolation of the bush.

We both enjoy fishing and crabbing and try to get the boat wet whenever we can. Our “ship” is a 3.4m tinny with 8hp of “pure terror” on the back!! So far my favorite fishing place is Streaky Bay in South Australia.

We have a house in “Brisvegas”, Queensland (Brisbane) but, as we travel around Australia, we are always on the lookout for possibly somewhere else to settle down.....eventually!

I look forward to catching you on air sometime or possibly even a face to face meeting in my travels.

73's and good DX,
Rob
VK4AAC

Recent Park Activations

Lots of park activity again during March which was great to see. Here is a list of recent park activations by VK5's (that I am aware of).....

- Little Dip Conservation Park VKFF-0904 and 5CP-120, Stef VK5HSX/p (31/3/2016)
- Wolseley Common Conservation Park 5CP-258 and VKFF-0125, Paul VK5PAS (30/3/2016)

- Mount Arapiles/Tooan State Park VKFF-0765, Paul VK5PAS/3 (29/3/2016)
- Kelvin Powrie Conservation Park 5CP-103 and VKFF-0899, Paul VK5PAS/p (29/3/2016)



- Cromer Conservation Park 5CP-049 and VKFF-0779, Marcus VK3TST/5 (28/3/2016)
- Hale Conservation Park 5CP-087 and VKFF-0889, Marcus VK3TST/5 (28/3/2016)
- Hallett Cove Conservation Park 5CP-087 and VKFF-890, Stef VK5HSX/p (25/3/2016)
- Hale Conservation Park 5CP-087 and VKFF-0889, David VK5PL/p (25/3/2016)

- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park 5CP-127 and VKFF-0782, Peter VK5PET/p (25/3/2016)



- Sandy Creek Conservation Park, VK5GRC (19/3/2016)
- Monarto Conservation Park 5CP-138 and VKFF-0828, Paul VK5PAS/p (19/3/2016)
- Morialta Conservation Park, Theo VK5MTM/p (19/3/2016)



- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park 5CP-127 and VKFF-0782, Rick VK5FGFK (25/3/2016)
- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 and VKFF-0788, John VK5BJE/p (25/3/2016)
- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 and VKFF-0788, Paul VK5PAS/p (25/3/2016)
- Hallett Cove Conservation Park, Lesley VK5LOL/p (20/3/2016)

- Mount Magnificent Conservation Park 5CP-148 and VKFF-0916, Stef VK5HSX/p (18/3/2016)
- Finnis Conservation Park, Peter VK5PET/p (18/3/2016)
- Beachport Conservation Park, VKFF-0791, Charlie VK5KDK (18/3/2016)

- Kyeema Conservation Park 5CP-107 and VKFF-0825, Stef VK5HSX/p (17/3/2016)
- Ewens Ponds Conservation Park, Tony VK3VTH/p (15/3/2016)
- Sandy Creek Conservation Park, Marcus VK3TST/5 (14/3/2016)



- Scott Conservation Park 5CP-206 and VKFF-0934, Peter VK5PET/p (11/3/2016)
- Port Gawler Conservation Park 5CP-188 and VKFF-0786, Marcus VK3TST/5 (11/3/2016)



- Scott Creek Conservation Park 5CP-207 and VKFF-0788, John VK5BJE (11/3/2016)
- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park 5CP-127 and VKFF-0782, Paul VK5PAS/p (11/3/2016)
- Waitpinga Conservation Park 5CP-243 and VKFF-0940, Stef VK5HSX/p (1/3/2016)

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



Ian VK5CZ kept the SOTA flag flying this month with 2 SOTA activations in the Mid North of South Australia. Paul VK5PAS activated a SOTA summit in VK3, whilst Hugh VK5NHG activated Charles Peak in WA during a trip to VK6. Mr Mount Gawler himself, Nigel VK5NIG was back at Mount Gawler, the most activated SOTA summit in VK5.

Please remember, we have 2 very accessible SOTA summits right on Adelaide's doorstep....Mount Lofty and Mount Gawler.

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

- Mount Arapiles VK3/ VW-022, Paul VK5PAS/3 (29/3/2016)

- Mount Nadjuri VK5/ NE-058, Ian VK5CZ/p (27/3/2016)
- Peak Charles VK6/ SG-001. Hugh VK5NHG/6 (25/3/2016)
- Mount Gawler VK5/ SE-013, Nigel VK5NIG/p (24/3/2016)
- Tothill Range VK5/ SE-010, Ian VK5CZ/p (20/3/2016)

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

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

New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



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

- Peter VK5PM
- Andy VK2VOO
- Steve VK5SFA
- Rick VK5FGFK

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

https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sanp_cpa/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.



Another Friday afternoon/evening event for the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award was held on Friday 11th March 2016.

Four (4) activators took part. This particular evening coincided with Parks Week 2016.



- Scott Conservation Park, Peter VK5PET/p
- Mark Oliphant Conservation Park, Paul VK5PAS
- Scott Creek Conservation Park, John VK5BJE
- Port Gawler Conservation Park, Marcus VK3TST/5

Marcus VK3TST/5 set up at Port Gawler with a FT817, 5 watts and a 20m vertical. He also tuned up on the 40m band briefly with the 20m vertical, but as Marcus expected was not heard.

For me, in the Mark Oliphant CP, I made a total of 86 contacts. This included two Park to Park contacts with Peter VK5PET in Scott Conservation Park and Marcus VK3TST/5 in Port Gawler Conservation Park.

Also three Summits on the Air (SOTA) contacts with Rob VK2QR and Josh VK2JOS.

I also made my first 2m contact from a park from my Yaesu VX6R handheld with John VK5BJE.

There was a small opening to Europe on the long path on 20m with a total of 17 European stations worked. Also worked USA & French Polynesia on 40m, and the catch of the evening on 40m was working the TX7EU DXpedition on Marquesas Islands.

Just passed the Foundation course

By Paul VK5PAS



I am very proud to announce that my wife Marija has just passed her FOUNDATION amateur radio licence course.

Well done Marija, and also big thanks to the crew at the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS).

KRMNPA Activation Weekend 2016

By Paul VK5PAS



Amateur Radio Victoria
For a century doing what we do best: in support of the amateur radio community

The 2016 Activation Weekend for the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA) will be held on....

**Friday 11th to Monday 14th
November 2016**

If you do intend to activate a park, don't forget to place an alert on parksnparks.

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

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

There is also a KRMNPA Yahoo group which can be found at.....

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

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 88 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

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

➤ Marija VK5FMAZ

- Peter VK3TKK
- Rene ON3VT
- Eric KOEWF
- Jay VK4JK

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

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

Recent Award recipients

By Paul VK5PAS



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.

My email address is.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- **NIL known**

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

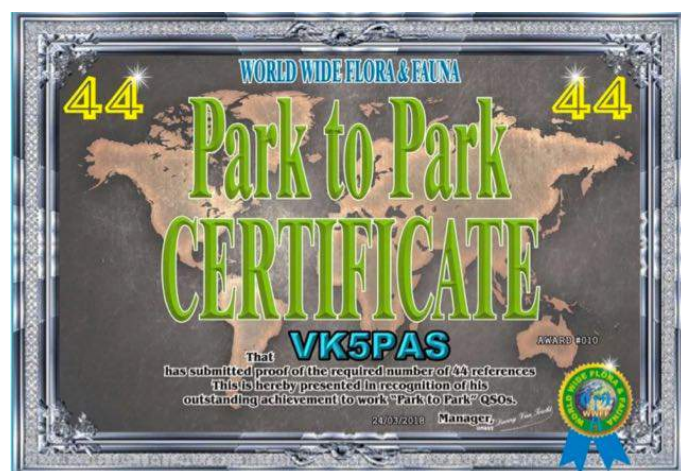
- **Charlie VK5KDK**
 - Silver VKFF Hunter



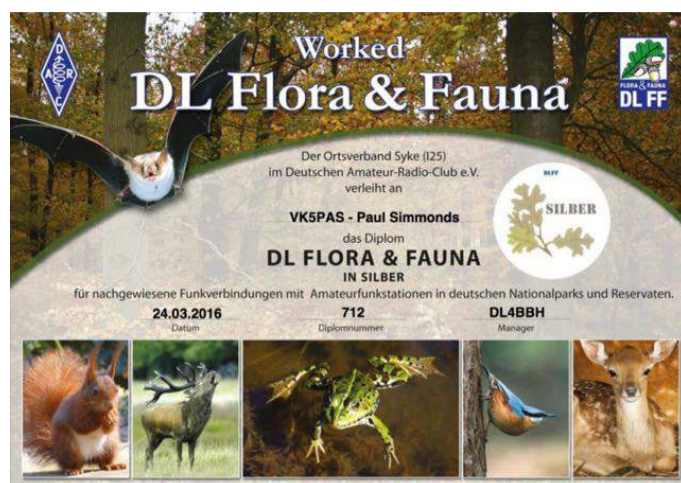
- **Tim VK5AV**
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 125



- David VK5PL
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 175



- Paul VK5PAS
 - VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 375
 - Global Park to Park 44
 - Silver DL Flora and Fauna



- **Stef VK5HSX**
 - Sapphire VKFF Hunter
 - OCCFF-H-7



VK5 Parks Award

- **NIL known**

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **NIL known**

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.

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



The poster is for the VKFF Team Championship. It features two circular logos at the top: one with a globe and the text 'WORLD WIDE FLORA & FAUNA' and another with a globe and the text 'WORLD WIDE FLORA & FAUNA'. Below the logos, the text 'VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP' is written in large, bold, green letters. Underneath, the date and time 'Sunday 16th October 2016 0000 UTC - 0600 UTC' are displayed in yellow. The poster includes sections for 'What is it all about?', 'How do I take part?', 'Prizes', and 'More information?'. The 'What is it all about?' section states that teams of amateurs compete against each other for 6 hours to obtain the most contacts. The 'How do I take part?' section instructs participants to create a team of 2 or more amateurs, register with VK5PAS, and head out to a qualifying VKFF park. The 'Prizes' section mentions a glass etched trophy for the winning team and participation certificates for all members. The 'More information?' section directs participants to the WWFF Australia website at <http://www.wwffaustalia.com/>.

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

- **Pages of Cobram**
- **SOTABeams**



VKFF boundary KML files

By Paul VK5PAS

Marc VK3OHM has kindly put together some KML files which show the boundaries of the VKFF parks. They can be found at.....

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wwffaustralia/files>

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

Whatsapp for Real HF mobile group

By Dave G4AKC

Hello Group,

Just a reminder to all members that the group is also available on [whatsapp](#) on your mobile phone for live messages and skeds.

A large proportion of our group members all over the world are now on RealHFmobile on [whatsapp](#) as well as here.

Anyone wishing to be added to the group on [whatsapp](#) can either send me there mobile number to my e mail address or post it on here and I will be more than happy to add you.

e-mail me on:

davidandtracy@yahoo.co.uk)

There is a lot of activity on our [whatsapp](#) group and its ideal for arranging frequencies for QSO's and also for chatter about what's going on and of course its free and it live information exchange within the group as well.

73's ...

Dave, **G4AKC**

JAFF co-ordinator

By Paul VK5PAS



Great news from Japan. Nobi HA1JCF has accepted the role as the JAFF co-ordinator.

A Good Friday activation

By John VK5BJE

On Friday afternoon, Good Friday, VK5PAS, and I, visited Scott Creek Conservation Park for a joint activation. In addition to the usual HF station we wished to add to the number of bands used by adding some VHF and UHF capability. But more on that later.

I have activated this park many times and have qualified the park for the WWFF program. Here is a link to my last activation:

<https://vk5bj.com/2015/03/14/scott-creek-conservtion-park-vkff-788-14th-march-2015/>

Our objectives were:

First, to field test a Spiderbeam asymmetrical dipole designed to work on five HF bands. This antenna is quite impressive and well-made, but like most, if not all, Off Centre Fed (OCF) antennas, presents a higher than desirable VSWR on some of the bands. Paul, who is the reviewer, will say more about this. If you use 100 watts and want an excellent antenna for camping, are prepared to use a coupler (antenna tuner) on occasions, this antenna is worthy of consideration.

Second, to conduct an HF activation. This task mainly fell to Paul (VK5PAS), who operated on the 40, 20 and 15 metre bands.

Finally, to try and sample antennas for six metres (a dipole), two metres, a Cushcraft three element beam and a six element log periodic style antenna (made by ATN antennas) for 70 centimetres. I did not bring any 23 cm gear and nor did I operate on six metres and 70 centimetres. I will in the future. The beam antennas are supported by a three piece aluminium mast which is guyed. This mast can be erected by one person but it easier with two! Thanks to Paul for driving the tent pegs into the ground while I held the mast. I use good quality semi-rigid coax fitted with N connectors for VHF and UHF. The antenna is rotated by the armstrong method and an orienteering compass provides the bearings. My radio for this activation was a Yaesu 897 operating at 20 watts. Two LiFePO₄ batteries were used: of 4.200 and 8.400 amp hours capacity.



This photo, courtesy of Paul, VK5PAS, shows my operating position, about 20 metres from where Paul's station was located.

The weather was good, warm with the temperature in the low twenties, sunny and with just a gentle breeze.



This photo, also from Paul, VK5PAS, shows my two metre antenna, a simple three element beam fed with quality semi-rigid coaxial cable (unfortunately the identification markings have rubbed off with lots of use).



The final picture, also courtesy of Paul, is a close up of the beam showing the gamma match.

Contacts

After field testing the OCF dipole I set up my two-metre station at 05:25z. I checked the Mount Gambier beacon, VK5RSE, on 144.550, at Mount Graham. This beacon is listed in the *Wireless Institute of Australia* call-book as having 25 watts transmit output. The beacon was showing 5 and 2 on my FT897 and climbed to 5 and 5 on the peak of the QSB cycle. The QSB cycles were even and thus predictable. At this point my confidence soared. The Mount Lofty beacon, VK5VF, 144.450, about ten kilometres from our operating location (as the wedge-tailed eagle flies) was really loud! I placed a post on Parksnparks and hoped for the best. I called on 144.110 for a few times without success, so I soon moved to the calling frequency of 144.100.

05:42 VK5KC, David, 5 and 9, both ways

05:44 VK5AKK, Phil, 5 and 9, both ways

05:54 VK5MC, Chris at Millicent in South Eastern South Australia 5 and 4 and 5 and 5

05:57 VK5GY, Gordon, operating at **Bullock Hill Conservation Park**, 5 and 5 both ways. Gordon was holding his beam in one hand! Gordon told me he is celebrating 40 years of being an amateur (in the UK and Australia) so I shared my 40 year story with Gordon and gave him a second call (06:01) as VK5PF, 5 and 5 both ways.

Paul told me there were operators on 40 metres who wished to contact me – so we swapped stations.

So on 7.150 I had the following contacts:

06:06 VK5FMID, Brian, 5 and 9 both ways

06:08 VK2IO, Gerard 5 and 7, 5 and 4

06:08 VK4AAC/P3, Rob 5 and 9 and 4 and 7. Rob was in a noisy caravan park.

06:11 VK5KHZ, Hans, 5 and 9 both ways

06:13 VK3ZMD, Mike 5 and 8, 5 and 7

06:17 VK5FANA, Adrian 5 and 9 both ways

06:18 VK4FW, Bill near Kingaroy, 5 and 9, 5 and 4

06:19 VK3CDR, Chris 5 and 9 both ways

06:22 VK4GSF, George, Toowoomba, 5 and 9 both ways

06:23 VK3GWS/P, Grant at Beechworth 5 and 9 both ways

While I was working away on 40 metres I could hear Paul on two metres. We decided to swap radios when it went a bit quiet on 40 metres. I called CQ on 144.100.

06:36 VK5DK, 144.100, Col at Mount Gambier, 5 and 9, 5 and 8. I was delighted: a good haul on two metres with a modest station – 20 watts and a three element beam! Col, of course, has a great set up on two metres and most other higher bands.

06:40 VK5NC, Trevor at Mount Gambier, 5 and 3, 5 and 4

06:46 VK3LY, Bill from Nhill, 5 and 3, 5 and 1

I called a few more times and then decided I should set up on 146.500 FM. VK5FANA, Adrian, advised he would travel to the top of a nearby hill and give me a call. Unfortunately we did not make a contact. I suspect we could have made it but our efforts did not correspond in time.

Later using Paul's hand-held radio I had contacts with:

07:20 VK5PET, Peter, **Mark Oliphant Conservation Park**, 5 and 9 both ways

07:21 Rick, VK5FGFK (and a second contact from me, VK5PF), **Mark Oliphant Conservation Park**, 5 and 9 both ways

and later, 07:40, with David, VK5KC on 52.200 ssb, 5 and 3 both ways. Twenty two contacts on three bands: 10 on 40m; 11 on two metres and one on six metres was my total for the day and 11 contacts on two metres were very satisfying.

Here is a link to Paul's, VK5PAS, YouTube channel which captures some of the fun and excitement of this style of portable activation. Thanks to all of the operators who gave us a call.

<https://youtu.be/6fIXdFaD3yU>

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.

Some good 20m band openings to Europe.

- G4AKC pedestrian mobile (31/3/2016)
- ZL2AJ/p (SOTA)
- OT4V/p (WWFF)
- SM7DAY/p (IOTA) (13/3/2016)
- GW2HF/p (SOTA) (13/3/2016)
- IZ4EFP/p (Italian Abbeys) (13/3/2016)
- IZ1JNA/p (Italian Castles) (13/3/2016)
- DL/SP9MA/p (SOTA) (13/3/2016)
- M/SP9MA/p (SOTA) (10/3/2016)
- MWOVCB/p (SOTA) (10/3/2016)
- IZ5GST/p (Italian Castles) (10/3/2016)
- SP5ZIM/p (WWFF) (9/3/2016)

- SP9YFF/p (WWFF) (6/3/2016)
- SP5C (WWFF) (6/3/2016)
- ZL2AJ/p (SOTA) (5/3/2016)
- IZ2GTO/p (Italian Abbeys) (3/3/2016)
- IZ5GST/p (WWFF) (3/3/2016)
- F4DTO/p (WWFF) (2/3/2016)

Coffee morning

By Paul VK5PAS

On Tuesday 29th March 2016, I met with a number of other amateurs at Cafe Aqua at Mount Barker, for morning coffee. This was the inaugural meeting of a monthly get together I have organised for amateurs who are interested in parks activating, SOTA, QRP, etc.

The following amateurs attended:-

1. Paul VK5PAS
2. John VK5BJE
3. Peter VK5PM
4. Gordon VK5GY
5. Tony VK5FTVR
6. Peter VK5PET
7. Iain VK5ZIF
8. Kevin VK5KS
9. David VK5KC
10. Bob (friend of David VK5KC)

A number of stories were shared about portable operating experiences, and information

exchanged about interesting websites.



We will hold these events each month in different locations, allowing amateurs from all across the Adelaide area to attend. It is planned that they will be coffee mornings, and lunches, and will occasionally include a quick talk on a particular subject.

I will post details about the next meeting date and venue on the AHARS Facebook site, the VK5 Parks Facebook site, and the VKFF/SOTA Facebook site. I also have an email list, so if you would like to be added, please send me an email to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

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.

Theo VK5MTM/p, JMMFD

<https://youtu.be/Eh5WTnA2yKQ>

Paul VK5PAS/p JMMFD 2016

https://youtu.be/UX1K7-78I_Y

VK5GRC JMMFD 2016

<https://youtu.be/N7mZtauSoNc>

Promotional video for the VK5 Parks Award

By Paul VK5PAS

I am looking to put together a promotional video for the VK5 Parks Award. I am looking for videos and high res photos re any VK5 Park activations.

Please drop me an email if you can assist.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

So far despite posting on Facebook, I have had ZERO responses.

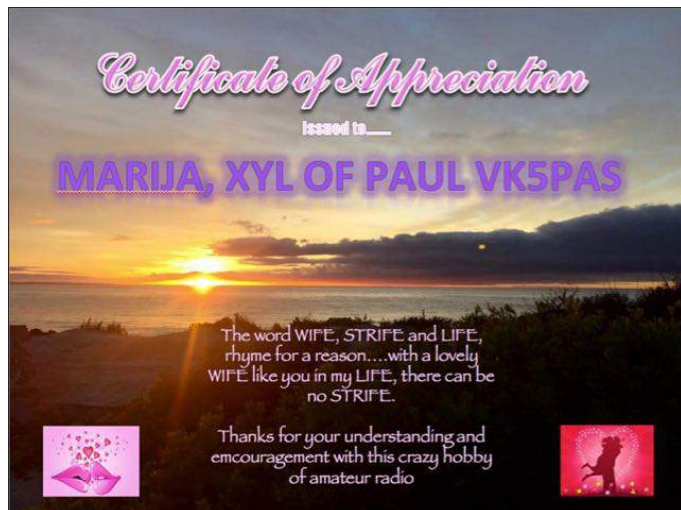
XYL certificate

By Paul VK5PAS

Last month I put together a Certificate of Appreciation for my wife Marija, for putting up with all of our gallivanting around the countryside. A few other keen portable ops asked if I could put the same certificate together for their XYL, which I have done.

If you would like a certificate for your better half, please drop me an email to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au



VK5PAS portable QSL card

By Paul VK5PAS

I have a special QSL card for my portable operations.

If you are a local (VK) you can send me a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope with your QSL card and I will return my VK5PAS/p QSL card to you.

If you are a DX station, please QSL via my QSL Manager, Charles MoOXO.

