HAPPY NEW YEAR for 2011

# TABLELANDS RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB

**VK4WAT**

# TREC—NEWS

**Volume 4, Issue 1**

**January 2011**

The Leading Amateur Radio Club in Far North Queensland.

| | |
|---|---|
| President: | Stu Dunk VK4SDD |
| Secretary: | Dale McCarthy VK4DMC |
| Treasurer: | Ron Goodhew VK4EMF |

## Coming events

**January 2011**

**15th—16th.**

Summer VHF/UHF Field Day to be held at Hallorans Hill Atherton.

**February 2011**

**Saturday 19th.**

Club Social get-together 1000hrs — Show and Tell at clubrooms, followed by a management committee meeting.

## *The Editor's Desk*

**G'day all,**

**Another year starts, I wonder what it will bring. Hopefully the solar cycle will kick in and give us lots of great DX.**

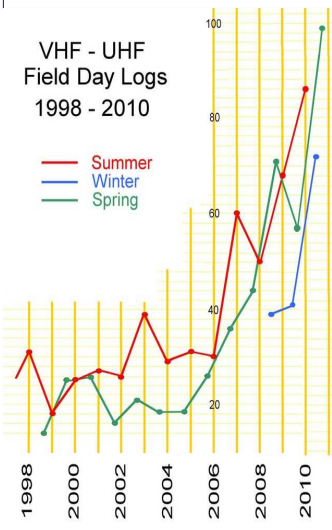
**As you read this spare a thought for TREC member Mike O'Callaghan VK4AMO who is seriously ill in a Cairns hospital. Get well soon Mike.**

**73 & Travel Well - Dale VK4DMC.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Greetings from the frigid climes of the south.
Yep, Sydney has had a cool Christmas!
We packed no jumpers, guess what we got for Christmas ?
As you read this, we are probably trying to get back up to the table-lands from Sydney. The roads are blocked in many places due to flood-ing, so the trip is going to be an interesting one !!!!!
You may say that's ok, Stu has Amateur radio to keep him sane, well let me tell you there is no one on !!!!! I have had no contacts on 2m or 70cm via as many repeaters as I could access along the east coast. I am not counting the Sydney metro area as I have had a few contacts here. Out of the city the repeaters are working but no one wants to use them.
Enough of the bad stuff I'm looking forward to a good year radio wise we have a full club calendar , lots of activities and I'm sure other things will pop up during the year to keep us occupied.
I wish everyone a happy new year and look forward to seeing you when we finally get home.
Remember not all old coax is equal - some pieces are longer than oth-ers ?????????????

**Cheers Stu VK4SDD — President**




# SUMMER VHF/UHF FIELD DAY 2011

## Saturday and Sunday 15/16 January 2011

### Aim of the contest

The overriding aim is to get away for the weekend and have fun but next after that the aims are:

- To encourage more activity on VHF/UHF and microwave bands.
- To encourage people to work greater distances than usual by operating portable, and
- To provide opportunities for people to activate or work into new grid squares.

**TREC—VK4WAT** will be operating from Hallorans Hill **QH22rr**.

Come along and spend a few hours working and having fun working stations near and far on the higher bands. Let's improve on the 7th place that we achieved in November.. Full details and rules are available at www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/

**TABLELANDS RADIO AND ELECTRONICS CLUB INCORPORATED.**

PO Box 682
ATHERTON QLD 4883

Phone: Secretary 07 4091 3700
Fax: 07 4091 3700
E-mail: vk4wat@wia.org.au

NETS
THURSDAY .
1900 –1930 VK4RTA repeater 146.675 - offset

THURSDAY
1930 - 2030 Henry Fulford—Tom Debel Memorial net 3.588MHz

We're on the web.
www.trecclub.org.au

## SMILE AWHILE

The police arrested Patrick Lawrence, 22 year old white male, in a pumpkin patch 11:38 p.m. On Friday night.
On Monday, at the Gwinnett County (GA) courthouse, Lawrence was charged with lewd and lascivious behaviour, public indecency, and public intoxication.

The suspect explained that as he was passing a pumpkin patch on his way home from a drinking session when he decided to stop, 'You know how a pumpkin is soft and squishy inside, and there was no one around for miles or at least I thought there wasn't anyone around,' he stated in a telephone interview.

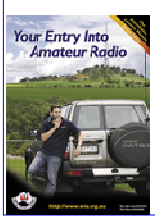
Lawrence went on to say that he pulled over to the side of the road, picked out a pumpkin that he felt was appropriate to his purpose, cut a hole in it, and proceeded to satisfy his alleged need. 'Guess I was really into it, you know?' he commented with evident embarrassment. In the process of doing the deed, Lawrence failed to notice an approaching
Police car and was unaware of his audience until Officer Brenda Taylor approached him.

'It was an unusual situation, that's for sure,' said Officer Taylor. 'I walked up to Lawrence and he's just banging away at this pumpkin.' Officer Taylor went on to describe what happened when she approached Lawrence .

'I said, 'Excuse me sir, but do you realize that you're having sex with a pumpkin? 'He froze and was clearly very surprised that I was there, and then he looked me straight in the face and said....

**'A pumpkin?? Shit .... Is it midnight already??'**

This was in the Washington Post...the title of the article was 'Best Come Back Line Ever.'*




**Foundation Manuals.**

**TREC has copies of the WIA Foundation Manuals on hand. $20.00 ea.**

**Contact VK4DMC**

## *WIA News.*

**www.wia.org.au**

## Amateur LCD amended.

**Date : 22 / 12 / 2010**
**Author : Michael Owen - VK3KI**

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) has amended the Radiocommunications Licence Conditions (Amateur Licence) Determination No 1 of 1997 (the Amateur LCD) and the Radiocommunications (Overseas Amateurs Visiting Australia) Class Licence (the Class Licence). In doing so, the ACMA has given effect to several matters first requested by the WIA in December 2008.

WRC-07 allocated the band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis in most parts of the world, including Australia. To date, Advanced licensees have been able to operate on this band only if they had obtained a variation of their licence conditions. Now all Advanced amateurs may operate on the band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz, subject to conditions including the condition "If a licensee operates an amateur advanced station in the frequency band 135.7 kHz to 137.8 kHz, the licensee must not operate the station using a radiated power of more than 1 watt pX EIRP".

Previously section 42 of the Amateur LCD (part of the conditions of a repeater licence) required the originating station to use what was called an "access control system", which is defined to be either a tone burst system that has a frequency of 1750 Hz, or a continuous tone coded squelch system or a dual tone multi frequency system if the output frequency was different from the input frequency. The WIA argued that such access control systems were not appropriate with current digital technology protocols used by amateurs, such as the D-STAR system. In that system, the transmitter has to be specifically programmed to determine the output frequency band of the digital repeater. The Amending Determination now adds as an access control system any system that "uses any other readily available code or signal".

(continued on page 3)

## SURF'N THE WEB

Lots of links here to ham related sites.

Thanks to Alan Meredith at VKHAM.COM

http://www.vkham.com/Info/radiolinks.html

## VHF—QUA

**6 Metres.**

The last few weeks of December have seen the band open with many contacts being made here in the far north. VK4TL, VK4FNQ & VK4SIX, were amongst those who worked stations all over VK and into DU.

**2 Metres/70cms. and 23cms.**

Two metres really fired up on the 29th with John 4FNQ making many contacts into VK2, 3, 4, and 5 .

The usual early morning get together on 144.125 with 4FNQ, 4AFC, 4FLJS, VK4ME, VK4FBLU, VK4FMAG, VK4FRJG, VK44BEG, VK4ARQ, VK4FP and VK4DMC continues, Drop in and say G'day around 2130 UTC

# TREC Christmas party December 2010.

(Front row L to R) **Annette Cunnington, Jennie Gregory VK4JLG, Bev Seager, Ann West, Dale McCarthy VK4DMC**

(Middle row L to R) **Chris Gill VK4YCG, Bryan Cunnington VK4NMC, Garry Gregory VK4FD, Jeff Cochrane VK4BOF, Ron Seager VK4ZJR, Dave West VK4DK, Stu Dunk VK4SDD, Les Sibson VK4FLJS.**

Window seats L to R) **Vicki Roberts, Tiana McFadzean, Ron Goodhew VK4EMF, John Roberts VK4TL, Joyce Sibson.**


Sorry Chris isn't home right now. He went to a club auction to sell a couple of radios that were ckuttering up his shack.Oh, hang on here he is now"

AMATEUR LCD AMEMDED (continued from page 2)

A further matter raised by the WIA was that the Class Licence by Section 11 (1) .provided that "An amateur station must not be operated unless a qualified person operating the station identifies the station by use of the callsign, mentioned in subsection 6 (2), followed by the suffix VK" and that was inconsistent with CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 and was an exception to the way in which amateur callsigns are constructed under similar arrangements. The WIA pointed out that T/R 61-01 provides that "When transmitting in the visited country the licence holder must use his national call sign preceded by the call sign prefix of the visited country as indicated in Appendices II and IV. The call sign prefix and the national call sign must be separated by the character "/" (telegraphy) or the word "stroke" (telephony)." Subsection 11 (1) of the Class Licence has been amended to read “An amateur station must not be operated unless a qualified person operating the station identifies the station by using the call sign mentioned in paragraph section 6 (2) (e) preceded by the letters VK.”

In addition to these changes requested by the WIA, a number of other changes are made, mainly of a technical nature, for example substituting "the ACMA" for "ACMA" and rectifying some omissions. More significantly, section 5 (3) of the Amateur LCD had provided that "The licensee must not transmit messages to an amateur station in a foreign country if ACMA has published a notice in the Gazette to the effect that the government of that country has given notice that it objects to the transmission and reception of messages between amateur stations in that country and amateur stations outside that country." That provision has been deleted and a new provision inserted as follows "The licensee must not transmit a message to an amateur station in a foreign country if the transmission would be inconsistent with the Australian table of allocations in the spectrum plan or a footnote to that table." The term "spectrum plan" is defined to mean “the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan 2009”.

While the WIA has supported all the amendments, it has expressed its reservation about the possibility that the term “inconsistent” in the context of the spectrum plan may lead to unintended consequences. The other changes to the Class Licence simply reflect the changes to the Amateur LCD. At present the amendments are available as separate documents, and the primary documents have not been consolidated to incorporate the changes. When the Class Licence and the Amateur LCD consolidated versions become available they will be placed on the WIA website.

# TREC member John Roberts - VK4TL

**HOW I BECAME INTERESTED IN WIRELESS. BY JOHN ROBERTS - VK4TL**
**Born Wales 1930.**

Well, how do you put a series of unconnected items into text?
Must read a bit jerky but anyway here goes. The start is WW2 time and a friend at school draws diagrams for me to build a one valver.
I had overheard my parents saying that auntie's old battery radio was of no further use, so when they were out of the way I had a great time pulling it apart. My first junk box was born.
I liked the sme1l of the phenolic insulation. Well having put the one valve receiver together I find that it does not work, this seems to be a reoccurring theme over the years. One of the things wrong with it was that the coil made carefully according to the diagram was wound with bare copper wire. I had stripped the double cotton cover off it to make it look like the coils from auntie's radio. Of course they were enamelled copper but I did not know. From this time on, and getting over the politics of one empty cabinet with frame aerial progress was made. Two of my uncles had old 1920 parts in their garden sheds and had long given up building. soon I had "what are the wild waves saying" basket weave coils, bright emitters with pips on the top, oak and mahogany cabinets with flip top lids and sloping ebonite panels, single hole fixing  single gang 'Ormond' variable condensers, ' Igranic' transformers, along with Wireless World Vol 1 Issue 1.and practical Wireless the same. I also acquired at this time the News Chronicle Wireless encyclopaedia by F.J.Camm. There were things too many to mention but
I class the battery eliminator as important as HT batteries were too expensive for my budget. While these acquisitions continued I experimented starting with crystal sets and was rewarded with results. Two volt battery valve amplifiers were added and although this worked, I didn't understand the mystery of "bias" what's that?
Remember Dr. Cecil's radio crystal, it played its part in my receivers.

At one stage all radio was banned from my bedroom and this led to the tuned circuit being set up in the attic, and only the crystal detector being hidden behind a curtain. All I had to do was to plug in my one earpiece and there I was in bed with lights out listening to Valentine Dyal's "Appointment with Fear". All the components had terminals on them and all that had to be done was to connect them together with pieces of wire bare at the ends of course!-no soldering-I didn't know about such things.
The hole for the tuning condenser was made with a red hot poker through the ebonite, and the edges trimmed with a knife. A sharp screwdriver was used to drill holes. There were no craftsman's tools in our household. Woodscrews were used to fasten components such as valve bases and transformers to wooden breadboards. There were even flexible resistors or resistances as they were cal1ed then.

# TREC member John Roberts VK4TL (cont.)

Without a doubt the single most important project of this part of my life was the single valve receiver with swinging coil regeneration. It didn't take long before it was discovered that it also transmitted. With the GEC console superhet on the BBC
I could produce such a beautiful sounding heterodyne, at least that's what it seemed like to me. A Morse key was quickly geared into the system to try it out. Morse keys were made from a strip of meccano screwed to a wooden base bent to shape so that it pressed down on a screw and washer under which the connecting wire was held. A suitable knob attached to the pressing end of the meccano. This wireless era of mine was proceeded by the telephone and telegraph time. My girl-guide friend next door was wired up with buzzers and keys. Hence I learned Morse and passed my signaller's badge in the boy scouts, the rest of the troop did semaphore. I acquired some old stand phones and wired these up to talk next door. Some transceiver construction was attempted using buzzers as mini spark transmitters connected to tuned circuits with crystal sets to receive but little success.

My best portable was a crystal set with an aerial connected to a kite while I walked around the field with my S.G.Browns on my head. The volume was the most I have ever heard from a crystal set.
In my valve reaction receiver with all the changing of coils not much more than the BBC was heard excepting the Germen Hellshreiber signals on long waves. Didn't know what they were then. It was discovered that between neutral and ground on a power point a useful low voltage supply existed, why? In those days having no meter I could put a six volt lamp across it and make some judgements. Because unlike Australia where each electricity consumer has their own earth, in the UK the neutral line is taken back to the sub-station and earthed. So what you had was a voltage drop on the neutral lead between the sub-station and ones house depending on what power was being consumed along the route. The higher the consumption the higher the voltage. My bicycle dynamo now became a motor the turning power was tested to see how powerful it was. While stopping its rotation with the fingers it would not go again. Later in life I would learn a1I about degaussing. The theory catching up with the experiments all the more indelibly impressed on me. I am not sure about some of the crazy things that were tried like the rural electricity distribution! An abandoned US military camp yielded loads of stranded steel telephone wire which had a hard black cover.
A friend of mine lived at a farm about a mile distant and had no electricity supply. The wire was laid on top of hedges and didn't have to go over a gate. I knew we didn't need a neutral.
Well we had lights and superhet working over there. I cannot recall if we imagined that we would be able to continue this exercise forever, we probably would have packed it in when we had enough of it. One day there was no power so we set off to find if there was a break in the line. We found the cause and it must have been that the adjacent farmer had cut the wire.
This worried us because he most certainly would have had a shock, and then there would have been problems with complaining adults.
The installation was quickly dismantled and we heard nothing more.
Perhaps the hedge wasn't his and he thought that here is some nice wire for the taking.
After the war we moved from South Wales to North Wales and a seaside town called Llandudno where Billie Hughes the Australian wartime prime minister was born. My father pointed out his house to me.
The fascination with transmission continued and using the DC mains at Llandudno for HT on a Marconi HL2 valve, a crystal pick up into the grid circuit, and a burning lips type carbon insert in the aerial lead the latest local radio station was on the air. And so I would play a few records make a few announcements and so on. One day after I had just shut down I was going out to meet some people on the beach. One hundred yards down the street where I lived were two men in suits with headphones on attached to what was the most antique direction finding set imaginable. The box was about two feet cube and had this enormous frame aerial attached to it. I was shaken to the core and hurried home and hurriedly dismantled everything, aerial the lot. I must have been lucky because they never got to me. When I acquired a 3B set government surplus complete with HT batteries I found I could listen to shipping traffic out of Liverpool. I called and got a "station calling please call again" from Seaforth coastal radio. I didn't try this again.
The transition to AC power happened as many kits were made for AC.
My parents Murphy radio had a short wave band on it and I found that mostly on Sunday mornings would pick up CQ CQ CQ This is GW3 etc. I was intrigued - the die had been cast.

(Editors note) John has held the call-signs GW3IVS, G3IVS, VS6CW, VQ4GX, VQ3GX, VQ1SSB (EX OP OF ZB2A) VK4TL.
Most of Johns career has been in commercial radio as a broadcast engineer and he still helps out at one of the local commercial stations from time to time.