

TREC—NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 1/2

January/February 2012

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

The Leading Amateur
Radio Club in
Far North Queensland.

Coming events

February 2012

Saturday 18th.

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

March 2012

Weekend 10/11th

FNERA communications support at Tepon Equestrian Centre Wondecla. Stu VK4SDD coordinator.

Weekend 19/20th.

John Moyle Field Day contest (location yet to be decided)

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Terry : VK4ATY

The Editor's Desk

G'day all,

I must apologise for not publishing the December and January editions of **TREC-NEWS**. My wife, Robyn, passed away in November and I am just now getting back into the world.

I hope you all had a great Christmas break and wish you all the best and good DX for 2012.

73 & Travel Well - Dale VK4DMC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

G'day TREC members.

I will start by wishing everyone a happy new year!

Looks like we have a busy 2012 in front of us.

Let's of contests and horse rides, club get togethers and meetings.

We started out this year with the VHF / UHF summer field day, this year up on Hallorans Hill but outside at the BBQ area this year we missed out on the function centre booking. The wx was looking a bit iffy on Saturday afternoon with thunder and lightning off in the distance threatening to head our way, and the band conditions were woeful we had not made many contacts at all, a lot of our usual contacts on the GHZ bands were not available so around 2pm I put it to the operators up on the hill whether we should pull the pin and go home, the decision was unanimous and off we went. I would like to thank the guys up on the hill Jeff VK4BOF Gary VK4FD John VK4TL and Baden VK4FMAC for their efforts, and thanks to Dale VK4DMC for the loan of a 6m and 2m antenna and mast.

The 6m beacon mega project is, I hope nearing completion, with a bit of luck it should be up before the next report.

That's all for this month. Keep using the ionosphere we don't want it to get rusty.

Cheers

Stu VK4SDD

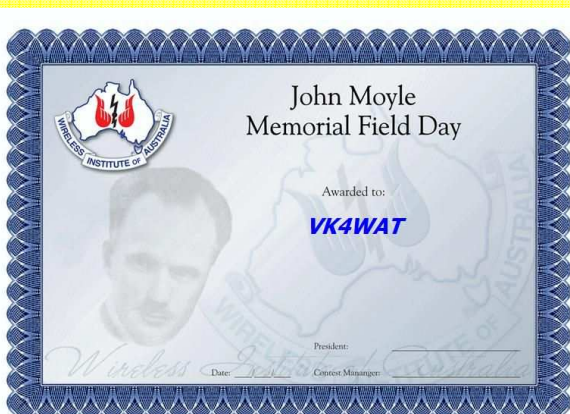
JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY.

The TREC contest committee is planning for the field day and hopes to decide on a location in the near future, possibly Wondecla or Lake Tinaroo on the weekend 19/20th March.

The John Moyle Field Day is always challenging and is a great way to hone contesting skills.

For more information go to:

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle/>



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NETS
THURSDAY .
1900 –1930 VK4RTA repeater 146.675 - offset

THURSDAY
1930 - 2030 TREC Memorial net 3.588MHz

We're on the web.

www.treclub.org.au

SMILE AWHILE



Old Tom is In The Hospital ;

Tom was an old man. He was sick and in the hospital.

There was one nurse that just drove him crazy.

Every time she came in, she would talk to him like he was a little child. She would say in a patronizing tone of voice, 'And how are we doing this morning', or 'Are we ready for a bath', or 'Are we hungry?'

Old Tom had had enough of this particular nurse.

One day, at breakfast, Old Tom took the apple juice off the tray and put it in his bed side stand.

Next, he was given a urine bottle to fill for testing.

So you know where the juice went! The nurse came in a little later, picked up the urine bottle and looked at it. 'My, it seems we are a little cloudy today. '

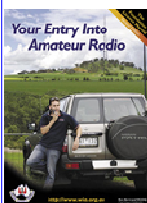
At this, Old Tom snatched the bottle out of her hand, popped off the top, and drank it down, saying, 'Well, I'll run it through again. Maybe I can filter it better this time.'

The nurse fainted!

Old Tom just smiled!

Moral of this yarn is:

DON'T MESS WITH 'OLD' PEOPLE!!!!



Foundation Manuals.

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

Contact VK4DMC

WIA News.

www.wia.org.au



RD Contest Manager Steps Down

Date : 26 / 01 / 2012

Author : Michael Owen - VK3KI

Peter Harding VK4OD has advised the WIA Board that he wishes to stand down as Contest Manager for the WIA Remembrance Day Contest.



WIA President Michael Owen VK3KI acknowledged Peter's contribution as the RD Contest Manger for many years. "I well recall how Peter took over the role at very short notice, and I know how hard he has worked to ensure that this contest, seen by many as the premiere WIA contest, continues to be a success. Peter has asked me to tell you that his reason for retiring is that he needs to undergo treatment for prostate cancer and he wants to remind all men over 50 to make sure that they are checked for this disease."

The WIA Board will be meeting in Melbourne on 18/19 February and will be appointing a new RD Contest Manager then.

The Board invites anyone who would like to be considered for that position to make sure that they give the WIA Manager Mal Brooks at the WIA office as much information as possible at least a week before the meeting.

Thank You!

I would like to thank a few TREC Members for their assistance over recent weeks in enabling me to complete some necessary work on my tower trailer and Motorhome.

In particular Jeff (VK4BOF), for his ideas and knowhow with electrics and electronics. His knowledge and experience have been invaluable in wiring the Motorhome which included such important items as 240V cabling and outlets, C-Tek 240/24V charger, dual battery management hardware and the list is even longer. Thanks Jeff.

To Baden, (VK4FMAC), for his assistance with the finishing of the tower trailer and sharing the test match cricket. Thanks Baden.

Finally we come to Dale (VK4DMC/VK4SIX), without his crusty comments and banter, workshop facilities, and the odd bit of advice, for without his assistance the job would not be finished. Thanks Dale.

I am fortunate to have had these TREC members provide their assistance and knowledge over many weeks and months and I wish to thank them publicly for their help.

Friendship is more than helping people out, friendship is something you earn and is not to be taken for granted or abused. I consider myself most fortunate to have experienced friendship and support from those TREC members who willingly gave of their time to help me complete the work that I needed done.

Thank You! Gary VK4FD

Surfin the web

ARRL's new video, "The DIY Magic of Amateur Radio," is an 8-minute video that follows some of the innovative, imaginative and fun ways "hams" use radio technology in new and creative ways.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viDwVhx7miQ&list=UUzn9oVj62EFaJHjOcohwbmg&index=1&feature=plcp>

VHF—QUA

6 Metres. (The Magic Band)

Activity on the band was good during December but died off in January

2 Metres/70cms. and 23cms.

2 and 70 still very quiet during the month with mainly NQ stations being worked from the Atherton area.

The usual early morning get together on 144.125 with 4FNQ, 4AFC, 4BKS, 4FLJS, VK4FBLU, VK4FMAG, VK4FRJG, VK44BEG, VK4ARQ, VK4FP, VK4AJH and VK4DMC.

Drop in and say G'day around 2130 UTC. Activity can also be found on 144.115 some mornings around 2000 UTC

TREC on air for the CQ World-wide contest

Hi everyone, Well, for the first time ever, VK4XQA was activated recently by members of TREC. This was a mini - DXpedition to a place called Euramo (Grid QH22xa) which is noted by hams and everyone else in the area for just one thing, the brand new 60M high AM broadcast band antenna that has recently been installed there by Coastal Broadcasters, the owners of Innisfail's AM broadcast band radio station 4KZ. One of our club members is Al Kirton who happens to be the manager of radio station 4KZ and he graciously gave us permission to go onsite at Euramo and use this beautiful new antenna system on the ham bands, specifically 160 / 80M. Well, he didn't have to ask us twice! We organised some bodies, some accommodations and food, some generators and fuel and for good measure we advertised the up and coming operation in all the right places. As a result, Gary VK4FD, Jeff VK4BOF, John VK4TL and Chris VK4YCG headed from their homes to congregate at the base of the Euramo tower. We took with us, three Elecraft K3 transceivers, 1 Elecraft P3 Panadaptor and 2 Elecraft KPA500 Amplifiers and a lot of high hopes for success. As it turns out we had picked one of the worst weekends for lower band HF propagation that had been experienced for some time but that did not stop us, we still made about 60 contacts on various bands but the first one was the sweetest, our first contact on 160M was very fittingly Ron VK4EMF, the man that almost singlehandedly organised the permanent exhibition of Marcus Brims (XQA) spark gap transmitter at Mareeba's Heritage Museum, effectively bringing the gear back to its home town of Mareeba. (For more information of Mr Marcus Brims and his experimental radio station XQA, please look at other pages of our website.) Still, in spite of the low number of contacts, a lot was learned by all of us 160M newbies and we are itching to go back to the site to have another go, hopefully with better propagation this time. Here are a few photos of our setup and operators, just to give you an idea of what we did.

Jeff VK4BOF



VK4XQA set up at Euramo.