

TREC—NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 6

June 2011

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

The Leading Amateur
Radio Club in
Far North Queensland.

Coming events

June 2011

Weekend 4/5th.

FNERA communications support at Tolga Pony club. John VK4TL coordinator.

Saturday 25th.

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

28 June—2 July (5 day event)

FNERA communications support at Tepon Equestrian Centre Wondecla. John VK4TL coordinator.

July 2011

Weekend 23/24th.

FNERA communications support at Tolga Pony club. John VK4TL coordinator.



The new Elecraft KPA-500 linear amplifier

The Editor's Desk

June will be a busy month for TREC with two horse endurance rides to support as well as club meeting. The 5 day Pioneer ride takes place at the end of the month and John VK4TL will certainly need lots of support from club members to provide manning for the checkpoints please, if you can spare time even if for only one or two days, do contact John and him know of your availability.

The NQ Amateur Radio Convention is scheduled for 16/18 September this year.

Start planning now to attend this great get-together of NQ hams. Indications are that the event may be moving from the James Cook University in Townsville, the venue for many years past, to Charters Towers. TARC will be making a decision on this at their June Management Committee meeting and will notify all and sundry accordingly.

73 & Travel Well - Dale VK4DMC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

G'day fellow TREC members,

As many of you know my wife and I have been away for the last few weeks in Hawaii.

I will try to keep this on topic and radio related but I do have a few travel comments to put forward.

Firstly the outbound flight was overnight 10hrs not much to see except a few thunderstorms about mid flight, spectacular lightning, thankfully in the distance.

I did take my handheld 2m,70cm,23cm rig with me, for those who don't know Australia has a reciprocal agreement with the US regarding amateur radio operating. All we in VK need to do is take our original licence with us (only to be produced if someone from the FCC asks for it) and an id from Australia, drivers licence or passport .

It also helps to lookup the equivalent licence privileges so you don't operate on a frequency your not eligible to use.

Then when operating you give the US area designator first then your home call I was KH6 / VK4SDD and the location such as Waikiki beach.

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TREC member Ron Goodhew VK4EMF has been instrumental in acquiring and setting up the historical radio station XQA. This fascinating display of the first licensed Queensland Amateur Radio station (a spark gap station) that was operated by Marcus Brims in Mareeba in 1914 will be on permanent display at the Mareeba Heritage Museum on the Atherton Tablelands. It is believed that the station is basically still in an operational condition after around 97 years in storage. *(more images on page 3)*

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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.treclub.org.au

SMILE AWHILE



A motorist was stopped by a traffic cop for running a red light. The driver was a real jerk, stepped out of his car and strode toward the officer and demanded to know why he was being harassed by the Gestapo! So the officer calmly told him of the red light violation. The motorist instantly went on a tirade, questioning the officer's ancestry, sexual orientation, etc., in rather explicit terms.

The tirade continued without the officer saying anything. When the officer finished writing the ticket he put an "AH" in the lower right corner of the narrative portion of the ticket. He then handed it to the 'violatee' for his signature. The guy signed the ticket angrily, and when presented with his copy pointed to the "AH" and demanded to know what it stood for.

The officer said, "That's so when we go to court, I'll remember that you're an asshole!"

Two months later they're in court. The 'violatee' has a bad driving record and he is in danger of losing his license, so he hired a lawyer to represent him. On the stand the officer testifies to seeing the man run the red light.

Under cross examination the defense attorney asks; "Officer is this a reasonable facsimile of the ticket that you issued to my client?"

Officer responds, "Yes, sir, that is the defendant's copy, his signature and mine, same number at the top."

Lawyer: "Officer, is there any particular marking or notation on this ticket you don't normally make?"

"Yes, sir, in the lower right corner of the narrative there is an "AH," underlined."

"What does the "AH" stand for, officer?"

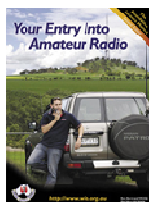
"Aggressive and hostile, Sir."

"Aggressive and hostile?"

"Yes, Sir"

"Officer, are you sure it doesn't stand for asshole?"

Well, sir, you know your client better than I do"



Foundation Manuals.

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

Contact VK4DMC

WIA News.

www.wia.org.au



WIA Meets with ACMA Project Team

Author : Michael Owen - VK3KI



The President's "Comment" published in the November 2010 issue of Amateur Radio magazine quotes extensively from the WIA's letter to the ACMA proposing a means by which Advanced amateur licensees can seek a variation of their licence to allow higher transmitting power levels.

In response to the WIA's letter the ACMA agreed to review the matter, and on Monday 16th May, WIA Directors, Michael Owen, VK3KI and Peter Young VK3MV met with the project team responsible for the review. The ACMA is a facts based Commonwealth regulator and the meeting assisted in clarifying the related issues of electromagnetic interference, electromagnetic radiation and associated matters.

The WIA was able to provide more detail on the background and respond to questions on this detail. The ACMA is still considering this matter. We will provide updates as we can.



A Ham's Guide to RFI, Ferrites, Baluns, and Audio Interfacing

by Jim Brown K9YC

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/RFI-Ham.pdf>

This informative guide will give a great insight into and help you better understand RFI and will help you in solving some of the common problems found in the shack.

VHF—QUA

6 Metres.

Not a lot of activity to report for May. Early in the month there were some TEP conditions and towards the end of the month the Chinese TV signals on 49.750 MHz were logged as well as some southern VK beacons.

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, 4FLJS, VK4ME, VK4FBLU, VK4FMAG, VK4FRJG, VK44BEG, VK4ARQ, VK4FP and VK4DMC continues, Drop in and say G'day around 2130 UTC. Activity can also be found on 144.115 some mornings around 2000 UTC

The XQA display at the Mareeba Heritage Museum



The complete display is housed in this magnificent cabinet.



Potential Divider and CW key



4 inch Induction coil fitted with an independent interrupter and adjustable spark coil



Lodge—Muirhead wheel coherer



Marcus Brims (circa 1905)

In 1914 at Mareeba Marcus Brims along with Andy Couper received the first official calls issued by the then Postmaster General Mr Agar Wynne. They received the letters XQA (Queensland's first call) and XQM respectively.

Next time you are in Mareeba make sure that you take the time to visit the Heritage Museum and check out the XQA display.

Images of TREC members and other stuff



Lyn's new 2100B Amplifier **"HOT STUFF"**

Due to the quiet OTH here on Sweers Island I could always hear the weak DX but they could not hear me. The yagi and tower made a HUGE difference, but I was still not able to bust through the pileups – up here, I cop a lot of the 'Saki Curtain' hi or the EU wall on LP, so I am a bit stunned at the difference an amp makes. It arrived on Tuesday morning by private plane, a regular guest from Noosa collected it from the OTH of donor Col Vk4CC, who has done several of the 'mods' to make it more stable for me up here. Needless to say I was nervous setting it up for the first time and ready to duck the explosion hi. But all went well and my first test to a Welsh station gave me a report of 58 with the amp, 51 without! Then yesterday I heard a weak CW station on St. Kitts calling CO – he was 339, normally I wouldn't even bother as I would know that though I could hear him, he would not hear me, with all the QRM. I fired up the amp, called him and he came straight back and gave me 449! Unreal!

The amp is a Yaesu 2100B and it is bright red, as Col builds model aircraft and the choices were military grey, green, yellow or red – Chris Vk4FR knows I am not into the plain Spartan military look hi, (to his horror hi) so we went for the red and it looks great.

All my gear gets names so the amp is named HS or Hot Stuff, after the little red devil cartoon character. And it does get hot too, though I have it in a good airy spot on the bench and OM Tex has provided a 12v fan to assist with cooling.

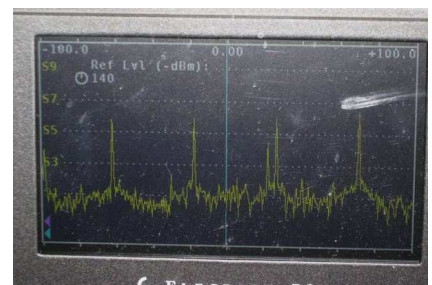
Lyn **VK4SWE / VK4EI**



SNOOPY THE ORIGINAL PLANKER



Gary at the K-Line station activating Undara Volcanic National Park for the World Flora and Fauna 44. WFF44 is an International award program with stations activating national parks world wide in support of the environment. This is the 2nd time that Gary and Jeff have operated from Undara they just love the cooler weather.



Elecraft P3 Spectrum scope (Panadapter) showing regular peaks from a very dirty 12V to 240V inverter that was operating in a caravan parked next to Gary and Jeff's field station at Undara. Operating frequency at the time was 3.644 MHz.

Stu KH6/VK4SDD adventures in Hawaii.

/ from page 1.

I have a few regular contacts in the Hawaiian islands on HF so I was looking forward to contacting them on 2m when we arrived at our destinations, our first stop was Honolulu airport on the island of Oahu, then off to Waikiki beach to our hotel.

For anyone that has not been to Waikiki its like Queensland's Gold Coast Surfers Paradise strip.

The hotel was a great radio spot 10th floor good access to the repeaters in the area I made a few contacts the first couple of days on 2m. We did all the sightseeing stuff tourist do so radio took a backseat, with all the security stuff that happens in the US especially around Pearl Harbour, I did not feel comfortable riding around in the tourist shuttle trolleys in Waikiki using a handheld radio and possibly having to explain ham radio to the police.

Oahu is the most populated and busiest of the islands nice once your away from Honolulu but not the paradise the brochures claim!!!!

We did all the tourist stuff over the 5 days we had on Oahu, we were ready to move on.

We said goodbye to Oahu and flew to the big island Hawaii.

We landed in Kona airport what a difference from Oahu, the big island is new in geologic time, shining black lava all over the place not much vegetation.

The volcanoes that made the Hawaiian islands are still active on the big island Hawaii, yes we did do a volcano tour and it was an awesome site no lava but lots of smoke and steam!!!!

We hired a car took a while to get used to driving on the WRONG SIDE but after a couple of hours it almost feels right.

We drove up to the north end of the island and while crossing the Kohala mountains we stopped at a lookout at 2500 feet, fantastic view all the way to the island of Maui 100km away I tried the 70cm repeater frequency I was given by an operator in Waikiki, no contact but I was able to trigger the repeater and get an S5 return, not bad I thought from 5 watts on 70cm and a rubber duck antenna!!!

Hawaii is home to my good friend Peter Yoes KH7HI.

On our second last day in Hawaii we set off to visit with Peter and family.

I have been in regular contact with Peter for the last 4 or so years, so it was a great pleasure to finally meet in person.

Of course I had to have a go at HF and Peter kindly let me use his radio gear while we were visiting, unfortunately propagation was not favourable to Australia.

I did however make one contact home that day I called VK4FD while he and VK4BOF were out at Undara, Gary heard my call and we had a scratchy QSB laden QSO on 28.444, one other contact was made on HF that day ZF1DJ Cayman islands on 20m.

It was a shame that conditions were not better as I know what great signals come out of the KH7HI shack, I'm sure if we had had more time things may have been different.

The following day we headed back towards Kona along the Saddle Rd this road traverses the island from east to west and runs between to volcanoes Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. On the slopes of Mauna Kea is the Onizuka Astronomy Complex visitor centre at 9000 feet, from up here I contacted Pete KH7HI via the Hilo repeater S9 signals! !!

I said my on air as KH6 / VK4SDD goodbyes and headed back down the mountain, we flew out the next morning bound for Aus!

I have to thank Peter his wife Elizabeth and the children for making us feel welcome and for showing us sights the organised tours don't take you to.

Also for the use of the shack Thanks guys it was a pleasure we wish we had more time !!!

If you haven't fallen asleep by now I would like to thank the people that helped out at the last horse ride thanks guys, I appreciate your understanding why I had to leave early looking forward to the next one!

Now I'm back I will be looking to get the 6M beacon out of my shack and up where it is supposed to be I will be contacting people soon!!!!

Always remember if it looks good and is free it probably isn't??????????

Cheers

Stu

VK4SDD (formally KH6 / VK4SDD) - TREC President



Talking to Maui at 2500 feet.



Stu playing with a volcano

Images from Stu's KH6/VK4SDD's adventures



KH7HI Peter in his shack



Stu and Pete's family XYL Elizabeth children Lucy and Tommy



It's hard to get a good earth on a lava flow. 40M phased vertical array at KH7HI



Reminder that all is not paradise



Another reminder



The KH7HI outlook to the south - nothing until Antarctica



KH7HI QTH and antennas