

TREC—NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2011

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

The Leading Amateur
Radio Club in
Far North Queensland.

Coming events

March 2011

Weekend 19/20th.

John Moyle Field Day contest at
Tinaburra—Lake Tinaroo

Weekend 26/27th.

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

April 2011

Weekend 16/17th.

FNERA communications support at
Tepon Equestrian Centre Wondecla.
Night-ride.

John VK4TL coordinator.

Saturday 23rd.

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



The Editor's Desk

G'day all,

Thanks to all who sent in images of just what a tropical cyclone can do. Fortunately most of us escaped relatively unscathed. Still there is still another month or so left of the cyclone season so stay prepared. Hope to see you at the John Moyle FD even if its only for a few hours. Details will be sent out to TREC members closer to the date.

73 & Travel Well - Dale VK4DMC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Greetings fellow TREC-ers.

Last month I rattled on about being prepared for an emergency, I hope you all took note!!!

I'm sure you all remember Yasi. We got off lightly here on the central and northern tablelands, but lets take a moment and remember those to the south of us that did not! I was pleased with the performance of the 2m repeater VK4RTA on Longlands Gap, we had no power in our area for 5 days. The phones went down after 12 hours of the storm passing, both landline and mobile, but VK4RTA worked right thru and did not miss a beat.

Just yesterday I was reminded of how amateur radio is not only a fun hobby but can save lives or just let the family know someone is safe.

I was calling CQ on 14.240 and a weak station came back WD0NMU / MM Mike, he was sailing somewhere north of the Philippines heading for Japan, we exchanged the usual in a QSO then he asked if I could do him a favour. It seems his sat phone (ah modern consumer technology don't we love it) was not working and could I send an email to his family explaining the sat phone situation and that they were on track and all was well!!!! This I did and the next day received a nice reply from his family thanking me and praising amateur radio.

I think this is one huge benefit to our hobby we can have fun and occasionally help someone!!!

Horse rides coming up we need operators John VK4TL will coordinate this activity.

That's all for this month.

Lets all remember microphones don't have garbage filters.

Cheers Stu VK4SDD — President

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY.

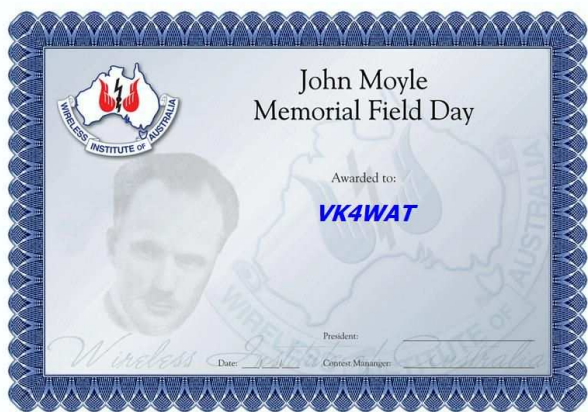
This year **TREC** will be on-air from Tinaburra at Lake Tinaroo for the John Moyle Memorial Field Day. After setting up antennas and transmitters.

VK4WAT will be on air from 0100 UTC Saturday 20th until 0059 UTC Sunday 21st. Listen out on the bands for VK4WAT/p and say G'day.

Come along to Tinaburra for a fun weekend playing radio and enjoying good company.

Details about the John Moyle Field day can be found at:

www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle/



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NETS
THURSDAY .
1900 –1930 VK4RTA repeater 146.675 - offset

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



SMILE AWHILE



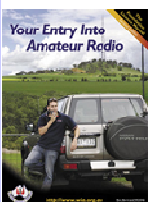
An Aussie truckie walks into an outback cafe with a full-grown emu behind him. The waitress asks them for their orders. The truckie says, 'A hamburger, chips and a coke,' and turns to the emu, 'What's yours?' 'Sounds great, I'll have the same,' says the emu. A short time later the waitress returns with the order 'That will be \$9.40 please,' and he reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change and pays.

The next day, the man and the emu come again and he says, 'A hamburger, chips and a coke.' The emu says, 'Sounds great, I'll have the same.' Again the truckie reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change. This becomes routine until the two enter again. 'The usual?' asks the waitress. 'No, it's Friday night, so I'll have a steak, baked potato and a salad,' says the man. 'Same for me,' says the emu. Shortly the waitress brings the order and says, 'That will be \$32.62.' Once again the man pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table.

The waitress cannot hold back her curiosity any longer. 'Excuse me mate, how do you manage to always pull the exact change from your pocket every time?' 'Well, love' says the truckie, 'a few years ago, I was cleaning out the back shed, and found an old lamp. When I cleaned it, a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there.'

'That's brilliant!' says the waitress. 'Most people would ask for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want, for as long as you live!' 'That's right. Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there,' says the man. Still curious the waitress asks, 'What's with the bloody emu?'

The truckie pauses, sighs, and answers, 'My second wish was for a tall bird with a big arse and long legs, who agrees with everything I say.'



Foundation Manuals.

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

Contact VK4DMC

WIA News.

www.wia.org.au



Result of Nominations for Director Announced



Date : 19 / 02 / 2011
Author : Geoff Atkinson - VK3AFA

Nominations for election as a director of the WIA were called for by notice published in the December 2010 issue of the WIA magazine Amateur Radio.



The four retiring directors Michael Owen VLK3KI, Peter Young VK3MV, Ewan McLeod VK4ERM and Philip Adams VK3JNI offered themselves for re-election.

The WIA Returning Officer, Chris Chapman VK3QB, has advised the Board that no other nominations were received and in accordance with the Election Regulations, he had declared the retiring directors elected unopposed as Directors of the WIA.

Each will hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in 2013.

SURF'N THE WEB

Alan K0BG has put this site together to very useful and in depth information for the mobile operator. Much of the information is also useful for the home station. Alan regularly updates the site.

Check it out at:

<http://www.k0bg.com/>

I'm sure you will find something of interest to you.

VHF—QUA

6 Metres.

Not a lot to report on there has been some activity from the north with Japanese stations being heard and worked in FNQ. The Darwin beacon has been heard periodically. The TREC 6 metre beacon is back on air on 50.281.

2 Metres/70cms. and 23cms.

2 and 70 were fairly 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

TC YASI IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Yasi crossed the coast near Mission Beach south of Cairns in the early hours of Wednesday morning on the 3rd February packing wind speeds of around 295 kph. The cyclone then travelled inland passing over the Atherton Tablelands and areas to the south including Ingham and Townsville before heading west.

Local amateurs were well prepared for this event, antennas were lowered, emergency power and transceivers setup and tested as well as ensuring that their homes were secure, memories of cyclone Larry in 2006 are still fresh in our minds.

Some local amateurs evacuated to safe centres. JohnVK4JKL, Gary VK4FD, Jeff VK4BOF, Paul VK4ZJD to name just a few. They were stranded and could not get back home due to flooded rivers and blocked roads.

Fortunately reports from FNQ hams have been positive with little or minor damage being wrought by Yasi. Trees down, gardens wrecked and in a couple of cases towers and antennas smashed. Wind speeds of 200kph were reported in Atherton.

Paul VK4ZJD who lives at Tully Heads was extremely fortunate with his house being only one of a few in the area that survived and with relatively minor damage. A shed was wrecked as well as the garden being totally redesigned into a twisted mess with mud and sand everywhere. Paul was back on air the next day.

Amateurs living on the coast received the brunt of the cyclone. Areas mainly to the south of Innisfail including the Tully region, Cardwell and Ingham were seriously affected. Townsville also experienced cyclonic conditions but with lesser wind speeds and fortunately with no major damage being reported. Many areas suffered and are still suffering significant power interruptions and also loss of other essential services such as water and phone etc.

It was fantastic to see the response from fellow amateurs who set up listening watches mainly on 40 and 80 metres in particular the guys from Rockhampton who set up a station at the top of the Mt. Morgan range and were there all night. Also stations in Atherton, Townsville, Mackay, Toowoomba and Brisbane were there throughout to lend a hand with emergency traffic if needed. Well done to all and it was comforting for those of us in the path of Yasi to know that you were there and chat with you from time to time. Thanks Guys for the sterling effort. A local listening watch was also maintained on the local repeaters and Ch.50.



Adolf VK4DHF in Malanda lost his tower and log periodic thanks to TC Yasi. Sadly this is the second time in 5 years, the same thing happened to Adolf with TC Larry in 2006



Yard at VK4DMC QTH. All antennas were lowered and fortunately were not damaged unlike TC Larry in 2006. Only trees down and gutters/roof covered with vegetation.



Gary VK4FD toughed it out 210 km to the NW of the Tablelands at the Palmer River Roadhouse where he reported the beer was cold and the weather not all that bad.



Jeff VK4BOF is in East Innisfail and whilst TC Yasi crossed the coast south of his QTH Jeff suffered damages to his property. Water entered the house via a couple of broken windows damaging beds. Water also got in via the roof, a couple of sheets lifted and damaged the ceiling. Carpets were ruined by storm surge and flooding. Repairs to the house are underway.

Jeff also lost VHF and HF antennas as well as a generator. Then to cap it off Jeff suffered an attack of dengue fever. Jeff is back on air on 2 metres.



Rob's (VK4ARQ) QTH is at Mount Fox about 40km SW of Ingham. TC Yasi caused major damage to Rob's timber plantation, a huge financial loss. Winds in excess of 200kmh lasting for around 4 hours brought down his antennas and trees fell onto sheds and a large birdcage destroying them. Fortunately the house survived. Large bloodwoods and bluegums were uprooted or snapped off those left standing were debarked and stripped of leaves. Mount Fox was isolated for many days until the roads were cleared of fallen trees and made passable.



Gary VK4ABW lives at Bluewater just north of Townsville. His antennas have been through numerous cyclones and survived but, TC Yasi with winds in excess of 200 kph certainly caused his antennas to take on a distinctly different appearance.

Only 1 long boom yagi survived but looks like a banana now. The towers didn't even move but the Iron-bark trees with trunks over a foot in diameter down the back the property were totally destroyed.

Gary is in the process of rebuilding the antennas with four new long boom "M squared" yagis and rotators to be installed along with new feedlines and will back on air with bigger and better signals.



Paul VK4ZJD lives at Tully Heads one of the areas worst affected by TC Yasi. During the passing of Yasi Paul and his wife Maureen sheltered in their shop which is located in the main street of Tully. It was a frightening experience for them both. After the cyclone Paul was pleased to see that his shop was relatively undamaged unlike many of the other buildings nearby. When they finally managed to get back to their house at Tully Heads they were relieved to find the house still standing, although the gardens and shed were totalled. Antennas were down and mud and sand was everywhere. A large percentage of the houses at Tully Heads were totally destroyed.

Paul was back on air on the TREC-NET on Thursday night, albeit with a much reduced signal mainly due to the fact that his G5RV was on the ground. It will be quite some time before services are fully restored to them but Paul is moving on and putting things back together.

Re-landscaping courtesy of Yasi. Images above show tree damage at the front of Paul's house and the tiled slab where the garden shed once stood.