

## Disclaimer

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This is VK6ARN News West. We are a community organisation and we've been serving up the best amateur radio news in Australia since 1931.

**Hi there and welcome to News west for the 6th of August 2023. Now to Brad Peters, VK6BAP.**

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**The Northern Corridor Radio Group is holding its annual 'Hamfest' on Sunday 20th August**

**2023.**

**The location of Hamfest is the Cyril Jackson Community Hall in Bassendean which is conveniently**

**located for easy access by car and public transport. The Hamfest starts at 9:00 am and will finish at**

**around 12:00 pm when the raffle prize winners will be announced.**

**This year the NCRG has a fantastic array of raffle prizes available. Details are available on the**

**NCRG facebook page and the club website. Prizes on offer are- First Prize: Yaesu FT710**

**HF/50MHZ Valued @ \$1695; Second Prize:Icom ID-52A Hand Held with Dstar 2/70 Valued @ \$849,**

**Third prize:MFJ Enterprises MFJ-991B HF Antenna Tuner Valued @ \$400 and Fourth**

**prize:Raspberry Pi 4B Model B 2/4/8GB RAM DIY Kit Case Fan Sandisk 64G SD Card HDMI**

**Valued @ \$322**

**Many exhibitors are lining up for this years event such Future Systems, QSL Comms, TET Emtron,**

**Bushcomm and a range of local amateur radio clubs. John VK6NU will be promoting Summits on the**

**Air.So if you are interested in this facet of AR drop by and have a chat with John.**

**Don't miss out on your chance to snap up a deal and catchup with on air friends for a coffee and chat.**

**If you are interested in selling at the Hamfest please don't hesitate to contact me, Brad Peters, VK6BAP.**

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**You may have noticed that news West has been getting a bit light on for content lately. Well, that can be fixed. You've all got a story to tell and people would love to hear.**

**But we've always said that your story, be it your experience doing something or notice of a club activity, sounds a lot better coming from you in your voice because it's you talking about, something you have ownership of or your lived experience.**

**If, however, the thought of making a recording terrifies you so much, you can send the text to us.**

**And someone will record it for you. What a bargain that is. Whether you send text or audio, send it as an email attachment to [news.w@vk6.net](mailto:news.w@vk6.net).**

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**Did You Know – Episode 15 –  
Emergency Services Support Ideas  
Hi, I'm Steve Kennedy VK6SJ with this week's episode of "Did you know".**

**In the past, amateur radio has played a more significant role in emergency communication than seems to be the case now. 30-40 years ago, hams were the experts in radio, and could weave their magic to assist the community in times of need. These days, the table has mostly turned and emergency services have their own highly skilled**

teams, with vast networks covering a large chunk of the state, 000 call centres, tactical comms plans etc, to the point where now we are only involved in emergency communications at a volunteer level and then only in small pockets. Peel Amateur Radio Group are one such group and WICEN another although I cant say I know much about WICEN's activities (sounds like a good article for WICEN to produce eh?). PARG work closely with their local SES team and I believe provide a lot of value to the equation with data comms, comms trailers and train operators etc. Talking to a lot of public safety agency personnel – particularly ones who aren't hams, you get a faint smile and rolling of the eyes if you talk about the amateur sector – giving me the impression that we have lost a lot of ground in respect from that sector. I'm

**not going to delve into the whys of that as it is non productive.**

**Having said that, there are a lot of hams who are also members of various volunteer and professional emergency service organisations, so there is a latent opportunity I believe in starting that conversation with the emergency services sector and rebuilding the relationship, albeit in a different way to the past. I think it is also incumbent on the various clubs to also engage at a more local level, and perhaps organisations like the WIA to engage with public safety agencies on a national scale to see what assistance from the amateur sector would be of value.**

**On that note, I think the conversation needs to revolve around what the emergency services sector would value, not just what we would enjoy delivering. In addition, providing the**

**use of our stations (including repeaters) during an emergency, on their terms, not ours. This could be as simple as having a couple of extra antennas on a mast, with a means of easily connecting it to a portable repeater, means that a comms team could turn up at your site, plug a repeater into the spare antennas and feeders you have so they can easily set up a site. If there were a network of these sites made available with no pre conditions (i.e., they just turn up and use them), this would be something of value and at no cost or additional effort to our emergency service teams. This would be a similar set up to the network of water tanks, pools and dams that are made available to fire services to save time in refilling tankers. As a group, we could agree on what we are providing (the HF site I use has VHF and UHF omnidirectional**



**antennas, with feeders being terminated in an enclosure at the base of the mast with N type bulkhead sockets to make it easy to connect a portable repeater). This could be added to a database and provided to relevant agencies so that if they ever needed the facility, they know where it is and what is there.**

**The same could be done for HF communications. This is one area I think the amateur sector is fast becoming the last bastion of expertise in. PARG are using this to good effect with their data comms capability, but on a different note, maybe there could be a way that Ham HF sites could be seconded and accessed remotely to provide a more robust network for any agency working outside the Perth Metro area.**

**As a group, we have a decent repeater network that may augment emergency**

**service networks outside the Perth Metro. If those of us that own repeater sites allowed emergency services to have access to our networks, with the occasional training day to test the viability of the networks, this could be seen to be of value as well. Setting up a means of agencies having priority access (perhaps using CTCSS), then it just becomes another redundancy option, that comes at no additional cost to the taxpayer or us as owners of the sites.**

**These are things that help us to justify the continued access to spectrum that we currently enjoy. This and activities like JOTA also ensure we retain relevance to the community, further justifying our existence.**

**Along these lines, the conflict playing out in Ukraine makes me think of what the amateur community could be doing to be prepared some day for a similar**

**event in Australia. I'm not advocating we run out the back yard and start building a bomb shelter and collecting cans of baked beans, but if something like has happened to the Ukrainians happened here, amateur radio could easily end up as the only form of publicly available communications. What could we do, to ensure that we can provide some value to our community in that kind of event? Food for thought eh?**

**Well thanks for listening again, this has been Steve Kennedy VK6SJ with another episode of "Did you know".**

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**Sneaking up on us this month.**

**There's a Remembrance Day contest. Yeah, it's almost on top of us. The Rd contest is on the 12th and 13th of**

**August, and without even counting on my fingers, that's next weekend.**

**The Rd is a 24 hour contest and it runs from Zero 300 UTC on Saturday through to zero 300 hours on Sunday.**

**That means it starts at 11:00 AM Western Standard Time on Saturday and ends at 11:00 AM for us on Sunday. This is a contest that you can do from your home station or go portable.**

**If you wish, it's up to you.**

**The Rd is known as the friendly contest and if the bands are good to us, we should do OK.**

**You should visit the WI a website to look through the rules. Be aware that traditionally here in Perth we earn a good chunk of our Aussie contest points on 80 metres and VHF, UHF however, and there's always the. However, the other bands could be open.**

**And you could do well on those too. Logging software makes your contesting easier, and the Aussie software VK contest logger works this contest perfectly.**

**Contests can be fun, so give it a bash. You don't have to do the whole 24 hours. I don't.**

**I don't have the stamina.**

**For it. Nor do you have to do a single block of time on air.**

**You can do as much time on air as you like within the 24 hour period. Good luck with the Rd contest.**

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**Since 1931, News West has provided amateur radio news for WA and Beyond. This is VK 6ARN.**

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**We've been a bit quiet about Perth Tech lately, but don't worry arrangements for**

**Perth Tech are well underway and we're sorting out a good lineup of presenters.**

**The date for Perth deck is the 27th, 28th and 29th of October, with the main event on Saturday the 28th. The feedback on parking caravans on site last year was very positive.**

**And we're offering this again in 2023 at one time last year we had 17 caravans, campers, etcetera on site.**

**The Perth Tech weekend will start on Friday night with some loosely organised activity and being amateurs.**

**This could consist of setting up our portable gear with and I'll show you mine if you show me yours thing going on with barbecues available and some good takeaways available nearby Saturday is the main event with presentations all day punctuated with food and.**

**We'll repeat the sundowner on Saturday night as that proved popular last year as**

**well. On Sunday, we'll offer free workshops when someone gives a practical demonstration on some aspect of amateur radio.**

**These are provided where someone offers to conduct them. There's no charge and locations could vary. Again, we plan to offer Perth Tech free to all amateurs.**

**Well, almost free. We do charge a token fee for the caterer.**

**And here's the fun part. We pay for Perth Tech out of the proceeds of our raffle, and of course, we also receive donations and put them to work to make Perth Tech a successful activity.**

**We'll announce our Perth Tech raffle at Ham Fest, being our usual gracious selves, we offered the NCR G the courtesy of not competing with the Ham Fest raffle.**

**We're good blokes.**

**So there's a couple of things you can do now to make Perth Tech a success.**

**Firstly, set the date aside Saturday the 28th of October for the main event Friday the 27th through Sunday the 29th of October for the whole weekend.**

**Tell your amateur radio friends and club members about Perth Tech's next buy raffle tickets. They're only \$5.**

**Which by several and they're available from Ham Fest onwards and will be drawn at Perth Tech that can be bought online.**

**It's all too easy, isn't it? Lastly, give some consideration, especially clubs, to making a donation towards Perth Tech.**

**Last year, we received some generous donations and we put these towards the day raffle and we had a table full of prizes to give away.**

**We'd like to repeat that again, so please consider donating to Perth Tech. Email**



**your intention to my email which is Perth  
Tech at vk6.net and I'll give you our  
banking details.**

**And our website is vk6.net, that's the lot  
Perth Tech 2023, Saturday, 28th of  
October.**

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**Hello everyone, this is Clive VK 6CSW  
reminding you that the radio amateurs  
old Timers Club of Australia's August  
Bulletin goes to air to Morrow.**

**Frequency change. Don't forget that the  
00 hours UTC, that's 8:00 AM WA local  
time transmission is now on 10 metres  
on 28 decimal 450 megahertz until  
further notice.**

**Full details of this change, plus all other  
broadcast times, can be found on the  
club website [www.raotc.org.au](http://www.raotc.org.au) or by  
Googling RAOTC broadcasts. However,  
this 10 metre.**

**Transmission is beamed at South eastwards by VK 8 MA from Catherine in the NT, so may or may not be held in WA, but it's worth a try.**

**Don't forget too that even if none of the transmission times suit you, you can download the audio file at any time from today from the club website. If you do download the file, the brief feedback comment would be appreciated.**

**This month, as well as the latest club news, I'll be talking about Oboe, a British World War Two bomb aiming system which was the forerunner of DME. Me or distance measuring equipment.**

**This will be followed by Bill V K3BR, who talks about a book review on the Tatura secret radio.**

**Every one area OTESI members and non members alike is most welcome to listen to the programme and to join in the call backs afterwards.**

**At 8:00 AM local time to Morrow, as well as the transmission on 28 decimal 450 megahertz, there's a transmission via digital mobile radio on the VK DMR Network Talk Group 5.**

**At 9:00 AM, Chris speak, Six Ji will transmit the Bulletin on 80 metres on 3620 kHz with a repeat at 10:00 AM on 7088 kHz and also at 10:00 AM. The transmission via the news W linked repeater.**

**On Wednesday, August the 9th, we have a D star broadcast at 5:30 PM WA local time. This will be transmitted via D star reflect A91C and will follow the D Star news line on Sunday, August the 13th repeats of the re OTC Bulletin. Follow the 160 metre.**

**And a 40 metre broadcast of the WIA news.**

**The next lunch time meeting for members and friends of the RAOTC is Tuesday, August the 8th at the Woodbridge Hotel, 50 E St, Guildford. We meet at 11:30 for mid day lunch.**

**An attractive well priced at seniors menu is available which can be viewed online. Everyone's welcome to join in and have an eyeball QSO.**

**There's adequate car parking, but if coming by train, be sure to alight at Guildford E repeat Guildford East station.**

**Full details are on the club website under the heading luncheons. Once again TuneIn tomorrow for the August broadcast and we look forward to hearing your call signed in the call backs.**

**73 from Clive VK6CSW.**

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**ROYS HELPLINE**

AMATEUR RADIO HELPLINE 6th AUGUST 2023

PLEASE Have your HELPLINE requests into me by 07:00 hrs WST Friday to be in the next broadcast

to email ; <roy.watkins@bigpond.com> or (vk6xv@bigpond.com)

Contact me and keep our equipment in Amateur hands, 73 Roy. vk6xv@bigpond.com

Please enter "DISPOSALS or HELPLINE" in the subject

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Here is this weeks helpline.

WANTED - 160-10m or 80 - 10m tabletop valve AM/CW 50W transmitter, such as Johnson Ranger, Panda Cub, KW Vanguard, KW Valiant and Geloso equivalents.

Would also consider similar home brew transmitter. Please email me at stevevk6vz@tpg.com.au with details.

Wanted – glass octal vacuum valves/tubes for the restoration of a WW2 National HRO MX receiver.

Those needed are type 6D6, 6C6, 6B7 and 42. The radio uses four 6D6 and three 6C6 valves, so these are particularly needed!

Even if you only have one of the above, it'd be wonderful! Very happy to pay. Please drop me a line at stevevk6vz@tpg.com.au with your details. Steve, VK6VZ

Thank you!

Steve, VK6VZ

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Gerry Wild vk6gw is now in a nursing home and his Family has asked help from me to dispose of is radio gear.

Gerry a few months back fell over and broke his hip, he is 94 years old. He spent 2 months in the Joondalup hospital and then moved into a Nursing home. His hip is not mending and is in constant pain, his xyl Shirley has moved into their daughters place in Connelly WA and placing their home in Glen Forrest on the market later this year.

I have cleared is shack out and brought the radio gear to my qth to check and put a price on the items I feel will sell.

In the next couple of weeks I will email items and price to you along with photos to put on your "Helpline"

Thanking you for your assistance..

For sale , a Daiwa DC 7011 Round Controller with Daiwa antenna rotator DR 7600cx ...requires 6 core connecting cable.. tested ok.

Asking price ... \$400.00 Barrie vk6adi



An early model Yaesu speaker , all metal case , good addition for any person having the old  
ft300 and  
ft400 series in their collection.

Asking price. \$25.00

Barrie vk6adi



A High Frequency vacuum tube voltmeter model 1600B by RD Instruments .. old but still works..Instruction manual supplied.  
Asking price \$100.00



For sale a Hallicrafters 2KW linear model HT33..  
requires a 2KV power supply..covers HF freqs. 80  
to 10



metres...uses 2 4cx250B in the final.

RF unit complete with filament and bias transformers..a good project for an experiment for a Ham with

High Voltage experience...comes with a manual , covers and spare "used" 4cx250 tubes.

Asking price. \$450.00

Contact Barrie vk6adi on email.

b.j.burns@bigpond.com or mobile 0428 959 771



Wanted:

- Icom 7100.
- antenna analyser (any make/model) for quick SWR checks
- 40m - 10m vertical antenna which can compact down to 1.5 metres to make it easier when moving house.
- 5/8's wavelength mobile monoband for 20m
- 5/8's wavelength mobile monoband for 40m
- mAT-125E tuner

I am in Broome, WA so unable to "drop in" and check hardware in metro areas, require photo's please, and yep, happy to pay freight.

"Why don't I make those myself?" because my tools are still boxed up and can't access them for a while.

"Why not go for a decent [insert antenna style]?" because landlady restrictions apply.

Been looking on social media, Amazon etc but too many scammers and fake accounts.

Thank you to anyone who may have those  
available, greatly appreciated.

vk6ksj@westnet.com.au

Cheers

Kai

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For sale: Could you please re-advertise my IC718  
on the Helpline for next Sunday. Had one  
missed call message, but have been unsuccessful  
in contacting them back.

For sale:

Icom IC718 HF transceiver. 10-160m 100 watts.

Comes with hand microphone , power lead and  
original handbook.

Very good condition, no scratches.

\$450

Contact Greg VK6ED, phone 0417 900 874.

Cheers and 73's,

Greg VK6ED

Icom IC718 HF transceiver. 10-160m 100 watts.

Comes with hand microphone , power lead and original handbook.

Very good condition, no scratches. \$450

Contact Greg VK6ED, phone 0417 900 874.

Cheers and 73's, Greg VK6ED

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VK6LGB, has a Hy-Gain Antenna TH-3JRS 3  
Element Tri-Band 10, 15 and 20

Meters Yagi Antenna for sale.

New, not used, comes in the box. The Antenna  
normally cost around \$995 but

is for sale for a reduced cost of \$750 to a good  
home.

Ideal for mast mounting or a large backyard.

Can be driven up to 600 watts, with a average  
Gain of 5.8 dBd, and a F/B

Rario: 25 dB avg.

Pick up from Rockingham.

Contact Glenn

Phone 08 9592 7915

Email [VK6LGB@hotmail.com](mailto:VK6LGB@hotmail.com)

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## FOR SALE

Harris R-2368 military HF receiver.

Solid state, fully synthesised HF receiver with  
digital display.

Covers VLF, LF, MF and HF bands from 10kHz to  
30MHz with 1Hz resolution.

Fully functional including sensitivity.

\$950.

Thanks,

Tony VK6CV 0419 961 399

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Please have your items in to me by 07:00  
AM Friday  
for inclusion the following Sunday  
broadcast.

The email address is vk6xv@bigpond.com  
Don't forget YOUR phone number and  
email address.

Please include HELPLINE as the  
"SUBJECT"  
Thank you.

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Foundations of amateur radio the first  
official telegram to pass between 2  
continents, was a letter of congratulations  
from Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom  
to president of the United States, James

Buchanan, on 16 August 1858. The text is captured in the collection of the US Library of Congress. It's a low resolution image of a photo of a wood engraving based on me counting the characters. The text from the Queen to the President is about 650 characters. I triple E reported as 98 words where my count gives 103 words or 95 words depending on how you count the address. Due to a misunderstanding between the operators at either end of the 3200 kilometre long cable, the message took 16 hours to transmit and 67 minutes to repeat back. If you use the shortest duration, the effective speed is just over 1 1/2 words per minute. Or W PM. That's not fast in comparison with speeds we use. Day until 2003, the ITU expected that emergency and meteorological messages should not exceed 16 words per minute. That a second class operator could achieve 20 words per minute and a first class operator could achieve 25 words per

minute. To put the message speed in context of the error. In 1856 RMS Persia, an iron paddle wheel steamship and at the time the largest ship in the world, won the so-called Blue Ribbon and fell, the fastest westbound transatlantic voyage between Liverpool and S. The hook the journey took nine days, 16 hours and 16 minutes.

Similarly, it wasn't until 1861 that a transcontinental Telegraph was established across the United States. In 1841, it took 110 days for the news of the death in office of President William Henry Harrison to reach Los Angeles to day. That distance is covered by a 39 hour drive, a 5 hour flight and about 12 milliseconds on HF radio. So while the speed of the message might not be anything to write home about today, at the time it was world changing. Speed in Morse code is measured in a specific way based on international Morse code, which is what I'm using throughout this discussion. If you send the word Paris a dozen times in a



minute and the next time starts right on the next minute, you officially sent Morse at 12 words per minute. Looking inside the message of the word Paris, it's made up of a collection of dits and dahs. If a digit is 1 unit of time, then the letter A represented by Ditta is 6 units long. When you include the spacing. In total, the word Paris, including the space after it, is exactly 50 units long. When you send out 12 words per minute, you're effectively sending 600 dit units per minute, or 10 units or bits per second, each lasting  $1/10$  of a second. Unfortunately, there's not a one to one relationship between more speed and ASCII. The American Standard Code for Information Interchange for a number of reasons. Firstly, Morse is made from symbols with varying lengths, where ASCII, the encoding that we really want to compare speeds with, has symbols with a fixed length. You cannot simply count symbols in both and compare their speeds, since communication speed is

about what you send, how fast you send it and how readable it is at the other end.

Thanks to Aiden AD8GM, who, inspired by my initial investigation, shared the idea and Python code to encode more stits, dars and spacing using A1 for a digits, 111 for a DAR and zeros for spacing. This means that the letter. E can be represented by 1 zero and the letter T by 1110. You can do this for the standard Morse word Paris and end up with

a combination of 50 zeros and ones or exactly 50 bits. I've been extending the code that Aiden wrote to include other encoding systems when I have something to show, it will be on my GitHub page.

However, using Aiden's idea we gain the ability to directly compare. Winning Morse bits with ASCII bits, since they share the same zero and one encoding. If you use standard binary encoded ASCII, each letter takes up 8 bits and the six characters for the word Paris, including the space, will take up 48 bits. Given that I just told you that the

Morse version of the same message takes up 50 bits, you could now smile and say see ASCII is faster. Wait. Yes, if you send the word Paris using 8 bit binary coded ASCII, it's two bits shorter than if you use Morse's job done, roll, the press headline reads.

Morse is 4% slower than binary coded ASCII. Not so fast, grasshopper. If you recall American malls code the one that has Samuel Morse's name written all over. It, was replaced by a different code made by Friedrich Gerkie, which in turn was modified to become what we now know as international Morse code. Ask yourself, why did Gerke change the code? It turns out that one of the biggest issues with getting a message across an undersea cable was decoding the message at the other end. Let me give you an example using American males. Consider the encoding of E Dit an O ditt extra space. Did and now try sending the word seed across a noisy line. Did you convey seed or was it sod? In other words,

there is room for ambiguity in the message, and when you're talking about commerce, that's never a good basis for coming to a mutually binding agreement. It turns out that encoding needs to be more subtle than just creating a sequence of bits. Something else to consider. 10 bits per second is another way of saying 10 Hertz, as in this is not just switching, we are dealing with frequencies and because we're not sending lovely sinusoidal waves from a signal processing perspective, a very horrible square wave, we're also dealing with harmonics. Lots of harmonics and more of them as we speed things up. So if you send binary coded ASCII and compare it to Morse code, will your message actually arrive? I'm Onno VK6FLAB.

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**Hi there. I'm Clinton, VK6FCRC and I'd like to thank our news west team of volunteers and broadcasters each week and those regularly submitting content each week.**

**I'd also like to thank our readers and you for listening. Please stand by now for callbacks after the ident or if nobody is taking callbacks, please fill out the form on the vk6.net website.**

**So we know how many people are listening or reading news West each week.**