

Disclaimer

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This is BK6 ARN News West. We are a community organization and we've been serving up the best amateur radio news in Australia since 1931.



Hi there, it's Clinton VK Six FCC and welcome to News W for the 10th of December 2023. Now with the show



hi, just a little note about the K6 RG and the WAG technical and general net having it run every Sunday. Morning on VK 6 RLM, that's 146 decimal 750 or channel 3 in the old money and it starts at 10:30 AM this morning. Of course, if you're listening in the evening, it's next week. Happened to listen to the right part of the 80 metre band on a Tuesday evening. You might hear something that sounds like this. The CQ Rs net has been running every single Tuesday for the last two years and has been unbelievably popular. There are usually half a dozen, a dozen and a couple of times up to 18 stations popping in and out when they can over the four or five hours. The aim is to encourage new CW operators to have a go at slow CW in a safe and really friendly environment where slow speed and lots of mistakes. A power for the course. It's all about having a go, starting with the basic call sign and RST exchange, then over time getting better and better. The net also attracts its fair share of old timers who enjoy helping others to have a go or just to enjoy the banter. So this might be just the opportunity you've been waiting for to have a go at transmitting on CW. Or perhaps just to stop the contacts rusting up on your key. Doesn't matter. Whether you're brand new to the code, or if you're an old timer who would like to have a bit of fun and help encourage new operators by having simple, safe Qsos at their speed, we'd love to have you join in. The net starts at 0900 Zulu every Tuesday on 80 metres between 3540. And 3570 kilohertz and their stations in the West, East and in between. Listening out for your CQRS call. For more information and to receive our weekly CQRS Ragu newsletter, contact me mark VK 6 Qi via my e-mail address on qrz.com. Or you can e-mail me direct mark.bosma@icloud.com that is MAR k.b.osma@icloud.com Too much switch mode power supply hash on 80 metres. This might be the incentive to do something about it, with the cheap noise canceller costing less than \$100. 80 metres could be easier than you think. So once again, Tuesdays from 0900 Zulu until late between 3540 kHz and 3570 kHz. Cheers from Mark the K2K I and VK 6 Qi.

Hello from the WAV Chef group, this is Dennis V AKR. Sincere thanks are extended to Peter V6 HP operator of the VK 6 MJM Low and Medium frequency beacon station. Peter delivered a wonderfully informative talk to WHF Group members on Saturday the 2nd. Since retirement from a lifetime in radio astronomy, he wanted to explore propagation in the low and medium frequencies. An aeronautical non directional beacon at Manjimup was being decommissioned so the life most station gained a new lease

of life. The legal limit is only one Watt ERP for the 2200 metre MAD and five watts for the 630 metre bed. With the use of some WSJT digital modes, Peters Station has been heard literally around the globe. The wireless hill sites, history and communications reaching back to Marconi 's days was not lost on Peter, so his talk was a good fit. People watch out for an article by Peter, possibly in QX next year and I have hinted strongly that his presentation would go well at Perth Tech. If that happens then please make the effort to come along. The WVF Group has made a name for itself in VHF, UHF and SCHF beacons since the first of them was established in the 1957 for the International Geophysical Year. Over the next 65 plus years, the fleet of beacons on various frequencies was designed, built, installed, unmaintained by our club members. In our heyday we had over 120 members on the books living far and wide across the K6. However, times change and the beacon network has shrunk as sites became unavailable, amateurs left the regions, less reliance was placed on the features provided by transmitting beacons, increasing cost of licensing, insurance and so on. The club has taken the difficult decision to reduce the number of beacons to include only those in the metro area. And VK Six RTU in Kalgoorlie, where we have some charts of maintaining them. Perhaps there will be sufficient interest in beacons transmitting or reverse that a beacon special interest group will be formed to maintain the remote sites and beacons. The club will hand over the licences and provide whatever documentation, spares etc that we can to the new custodians, separation from the day-to-day running and operation of our amateur radio club. In the same way that running the repeat network is admirably served by the purpose built W, a repeater group may breathe new life into this aspect of our hobby. Our plan is to not renew licences for and to withdraw beacons other than the metro area and Kalgoorlie by the middle of February next year. As always, if you are in the Apple Cross area on the first and third Saturdays of most months, you are very welcome to call in, meet our members and share a cuppa. Check our website or Facebook page for any updates on these activity days and for our general meetings on the 4th Monday of each month except December. 73 From Dennis VK Six AKR for the WA VHF Group.



Good morning all. This is Roy VK 6X Victor. This week's helpline, the 10th of December. What have we got today? Same stuff, different day. We go with a little bit of variation in the prices we have from Barry Kenwood, T0711A2 metre rig \$300.00, TS 811. Alpha 70 centimeter \$300 is a R5000 Receiver \$150.00 There's an Icon 3200 Alpha and Power supply \$350.00 a unit UHF CB \$100, the same price you contact

Barry on his telephone 0428959771. Go again 0428959771 or e-mail bravo.juliet.burns@bigpond.com Provo dot JBURNS at bigpond.com and Steve VK 6 Sarah Juliet. Still has a Flinx 6700 SCR transceiver. Three years old in pristine condition, Premier software defined transceiver comes with expert advice if you need it. Asking 8 K \$8000 and also there's an 8: acom. ACOMA2000 amplifier couple of two kilowatts if you're careful into a dummy load with 85 watts of drive and brand new tubes. And it has the earlier version, then comes with the later version controller as well, asking 6K for that. Or 12K for both. There's a package unit. Sorry about the background noise and they would prefer a call after business hours on 04477675183 mobile. Again the 0447767518 or you may e-mail Steve. That his e-mail address which is Ste. Victor echo at Kennedy kilo N ENNEDY dash. It's just the- dash sarahjuliet.com dot AU. That's all I have for you for this week. Sorry about that. There's the same stuff different day. This is Roy VK 6X Victor. Anyone with any new stuff would like to call me or would you like to repeat the other Please call me on roy.watkins@bigpond.com or 042700099573 till next week. I hope we're. Hope I'll have some new stuff by then.

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This is VK6ARN

This is VK 6A RN and you're listening to News West. You might notice that News West has been logged on for content lately, and I've been playing a lot of repeat stories, but you can help us to change that by sending your stories or contributions through to News W at vk6.net

Foundations of Amateur Radio



Onno - VK6FLAB



443 Report on Radio Harmonic Power

Foundations of Amateur Radio. There's a perception in the community that the hobby of amateur radio is an expensive way to have fun. While it's entirely possible to spend thousands of dollars on equipment in much the same way that it's possible if your preferred hobby is golf, getting started does not have to require that you start planting money trees. Lots of fun can be had using cheap. Amateur radio transceivers that are used all around the world. If you do start with such a radio, the chances are good that you'll come across amateurs who make disparaging remarks about the lack of compliance of such radios. When I say compliance, I'm talking about specific measurements specified by the International Telecommunications Union, the ITU. When you transmit on a specific frequency, there are rules about how much that signal is allowed to be unintended or to use the official term, spurious emissions. Specifically, the signal you transmit has to meet the requirements for the mode you're using. And it must also stay within limits on other frequencies. For example, if you have a 2M handheld radio that uses FM, the transmitter must stay within the required width for FM and it's not allowed to transmit above a certain level on any of the harmonic frequencies. When someone claims that all cheap radios are non compliant, they're saying that such radios are either not transmitting a valid FM signal or that the levels of the signal exceed the limits specified by the ITU. Given that such radios are in wide use, Randall Victor, K6WR, Galin, Victor K6PAW and I got together to see if we could come up with something a little more scientific in the way of comment about such radios with access to Randall 's HP8920A RF Communications test set. We came U with a repeatable way to test a radio and then went to the local ham fest where we subjected a pile of radios to our tests. In total, we did 75 tests. Overall, we tested 39 distinct models across 12 brands. So what did we learn? All so-called name brand radios were fully compliant. All radios that were sold in Australia by Australian distributors were compliant. Bayer Fang radios made-up the large sample of inexpensive radios. 7 out of the 26 tested were compliant, eight were non compliant, and the rest eleven were borderline. More on that shortly. We also tested many radios that had been purchased online. We didn't test enough of each model to make specific comments, but it's worth pointing out that half of all the online radios were compliant. Now, I mentioned borderline compliance. What we learned was that there was some radios that fell within six DB of being compliant. The HP test set hasn't been calibrated for a while and we felt that allowing for a three DB random measurement error and a three DB systemic error would prevent us from marking a radio noncompliance. When in fact, it was. We categorised 16 radios as borderline. Our report is of

course public. You can find it on my GitHub page as both the PDF and the markdown document. Whilst we were writing our report, we discovered uncorroborated suggestions that some radios might fail an emissions test after suffering unspecified damage in the output filtering stages. We looked at the schematic of one radio that suggests that a simple capacitor failure might cause a filter to fail without preventing the transmitter from operating. This might mean that a noncompliant transmitter might be made compliant again by replacing the faulty capacitor. We haven't tried, and we don't know if a failed capacitor actually makes a radio noncompliant or not, or even if such a failure could occur, and if so, how. In other words, this might be a red herring. We just don't know. One other comment worth pointing out is that it was suggested that some radios might use a specifically designed antenna to suppress the second harmonic. Given that some radios failed only on the second harmonic spurious emission requirement, but not the third, this seems plausible. All radios we tested had removable antennas and were tested without an antenna. Since compliance relates to the transmitter, not the antenna, it does raise a more interesting question. What happens if you fit a different antenna to the radio? One adage that stands is that you get what you pay for, but given the amount of cheap testing equipment available, it's relatively easy to test every handset in your track. I'm Honor Victor Low, 6FLAB.



Hi there, it's Clinton VK 6 CRC. Back with you. And did you know that News W is now on YouTube? Type in. Youtube.com/ at Newsweek weekly podcast. That's Gilly Z7YC. Oh, and before I go, I'd like to thank you next week. Something happened last week.