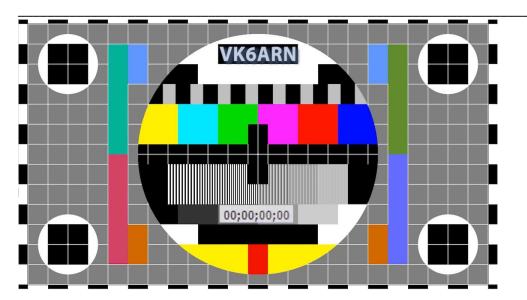
## Disclaimer

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You have been listening to or you have just missed the news from VK One WIA. Now it's time for VK 6 ARN and News West.



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



Are there. This is Clinton Vico 6 FDIC. More continues W for the 21st of January 2023.

Now with the show.



Item for V K6News 21 January 2024

Hello this is Denis VK6AKR for the WA VHF Group

How did you go in the UHF VHF Summer Field Day last weekend? Participants were in the main, members of the WA VHF Group but for future contests of this type please note that any licensed Amateur can participate. It is a good, friendly way to get on air and have some fun. Worried about making mistakes – don't. I made plenty of mistakes in my first contest, probably even more in later ones too, but I have survived hi hi. Survival is largely thanks to the help of others in the contests giving friendly advice. Such is the nature of our hobby.

The Ross Hull continues until the end of this month. Great fun, friendly, hope to hear you on air at times until the 31 st. The main and single most important thing with any contest is to please write up and submit your log. Without a confirming log entry your QSO partner – and you – will not be given a score. Winning outright is not my aim but I really do appreciate that my QSO partners have confirmed our contacts by submitting their logs.

Stymied by how to log, or transfer your hand-written notes into electronic form? Check with your club mates or send me an email.

A change of pace... most of you listening today will know that my club, the WA VHF Group has its QTH at the Wireless Hill Telecommunication Museum site in Applecross. The special news today is that a new exhibition called Television News is starting and going through until the first week in May. I have not had a preview but it seeks to display the technology, personalities and equipment that made up Television News, The Museum curators are very adept at story telling in this medium so I am sure that it will entertain and educate for all ages. The exhibition launch is today, Sunday 21 st at 3PM if you have a chance to attend. But otherwise check the City of Melville website for opening hours.

I'll leave it there for today and invite you not only to the exhibition but also to carry on in the Ross Hull contest.

73 from Denis VK6AKR for the WA VHF Group



If you happen to listen to the right part of the 80 metre band on a Tuesday evening, you might hear something that sounds like this. The CQRS net has been running every single Tuesday for the last two years and has been unbelievably popular. There are usually half a dozen. 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 are par for the course. It's all about having a go, starting with the basic call sign and RST exchange, then overtime 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. VW 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 kHz 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 V K6QI 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 meters. Something about it with a 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 K2 Ki and VK 6 Qi.



Hi, just a little note about VK 6 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.



Hi, I'm Steve VK 6 SJ with this week's episode of Did You Know? Going to Dayton Hamvention in Ohio, USA has been on my bucket list for a decade or two. This year I needed to discuss a few things with Flex Radio and I wanted to expand the variety of products in the shop. So it seemed like the perfect chance to get those tasks done and also see what Datum was about. Picking up some other work over there for another customer to help pay for the trip, as well as working for Flex while I was there was icing on the cake. So there I was, ticking off one of my bucket list items. Had her described Dayton 25 to 30,000 and 10 dees, 157 vendors, including all the big radio manufacturers including Kenwood, Surprisingly, but also lots of the smaller vendors such as Buddy, Poland Hill and the like. The look and feel of the event was not dissimilar to the Perth Royal show, but only runs for 2 1/2 days instead of 10. There were food trucks and stands dotted around the event, one hall exclusively for use as a forum for buildings for commercial exhibitors and a large paddock full of flea market car boot style sellers. In fact, looking at the facility in Xenia where the Dayton Hamvention has now run the. On shy grounds would make a nicer location with similar facilities, but probably more expensive. To give you an idea of the size of the market though, there are 770 seven 162,000 ham licences in the USA, with just under 130,000 of them living in Ohio and its bordering states in Australia. We have 19 1/2 thousand licences and I think about 2000 of them are in WA. There's a lot you can do with the market that size. That's likely not going to happen here with our current population of hams. Still, if he scaled down our population, a similar attendance should be in the order of 500 or one in four hands. Not sure off the top of my head how that compares to, say, Ham Fest, but it's probably an appropriate amount. Come on, add that the USA has around twice as many hams per capita than Australia. I wonder why that is. Looking at the why on field day that that I've attended a number of times, it was a pretty good scale down copy of how mentioned given the size of our market. While typically he has an area of performance, an area for commercial vendors, areas for car boot sales and a few options for food, Wong has the advantage of a far larger potential audience than we have here in WA. Makes me wonder what could be done if I am in a population, or rather the target audience of an event was bigger. What could we do if we expanded the interest of an event to the recreational CB and HF sectors? It would probably be be kiting through a potential audience of around five times the amateur population. Somebody end up with an attendance of more than 1000. This could possibly allow us to run a forum in a separate room. They just don't work otherwise My opinion and the size of the market would attract more vendors. It would also bring a

bunch of people with similar interests into contact with amateur radio, which would almost certainly be. Austria ranks. The forms tied in with hamfests have been tried to varying rates of success. I think Perth Tech is by far the best example of the forum idea, but they typically don't cater for the vendor or flea market crowd. NRG and Park have both tried the forum idea in various forms with limited success, but both, as well as Hargest, do a great job for vendors and anyone else wanting to sell stuff. If we counted to a larger potential audience, IE combined audience from amateur radio, CB and the recreational HF sectors, we get more manufacturers lining up to be a part of the event, which would also benefit our community in terms of more variety of goods on sale, more sponsorship of events, better raffle prizes and a larger variety of forum topics. This isn't a criticism of our local events. We have great events here in Perth. While in XRG Home Fest has always been the premier event, Hard Fest and park vests have lately been giving them a big run for their money. This competition is great for all of us as hams attending event and the clubs running the event hoping to compete for attendance. Next club meeting challenged the committee to look further afield, not only for the things to do at your event, but also the size of the audience you might cater for. Better still, get involved yourself. Thinking about how your event might be attractive to more vendors, which will in turn drive up attendance numbers and generate more income for your club. Well, thanks for listening again. This is Steve K6SJ with another episode of Did You Know?



This is News W your amateur radio news on VK 6 ARN originating on the News W linked repeater network and HF relays.



Would you believe it? Some information went out with the wrong date on it. Probably my fault, so let's correct it now. The Peel Amateur Radio Group Annual Park Fest Swap Meet will be on Saturday the 10th of February. The first weekend of February it will be held again at the Mantra. Going Club which is on the corner of All Nut St. and Dower St. It is just up the rise from the Mantra railway station. The doors opened at 8:00 AM for exhibitors and at 9 the doors will be opened for buyers and for attendees. The entry fee is again \$5 per person and there will be the draw of the Mega raffle at the end of the day. For more information about the Mega Raffle, go to rafflelink.com dot AU/ pug Fest 2024. There is a link on the Peel Amateur Radio Group website which is www.pagpag.org.au. Your business or your club? Want to book a table at the annual park swap meet? Please contact the secretary by e-mail now. The e-mail address is on the PUG website. Write this date up on your new 2024 diary now. Time 0900 Hours Day Saturday Date the 10th of February. Place Manjira. Running club. Address Corner All Nut St. and Dower streets Mandurah just up the hill from the Mandurah railway station. Purpose Peel amateur radio, swap meet and draw of the mega raffle prizes. The Peel Amateur Radio Group Mega Raffle is on again now. Prizes will be drawn at the event on Saturday the 10th of February. It is a great morning for all and well worth the trip. Meet up with friends again and grab a bargain. Go to the PRG website at www.parg.org.au For more information.



You might notice that News West has been low. Time 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@vk6.net.



Hi, I'm Stevie Kay, 6 SJ with this week's episode of Did You Know? I thought this week we're gonna have a quick look at ham and mainstream communication suppliers in WA, not just shops where you can buy stuff for your weekend projects. But also to highlight. Some high class manufacturers based here in WA who support our hobbies in ways that not everyone appreciates. So who do we have in WA? Anyone who's been in the hobby for 30 plus years will. For the TIP Mtron brand, it was synonymous with triband, yagis, amplifiers and great quality tuners and other things you needed in your shack. While many of these products are no longer made by by Entron, tell them Tron move to WA from Victoria about 15 years ago and after a brief stint in Perth, moved to the coastal fishing town of Dongara, where Mark, the owner of Ted Mtron, still makes great quality antennas, antenna components, balloons of all types and power ratings and components such as carrots, connectors and lightning arresters. Well, most

antenna manufacturers in Australia only sell assembled antennas, temporal cell separately. Every component to build your own antennas or you can buy a complete antenna in kit form. That's proven very popular here in WA as well as around the country. Mark appears in more hamfests around the country than any other ham supplier, bar none. Mark, along with the rest of the suppliers to our hobby and WA, donates heavily to most if not all clubs here with vouchers and products. Another manufacturer in Perth that gets less recognition than they deserve is Bush Com Bush, As well as the ham specific brand, Horizon make great products for both the ham and commercial HF sector. They make a great selection of wire antennas well suited for the. Bands that also work well on the high bands and there are a lot of newer hams in Perth whose first antenna has come from Bush Comes Factory in Bayswater. On top of that though, they also make balance mobile HF antennas and also open to making the odds special as well. The face of Bush Come Graham is often also often seen at HAM events in WA and also sells many of his products to DX Engineering in the US, one of the world's largest ham sales organisations. There's some great boutique products such as magnetic loops and steerable dipoles for 40 metres might add. He also donated 80 and 40 metre antenna to Ham College, which has been very much appreciated. Her members are telling brand beginning. Who knows when. I'm only 57 so I don't remember them starting. They made the iconic Outback her and hate ham out backer mobile tap whips that were the go to antenna before auto antenna tuners became a thing. This was also a Wawa brand that enjoyed global exposure and was based here in Perth. Terry, the owner, still makes the odd shipment of product for his most. For customers including major international hand brands. In the regional areas of WI, we also have some great businesses supporting the hobby. In Albany, there's a leading leading edge who's a registered Icom ham dealer and active ham, John Vaco, 6 KJ. And in Joelton there's also another emerging Icon dealership run by Greg Vacay, 6 FG in Perth. Many of the mainstream communications businesses have also supported our hobby in less public ways. A friend of mine who's busily building interest in ham radio in the scouting movement tells me that Redlink repaired his long out of warranty repeated recently. And I keep hearing of Steve at Digital Radio Systems in Canning Vale donating all sorts of stuff to various hand group people, including a couple of Solar bag recently had recently. In the past, persons had a very special, special place in the communications industry. One one of two of the largest commercial HF manufacturers in the world, Barrett is based in Perth and now owned by the largest radio manufacturer in the world who hasn't seen a kale or KX repeater in a repeater sites across the country. Many a ham and purses worked for the manufacturer dating back to the late 80s and has a soft spot for those radios. A similar radio, but much updated, is still manufactured here in Perth by Spectra Engineering. The owner of which is often seen at Have Perth. I was presenting a design package to Los Angeles County for a data radio system and about 10 years ago when Motorola Base entered their paging system MX dating the MX 800 from inspection. I was representing a Sydney based company at the time, but I couldn't help speaking up. There was a great person made product. Hello Hams and Perth are not only working in iconic Perth comms companies in niche areas, but one person based ham in particular has been central in bringing software defined radios into the mainstream handset sector. Feel very K6A pH and the subject all subject all around the world. Other another emerging business Internet W is NatWest while our predominantly in our dominantly and I serve that they are the technical muscle behind the Austral commercial HF network of which many hams are also a member of network NatWest. Also repairs ham rigs and I think the only out here doing that here do a very professional job of that. By the way some of you probably know that I'll say run a hand business. I don't want this to be blatant self-serving plug so I won't harp on long. The business is called X Friday Assist. Three present retail presence in Midland, Australian Australian distributor for Flexradio from

dealer N.W.A. You'll ask Google and you'll find out more for for city of 1.5 million. We are well and truly over and commented in the communication in this country, in this country, in my opinion. Other iconic conic brands in the past that have manufactured radios and accessories include walking, electronics, all communications, communications. Who made a small dog Julio on the seven radio on the 78 here in Perth? Sorry, sorry. Support your local businesses. Import. Yes. Hobby. Port. Your hobby. Turning up. Just turning up to all of the ham events dating to them. Being to them it would be probably would be poorer for their departure. Supporting them assists to make sure that they don't depart right, and they're all great value anyway, so you aren't paying us. Him to support for listening. Thanks for listening again. This is kind Steve K6SJ. So another episode of Did you know if you'd like a text copy of this or other articles they'll be post agent deal page at DX radio cost and W dot U after it's going to it's going to where?



Foundations of Amateur Radio: New arrangements for Australian Amateur Radio

From the 19th of February 2024, the ACMA, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, the regulator, is modifying the rules for amateur radio in Australia by moving to an amateur class license where all amateurs will operate under the same license instead of under an individual one.

You must be qualified to operate under the new class license and all currently licensed radio amateurs should now have been issued with a recognition certificate for their current qualification level.

Keep this certificate safe, it authorises you to operate as an amateur and shows which callsigns you currently hold. I've just received a revision that now correctly identifies my callsign VK6FLAB as a four-letter callsign, rather than three-letters which caused concern over the longevity of my call.

There's no annual charge to operate as an amateur, no charge to keep a callsign, and no charge to do an exam, however, if you operate a repeater or beacon, you'll continue to require a transmitter license. There are once-off charges for applications to consider and issue recognition certificates and callsigns but those are not new.

The document that legally defines amateur radio in Australia, colloquially the LCD, is replaced by the Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023. The regulator carefully states that: "To operate an amateur station under the amateur class licence, you must comply with the conditions within it", but doesn't clarify if those conditions have changed or not. External commentary claims they haven't, but it was completely re-written and it's difficult to compare the precise actual wording side-by-side.

This has happened before, for example, when the regulator introduced the Limited license in 1954, the Novice license in 1975, abolished Morse in 2004, and introduced the Foundation, Standard and Advanced licenses in 2005. It was replaced again in 2015 and has been revised since, most recently on the 17th of November 2021.

I suspect lawyers will find potentially unintended but material differences between documents, but to my knowledge, that investigation has not yet occurred. I think this is a perfect example of where the peak bodies claiming to represent amateur radio in Australia have a responsibility.

There are many rules around the who, how and where to conduct a qualification exam. For example, the regulator has decided that online or residential exams are not permitted, leaving venues, printed exams and postal delivery as an ongoing cost and concern.

There are plenty of questions left.

An amateur at Advanced level can hold a club station callsign but it appears that at a Foundation or Standard level you can no longer hold a club station license like VK6BSG and VK7HSD. You still need to log usage of a remote club station. Describing the requirements the regulator uses both "revise their arrangements" and "current arrangements will be retained" in the same paragraph, apparently contradicting itself.

The regulator will ask you every five years if you want to keep your callsign. This infers a system to contact you. What does that look like, how will it be maintained, are there requirements for keeping it current, does it need to have the location of your station, an email address, or just any means of contacting you, and is it public? The official register of radio communication licenses will no longer hold

amateur licenses so it's unclear how you'll be able to contact another amateur, or how we'll be able to know who holds which callsigns at what level in which location and when a reminder is due. The details around the new callsign register are incomplete to say the least.

What does breaking the rules look like? With individual amateur licenses your ability to operate is directly linked to you and if found in breach, your license can be cancelled. Under a class license, your ability to operate hinges on knowledge that cannot be taken away.

The regulator publishes the relationship between some international amateur licenses and qualification levels in Australia and as an international visitor you can apparently operate in Australia for 365 days if your current license is recognised. After that, unless you hold a Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate or HAREC, you need to apply for a recognition certificate after either paying for recognised prior learning or passing an exam, even though you were already automatically recognised as having the appropriate qualifications when you entered the country. Does the list of recognised licenses get longer as more international amateurs pay for prior learning and if you leave the country and return, will the clock reset?

There's more. For example, the date that you got your US Technician license determines your recognition. Before 23 September 2016 you're recognised at an Australian Advanced level, after that at a Foundation level.

And finally, if I were an accredited unpaid volunteer assessor, authorised to administer an amateur exam on behalf of the regulator, would I be permitted to comment like I am here, or would I be expected to speak directly with the regulator about my concerns? What happens if speaking directly to the regulator breaks down? What's the penalty for speaking out? Is the regulator going to stop you from being an unpaid volunteer?

Before you ask why I didn't put these concerns to the regulator, I'll point out that it's not up to me to fix these issues, nor is it my place to make recommendations. I don't represent anyone and in my opinion this should be a community wide public conversation, not held in secret talks behind closed doors.

As an amateur outside Australia I'd recommend that you pay attention, because I'm sure that bean counters will be taking notes to see if there's money to be saved at your regulator.



## AMATEUR RADIO HELPLINE 21st JANUARY 2024

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Here is this weeks Amateur Radio Disposals helpline.

## **FOR SALE**

Emtron Grid Dip Meter model EDM-1 freq. range 1.5 - 250 mhz

Has original carton and manual (as new) .... \$300.00

Osker Block swr/pwr metrer model SWR 200

Freq. range 3.5 - 150 mhz power 2w to 2kw

Original carton and manual ... price \$100.00

TS 711A Kenwood 2 Meter All Mode Transceiver... \$300.00

TS 811A Kenwood Multimode 70cm transceiver... \$300.00

IC3200A & power supply The IC-3220A/E/H is a 144 and 430 (440) MHz dual band mobile transceiver.....\$350.00

Uniden uhf cb.... \$100.00

Contact Barrie vk6adi on email. b.j.burns@bigpond.com or mobile 0428 959 771 73's Barrie vk6adi

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## **FOR SALE**

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Whilst it is the earlier version, comes with both the earlier and the latest version controller.

Asking \$7.5K for it,

Also an Acom A2000 amplifier.SOLD

Call Steve – preferably outside normal business hours on 0447 767 518 or by email at steve@kennedy-sj.com.au .

Regards,

Steve Kennedy VK6SJ

Email: steve@kennedy-sj.com.au Mob: +614 4776 7518

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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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