

Disclaimer

All of the text below in this transcript was transcribed using the voice to text capabilities of Microsoft Word Online and hasn't been edited. News West doesn't guarantee that the computer text below will be free from errors.



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



Hi there, I'm Clinton Vico, 6 FCC and welcome to News W for the



28th of January 2024. Now on with the show



VK Radio amateurs.org. That's the web address of the Radio Amateur Society of Australia, known as Raza. You'd do well to drop in there and look around because it contains useful resources for new, returning and established amateur radio enthusiasts. And here's the rub, The web-based resources provided by Raza are free for anyone to access. Free to anyone, whether or not you're a Raza member. There are a number of resources aimed at newcomers to the hobby, and to make it easier for you to access these, there's a Newcomers tab on the menu. Of course, though, these resources are not only for newbies. Russia is always interested in developing new resources, and your suggestions and input are welcome. And having said that, everything is free and you don't have to be a member. You're welcome to apply to become a member of RASA or simply to make a donation. The Raza membership fee is \$10 and 10 bucks is fine. However, many people pay a larger amount as a donation or if not interested in membership, simply make a donation to Raza. It doesn't cost a lot to run Raza. We don't own any assets and don't rent premises or equipment, and our QTC magazine is online, No dead trees involved. Our expenses are mostly related to websites and application licenses and the rest are incidental costs. The next quarterly edition of Razor's Cutie C magazine is due to be published in March. We'll probably have a bit to say about how the class license implementation is going, and we'll welcome your views. You could, for instance, write a letter to the editor with your view on the class licence or any other subject relating to Aussie Amateur Radio and your experience of it. Ross's point of contact is by e-mail to info@vkradioamateurs.org. So that's one big long word vkradioamateurs.org



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 under. Believably 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 are par 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 QSO's 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 Rag Chew newsletter, contact me. Mark V K6 Qi via my e-mail address on qrz.com or you can e-mail me direct mark dot., At 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, but the cheap noise canceller costing less than \$100.80 meters could be easier than you think. So once again, Tuesdays from 0900 Zulu until late between 3540 kHz and 3570 kHz. Cheers from mark VK two Ki and VK 6 Qi.

Did you Know ?



Steve VK6SJ



<https://www.sota.org.uk>

All right, Steve. OK, Six SJ with another episode of Did You Know? So I thought I'd like to talk about social or summits on the air. Not because I'm an expert on mountain climbing. But because I was struggling for a subject to end coal, K6 LFM suggests that I talk about soda. Thanks, Cole. Think I would a good example of a couch slot. So off to consult the oracles. That would be the soda website. What insert a safer or summits on the air is an organization that promotes radio activations on mountain tops, generally 150 metres or more above ground level. There are some basic rules around activations. You can't house any of the station in a vehicle or connected it to any kind of energy that you didn't bring yourself. And you can't use fossil fuel burning sources of energy either. You can't be in the vicinity of your car and you must be within 25 metres of the peak. What's the point you might ask? Well, lots of people worldwide chase summits now, so if you can be heard you can be the DX good for the ego. When you're on a mountain top in the Bush with the course and others are looking for, you can hear everything. You're 150 metres or more above the ground and in a very RF quiet environment. And I wanted call sign is like a one kilowatt linear amplifier. Everyone can hear you. It's a great exercise and it's kind to the environment. Just don't forget to hug the trees you tie your antennas to. If you're if you're a sloth like me, then chasing some. It sounds more exciting to me than chasing grid squares. If you like chasing wallpaper, Soda has a bunch of rewards you can earn and pay for certificates and trophies, etcetera. Three types of cider at participants, activators, those that climb mountains and set up radios, chases. As I said at home and chase soda activations, And there are shortwave listeners who listen for activations and chasers alike. In WWII we have 6 regions and 467 summits. The Pilbara has the most summits here, with 153 to choose from. Many haven't been activated yet within a couple of hours of purse. There are 7 or so summits, most with some familiar calls in the activations list on the SODA website. Quite a few center activators in our midst here in WA, so this is not a new thing. Half of the solar regions in WWI are managed by our very own bear grills, also known as John K6U. From a management perspective, you do need to do some planning prior to visiting a summit. Some of them are on private property, including farms, government and telco radio sites, mining companies, etcetera. Summits that have been visited before often have a write up on aspects around entry to the sites, but if it is an unactivated site, you might have to put your day expedition planning hat on and find out what is involved, especially if you're planning to travel long distances to get there, like the Pilbara for instance. What about equipment needed? There are couple of guys who radios for this kind of operation. FA17

and 857 radios are popular, as are the IC 705 and the Shiju 6100 and G 90s. Effect neatly into a small Pelican case, and with a few lithium 12 Volt batteries and a wire antenna you can be on the air without having to hire 3 Nepalese Sherpas to accompany you. My VK9XX vision a few years back used a similar setup with a wire dipole with alligator clips to change bands and a couple of squid poles. Let it be about 300 contacts a day over about 3 or 4 hours a day. So what would be the DX for a day without having to fly to COCUS? Maybe start as your thing. For more information Google SOTA Summits on the air. Thanks for listening. This is Steve K6SJ and you're listening to News W, the Only hand broadcast with real life sacrifices.

Technical and General Net

WARG
West Australia Repeater Group Inc
www.warg.org.au

**10:30AM
Sundays**

VK6RLM 146.750 Mhz -0.6 Mhz offset

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.

**NEWSWEST
ON AIR
SINCE 1977
WA AMATEUR RADIO NEWS**

**Send your story's into us
newswest@vk6.net**

You may notice that News West has been. Done 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.

Where you can here us ?

Type	Day	Time	Frequency	Call Sign	Location	Callbacks	Sponsor	Note	Confir
Transmission	Sunday	06:00	1.848	VK6GX	Gidjeganup, WA	Phil VK6GX	Self	Only during Summer	2 Feb
Transmission	Sunday	06:00	1.848	VK6JL	Greenwood WA	Brian VK6LO	Self	Backup for 160m	13 Feb
Transmission	Sunday	07:00	1.848	VK6GX	Gidjeganup, WA	Phil VK6GX	Self		2 Feb
Transmission	Sunday	07:00	3.620	VK6JL	Greenwood WA	Chris VK6JL	Self		29 Oct
Transmission	Sunday	08:00	1.848	VK6GX	Gidjeganup, WA	Ph VK6GS	Self	Only during Winter	2 Feb
Transmission	Sunday	08:00	7.088	VK6JL	Greenwood WA	John VK6JL	Self		13 Feb
Relay	Sunday	09:00	3.582	VK6ANC	Whiteman Park, WA	Eddie VK6YA	Northern Corridor Radio Group		2 Feb
Transmission	Sunday	09:00	14.130	VK6ANC	Whiteman Park, WA	Eddie VK6YA	Northern Corridor Radio Group		29 Mar
Link	Sunday	09:00	29.680	VK6RF#	Martin, WA	Online at vk6.net	NewsWest	This is a WARG repeater	
Link	Sunday	09:00	53.800	VK6RAP	Roleystone, WA	Online at vk6.net	NewsWest	This is a WARG repeater	
Link	Sunday	09:00	146.025	VK6RNC	Culiacabardine, WA	Online at vk6.net	Northern Corridor Radio Group		5 Feb
Transmission	Sunday	09:00	146.700	VK6RAP	Roleystone, WA	Mark VK6USB	NewsWest	This is a WARG repeater	
Link	Sunday	09:00	146.900	VK6RHW	Mount William, WA	Mac VK6RMJ	NewsWest	This is a WARG repeater	2 Feb
Link	Sunday	09:00	147.250	VK6RATS	Mount Saddleback, WA	Patric VK6RH & Trevor VK6YJ	NewsWest	This is a WARG repeater	2 Feb
Link	Sunday	09:00	147.350	VK6RDN	Busselton, WA	Online at vk6.net	NewsWest	This is a WARG repeater	
Link	Sunday	09:00	439.800	VK6RAP	Roleystone, WA	Patric VK6RH & Trevor VK6YJ	NewsWest	This is a WARG repeater	2 Feb
Link	Sunday	09:00	439.95		Mount Barker, WA	Rob VK6LD or Online at Online at vk6.net	SOUTHERN ELECTRONICS GROUP		16 Nov
Link	Sunday	09:00	CB Channel 1 PER01	Wanneroo	Online at vk6.net	Northside Radio Association	On a scanner key in 476.425	31 Jul	
Link	Sunday	09:00	CB Channel 5 ALB03	Albany WA	Online at vk6.net	Northside Radio Association	On a scanner key in 476.475	31 Jul	
Link	Sunday	09:00	CB Channel 4 PER04	Millendon	Online at vk6.net	Northside Radio Association	On a scanner key in 476.500	31 Jul	
Link	Sunday	09:00	CB Channel 7 MTJ07	Mandurah, WA	Online at vk6.net	Northside Radio Association	On a scanner key in 476.575	31 Jul	
Link	Sunday	09:00	CB Channel R0C46	Rockingham, WA	Online at vk6.net	Northside Radio Association	On a scanner key in 476.625	31 Jul	

This is VK6ARN!

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



BOB VK6POP



Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023

The Australian Communications and Media Authority makes the following class licence under section 132 of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

Dated: 7 December 2023

Adam Suckling
[signed]
Member

Brendan Byrne
[signed]
Member/General Manager

Australian Communications and Media Authority

With the Amateur Radio class licence implementation only a few weeks away, let's have a look at the major impacts on our amateur radio operations here in Australia. That's right, from one second past midnight on Monday the 19th of February, nothing will be noticed as we get on air under the class licence. I guess change can always bring on a bit of angst. However, the bottom line is that all the pages of paragraphs from the ACA are really about how they will administer a class licence for amateur radio. Gone are our individual licences and instead we have a sort of a CLI. Denny's licence in that we must hold a certificate of recognition from the ACMA at either Foundation, Standard or Advanced level in order to operate under the class licence. All current holders of an Australian Amateur Radio licence should by

now have received a letter from the ACMA advising of the implementation and authorising them to operate under the class licence under the call signs that they currently hold. Now, if you have not received one of these letters, you should contact the ACMA promptly and sort it out. It may be that the ACMA does not have your correct or current address for notifications. Some folk are getting a bit confused when they see some of the material from the ACMA, which mostly covers administrative and regulatory issues that need to be rewritten to work with a class license. You still have to identify on air with the call sign, and to operate in your own right, you need to obtain one or more call signs. You may hold up to five call signs. What if you have a recognition certificate but don't hold a call sign? Can you still get on air? Well, yes and no. No if you wish to operate on your own in your own right. And yes, if you operate alongside someone with a call sign. For example, you might go out with a mate and do a contest or under a club call sign under the present arrangements and the new club call signs are to be operated at the qualification level of the person operating, or if there's another person present with a higher level. Advising you can operate at their level, same as now. Nothing has changed and it's the same for special event course signs, exactly the same rules. So the best advice for Monday the 19th of February is to carry on business as usual. You don't need to change anything. There's nothing in the class license that changes our day-to-day on air activity. So get on air and make some noise.



Foundations of amateur radio. The other day I came across an amateur who expressed concern that someone was using a frequency set aside for repeater use with their hotspot band plan issues aside and you're encouraged to send an e-mail to cq@vk6flab.com with a link to the official band plan that applies to your DX entity. In my experience, it's not unusual for an amateur who is configuring their so-called hotspot to use such a frequency. While you might be familiar with the concept of a mobile phone hotspot that allows you to connect to computer through your phone to the Internet, in this case we are talking about an amateur radio hotspot similar in that it allows you to connect through the device to the Internet. But different in that this is essentially a device that connects radios to the Internet. And yes, if we're being pedantic, then computers and mobile phones also have radio. Well spotted. Anyway, an amateur radio hotspot is a radio with an Internet connection, and in that it's much like a modern repeater often they use. To transmit power have limited range within a building or vehicle and because of that are hardly unattended. That said, if you connect to more effective antenna and an amplifier, you could make such a device into a full blown repeater, in other words. The line between hotspot and

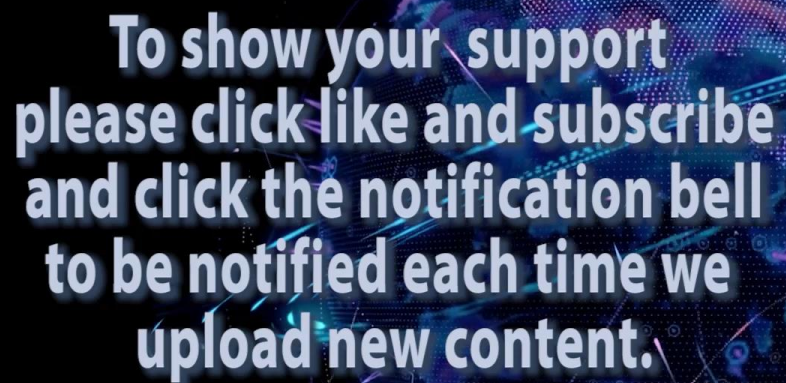
repeater is likely in the eye of the beholder, given that the regulator in many countries requires A licence for operating repeater or a beacon. I wondered what the official definition of a repeater was, so I went looking. Note that this applies to Australia only, but you'll find the journey illuminating. I'm sure. The current Radio Communications License Condition Apparatus Licence Determination 2015 does not have either the word Repeater or beacon. The new Radio Communications Amateur Station Class Licence 2023, which comes into effect on the 19th of February 2024, uses both repeater and beacon several times but does not define what they are. It has an interpretation section with a note that lists both Amateur Repeater station and Amateur beacon station, and states that the regulator can define terms under section 64, one of its own act. The Australian Communications and Media Authority Act of 2005, Section 64 One states that It should come as no surprise that neither repeater nor beacon appears in this document. I then thought to go sideways and search the Register of Radio Communications licenses for a repeater licence. It reveals a PDF for a license with all manner of detail frequencies, power levels, location and tenant type, etcetera for a license, but no definition of what a repeater is. I then looked at the 481 pages of the Radio Communications Act 1992. It uses both beacon and repeater. Unfortunately, beacon is in relation to the operation of lighthouses, lightships, beacons and boys. Repeater is in relation to two or more digital radio Multiplex transmitters. I then searched through the Federal Register of Legislation for the phrase amateur beacon station. It returns 27 results, of which nine are in force. I downloaded all nine, including any explanatory text, if it was available in all 340 pages of legal documents. Finally, we have progress in the Radio Communications Interpretation Determination 2015. We find the following definitions. Amateur beacon station means a station in the amateur service that is used principally for the purpose of identifying propagation conditions. Amateur repeater station means a station established at a fixed location A for the reception of radio signals from amateur stations and B for the automatic retransmission of those signals by radio. So if your hotspot is in a vehicle, it's not a repeater, but if you have it sitting on your shack, it is. Similarly, apparently my 10 DBM whisper transmitter, which I use solely for the purpose of identifying propagation conditions, is a beacon. Apparently if you have your computer controlling your radio using Whisper, that's a beacon too. You can apparently apply for a license and pay the regulator for the privilege, the price of which went up by 510% according to their own documentation, from \$29.00 to \$177. No idea if that's a once off or an annual charge. So now we have a situation where apparently the rules state that I'm not permitted to use Whisper without a Beacon license. In fact, the explanatory statement to the Amateur class licensing reform instruments explicitly states that quote sub. Section 13 two prohibits the operation of an amateur station for specified purposes, including for the purpose of obtaining a financial gain or reward the sub. Can also prohibits the operation of an Amateur beacon station or an amateur repeater station under the amateur Stations class license and subject to sub. Section 3. The transmission of an encoded signal to obscure the meaning of the signal. End Quote. I've just hit send on a letter to the regulator asking for clarification. Perhaps you should write one too. I've also just switched off my whisper transmitter, and if you're one of the 23112 amateurs who made a whisper transmission last year in Australia, perhaps you should too. I'm on a Victor K6FLAB.



Hi there. It's Clinton VK 6 FCC. Back with you. And did you know that News W is now on YouTube? Type in.youtube.com/ at newest weekly podcast. Dash, KZ7YC, Ohh, and Before I go, I'd like to thank those watching on YouTube or a TV, the readers and you for listening. I'd also like to thank our team, the broadcasters, and those submitting content each week. Please stand by now for callbacks after the broadcast. We'll head over to the vk6.net website



and fill out the forms so we know how many people are listing each week. Youtube



**To show your support
please click like and subscribe
and click the notification bell
to be notified each time we
upload new content.**



73 VK6ARN