



**VK6ARN**



**NEWSWEST**  
**24th March 2024**

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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.

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Hi there, I'm Clinton, VK 6 FCC and welcome to News W for the 24th of March 2024. Now on with the show.

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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,

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Hi Hams,

Bunbury Radio Club would like to invite you to our next Fox Hunt event to be held in the greater Bunbury area on Saturday 13th April.

We will meet up at Hay Park (North End) for a 10am kick off.

There will be two sessions. The first at 10am and the second at 1pm  
Each session will have 2 foxes deployed. One close to the start point for some pedestrian mobile and a second further out.

There is no cost to participate.

BYO RDF gear.

There are shops and takeaway food options nearby.

For further information, check the event notice on our website (<https://bunburyradioclub.com/2024/02/24/the-great-bunbury-fox-hunt-2024/>) or email [vk6brc@gmail.com](mailto:vk6brc@gmail.com)

We hope to see you all there.

DE VK6DEV

Phil

President, Bunbury Radio Club Inc

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Hi, I'm Steve. OK six SJ with another episode of Did You Know? It's not your thought. Talk about contesting. Again, I did talk about this earlier last year, but I didn't go into much detail on individual contests. As not all contests are constructed the same. The big worldwide Dierks contests like the CQ worldwide, the CQ WPX and many of the more regional DX contests like the Oceania DX contests each have thousands and even 10s of thousands of participants. And it's all about contacting as many different stations on as many different DXCC entities, not as many contests compatible bands, that is non white bands. Being competitive, it's not just a matter of two kilowatts and stacked the Archies on Cocos killing islands. That generally many categories of last summer with 100 bucks or even less than a wire antenna to be competitive against others with similar setups. Single bands are normally a category as well, so if you have a good monoband antenna on and you may find yourself competing against some of the bigger boys on an even platform. The best result was a 10m only entrance for the CQ. Worldwide. Beauty of doing that on 10 metres was that there was no graveyard shift for me. The Reverend State contest though is certainly one of my favorite contests. It's in mid August, 3rd Saturday in August every year, and it would have to be the friendliest contest I've ever participated in. This is a contest where many hams participate. Who participated in no other contest but the add in those categories including single and multiple operator categories. Single categories also includes sub categories on Phone, CW, Mixed, QRP versions of the same. There's also categories for teams where you operate as a single outstation, but as part of a group of three friends. We can compete against other teams as well. These categories are also measured with each state as well as nationally, so even the simplest station can be competitive in a category that their station is capable of operating. Another unique category of that ideas and state competition. This is simply the combined score of each station in a given state divided by the amount of licensed operators in that state. You may or may not know that WI has was the most proliferant winner of the state for many years. This changed to Tasmania a few years back. Also, plenty of comments banded around, but the rules are skewed towards only East Coast stations. You may or may not know that a West Coast station still holds the record for the highest score in the Rd. and that this was only a few years back. Admittedly this is one of the better stations around, but there are a few other similar stations in WA as well as on the other side that could have given them a run. My view on how to be successful in the Rd. in the opening categories is. Stay on there for the whole contest if you knock off late evening and have a snooze and start again at 5:00 or 6:00 AM. You won't be competitive as being between midnight and 6:00 AM local time. There are double points. The contest is laid back enough that you can \*\*\*\*\* an hour of sleep here and there, and for us here in the West, it does finish at 11 so you can catch up on sleep on a Sunday Albo. If you are on a single app station, you need a strategy to make it

through the whole 24 hours. Some tips. Avoid alcohol, avoid caffeine, or at least minimize it to when you really need it at 3:00 AM. Eat food that's easy to digest, like sandwiches are a good choice. Plenty of water is also good. Don't give it a break every now and again. Grab that dusty old Morse code and give it a shot. The idea is a very friendly contest, but even more friendly on CW. There's some very good operators who can do 40 plus words a minute who will happily slow down to 10 or 15 words per minute, even if it is only just to get your call sign in their log. On top of that, CW contacts at double points so worth the effort. Even if your CW is a bit rough around the edges like mine, you could take a minute or two to process the contact and still be competitive. Just started trying to the CQ worldwide. Rig up an antenna on 160 metres if you can find the room. 160 metres is double points as is seed W as is operation between midnight and 6:00 AM. Bringing every 160 motor CW contact after midnight to six points per contact. Twenty 37th is also double points, so if you have something on 23 Seconds, it's worth firing it up with the advent of the IC 9700 and the trusty old Kenwood TS2000. They're surprisingly large cohort in person, 23 centimetre aficionados. Person Particular has a pretty enthusiastic group of contestants on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 sevens and 23 sems. There are group frequencies we all hang out on that easily allow you to net 20 or 30 contacts contacts on each of these bands every three hours. Similarly, there are frequencies on each of the HF bands that are also like core frequencies. Just don't hop on those frequencies unless you're happy to share it. Obviously it's good to have 400 watts through yagis on all bands from 23, seven to 80 meters, but for most of us, that's just a dream. You do though, need to make sure that you're maximizing the capability of your station. A good look through your whole station to make sure you have no faulty connectors, etcetera. Spent a bit of time to make sure your antennas are all resonant so you're not wasting power in both directions on an AU. Be friendly. This is the ultimate friendly contest. You don't need to make six contacts a minute to be competitive. This is a contest that rewards a friendly demeanor, particularly in the middle of the night. Spend a minute to have a chat. It's more fun than calling CQ and no one answering. Don't believe the myths that the contest is skewed to the East Coast. Where we have an advantage is that our school zone will facing east is centered on Alice Springs, but someone in Sydney's gift zone is smack bang in the middle of the most populated states in the country. We have plenty of operators not participating participating on VHF and UHF, which could easily be 30% of your tally. We'll see. ID is not a field based I'll contest camping out of town on the hilltop somewhere with enough trees around to support say three to five element. Why yagi on 40 metres and even a two or three element yagi on on 80 metres facing towards SE Australia, which you in the big league? Even if you're running barefoot, if you choose that site wisely so you're still overlooking purse, you can take advantage of the HSHS set, plus a quiet enough noise floor and HF to work any modest station on the other side, and enough going to be heard by said station. Well, I think it's

about time that WA took back its State trophy. This trophy is not won by the bigger states generally, but it does take a strong community spirit, something we have drives on here in the Wild West. While not make, why not make the Rd. your first contest? You can give it a crack, even if it is only aimed at bolstering our score for the State Trophy. Thanks for listening. This is Steve A K6J and you're listening to News West.

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

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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 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 RAG 2 newsletter. Contact me Mark V K6QI 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

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Good Morning campers. The month of May is not far away and that means it's time to mark on the calendar. The 3rd Annual Southern Electronics Group made-up hand camps and weekend of the May 17th to 19th. If you haven't been before, Hand Camping is a casual weekend getaway for Hans and other registered HF users like Off Travel Net and VK 737 and their significant others to drag the swag. The van or the tent down to main Up Sports ground for a weekend of radio and social activity. There's plenty of room to camp. There's

some big trees to throw a line over, hot showers, a camp kitchen, terrific fire pit to sit around after dark and of course time to sit and chat over the weekend with like minded radio enthusiasts. Food and drinking water is BYOB. The kitchen and amenities are powered, but there's no power available for campsites. It's been known to rain, fog and then bright sunshine off and on the same day, so you need to come prepared. Camping is usual. The price of \$10 per person per night. There'll be a Square card reader on the weekend available and said can take online payments. Boy at Brooke has a great car museum and other attractions if you want to visit town 15 minutes away while you're here. We maintain a Hand Camps in Facebook page for up-to-date information and you can contact me at VK 6 Ek. That's Victor KSIXEK at gmail.com. We hope to see you there. This is Darren VK 6K for the Southern Electronics Group.

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Hi, it's Clinton VK 6 SEC. People, please send in Helplines articles to me by 5:00 PM Wednesday. It'll help me to put together the newsworthy segment on a Thursday morning. Our e-mail address is news.w@vk6.net. That e-mail address again is news.w@vk6.net. Thank you

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foundations of Amateur Radio. Whenever I'm out in the Bush in the process of erecting some or other wire contraption antenna, I cannot help but think of the iconic Australian rock band Skyhawks. Not for their glam rock inspired music, nor for their pure mathematics and computer science degree holding guitarist. But for their name in antenna erection, A Skyhawk is called for when you point at a spot in the sky and will into being an attachment point for the wire antenna in your hand. It's always in the perfect spot holds anyway. Then of course, it's made from unobtainium. Absent Skyhawk, there are other ways of hoisting an antenna into the air. A recent discussion revealed that in some places, catapults and trebuchets are frowned upon, if not outright illegal. I can't imagine why, depending on their size, they may be difficult to transport. In the same vein, antenna launchers lightly camouflaged spud guns are essentially a gas pressure tube, causing a projectile to be launched by releasing a valve. Those two are pretty restricted, and for good reason. Fortunately, there are plenty of other ways of getting things to be in the right place. Let's explore. One option is to bring along a pole made from whatever is at hand. A multi element fiberglass pole made by Spider Beam, -12 metres long has always worked for me, though I will confess that I have managed to break one. It did take a 135° bend in the tip to achieve that. I'll hasten to add I didn't set out to do that. Previously it had easily sustained 90° abuse in heavy wind. I purchased a new one. I've used it for years. It's not cheap, but it works. Alternatives much less strong are using fishing rods or much less flexible aluminum tubes. Paul. Being extension poles, even painters poles and add a pinch lengths of wood

screwed together or if you're a scout logs lashed into some contraption then there's using the nearby landscape. Getting a wire into a tree is an activity that's fun for young and old. Not so much for the person attempting it. Often this starts with throwing things at the tree. You might find a spanner tied to a rope in Willard around letting go at just the right moment to get it to where you're going. This is not a safe activity and not recommended away from emergency medical assistance. You've been warned this graduates to using things like a monkey's fist knot. I was given a brightly coloured 1, lovingly handcrafted by Alan Victor, K6PWD. It's. Unissant of a Sea Scout Woggle knot. Truth be told, it's too beautiful to use, or rather, risk losing. Tie it to a line and whirl and throw. Then there's the arborist throwback. Same deal. Each of these whirling activities are fraught, mainly because you need to strike. Balance between the strength of the line. Strong enough to be chucked throne, but weak enough that you can break it if it gets caught. And believe me, it will. There's the option of Co opting your dog's ball launcher. Tie rope to the ball and hurl. Success depends on how quick your dog is in catching. The flying tennis balls. The last time I went fishing was in 2003, when I used a string in a safety pin to catch an admittedly tiny fish at Harry's Hole. Using a tiny piece of bread took all of 5 minutes. That said, I have a new fishing rod. Well, it was new when I purchased it, but now it's a couple of years old. It was the absolute cheapest one I could find. I also bought a box of sinkers purchased on the advice of Bob Victor K6POP. I've used that rod many times to launch a sinker at a nearby tree and used it to pull through some line and then an antenna. It's still a balance between using a fishing line that's strong enough to handle the weight of the sinker and weak enough to break when you want to. The Cinco needs to be just the right weight too. Too light, and you'll launch it at the right branch, where it'll stay for the rest of the life of the tree. Too heavy and it will end up somewhere in the Bush never to be found. Grace thinkers tend to vanish in the grass, so in it you can find it. Look for something nice and bright. Fluorescent is best. In a pinch you can use a couple of sinkers, like when you've run out, but in my experience they tend to wrap themselves around a branch. Of course, you could also just climb into a tree or hire a cherry picker. But I'm not that flexible either in my joints or wallet, so those options don't do it for me. If you have a friendly arborist nearby, there's no shame in paying them to attach a pulley to the required branch in your backyard. Just make sure that the line you use on the pulley cannot escape the groove and get jammed between the wheel and the cheek. Don't ask me how I know. So what ways do you use to summon a skyhook, and does it include a Siberian jukebox? I'm Mono Victor K6FLAB

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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/](https://www.youtube.com/) at newest weekly podcast. Dash KZ7E and before and before watching on those watching on you, those watching on TV or a TV or a TV. Readers,

readers, you for list and you for listening. I'd also team, team. Missing contents are missing, Contents are missing, Contents are missing. Please play by now and buy near for callbacks. After the broadcast, we'll head over to the Vika six.net website and fill out the forms so we know how many people are listing each week.

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