



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 i'm Clinton VK6FCRC and welcome to news west for the 25th of August 2024 now on with the show

now folks have you set aside the date for Perth tech it's only a month away and it's on the Saturday the 21st of September per deck is a full day of presentations of a technical and practical nature which are aimed at amateur radio operators the presentations are followed by an optional sundowner this year we're charging a fee of \$30 almost all of which goes towards your morning and afternoon teas lunch and a few other bits and pieces we rely on donations and the on-site raffle to pay for the venue and other expenses in past years local amateur radio clubs have supported Perth tech with generous donations and it would be great if that could happen again so clubs talk amongst yourselves please everything you need to know about Perth tech is on the website vk6.net hopefully I'll be catching up or we'll have caught up with lots of you at ham fest today I'm Bob Kay 6 pop

hello this is Dennis VK6AKR for the WA VHF group incorporated thank you to the amateurs who were able to participate in last weekend's Remembrance Day contest and to Robert

VK 6 W ho who organised our team comprising himself mark became 6Z and yours truly a great time was held over the weekend Robert and mark worked from their respective cutts while I worked for wireless hill the weather was excellent for operation from QTC's high high and may have been a factor in bringing many operators on the air it had its usual friendly nature and there were even some minor pile ups in the early stages it will be interesting to know the overall VK 6 score that will be revealed in due course in the meantime though please take the opportunity to submit your log not only for the overall VK 6 tally but even more importantly to honour your QSO partners efforts to be on air without corroborating log entries your and your partners contacts do not count these days for me being on air would not be complete without some efforts to make contact on that other magic band 23 centimetres there is growing interest among the WVF group members in 23 centimeters dive VK 6 KV is purchasing and building a series of mini kits modules to form a transverter by the time he completes the final module the local oscillator I hope to have my adlam Pluto and Charon module complete and operational for anyone looking to build an antenna for that band I can recommend the bike quad or my variant the bicycle which makes tuning after construction much easier so you on 23 centimeters soon only a shout out for Perth tech which is coming to gigantic next month Saturday the 21st is the date that you should enter into your calendar or diary amongst the presenters this year will be professor Peter hall VK 6 HP from Curtin university whose explanation about the VLF station vico 6 MJM at manjimup is certain to be of interest Rico 6 MJM started life as an aeronautical non directional beacon when it became redundant Peter took the opportunity to establish a station on 2200 metres and 470 metres for exploring the propagation in these bands this is a presentation not to be missed and assuming last plug WVF group member Dave VK 6 KV and I will offer our thoughts on measuring dielectric permittivity and hence velocity factor for insulated wires such as building wire we measure too the influence on velocity factor when using radomes made from commonly available plastics reticulation pipe and electrical conduit for example we will demonstrate these measurements using a nano vna but a similar process could use a grid dip oscillator or gate depositor we hope that our presentation will take some of the error out of the usual trial and error tuning process until next time thanks for listening this is Denny's week 6 AKR for the 8 VHF group

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

on Tuesday afternoons and evenings the 40 and 80 metre bands come alive with the sound of slow CW who would have thought that this ancient art which some say was once such a

dreaded part of the amateur licence test would become so popular in these days of modern communications the uncontrolled net is run in designated portions of the two bands to encourage new CW operators to have a go at slow CW in a safe and really friendly environment 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 to just enjoy the banter the CQRS net started in WA three years ago and has been running every single Tuesday and has been unbelievably popular Annette runs from 3:00 PM until about 7:00 PM on 40 metres then moves to 80 metres and we've had up to 60 stations on air having a go and who knows how many listeners we're out there every Tuesday as well so the CQRS net is on 40 metres between 0700 Zulu and 1100 Zulu that is 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM and is held between 7020 and 7040 kilohertz then between 0900 Zulu and 1300 blue which is 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM we're on between 3540 and three 570 kilohertz every Tuesday there's no net control so when you're ready to have a go just find a quiet spot and start calling CQRS at about 75% of the speed you can copy most stations will match your speed so go slow until you're really comfortable with CW 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 at their speed we'd love to have you join in too much switch mode power supply hash on 80 meters this might be the incentive to do something about it where they cheap noise canceller costing less than \$100.80 metres could be easier than you think so again the net starts at 3:00 PM every Tuesday above the DX segment on 40 metres between 7020 and 7040 then after 7:00 PM moves to 80 metres between 3540 and three 570 kilohertz there are usually stations in the West east and in between listening out for your CQRS call For more information and to receive our free weekly CQRS rag tune newsletter contact me mark VK 6 Qi via the e-mail on qrz.com or you can use our address cQRS.net@gmail.com that is CQRS net at gmail.com and I'll be pleased to have a chat

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

foundations of amateur radio getting started in our hobby can be a challenge even if you've got a shiny new licence and you've been taught what the legal requirements are you might even have your first radio but after that it might feel like you're all on your own in this bright and shiny new world he doesn't have to be that way first thing to know is that you are

exactly where all other amateurs have been before you in other words don't stress too much about what you don't know or what mistakes you might make I recently read a comment from a new amateur who was so scared of making a mistake that they hadn't made their first contact you should know that there is a massive difference between making an accidental mistake and knowingly interfering with another service here's some mistakes I've made my licence permits a maximum power level of 10 watts I dutifully set up my radio to do just that made my first contact on HF using 10 watts only to learn later that power levels are set separately for HF 6 meters VHF and UHF on my specific radio so the second time I keyed up my microphone I was using 50 watts not only that I didn't quite understand how to set U my radio for repeater use so I keyed up on the output frequency and happily talk to the other station blissfully unaware that I wasn't actually using the repeater it wasn't until several years later that I learned that the minimum power level was 5 watts on all bands except UHF where it is 2 watts and as icing on the cake one day I managed A2 metre contact across about 70 kilometres from my car it wasn't until later in the night that I discovered that all the settings on my radio had reset and it was again using 50 watts another time I was in the club RadioShack and having some fun with the club station I tuned to A2 metre frequency and called CQ didn't hear anything then I discovered that I'd missed a decimal point and was actually transmitting on the 20m band where I'm not permitted with my license each of those things are outside the restrictions of my licence but made by mistake not on purpose instead of stressing about it I went oops and carried on with a new lesson learned I will point out that I'm certain that there are more mistakes feel free to let me know those concerns aside finding people to talk to is another barrier to entry we have all these bands and there's nobody about it reminds me of a funny story I've shared before told by Wally victor K6YS now silent Quay in his early amateur radio days he operated from cockatoo island an island off the North Coast of WA near yampi sound which is where his calls harden came from with a new radio and transverter offers 6 metres Wally had been calling CQ for weeks but nobody would talk to him occasionally he'd hear a faint voice in the background meanwhile it transpired that amateurs across Japan were getting upset that he wasn't responding to their 20 in 40 / 9 signal reports his transmission was getting out just fine his receiver wasn't working nearly as well turns out that during manufacturing a pin on the back of his transverter hadn't been soldered correctly oops once he fixed that he worked 150 Japanese stations on the first day and a lifelong love of the six meter band was born one hard learnt lesson is that the bands are constantly changing if you cannot hear anything on one band try another if the band is quiet it's likely because the conditions for that band are bad but generally this is only true on HF on VHF and UHF the opposite is often true some bands like 10 meters and six meters behave more like VHF but not always 20 metres can go from brilliant to abysmal and back in seconds sometimes during the contact each band has its own idiosyncrasies that you'll

need to explore before you can hope to improve your chances of success and even years of playing will often get you surprises I recall trying for giggles only circle CQ on a pretty quiet band only to score an unexpected contact with the central European station on the other side of the globe a good rule of thumb is to go where the action is if you can hear others they're much more likely to hear you well this is not universally true it's a good starting point of course you don't need to physically have a radio to experience any of this there are many websites that provide you with access to radio tuners if you search for web SDR or Kiwi SDR you'll come across hundreds of online receivers that you can tune and operate on the frequencies they support using just your web browser some have the ability to decode digital modes within the web page so you won't even have to install any extra software to play you might think that using such a receiver is not really amateur radio but I'd like to point out that a transceiver is both a transmitter and a receiver you can get the receiver right there in your web browser the transmitter is a little more complex but technically also possible many amateur clubs have a remote accessible station which will allow you to get started that kills two birds with one stone you get to interact with the people in the club and you get to play on air without needing to figure out just which radio to get and what antenna to connect it to and where to put either other places to find new friends are of course social media the so-called fediverse a collection of social networking services that can communicate with each other has several communities you can get started at Mastodon dot radio and lemme dot radio there's plenty of other on air activities like Nets discussion groups where you can get to know other amateurs I run a weekly net for new and returning amateurs called F troop on Saturday morning midnight UTC for an hour where you can say hello and ask questions we passed the microphone around a circle so everyone gets a go you'll find more information at F troop dot groups dot IO getting started does not have to be a daunting experience get on the air make noise and before you know it you'll have forgotten just how much you worried about the things that really didn't cause any issues in the big picture if you're still stuck drop me an e-mail CQ at vk6flab.com and I'll attempt to point you in the right direction what are you waiting for I'm mono and victor K6FLABA

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I am Bob VK6POP how did you go in the Remembrance Day contest last weekend I'm glad I didn't do it from a portable site this year because the weather was cold and wet and because I enjoyed a weekend with fellow members of the hills amateur radio group at the club shack working the contest there what I really liked about the weekend was that a handful of club members had their first contesting experience and that's a good thing isn't

it club stations or should I say multi operator stations are a good place for someone to learn the ropes and the Rd. contest is a good contest to learn in because of its relaxed pace and friendly atmosphere something else happened it wasn't unexpected but it was good to see was it people's joined in were willing to learn and help with the chores while the station ran for the full 24 hours and further afield what a good turn out there was from WA at the time of counting Thursday evening there were 31 logs submitted from VK 6 and here's your reminder if you haven't yet submitted your log don't leave it until the last minute it's so easy to do your logging software can export your log in Cabrillo format which can be uploaded at the VK log checker website let me run that website by you again VK log checker no spaces tiki log checker.com if you're having trouble understanding how to generate and send your log ask for help there's another good contest coming up in early October the Oceania DX contest a bit faster paced but this time with international participation who's up for that not another subject prawn heads is a bunch of row the oriented people who meet for lunch every Wednesday at 12 noon and you're welcome to rock up and join in it's a buy and eat your own food and drinks deal you choose you pay you eat meanwhile the world's problems get solved and we even talk about amateur radio stuff honest we do I hear you thinking why prawn heads well it's an acronym the prawn heads group has been having lunch for a decade or two perhaps more and in the beginning the group consisted of amateurs wireless network geeks and techie type folk and they met in a noodle house so here goes the acronym Perth radio and wireless noodle house meeting and discussion society Perth radio and wireless noodle house eating and discussion society prawn heads we meet for lunch at 12 noon at shoe upstairs at Yagan square we'd love to see you join us now moving on to RASA the radio amateurs the Society of Australia and Russia's annual general meeting is happening on Saturday the 7th of September and if you remember you will have received an invitation if you're not a member go to the website bkradioamateurs.org and you can join up and the meeting is at 10:30 eastern Standard Time so that's 8:30 AM breakfast time for us here in WA as with previous years the meeting will be streamed live and recorded on YouTube with links being sent to all RASA members shortly before proceedings commence an excellent resource especially for new amateurs or those studying for a licence is the VK regs website and the associated handbook both the VK regs website and the downloadable handbook have been updated recently to reflect changes made by the ACMA when the class license for amateurs was introduced earlier this year The BK Riggs resource was created and maintained by Raza and is available to anyone free of charge if you're starting on gaining your foundation level certificate you'll find Russia's foundation level study guide invaluable as it leads you through the entire foundation syllabus clearly explained with live links to instructional videos and information sources the foundation level study guide is a RASA initiative and is available free Yep free no

cost gratis for nothing from our VK radio amateurs.org website and while you're there take a look at what else is free and I'm Bob K6 pip and I'm the vice president of rasa

hi there it's Clinton VK6FCRC back with you and did you know that news W is now on YouTube type in [youtube.com/newest](https://www.youtube.com/newest) weekly podcast dash KZYC 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 play stand by now for callbacks after the broadcast we'll head over to the [vca.net](https://www.vca.net) website and fill out the form so we know how many people are listing each week