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VK7ZJG John Grace

I can't tell you all that much about John as he was a fairly private person - as so many people who have amateur radio as a hobby are. John was one of the original technicians at what was then Channel 6, having moved from 7HO when television started. I am not sure when he obtained his amateur licence and call sign. Many years later, when major moves were taking place at CH 6, John left and moved to the University as a technical officer, where as he said, he made the designs of some of the physicists work!

On the amateur scene, John was active on the VHF bands, was a member, and former president of the WIA VHF Group which used to meet on Friday nights at the WIA clubrooms in Liverpool St. I'm sure that John would be best remembered particularly by members of the VHF fraternity as the Sunday morning amateur broadcast 2 metre and 70cm. sideband rebroadcaster. John was an active experimenter and operator, and designed and constructed much of his operating station in the days before such equipment was commercially available.

John had a wide technical knowledge encompassing his former employment in the audio area, through to that in the radio spectrum although his main interest was in the VHF-UHF area of that spectrum. I well remember listening to him in the AM days on my super regegen receiver, then slope detecting his FM, but admit defeat trying to resolve side band!

Unfortunately John passed away some years ago at much too young an age, losing his fight with cancer, but is well remembered by those who knew him, visited his home, or communicated with him on air. John's son Rick held an amateur licence for some time, but has now let it lapse.

An award in his name would be a very appropriate way to remember an amateur who contributed in many ways to our hobby.

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