

QRM

Bulletin issued by the Northern
Branches of the Wireless Institute
of Australia, Tasmanian Division.

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As in the past there will not be a January issue of QRM.

Note that the deadline for the February issue is 20th January,
please submit your articles and notes before then.

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to thank all
who have supplied material and assistance in the production of
QRM this year. On behalf of these people and myself, I wish
our readers a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

John VK7JV
Editor

MEETINGS

- Dec. 10 Northern Branch, BBQ instead of the usual meeting.
Dec. 13 North West Branch, Lakins Hall Ulverstone 8 p.m.

A.O.C.P. CLASSES

- Dec. 12/19 Kings Meadows High School, Block B, room 35.

CONTESTS

- Dec. 10/11 Spanish C.W. contest
Dec. 10/11 ARRL 10 metre contest
Dec. 10/11 Hungarian C.W. contest
Dec. 10/11 WESTLAKES NOVICE CONTEST
Dec. 10 - Jan. 8 ROSS HULL VHF/UHF MEMORIAL CONTEST

NORTHERN NOTES by Mac VK7CCC

Pressure of work last month forced me to omit the notes for QRM, I hope these notes will bring us up to date.

Work on the clubrooms is continueing, to date the shelves for Life Link have been completed and all that organisations belongings moved from the small room. The new chairs we purchased have been voted most comfortable by all members.

The stores have been sorted out and an executive member is available at the clubrooms every Tuesday and Thursday to sell same. Additionally a request for stores at other times will probably be complied with. Dont forget the Northern Branch store can supply major items of equipment at cheaper prices than can be obtained from the usual suppliers , this way both the branch and the members gain.

The last meeting on the 11th November was most enjoyable, the usual business was over in quick time and we then enjoyed a film, courtesy of Shell LTD. Insurance cover has been taken out to cover items owned by the Branch as well as any current stores in stock.

Two and six metre operation will be activated soon from the new clubrooms, Ed VK7ED has donated a six metre rig for which we thank him and the two metre rig owned by the club is ready to go, only antennas are required.

Merv Pittman, who recently passed his Novice exam, has applied for membership, welcome to the gang Merv.

December the 10th, polling day, as well as PIG ROAST and BARBECUE at the paddock of VK7CCC. There will be music, soft lights (when its dark) bonfire (if no bon). We look forward to seeing you all along. There will be a barrel and soft drinks, bring more along if you think it necessary, Mike VK7ZWW is looking after the spit, Ladies please bring a salad we will supply the pig, plus some bread, butter, sauce etc. if you want to barbecue bring your own steak. Robin VK7RH will be your compere on "talk in" via repeater 8. Some volunteers are still required to collect firewood for the bonfire Sunday afternoon 27th November, see map in this issue for directions.

To Ed VK7HE and Brian VK7ZBY, who have not been keeping to well, take care.

73 Mac

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WANTED

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WANTED

A triangular wind up tower. price and details to: Merv Pittman
VK7NMP, 2 Home Str. or phone 261649

Wanted to buy, valves type 810, state price and quantity.

Joe Gelston VK7JG, 40 Lavender Gr. or phone 443882

DX notes by Col Wright VK7LZ.

Quite an eventful month for some DXers, first of all the Kermadec Islands were activated and although some amateurs were disappointed due to the lack of CW activity most managed to work the DXpedition on 3.5, 7 or 14MHz and that also goes for Max VK7MX who gave a command performance after being specially summoned to his rig by a member of the expedition.

Another event was the ever popular CQ WW DX phone contest, this started off quite well on the Saturday however by Sunday conditions had deteriorated, nevertheless quite a few interesting call-signs were recorded, such as HH5HR, VE3HYU/SU, JY3ZH, BV2B, VP8PT and AP5HQ, possibly the most consistent signals came out of South America, ZP, PY and LU call-signs predominating. African signals were noted more by their absence however EA8's were logged both on 7 and 14 MHz using both SSB and CW. EA9EO operating from Ceuta made VK7HL and VK7BC quite happy whilst ZB2BL on Gibraltar made their grins even wider.

Bill VK7AK suggests that those interested in 28 MHz should tune the band around sunset for an hour beaming short path to Europe, both Bill and VK7NOW have worked several Europeans using this method.

A note from VK7CH advises that very few QSL cards have been received this month so don't expect too much, you may be disappointed.

Although several unusual locations are expected to be activated most are due before this is being read, so I hope you perused last month's notes and profited accordingly.

VR6TC Pitcairn Island has been heard during the month on 21 MHz SSB around 0100Z on various frequencies.

Most DXers tend to believe that when the sunspot activity increases we will be able to work the world without too much trouble, it may not work out quite that way, a much larger amateur population is certainly going to make the competition tougher than it was before. recently a 3A2BF came on 14 MHz calling a VS6 on sked, immediately he finished his call the band became a seething mass of Italian signals calling him, the 3A2 got so much spaghetti thrown at him that as far as I can ascertain he hasn't been game enough to put his signal on the air since.

Only a few QTH's this month;

WD9FC/VQ9, Jake Henschel, S-3 Dept., C/o Mars Station
FPO San Francisco 96601 U.S.A.

ZB2BL P.O. Box 292 Gibraltar

VE3HYU/SU via VE1RU .

VS5DX via ZL3 bureau

HS1WR Box 155, Bangkok, Thailand.

VHF notes by Joe Gelston VK7JG.

Last month I mentioned that 6 metre DX openings were just around the corner and to prepare your equipment for the DX season, well by the time QRM was printed we already had several good openings to VK2 and VK4.

For most operators 6 metres is open from the 10th of December to the 8th of January, these are the dates for the start and finish of the Ross Hull VHF/UHF memorial contest. The rules for this contest appear on page 23 of the November issue of A.R.. So get your equipment out and operational NOW there should be some very good DX worked if everyone is active.

The 6 metre band has already produced some very good DX over the last 17 days of November and the band has been very active. So far all States (except VK6) have been worked as well as P29, JA and ZL. The only active amateurs taking part in most of the DX are VK7's JV, DA, LZ, JG, ZAH and ZIF. So for the rest of you, if you have not been on, here is the bad news.

Apart from all VK call areas worked on Sunday the 13th of November the following JA call areas were worked from Launceston for about 20 minutes, JA's 1,2,9 and 0, active stations were John VK7JV, Daniel VK7DA and Kevin VK7ZAH, I was out at the time and missed the fun. Anyway, next day Monday, not having to work the 6 metre receiver was left running on 52.050 and at 23.45Z it opened to VK4 and VK4UX and VK4PF were worked. Then at 03.41Z JA7NAM was worked with 5/9 reports both ways but this was only the beginning, the band remained open to JA for 3 hours with myself and Daniel VK7DA working through the "Dog Piles" everytime we finished a QSO. John VK7JV came home from work to catch the tail end just as the band was folding but managed to work 5 stations. In all, all call areas were worked except JA6 and 8, Daniel made 37 contacts and myself 25, Ian VK7ZIF was also active and had 24 contacts.

On the 20th of November while most people were at the Tasmanian Amateur Radio Convention 6 metres opened again to JA and Col VK7LZ and John VK7JV managed to work into JA1, 7 and 9, the opening lasted for only 20 minutes.

A QSL card received by VK7JV from JA7NAM mentions that the following stations were heard by him during the two openings on the 13th and 14th of November, VK2ZAY, VK3AKK, VK4ZRQ, VK4ZHW and VK7's ZAH, JV, JG, DA and PS, who said there is no activity from VK7 ?

After hearing many rumours that a VK7 worked KH6 I decided to do some investigating and after a few phone calls tracked it down to Greg Johnston VK7KJ, he said the station he worked was KH6NS and reports were 5/7 sent 5/4 received, congratulations Greg.

Ian VK7ZIF mentioned that he had heard from a VK5 that YJ8KM Ken, will again be active with operating conditions the same as last year.

Lets hope that the foregoing is an indication of the activity we can expect this season.

2 metres has been rather quiet but while I was holidaying in VK4 the VK5 2 metre beacon was heard in Brisbane for about 30 minutes during a good 6 metre opening and last night (17th of November) while 6 metres was wide open between VK2 and VK5 I heard two amateurs trying to hear each other on 432 MHz.

73 Joe de VK7JG

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Novice notes by John VK7NJD.

Congratulations go to Bill Warmisham VK7NAW, Lyn Williams VK7NLW, David Crompton VK7NDC and Merv Pittman VK7NMP who were succesful in passing the last Novice exam. Congratulations must also go to Reg VK7KK and John VK7JV who helped the succesful candidates with theory and CW. Lyn, Bill and David are on air with 11 metre A.M. units converted to 10 metres. Lyn can also be heard on 80 metres CW using a little home brew transmitter and Bill shouldn't be far behind with a similar unit.

From all reports of the last Novice exam it would appear that the technical content of the questions was too high, lets hope this is rectified very soon. (it seems the candidates that passed the exam disagree with this and in fact say it was a fair exam. editor)

Richard, VK2NCL who runs the Question Box Net on Wednesday nights on 3570 KHz, has now obtained his full call VK2BBQ, congratulations Richard.

Activity on 80 metres has been very poor lately as most Novices have moved up to 15 and 10 metres. Band conditions on 10 metres have been very good this month with openings within VK land nearly every day and good openings to ZL, USA and Europe.

The Northern Branch Net run every Wednesday night at 8 O'clock on 28.550 MHz is still going very well but we would still like to see more stations participate in the net. It has been proposed to change frequency to 28.505 MHz to accomodate those amateurs with converted A.M. units, so keep an eye on both frequencies in the next few weeks.

Westlakes Radio Club announces a new contest for all Novices and Full call amateurs. The contest will take place on the 10th and 11th of December 1977 from 0800Z on the 10th to 0759Z on 11th December. Full details may be found in November A.R.

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

EICO three band (80, 40, 20) transceiver, modified as per A.R. in very good condition and going order, 5 new spare valves included \$135.00 Tony Polowy VK7TP

Yeasy multimode FM/SSB 2 metre 10 Watt transceiver, FT220 with repeater facility. This unit is also fitted with a IRC pre-amp, hear it on the air \$400.00
Joe Gelston VK7JG Phone 443882

A note received from Col Perger reads;

I will be leaving Melbourne for Antartic on the 2nd of December aboard the M.V. Nella Dan to spend 1978 at Davis station located 68° - 35 South 77° East.

First stop is off the coast at the Russian station of Mirny 15th - 17th December then West to Mawson 24th - 27th then again West to Enderby Land 30th December to 1st January. Finally East to Davis arriving approximately 5th January 1978.

I hope to be on the air on 20 metres late January, the equipment is a KWM2 transceiver 30L1 linear, the callsign has been allotted as VKØJV again.

I wish all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

73 Col VKØJV (VK7KW)

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FOR SALE

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FOR SALE

Barlow Wadly XCR30-MK2 receiver	\$199.00
Adcola constant temperature soldering iron	\$ 10.00
Golf buggy, ball bearing wheels	\$ 20.00
Golf bag	\$ 20.00
Jim Oliver VK7JO, 2 Luxmore Cr. Phone 443314	

Kyokuto 2 metre, 15 Watt FM transceivers. Digital readout
800 transmit and 1000 receive channels \$305.00
G.T. ELECTRONICS 131 Westbury Rd, phone 444773

BITS AND PIECES

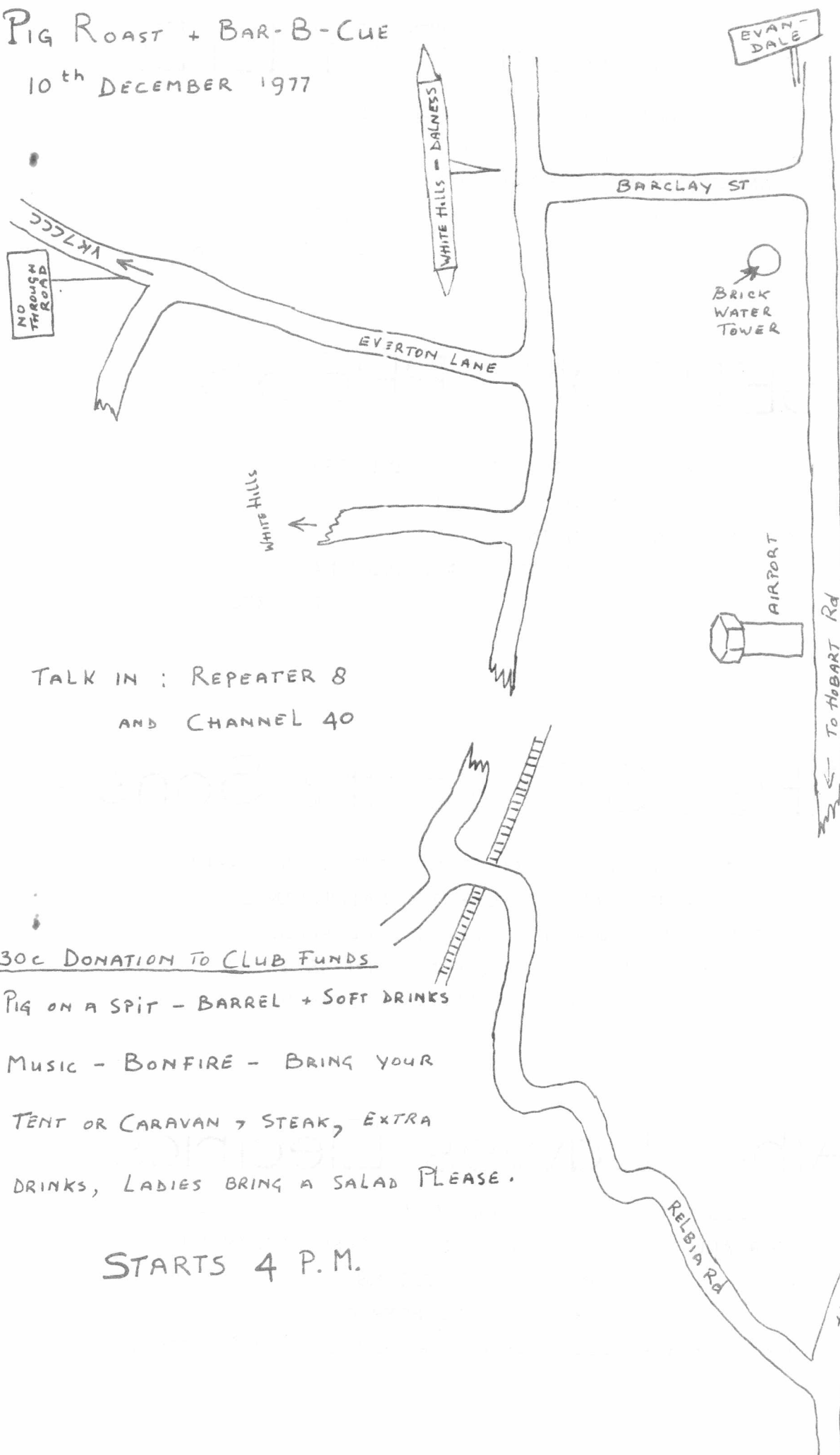
Last months note about tensioning copper wire brought a comment from Max Fraser that if the wire is heavy gauge it may be easier to use his method which works on any wire, even fencing wire. Clamp one end in a vice and the other in a hand drill (an electric drill can be used if its a slow speed drill) pull tight and twist the wire with the drill, and it will straighten itself very nicely. Max demonstrated it using some very heavy gauge galvanised fencing wire and it works beautifully.

The September issue of 73 Magazine is one any RTTY enthusiast should get hold of, if you dont know anything about RTTY but would like to know something about it, get one anyway, there is a 9 page article to introduce you to this interesting mode of Amateur communication. If you are already into it you'll find (in the back pages) adverts for books on almost everything to do with Amateur radio, one is "the new RTTY handbook" 1977 edition.

Its encouraging to see "Ham Radio" a commercial magazine refusing to advertise linear amplifiers that are capable of operation in the 11 metre citizen band, whereas the Wireless Institutes magazine "Amateur Radio" not only allows this sort of advertising but one add even said "get one before the pirates grab 'em !"

PIG ROAST + BAR-B-CUE

10th DECEMBER 1977



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