

QRM

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Tasmanian Division, Northern Zone.

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Price 5 ¢

Welcome to some more 'QRM'. You probably feel there's more than enough coming your way at the moment but we feel that this new source of QRM will be welcome.

With the likely withdrawal of the Tasmanian Division Bulletin a number of Northern Zone members have felt the need for some form of communication. Sure, Amateur Radio Operators are in the Communication business but too few of us seem to get together "on air" and even the Sunday morning broadcast doesn't fill the bill entirely.

What then is the purpose of "QRM"? First and foremost to keep Amateurs in the North in touch with one-another. It will provide a means of discussing technical and administrative matters.

For instance, if you couldn't make the A.G.M. or the Port Sorell 'Ham-In', why should you miss out on knowing what went on?

Of course we want to include matter which interests our members- particularly those who can't make meetings. Therefore we would welcome ideas- particularly contentious ones! What's more, if you don't like what you read tell us- we'll print it!!

At the moment it is envisaged that the Newsletter will be distributed to WIA members and Amateurs in the North and North-West and, to a limited extent, in the South. (1971 financial members).

The Northern Zone of the W.I.A. hopes that "QRM" will fill an empty space in the VK7 spectrum. But PLEASE, You help us fill it.

Reg 7KK

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 1-2 | Geelong Hamfest |
| May 4 | North West Meeting
Lakins Hall Ulverstone |
| May 14 | Northern Meeting
Adult Education Rooms
47 York St., Launceston |
| July 1-31 | VK8AU Winter VHF Contest |

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the VK7 Division was held at the Adult Education Rooms in Launceston on the 20th March to a capacity gathering of members and visitors, so much so that extra seating had to be provided, but still there was an overflow into the passage.

The meeting was opened on time by the President, Geoff VK7ZAS. The minutes were read by Merv. VK7CL and the meeting proceeded with little excitement.

Report for 70/71 was made by the President-Treasurer David VK7MD, QSL Manager Greg. VK7KJ, and our Federal Councillor Ted VK7EJ.

The ballot for Council Members was held and the successful members were as follows:

Geoff D'Emden	VK7ZAS
Merv. Conway	VK7CL
Ted Cruise	VK7EJ
Mike Knott	VK7ZLK
Dave Marsland	VK7MD
Brian Rieusset	VK7VK
John Van Staveren	VK7JV

NORTHERN ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Tasmanian Branch of the W.I.A. Northern Zone was held on 12th March and was very successful with a large attendance of members. The retiring president Lindsay VK7ZLD outlined the activities of the zone during 70/71, and thanked officers for the excellent job they had done during the year.

The election of office bearers for the forthcoming year was carried out. The results were as follows:

President	VK7ZLD
Secretary	VK7KK
Treasurer	VK7ZAH
QSL Officer	VK7LZ

The normal March monthly meeting followed the A.G.M. during which it was decided to increase the equipment held in the Zone Equipment Store by ordering popular components from VK3. So if you want parts we will get them for you and our bank balance will improve by 5% of your purchase. It was also decided that two members (VK7JV and VK7PD) would investigate the possibility of the zone establishing club rooms in Launceston.

DID YOU KNOW.....

THAT Bill 7AK just bought himself an FT200 and is building a power supply for it. Hope to work you soon Bill!

THAT Gordon 7GW has poured the cement for the base of his 50' HEC tower and will soon be ready to start erecting and will need help!

THAT 7MK the club station at Kings Meadows High School is active again with new antenna and a new shack. The boys are looking for contacts in their lunch hour.

THAT 7ZX is making his equipment available for a club station at Launceston Matric. No callsign allocated as yet. Competing with 7MK!

THAT Graham 7ZGT is looking for a 1674 High Band at the right price. Phone 444773 if you can help him. Graham is already an 2M AM.

NORTH-WEST FIELD DAY

The annual field day for the North and North West branches of the W.I.A. was held at Port Sorell. The festivities more or less started with the usual barbeque lunch.

A cavity resonator was once again the subject of the guessing competition. The resonant frequency of the cavity was 1296.5 MHz; the closest guess was by Tony Bedelph (VK7AX) who thought that the resonant frequency was 1296.4 MHz. It was fairly obvious that there was a lack of knowledge about cavity resonators - remember last year!

A bottle of bubbley was raffled at an enormous profit. It was won by Julie Ellings with ticket number 40...hic.

Before the main event a fox hunt, of the yes-no variety, was held on two meters. The fox (7ZGJ), a wiley fox indeed, almost proved too good for the hounds. Obviously feeling that his red Jaguar would be too conspicuous, he ditched it and took to the woods with battery, carphone and antenna. This ruse, however, did not throw the hounds off the scent for long. The main road soon became "jammed" with ham-mobiles cruising back and forward looking for clues. Surely it would only be a matter of time! However the fox had yet another trick to play. In unfamiliar surroundings the fox incorrectly answered a question and the hounds were searching far and wide on the wrong side of the road. Following feminine intuition or something Judith Hendricks wandered from the road and literally bumped into the fox. The fox, who still maintains that north is south and vice versa, was on the opposite side of the road to which the rest of us were searching. Needless to say a great deal of fun was had by all including the fox.

The main event of the day was held on the beach. Before a vast crowd the teams assembled. The "players" (NW) went in to bat on a pitch noted for its softness and unpredictability. North west's opening pair did well after accustoming themselves to the strange pitch. A lofted drive over mid-on and several shots behind square leg saw the tally speed towards 10. After a few missed catches Kevin was relieved, after a long opening over, and Joe was given the ball. Joe's aim was to bowl ground grubbers under the bat. However, due to the state of the pitch the ball either went over or around the stumps - that is when missed by the hard hitting Max. The NW were eventually dismissed for about 34 - no one is quite sure but it seemed to be a fair tally.

The "Gentlemen" (N), a powerful combination came to the crease. The openers, Lindsay and Tim put on a commanding partnership of 30 runs. Lindsay was out to a good delivery which cut back sharply from a deep indentation in the pitch to "break" the stumps. (N) carried on to win the match with-out further loss and won back the coveted cup.

It was remarked after the match that there were too many left-handers in the NW combination and were consequently unable to take advantage of the short boundary on the grand stand side. The northern combination however, made good use of this avenue, scoring many boundaries in this area. I hear that the direction of the pitch is to be reversed next year.

CONGRATULATIONS.....

To Gordon Wood 7GW and Trevor Briggs 7TB for passing the Morse Test.

To Graham Thompson who has passed his AOLCP and has taken the call 7ZGT.

To Kevin 7ZAH and Ron 3AKC. They have set a new record on 1296MHz 2way phone over a distance of 274.4 miles. Ron is now looking to Hobart and Kevin to Mt. Gambier.

A FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN has been started for the purpose of buying Joe 7ZGJ a compass. In the meantime Joe, remember that Bass Strait is still NORTH of Tasmania.

PETER 7PD and JOHN 7JV have been given (conned into) the task of looking for suitable clubrooms in Launceston, as cheap as possible, of course, preferably for nothing. They would be glad to hear from anyone who knows of premises that may be suitable and available.

MT. BARROW FM REPEATER

Altitude 4600 Feet.

Aerials Vertical coaxial dipoles vertically spaced.

Input frequency 146.4 MHz (15KHz FM) Sensitivity better than IuV

Output frequency 145.9 MHz (15 KHz FM) 50 watts output power Channel 4

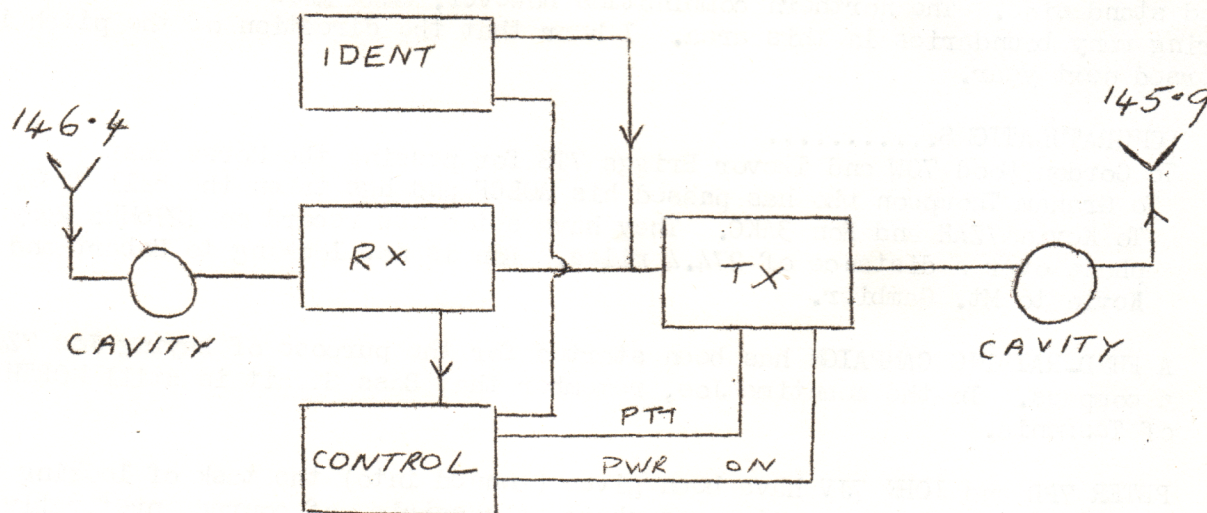
Identification VK7WI/R2 as MCW at reduced level every two minutes while transmitter power is applied. An ident. is sent 6 seconds after a carrier is applied if there is a break of at least 10 seconds in applied signals.

Operation

If no signals are received for five minutes the transmitter power is removed. A brief burst of signal applies the power and the transmitter should be ready in about 30 seconds. While ever there is audio output from the tx monitor the power will remain on. If for any reason there is either no audios or continuous noise for five minutes, the repeater will lock up and has to be reset by a separate control system.

Equipment

- (A) A TCA 1674 receiver with added fail safe coden, cathode follower audio output and timer and control circuits.
- (B) Solid state keyer (ex computer parts)
- (C) Base station TCA 1674 transmitter with 6/40 final.
- (D) Isolation cavity filters in both receiver and transmitter feedlines give, with the aerial rejection, a total of 100 db isolation. This enables the use of 50 watt output without blocking the receiver even with the 500 KHz spacing used



NOTES FROM NORTH WEST ZONE

The last meeting of N.W. Zone was attended by 7PD, 7JV and 7ZGT and were welcomed by the President 7AX Tony. Visitors from other Zones are always very welcome at N.W. Zone meetings.

At the same meeting a demonstration of a new method of aluminium soldering was given by a visiting representative. As the quantity and price involved is beyond the average ham it is proposed to try to acquire some on a divisional basis.

The 2 meter FM net on channel B is very active between Devonport, Ulverstone and Penguin. It has been a poor year for 2 meter openings.

The 2 meter beacon antenna has disintegrated with salt and wind pressure and Brian 7ZBE has a new type under construction.

Hams in the Ulverstone, Penguin area are doing some sterling work on amateur T.V., and some very interesting pictures could be airborne shortly.

A very colourful wedding took place recently, when associate Ian Ellings and Lyn took the necessary vows. Ian was complaining somewhat that he was not permitted to take a 2m receiver on the honeymoon.

We were delighted to have 3ZPX formerly 7ZPW (Prickly Whiskers) with us at Easter time. The same old Pete of course, with Robin her beautiful self!

7MX has been enjoying the company of Rex ZL3DY and XYL Margaret for a few days. Rex has contacted quite a few local boys, some who knew him on the air.

A lightning tour of the north was somewhat marred by a broken windscreen suffered near Cressy, but that was corrected in record time!

The loss of the annual cricket match between the North and North West has been taken quite stoically by the North West team who congratulate the batsman responsible!

Officers elected at the annual general meeting were:

President	Tony 7AX
Secretary	Max 7MX
Treasurer	Harold 7MZ

The next meeting of the North West Zone will be on the first Tuesday of the Month at Lakin's Hall, Ulverstone.

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Pardon if I "carry" concerning a pet hobby horse of mine. I don't think anyone will deny that VHF activity in Tasmania and in the rest of Australia has been ruined by the advent of net frequency activity and ex commercial units.

Happily there appears to be a few signs of improvement. Note the following for instance:-

- (1) Kevin 7ZAH, John 7JV are still continuing their nightly contacts with Ron 3AKC at Geelong.
- (2) Kevin and Wilf ex 7WF 1296 MHz exploits to VK3.
- (3) Many interstate contests preclude the use of net frequencies.
- (4) Joe 7ZJG and Brian 7ZBY having frequent 6 meter contacts with Dave 7MR Ian 7ZIF and Peter 7PS in Hobart.

If you can't keep up with the above exploits then you can't call yourself a VHF amateur.

Do you have need of a builder's labourer.....our XYLs might fit the bill!

A nail driving competition was held at Port Sorell. Many of the lovely XYLs surprised the OMs by driving the nails well into that lump of hard Tassie oak. Mrs. MX takes the cake. She drove a SIX INCH nail right through the 4 inch wood block and with suitable encouragement, the nail right up to the hilt!

Tim 7ZX has just bought a set of wheels for his FTDX100. It goes by the name of Holden Kingswood, has bucket seats and 4 on the floor. Tim is now looking for another sympathetic Bank Manager to foot the bill for an FL2000B. I wonder if he'll take that mobile!

Ron Wilkinson 3AKC will have reason to remember his visit to Launceston. His forced stay in the L.G.H. Hotel was most unsatisfactory. Late Saturday afternoon Ron decided to tell the management that he was checking out. After an eyeball and a bite to eat at the Annual Dinner he stayed with Kevin 7ZAH overnight and flew back to his VHF location in Geelong on Sunday Morning.

EQUIPMENT STORE: NORTHERN ZONE

We have recently received from the VK3 division a quantity of parts totalling \$160. These parts are available for purchase to all members of the W.I.A.

Below is a list of parts we have in stock as at 20th April. Anything which is available from the VK3 division and does not appear on the list can be obtained for you.

Parts can be obtained from VK7ZAH Kevin Henricks, 8 Clarendon St. Young Town, Phone Home 469772 or Work 321208.

2N3563 TRANSISTORS
2N3564 "
2N3565 "
MP102 FET.
2N5145 (T1S88) FET.
2N3819 FET.
1-12pf P.T.F.E. Trimmers
Neosid Coll formers complete
XTAL Sockets D type for printed circuit boards
B/Lee coax sockets for printed circuit boards
EM408 Diodes
Resistors $\frac{1}{4}$ W individual values
Relays 4 change-over contacts 12V (miniature)
Q.S.L. stickers
W.I.A. Car transfers
Fibre Glass Blanks 4'6" long (from mini whips)
TCA 1674 Circuits
Handbooks AWA MR-ZOB FM Carphone
Air Dux Coils

B O Y.....Some Hams are keen when it comes to good locations. A Launceston Land Estate Agent reckons this takes the cake - he takes this N U T up to a house on top of a hill, walks up to the front door and the N U T turns around and says "I'll take it"!! He was talking about Reg. 7KK who purchased the house. The location is the highest point in Cambridge Street, West Launceston...No. 149.

I must say that it is a beautiful house at this stage - 3 bedrooms and plenty of space for antennas. Reg. is now telling his neighbours that he is a bird-lover and all those rods sticking out everywhere are BIRD PERCHES.

Tim 7ZX will be sharing some of the rooms and cost of living with him which poses two problems - who is going to operate the Rig. - and whose car is going to beautify the front garden while the other one will be in the garage!

TECHNICAL- H.F. MINIWHIP

The original description of this equipment was published in "A.R." during 1965. With interest in Launceston with small 80 meter transistorised transceivers and the unavailability of the above article it seems opportune to publish what follows.

A 4ft 8in tapered fibre glass fishing rod 8mm diameter at the base and 2mm at the tip is used as the basis of each whip. Suitable whips are stocked by the Zone.

Construction

The whip is glued to a suitable ferrule which would fit onto an aerial base on the car or to the transmitter unit used. Fig 1 shows an arrangement which could be used.

To wind wire onto the whip, fit the ferrule into the chuck of an electric drill or lathe.

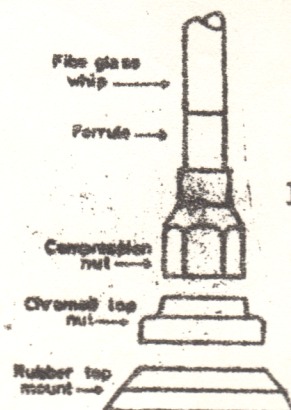


Fig 1

40 metres

Use 21 B & S enamelled wire and solder the first turn to the top of the ferrule. Starting at the ferrule end, wind 20 turns close wound, then 2 turns spaced over 4 inches and the remainder close-wound to the tip.

Frequency about 6.95 MHz .

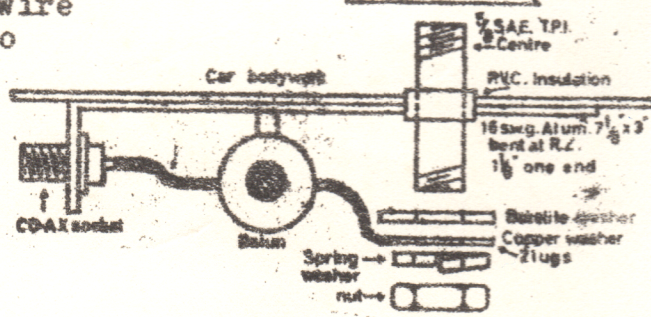
20 metres

Use 21 B & S wire, 6 turns over 24½ " and the remainder close wound to the tip.

Frequency about 14 MHz .

80 metres

Use 27 B & S wire and completely fill the rod. Frequency, 3.6 MHz .



The base of all these whips will be close to 25 ohms. Commercial baluns are no longer available to match these to 50 ohm. Construction details of a suitable 2:1 transformer are shown in fig 2.

Each whip could be covered with an even coat of 'Araldite' and the tips should be capped to prevent corona discharge.

Tuning

Couple a G.D.O. to the transmitter end of the coax and clip off a few turns of the whip tip until a dip is obtained near the correct frequency. Use the rig for the final adjustment.

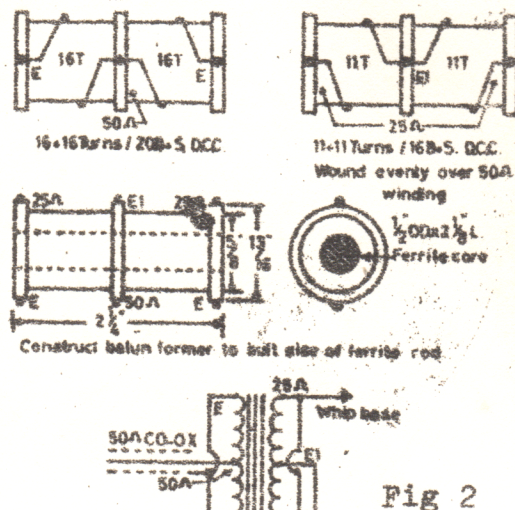


Fig 2

Suitable whips are stocked by the Zone.

Construction

The whip is glued to a suitable ferrule which would fit onto an aerial base on the car or to the transmitter unit used. Fig 11 shows an arrangement which could be used.

To wind wire onto the whip, fit the ferrule into the chuck of an electric drill or lathe.

40 metres

Use 21 B & S enamelled wire and solder the first turn to the top of the ferrule. Starting at the ferrule end, wind 20 turns close wound, then 2 turns spaced over 4 inches and the remainder close-wound to the tip.

Frequency about 6.95 MHz .

20 metres

Use 21 B & S wire, 6 turns over $24\frac{1}{2}$ " and the remainder close wound to the tip.

Frequency about 14 MHz .

80 metres

Use 27 B & S wire and completely fill the rod.
Frequency, 3.6 MHz .

The base of all these whips will be close to 25 ohms. Commercial baluns are no longer available to match these to 50 ohm. Construction details of a suitable 2:1 transformer are shown in fig 2.

Each whip could be covered with an even coat of 'Araldite' and the tips should be capped to prevent corona discharge.

Tuning

Couple a G.D.O. to the transmitter end of the coax and clip off a few turns of the whip tip until a dip is obtained near the correct frequency. Use the rig for the final adjustment.

Recommended centre frequencies are 3.65, 7.090 and 14.250 MHz .

So many of these whips are in use throughout is no doubt about their effectiveness.

REFERENCE

Swaby, M.J., VK4DA, The Miniwhip Amateur Radio
March 1965

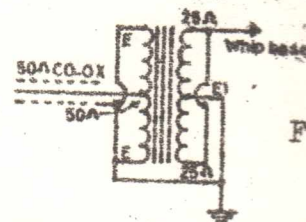
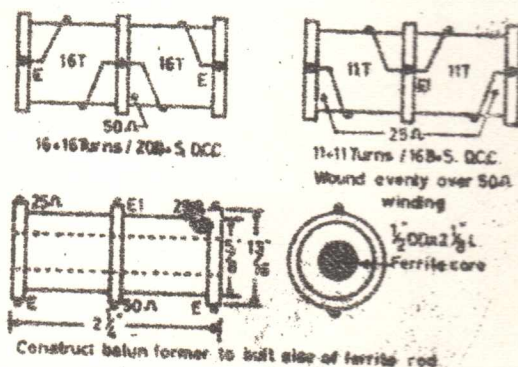
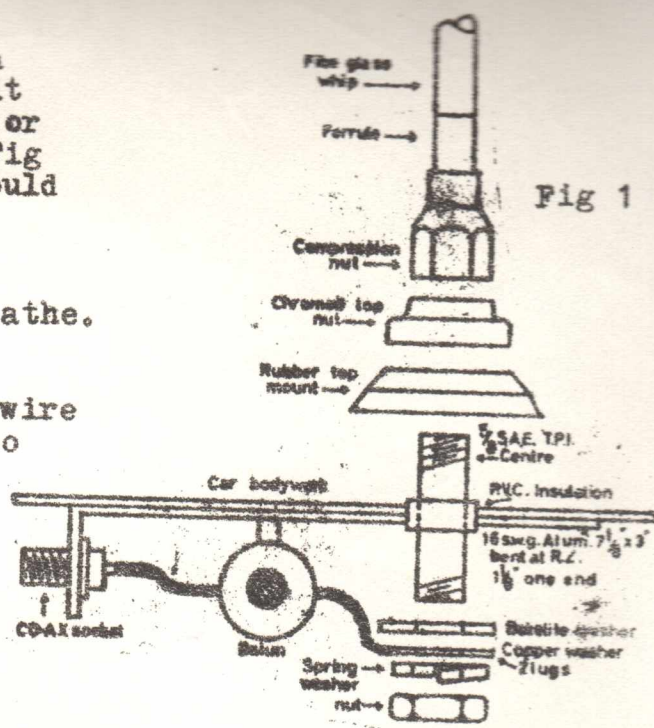


Fig 2

VK that there