

QRM

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If promises are an indication, the response to the call for articles has been good. We had 3 articles to choose from for this issue and have promises for a few more. If you can't write a complete article how about some short notes that we can use to fill the last bit of a page? This is a time consuming job for myself and your help would be very welcome. The Ladies page is off to a good start and I hope it is going to be a regular feature.

73 John VK7JV

MEETINGS

- May 7th North West Branch, Lakins Hall, Ulverstone.
May 10th Northern Branch, NEB rooms, High st.
equipment auction.
May 11th Council meeting at the QTH of VK7JV, 1.30 p.m.
50 Waveney st. Launceston.

YRCS

- May 11 3.35pm room 25, Kings Meadows High School.

Social Event

- May 25th at the QTH of Frank and Brenda VK7ZFR
start anytime after 4 p.m.
bring your own drinks
bring your family
Brenda and Frank will supply
FOOD and ENTERTAINMENT
but please let them know if you
intend to go, a mention on the air
will be sufficient. See you there.

Thirty six persons attended our April meeting.

Amongst the business section some discussion took place on broadcast times and suggestions were made to attempt further approaches for permission for evening transmissions.

Wally 7ZWX allowed himself to be talked into the position of Lecture officer after the previous holder of that position resigned 1 (one) month after his election (he doesn't believe in staying too long in a job) Thanks Wally.

Thanks also to Frank 7ZFR for offering his home for a social function in May. Please keep this in mind and let's have a good roll up of OM's and XYL's. This event will be preceeded by a Fox Hunt. It was also decided to have a Fox Hunt on the 19th April, I hope this was well supported.

Norm 7NR and Brian 7ZBY's activities at the meeting won't be a regular pursuit, they were merely providing subjects for our guest speaker, after all you can't demonstrate a breathalyser with non drinkers!

Brian 7ZBY reached .025 and Norm 7NR .04, does that suggest the spoils were evenly divided? Frank 7ZFR easily topped them with .06 and all I managed was .005!

Our speaker, Phil Barnard (ex VK7ZPB) of the Breathalyser squad gave us a well presented interesting discussion of the mechanics, problems and methods of escaping the operation of the breathalyser.

The mechanics seem rather simple, merely comparing the light received by 2 photo cells, one receiving light through a standard phial, the other via a phial of potassium dicromate altered by the alcohol.

Escaping its operation? Forget it. Don't try saying you've been on ether or acetone as you would be dead before you get a reading!

Help us on May 10th, we have more junk to sell.

The foxhunt foreshadowed above started rather strangely. When I arrived 5 minutes after starting time there were about 10 people waiting and waiting and waiting for some operators with cars! A number of keen youngsters and one mobile, a visitor Brian VK2ZKF and friend, that made two cars!

Then Steve 7OA made his presence felt on ch.48, so was talked into attending on his arrival from Hobart! 3 cars and 12 people, at least the'll now fit.

James Powell-Davies then decided that perhaps Dad might be talked into providing the family car, a phone call and we had 4 cars and 13 people, the fourth being fitted with a borrowed Ken transceiver. After all this the event went off very well and 2ZKF learnt much about the streets of Launceston. Perhaps we should provide foxes with tape measures as well as compasses! Incidentally Brian passed on some ideas of similar Newcastle events.

They seem to stick to yes/no type contests but generally work against the clock, losing points as time passes, also losing points for asking questions.

Another variation is to have 2 foxes hidden and making it necessary to have the hounds find both simultaneously. Perhaps we should try to organise a little more and get some interest back into non DF hunts.

Congratulations to Peter Guenther and James Powell-Davies on their recent pass in the AOCF examinations, lets know what the call signs are chaps, on the air will do.

Q.R.M.

May 1974

North West notes by Max 7MX.

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For a change this month, rather than moan I will look on the brighter side. Have you ever thought what ham radio has done for you apart from radio? Generally hams are very hospitable people, and speaking from experience this has made for me many fine friends.

It is always very interesting to finally attach a face to a voice. Have you ever tried to picture what a chap will look like and how many times have you been wrong.

Again hams are a pretty generous lot, how many times have you heard in the course of a QSO "I've got one here Bill and you are welcome to it if its of any use to you". A fine philosophy and this is the sort of thing that cements

friendship. I have heard it said that the ham fraternity is the greatest. After a trip around New Zealand a few years ago I fully agree. So let us try and live up to this reputation. There is a lot of pleasure and satisfaction to be had in personal contacts, and I have enjoyed many a technical discussion over a cuppa. So look out chaps I may call at anytime. H I.

Our meeting went off very well with about average attendance.

We were very pleased to have Winston with us again.

It was decided that due to small turnover and very small clientele the equipment store will be closed. In doing so we thank Ian 7ZIE for handling this section for so long.

We understand that the Northern Branch equipment store will be available so interested members please note to contact Kevin 7ZAH for requirements.

At the conclusion of the meeting yours truly gave a talk on wireless in 1924, no doubt this produced some nostalgia in some of the older members and some discussion took place on catwhiskers and crystals.

Following our next meeting we will have a lecture on modifying the beacon's electronic keyer, this will be given by Wayne Gibson and we are grateful for the splendid job he did with the keyer. One look at it is enough to frighten the average ham. We should soon have the beacon fully operational.

Thanks again Wayne.

We had the pleasure of the company of our Federal councillor at our meeting, in fact he brought us up to date with federal doings. Peter has been in our area for a couple of weeks. The poor chap had several callouts around here to straighten up a few VHF rigs, frequency wise etc. Personally and collectively, thanks Peter, you are always welcome in our area.

Maritime mobiles seem to be hanging around our area.

Noel 3NR has left the Empress and is replaced by Bill Dunne 3AJD who although not active is still one of us.

Phil 3APO is now on the Bass Trader and active on CW 40, 20 and 15. He has a fantastic little 3 Watt solid state rig, Heathkit job. Fancy yarning with W's and JA's on a couple of lantern batteries, it really works.

The series of VHF openings are petering out which is quite understandable. Come to think of it, I have too.

CUL Max 7MX

Q.R.M.

May 1974

H.F. notes by Den VK7DK.

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Well another month has gone by and conditions have been most variable, anywhere between wonderfull and just plain lousy. At times in the early part of the month the long path to Europe was wide open, S9 plus signals from the U.K, were the rule rather than the exception. Other parts of Europe, from UA to I were all very good. It was noticed though that the openings were short and faded out very quickly. Toward the latter part of the month the European signals had all but gone and north America has been heard at good strength, in particular W6 up to VE7 and even down to KE. These openings are in the early afternoon our time (0400/0630) and again seem to drop out very quickly. From what I've heard, 20 metres for night time DX can be nearly forgotten. Even the commercial type of RF pollution is very weak. We are ofcourse somewhere near the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Just exactly where in relation to the 11 year cycle can only be an educated guess as only an average has been arrived at over a period of over 100 years. But cheer up, it has been the experience that in a sunspot minima there are still some good openings to be had. Also (I don't want to encroach on the VHF contributor but) I, and some other hams who have been around for a few sunspot cycles, are of the opinion that 52 Mhz DX propagation actually IMPROVES around the minima.

Here is an opportunity for some of the younger hams to start making some records on 52 Mhz openings over the next cycle or so. There is still a lot to learn in this field.

Another bright spot is the known fact that the cycle is of slow decline over a number of years and a rapid climb over 2 years or so. Also the lower frequencies can produce some very good DX, even when 20/15/10 are NBG.

Lets have a look at the DX heard during April.

3.5 Mhz C.W. SM3OI, LZ1CW, DM3YSO, HA4KXC, OK3BH, HA5LO, OK1KMZ.

7Mhz C.W. UL7AAJ, UB5MCS, YU4EBL, LZ2KWR, IØRUM, UK3XAI, DM3YSO, DJ4UF, UK6LAZ, SP9PIP, 9M2CX, DK5PR, G3BEF, W4NW, UY5EN, ON6DC, FC2LAM, UF6UFB, HP4BGR. Most of these around 2000/2200 Z.

Phone VR1AA (S9), G4OI, W's around 7000 Z.

14 Mhz Phone TI8PE, ZD7 (via North Pole), TG9, ZC4MM, around 0730 Z.

HC8GI, VU2DK, 4M5AMP, 4X1NJ, ZF1JA (QSL via VE6AYU) these around 0330 Z.

C.W. ZP5GP, UA3LAC.

From this it can be seen that it is necessary to keep a look out on the band.

John VK3JW was one of the operators for the Mellish Reef expedition and is now in the States and VE land to give a few lectures on the operation, he may be away for up to 6 months. Heard a whisper that Ed KH6GLU is or should be in VK land at the moment and may settle here. The operation of W1GEY from China has not been heard and I suspect did not take place. No reason known.

73 Den

GENERALLY SPEAKING, HAMS ARE GENERALLY SPEAKING.



LADIES PAGE

The O.M. told me about the Ladies page in QRM so I decided to do something about it.

We have a very good set up in our house, the shack is next door to the living room, if he is on the air I shut the door if I don't want to listen to the two sided conversation re: transmitters, receivers, the weather, bathing beauties etc. Sometimes if I am watching 96 he closes the door but leaves it open just enough so he can hear what's being said, he thinks I don't know, ha ha, sorry hi hi.

Talking on the radio doesn't appeal to me so unless especially requested leave it to the OM to pass on my messages, hullo's or goodbyes.

But I would like all Hams to know I think radio is a great thing, not only do we know where the OM is most nights, the friends we've made through it have made it all very worth while.

Lucy 7MX

A way to entice Hams out of the shack at meal times.

Take a casserole dish plus 4 delicious chops or chicken pieces. Add to this a packet of french onion soup plus a can of Berri apricot nectar.

Lay chops in bottom of casserole and pour the above ingredients over it.

Cook in oven at 350° for 1½ hour. Delicious !

This one works wonders I assure you, it has been proved.

Also add his favourite dessert.

Lyn Ellings.

The lady tourist couldn't contain her curiosity about the service station attendant's missing leg.

"were you in a car accident?" Nope", he replied laconically.

"wounded in the war?" she persisted. "Nope!" "Did you -"

"Listen lady", he interrupted. "If I tell you how I lost the leg, will you promise not to ask another question?"

"I promise." "It was bit off."

RECOMMENDED READING

"Mystery of the Creaking Door" by Russ T. Hinge.

"Don't Fence Me In" by Barb Wire.

"Early Warnings" by Ray Darr.

"The Tragedy on the Cliff" by Eileen Dover.

"Traffic Perils" by J. Walker.

"Thunder Lizard" by Dinah Saur.

"Fire Hazard" by Red Spark.

"The Sky Divers" by Perry Shoot.

Transistor curve tracer. by Wally 7ZWX.

Transistors of the same type often have characteristics which are not identical and which do not agree precisely with the manufacturers published characteristics and circuits are normally designed to permit such variations. However, it is sometimes necessary to know the characteristics of a particular transistor with fair precision, or to match the characteristics of two transistors. Then it is advantageous to be able to obtain a set of transistor curves. The principle of operation of a curve tracer is illustrated in Fig. 1.

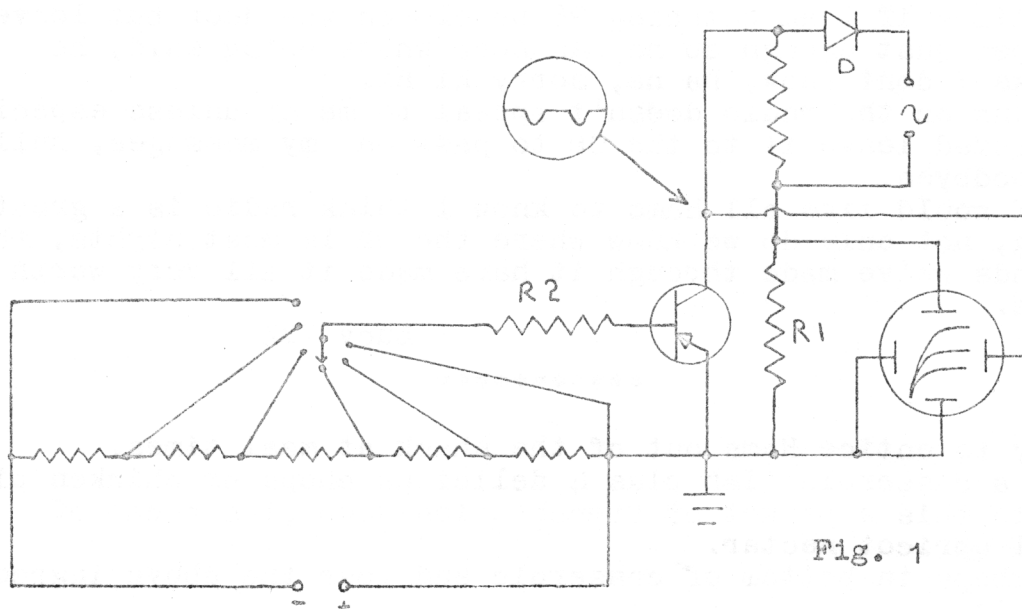


Fig. 1

Consider a PNP transistor: half cycles of an alternating voltage rectified by diode D provides a negative sweep of the collector voltage and are used to produce the horizontal deflection of the oscilloscope.

A voltage proportional to the collector current appears across R1 and this is used to produce the vertical deflection. Base current for the transistor is supplied via R2.

A series of curves are displayed using different values of base current selected by the switch.

A simple, inexpensive, practical arrangement based on this principle is shown in Fig. 2.

A collector load resistor selected by switch S1 is used to ensure that the maximum allowable collector power dissipation of the transistor under test is not exceeded.

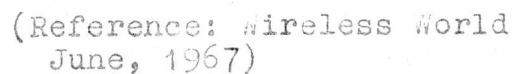
Switch S2 sets the magnitude of the base current. For a 10 volt supply,

S2 at position A, $I_b = 0.002$ ma, for S3 set at 2 volts

B,	= 0.02	ma,	"	"	"	"
C,	= 0.2	ma,	"	"	"	"

Switch S3 gives equal increments in base current and therefore switching between curves is achieved.

The oscilloscope used for display purposes should have d.c. coupled horizontal and vertical amplifiers. Calibration display is obtained from the calibrated gain setting of these amplifiers.



Diode characteristics are readily obtained by connecting to the emitter and collector terminals. By selecting PNP and NPN both forward and reverse characteristics are displayed.

Q.R.M.

May 1974

VHF notes by Joe VK7ZGJ.

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The equinox has passed without any signs of JA's appearing on the 6 metre band, although a few have been worked in VK4. Never the less local activity has been rather high. On 11-4-74 around 2145 local time the VK2WI beacon was 5/7. I also worked VK2ZNS at 2150, signals were very weak with heavy QSB. On the 12-4-74 the band was open for several hours and the following stations were worked by myself and Kevin VK7ZAH, John VK7JV was also active. VK2's ABA, BHO, ZXL, ZQJ, and VK4ZRI (with VK4ZLC on 52.525 on FM) 4ZAI in Gladstone. VK4QO, VK5SU running 25 Watts. For about an hour Bob VK4ZAI was the only signal to be heard, the opening started around 1150 and finished about 1450 local. On 20-4-74 the VK2 beacon once again was received S5 and I exchanged 5/9 reports with VK2ZKY, the opening lasted about 10 minutes. Local activity on the 21st on 52.525 included VK7's ZAH, RR, OH/mobile and myself. A visitor to the state Mike VK3ZQV was operating only on 144 Mhz SSB, although 2 metre activity is very low he managed to work VK7ZDA, 7ZAH, 7LZ and myself. That about sums it up for this month.

73 Joe

Big sell out at JOE's

FOR SALE

High fidelity audio equipment, AWA ST25 amplifier, 7.5 Watts rms per channel, fitted with quad decoder as per E.A. \$100.00

Semi transcription turn table, Labcraft type 643, belt driven, magnetic cartridge and diamond stylus. \$30.00

2 metre , 6 channel AWA base station , 3/12 final no crystals fitted \$30.00

MR6A, tuned to 146 Mhz, 3/12 final, no crystals \$20.00
refer Sept. 73 Amateur Radio page 8 for modifications to both the above units.

MR20A, solid state power supply, contains 4- 2N277 transistors plus heat sinks, ideal for shack power supply \$10.00

Geloso amateur band front end, 4.6 Mhz I.F. only \$30.00
hear it working.

2 metre A.M. transmitter 3/12 final, 3/12 modulator, on 144.350 Mhz, including crystal mike \$15.00

6 metre nuvistor converter, no crystal \$5.00

Courier low band FM radio, solid state receiver and exciter, YL1240 final, 25 Watt, suitable for conversion to 6 metres. \$30.00

70 Mhz ground plane minus radials \$5.00

AWA base remote control unit \$5.00

522 tunable receiver \$5.00

crystal locked receiver, two front ends, 455 kc IF on 5.180 Mhz, complete with power supply \$10.00

2 TV sets \$5.00 each

10 % to the clubroom account. Joe VK7ZGJ

FOR SALE. FOR SALE. FOR SALE. FOR SALE. FOR SALE.

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Home brew amateur band only receiver, plug in coils, double conversion, BFO, 1600 and 50 kc I.F. has been used for many years to work C.W. DX.

\$60.00 ono

Ray Kilby VK7RK, 10 Greenway av. Norwood.

IGL Exciter, 1 Watt RF output, suitable for driving a valve final, FM or AM. Built and ready to go.

\$19.00

Kevin VK7ZAH. 8 Clarendon st Sth Launceston.

6 metre FM rig MR20 with control unit, 12 volt power supply, cables and crystals

\$25.00 ono

HF receiver, home brew G3DAF.

\$120.00 ono

VK3 Carphone receiver, not working, incl. CH.B Xtals

\$40.00 ono

Low band 1674, not converted

\$10.00

Low band MR10, not converted

\$10.00

VK3, 432 converter without crystal

\$12.00

2 metre FM, Pye Ranger receiver with IGL converter front end, no crystal.

\$10.00

Steve Fraser VK7OA

usually, 13a Bedford st. Newtown. Phone 281292

137 Penquite rd. Launceston. Phone 443383

The auction at the next meeting of the Northern Branch will include such items as, meters, 95% complete transistorised tunable receiver, 6.5 to 10.5 Mhz based on EA240.

paging units ex hospital, large knobs, MR20 A Power supply, 1200 volt 150 ma power supply, audio slave units and other goodies plus some junk.

10% goes to the clubrooms account.

For sale. 1 only low pass filter in very poor condition has no attenuation up to the third harmonic any offer accepted.

Frank VK7ZFR

The What, Where, Who, Hassles & How Much Book For Amateurs. Otherwise known as "THE AMATEUR PINK PAGES" is a compendium of companies, parts suppliers, equipment suppliers, organisations etc. that can/will/do supply the complete needs of the amateur.

It is available for \$1.50 from,

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