

QRM

Amateur
Radio
News



FEBRUARY 1986

Issued by the Tasmanian Division of
the Wireless Institute of Australia

Radiatorial Comment

Here's our first issue of 1986 - and the first signs of the uncertainties we are sure to face in the year ahead. At the same time, however, we should take the chance to see what progress we have made, if any, in the amateur radio field last year. Meetings due to be held in the next month or two may well herald important changes in the Tasmanian Division - one such meeting being the Broadcast Forum this month. Sometimes the Divisional A.G.M. goes by, creating hardly a ripple in the three Branches. Then a whole year passes with rumbles rather than ripples from those who love to criticize without taking responsibility. In this issue, you will find a nomination form for the various Divisional offices - don't ignore this page; use it to make sure that the Tasmanian Division is run as efficiently as possible. We can only hope that the discussion (and the voting) at these meetings will at least be positive, leading to improvements in our organisation.

Enclosed are also details of the 1986 TARC and "your presence is requested" - the social side of TARC is just as vital as the technical and business content.

John VK7JK.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S .

On December 27th. 1955, our fellow amateur and friend, Barry VK7FR, took up a microphone in Hobart and began a career with 7ZR, after spending three years or so at 7AD and 7LA. So it is with much pleasure that we congratulate him on 30 years with what he calls "the big rig". 7ZR and its co-station 7ZL have been part of his life all this time, and by his contact with us over the air, he has been part of ours. He knows this is true, because recently an acquaintance told him, "Oh, yes, there's been Barry Fraser on the radio ever since I can remember!" And that acquaintance was over thirty years old!

Our sincere congratulations to you, Barry, now and in the future.

Northern Branch, Tasmanian Division, W.I.A.

Tasmanian Amateur Radio Convention 1986 (TARC '86)

TARC '86 NEWS - TARC '86 NEWS - TARC '86 NEWS - TARC '86 NEWS

DATES: 15th & 16 March 1986

VENUE: Australian Maritime College, Newnham, Launceston.

TIMES: 9am to 5pm daily.

DINNER: 7.15pm for 8pm, Saturday 15th March 1986 at the Australian Maritime College.

DINNER COST: \$22 per person - 4 Course Meal with all the wine one can drink ! (Orange juice also supplied free). Dance Music (not too loud ! - VK7Z00). Menu attached,

DINNER TICKETS: Available January, from Leon, VK7NHG (Tel: 003 44 7858) PLEASE book early.

ACCOMMODATION: At the Maritime College: \$19 per person twin share, or \$22 or \$27 per person single. All prices include Bed & Breakfast. (also available Friday evening).

COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS: Leon VK7NHG QTHR (Tel: (003) 44 7858).

SET UP TIME: Displays for TARC '86 may be set up in "Norfolk Hall" during Friday afternoon onwards. Please contact Rick VK7ZZ for further details (Tel: (003) 31 9902). Requests for tables/chairs/breathing space should be left with Mike VK7MA if possible.

HOME BREW PRIZE: A prize will be awarded to the best piece of Home Brew equipment on display at TARC '86 - Contact Mike VK7ZWW for entry details.

BAR: The Maritime College's Bar will be open on Saturday from 12pm to 2pm, 5pm to 8pm and till midnight at the dinner for beer sales. The Bar will again be open on Sunday 11am to 2pm.

LUNCH: Hot and cold lunches will be available on both days, the average cost being \$2.50

TEAS: Morning & Afternoon Tea will be available on both days whenever required.

HELP: Would anyone wishing to offer their services in any way what-so-ever to make TARC another success please contact Rick VK7ZZ (Tel: 003 31 9902) - Specially interested in hearing from people who might like to present a short lecture on a topic in the Maritime College's Auditorium in front of Amateur TV Cameras !

INSURANCE: Insurance cover for equipment at TARC '86 is being arranged.

NON-AMATEUR TARC VISITORS: It is intended to provide a free mini bus trip to a suitable venue on Saturday - ideas include The Gorge, Waverly Woollen Mills etc.

QSL CARDS: Once again, would anyone with exotic QSL cards who would be willing to display them at TARC please let it be known to VK7BD, VK7Z00, VK7ZZ, VK7NHG or VK7ZWW.

TARC DINNER MENU.

Seafood Bisque
or
Stockpot Soup

Pate Maison
or
Flounder Fillet with Sauce Tartare

Filet Mignon Maison
(served with Parsley Butter)
or
Chicken & Veal Kiev
or
Grilled Trout Meuniere

Black Forest Gateaux
or
Crepe Grand Marnier

Coffee & Mints

Table Wines & Fruit Juice

TARC '86 News from Rick VK7ZZ, (Chairman TARC '86 Committee)
32 Dandenong Road, Trevallyn, Tasmania 7250. Tel: (003) 31 9902 (home)
or (003) 26 0726 (work).

18th December 1985

Worked All Tasmania Award.

(From Bob VK7NAI, Awards Manager)

To 31st. December, 1985, 27 awards have been issued for the WATA. For those interested, I have listed the recipients and the class of award.

1. VK7NAI	80m SSB	10. VK7NAI Novice	80m	19. VK2BMH	HF SSB
2. L30037	80m SSB	11. VK3PYB	80m SSB	20. VK7NBF	80m SSB
3. ZL1AQO	80m SSB	12. VK7BD	80m SSB	21. VK1MV	HF SSB
4. VK2KfV	80m SSB	13. VK3PXC	80m SSB	22. VK7NCP	80m SSB
5. VK7NAX	80m SSB	14. L40018	SWL Open	23. VK2DJJ	80m SSB
6. VK2JBM	80m SSB	15. VK2NQM	80m SSB	24. VK2PXS	80m SSB
7. VK2PZC	80m SSB	16. VK2PKT	80m SSB	25. VK2AKP	HF SSB
8. VK3DMZ	HF SSB	17. VK2NAN	80m SSB	26. VK3DVF	80m SSB
9. VK1ZL	HF SSB	18. VK1BAT	80m SSB	27. VK2NPJ	80m SSB

No applications for the award have been received since 5/9/85.

Tamar Valley Award, sponsored by the Northern Branch.

(From Bob VK7NAI, Awards Manager)

To 31st. December 1985, 15 awards have been issued.

Recipients are as follows:

1. ZL1AQO	80m SSB	6. L30037	SWL	11. VK1MV	HF
2. VK2KfV	80m SSB	7. VK2JBM	80m SSB	13. ZL2259	SWL
3. VK2CKW	80m SSB	8. VK2PXS	80m SSB	14. VK2NAN	80m SSB
4. VK7NAI	80m SSB	9. VK2PKT	80m SSB	15. VK2NPJ	80m SSB
5. VK7BD	2m SSB	10. L40018	SWL	16. VK3CQP	80m SSB

Award No. 12 is being held pending re-application.

Cygnet Fishing Carnival.

Now what on earth is a fishing Carnival doing in "QRM"? Well, the Editor hasn't lost his marbles, as you will see:

On Sunday 2nd March 1986, Ian VK7ZBQ will be setting up his tent on the Carnival site, not to catch fish, but to offer a service to all 2-way radio enthusiasts. His IFR.1200 will provide a free performance check on equipment operating between 250KHz and 1GHz. So now's your chance to give that 70cms gear a really useful examination. Ian offers an accurate check on Rx and Tx: 12dB SINAD, noise floor check on SSB, Tx power output and frequency error. Starting time: 12 noon, probably running through until 5 p.m. or so. The Carnival site is on the football oval, behind the R.S.L. Club, and will be signposted. A 240v. supply MAY be available, but to be on the safe side it would be as well to expect to use 12 volts. Any further details can be obtained from Ian.

73 Magazine - Silver Eagle Awards.

If you are a regular reader of "QRM", you will be aware of the contributions made by VK3YJ, Jim from Altona, south of Melbourne. He has been the International Correspondent for "73" for some time, and has recently been honoured with the "Silver Eagle Award" for continued meritorious service to that magazine.

He writes: "As the only outsider to get mentioned in despatches for the Silver Eagle, I feel' quite proud that we Aussies got in where no others could. (The Award) is a beaut mic., and it works like a charm".

Congratulations to you, Jim - it's a fitting reward for all the hard work you put in. We hope you find great delight in using your mic., and impressing us all with the high quality of your audio.

John VK7JK.

Two Sides to the "HAM" Question.

RADIO HAMS LOSE THEIR LICENCES

CANBERRA: The licences of two Brisbane UHF CB (citizen-band) radio operators have been suspended for anti-social behaviour on the air waves, says a spokesman for the Department of Communications.

The two operators were penalised for a number of breaches of operating conditions, including spoken abuse and insults, threats of physical violence, sexual innuendoes, singing and mimicking.

The suspensions, made under provisions of the recently proclaimed Radiocommunications Act, will be in force till December 26 in one case and till January 1, 1986, in the other.

"The suspensions are indicative of the department's determination to stamp out anti-social behaviour in radiocommunications operations," the spokesman said.

West Australian 19/12/85

The hams opt out of CB label

CITIZEN-band (CB) radio operators were not called radio "hams," a member of the WA branch of the Wireless Institute of Australia said yesterday.

The term "ham" applied to licensed amateur radio operators who sat for examinations set by the Department of Communications, said institute secretary Fred Parsonage.

Institute members, who number about 1500 in WA, were worried about a heading in Thursday's

issue of *The West Australian* which referred to CB operators as radio hams.

This was a common misconception, Mr Parsonage said.

"A radio ham is a historical term that has evolved since the days of Marconi," he said. "No one knows its origin."

"Amateur radio is an international hobby which has no barriers."

"We currently have our own satellite, Oscar, in orbit. It was built by amateurs throughout the world but was launched through the American space programme."

Amateur radio played an important part in world affairs, especially major disasters, he said.

West Australian 21/12/85

Mr. Parsonage may say no-one knows the origin of the term "ham", but what do you think of this? (Contributed by Henry VK7HV).

"Have you ever wondered why we amateur radio operators are called hams? Well, it goes like this: The call WØAIXNV was applied for in 1908, and was the callsign of one of the first amateur wireless stations, operated by some members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Elbert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggy Murray. At first they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray, but tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision, so they changed it to Hy-Al-Mu using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless Hyalmu and a Mexican ship named Hyalmo, so they decided to use only the first letters of each name and the call became HAM.

In the early pioneer unregulated days of radio, amateurs picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of Congressional Committees in Washington, and they gave much time to proposed legislation designed critically to limit amateur activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the Committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed he sent for Hyman to appear before the Committee. He was put on the stand to describe how the little amateur station was built, and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that, if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they would be ~~unable~~ to afford the high licence fees or to cope with all the other requirements which were set up in the bill.

The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the other amateur stations in the country crying out to be saved from the menace of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. Finally the bill got to Congress and every speaker talked about the little station HAM.

That's how it started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated the station HAM with amateurs. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time, in radio an amateur is a HAM.

(Reprinted from Mike & Key, Florida Skip, Break-in IARU Magazine)
via VK4BEI RBBS.

SO YOU WANT TO CONTACT THE EDITOR?

His name is John Rogers. His callsign is VK7JK. His telephone number is 002.293402. His address is:

1, Darville Court,
Blackman's Bay,
Hobart, 7152.

And when you lose your copy of "QRM", remember he's QTHR. When he is at home, the 2m rig is normally running and listening to Repeater 2.

F O R S A L E .

I am selling one "Siemens" 100 Teletype machine, complete with loop supply plus information on how to construct an RTTY demod.

Please contact Warren VK7CV, 15, Petchey St., Bellerive.

Copies of this newsletter will be distributed to WIA members at Branch meetings and to other interested subscribers by post at purely nominal cost. Anyone who wishes to take up this offer, please contact the Editor.

North Western Branch News.

At the December A.G.M. of the North Western Branch of the W.I.A. (Tasmanian Division), the following Members were elected as office bearers and holders of special positions for 1986:

President:	Mr. Robert Gore,	VK7KAB.
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Ross Bonney,	VK7WP.
	Mr. John Webster,	VK7KDR.
Secretary:	Mr. Tony Clayton,	VK7AH.
Treasurer:	Mr. Bruce Marshall,	VK7MB.
Repeater & Beacon Coord:	Mr. Andrew Perkins,	VK7ZAP.
QSL Bureau:	Mr. Max Hardstaff,	VK7KY.
Youth Activities:	(As yet unfilled)	
Activities:	Mr. Greg Stammers,	VK7ZBT.
News & Publicity:	Mr. Frank Hughes	VK7ZFH.
Librarian & Publications:	Mr. Terry McMullen,	VK7BV.
WICEN Coordinator:	Mr. John Duncombe,	VK7ZPT.
RTTY Broadcasts:	Mr. Florian Biner.	
Publicity:	Mr. Ron Churcher,	VK7RN.

An RTTY Tip, from the VK4BEI RTTY Mail Box.

(This was contributed by Henry VK7HV).

Stereo equalizers can be very useful at an RTTY Station to tailor the frequency response between the receiver and the demodulator. As each control gives 12dB gain or loss, the response can be made to peak at or near the demodulation centre frequency. Twice as much equalizer range can be had by connecting the left and right channels in series (output of one to the input of the other). With this series connection, you can get 24dB lift at the desired frequency, and by setting all other controls at -12dB, you can get 24dB loss at all other frequencies.

This means the desired frequency range is 48dB higher than all other frequencies outside this range. Of course, you really need an equalizer with a frequency band control at or near your demodulator centre frequency, as if you needed to raise two controls to include the desired frequency range, the benefits may be somewhat reduced. (Especially if it is a five band type equalizer).

This idea can be useful for CW and even for phone as it will sometimes be found that hard-to-understand speech can be put through the equalizer and made more readable.

Reprint from the VK4TTY News,
from VK4KUG News Editor.

WOULD ALL ASPIRING CONTRIBUTORS TO "QRM" PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EDITOR'S CLOSING DATE FOR COPY FOR THE MARCH EDITION WILL BE

FEBRUARY 28th.

A CURE for TVI caused by amateur radio transmitters.

From Warren VK7CV.

My first experience with TVI attributed to my radio transmissions occurred when I purchased a video cassette recorder (VCR). When transmitting on the 40m band, I appeared on our TV receiver as large black lines across the screen. Investigations were carried out and showed that some VCR's have diode switching systems which make them susceptible to interference problems. A study of notes taken or otherwise acquired during my amateur radio training with Harvey (7HK) and Allan (7ZAR) suggested that the problem may be the fundamental signal overloading the VCR circuitry, so with this in mind, I decided to build a trap to modulate the incoming signal to the TV. I have an external colour TV antenna which had balun and a 75 ohm coaxial feed line to the VCR. First I removed the balun and coax and replaced them with 300 ohm TV ribbon. The TV signal was still O.K., but the TVI was still there. In my notes I found a plan for a simple trap, so decided to have a go at it. I cut a piece of 100 mm sewer pipe (PVC) 100 mm long, drilled a 6 mm hole near each end, and then wound 6 (six) turns of RG59/U coax around the pipe with about 100 mm extended through the holes in the pipe. Next I bared the braid on each end of the coax and soldered a 150pF trimmer capacitor across them. A 75 to 300 ohm balun was fitted to one end and a Belling Lee fitting to the other. This was installed near the VCR between it and the antenna. After some fiddling with the capacitor, the result was:

N O M O R E T V I ! ! !

V H F S M O R G A S B O R D .

The 1985/6 sporadic E season has been producing some of the best and most consistent openings for some little time on 6 metres with a real possibility of working all VK mainland call areas and ZL mainland call areas in the one day together with such 'goodies' as FK8, P29, VK9, (Lord Howe Island), VK9 (Willis Island), VK9 (Norfolk Island) and ZM8 (Kermadecs) tossed in for good measure. Even 3D2-land has been heard here.

December 17th. was a 'red letter day' for this scribe (who after nearly 25 years of waiting was a bit cynical!!). Got on air at 0640Z to find 6 metres well and truly open to all mainland ZL, with signals well over S9 both ways. After noting that 144.1 'sounded lively', an arrangement was made on 6 to test the path on 2m SSB. Lo and behold, at 0727Z 2-way contact was established with George, ZL3PN, in Christchurch, with signals well over S9 each way initially. This led to a contest type scramble for contacts until 0830Z when the path closed after a final short word with ZL3PN - the path length was approximately 2050Km. Strangely enough, only Ian (7ZIF) and myself worked the 2m opening from the south - where were all the other VHF 'buffs'??? Ian worked ZL3's and yours truly managed a solitary ZL1 among quite a collection of ZL3's.

26th. and 27th. December - Yet another 2m 'red letter day' which started at 2259Z and going through to about 0100Z (on 27/12). It

all began with a 5/9 each way contact with VK4TN on the Gold Coast and others in the Brisbane area, working gradually down through the Gunnedah and Narrabri areas in VK2 - there were many fine contacts to be had. A few weak VK3 signals were heard towards the end of the opening, but nothing worked from my QTH.

Just for an encore, as it were, during a terrific 6m opening on January 8th., to avoid some of the QRM around on that band, 2m was again investigated with the beam out towards ZL - a CQ at 0717Z immediately brought a 5/7 response from ZL30D in Christchurch, who informed me that my 40 over signal on 144.1 had blasted out some local ZL 'backscatter' contacts going on at the time but not audible here. In the 'pile-up' which followed, a number of other ZL3's were heard but not a great many worked due to the general tumult which resulted.

Whoever said there was nothing much exciting happening on VHF?? That lot gave me the biggest 'buzz' on VHF for a long time. I just hope the next good one won't be quite so long in coming along - BUT I'LL BE LISTENING even if it is.

Greg VK7KJ.

The Tasmanian Devil Award.

The first certificate for this award was issued on 3rd. February 1980 to VK7RM, and the last certificate to date was number 351 issued to a ZL-SWL. 351 certificates at 50 contacts each equals 17550 contacts plus a similar number of acknowledgments (it takes two to tango) brings the number to 35100 participants. In addition, there have been countless thousands of those who have not qualified as yet. Over the six years, 168 awards have gone to overseas stations. During the last twelve months on each Tuesday night there has been an average of eleven Tasmanian amateur stations on the net, and 23 outside the State.

During the nets all stations are advised that if any operators, their families or friends are thinking of a visit to Tasmania, arrangements can be made for them to receive up to date information from the Tourist Bureau at no cost to them or us. This is due to the initiative of Greg VK7NGH, and many people have expressed their thanks for this exclusive service.

Due to cricket matches, plus the deteriorating conditions on 80m in the last few months, support from Tasmanian amateurs has been falling. We therefore appeal to you to spare an occasional hour or so on 3.59KHz from 1000Z. Even 30 minutes from a station who is not a regular would be more than welcome. It is also an excellent opportunity for new calls to learn correct procedure (don't worry if you make a few mistakes at first - you will be coached in the politest possible manner). If long skip occurs and you can't hear the net controller, a Mainland station will relay and call you in your turn.

Finally, a word of thanks to all those who have been consistent supporters of the net.

(from Bob, VK7NBF)

THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE of AUSTRALIA

TASMANIAN DIVISION

Notice of Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Tasmanian Division of the Wireless Institute of Australia will be held at the Auditorium, Australian Maritime College, Launceston, Tasmania on Saturday 15th March, 1986 commencing 2.30 pm.

AGENDA

1984 Minutes (read and adopted)
Presidents Report
Treasurers Report
Divisional Reports
Notices of Motion
General Business
Election of Office Bearers (ex officio)
Election of 1986 Divisional Councillors
Meeting Close

Nomination for VK7 Council 1986.

Nomination Form for VK7 Council

I nominate.....callsign.....

for a position in the VK7 Council for the year 1986.

Proposer.....callsign.....

Seconder.....callsign.....

I, the proposed, hereby accept the nomination for the above position.

Signed.....(nominee).....date.

Forward to The Secretary, W.I.A. Tas. Division,
P.O. Box 1010, Launceston, Tasmania, 7250
by 22nd. Feb. 1986.

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Microwave Module 1296 Mhz Converter 28Mhz IF. \$55.00

Icom IC720A HF Transceiver \$1150.00

AWA 25M 1J Low Band Transceivers as is \$40.00 each

Pye FM739 Hi-Band Base Station \$150.00

Pye FM739 Lo-Band Base Station 12Volt DC operation \$50.00

Hewlet Packard Signal Generator not operating \$60.00

Sine Wave Generator operational Valve unit \$20.00

Racal 10c/s - 200k/c Frequency and period meter \$30.00

Uniden 2020 HF Transceiver Power transformer burnt out. Unit works OK as
Amateur Band Receiver when powered up with external 12 Volt supply.
\$150.00

Motorola Multi-Channel extension boards. There are 14 of the following
components on each board.

NPN transistor 3.5-14Pf trimmer .01 200v cap 1 Mfd 35v cap
plus many other 100pf and 510 pf mica caps \$4.00 each.

Contact Joe Gelston VK7JG.

KENWOOD

AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS

PRICE LIST EFFECTIVE 1ST JANUARY 1986

MODEL	DESCRIPTION	SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE
AC-10	AC ADAPTOR FOR CD-10	\$ 33.00
AJ-3	AERIAL ADAPTOR FOR TH-21/41	18.00
AL-1	LIGHTNING ARRESTOR 100w - so 239	55.00
AL-1N	LIGHTNING ARRESTOR 100w - N-type	65.00
AL-2	LIGHTNING ARRESTOR 1KW - so 239	65.00
AL-2N	LIGHTNING ARRESTOR 1KW - N-type	75.00
AT-130	ANTENNA TUNER - COMPACT MOBILE	225.00
AT-230	ANTENNA TUNER - BASE STATION	336.00
AT-250	ANTENNA TUNER - AUTOMATIC	650.00
AX-2	SHOULDER STRAP FOR TR-2500/2600	54.00
BS-5	PAN ADAPTOR FOR SM-220 3.395MHZ	108.00
BS-8	PAN ADAPTOR FOR SM-220 8.8MHZ	108.00
BT-1	BATTERY CASE FOR TR-2400	16.00
BT-2	BATTERY CASE FOR TR-2500/3500	18.00
BT-3	BATTERY CASE FOR TR-2600/3600	18.00
BU-1		19.00
CD-10	CALL SIGN DISPLAY - LCS SYSTEM	220.00
DC-21	DC-DC CONVERTER FOR TH-21A/41A	44.00
DC-25	DC-DC CONVERTER FOR TR-2500/3500	44.00
DC-26	DC-DC CONVERTER FOR TR-2600/3600	44.00
DCK-1	DC CONVERSION KIT FOR R-600/ -2000	14.00
DS-2	DC-DC CONVERTER FOR TS-520/820 /830	178.00
EB-2	EXTERNAL "C" SIZE BATTERY CASE FOR TH-21/41	38.00
EB-3	EXTERNAL "C" SIZE BATTERY CASE FOR TH-2600/3600	38.00
FA-4	EXTERNAL FAN FOR TS-130E	38.00
FC-10	REMOTE FREQUENCY READ OUT FOR TM-201/401	93.00

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The prices listed are subject to change without notice.