

THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE

OF AUSTRALIA

MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Tasmanian Division.
Box 851J. G. P. O.
HOBART.

FEBRUARY 1961.

PRESIDENT.
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VK7AL

Price. 6d.
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Mr. C. Harrison.
VK7CH

SECRETARY.
Mr. K. Millin
VK7KA

Registered at G.P.O. Hobart. for transmission by Post as a periodical.

GENERAL MEETING. The next General Meeting of the Tasmanian Division will be held at the Club Rooms, 147 Liverpool St. on Wed. February 1st. 1961 at 2000 hrs.

LECTURE. We are again fortunate in that our Lecturer this month will be Dr. Grote Reber, W9GFZ. His subject will be "The Radio Astronomy Centre at Greenbank, West Virginia." Most of us recall with pleasure the previous Lectures that Dr. Reber has given us and those who were unfortunate enough to miss these talks are urged not to miss this one. I quote from QST March 1960. "Twenty-five years ago Grote Reber, W9GFZ, set up a radio-telescope in his back yard and focussed on strange sounds coming from the depths of space. His neighbours, (and some of his ham friends) thought that Grote had slipped a cog, but the truth is that he had imagination and his neighbours didn't. Radioastronomy is now a very active and fast-moving science- and Reber is still playing an important part in it." Dr. Reber will be in Tasmania for quite a time so I believe and possibly we will have the opportunity of seeing some of his radio equipment in operation.

VISITORS TO THIS LECTURE WILL BE VERY WELCOME.

Northern Zone. The February Meeting of this Zone will be held on Feb. 10th. at the residence of Associate G. Ranft. 12 Lime Ave. Launceston. No Details of activity at time of writing.

North-West Zone. The next Meeting of this Zone will be held at Lakin's Hall, Ulverstone on Friday Feb. 7th. at the usual time. No details of activity at time of writing.

S.W.L. Group. The next meeting of this Group will be held at the Club Rooms, 147 Liverpool St. on Feb. 8th. next. No details of activity at time of writing.

V.H.F. Group. I have the following information from the Group Sec. The next Meeting will be held on Feb. 15th. at the Club Rooms. Group Meetings have been well attended but with room for more, so come along and find out what V.H.F. stands for. Rules for the Athol Johnson Memorial Contest are attached. There is going to be a marked increase in activity this year with all bands up to 576 Mc/s. in use - possibly even 2000 Mc/s. If you haven't yet tried V.H.F. operating this is the ideal time to begin - you'll be surprised how simple it can be. The dates - 18th, 19th, and 25th, 26th. February 1961.
50 Mc/s.

Interstate DX is beginning to wane, JA's are expected soon. Best openings were Dec. 26th & 27th and Jan 1st. mainly VK2. 4. & 5. VK7 MY and VK7ZAI worked VK6, VK7ZAI has heard 9XK, ZL's and a W4. Local activity is on the increase, newcomers include Barney, VK7ZAK and Geoff, VK7ZAS. During a typical week end 11 stations would be active around Hobart.

144 Mc/s.

Activity here is rather low at present. A number of stations are constructing equipment.

288 Mc/s.

This is the band on which to hear all the local gossip

dished out expertly by, mainly, VK7's ZAS, ZAI and ZAU.
Overheard.

Dave VK7ZAI and Geoff VK7ZAS are at present testing 576 Mc/s gear. David is also surveying the local garbage tins, has decided that one type has a lid of ideal shape for a 2000 Mc/s parabola, so watch yours.

It is strongly rumoured that that ardent CW man (good luck to him Ed.) Ted Beard may be secured for 6 mx. in the near future.

Alan, VK7MY, will have a monster in the air soon complete with 6, 2 & 1 mx beams. Guess he'll need all his tractors, horses etc. for this job. (Sgnd) D. Thorne. VHF Group Sec,

ATHOL JOHNSON MEMORIAL CONTEST. RULES.

This year the Contest will be held over two week-ends.

18th. & 19th. Feb. 0001 hrs. Sat. to 2359 Sunday.

25th. & 26th. Feb. 0001 hrs. Sat to 2359 Sunday. Times E.A.ST

3. Sections. 1. Transmitting. Telephony only.
2. Receiving.
4. The Contest will be VK7 only, but any Mainland Amateurs will be welcome to take part if they are visiting VK7.
5. All entrants will operate within the terms of their licences and observe all regulations laid down by the P.M.G. Dept.
6. All bands above and including the 50 Mc/s band. Skeds may be arranged for VHF band.
7. SCORING. One point per mile measured over the shortest distance between the two stations, points claimed on the next whole mile.
8. MAPS TO BE USED. Lands and Survey scale $\frac{1}{4}$ " per mile. The station will give its location by grid reference, and it is the responsibility of the operator to give the correct map reference of his exact position.
9. Stations will exchange reports and map references by giving readability, signal strength/map ref. (6-figure ref.)
10. Operators need only purchase the map sheet of the area that concerns him, i.e. the area in which he will be operating. He must enter the map sheet number in his log.
11. Standard log sheets shall be used.
12. An operator may enter for both sections, but he must submit two separate logs. Points claimed in each section will be counted as two separate entries.
13. A station is allowed only one contact per band with any other station, portable, mobile or fixed. To qualify for another contact with the same station, one of the following rules must be observed: -
 - (a) Change to another band;
 - (b) one or both stations move to or outside a 5-mile radius from the position of their previous contact;
 - (c) in the case of two fixed stations, a 6-hour period must elapse between contacts.
14. AWARDS. The winner of the transmitting section will hold the Perpetual Trophy until the result of the next Contest is declared.

The Trophy will remain the property of the Wireless Institute of Australia, Tasmanian Division and shall be returned to the Institute if the Contest lapses.

Certificates will be awarded to the winner of each Section.

50 - 54 Mc/s Band.

The Federal VHF Manager advises receipt of notification from P.M.G. Dept. stating that amateurs will be permitted to use the above band after Dec 31st. 1960 for an unspecified period and that when required to relinquish this band, one month's notice will be given.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER. 1961.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner this year will be held on March 25th. and the venue will be "Lynfield", 320 Davey St. Hobart. This is located ½ mile past the Globe Hotel on the same side of the road travelling towards the Mountain. In all probability there will be a sign on the gate of this establishment for the benefit of Country Members. The Annual General Meeting will commence at 6.30 p.m. and the dinner at 7.30. p.m. Members are invited to bring one Lady guest to the Dinner this Year. For those who wish to bring their Lady guests along at 6.30 p.m. facilities are available whereby the Ladies may be entertained while the Annual General Meeting is in progress. NOW? THIS IS IMPORTANT. Please notify Mr. E. Cruise, VK7EJ, at 46 Colville St. Battery Point, 'phone 25617 if YOU are going to attend. DO IT NOW so that the catering arrangements may be finalized. The cost of the Dinner, which will include the use of the premises music for dancing supper and neck oil will be £1-1-0 per person. This is the first time that we will have the Ladies with us so let us all make every effort to make this a night to remember.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Para 57 of the Articles of Association. "Notices of motion for the Annual General Meeting must be received by the Secretary not less than 28 days prior to the Meeting and must be signed by at least three (3) Members.

Para 58. "Business which is not included in the Notice shall not be discussed at the Annual General Meeting without the permission of that Meeting.

So if you have anything at all which YOU wish discussed at the Annual General Meeting send the notice of motion to the Secretary before Feb. 25th. DON'T FORGET.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 1961-62.

Included with this Bulletin is a Nomination form for the Council for the ensuing twelve months. Now is the time to express your dissatisfaction or otherwise of the Council's activities for the past year. If YOU are not happy with the manner in which Institute affairs have been managed over the preceding 12 months, don't waste any more time griping about this, that or the other but do a bit of constructive work and nominate who you want to be on the Council. Remember, one of the most effective ways to ruin any organization is to sit on the sidelines and criticize the efforts of those Members who hold Executive positions and not do anything yourself, even to the extent of not letting these Members know just what YOU consider is wrong or ways in which our Institute can be made better. If you are one of these people, NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.

BALLOT FOR FEDERAL COUNCILLOR.

Also with this Bulletin is a Ballot Paper for the Election of the VK7 Federal Councillor. Another opportunity for you to exercise your powers of electing that Member whom you wish to represent your State in Federal Matters.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The February Council Meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. D. Watson, VK7DW? on Thursday, 16th. Feb. next. Zone & Group Secretaries are again advised that if they have any material for inclusion in the March issue of this Bulletin, it is necessary for it to be in the hands of the Divisional Secretary before the Saturday morning following the Council Meeting. If I have not got the information, I cannot print it.

AMATEUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The P.M.G. Dept. have selected the following Members to the Amateur Advisory Committee for 1961.

Mr. E. Nicholls, VK7RY. Mr. K. Johnston VK7RX.

Mr. I. Nichols, VK7ZZ. Mr. Ted Evans, VK7FJ.

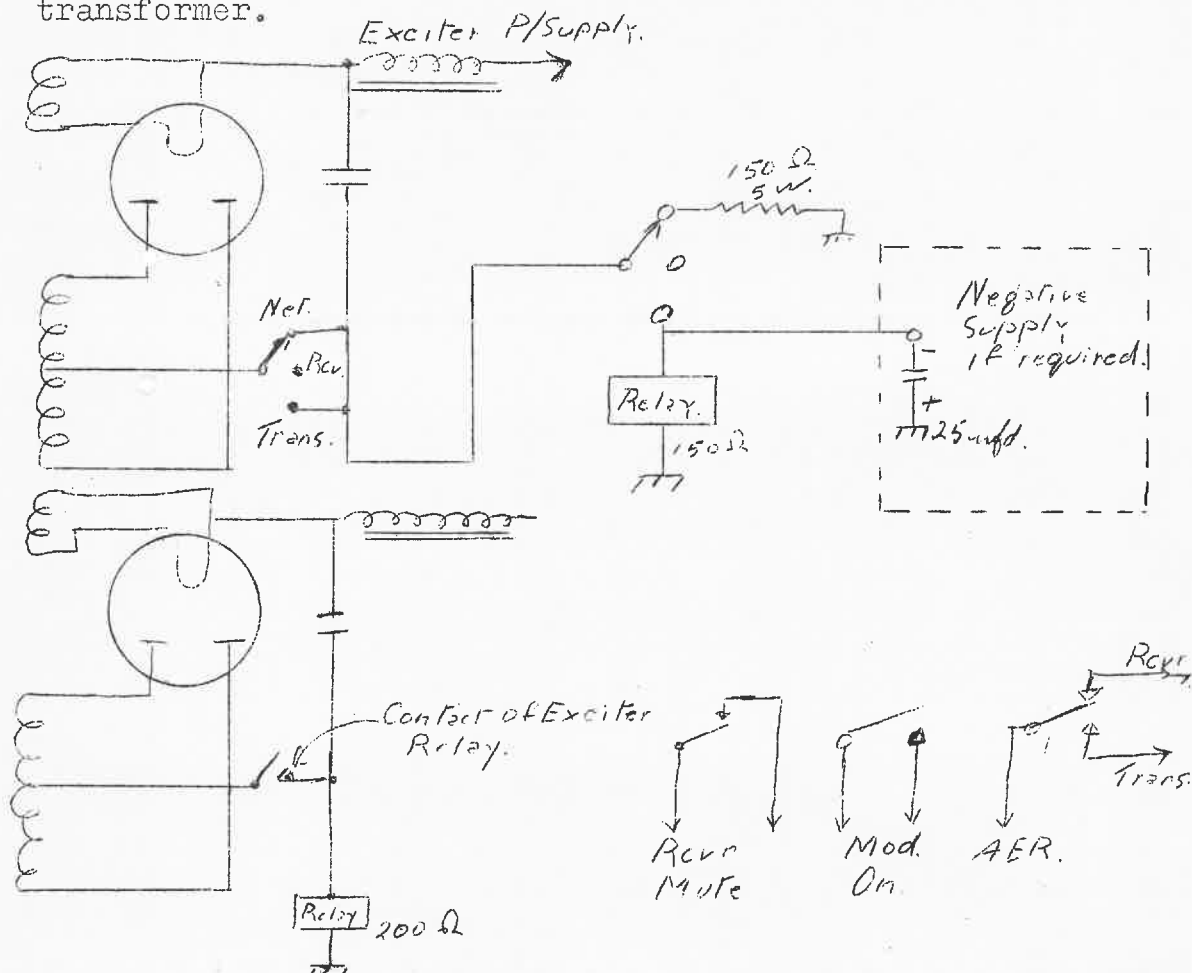
Mr. E. Cruise, VK7EJ. Mr. "Jock" Nisbet, VK7BN. (non-W.I.A.)

TECHNICAL. USING SURPLUS RELAYS.

There are quite a few surplus relays available but getting the DC for their operation is sometimes a problem. One way of doing it is by placing them in series with a power supply. The current required varies with the type of relay but 50 ma. seems adequate for the smaller types and 100 ma. for the larger, aerial switching types. The DC passing through them should be reasonably filtered to prevent hum, or buzz, whichever you prefer.

A typical installation is shown below. The values of resistance shown were those that happened to be on hand, lower values would probably be OK. Check that the coil voltage is not exceeded and that the contacts are adequately insulated for the voltage broken.

N.B. Do not switch in the centre-tap of the transformer if the filter is of the choke input variety. Use a separate heater transformer and switch in the primary of the plate transformer.



Well, I guess that is all for this month. NOW DON'T FORGET. Read through this Bulletin again and do the things that YOU have been asked to do. Don't put it off until tomorrow or the day after and above all don't just "leave it to the other fellow" He might leave it to you and then the net result will be nil.