

THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

TASMANIAN DIVISION

BOX 851J, G.P.O., HOBART.

SEPTEMBER 1966

M O N T H L Y B U L L E T I N

PRICE 5c.

PRESIDENT: Mr. T. Allen
VK7AL

TREASURER: Mr. C. Connor
VK7CT

SECRETARY: Mr. C. Russel-Green
VK7CR

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

EDITORIAL

Dedicated to all XYL's alias "Grass Widows".

Reprint of a letter to the RSGB Bulletin of October 1965, by Mrs. W. Wills, XYL of G6OU. (From W.A. Bulletin December 1965).

"Having been married to a Radio "Ham" for over 40 years, I have come to the conclusion that "hams" are not quite as other men, and that certain qualities are necessary in dealing with them, such as the patience of a Saint, the tact of a Diplomat, the love of one's own company, and above all, a sense of humour. The "ham" bug attacks with its antenna and its victim will hereafter think only in terms of aerials; therefore your sense of humour must see that a 30ft. pole erected bang in the middle of a pocket size handkerchief lawn is "just the job."

You are expected to take kindly to every available flat surface in the house being used as a parking lot for radio books, all open at the right places, and the table cloth will invariably be covered with squiggles and doodles resembling a map of the underground.

If he is on the air it is impossible to get any "Ham" to a meal; he will listen to know voice calling nearer than Madrid.

I have managed over the years to pick up some of the jargon used by "hams", most of our guests being fellow border-line cases, and known only by letters and numbers. For instance, I know longer think there is something wrong with my cooking when they are discussing "feedback". The moving up and down of K.C's to get out of the mush is no longer Dutch; but in spite of all the talk of fine business and 73 (or 88), what really denotes the addict is the mobile stage, when he can no longer venture outside without his radio so that he can contact the "ham" he is visiting (he will be visiting no one but a "ham") to tell him when he leaves the house, when he turns a corner or goes over or under a bridge etc; thus his fellow victim knows exactly where he is until he is right outside the house. Of course in this way one could say we always know where our men are.

These are but a few of the hazards of life with a "ham"; perhaps we are no worse off than the grass widows of yachtsmen, golfers and fishermen; at least we have plenty of time to study the "circuit diagrams" in the knitting book!"

MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER.

- SEPT. 9th Northern Zone Meeting, Adult Education Rooms, 51 York St. Launceston.
6th. North West Zone Meeting, Lakins Hall, Ulverstone, 2000 hrs.
7th. Headquarters General Meeting, 147 Liverpool St., Hobart 2000 hrs.
19th Council Meeting.
21st. V.H.F. Group Meeting, Club Rooms, Hobart.

NOTICES.

R.D. CONTEST. Remember, logs must be post marked not later than 5th September, 1966
Address them to.... Federal Contest Manager, WIA, GPO Box N1002,
Perth, West Australia. LATE ENTRIES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. At the council meeting, 18th July 66 the following members were
deleted from the Membership list.....

Aplin P.L., Byrne A.E., Campbell I.M., Chalk P.W., Filby I.R., Forth R.B., Ives M.W.
Lacey N.C., Macey J.E., Mann R.A., Power G.P., Slowan D.N., Stirling J.R.,
Stutterd N., Tanner D., Ward T.E., Nicholls W.J., 13th Hobart Scout Group.

The members listed below have subsequently paid and are reinstated, although
A.R. will not be received until November.....

Macey J.E., Tanner D., 13th Hobart Scout Group.

FOR SALE. Hand operated rotary duplicating machine (uses stencil)....\$40 O.N.O.
Apply... Equipment Exchange Bulletin, P.O. Box 177, Sandy Bay, Hobart.

WANTED. A STENCIL TYPIST is urgently needed to prepare stencils for the Equipment
Exchange Bulletin. The EEB is a rather nice technical publication, produced as a
hobby, but it is no fun if the staff have to kill themselves over it. Our previous
stencil typist had to work harder at his studies, and the editor simply cant do it
all. Applicant should live in Tasmania, preferably near Hobart, have some kind of
familiarity with technical terminology, should be able to type using more than one
finger, and should be an idealist. The latter, because we can only afford about 40c.
per quarto-length stencil, and the work should be undertaken partly out of a desire
to help provide Australia with a good casual technical publication.

Applicant(s) should write to P.O. Box 177, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, stating
qualifications (eg. two hands plus empty wallet.).

CONGRATULATIONS to Winston (VK7ZAP in the past) and Mike (ex VK7ZAV) on attaining
their full ticket. Both are very active on all bands, Winston under the call VK7WH,
and Mike, VK7FB.

Beleive there may be a new limited licensee or two in the Northern area,
so congratulations to these and any others we may have missed.

STOP PRESS. Word has been received of two more successful candidates. Les Cooper
who has not to date of printing had a chance to take out a call sign; we hope to
hear Les on the HF bands before too long. In the North, Colin, VK7ZCP Is a new
call on the bands.

TECHNICAL.

CRYSTAL CHECK POINT ON 145 Mcs By VK6MM (W.A. Bulletin April 1966)

With the idea of establishing a 2 metre AM net for home station use, a first requirement was for a simple but reasonably accurate frequency check point somewhere in the 144 mcs band. Some crystal calibrators will give a usable signal at this frequency; but I doubt whether many amateurs possess such an animal. I wanted something that I could have handy and switch on when I needed it.

By choosing a frequency of 145 mcs it is possible to use a 5 mcs crystal which may be zero beat with WWV and multiplied by 29 to give the required check point at 145 mcs.

The popular grid-plate oscillator with series tuning of the plate circuit to 145 mcs gives useful signal input to my receiver without the need for special coupling, i.e. the oscillator is just left running on the bench a few feet away and a signal is readily detectable in the receiver. It is not intended to be used as an alignment source but only as a frequency check.

I found it possible to beat the third harmonic with WWV on 15 mcs so that a frequency difference of only 1 cycle or so existed, which represents an accuracy of 10 cycles or so at 145 mcs, entirely satisfactory for the present purpose.

Initial warm up drift of the particular crystal I use is approximately 10 cycles on the fundamental but stabilizes after a few minutes.

If the idea of a net on this frequency catches on, such a device will be useful not only for getting transmitters on frequency, but to set the tuning of the normal home station receiver while working elsewhere in the shack.

The only component of any consequence is the 5 mcs crystal, although a 2.5 mcs crystal would probably also be satisfactory.

WHAT TO DO IN AN AIR RAID

1. In case of an air raid run like H... If you're inside, run outside; if you're outside, run inside. It doesn't matter where you run - just run!
2. Always make the most of an alarm. If you're in a bakery grab a pie; if you're in a movie, a blonde.
3. During an air raid always yell blue murder. It adds confusion and scares the devil out of the little kids.
4. If you find an unexploded bomb, shake it; the pin might be stuck. If it goes off, lie down; you're dead.
5. If an incendiary bomb falls in your yard, throw gasoline on it. (You can't put it out, so you may as well have some fun.)
6. Always eat plenty of garlic, onions and Limburger cheese before entering an air-raid shelter. (It may make you very unpopular with the people; but it alleviates overcrowding.)
7. Don't pay any attention to the air raid warden. If he won't get out of your way, knock him down. (He's only trying to save a place for his friends anyway.)
8. If you are the victim of a direct hit, don't go to pieces; lie still and no one will notice you.

(W.A. Bulletin August 1966)

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THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

TASMANIAN DIVISION

SEPTEMBER 1966

VHF SUPPLEMENT

By Feed Back, 7FB.

Not a great deal to report this month although we have a very important achievement in the south. John, VK7ZJG's secret project turned out to be 432 mcs equipment and on Sunday 21st of August, the 7WI broadcast went out on this band for the first time in Tasmania.

The gear is apparently performing very well and I hope it is not too long before there are several other stations on this band to keep you company John and to make use of the new 7WI service. John is also revitalising a Pye Reporter for use in the shack on the Net.

After the last VHF Group Meeting a Fox Hunt was held and judging from the comments heard on 53.035, a good time was had by all. Unfortunately, not many took part but at least one of those who did, found an interesting side line in spot-lighting several unfortunates in the Domain area.

These fox hunts are a great idea, and as no DF gear is required, they can be arranged at a moments notice, so I guess it will not be too long before we have another.

MCW practice is again being held on the 6 mhz frequency in the Hobart area by the courtesy of VK7ZZ with some aid by 7TX, 7WH and 7FB, on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 2000 hrs. There are quite a few participants this time and it is hoped a host of full calls will result.

Mad drivers are at large in full force in the Hobart area at the moment. Harvey, ZHF, was unlucky enough to be the recipient of one, the side of his car plus the WHIP was badly damaged, but all is now restored. Mike, ZMC, has also had trouble. His 2-week-old car was damaged in the rear end by an unknown gentleman (?) writing off the tail-light and damaging the body work; and 7LY and 7FB still sport a wangled-in back from a similar effort. Someone got it in for mobile hams? All three were sporting mobiles at the time!

Our old friend Mike, VK7ZMW ex of Huonville, has been active mobile in the Hobart area lately, and although there was some trouble in the receiver, Mike made quite a few contacts.

The schools and Uni have started their holidays, and Tim and Phil, ZTM & ZPT, will be active during week days through this period I guess.

Take a look at the date of this bulletin. Time is getting on isn't it. Only a couple of months before the next 6mhz DX season so get stuck into that equipment and save yourselves the last-minute rush. With the probability of conditions improving steadily over the next few years, it will pay to give 144 a thought too. There are still quite a few records to be broken on this band on E layer propagation and the more activity, the greater the chance of making interstate contacts.

That's about all for this month I think. Don't forget that news is always welcome for this, and the rest of the bulletin. VK7LY and VK7FB can be contacted on 3.5, 7, 53.035 and 144 just about any night and for those who prefer writing, the address is 223 Bathurst St. Hobart.

73s BCNU, Feed Back.