

VHF

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Well activities over the past month seem rather varied, ranging from plenty of DX to a state of complete inactivity.

V.H.F. CONTESTS IN AUCKLAND, N.Z.

Two metre contest, Sunday, August 20, from 1800 to 2200 hours N.Z.S.T. This contest is divided into four periods, each of one hour. U.h.f. Contest, 432 Mc. and above to be held on Sunday, November 19, from 1900 to 2200 hours N.Z.S.T. and will be in three periods, each of one-hour duration.

The Auckland V.h.f. Group will be holding a V.h.f. Field Day on Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th December. Hours of operation are: Saturday 1600-2200 hours, Sunday 0600-1200 hours N.Z.S.T.

NEW SOUTH WALES

52 Mc.: Activity on the lower end of the band is mainly confined to the week-end, peaking on Sunday morning. A dozen or more stations are now quite active on the 53.866 Mc. a.m. net. The activity is centred in the Blue Mountains with good signals being received in Sydney. The new 53.95 Mc. f.m. net has got away to a slow start owing to a shortage of "low-band" transceivers, but good coverage is reported by the stations on this net. The monthly 6 mx fox hunt for May was held on Sunday, 14th, with VK2ZVL acting as the fox. A small attendance was the result of inclement looking weather, although little rain was experienced. Place getters were VKs 2ZAU, 2ZPJ and 2ZEV. Interstate and country visitors are always welcome at our monthly 6 and 2 mx fox hunts.

144 Mc.: Over the past couple of weeks the activity on this band seems to have hit an all time low. Perhaps this may be attributed to the eager gathering on the frequency of the slow Morse broadcasts, as after these sessions more stations put in an appearance. Crossband contacts 144 to 432 Mc. seem to be on the increase and plans may be heard of bigger and better u.h.f. signals to come.

432 Mc.: On Saturday, May 13, a meeting was held at Wireless Centre of 432 Mc. enthusiasts. There were 12 in attendance and it was decided to form a 432 Mc. Moonbounce team whose purpose will be to conduct Moonbounce experiments and generally endeavour to increase the interest in 432 Mc. operation. Further details may be obtained from Gordon 2ZXD who was elected chairman at the meeting. Progress of this team will also be given, from time to time, on the Sunday broadcasts.

The new V.h.f. and T.v. Group Committee are anxious to hear from country members who either require assistance in v.h.f. matters or wish to offer constructive criticism of Group activities. At present plans are in hand to extend v.h.f. coverage of country areas during Sunday broadcasts on both 52 and 144 Mc. If you have plans for visiting Sydney in the near future, drop our Secretary, Norm 2ZXC, a line letting him know the dates and frequencies on which you may be working. This information will be made public so that members can be on the lookout for your signals. Information of v.h.f. activities during your proposed visit is also available from the same source.

The May meeting of the V.h.f. and T.v. Group celebrated the 20th anniversary of the post-war Group and was brightened by the presence of some of the inaugural members. Some very humorous and interesting tales of the early days was related by five of these stalwarts in the form of Horrie 2HL, Roy 2HO, Charlie 2NP, Fred 2ABC and Dave 2AWZ. Unfortunately some of the other early members were unable to attend owing to illness or prior engagements. Thanks chaps for making this meeting something to remember.

Our apologies for the non-appearance of N.S.W. v.h.f. notes in the May issue, these notes were posted on Anzac Day but evidently came to grips with the mechanical monster which delights in devouring important letters.

Some re-iteration of points in the missing notes, we hope, will be excused under the circumstances. The April meeting saw a closely contested election of officers and out of fifteen nominations, the following candidates were successful: Peter 2ZPC, Chairman; Tim 2ZTM, Vice-Chairman; Norm 2ZXC, Secretary; Keith 2ZAU, Treasurer; Bob 2ZML, Broadcaster and Publicity; Phil 2ZPI, Contest Liaison.

The V.h.f. and T.v. Group hold their meetings on the first Friday of each month at Wireless Centre, Atchison St., Crows Nest, and visitors are always welcome. Business during the meeting is kept as brief as possible and interesting lectures are the main event of the evening. See you there. 73, Keith 2ZAU.

HUNTER BRANCH

52 Mc.: This band has been very quiet, with very little activity on the Saturday and Sunday nets. Two new stations have come on six metres during the month. These are Frank 2ZFX, who uses a two-way ex disposals, and is putting out a very fine signal and is testing out a high power final, and Henry 2ZGK, of "Dora Creek".

144 Mc.: This band has been in fair shape during the past month and some good openings to Sydney have been noticed. QSB has played havoc with the signals some evenings. Dave 2ZFR has been busy with the local Shire Council getting their Civil Defence radio gear going.

Kevin 2ZKW is still doing well with the Y.M.C.A. Radio Club in Maitland with the prospects of a second YL member. 73, Mac 2ZMO.

VICTORIA

Six metres has been quite active although most of this has been on the nets, both a.m. and f.m. There have been a couple of openings, the biggest being on 28/5/67.

Two Metres: This band has not been too active but it is not bad enough to call dead. There have been a couple of minor openings but nothing of note. The fox hunts and scrambles held on this band are still very popular, even though the evenings are getting cold. The fox hunts are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2000 hrs. E.A.S.T., and the scrambles on the second Sunday at 2045 hrs. E.A.S.T. Interstate visitors are welcome to participate in these events.

V.h.f. Group Meeting: The May meeting of the Group, held on the 17th of May, saw the attendance of about sixty members and visitors who heard Alan 3AE, of the Department of Civil Aviation, speak about the communications systems of the Department. Alan used slides and tapes to assist the presentation. Some tapes were made of communications made between Australia and the U.S.A. and a Qantas plane flying across the Pacific. The noticeable point was that the frequencies used were very close to two metres and were relayed via the ABS2 satellite which is orbiting over the Pacific Ocean. The satellite is over the equator at 151 degrees west at an altitude of 22,300 miles.

The V.h.f. Group has started a v.h.f. converter project and prototype models are now being tested. More news of these will be given in future issues of "A.R." 73, Cyril 3ZCK.

EASTERN ZONE

6 Metres: On Sunday 28 5 67, between 1300 and 1600, we had a very good opening to VK5, VK4 and VK2, with such stations as 5ZLP, 4NG, 4ZFR, 4ZDK and 2ZFB. Also heard some ZLIs and ZL t.v., and Port Pirie Channel 1. The opening was observed after noticing short skip on 28 Mc. with 5HP working 2AXB and ZLs on this band.

2 Metres: The f.m. net is very active in the Zone. On Sunday 7/5/67 George 3ZCG heard the VK5 beacon peaking S8-9 QSBing to S4. The opening began late at night after 1030 p.m. when t.v. ch. 9 and 10 Adelaide caused local t.v.i. After GLV10 closed, Ch. 10 Adelaide was watched with very little snow in Morwell and Mt. Tassie and was also observed by Art 3ZAT who works at Ch. 4 and 10.

The next day, there was no sign of the beacon but that night George worked Alan 2ZEO at Deniliquin and David 3ZKU at Katunga. Alan stated that he too had heard the beacon and after calling his head off, managed to work 5ZKR at Mt. Gambier and later heard 7ZAE.

Two a.m. activity in Gippsland is just fair with most activity on Friday and Sunday evenings. As yet no signals have been heard at this QTH from the VKOCR beacon. 73, George 3ZCG.

QUEENSLAND

The monthly meeting of the Brisbane V.h.f. Group was held on Friday, 19th May. Our former President, Roy 4ZRM, resigned at the meeting and George 4ZMG was elected our new President. New face at the meeting was Peter 4ZFG. Another Peter, 4ZPC, brought along the start of a transistorised 5 Mc. s.s.b. exciter. Speaking on s.s.b., Dane 4ZAX has just acquired a Collins v.h.f. s.s.b. converter and radiates a blockbuster signal on 144 Mc. Newcomer to 144 Mc., Graham 4ZGB, is finding out how sharp 144 Mc. beams are and is lucky in having a rotator. Another newcomer to 144 Mc. is Eddie 4ZWA.

In Brisbane lately has been Eric 2ZEN, an O.T.C. man, working at Bribe Island. In the Brisbane power race this month is Malcolm 4ZEL, doing some work on his 4-125 driver, I mean, final. Royce 4ZRH also has a new final and soon will have it on the air. Roy is also active on 432 Mc. using a 6/40 into stacked 13 element Yagis. 4HD, of Woombye, is thinking of 432 Mc., but I would suggest something a little better than an 815. Suggest he beams Brisbane and talk to the 432 boys on 144 Mc. Speaking of 432, Alan 4AI has given up Amateur t.v. for other things.

Band openings into Brisbane these days are few and far between. 52 Mc. is open sporadically to Victoria and Japan if one really listens. Melbourne ATV0 was recently copied in Maryborough and North Queenslanders are having a ball with the Pacific DX. 73, 4ZMW.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Once again the winter months are with us and as expected the VK5 V.h.f. Group has again commenced a hibernation period. However, this year it appears that there are quite a few light sleepers as high activity has been noted at various times, especially of a week-end. Perhaps the prospect of JA activity is maintaining this interest in the bands, but however optimistic we are of this it is considered that August will be the earliest opportunity for the VK5s to avail themselves seriously to scratching the DX out of the noise. Contrary to any other reports previously published, no confirmed contacts between VK5 and JA have been recorded, but scatter signal reports are numerous.

A recent fox hunt on 146 megs. f.m. had the hounds completely bamboozled. Barry 5ZMW was the first hunt, but nobody could locate Jim 5ZGV, the fox, in the second hunt. During this hunt all the cars participating found themselves adjacent to a new housing area complete with vacant allotments. Not a trace of transmitting equipment was to be seen, although an S9 signal appeared to come from one particular vacant block. Eventually frustration reigned supreme until one of the hounds decided to let fly at a surveyor's peg. To everyone's amazement the signal dropped. Investigation of this surveyor's peg revealed a hollowed out section containing a vertical quarter wave dipole, fed via coaxial cable from the transmitter which was conveniently buried in a nearby site. Notwithstanding the time had crept on and no time was available for a third hunt, and Barry 5ZMW was declared the winner on the result of the first hunt. 73, Colin 5ZHIJ.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Can it be that the winter season has revived the v.h.f. bands? Often the moan is heard that there is not much activity in this neck of the woods, but things seem to be improving. Our Amateur t.v. is on the air with Warren 5WJ/T and Kevin 6ZCB/T both running test signals on 432 Mc. There is a very good article in the May West Australian V.h.f. Bulletin showing how to construct a suitable converter.

A big local do was the Hamfest at Kalgorlie which catered for everyone, both h.f. and v.h.f., a.m., f.m. and s.s.b. and even those who did not have any gear. Maybe more about this later.

The last scramble went well in the morning but there was some lack of activity in the afternoon.

The boys at Wesley College Radio Club are building up a helix with which they hope to track Australis, that is when it gets aloft.

Oh, yes, s.s.b. in the scramble in the shape of 6TU and with a very nice signal. S.s.b. signals have been spanning the hills and dales from the shack of Max 6ZFM in Bridgetown and received in Perth before and after the Sunday news at 0930.

A.m. phone on six metres is having a revival with more a.m. units becoming available ex commercial use, but how about several channels chaps, if you must use one channel, please don't all talk at once. (Note, try staggering the units by 3 kc., then it's a real mess when everyone talks at once.—Sub-Ed.) 73, Laurie 6ZEA.

VHF

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News this month has been received from VK2, VK4, VK5 and VK6. The VK7 correspondent phoned to say that activity in the northern part of the Apple Isle is virtually non-existent mainly because of the weather and good t.v. shows. There is no DX activity to report.

Remember Noel VK3ZPQ would like any reports of the VK0CR 6 metre beacon on 52.9025. Until next month, 73, Cyril 3ZCK.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The July meeting of the V.h.f. and T.v. Group was treated to an informative and interesting lecture regarding the selection of components for use at v.h.f. The lecturer, Barry 2ZAG, has been employed in the components field for many years and spoke with authority on the subject. The v.h.f. committee endeavoured to arrange lectures of interest to members for all group meetings and at the same time keep business discussion to a minimum. Meeting night is the first Friday of each month at Wireless Centre, Crows Nest. Visitors are always welcome.

The sub-committee in charge of v.h.f. group communications at Wireless Centre are making good progress and at last report had nearly finished arrangements for 2 mx tunable reception at the Centre. Plans for the 144 Mc. transmitter are also well consolidated with some thought being given to other v.h.f. frequencies. This has been a labour of love by the sub-committee and offers of physical labour or donations of equipment, of reasonable vintage, would not be unwelcome.

On Sunday evening, 23rd July, after the evening broadcast, a scramble was held with separate divisions for net frequencies. The heterodynes, etc., on 53.866 a.m. and signal blanketing on 146 f.m. would have to be heard to be believed. With the population on 53.866 now reaching into the lower 20's it would appear the alternative use of channel 1 or 2 will soon be a necessity.

An upsurge in activity on 146 Mc. f.m. has been noted in country and city districts since the last release of f.m. carphones by W.I.C.E.N. Before long it may be possible to drive over very long distances throughout the State and remain in touch with at least one other 146 Mc. operator.

Of future events the most important is the New Year Field Day. This event will take place on Dec. 30, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Many portable and home stations will be active. The V.h.f. Contest Committee would like to hear of interstate v.h.f. stations who may be mountain-topping during this period.

Incidentally have you heard the latest information of research into plating of metal used in antennae. It seems that most plating processes have a deteriorating effect on the radiating efficiency of antenna elements. Galvanising in particular has been reported by one laboratory to have caused a drop in efficiency from 13.5 db. effective gain to 6 db. effective gain. Untreated aluminium still rates high in the efficiency race but DO NOT treat it with metallised paint.

Plans are in hand to expand the population of the two metre band into the top two megacycles. Part of the general plan is to provide an alternative transmission of the Sunday v.h.f. broadcasts on approximately 147 Mc. Remember, use or lose.

The six metre population in Australia is well spread. As well as tunable transmissions, net frequencies are established throughout the two megacycles. For those mobile stations passing down the southern coastal regions in N.S.W. an active net exists on 53.962 Mb. a.m., centred on Wollongong.

The 432 Mc. moonbounce team are still holding regular meetings at Wireless Centre and u.h.f. enthusiasts are welcome. Enquiries should be directed to Gordon Clarke, 3ZXD, 73, Keith 2ZAU.

Hunter Branch.—52 Mc.: The band has been very quiet with only a few coming on the week-end hook-up at 10 a.m., the ones usually heard are 2ZWV, 2ZJG, 2ZAO and 2AYF. Channel 0 has been heard at times and Bill

2ZWN has seen signs of other channels coming across Channel 2, but no dice on 52 Mc.

144 Mc.: This band has been fairly good at times and some have worked Sydney. Two new call signs have appeared in the district recently, they are VKs 2ZSI and 2ZYK. The Hunter Branch has started 144 Mc. scrambles for their members only, with two scrambles a month until next March, when the winner will receive a good prize. 73, Mac 2ZMO.

VICTORIA

Activity on the bands has been reasonably good with quite a few new stations appearing both on 6 and 2 metres. There has not been much in the way of DX on either 6 or 2 mx.

At the July V.h.f. Group meeting about 70 members and visitors heard Les 3ZBJ give his talk and practical demonstration entitled "A New Look at V.h.f. Technique—doing it with Semiconductors". This was a very informative and easily understood lecture. Among the demonstrations given by Les were triplers to 432 and 1296 using varactor diodes and the use of a 80 cent transistor as a varactor diode to triple to 432. The r.f. source used for his demonstrations was a home built all semiconductor transceiver. The whole of Les' lecture was taped and country clubs wishing to use it should contact the Group President, Peter 3ZPA.

The Group converter project is well advanced and can now accept orders for the 6 mx converter which has more than adequate gain and a noise figure well below 6 db. For further information on these converters write or phone Peter 3ZPA or the undersigned. These converters use low cost FETs and silicon transistors and will stand a fair quantity of misuse. 73, Cyril 3ZCK.

Gippsland.—Copy from log of DX received over the minor winter peak: 25/6/67, 2022-2035, Ch. 1 t.v. DX good picture reported by 3ZOZ via ground wave; 28/6/67, 1400-1545, t.v. DX via extended ground wave; stations received ABNT3, TINT9, ABRV3, BTV6, ABEV1, BCV8, and ABSV2 Swan Hill; 1450-1805, N.Z. t.v. Ch. 1, good pix; 2/7/67, 1547-1621, Es Brisbane Ch. 0 t.v. (nil Ham sigs).

Rod VK0CR tells us that he hopes to have a 6 metre transmitter going on 53.1 Mc. using c.w. 1830-2030 hrs. daily.

Main activity in the zone has been on 2 mx f.m. chs. A and B. That seems to be all the news for now, quite a few of the boys here are busy building or setting up new gear. 73, George 3ZCG.

QUEENSLAND

The months of June and July have not been very active, probably due to the cold weather keeping everybody glued to their t.v. sets. Anyhow the old regulars are still to be found on 6 and 2 mx but that second CQ may be necessary. Our new President, George 4ZMG, seems to be doing a good job keeping things together in Brisbane. The main topic of interest in VK4 at the moment is the 144 Mc. beacon and a committee has been set up to design, build and complete this long-awaited beacon. Briefly, the beacon will run 100w, keyed m.c.w. to an omnidirectional horizontally polarised array from the Bunya Mountains, which are 3,000 ft high and approx. 100 miles from Brisbane. More will be said on this later when the project is in full swing, but suffice to say that it is hoped that the beacon will be operational within six months.

Apart from the beacon, which is the main project, rumour has it that in the near future a 144 Mc. transistorised s.s.b. transmitter will be considered as a possible group project. 30 watts s.s.b. on 2 metres for \$30. Hmm! Sounds good!

On 6 metres DX is sparse and DX QSOs are rare still. ZL t.v. has been strong in Brisbane, but no VK4 contacts have been made. Peter 4ZPL in Townsville says the JAs are scarce now but the last few months have been quite rewarding. ATV0 Melbourne is heard in Brisbane every day. Channel 2 in Sydney can be seen on t.v. sets in Brisbane after ABQ8 shuts down at night.

Bert 4CP is using a Swan to put out a fine 144 Mc. s.s.b. signal, but Bert, please, easy on the carrier insertion! Phil 4ZEP has a new tape recorder but as yet we have not heard it.

Bundaberg Club reports that a 52 Mc. net has been set up on 52.032 Mc. and the group is active on Tuesday evenings at 8.30 and Sunday mornings at 10.30. The group has had several fox hunts of late, and has an active interest in W.I.C.E.N. Recent visitors to Brisbane from Bundaberg were Bob 4ZZE and Bob 4UD.

Finally, do not forget the V.h.f. Field Day on Sunday, 17th September, and the Sunshine State Contest on Sunday, 24th September. 73, Mike 4ZMW.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

6 mx DX in June, traditionally labelled "Winter DX" was available on June 4 into VK4 and again on the 5th to VK7 when VKs 7ZKJ and 7ZMD were the most prominent signals heard. It would appear though that stations do not tune the band or "one way" skip has been the order of the season.

Doug 8KK has reported at various times he has heard VK5s on the band plus the ever-faithful beacon, but despite persistent calling Doug has not made his presence known. Similar reports between VK2 and VK5 have been removed. This is the price that one must pay when net frequencies take preference on bands.

Nonetheless, net frequencies are indispensable when correctly applied for a specific purpose, namely W.I.C.E.N. Under the auspices of the rotund VK5 Federal Councillor and W.I.C.E.N. Co-ordinator, Geoff Taylor, the v.h.f. mobiles on 53.1 and 146 megacycles have been moulded into an extremely capable and efficient emergency communications group. The most recent exercise was held on June 11 when a large scale operation was capably executed. A total of 26 mobiles participated in this exercise which primarily was to provide communications over three most difficult paths, namely Crafers to Victor Harbour, a path of 40 miles over the Adelaide Ranges; Crafers to Mootna, a virtual line of sight contact of 100 miles; and Crafers to Blanchetown, an extremely tough haul of 70 miles through the Adelaide Ranges once again. Troubles were encountered however not unsurmountable as reliable communication was established under emergency conditions.

Col 5ZKR has been dabbling on 432 Mc. 73, Colin 5ZHJ.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

There has been fair activity on the v.h.f. bands, most of it centred on nets in the 6 mx band. The announcement of a delay in the launching of Australis was somewhat disappointing. Interest in the project has not abated, however, and the extra time can be used to advantage for building and testing equipment.

Charles 6LK, technical editor of the V.h.f. Bulletin, is leaving for the Eastern States soon and Cedric 6CD will be the new editor. We thank Charles for his excellent services and wish him well in his venture.

Turning to s.s.b., there are now six or seven stations able to use this mode on v.h.f. John 6TU has had his arm twisted or something similar and is getting an article on s.s.b. ready for publication. Viv 6ZCM has built a very compact and simple sweep marker generator, he calls it the Sweemark. How about putting the details in for publication? 73, Laurie 6ZEA.

W.I.A. D.X.C.C.

Listed below are the highest twelve members in each section. Position in the list is determined by the first number shown. The first number represents the participant's total countries less any credits given for deleted countries. The second number shown represents the total D.X.C.C. credits given, including deleted countries. Where totals are the same, listings will be alphabetical by call sign.

Credits for new members and those whose totals have been amended are also shown.

PHONE

VK5MS	317/338	VK4HR	287/304
VK3AHO	314/326	VK4FJ	279/296
VK6MK	303/320	VK3TL	262/266
VK6RU	303/326	VK4TY	251/252
VK5AB	300/314	VK2AAK	246/250
VK2JZ	288/304	VK2APK	234/237

C.W.

VK2QL	295/315	VK3NC	266/286
VK2ADE	291/313	VK3ARX	263/271
VK3CX	291/312	VK4HR	260/282
VK4FJ	291/313	VK6RU	258/279
VK2AGH	282/295	VK3TL	251/254
VK2AHQ	281/296	VK3YL	251/268

OPEN

VK2AGH	311/329	VK2EO	295/316
VK6RU	307/330	VK4FJ	295/318
VK2ADE	305/329	VK4TY	291/303
VK6MK	305/322	VK3ARX	281/289
VK4HR	300/322	VK3TL	281/285
VK2VN	300/315	VK2ACX	276/300

New Member:
VK2PF 102

VHF

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Well judging from the Interstate correspondents, activity on the v.h.f. bands is at a low level, but if things are to form, activity should increase with a rush over the next month or so. I would like to bring to your attention the lead article in the Federal news of October "A.R."

It would be appreciated if Interstate correspondents could type their copy on half a quarto page, leaving a one-inch wide margin on each side, and post it so as to reach me by the fourth Friday of the month. Some copy for this month's issue arrived at the end of the first week in October. 73, Cyril VK3ZCK.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The last meeting of the V.h.f. and T.v. Group was entertained by a Brains Trust. Thank you to the brave lads who fronted up on the rostrum to face an inquisitive audience. Gentle prompting by Vice-Chairman, 2ZTM, produced several questions and interesting answers.

During the past month another 2 mx day event was held and voted a great success. As results of this event have not been passed to your scribe, I am unable to give further details. The swing to v.h.f. day events is proving quite popular as it allows the family to join in the fun.

The New Year's Field Day is drawing closer and the following is a resume of the rules for this contest. The contest will run over three days, 30th Dec., 31st Dec. and 1st Jan. The event will be split into five periods of four-hour duration: (a) 1700 to 2100 on 30/12/67; (b) 0500 to 0900 on 31/12/67; (c) 1100 to 1500 on 31/12/67; (d) 1700 to 2100 on 31/12/67; and (e) 0500 to 0900 on 1/1/68. The bands in use will be 2 mx and above. A further division will be made of two sections, one for tuneable equipment and one for net equipment. Logs can be submitted for either tuneable section, net section, or both. If you submit logs for both, the contacts must have been made in the same period.

Logs should be submitted for all periods worked, but points can only be claimed for one period. One hour must have elapsed before stations can be re-worked on the same band in the same section. Contacts can be pre-arranged by any method. Contacts via artificial satellites, repeaters, moonbounce, etc., are not permissible. Multiple operators are permissible but only one call sign may be used from each station. Numbers will be the usual readability, signal strength followed by three figures. Scoring distances will be evaluated from military survey maps or similar. The scoring has been derived from a graph which gives one point for contacts up to 62 miles, then the graph rises linearly until there are twenty points for 300 miles. A further increase gives 25 points for a distance of 500 miles and remains a constant 25 points for all distances over 500 miles.

My apologies for any error in this resume as the contest committee failed to supply this information for retransmission and it was necessary to cull the information from the Sunday evening broadcast. All modes may be used in the contest and your presence during the contest would be most welcome.

During September a 6 mx opening to JA occurred but no N.S.W. station is known to have a two-way contact although it is understood that VK8KK revelled in numerous contacts. Of note was the large number of JA stations using s.s.b. There is no doubt about this mode for DX operation and it will pay to be equipped to receive s.s.b. if not to transmit this mode. 73, Keith VK2ZAU.

Hunter Branch.—52 Mc.: The band has been quiet. Channel 0 has been heard at times, but no DX so far. New stations that should be heard from the Hunter Branch this DX season are Frank 2ZFX, Gordon 2ZSG and Dick 2ZSL. Maybe a few others will show up on 52 Mc. as the DX season gets into swing. 144 Mc.: This band has been quiet most nights. Monday nights have been rather active, probably to hear our local broadcast being transmitted on 3.5 Mc. and relayed on 144.443 Mc. a.m. and 146 Mc. f.m. 73, Mac 2ZMO.

VICTORIA

Most of the v.h.f. activity in Melbourne over the past month has been on the 6 mx a.m. net on 53.032 Mc., and judging by the large number of orders for the V.h.f. Group's 6 mx converter with its better than 3 db. noise figure, gain in excess of 30 db. and excellent cross modulation resistance, it looks as if it could become the most active band this summer. With this in mind, I would like to remind the DX hounds in other States that we can hear you but are you equipped to hear us? Powers used in Melbourne vary from 100mW. to 150w. using a.m., s.s.b., f.m. and even some c.w., with vertical polarisation.

V.h.f. Group Convention.—The V.h.f. Group's 4th Annual Convention was held over the week-end of 7th and 8th October at Geelong. Over 70 Amateurs and S.w.l.'s registered and with their families and friends the number present rose to over 200. Everybody appeared to have enjoyed the week-end of activities. Many thanks to Bob 3IC for looking after and arranging the games, to the Geelong Amateur Radio Television Club, and the members of the VK3 V.h.f. Group who organised the week-end. Well that's all for now, until next month, 73, Cyril 3ZCK.

P.S.—VK6 Amateurs look for me on 52.65 Mc. a.m. P.P.S.—Please accept my apologies for the severe cutting of the V.h.f. Notes last month, but there was not enough room for PanSy.

Eastern Zone.—During August and September there was no DX recorded, for the bands 52 Mc. and above. (The m.u.f. is still climbing, each 28-day cycle becoming more interesting.) Trevor 3ZGA, Newborough, and Lee 3ZSS, Moe, are looking for Melbourne contacts. Both are using a frequency of 144.123 Mc. a.m. Peter 3ZDP in Sale is now v.i.o. on 2 mx s.s.b. 73, George 3ZCG.

QUEENSLAND

These notes arrived too late for the October issue and are being included as Nov. notes have not been received. By now with the spring here, activity on all bands should be on the increase, but this year, summer activity may be lower than in previous years. This seems due to a general apathy here in Brisbane and no one really knows why. Anyway, let's hope that the DX period brings back a few regulars on the bands. The VK4 beacon is under construction. Major parts have arrived in Brisbane and regular discussion and construction groups are being held. Several donations of both parts and monies have been offered and these are greatly appreciated. The only major difference between the VK4 beacon and other beacons will probably be the fully transistorised monitor system modified from a D.C.A. design by Alan 4ZLM. The remainder of the system will be standard design with full protection. As regulation has it, the carrier and modulation must be keyed simultaneously, and so a modified system of driver screen modulation will probably be used to simplify keying.

As you have probably guessed, the project is still in the design period at the time of writing and further details will be published when such come to hand.

Winter DX into Brisbane was practically non-existent to my knowledge, but the usual t.v. DX showed up. JA openings were few and far between and evidently the band opened several times from Townsville to Japan in July, but nothing was heard in Brisbane. It is interesting to note that some of the Townsville boys are doing research into trans-equatorial propagation. How about an article in "A.R." Peter?

Alan 4AI is building a high power 6 mx rig for the DX season this year. George 4ZIG should also be on high power soon with a 6/40. Alan 4ZAW is progressing with his s.s.b. exciter, while Rex 4ZRP has given up the idea to be content with mobiling. 73, Mike 4ZMW.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

With the warming up of the weather, activity is increasing, the 6 mx a.m. channel is so full of stations that the rest of the band seems empty by comparison, although it comes into its own on Sundays. The "Old Timers' Club" continues with its twice-a-day sessions. Some beams have already been scanning the skies towards distant places and it's rumoured that Japan has been heard around the 50 Mc. mark. So far I have heard no reports of contacts with the Eastern States. Don't forget to try for South Africa. We know stations are looking for contacts with us. They are transmitting s.s.b. and a.m. around 50.1 Mc. and s.s.b. around 144.1 Mc. at 1530 GMT (0130 E.A.S.T., 2330 W.A.S.T.)

Wolf 6ZAY is back in Australia from West Irian. We are hoping to hear Rod 6ZSD (ex-6ZDS) soon. Jack 6ZBB is building crossed dipoles, hoping one day to hear Australs—if its still possible when some of the new high

voltage transmission lines near his QTH come into operation. This looks to be an increasing problem in Perth. (And in Melbourne.—Sub-Editor.) 73, Laurie 6ZEA.

TASMANIA

2 Mx: Activity is on the increase as the warmer weather approaches. Mike 7ZMC has re-built his 2 mx tx to eliminate a few "birdies", so we can now expect a much better signal from the QTH of 7ZMC. For those on the mainland who don't know, there is a beacon operating on the northern coast of Tasmania at Don Heads, near Devonport. The operating frequency is 144.9 Mc. There are approximately six 2 mx f.m. units operating on the north-west coast using Channel A only, as far as I know, but I hope to find out more information on this matter in the near future. If any of these guys would like to forward me information regarding this matter, drop me a line to: Brian Yeoman, VK3ZBR/F/VK7, Flat 6, 7 St. George's Square, Launceston, Tas., 7250.

6 Mx: Activity on this band has taken a turn for the best over the last month. The warmer weather has enticed the would-be Hams away from the one-eyed monster and into the shack. Most of the activity is on the 6 mx a.m. net frequency of 53.035 Mc., but some stations have been heard operating away from this frequency. A new station heard on this band is 7ZLR, but at the time of compiling these notes I did not have any information on his name, QTH or equipment. If he so desires, he can contact me at the above address with this information. Jim 7JO has become active at last on this band, so we hope to hear more from you in the near future, Jim.

On Sunday, 24th Sept., there was an ardent group of Amateurs who were aeronautical mobile over Flinders Island. They were Bevan 7ZBW, Peter 7ZPD, Mike 7ZMH, Trevor 7ZLX and Norm 7ZRG (the latter was also the pilot). They managed to contact a few stations up the northern coast, but did not make it to Melbourne (hard luck!). 73, Brian 3ZBR/7.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Under normal circumstances, Mr. Maude's P.P.S. would have been deleted from his notes. However, in order to set the record straight, the amount of space taken by PanSy has nothing to do with the cutting of the v.h.f. notes. The fact of the matter is that copy date is the fifth of the month as Mr. Maude well knows. His notes for this issue reached me on 10th Oct., which is about the average delay with v.h.f. notes. By this time the composition of "A.R." is fairly well decided, and late material has to take 'pot-luck'.

Whilst it is possible that the Postal Department is to blame for much of the delay, it surely is possible for Interstate correspondents to send their material off a few days earlier. Mr. Maude has reported VK3 activities for 7th and 8th October (i.e. after copy date), so must admit to being late with his own contribution.—Editor.

YOUTH RADIO SCHEME

We are fast approaching examination time which inevitably means a temporary lull in Y.R.S. activities, but first things first. However, it won't be long before the swing is back to radio and the talk of arials and gear. It will be interesting to hear how many school leavers have chosen electronics as a career as a result of their contact with Y.R.S. It is general knowledge now that employers favour boys with Y.R.S. certificates.

All those who receive Coyryra, the journal of the Y.R.S. Correspondence Section, will be interested in the new series of vocational guidance information. The last article gave a lot of important details regarding apprenticeships with Qantas. Coyryra is a very important publication for the Correspondence Section, but anyone can receive a year's subscription, simply by sending \$1.00 to the Editor, Roger Davis, 14 Hovea St., Canberra City, 2061. Individual copies are also available from the same source.

CONTEST CALENDAR

- 11th/12th Nov.: R.S.G.B. 7 Mc. DX Contest (c.w. section).
- 11th/12th Nov.: OK C.w. DX Contest.
- 25th/26th Nov.: "CQ" W.W. DX Contest (c.w. section).
- 9th Dec., 1967/14th Jan., 1968: Ross Hull Memorial Trophy V.h.f. Contest.
- 3rd/4th Feb.: 34th A.R.R.L. International DX Competition (phone, 1st week-end).
- 17th/18th Feb.: 34th A.R.R.L. International DX Competition (c.w., 1st week-end).
- 2nd/3rd Mar.: 34th A.R.R.L. International DX Competition (phone, 2nd week-end).
- 16th/17th Mar.: 34th A.R.R.L. International DX Competition (c.w., 2nd week-end).