

VHF NOTES

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Rare 50 Mc. stations heard on recently in the Brisbane area include VKs 4UW, 4ZAV, 4EZ, 4ZCR and 4ZBQ. These chaps should make themselves heard more often. A new station on 50 Mc. is Royce 4ZRH, who is using a modified 522 into a 5 el. yagi. Rx is a tuneable conv. into a No. 19 rx. Royce took his rig to the Gold Coast over the holiday period and apart from working his first DX, had other fun (t.v. fringe area, hi!). Welcome to 50 Mc. Royce. Also known to be holidaying on the Gold Coast are 4ZDJ and 4ZEL. 4ZBF was mobiling at high speed through northern VK2 during late December.

Now for the news of the century. Dana 4ZAX was working normal DX on Dec. 27 when the skip shortened to central VK2. Dana then called several VK3s and VK5s and persuaded them to listen on 144 Mc. Contact was immediately established and Dana filled a whole page of a log book with VK3, 5 and 7 144 Mc. stations. These contacts were two-way a.m. and propagation was E layer reflection. Other local stations which jumped on the 144 Mc. band wagon were 4BT and 4HD.

On Dec. 13 4ZAX heard 2WQ (Grafton) working 2ZCQ (Bellingen). On the following night Dana worked both stations. Full credit must go to 2WQ who was only using low power and a 3 el. beam.

The Dec. hidden tx hunt on 144 Mc. was organised by 4ZGD who forgot the tea. The tx was hidden on the road to Mt. Glorious and 4ZBF with 4ZDK as navigator arrived first. 16 cars filled with Hams and their families took part.

On Dec. 3 the Ipswich gang on 288 Mc. found that by turning their beams in the direction of Brisbane, contact was easily made. This is something that should have been done years ago.

4ZBZ and XYL Val have been visiting relations at Caloundra and as a result have missed much DX, but the holiday was badly needed. 4ZBA and XYL Anna have just returned from a long trip overseas during which they visited such countries as Egypt, Greece, Italy, France etc. Arthur brought some very nice gear back with him and this included a Geloso rx and s.s.b. tx.—4ZBT.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Towards the end of the last sunspot cycle peak (1958-60) some authorities predicted an increase in Sporadic E ionization. Observations over the past month tend to substantiate this claim.

Here in VK5, DX has been available practically every day on 50 Mc. and, in fact, the season is probably one of the best we have had for a number of years. All States have been heard and worked, including VK8AV on Dec. 19.

Openings to ZL have been prolific and activity over there seems excellent despite their considerable trouble with t.v.i.

Many accounts have been given in the press regarding freak propagation of t.v. and vehicle band signals, including reports of Interstate reception of the high band t.v. sigs (channels 7 and 9).

No JA sigs have been worked so far this season, nor has anything been heard of VK9 and VK0.

The long band F2 skip seems to have left us for at least another 9 or 10 years; however the fact that Sporadic E openings are so good as to permit occasional 144 Mc. DX is adequate compensation.

The 144 Mc. band provided the most interesting news during Dec. At 1138 hrs. C.S.T. on Dec. 27, 4ZAV was 5 and 9 plus on 144 Mc. in Adelaide. At that hour he worked 5ZDR, 5AW, 5ZMK, 5ZK and 5BC. Other VK4s heard later were 4HD and 4BT. At the time, skip on 50 Mc. was down to 200 miles at both ends. Signals were audible on and off for the remainder of the day until 2000 hrs. C.S.T. VK5 stations also worked into VK2 and on Dec. 29 5ZDR was audible in VK2.

Except for a brief burst on Dec. 13 no sign has been heard of Project Oscar in VK5, despite numerous hours of concentrated listening by several stations. 5ZMK was the lucky man on the 13th.

Occasional portable trips by 5JH are the only thing of interest on 288 Mc.

As a large number of TD03/10 valves have become available quite cheaply, there are signs of activity on 1296 Mc. On Jan. 5 5ZCR and 5LA conducted a mobile QSO over distances up to one mile. Modulated oscs. and super-regens were used with a two wavelength 60 degree corner reflector on one car and a coaxial dipole on the other. TD03/10s are disk seal triodes with an upper frequency limit of 3K Mc. and 10 watts anode dissipation. They

oscillate readily in a simple grounded anode trough circuit.

5ZCJ and 5ZDV now have the calls 5ZZ and 5WV, and Murray 5ZCT has passed the Morse. Congratulations chaps. Recent Interstate visitors here include 3AZY, 3ZCN and 1VP (on 144 Mc.).—5ZCR.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DX on 50 Mc. during Dec. has been very good with the Eastern States being worked almost every day. Several ZL stations were worked and this caused quite a stir. Antennae seem to be growing over here with several more long, long yagis already up and more to come.

The 144 Mc. band is getting quite active and the boys are very keen to work into the Eastern States on this band.

Rolo now has a xtal locked converter working on 288 Mc. and together with 6ZDS, 6ZAA, 6ZAV and 6HK is causing some very good activity on this band.

There are by now at least two stations with xtal locked gear on 576 Mc. and they (6ZDS and 6ZAA) have worked over a distance of some two miles.

It is very good to see so many stations participating in the tx locating effort from the home QTH. You were able to pair up with any other station and see if you could pin-point the actual location of a tx somewhere in the metropolitan area. Full marks go to 6DI and 6DR who were the closest in nominating the station for the two different spots.

We have often heard at length discussions on the use of v.f.o. control and over modulation. Keep these discussions in mind when the DX is about; make sure your v.f.o. is up to scratch and remember that when you get excited, wind down the modulation.

I hear that 6ZAS is getting married early in Feb. Congrats. Stan, but it seems a pity that a mere honeymoon should have to upset a nice portable jaunt to Cape Naturaliste.

The last fox hunt was held on Dec. 16 which coincided with the Group's Xmas Party. There was an extremely good attendance and 6RY was the winner of the hunt. A barbecue was then enjoyed at the QTH of 6ZBK even though he was in bed with a poisoned leg. Hazel did a stirring job and thanks go to all who helped with this evening.

Project Oscar was heard for well over a fortnight as it passed over Perth. Amongst the number of stations who tracked it were 6BO, 6RY and 6ZAV.

Remember that our meetings are held on the fourth Monday in each month in the D.C.A. Workshop Amenities Room in Guildford Road, Mount Lawley. Visitors and new members are always welcome.—6RY.

TASMANIA

As was the case throughout the rest of Australia, I believe, the 6 mx DX season in VK7 has been the best of recent years. All States (VK2 through VK8) and ZL1, 2 and 3 were contacted.

Early Dec. provided excellent openings to VK2, 3, 4 and 5, particularly during daylight hours. From the beginning of the Ross Hull Contest until the end of the month, 6 mx was open every day except for Dec. 21, 22, 23. Most common were VK2, 5, northern and western VK3 and somewhat fewer VK4 openings—in most of these latter we were competing against the VK3s.

Running through some of the highlights: ZL2 and 3 contacted on 17th, whilst they were working into VK5. It took some breaking through the 5s and some worrying moments were spent as the ZLs sigs fluctuated, however all six VK7s on the air were able to work into ZL. VK8AV was worked on 19th—here again we had opposition from VK5 but the 7 prefix seemed almost as rare to a VK8 as is a VK8 to a VK7!

The 27th, considered elsewhere as the best on record, was not so brilliant in VK7 (as far as 6 mx was concerned)—only normal VK2, 3, 4 and 5 worked—no short skip. The following day, however, 3ZL (Ballarat) was heard on c.w. but nothing from Melbourne; ZL3 stations heard but couldn't be raised.

In addition to VK2 and 4 on 29th, ZL1 and 2 worked; ZL5s are rather a rarity. The first VK6 of the season was worked while they were working ZLs—required straining the v.f.o. to operate on 51 Mc.!

The best opening to Melbourne for over four years was noted on 30th. It was quite an inspiration hearing the band full of sigs—should happen more often. From all accounts the band stayed open overnight with 2s, 4s and 5s going strongly at 1 a.m. and still there in the morning! Perhaps the best opening to ZL was on 31st; 9 plus with little mainland opposition.

VK7s participated in the 2 mx DX activities. VKs 7ZAI, 7ZQA and 7ZAO worked 4ZAX and 4BT on 27th (1,200 miles). 7ZAI was heard again on the 31st (1 a.m.). Dave 7ZAI got

on the 600 ohm line in an attempt to spread the news but found that most 2 mx operators were still at their daily toil. 4ZAK appeared to be audible for over an hour. 7LZ in Launceston worked 3ZCW on the 28th; 3ZCW was heard by a number of Hobart stations but faded before contact could be made.

A number of stations have been receiving "Oscar" regularly, however no effort was made to obtain tracking data.

It is expected that there will be quite a considerable amount of portable operation from Mt. Wellington now that we have our beam stored there and the use of a.c. power at short notice. Watch for news of this during the coming months. 7ZAI has tested successfully a parasitic repeater which will be installed on the mountain. He seems to be rather secretive about the project.

Congrats. to Dick 7ZAN and Kevin 7ZAH who will be giving up a gay bachelor's life and securing an XYL in the near future. The worst of it is that neither of these chaps have been heard much on the air to date so the future looks pretty grim!—7ZAO.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

VK8AU is now firmly entrenched in a town with the apt name of Batchelor and has a 6146 fired up on 50 Mc. into a 4 el. beam. He runs an automatic keyer on week days, 0730 to 0800 and 1700 to 2000 hrs. beamed in the general direction of Melbourne and Sydney. Input is 90 watts and call sign is sent every ten seconds. On week-ends these transmissions run from 0700 to 2000 hrs. (all times E.A.S.T.). A chap in the Darwin area has passed his limited licence and will be on the air soon. There does not appear to be any other signs of activity in the Darwin area. VK8AV at Daly Water is still very active.—8AU.

50 Mc. W.A.S.

Call	Cer. No.	Add. Cntr.	Call	Cer. No.	Add. Cntr.
VK2WJ	13	4	VK3RR	6	1
VK3ZFM	22	4	VK3HT	7	1
VK4HR	4	3	VK2AEZ	10	1
VK3GP	5	3	VK3XA	11	1
VK2ABC	8	3	VK3GM	12	1
VK2VW	9	3	VK3ACL	14	1
VK5GG	19	3	VK3ZD	16	1
VK8ZAX	20	3	VK2HO	17	1
VK5ZBL	21	3	VK3ZEA	18	1
VK4RY	2	2	VK2WH	15	
VK5LC	1	1	VK5BQ	23	
VK6DW	3	1			

TWO CANADIAN AWARDS

THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AWARD

This award is issued by the Ontario DX Association and requires 10 contacts with VE stations located along the route of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Of these 10 contacts, four must be with the following four areas (one from each): Port Arthur or Fort William, Greater Toronto, Greater Montreal, Greater Quebec City. The remaining six may be any VE municipality situated along the route of the Seaway. Suggestions: Kingston, Cornwall, Prescott, Brockville, Gananoque, Whitby, Oshawa, Napanee, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Windsor, Sarnia, Goderich, Manitoulin Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Nipigon, etc.

Seals will be available for 20, 40 or 50 contacts.

Any band, any mode—mixed or otherwise from July 1959.

THE CANADIAN AWARD

This award is also issued by the Ontario DX Association and requires five contacts with each of the eight VE Call Areas (40 contacts), five contacts with VO1/VO2 (any combination of five), and one contact with a VE0 maritime mobile.

Of the five VE eight stations, one must be in the Yukon Territory; also one must be located on one of the off-shore islands of the North West Territories.

Any Amateur band and any mode—mixed or otherwise after World War II, 1945.

The following data applies to both the above awards:

No QSLs need to be submitted. Instead, submit a list showing date, time, band and definite location of station contacted, and signed by one official of a radio club, or by two other licensed Amateurs. The cost is \$1.00 or equivalent (8 I.R.C.'s.). Applications to the Ontario DX Association, Secretary Wm. A. Wrage, VE3BQP, 127 Castlewood Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

WAS IT WHO HEARD K6UMM?

Somebody may have heard a K6 signal on 6 mx during May. Denny Williams, K6UMM, was told by a secondhand message that a VK heard him on 8th May, 1962. He was operating that day between 0700-1400 hrs. P.D.S.T. between 50.1 and 50.6 Mc., and was experiencing an excellent single and double hop Es opening. It is believed that the VK station was operating on 50.312 Mc. and did give the K6 a call using c.w.? If you know of any details of this at all, please advise VK3ZCG, 49 Savage St., Morwell, immediately. Thank you.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The meeting held on 1st June was attended by approx. 50 V.h.f. Group members and interested persons. The lecture was a mobile forum chaired by Jim 2FM with Bob 2OA, Dave 2AWZ, Phil 2ZBX and Dick 2ZCF on the far end of a 2 mx link assisting.

The August meeting will be held on 3rd August when it is hoped to arrange a lecture by someone from one of the valve companies.

The May fox hunt was won by Dave 2AWZ, followed by two s.w.l's. with no rx, second was Paul 2ZPJ and Lance 2ZKP third. The fox was Sid 2ZSE and the Sydney Harbour Bridge was loaded for the second time, the location being adjacent to Lady Macquarie's chair in the Domain.

The Autumn Field Day was held on 13th May when some five inches of rain were recorded in Sydney. Some five stations ventured into the field, but no great distances were worked. Due to the rain, the day was repeated on 21st when the number of field day stations jumped greatly and a very good day was had. 1VP in Canberra worked several stations located in the Mountains west of Sydney.

50 Mc.: No break throughs and very little local activity.

144 Mc.: Apparently winter keeps many operators by the heater as activity has been only moderate. "Regulars" include 2HL, 2WP, 2ZVW, 2ZRH (who now sports a 4X150), 2ZCF, 2AWZ, 2ZRG, 2HO (the Oscar man), 2ZAH, 2ASZ, 2ZPB, 2ZPJ, 2DS, 2ZVC, 2AAK, 2ZJC, 2ZKP, 2LJ, 2ABZ, 73, 2ZLB.

VICTORIA

50 Mc.: During the month the band has been relatively active, but the only news of any DX comes from George 3ZCG at Morwell, who reports having worked 4ZAA and 4ZBT at 1330K on Sunday, 13th May. George also heard weak signals from the north on Sunday, 20th May, at 1030K. Signals were unreadable, but he believes they were VK4s working VK5s.

There are now three 6 mx stations active on the Bellarine Peninsula. They are Lindsay 3AWY at Queenscliff on 50.15 Mc., Ron 3ZLP at Wallington on 50.1, and Ian 3ZMH at Queenscliff on 50.8 Mc. In the Melbourne area a new station is 3LO, the official station of the Dennis Radio Group, formed by a number of P.M.G. technicians. They are active Monday-Friday from 1230K-1315K.

144 Mc.: On Sunday, 20th May, Geoff 3ZFX, Bob 3ZIU and Lindsay 3ZML operated portable from Mt. Donna Buang. Bob worked three VK7s, 7ZAI, 7ZAL and 7LZ, while Geoff worked the first two with a crook converter. I myself worked Syd 3CI at Nagambie the same afternoon and at 2100K heard Syd in contact with 3VL at Numurkah. A new station on 2 mx this month was Lindsay 3ZNS at Bentleigh, running 15w. to an 832B to a cloverleaf antenna. On Sunday, 10th June, Peter 3APP at Shepparton and John 3ACK at Mooroolbarna were worked by myself. John is another newcomer to 2 mx and runs an 832A at 15w. input.

Group Meeting.—At the May meeting 30 members and visitors were entertained with talks by Michael 3ZEO on W.I.C.E.N., Bill 3ABP on a recommended oscillator circuit for mobile work, and Jack 3ZJF on transistorised modulators and power supplies.

During the evening the first release of the frequency list was sold out, but copies are again available and can be had by sending a 1/- postal note to Len Poynter, 3ZGP, at 14 Esther Court, Fawkner, or for 6d. each at the meetings. 73, 3ZLT.

QUEENSLAND

Not much DX on 6 mx this month. We did, however, get a break-through to VK3 on 15th May. Newcomer to 6 mx is Doug 4ZDC who

is reported to be running about 6w. input, thence to a dipole. His rx is a super-regen. Welcome to Channel 0, Doug.

On 2 mx 4RX in Brisbane has been working John 4ZWB in Dalby regularly. John is using 10w. into a 13 element yagi.

The hidden tx hunt was held on 1st June. The apparatus was hidden by 4ZAX and due to a small oversight, the hidden tx signal mysteriously went off during the night. Investigation showed that the antenna and a very long length of co-ax had been taken by the mast of a passing ship! Luckily the antenna plug came out of the tx so that it was not dragged into the brine also.

The V.h.f. Group have hired a hall in which to hold meetings. (Previously held at homes of individuals.) A small charge will be made for each person attending in order to cover the cost of hiring the hall. Supper, and any money left over are to go towards V.h.f. Group community projects.

Oscar II. was first logged by locals at 1704 hrs. E.A.S.T. on 3/6/62. Unfortunately not many people are doing the right thing. This project is, after all, for the benefit of Amateurs all over the world.

The impending loss of part of six metres to Channel 0 is having a stunting effect on the construction of new equipment in this city. Whereas it would be a shame to discard all DX that could come in above 52 megs, adjacent channel interference would be terrible, and coupled with this would be the fact that we are sure to be blamed for a lot of the t.v.i. that is going to be caused by t.v. whenever the band opens. Oh well! I guess we will all have to go high powered mobile operation on what remains of this band. 4ZBT.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Newcomers here on 50 Mc. include John 5ZGT (son of 5GL). John is running 20w. to an 807. Another John, 5ZJH, is also new on 6 mx. DX activity on 50 Mc. has been non-existent, although we understand that JA signals were worked in Melbourne on 3rd May.

144 Mc.: This band has been quite active in VK5 recently. 5ZGY has joined the band of v.f.o. controlled stations on this band and Phil 7ZBA was mobile over here during the month.

Project Oscar II. is the hottest 144 Mc. news as we write. Garry 5ZK and Al 5ZCR had heard the satellite once and twice respectively by 1900 hrs. on 5th. Signals were not extremely strong and they chirp slightly. It is good to see the information on Oscar II. being disseminated promptly. Most VK5 Hams knew about the launching within a few hours. Roy Hart has done a good job in this respect. Stations interested in Project Oscar here in VK5 include 5ZMK, 5ZBR, 5TN, 5ZCR, 5ZFG and 5ZK.

General.—A V.h.f. Group meeting was held on 7th June, mainly to discuss the proposed v.h.f. issue of Amateur Radio. Garry 5ZK was in the chair and there was a good attendance.

Congratulations to Graham 5ZAP on his marriage on 12th May. Hugo 5ZDA is now 5IB. Bart 5ZGB has also passed the c.w.

The Institute of Technology radio station, 5SM/T has its t.v. tx working and transmissions have been made on 288 Mc. The equipment works quite well, particularly as regards definition. The 288 Mc. video p.a. is a QQE06/40.

Luke 5LL has recently increased power and is now believed to be running 10w. After a long absence on 50 Mc., Bob 5ZFG has been heard recently. The 50 Mc. beacon station, proposed for VK5, has been temporarily shelved as the future of 50 Mc. is uncertain, and the P.M.G. will not OK continuous operation without a licensed attendant. 73, 5ZCR.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

May Meeting.—35 members and visitors attended this meeting. One of the major discussions was on the possibility of a 50 Mc. beacon on Cocos Is. 9LA has agreed to run the beacon with equipment supplied by the Group. A 522 tx will be modified to double as a m.c.w. beacon and 50 meg a.m. tx. Mac 6MM is building the photo transistor keyer. Parts are being collected for a xtal locked 50 Mc. converter so that 9LA could be a new call area worked by many members in the next DX season.

Lance 6LR, the Group's contest organiser, submitted plans for a v.h.f. field day to foster

and encourage country activity on these bands. The only limitation is that the location should be at least 40 road miles from the station's QTH. This was to enable suitable high locations, 28 miles from Perth, to be used. The major idea is to contact as many country stations both personally and on the air and stimulate their interest. The stations participating in this contest are not precluded from using mains so they may transport their rigs to a country Amateur's QTH and operate from there. As this is a different type of contest, Dennis Cook will judge the winner from written reports on achievements of the day's activities, taking into account the number of country Amateurs contacted personally and worked on the air, difficulties encountered and power and type of supply used.

50 Mc.: A comprehensive report on DX activities at Derby, approx. 1000 miles north of Perth, by Mick 6ZBP has been received. He has forwarded a copy of his log for March, April and May. Many of the locals would like to have his path into JA.

144 Mc.: John 6ZDU has appeared on this band. He is the only new station heard this month. He uses a much modified 522 and at the moment can only work cross band to 50 Mc. as his 144 converter is not working as yet. Tom 6KS is pursuing his aim for s.s.b. on this band. When he achieves his aim, others will no doubt follow suit.

288 and Above: No news at all has been heard of activities above this freq. Please let us know of your achievements and ideas for inclusion in these notes.

Don't forget the Group meeting is at 8 o'clock on the fourth Monday in the month at the D.C.A. workshops. 73, 6ZDR and 6ZDM.

TASMANIA

General: This is my first effort since taking over the position of Publicity Officer for the VK7 Division and I am hoping for the full co-operation of all the v.h.f. Amateurs throughout the State to keep me informed of their activities and achievements.

Activity, especially on 2 mx is increasing slowly but surely and portable outings are becoming more frequent.

The Annual Meeting of the V.h.f. Group was held on 16th May and the new office-bearers elected were Ted 7EB, President; David 7ZAY, Secretary; and Barney 7ZAK, Vice-President.

144 Mc.: Activity on this band has been at a low ebb lately, but things are starting to perk up a bit now. On Sunday, 13th May, David 7ZAI and Bob 7ZAL (the snowmen) took gear to Mt. Wellington. They used a much modified 522 tx, 25w. into a QQE03 20, a 5 el. beam and a 5 stage xtal locked converter and AR7. A complete set of equipment was taken as a spare. They worked 7ZBA and 7ZEE Outlands, 7DK Poatina, 7LZ Launceston, 7ZBE/P Flinders Island and 3ZIU, 3ZKZ, 3ZFX and 3ZFL. This was a very commendable effort on the part of these chaps for it is this type of activity which gives others the incentive to get on the air.

Brian 7ZBE has been on Flinders Island for the past few weeks and he has been using a "Communicator" and a 5 el. beam. With only 2w. output and a super-regen. rx he worked several Launceston stations and 7ZAI/P on Mt. Wellington. A new station on 2 mx is Phillip 7ZBA/M who is at present driving to Alice Springs for a holiday. He is working mobile on the way through.

50 Mc.: Nothing much is doing on this band. David 7ZAI has been hearing some peculiar signals—presumed to be JAs. 73, 7ZEE.

PAPUA

May proved to be a very poor month on 50 Mc. On 3rd May JA1NA was heard working VK3AZ and was in turn worked by 9AU at 1817. Weak JAs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9 were heard but not worked between 1720 and 1845. Then on 9th at 1845 a JA6 was heard calling a JA1. No other DX signals were heard during the month, although 49 Mc. TE scatter signals were observed on 1st to 10th, 13th, 14th, 18th and 29th, and also as I write (1st June). However, they were much weaker than usual. 9ZBV was the only other local station heard during the month.

VK4 (Cairns) boys, don't despair. 9AU still watches for you on 50.7, but no sign so far. Let us know your frequency when you shift to 52 Mc. 73, 9AU.

An effort is being made to publish the October issue of "A.R." as a special v.h.f. edition. All V.h.f. Groups have been contacted and a number of very interesting articles have been promised. However, still more are required. It will be far better to have too many articles than not enough. Any not used in the v.h.f. issue will most certainly be published in future issues, because "A.R." is always in need of interesting material.

It does not matter whether it is a full coverage of a transmitter, converter, mobile equipment, etc., or just an item for the Hints and Kinks section. How about putting pen to paper and submit it to the Editor of "A.R."

Remember, "A.R." can only be as interesting as YOU, the active Amateur or S.w.l., care to make it.

There has been a suggestion that the v.h.f. page should include a small Hints and Kinks article peculiar to v.h.f. each month, but this, of course, will depend entirely on whether any such items are submitted to me for publication. Also, any photos suitable for publication will be most welcome.

During the winter months v.h.f. activity falls away considerably, even though there is still some DX about (see the following State notes). I hope that the inactive operators are not inside watching the "idiot box," but are busily constructing gear for the forthcoming v.h.f. field day season. All States will be having a series of field days and there is a possibility that everybody may be able to co-operate and get together on at least one field day.

Incidentally, have you passed that information regarding aurora v.h.f. contacts along to David Rankin, 3QV, as previously requested?

There appears to be a lot of confusion about which frequencies we are able to operate on in the "6" metre band. Even though the band became 52-54 Mc. officially on 1st July, we still have the use of 50-52 Mc. until further notice from the P.M.G. So those of you who have already cut the ends off your beam elements had better stick them back on and join in the DX activities. 73, 3ARZ.

NEW SOUTH WALES

50 Mc.: From Al 2ZFB, the following: On 10/6/62 worked eight VK5s between 1400 and 1600, heard KH6 S4 in and out. 17/6/62 open to VK5 between 1200 and 1750. 24/6/62 heard crossband duplex between 5ZDR and 5ZBI at 5 and 9 plus, but unable to break in.

Stations heard regularly on 6 mx are 2ZAV, 2ZVL, 2ZFB and 2ZJN who has moved from Inverell to Kingswood, 25 miles west of Sydney.

144 Mc.: The June fox hunt was won by Dave 2AWZ with Paul 2ZPJ second. Time beat the third place getter. The fox, Barry 2ZAH, hid off the end of Quartersessions Rd., Hornsby, where it was very hard to obtain cross bearings to pin-point the location.

At the July meeting, the lecture was given by Les 2ZBJ on v.h.f. converters. The lecture was particularly interesting as Les had brought his transistorised converter using AFZ12s with a noise factor of 2 db. along.

The lecture at the August meeting will be given by Mullard and should be very interesting. 73, 2ZLB.

VICTORIA

50 Mc.: During the month there have been a few openings on 6 mx to VK4. These took place on the following dates: June 17 and 18, July 3 and 7. On some occasions it almost seemed like the middle of summer as regards the activity on the band. George 3ZCG, at Morwell, reports a contact with a VK5 and a VK4 on June 17. 3WI had their first VK4 6 mx contact with Laurie 4ZGL on 7th July. David 3QV has burnt fingers to prove it.

John 3ZCB, at Olinda, was control station for the June scramble, which resulted in a tie between Ken 3ZKK and Ivan 3ASG.

144 Mc.: June produced quite a lot of activity on 2 mx, much of which was attributable to Oscar II. Stations were heard in QSO at all hours of the night and morning and every second word seemed to be "Oscar". The interest shown in this project was very pleasing to see and if all stations concerned send in logs the organisers will have no doubt as to the ability of VK3s to carry out any future experiments.

New stations on 2 mx this month include Bob 3ZRD in East Brighton, running 21w. to a cloverleaf antenna via a 522. His rx set-up

is home-brew using 954s in the r.f. end and 955s as mixer and oscillator. Ross 3ZNR is another newcomer and uses a Minitrans to a 4 element yagi with an "R. & H." converter to a home-brew rx.

The N.W. Zone conduct a hook-up on 2 mx on Thursday nights at 1930K.

Rod 3ZIW, at Sandringham, was control station for the 2 mx scramble for July. The result was a tie for 1st in the city section between Jack 3ZJF and Bill 3ARZ, whilst first in the country section was Daryl 3ZNC at Geelong. Jack 3ZJF is to be control station for the next scramble on August 12.

288 Mc. and above: Experiments are still being conducted on 576 Mc. by Geoff 3AUX and Mack 3QO. Geoff also has his Amateur t.v. equipment ready to go. Another Geoff, 3ZFX, is experimenting with t.v. on 288 Mc. with encouraging results.

During the month the Sunday morning news broadcasts were commenced from the rooms. Results from the v.h.f. gear are excellent, according to all reports to hand at the moment. Troubles in the v.h.f. converters have been attended to and crystals on the calling frequency in each band have been obtained. A pair of stacked cloverleaves are in use on 2 mx and a turnstile is under construction for 6 mx. Thanks are extended to the many people who assisted in this project.

Copies of the 2 mx frequency list are available during office hours from the rooms, or at V.h.f. Group meetings, price 6d. each.

VK3 v.h.f. news items may be passed on by mail to 62 Lucerne Cres., Alphington, or by phone to 49-1521, or on 2 mx on Friday nights between 1900 and 2000K. 73, 3ZLT.

QUEENSLAND

Six metres is still alive in Brisbane! In spite of the fact that we will lose the first two megs, building of new antennas and equipment is again in motion following a temporary lull in such activities. We had DX break-throughs to VK3 and VK5 on 17th June, and to VK3 on 25th June.

Kev, formerly 4ZDK, is now 4ZR, and has been heard on 6 mx a few times since the full call arrived, but after that was never heard of again. Come on v.h.f. again Kev.

Of all the many v.h.f. projects now in progress, the most notable to occur this month, and by far the hardest manually, was when 4ZBZ cleaned up his shack. Another interesting thing done by this gentleman consisted of clinging to the top of a 75 ft. tower by two legs while using both hands to fiddle with an armature.

Six metres is a very reliable band in Brisbane. If you turn on your tx 4ZBZ is always listening. If you turn on your rx, 4ZEL is always talking—you can't miss.

There are two new stations on 2 mx this month: Arthur 4ZGA, who uses a 4 el. yagi for 2 mx, and can listen on 6 mx using a log periodic antenna. The other 2 mx station is Frank 4ZAS, from the happy suburb of Sunshine. Frank runs about 8¹/₂ w. input, thence to a 4 el. yagi and receives on a super-regen.

Apparently one of the best things to happen on v.h.f. recently is the promise of the 420 Mc. band. Already equipment is being planned for this band and it would appear that an Amateur t.v. station will make its appearance known. Well, it is 30 Mc. wide, so there should be room for everyone, if the t.v. stations and mod. osc. keep to the high freq. end of the band.

The new meeting premises of the V.h.f. Group are quite good, but it is now apparent that re-organisation of the V.h.f. Group will have to take place, but the usual question arises: Who is going to do it? 73, 4ZBT.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

50 Mc.: Sporadic E DX on this band has been quite good in June. On 8th June, 4ZJS put strong signals into Adelaide in the early evening. This was the only VK4 heard. Then on June 10, a Sunday, VK2s were worked, and on 13th VK4s. Sunday 17th, the band was open for four hours from 1400 hrs. E.A.S.T. The opening started with VK4 and then moved down through VK2 and finally into VK3. Signals were very strong and a number of new stations worked their first DX. The next day, 18th, VK4s were worked in Adelaide.

New stations on 50 Mc. include Leith 5LG and Trevor 5ZMT. Clive 5ZAT, of Hillcrest, is running 20w. to a 4 el. beam. Colin 5ZHJ,

of Gawler South, is on 50.5 Mc. and running 25w. These four new chaps are part of quite a large increase in 50 Mc. stations in this State.

When we all go to 52 Mc. in 1963, VK5 is quite keen to see an Australia-wide calling and/or distress frequency. This would be invaluable for W.I.C.E.N., emergency use, or raising activity on a dead band. We are considering a suitable freq. and open to ideas.

144 Mc.: This band has been quite active also. Mick 5ZDR has been employed out of town, resulting in no regular skeds with 3NN. 7ZBA has mobile on 144 Mc. in Adelaide this month. Ern 5EN, in Pt. Pirie (130m. north), has made a comeback on 2 mx. Bob 5ZFG has put up a 16 el. colinear array on 2 mx.

One new station on 144 Mc. is Trevor 5ZIS (144.14 Mc.). Trevor is about 100 yards from Gary 5ZK, who does quite a little work on 144. Also new on 144 is Cor 5ZKC (previously PA0CHT), who now lives in Trarane.

General: The 50 Mc. beacon has been given a new lease of life with the acquisition of an ideal location. A lot of the details have still to be finalised. Details will follow.

Project Oscar II. was closely followed here in VK5 with mainly 5ZFG, 5TN, 5ZK and 5ZCR participating.

On 10th June a 6 mx scramble was held. Rick 5ZFG being outright winner. Bart 5ZGB is now 5GZ.

News is to hand from the Mt. Gambier v.h.f. group (previously the s.w.l. group) that a field exercise will be held on the long week-end, 6-7-8 Oct., 1962. The group will be on Mt. Edward and have gear on 50, 144 and 288 Mc. They have the use of a 90 ft. tower on Mt. Edward in addition to a petrol-motor generator, and also liaison gear on 80 mx.

Keep an ear open for this party, which will include 5ZER and other new licences from the South East. 73, 5ZCR.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Oscar II. was first heard here on June 4. After some delay caused by unexpected troubles the combined effort tracking unit went into operation. The sigs. in VK6 were, for the most, very poor but improved towards the end. The passes were recorded and logged and much valuable information and experience gained. If in the future Oscar III. should be launched, the VK6 V.h.f. Group will be to the fore in tracking, recording and reporting its progress. Some of those who gave invaluable service on the unit were Rolo 6BO, Don 6HK, Rod 6ZDS, Mac 6MM, Doug 6ZDW, Wally 6ZAA and the t.v. group Cedric 6ZBC, Kevin 6ZCB and Tom 6KS.

Cocos Is. Beacon: Lance 9LA has indicated a yagi antenna as most suited for the location. A 3 el. wide-spaced beam is being constructed and the gear is in progress. Further information will follow. VK6 would like to hear the freq. of proposed beacons in other States, send info to Alyn 6ZDM, 13 Narrung Way, Nollamara, W.A.

Field Day: A successful field day was held on 24th June. 26 stations went to 13 different locations, forming a rough semi-circle around Perth; 8 home stations were reported working. Ian 6CL in Miling was the only country station heard and worked. The next field day will be in Sept. with a larger operating period, we hope.

Mav 6ZDQ has been heard on 144 from Pearce. 6ZDO has been on 50, Neil 6ZDK has had cross band tests, 144 to 50. Peter 6VR, ex 6ZDR, and Charlie 6LK, ex 6ZCE, received full tickets this month.

Don 6HK's 576 Mc. xtal locked converter is working. Wally 6ZAA informs me his 1215 Mc. gear is not xtal locked. Rod 6ZDS has had trouble as his 1215 Mc. super-regen. rx will not regen. 73, 6ZDM.

TASMANIA

The last meeting of the V.h.f. Section was held on 20th June and after an unusual large amount of business was dealt with, we retired to David 7ZAI's place of labour to drool over one thousand dbs. worth of "Racal" general coverage receiver. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Project Oscar: The last southern station to hear signals from Oscar II. was Wilf 7ZAQ. Comprehensive reports are being prepared by several stations.

(Continued on Page 19)

VHF

50 - 144 - 288 - 576 - 1296 Mc.

Sub Editor: BILL ROPER, VK3ARZ,
Lot 59, Orchard Street, Mount Waverley, Victoria
ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THIS PAGE DIRECT TO THE SUB EDITOR

As is usual at this time of the year, activity on the various v.h.f. bands throughout Australia has been quite low. No doubt the winter weather will be blamed for this (it would be nice to kid ourselves that everybody is taking the opportunity to build equipment for the so-called DX season), but I am sure that a lot of the absences are because DX openings, etc., are not plentiful during the winter months.

This would seem to be a strange attitude for Amateurs to take. Almost anybody running one watt to the proverbial piece of wet string can work DX galore during the summer months. On the other hand, to snare that weak, QSB ridden DX signal in the middle of winter requires experienced, patient operating and efficient equipment.

It is a far greater thrill to work DX under these conditions, and more worthy of the Amateur spirit, than having armchair contacts with the same fellow with the assistance of mighty temperature inversions, sporadic E, etc.

Also, and this is worthy of serious thought, we are always pleased that there is somebody "out in the bush" to provide the other end of the summer DX contacts (this applies mainly to two metres and above), but what happens to these chaps during winter?

They are not able to have cross-town ragchews like the Amateurs in the "big smoke," but spend many, many hours looking for a contact. If the apathetic attitude of Melbourne 2 mx Amateurs to working country stations during winter is any indication, then these country fellows have a very lean and discouraging time.

Are you guilty of this practice? Just think what would happen to summer DX if the country fellows gave the game away completely.

Our VK4 scribe, who has adopted the non-de-plume of Brutus, will be unable to carry on his good work because of pressure of business, BUT nobody seems willing to take over his job. My wife (a native of VK4) stoutly assures me that no true-blue Queenslander would let his State down. How about it you members of 6 mx DX paradise? 73, 3ARZ.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The warm weather has at last started to return to VK2 as will the activity. Judging by the pars from the other States, winter has much the same effect although there has been some good openings on 6 and 2 mx.

General: The V.h.f. Group meeting was held on the 7th Sept. where the lecture was on Antennae, methods of feed, and how to make them really work. This particularly interesting lecture was delivered by Alex Rech, of the M.W.S. and D.E.

Roger 2ZRH is interested in teeing up 2 mx skeds for the coming summer season. He will be running 150w, and using four seven-element yagis. Anyone interested could either contact Roger or myself.

50 Mc.: The only opening recorded since July occurred on 4th Sept., when VK4s were worked and some ZLs heard.

144 Mc.: The August fox hunt was won by 2ZCF with 2PM and 2ZTM second and third. The fox, 2AWZ, was hidden at Bantry Bay in a new subdivision at the bottom of a zig-zag road. Band activity is only moderate generally.

1296 Mc.: Dick 2ZCF and Bill 2ZAC are again experimenting on this band. Longest QSO was one way from Blaxland with Dick mobile to Bill's home QTH at Marwee, a distance of 30 miles. Bill was running 25w. input to a 2C39 tripler p.a. with 32 element phased array. Both using the converter out of the Jones Handbook. Dick's home tx uses a 6/40 driving a 2C39 tripler p.a. 73, 2ZLB.

VICTORIA

As there were no more Pacific high altitude bomb blasts (test) no more super DX was experienced on 15th July to prove that it was due either to the bomb or just Mother Nature. We have been experiencing our regular batches of winter inversion from Gippsland out to 150 miles approx. Usually these occur every seven days (7-day cycle) and re-occur weekly for three to four times (nights). Last month (Aug.) it was Thursday evenings, four in all. One Thursday evening it was so good to Melbourne on 2 mx I had a two-way QSO with Alan 3ZCJ mobile along Geelong Road into West Footscray, signals R4-5, S3 to S9 (yes, S9!).

Friday night, 31st Aug., was a good night. Also, the best I have ever seen Ch. 6 at Bal-

arat t.v. However I did not work any two mx DX.

It may be of interest that there are currently some satellites just outside the v.h.f. Ham bands: Explorer 7, 19.991 Mc.; Transit 4A, 150 and 54 Mc.; Transit 4B, 150 and 54 Mc.; Traac. 54 Mc.; Cosmo II, 20.005 Mc.; Cosmos V., 20.064 Mc.; Vostok III, was on 20.006, 19.995, and 143.625 Mc.; Vostok IV, was on 19.990, 19.995, and 143.625 Mc. 73, 3ZCG.

QUEENSLAND

50 Mc.: This band has been very dead as far as DX break-throughs, but VK5s were heard one Sunday. It also has been rather quiet as far as local activity goes, and a lot of local stations who have been making with big talk about what they are going to build, have started construction, thereby astounding the cynics. Ron 4ZBZ, who has been working in Toowoomba during recent weeks, has had no trouble in working from his mobile to mobile stations in Brisbane (Toowoomba is 80 miles west of Brisbane). Old timer of 6 mx who has been heard on again after a lengthy absence is Ross 4ZAT, who transmits from idyllic Bribie Island.

144 Mc.: A reasonable activity on this band, if you listen at the right time! Brian 4RX works 4ZWB at Dalby every Sunday evening at 1930 hrs. Don't know how he does it, but he does.

The August tx hunt was magnificent although the attendance wasn't. As the usual tx has slowly been getting sicker, Royce 4ZRH loaned his own tx and a petrol driven generator. A new antenna was used with the hidden tx, it is a turnstile made by Victor 4ZBT.

The V.h.f. Group meeting for the month discussed the design of a v.h.f. base station for six and two metres, capable of being run from emergency supplies and compact enough to be transported from point to point with the minimum of effort. 73, "Brutus."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

50 Mc.: This band has been showing its usual activity recently. Newcomers include: Glen 5ZEE, Clive 5PE, and a 6 mx man from way back, Pete 5FM. Pete lives in the Adelaide Hills and is putting a very strong signal down into the plains. Bob 5ZEQ is a new licensee who has been heard on 288 Mc., and hopes to be on 50 Mc. soon.

Newly married gentlemen, John 5ZZ and Rod 5ZAA are back on the air from their new QTHs. (Rod, unhappily, lives about 100 yards from your conductor's QTH!) Graham 5ZAP is also set up at his new location.

The 50 Mc. band has been very kind to us in respect of DX over this winter season. July was an excellent month with all States and ZL being worked. August was also quite good, with the Interstate opening on the week-end of R.D. Contest proving a boon to contestants.

Geoff Farmer (son of 5GF) has now received his call sign, 5ZGF. We hope to hear more of Geoff now that he is licensed.

144 Mc.: With our main 2 mx stalwart, Mick 5ZDR still working up in the donga, this band has been very quiet and seems to be used mainly for cross-band contacts. Keith 5ZMK reports working Herb 3NN (180 miles) on odd evenings, but no regular skeds are kept.

288 Mc.: This band has shown a renewal of activity recently. Graham 5ZAD now has stabilised gear on this band, running an 832A on 289.6 Mc. With John 5ZDZ, this makes at least two stabilised a.m. stations on 288 Mc. Another 288 Mc. signal of note, however, is that of George 5ZEY/T who has a t.v. signal on this band. George is using a Vidicon camera tube and the system is compatible with conventional 625 line receivers. The video p.a. is a QQE06 40 and an omnidirectional aerial is used. Good signals have been received 10 miles away. As yet there is no sound transmission, but this is in the making.

General News: Don't forget the Mt. Gambier V.h.f. Group Field Day over the holiday week-end in early October (see Aug. "A.R." for dope).

Doug 5KK has a new aerial system, a 13 el. 24 ft. yagi on 144 and a 9 el. 30 ft. yagi on 50—all this 70 ft. high. Barry 5BQ is understood to be negotiating for a tower and we hope that this will let us hear even more of this keen v.h.f. operator. Keith 5ZMK and Brian 5ZBR are practising code and hope to sit soon for the exam. Garry 5ZK is building a

new mobile rx and will continue his mobile activity when this is completed. 73, 5ZCR.

TASMANIA

144 Mc.: The main news for this band concerns an attempted North-South contact between David 7ZAI and Danny 7ZDM at Kelso, and Bob 7ZAL who was portable on Mt. Wellington. Very poor weather conditions forced Bob to return early in the day, but further attempts will be made. Bob is working on new gear for portable work including a petrol motor driven generator to keep his batteries topped up. He has spurred your scribe into frantic activity finishing beams, rx's, etc., so that I can assist from my half-way location.

David 7ZAI has been beaming south from Kelso each night at 1930 hrs. with a yagi and towards VK3 at 2030 hrs. using a 35 ft. dish aimed for tropospheric forward scatter into the Dandenongs, and I understand that he has heard some Melbourne stations.

WIFI 7ZAQ and Rog 7ZAO have their new 120w. rig on the air and they are putting a better than ever signal into my QTH. We could do with more of these high power stations and I understand that, besides my own a 150w. job, running well below ratings, is on the drawing board.

A 2 mx link is being organised for the forthcoming Jamboree-on-the-Air. This should help make the Jamboree a success. 73, Nevil Fisher.

PAPUA

August was a most disappointing month in VK9. No signals were heard on 50 Mc. from any source. All stations are now back on 50 Mc. after the false start on 52 Mc., but if you can't hear any DX it is not possible to work any. TE scatter signals on 49 Mc. were heard at good strength on several occasions with the beam heading N.N.E.

A visitor to the Territory during the month was John VK1ZJB, who called into Moresby to say hello. He had hoped to bring a small v.h.f. tx with him but decided, unfortunately, that it weighed too much to bring up on the plane from south. 9AU will be visiting the Territory of New Guinea in a few weeks but also lacks a rig of suitable size to pack in the suitcase.

A word of warning! 9ZBV is now equipped with 100w. on 50 Mc. and is delightedly anticipating blowing out speaker cones of unwary VK operators during the coming DX season. 73, 9AU.

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