



SOTA, VK5 PARKS AWARD, WWFF, PORTABLE, QRP, PEDESTRIAN MOBILE

Welcome to the second edition of '*Out and about in VK5*'.

This edition is packed with information pertaining to amateur radio activity in South Australia (VK5), centred around the following:

Summits on the Air (SOTA), the VK5 National & Conservation Parks award, the World Wide Flora and Fauna Program (WWFF), portable operation, QRP, and pedestrian mobile.

This newsletter is released at the start of each month and emailed as a PDF. It can also be found online at the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio (AHARS) website at:

<http://www.ahars.com.au>

I welcome any news and photographs relating to the subject material.

Remember, the content is entirely up to your contributions.

You can email me stories and photos to:

vk5pas@wia.org.au

If you know of anybody who would like to go on the mailing list for the newsletter, please get them to send me an email to the above address.

73 & have fun,

Paul, VK5PAS

OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5

Issue 2

December 2014

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A great weekend

By Paul VK5PAS



The 'extended' weekend of Friday 14th – Sunday 16th November, 2014, saw the annual activation weekend for the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award (KRMNPA). That same weekend, a Spring Activation Weekend was held for the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program.

This year saw a record number of activators participate in the KRMNPA activation weekend. They included a number of interstate activators including John VK2AWJ, Larry VK5LY, and yours truly VK5PAS.



A total of 33 of the 45 Victorian National Parks

were activated. This makes the 2014 KRMNPA activation weekend, the biggest yet. Last year there were a total of 26 parks, which at that stage was a record.

Over the weekend, a number of milestone achievements were reached. Bernard VK3AV achieved his 'Merit' plaque for working all 45 Victorian National Parks, as did I. It sounds easy, but believe me it is not! Frank VK2HFS only started collecting parks that weekend, and worked a total of 16, qualifying for the Basic Hunters award. And Mike VK3XL bagged a total of 20 different parks over the weekend.

Our own Larry VK5LY activated the Murray Sunset NP, and had a total of about 22 QSOs.



image courtesy pf Wikipedia.

Whilst I got a leave pass from home & work, & activated a total of 4 South Australian Conservation Parks, 6

Victorian National Parks, and 3 Victorian SOTA summits. During my 4 days I had a total of 473 contacts whilst in a park or on a summit, and a further 13 contacts whilst mobile. I worked 23 park activators and 34 SOTA activators.



Although I have no official figures, the SOTA Spring Activation weekend was also a huge success with SOTA summits activated all across Australia.

Congratulations are in order for Tony VK3VTH and Andrew VK1NAM for organizing this years events.

For more information on the KRMNPA, please have a look at.....

<https://www.amateurradio.com.au/awards>

Next year's KRMNPA activation weekend will be held on November 13th – November 16th 2015.

The end of an era?

By Paul VK5PAS

Some months ago, a little bird (John VK5BJE) whispered in my ear, and informed me of the imminent closure of Martindale Hall in the Clare Valley. Sadly, the lease on the property expired on 30th June, and the leasees left the property on 1st December.

There is a lot of dispute about what happened. Tracey Waechter who had leased the building & grounds and had run a Museum and Bed & Breakfast business, also lived in the Manager's quarters at Martindale Hall, for the past 14 years.

She stated: *'I was led to believe my lease would be renewed, and attended a meeting in Adelaide where I thought I would be signing a new lease'*. However, a letter was 'pushed' across the table towards her, giving her 3 months notice to quit the premises.

Built in 1879, this Georgian style mansion is situated on the 19 hectare Martindale

Hall Conservation Park, near Mintaro in the Clare Valley. Martindale Hall was gifted to the University of Adelaide by the Mortlock family in 1965, and gifted to the people of South Australia by the University in 1986.



Image: VK5PAS.

Executive Office of the National Trust of South Australia, Dr. Darren Peacock stated: *'DEWNR is a complete failure in managing these properties and promoting them as tourist attractions'*.

The latest information from DEWNR is that a caretaker has been appointed to run Martindale Hall as a museum, while long term options are considered. It will reopen on 8th December, and will be open 7 days a week between 11 and 4 for public visits.

Info courtesy of:

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/>

<http://www.theherald.com.au/>

INTERESTING WEBSITES

SOTA

<http://www.sota.org.uk>

VK5 Parks Award

<http://www.vk5parks.com/>

WWFF

<http://www.wwff.co>

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com>

Mapcarta

<http://mapcarta.com>

Peakery

<http://peakery.com>

SA National Parks

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/>

Lightning Tracker

<http://www.weatherzone.com.au/radar/>

2014 South Australian SOTA stats

By Ian V15CZ



I just added up a list of activity within vk5 up to end of November for year 2014. There probably will be some more chaser points by years end so I might be a bit premature with the results. S2S contacts total was 244 with VK5CZ on 51 contacts as the most and vk5nhg on 2. VK5NIG made 46 s2s contacts from Mount Gawler and Mount Lofty to gain 6 activation points for the year. The chasers love Nigel.

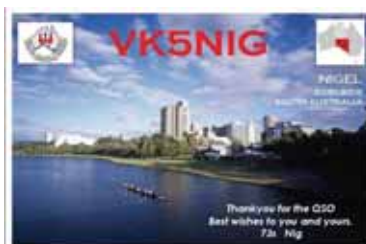


Image courtesy of VK5NIG

There were 9 activators activating and chasing Summit to Summit contacts in vk5 for 2014.

Chaser points to the end of November for 2014 was 15,346 with vk5wg leading on 4160 for 2014 and vk5kx on 2 as the lowest score and 20 regular chasers in vk5 scoring points in 2014.

Activations to the end of November was 179 with VK5TX/2 accumulating 38 activations for the year so far and VK5GY and VK5LAM both doing 1 activation so far in 2014.

Total activation points for all 14 activators for the year until November is 496 points.



Image courtesy of VK5CZ

The total activation points reflect how hard it may be to achieve Mountain Goat status in vk5 for even the most active activators with a lack of close summits to

populated areas and them being of such low value to activate.

We have our work cut out for sure, travelling to summits and gaining permission to enter private land in the autumn to end of spring window in order to be safe from heat and fire danger during the hotter months.



Well done everyone keep working at it.

These results can be found on the SOTAwatch2 page in Database showing individual efforts of all who have submitted logs in all categories of SOTA activities.

73 de Ian vk5cz



2014 'Welcome to amateur radio' symposium

By Paul VK5PAS



On Sunday 23rd November, 2014, a 'Welcome to amateur radio' symposium was held at the Blackwood Community Centre, Young Street, Blackwood. The day was sponsored by the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS).



During the day there were 16 short 20 minute presentations on a variety of subjects related to amateur radio.

They included:

- History of ham radio – Trevor VK5ATQ
- Operating legally & the model QSO – John VK5BJE
- DX Code of Conduct – David VK5LSB
- Ham jargon – Nigel VK5NIG
- QRZ.com – Stuart VK5STU
- APRS – Larry VK5LY
- DX Cluster – Brian VK5BC
- Contesting & Chasing Award – Andy VK5AKH
- QSL cards – John VK5EMI
- Electronic logging programs – Stuart VK5STU
- Antenna basics – John VK5BJE
- Blogs/Wordpress/You Tube – Paul VK5PAS
- Demystifying the learning of Morse Code – Doc VK5BUG
- Summits on the Air – Ian VK5CZ
- Operating QRP – David VK5KC
- VK5 Parks Award & WWFF – Larry VK5LY.



About 80 people attended the symposium. This ranged from some very senior amateurs to a number of new Foundation members.

The cost for the day was only \$5.00 which included morning & afternoon tea (tea, coffee, cake, biscuits), lunch (pizza from Little Caesar's Pizza and sandwich platters from Subway), and soft drink. AHARS subsidized the remainder of the day.

It is envisaged that another day will be held around May next year with 16 different topics.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the presenters, particularly Ian VK5CZ who travelled from the Clare Valley, and Larry VK5LY who travelled from The Riverland.

2014 AHARS Buy & Sell

By Paul VK5PAS

The 2014 Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society (AHARS) Buy & Sell was held on Sunday 2nd November 2014 at the Goodwood Community Centre, Rosa Street, at Goodwood.

Myself, Ian VK5CZ, and Hugh VK5NHG, put on a display of equipment pertaining to SOTA, the VK5 Parks Award & WWFF.



The table was very popular, with lots of interest shown in all 3 programs.

On display we had the Elecraft KX3, Yaesu FT-817nd, various batteries, antennas, squid poles, & a variety of certificates.



We should have been on the payroll for 'Slim' from Strictly Ham, because he sold out of Yaesu FT-817nd in a very short period of time.

We were asked by many people what that little radio was like, and sung its praises. Many of those returned a short time later with a newly packaged FT-817nd. So it looks like we have some new summit & park activators to bring into the fold.

RECENT VK5 SOTA ACTIVATIONS / ACTIVATORS

Not many SOTA activations this time around. As Ian mentioned we are up against it with our location. Is that the reason?

1. VK5/ SE-013 Mt Gawler, Bob VK5FO (7/11/2014)
2. VK6/ SW-042 Mt William, Hugh VK5NHG/6 (8/11/2014)

3. VK5/ SE-005 Mt Lofty, Andrew VK3ARR/5
4. VK3/ VS-046 Mt Napier, Paul VK5PAS/3 (15/11/2014)
5. VK3/ VS-051 Mt Clay, Paul VK5PAS/3 (15/11/2014)
6. VK5/ SE-013 Mt Gawler, Nigel VK5NIG (16/11/2014)
7. VK3/ VS-045 Mt Dundas, Paul VK5PAS (16/11/2014)
8. VK3/ VS-048 Mt Rouse, Paul VK5PAS/3 (16/11/2014)
9. VK5/ SE-016, Ian VK5CCZ (21/11/2014)
10. VK5/ SE-005 Mount Lofty, Ian VK5CZ (22/11/2014)
11. VK5/ SE-013 Mt Gawler, Bob VK5FO (30/11/2014)
12. VK5/ SE-013 Mt Gawler, Bob VK5FO (6/12/2014)



Does your squid pole collapse?

At the recent Welcome to amateur radio symposium, Steve VK5AIM, raised the issue of 'collapsing' squid poles, either under the weight of the antenna or due to the weather.

He has overcome this issue by using adjustable hose clamps, which you can purchase from your local hardware store. See below...



A trip to the Far North

By Paul VK5PAS

In June, 2015, myself, Larry VK5LY, John VK5BJE, and David VK5KC, and our wives, will be heading to the Far North of South Australia.

Our main reason for heading that way is the 75th anniversary of a secret RAAF mission that will be remembered at Farina, north of Leigh Creek.



On 18th June 1940, an amphibious Walrus aircraft took off from Mount Batten near Plymouth in England, with three Australians on board, and a British Intelligence officer. Their mission was to rescue the De Gaulle family in France, and fly them to safety. Sadly, the plane crashed in France before they could accomplish their mission.



Image courtesy of
www.aircrewremembered.com

So why Farina? Well the Captain of that aircraft, Captain John Napier Bell was from Farina.

The organizer of the anniversary is Alan VK3AJH, who is also on the Farina Restoration Group. Alan has written a book called 'Four Men and the Walrus'.

It appears we have been given tacit approval to use the special call sign of VK100ANZAC from Farina on Thursday 18th June, 2015.

Enroute to Farina, and upon our return we will be activating a number of summits, Conservation Parks, and National Parks. Many of those have never been activated before and are unlikely to be activated again in a hurry due to their extremely remote location.

The parks include Lake Torrens NP, Ediacara CP, and Lake Eyre NP. The summits include Mount Arden, Mount Benjamin, & Mount Scott.

More information on the RAAF Mission and our trip can be located on the VK5PAS Wordpress site at:

<http://www.vk5parks.com>

RECENT VK5 PARK ACTIVATIONS

There was a definite drop in the number of VK5 Park activations for this period.

Not sure why? I did hear some portable activity by VK5 ops, but not from within a park. Why not try activating from a National Park or Conservation Park? You will certainly be popular and fill up your log.

- Ridley CP, Paul VK5PAS (6/12/2014)
- Swan reach CP, Paul VK5PAS (6/12/2014)
- Monarto CP, Paul VK5PAS (6/12/2014)
- Coorong NP, Paul VK5PAS (23/11/2014)



Paul VK5PAS operating from the Coorong National Park

- Canunda NP, Col VK5HCF (15/11/2014)
- Canunda NP, Tom VK5EE (15/11/2014)



Col VK5HCF operating from the Canunda National Park (Photo courtesy of Col VK5HCF).

- Desert Camp CP, Paul VK5PAS (14/11/2014)
- Mount Monster CP, Paul VK5PAS (14/11/2014)
- Kelvin Powrie CP, Paul VK5PAS (14/11/2014)
- Poonthie Ruwe CP, Paul VK5PAS (14/11/2014)
- Mark Oliphant CP, Paul VK5PAS (9/11/2014)
- Scott Creek CP, Paul VK5PAS (9/11/2014)

Presentation at Elizabeth ARC

By Paul VK5PAS

On Wednesday 3rd December, 2014 I attended at the Elizabeth ARC Club and delivered a presentation on the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program to a very keen group.



At the meeting, there were some keen Park Activators & Hunters, including Steve VK5AIM and Damien VK5FDEC.

Another member is about to travel to Europe, and was hoping to activate some SOTA summits in that part of the world.

Thanks to Allen VK5MAK for the invite to the Elizabeth ARC.

VK5 Parks update

By Paul VK5PAS

Just a reminder that the certificates for the VK5 Parks Award are now offered for **FREE**. Yes, that's right, for FREE.

I can still print them out and send them at a cost of \$5.00 per certificate (which includes postage, glossy photo paper, ink costs, etc).

However, they are now available via email in PDF format.



Please use the Excel spreadsheet when applying for the award. The spreadsheet can be found in the Files section on the VK5 Parks Yahoo page (which is FREE & EASY to join).

<https://au.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sanpcpa/info>

Two new parks have also been added...

1. Paranki Lagoon CP
2. Mantung CP

More info on the DEWNR website.

I am also in the throws of designing a VK5 Parks award logo. I will keep you posted.

And additionally, work is continuing on a database.

Proposed interstate trip

By John VK5BJE



Hi all

We will be travelling to NSW over Christmas to see our son. It is my intention to activate Greater Bendigo NP (VKFF-623) on Monday 22nd December (21/12/2014 at approx. 22.00 hours UTC and with a bit of luck on Monday afternoon at Mt Alexander, VK3/VN-016.

I may be able to activate a NSW NP near Sydney but will leave that open at the moment.

On the way back to Victoria - I will activate The Rock Hill VK2/RI-026 and Livingstone NP (VKFF-292). These activations will take place on Tuesday 30th in the am, that is, 22:00 hours on 29th for one and after UTC roll-over for the other (30th Dec).

On the 31st we will activate Huon Hill, VK3/VE-237) (UTC 22.00 approx. on 30th Dec).

While in Ballarat I am aiming for Mt Buninyong (VK3/VC-108) and Mt Warrenheip (VK3/VC-109). These activations will occur on 1st January 2015. I will advise of times later.

We intend to visit and activate the Brisbane Ranges NP (VKFF-055); Great Otway NP (VKFF-405) and Port Campbell NP (VKFF-420) as we travel further West. I will advise of date and times later.

And there will be more...

I will start on 40 metres and move to 20. I will call on

7.090 for SOTA (if the frequency is clear, otherwise plus or minus) and 14.310. Parks 7.095 and 14.310 plus/minus.

Sota activations will all be 5 watts from an FT817, while in the Parks I might use another radio and wind up the power to a whopping 20 watts, if needed!

I am hoping for some VK3 park to park contacts: I need Mt Burrowa-Pine, Great Otway, Port Campbell and Alfred for 45 as a chaser. If you hear me please give me a call.

The usual caveats apply - especially if there are high fire danger days!

Cheers to all

John D
VK5BJE

Recent Award recipients

(with a VK5 twist)

WWFF

Andrew VK1NAM,
PLATINUM VKFF Hunter



Nick VK3ANL, BRONZE
VKFF Activator



Paul VK5PAS,
WWFF-A (11)



Paul VK5PAS,
DXFF-3



SOTA

Nev VK5WG, 5,000 points
Hunter VK5 certificate



Paul VK5PAS, 500 unique
summits-Chaser



VK5 Parks

Peter VK3TKK, BRONZE
Uniques National Parks.



Peter VK3TKK, SILVER
Uniques Conservation Parks



Mount Arden VK5/ NE-034

By Ian VK5CZ



My activation for October was Mount Arden I had the chance for a ride to the summit with Les VK5KLV so I took the day off work to make the trip to Quorn. The activation day was a Tuesday so I went to Quorn on Monday afternoon and stayed in the caravan park over night to save an early start from Clare.



Image courtesy of Ian VK5CZ

The trip to Mount Arden is a fairly serious 4 B 4 ride but Les's Prado handled it without any trouble and I had only a short stroll to the activation zone. The

solar flare made conditions very hard to make any qso's and I had to txt msg a couple of people to get them to be listening for me on 40m. But I did eventually make enough contacts on 40, then 20, to qualify with 6 contacts in total.

I think the view from Mount Arden is one of the best I have seen so far and the wx was great so it was a nice day to be on the summit.

The next activity was the AHARS buy and sell and Paul arranged a table for us to set up some of the gear and promotional stuff to show SOTA and Parks activating to the wider ham radio population who came along. We had a busy day talking to people and showing them all kinds of ideas and equipment we have made or collected over the last couple of years. Most of the other vk5 activators came by the table and spent some time talking and comparing ideas and experiences and of course we had some chasers visit us as well. Handing out information

and ideas is our way of saying hey this is fun and I can recommend SOTA or Park activating as a ham radio pass time that gets you out and about to places you would not normally visit or see. I like going to AHARS because I always catch up with people I may have not seen since the last buy and sell so it's nice to receive a friendly greeting and hand shake from so many fellow hams some whom I may be meeting for the first time after talking to them on air. It makes me feel like I am doing a good thing helping them achieve shack sloth on my quest to become that allusive mountain goat, or showing others who do not know much about SOTA but may like to give it a go.

73 until next time de Ian vk5cz

