

VK2 news

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As mentioned in the last notes, advising of future events a month or more in advance is difficult. An example was with Manly Warringah RS who decided to replace their Flag Pole contest with one based on post codes as advised in the September notes. On second thoughts – after the notes were submitted - they decided to return to a version of the Flag Pole and this was conducted in September. MWRS have received this year's ARNSW Development Fund Grant for a project to upgrade and modernize their field day and portable operations capabilities. Their repeater, VK2RMB 146.875 is now streaming on the internet. Many of their lectures are recorded and can be viewed on 'You Tube' at VK2MB-TV.

The Central Coast ARC held their AGM in August and elected Bob VK2AOR as President, Rod VK2LAX as Vice President, Mark VK2CCR as Secretary and David VK2DLS as Treasurer. The committee is made up with Victor VK2BTV, Bob VK2PEP, Don VK2ZCZ, Bob VK2ZAR, Ian VK2HK and Mark VK2MP. Karen VK2AKB is lecture co-ordinator. The Kariong club rooms are open on Saturday's from 10 am. There is a lecture on FT8 scheduled for the 21 st October.

Also having an AGM in August was the Oxley Region ARC at Port Macquarie where Henry VK2ZHE ended up with both the President and Secretary roles. Paul VK2ICQ is Vice President and Lindsay VK2CLL is Treasurer and Education. Committee has Steve VK2ZSW, Dennis VK2DAM and Arthur VK2ATM. OxTales editors are John VK2AYQ and Trevor VK2TT. John VK2KHB is Historian. The Oxley club has been active recently with their communications caravan used in the RD, Light House weekend and for events with the public. A WICEN group has recently become active for the region.

Over time, many a VK2 repeater has found a home on a good elevated site, many of which turn out to be on Crown Land. To many repeater groups it comes as a shock when they get an invoice for rent of the site from the agency providing the site. This was recently the case when the Coffs Harbour and District ARC received an invoice from the Forestry Corporation of N.S.W. It is not a new occurrence but it sometimes takes a while until the State authorities controlling the site find you, often from the ACMA licensing records. The repeater installation is treated as a volunteer group which attracts the annual minimum fee of round \$475. Sometimes a discount can be negotiated but any charge adds to the repeater groups operating costs. There was an IPART Review of Rental Arrangements for Communication Towers on Crown Land conducted in 2013 and can be found by an internet search. There are few free rides available these days and it helps the bottom line if you can find a generous [elevated] private site.

WICEN NSW held their AGM late August. John VK2LJ was elected President with Mal VK2YVA as Vice President. Steve VK2MCA remained Secretary as did Doug VK2DCR in the role of Treasurer. This month there is field activities with Trek for Timor on the weekend 7 th and 8 th. kvrp.net.ua Hawkesbury Canoe Classic overnight on the 28 th / 29 th. Mid North Coast on the 28 th,

The Illawarra ARS meets on the second Tuesday evening at the Coniston Community Hall. Training in the Illawarra can be arranged through Ted VK2ARA Contact him via vk2ara@wia.org.au Early last month on Saturday the 9 th September there was a Tri Club picnic at Fitzroy Falls Reservoir picnic area with the Goulburn ARS, Mid South ARC and Illawarra clubs attending.

Another round of exams for a US license was scheduled in Sydney at the end of August. Blue Mountains ARC reintroduced a Winter fest event in August. They are also have Foundation training and exams scheduled for October 14 / 15 th and December 9 / 10 th . Summerland ARC held a successful SARCfest in late August with over 50 people in attendance. Their weekly newsletter carries extensive reports on their digital activities.

Rick VK2RR reporting in the Armidale and District ARC newsletter advised that recent work had been carried out to restore the Glen Innes and Terry Hie Hie repeaters in the New England region to operational status. Along with the new repeaters at Armidale and those to the east round Walcha being made digital ready, the North West sector of VK2 has an extensive network in place.

This month there is a 'QRP by the Harbour' planned on the 22 nd October. There is also the 60 th JOTA / JOTI over that weekend. Waverley ARS have a Foundation weekend planned for the 25 th / 26 th November. ARNSW also have a Foundation weekend in November on the 18 th / 19 th. The bi monthly Trash and Treasure at the Dural site is on Sunday the 26 th November.

Fishers Ghost ARC has recently commenced Foundation training. They have commissioned VK2RFG, a 70 cm FM & C4FM repeater on 438.650 with a -7 MHz offset. Details at fgarc.org.au St. George ARS have upgraded their 70 cm VK2RLE on 438.425 with -5 MHz offset to DRM plus. Details at www.vkdmr.info News items for these notes are most welcome via email at the address vk2ztm@wia.org.au 73 – Tim VK2ZTM