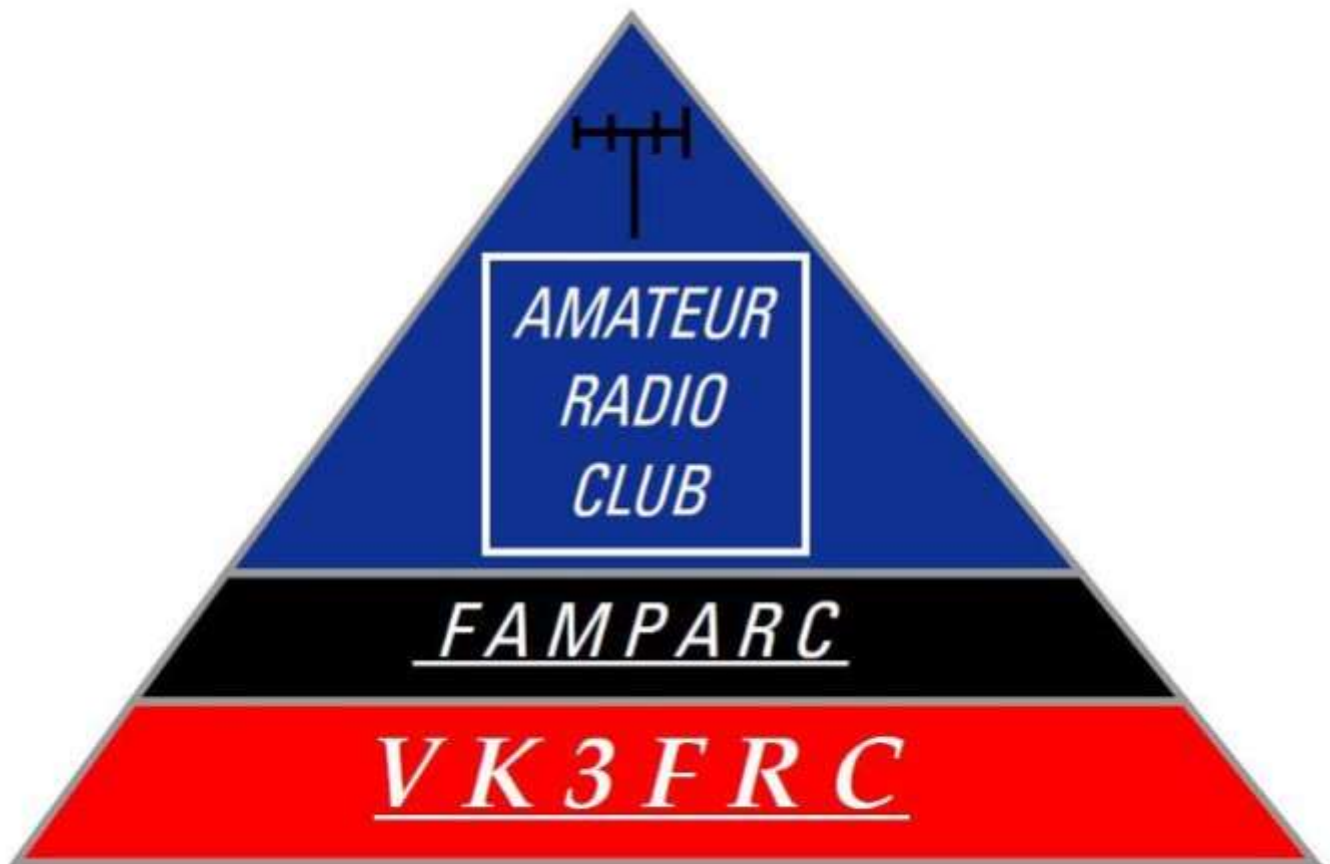




FAMPARC - VK3FRC

FRANKSTON AND MORNINGTON PENINSULA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

May / June 2013



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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

President	Roy Seabridge	VK3GB	5971 4782
Vice President	Allan Bengtsson	VK3AB	9584 5685
Secretary	Peter Collins	VK3IJ	9551 4591
Treasurer	Brian Rich	VK3VBJ	9747 3872
Committee Member	Michael Lammer	VK3UUU	0428 880 500
Committee Member	Ken Halse	VK3ZER	9773 2563
Committee Member	Barry Gardner	VK3THE	
Committee Member	David McAulay	VK3EW	0417 358 095
Committee Member	Andrew Stewart	VK3AEJ	0430 476 489
Committee Member	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
Other Committee Positions..... (Note these are A/H Numbers)			
Exam / Class Admin (Temp)	Allan Bengtsson	VK3AB	9584 5685
VK3 Nominated Assessor	Peter Willmott	VK3TQ	0434 623 423
WIA Exam Assessor	Michael Lammer	VK3UUU	0428 880 500
Contest Manager	Roy Seabridge	VK3GB	5971 4782
Class Instructor	Ken Halse	VK3ZER	9773 2563
Public Officer	Jeff Fletcher	VK3EUL	0419 877 447
QSL Manager	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
Equipment Officer	Bill Grypstra	VK3MMM	9781 2886
Homepage & Newsletter	David Roitman	VK3LDR	0439 037 203
Newsletter Assistant	Peter Collins	VK3IJ	9551 4591

All Surface Mail & QSL to P.O. Box 65, Patterson Lakes Vic 3197

The club location is Cornish College, Riverend Rd Bangholme Melway Map ref 93 J11 or UBD Ref Map 276 A3. **Please take careful note for Sth heading traffic, take Wells Rd not the freeway.**

Follow the road into the college, observing speed limits, take a left turn at the roundabout, go left around to the car park and turn left at the tennis courts, then follow slowly to the club. In winter please do not park on the grass and please angle park on Saturdays. We would be happy to see members, guests and anyone interested to come along.

- **Weekly Net:** Tuesdays at 8pm club members (and friends) meet on 146.425 MHz controlled by Bill VK3MMM.
- **Weekly Wednesdays 9am - 2pm at the club rooms.**
 - Meet other club members no longer in the work force and reflect on those busy days. Some work may be done on projects at your leisure.
- **Weekly Saturdays 9am - 2pm at the club rooms.**
 - Get together by club members (and friends). Have a chat on HF or VHF, join in with various projects, or at least discuss them over a cup of coffee.
- **Last Saturday of the month.**
 - Member business meeting starting at 10.30 am
- Club Regular Frequencies: 2m 146.425MHz Simplex & 70cm 439.900MHz Duplex
- D-Star Repeater: 2M Port C 146.7625 MHz Output & 70cm Port B 438.125 MHz Output

A few words from the president

Dear Members,

In last months news letter, which included an article on the possible loss of Part of our Amateur Radio spectrum from 2300-2302 MHz. Colin VK3CR very kindly investigated what section of the spectrum we would most likely lose and drafted a letter to the ACMA with his objections. Colin offered his letter to club members who could forward it to the ACMA under their own call sign, changing or adding there own comments.

At the following Famparc end of the month meeting, the question was asked, how many members attending this meeting had signed under their own call sign and forwarded Colin's letter to the ACMA objection to the proposed loss of a section of our spectrum. Unfortunately, by a show of hands the result was poor.

To me this highlighted the valued work of the WIA in protecting us from theft of part of our current amateur bands. Following the end of the month meeting, I had a brief discussion with Ken VK3ZER who admitted he had never been a member of the WIA and was embarrassed to report this was due to derogatory remarks made by pass club members. However he offered to look into the workings of the WIA with a fresh outlook. I am pleased to report Ken is planning to take up WIA membership. I asked Ken if he would permit me to highlight the reasoning behind his decision.

There is no doubt that some members of Famparc thought that during their initial development the WIA made some unpopular decisions, however, we need to forget historic problems from the past and move on. We have new people with new ideas in office.

Did you know in the WIA there are only three paid members of staff? Any other work required to make the WIA what it is today is carried out by dedicated, hard working, volunteers.

One of the other benefits of WIA membership is the monthly magazine keeping you abreast of technical and topical amateur events and delivered free to your door.

What you may not know is the WIA is currently fighting to remove some of the current local council legislation preventing the installation and erecting of amateur radio towers. This is apart from the current fight to prevent the current threat of theft of our spectrum by the ACMA.

Did you know Famparc has a current Public Liability Insurance cover for the sum of \$20.000.000. The premium we pay for this insurance is reduced by the amount of club members who are members of the WIA.

Each year the WIA gives out a financial grant for various club projects. Clubs are invited to apply for a grant by submitting an application outlining the project the grant application is for, however, this grant is only offered to clubs who have sufficient club members who are also members of the WIA. I am sorry to report Famparc has never had sufficient members who are also members of the WIA. We have therefore been unable to make an application for a WIA grant.

If we at Famparc together with other Amateur Radio Clubs throughout Australia can make a significant increase in the WIA membership, the need to increase Membership fees to the WIA will be reduced.

Finally and I say most importantly the higher the membership numbers of the WIA, the stronger the WIA will be in protecting our requirements, be it, spectrum theft or fighting outdated local council bye laws, or speaking on Australian Amateur Radio requirements at international forums.

Please give serious consideration to joining the WIA to help them help us.

Roy, VK3GB



Meetings & News

As you know, there's a monthly business meeting on the last Saturday of each month. There are generally around fifteen to twenty members in attendance. Here's a **rollup summary** of some of the items discussed at club meetings.

March 31st Meeting opened 10:35am, closed 11:40am

Correspondence in: None.

Correspondence out: None.

- Discussion about a donation to Roy VK3GB and Roy VK3IJ for the upcoming DXpedition to Norfolk Island. An amount of \$500 was suggested which was then reduced to \$200 and carried by a majority of members.
- Discussion around the need for WIA membership.
- "The Complete DXer" and "a Year of Dxing" books available at the club for loan.
- ACMA 13cm re-allocation discussion, six members had written in to the ACMA.
- Discussion around SDR kits, and some more members expressed interest.

April 28th Meeting opened 10:35am, closed 11:40am

Correspondence in: NAB Statement.

Correspondence out: None

- Roy mentioned the funeral for Barry Petersen VK3BAP was held during the week and was attended by 4 members from FAMPARC. Barry's wife told Roy that Barry wanted his gear to be donated to the club. The equipment is to be cleaned and tested then offered to members of the club at prices to be determined then what was not sold would be put up for sale on VK Classifieds.
- Roy suggested the club purchase an AA-54 as the MFJ analyzers presently owned by the club are beyond repair. After much discussion Colin VK3CR moved a motion that the club purchase the AA-54. The motion was seconded by Brian VK3VBJ and passed by a majority of members with 3 against.
- Roy spoke about the VK9NT DXpedition and suggested if any members wished to make contact a good opportunity may be next Saturday afternoon or early evening on 80 or 40 metres when the stations were being setup and tested.
- Alan also mentioned that he had no response from members regarding participating in the Trans Tasman which is held on May 11th.

Next Business Meetings

- Saturday 25th May
- Saturday June 29th

Talks

We are always planning to arrange a lecture/talk each month. If any club members would be willing to give a talk on something they feel would be interesting and informative for club members please telephone Roy on 59714782 to make arrangements.

Meetings & News

SILENT KEY - VK3BAP

Late in April one of our members Barry Petersen VK3BAP passed away. He had come through a bout of cancer but then suffered a stroke. His funeral was attended by 4 of our members. Barry was a home brewer that always had some project on the go and had collected lots of bits and pieces over the years. Barry asked his wife that all his stuff was to be donated to FAMPARC of which most has been collected and will be sold to members.

Vale Barry (aka Father Christmas)



VK9NT

NORFOLK ISLAND DXPEDITION 2013



Norfolk Island Dxpediton VK9NT

The Oceania Dx Group (ODXG) will be setting off for Norfolk Island in the early hours of Friday 3ed May 2013. After changing planes at Sydney we are scheduled to arrive on Norfolk Island at 13.35 pm Friday afternoon.

To reduce the possibility of interference we will be operating from two separate sites. Anson Bay Loge and Pacific Palms. The Anderson Bay Lodge will be the primary RTTY station with SSB and CW. The Pacific Palms site will be CW and SSB. These locations are approximately 1 km apart.

By the time we arrive at our accommodation and unpack all the equipment, it will be late in the day, before losing day light; the plan is to erect the longer wave length antennas first. i.e. Verticals for 40/80 and Fritzel FD4, OCF multi-band horizontal polarization.

Early the next morning Saturday 4th May we will erect the three Hex Beams. We hope to have all the antennas and stations operating by midday.

I do hope to hear and log you during the nine days of operating.

Best wishes.

Roy VK3GB/G4SEA. VK9NT.ODXG.ORG



ISS - International Space Station

Article by Shaun Stoddart, VK3FSDS.

Hi all members of FAMPARC, this will be my first attempt to hopefully write and convey something of interest for you to read and enjoy in this edition of the FAMPARC newsletter. I'll first start by saying that over the past couple of months there has been much hype around the club over the subject of the ISS (Zarya) or better known as the International Space Station.

I won't bore you all with too many of the facts and figures but I will make mention of a few things which are of some significance. The very first module built was named "Zarya" and was commissioned and sent into a low earth orbit back on the 20th of December 1998. It was sent into space by a Russian Proton rocket. After parking in orbit, some 400kms above earth, the Zarya Module provided orientation control, communications and electrical power for itself and for the passive Node 1 (Unity) attached later, while the station awaited launch of the third component, a Russian-provided crew living quarters and early station core, the service module Zvezda. The Service Module enhanced or replaced many functions of Zarya.

Today there are more than twenty modules and the whole operation is a world joint exercise with many countries having a vested interest.

Well enough said about that, for any of you who wish to further your knowledge about the ISS there is a wealth of information on the web. At the end of this article, I shall post links and references to some interesting sites.

There are two main reasons for my interest in the goings on of the ISS. Firstly, it's a pretty good visual experience (although I have heard members say that if you've seen it once you've seen it all) and secondly, they have licensed hams whom which from time to time operate on the 2mtr band.

I have seen it flying over on many occasions and yes, I'm more interested in the later reason for interest.

Contacting the ISS or one of its crew members more to the point is like playing a game of lotto. It sounds easy and although you not need have to worry about going thru a repeater or relying on tropospheric ducting or anything along those lines, and you don't need high power or massive arrays of beam antennas. A modest 2mtr setup will get you there, although the for mentioned might assist if there happens to be a pileup of stations calling like what occurs in the USA, I have seen you tube videos that document this so a high tech 2mtr setup would be of an advantage in pileup situations.

The bare bones answer to the question "how does one make contact with the ISS?" is.....

TIMING!!!!!! Purely timing. One could try all their lives to get a QSL from the ISS but if the time timing ain't right, you'll never win the fight! The crew onboard work a 9 to 5 so to speak and can't just go and grab the mic and transmit whenever they wish. They can only use the radio to contact civilian stations back on earth in their spare time, which is minimal, every hour on the ISS is accounted for..



Time lapse of the ISS "Zarya" travelling probably 330km above ground at approx. to 27,000km per hour!

ISS - International Space Station

Now the ISS uses UTC so this means to make contact, some calculations need to be done. Most of the time the ISS crew is awake from 07:00 – 22:00 UTC time (also known as Zulu time). And the crew is sleeping from 22:00 – 06:00 UTC time. You will need to know the time difference between your local time and UTC time. The best chance is on weekends and after dinner, I would think somewhere between the hours of 18:00 to 21:00 UTC would offer the best chance. So in Melbourne at present we UTC +10 hours. this means that the best chance for contact will be between the hours of 4:00am and 7:00am in the morning local time. Easy you say? Well not really, there are many more hurdles in the way.

Firstly, the ISS has an orbital speed of approx. 17,000Mph or 27,000Kph. It takes roughly an hour and a half to complete one orbit around the planet so it's travelling around earth about 16 times a day. That's 16 chances of the ISS travelling over the top of Melbourne. Of those 16 possibilities of it flying over the top of us at least 60 degrees above the horizon so its close enough for contact, it needs to be between those hours I mentioned previously. There is not much of a window of opportunity, absolutely no more than 8 mins and that's when it's 80 plus degrees above the horizon (when it's nearest to our location) so all these factors need to fall into place. Even if the orbital path is correct and it's the right time of day, who's to say there will be someone at the other end? If you should be one of the lucky ones to make contact, all QSO's are logged and then sent to NASA headquarters so you can request a QSL card, one which I would dearly love to get my hands on!!

Anyway, here is a list of frequencies you'll need to know in order to set your radio up if you wish to give it a go.

Voice and Packet Downlink: 145.80 (Worldwide)

Voice Uplink: 144.49 for Regions 2 and 3 (The Americas, and the Pacific)

Voice Uplink: 145.20 for Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa)

Packet Uplink: 145.99 (Worldwide)

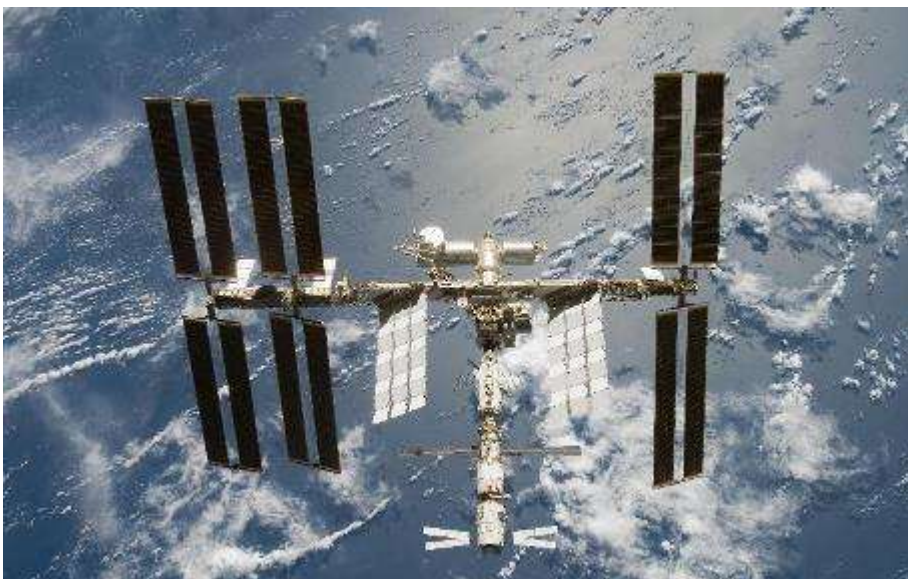
Good luck for all those who try!!!

Till next time, this is VK3FSDS signing off.

Shaun Stoddart

Links and references,

1. <http://www.marexmg.org/fileshtml/issvoicetips.html>
2. <http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Space_Station
4. <http://www.n2yo.com/> This is my favourite site for tracking.



The International Space Station "Zarya"

An unusual TVI problem

AN UNUSUAL TVI PROBLEM.

Since the introduction of digital TV signals the old problems of creating television interference from your transmitter has become something historic. In fact having spoken with several members of our club on this matter, there is a general perception that to cause interference to a modern digital TV is more or less impossible.

I can tell you that is simply not true. The other day I was transmitting CW on the ten metre band and heard this 60db over S9 audio coming from my wife who was sitting watching her favourite Television program.

It appeared I was causing major distortion to the TV screen. The station I was exchanging numbers with was quite rare, so despite the high qrm from my wife, I completed and logged the exchange before investigating the high noise level emanating from the lounge.

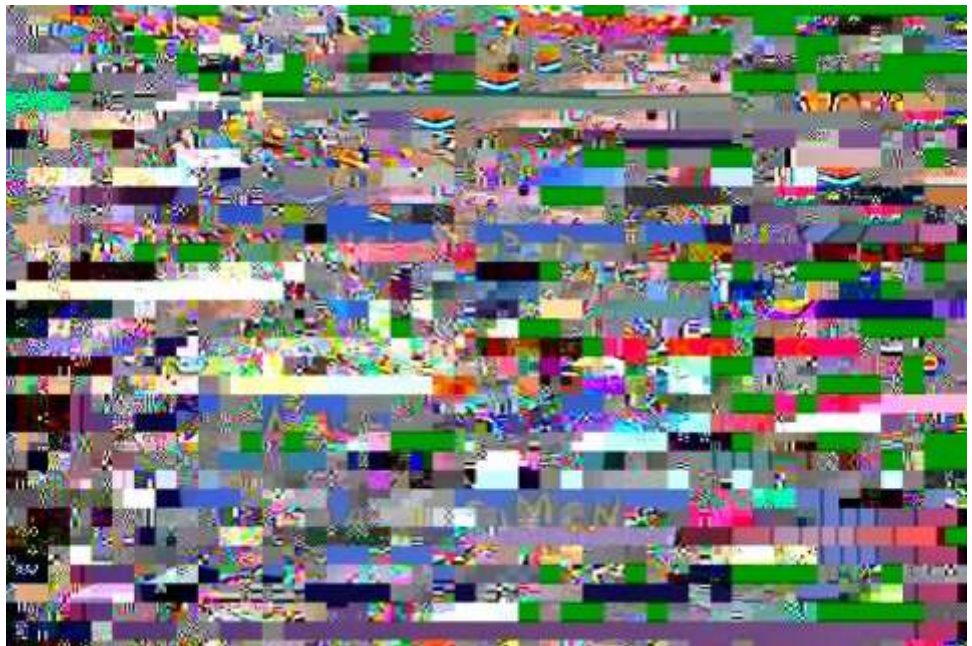
After looking at the antenna and all equipment in my shack and found them all to be working as they should. I dropped my output power to five watts, however, I was really concerned when I discovered I was still causing tvI albeit to much less degree.

To cut a long story short. I remembered that the night before I had carried my laptop computer into the lounge and connected it to the TV via an RGB cable and a separate stereo cable. I know these are old fashion and I should use a HDMI cable, but every attempt at using an HDMI cable has resulted in the lack of audio.

Both cables were left plugged into the rear of the TV. On the off chance the stereo plug could be acting as an antenna (it is approximately six feet long) I unplugged this cable and Hey presto no more TVI.

If you ever have TVI from your own transmitter, when you have never had it before. Check that you or any of your children have not left anything hanging out the back of your TV.

For warned is for armed!



An example of pixelation due to extreme TVI



Moorabbin and District Radio Club.

PO Box 58 Highett 3190

VK3APC

***** Saturday 11th May, 2013 *****

HAMFEST 2013

Location – Southern Community Centre - Rupert Drive, Mulgrave

Melways Reference **80 F4** (Enter via Huxley Ave off Police Rd.)



- * GREAT VENUE
- * PLENTY OF SPACE
- * MELBOURNES BIGGEST
- * MAJOR AND MINOR DOOR PRIZES

The Moorabbin & District Radio Club have much pleasure in inviting you to participate in

VK3's BIGGEST ANNUAL HAMFEST

Snacks and hot food will be available – FREE TEA & COFFEE!

Talk in via 439.900Mhz 70cm VK3RSE

PRIZE DRAWS: Every entry ticket goes into the draw & additional tickets on sale

SALES: NEW - Importers and suppliers of amateur equipment & accessories.

SALES: USED - Preloved ham gear & accessories, PC's & bits & pieces

All inside and undercover. Demonstrations of Radio equipment and accessories.

ENTRY ONLY \$7.00

(Doors Open 10am – entry tickets on sale prior)

(INCLUDES FREE DRAW IN THE MAJOR DOOR PRIZE.....)

Tables available at \$20 each, (1.8m long)
includes lunch voucher. Please contact:

Lee Moyle, VK3GK. Tel: BH/AH (03) 9705 1051

Email: vk3gk@aanet.com.au

Graeme Lewis, VK3GL. Tel AH: (03) 9702 1199 or

Mobile (0418) 171601 & Email: vk3gl@bigpond.com

Webpage - www.mdr.org.au



What's on & Coming up??

Contests & Hamfests

For popular local contest see the WIA Calendar: <http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/events/>

For popular DX Contests See the following websites & calendars:

ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

WA7BNM's calendar: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

May

Sat 11th - 80m Trans Tasman contest

0800 - 1400 UTC (6pm - 12pm)

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transtasman/>

Sat 11th - **MDRC HAMFEST**

Doors open 10am!

Southern Community Centre - Rupert Drive, Mulgrave

Melway Reference **80 F4** (Enter via Huxley Ave off Police Rd.)

<http://www.mdrc.org.au/>

Fri May 17 - World Telecommunications Day.

Callsign prefix AX may be used in lieu of VK.

<http://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/Pages/about.aspx>

http://acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_311646

Sat-Mon 25-27 CQWW WPX CW contest

Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 UTC (Sat 10am - Mon 10am)

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

June

Sat/Sun 8th/9th VK Shires Contest

Sat 0600 - Sun 0600 (Sat 4pm - Sun 4pm)

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/wavks/>

Sat/Sun 22nd-23rd Winter VHF/UHF Field Day

<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/>



Birthdays!

May

Malcolm VK3DMG, Wayne VK3TWM, Andy VK3XKA,
Gerard VK3GER

June

Ross VK3LTD, Ron VK3BRA, Barry VK3THE, Bill
VK3MMM, John VK3MJL, Tim VK3MIT, John VK3JPA,
Dave VK3LDR

If your birthday isn't at some stage in this newsletter we may not have your details so please supply to Allan VK3AB.