



"OUT AND ABOUT IN VK5"

Issue 25, November 2016

Welcome



Hello all, and welcome to Issue 25 November 2016, of '*Out and About in VK5*'. This newsletter focuses on South Australian (VK5) activities relating to Summits on the Air (SOTA), Parks (including WWFF and the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award), portable operation, QRP, pedestrian mobile, mobile, etc.

Weather during October in South Australia is normally quite good. That wasn't the case this October, with heavy rain and damaging winds. This no doubt resulted in the small number of dedicated SOTA & Parks activators who headed out into the field.

On a personal level I hosted at home for a night, fellow WIA Director Andrew VK6AS. Andrew and I delivered a presentation to around 100 amateurs in Adelaide on WIA issues, and we then headed off for a 1,500 km trip around South Australia, delivering some

further presentations and activating a few parks along the way. This was the first time that Andrew had activated a park, and he has now been bitten by the bug, with Andrew activating a park for the very first time solo, a week or so ago over in VK6.

I also flew to Perth where I delivered some WIA presentations with Andrew, and whilst there snuck in some park activations. These were my first Western Australian parks and I must say that propagation all the way over there in VK6 is very different to VK5 and the east coast of Australia.

Whilst in W.A. I was fortunate enough to have been asked out to the clubrooms of the Northern Corridor Amateur Radio Club. What an impressive set up they have. Tower after tower, with beams and StepIR's.

October saw the inaugural VKFF Team Championship event, which proved to be a success. A total of 8 teams headed out into the field, many in not so great weather conditions. Team Kookaburra comprising Tony VK3XV and Mick VK3GGG were the overall winners. I would like to thank all those who took part in the event, either as activators or hunters. And I would also like to say thankyou to the sponsors. SOTABEAMS kindly donated a 25 pound store voucher, whilst Peter VK3FPSR of Pages of Cobram donated a \$50.00 book voucher for the store. I would also like to thank the 3 amateurs who donated \$200.00 towards the trophies. Those amateurs wish to remain anonymous to the general amateur radio community, but I know who you are, and thank you very much.

I would like to thank the contributors to this months issue of Out and About in VK5. They include Jarrad VK6FFAR, Chris VK4FR/VK5FR, Rob VK4FFAB, and Tony VK3XV. Jarrad VK6FFAR gives us a VK6 Foundation call's perspective on the WWFF program, whilst Chris VK4FR/VK5FR talks about chasing the parks from the Tropics, and also has a review on SpotGen3. Rob VK4FFAB provides us with his regular update on SOTA & Parks in VK4, whilst Tony VK3XV reminds us of the upcoming activation weekend for the Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

A reminder that the VKFF Activation Weekend will be held on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November 2016. This is a great opportunity of heading out into a qualifying VKFF park and making a number of contacts. If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, please drop

me an email with your intentions so I can add your activation details to the spreadsheet. Also, don't forget to place your intentions on the parksneaks website.

Further discussion was held with Nigel VK5NIG and Stuart VK5STU at the AHARS Buy and Sell on a SOTA & Parks symposium, similar to what was held a few years ago. It will include presentations from a number of experts in the field, a linked dipole construction session, and some portable sessions out in the field. I hope to be able to report on a date and a venue in the next issue of Out and About.

Please remember that **if you have any information that you would like to see in the next issue, please drop me an email at....**

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Best 73 and happy activating/chasing/hunting.

Paul, VK5PAS.



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Migration of Logsearch to wwff.co

By Paul VK5PAS



No doubt all the park activators and hunters would be aware that WWFF Logsearch has been migrated over to the wwff.co website.

A few people have complained re the process and have experienced some issues. Personally I logged on fine, as did my wife and had no problems.



I have put together a page on the WWFF Australia website to help people through the registration process. It can be found at.....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/how-to-register-for-logsearch.html>

Please note that your old log on information will NOT be valid on the new site. To use the new Logsearch, you need to be registered and logged in on the new site.

If you have any problems, please drop me an email at.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Andrew M0MYA advises that a number of features are yet to be implemented. They include:

Enhancements to Directory

- Show details of previous activations

Enhancements to Summary Statistics

- Select individual countries/programs not just All

There is also work being done which will allow links to be placed with references, e.g. a link to a relevant website, or a Wordpress site. Also a Activity list, showing who last activated the park and the date of their activation.

You can keep up to date with the migration and the status of Logsearch on the wwff.co website at.....

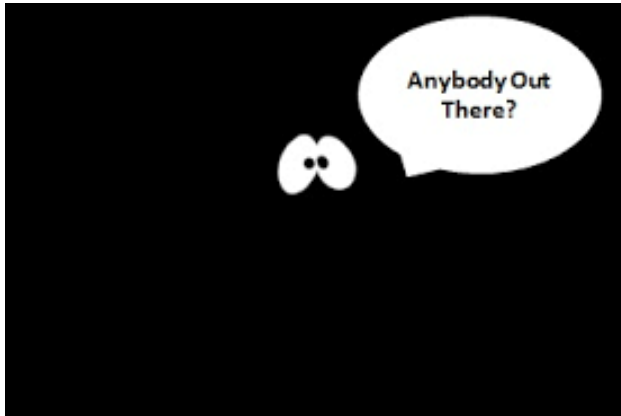
<http://wwff.co/directory/>

You can also view the 'To do list' at.....

<http://wwff.co/logsearch/the-todo-list/>

When the power goes out, what do you do?

By Paul VK5PAS



As many would have read in the media, around 1.7 million residents of South Australia were without power (for varying periods of time) as of Wednesday 28th Sept 2016.

For me it was a great opportunity to find out just how much electrical noise was generated around my house and the neighbourhood. The results weren't really surprising. It was like being in a park or on a SOTA summit. No man made noise!

But that was not to last. The power did come back on. Albeit about 21 hours later.

If only it was quiet on the bands like that all of the time.

Weekend Notes

By Paul VK5PAS

Weekend NOTES

Weekend Notes is a terrific website which lists things to do in your area, events to attend, and what's on. It contains a lot of information re National Parks and Conservation Parks.

The Adelaide Weekend Notes page can be found at.....

<http://www.weekendnotes.com/adelaide/>

A reminder about some simple rules

By Paul VK5PAS



I would just like to clarify some simple rules re the two parks awards – World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) and the VK5 Parks Award. This follows after receiving a few emails

querying the rules regarding operating whilst mobile.

In the WWFF program, mobile operation is allowed. This includes true mobile, if you are driving through a park for example. It also includes sitting inside your vehicle whilst stationary and operating from the vehicle.

However, the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award strictly forbids any mobile activity and also states:-

“Mobile operation (defined as in or on a vehicle) from within a South Australian National Park / and or Conservation park is not permitted. You are able to operate in close proximity to a motor vehicle, e.g. under an annex attached to a camper van. There is no specified distance from a motor vehicle that you may operate.”

The intention of the VK5 Parks Award was to encourage true portable operation, with amateurs getting out into the fresh air and testing their skills in establishing a portable station.

So to clarify, for the VK5 Parks Award you cannot be seated in a vehicle sheltering from the weather. Operating whilst sitting in a deck chair for example, from underneath an awning attached to your vehicle is ok.

If you are operating from your vehicle for the WWFF program, please ensure that you are within the park boundaries. This may not be possible at all parks if you are using a vehicle.

Radio, Mic, Antenna, Action

By Jarrad VK6FFAR

CQ Parks, CQ Parks, CQ Parks. Relatively easy as I've heard on 40m multiple times as a Park Hunter.

On the day starting at 2pm local time I wasn't fully prepared on what I was getting my self into. Now I'm used to sitting at home in the shack calling CQ and getting the odd contact here and there but this was much much more thrilling.

I'm talking of course of the VKFF and WWFF programs.

Now I realize these have been going for many years but to a new still wet behind the ears FCall I very quickly became interested in the world of VKFF and WWFF.

This all stems from my second ever contact on 40m just after getting my license, and as much as he is bashful and says he didn't do anything VK6ADF Phil is to thank (blame) for igniting this fire. In what was a busy time for Phil he took the time to explain to me exactly what he was doing and why he was doing it, even though there were other stations waiting their turn to hunt him down for the points.

Fast forward back to my first activation. The Leschenault Conservation Park.

2pm local time, antennas up radio on and start calling. In the 2 hours of calling cq cq parks and tripping over my own call sign several times and even referring to the park as a caravan park instead of conservation park, I know now what a pile up is like, well a mini one any how.

It was a delightful experience and the encouragement from callers was outstanding none the less, it was a bit hard to tell who was more grateful, me or the hunters.

To hit 35 QSO's on my very first park activation was very rewarding and left me with a experience I will never forget in a hurry.

I was not alone on this day as my good mate and fellow Amateur Nick VK6FSEA was along for the ride not only for the company but to get me where I needed to be as I do tend to get lost in the south west, but that's another story and one it seems I will never live down in a hurry.

Nick enjoyed the day also and as a consequence has also enjoyed his first park activation with the VKFF teams event held just recently in the Mad Mix Team.

The wonderful world of VKFF is a very well supported program not only by the activators but the hunter's as well. So I would only suggest if you're looking for a way to further your amateur radio experience go to VKFF website and have a read for your self. If not as an activator as a hunter, cause after all who doesn't like getting an award.

On a personal note I would like to thank the following VK operators:

VK6ADF for igniting the fire, VK5PAS for fanning the fire and VK6MB who showed me the ropes on one of his activations.

Thanks and 73 Jarrad de VK6FFAR

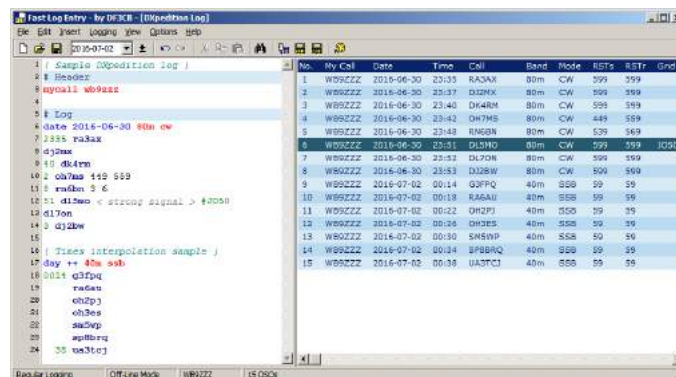
Fast Log Entry

By Paul VK5PAS

The latest version of Fast Log Entry (FLE) is version 2.8 which was released on 30th August 2016. FLE is a text editor and logger to enter QSO data as easy and fast as possible. It supports both WWFF and SOTA.

FLE can be downloaded from.....

<http://www.df3cb.com/fle/>



Making sense of propagation figures

By Paul VK5PAS

“The solar flux index is 82, and the smooth sunspot number is 13. The A Index is 18 and the K index is 3”. Does any of that make sense to you? Solar propagation figures can be a little confusing at times. So I’m going to run through some of the very basics of solar propagation figures.

What is the Solar Flux Index (SFI) ?

SFI is a measure which is used as the basic indicator of solar activity and to determine the level of radiation being received from the sun. Solar flux is measured in solar flux units, abbreviated as SFU, and is the amount of radio noise or flux that is emitted at a frequency of 2800 MHz (10.7 cm).

There are a multitude of books and websites where you can delve into this in greater detail. But all you really need to know about the SFI is that it generally ranges between 50 to 300. But what does that really mean to me?

Well, the higher the SFI, generally the better the propagation, and the better the DX. Low SFI values indicate that the maximum useable frequency will be low and overall bands conditions will not be good, particularly on the higher HF bands.

However if the SFI is high, this generally indicates that there is sufficient ionization to

support long distance (DX) communications at higher than normal frequencies.

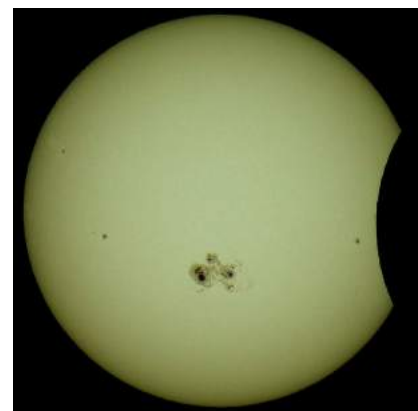
So in summary, we want to see high SFI figures. Because band conditions will be better on the higher HF bands and also on 6m. Levels of 150 and more should indicate good band conditions, whilst SFI levels of 200 or more should ensure that they are at their peak.

Sunspots

A sunspot is a spot or patch that appears from time to time on the sun’s surface, appearing dark by contrast with its surroundings. They are darker, cooler areas on the surface of the sun in a region called the photosphere. They appear darker in comparison with the brighter and hotter regions of the photosphere.

Sunspots are of great interest to amateurs and others who are interested in HF communication. This is because the number of sunspots on the sun has a dramatic effect on the levels of radiation emitted and thus an impact on the ionosphere.

Generally, the more active sunspots there are, the better the DXing will be on the higher HF bands.



Smoothed Sunspot Number (SSN)

I'm not going to go into the formula that is used here, because it is complicated and way out of my league. The SSN was developed in the early 20th century by the Zurich observatory. It is a way of averaging out or 'smoothing' the daily sunspot numbers.

Once again, high SSN numbers generally indicate better conditions on the higher HF bands.

Solar flares & CMEs

A solar flare is a sudden flash of brightness observed near the sun's surface. Flares are often, but not always, accompanied by a coronal mass ejection. The flare ejects clouds of electrons, ions, and atoms through the corona of the sun into space. These clouds typically reach the Earth a day or so after the event and can dramatically effect propagation.



Solar cycle

We have probably all heard of the 11 year solar cycle. Every 11 years the sun's activity changes with periods of low activity and high

activity. At the commencement of the cycle, some new sunspots being to appear on the sun. With these, comes an improvement on the higher HF bands. As the cycle progresses, more and more sunspots commence to be visible on the sun, with continuing improvement on HF.

The A & K Index

Again I am not going to go into the technical aspect of the A & K Indexes, except to say that they are measurements of the magnetic field activity that are used in solar predictions. It is the numbers that are important here.

The A Index ranges from 0-400, whilst the K Index is rated 0-9.

A Index

0-7	Quiet
8-15	Unsettled
16-29	Active
30-49	Minor storm
50-99	Major storm
100-400	Severe storm

K Index.

0	Inactive
1	Very quiet
2	Quiet
3	Unsettled
4	Active
5	Minor storm
6	Major storm
7	Severe storm
8	Very severe storm
9	Extremely severe storm

So what are we looking for with the A and K Index figures?

Basically with the A Index, any low figure is good. A-6 is the best, followed by 7-9 OK, and 11 or more the bands are not likely to be good.

With the K Index we are again looking for low figures. 0-1 is best, 2 is ok, 3 or more is average to poor, and 5 or more is bad news for DXers.

In an ideal world for DXers on the HF bands, we would be looking for A & K indices of 0, lasting for a few days. This combined with a high SFI.

If however your interest lies with the lower HF bands, you would be looking for low A & K indices with very low SFI numbers.

Generally if the A index is 10 or lower, and the K index is 3 or lower, and the SFI is above 90, propagation is normally good.

A large amount of information can be found on the SolarHam website which can be found at.....

<http://www.solarham.net/>

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Space Weather TV

By Paul VK5PAS

The very popular Space Weather TV website is currently under reconstruction as new volunteers have taken over the project from Dr. Tabitha Skov.

Dr. Skov can be followed on Twitter for the latest updates, space weather events and forecast, whilst the website is redesigned and rebuilt.

<http://spaceweather.tv/>



WWFF DX Cluster on website

By Paul VK5PAS

If you would like to see WWFF specific spots on the DX Cluster, you can do so via the wwff.co website. Here is the link.....

<http://wwff.co/dx-cluster/>

Another very useful site is hamspots. Here is the link to that site.....

<http://hamspots.net/WWFF>

Chasing the parks from The Tropics

By Chris VK4FR/VK5FR



Some of you may know that I am working in VK5 while my family remains in Townsville so my life entails frequent trips back home to VK4. My latest trip coincided with the VKFF Team Championship 2016. On the upside I managed to get in two birthdays and the Townsville 150 year Airshow while I was home.

<http://tinyurl.com/t150-airshow>

As I was at the airshow and fireworks on the Saturday of the weekend I didn't have a chance to hunt any parks but I was geared up by lunchtime on the Sunday.

A bit of research produced the most likely bands capable of covering the distance, circa 2000km, from Townsville to Adelaide and broadly the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) as provided by VOACAP,

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

from Townsville to VK5 favoured 20M from 0000z (1030k/I) and maybe a little on 17M but that is very little used for WWFF (Figure 1).

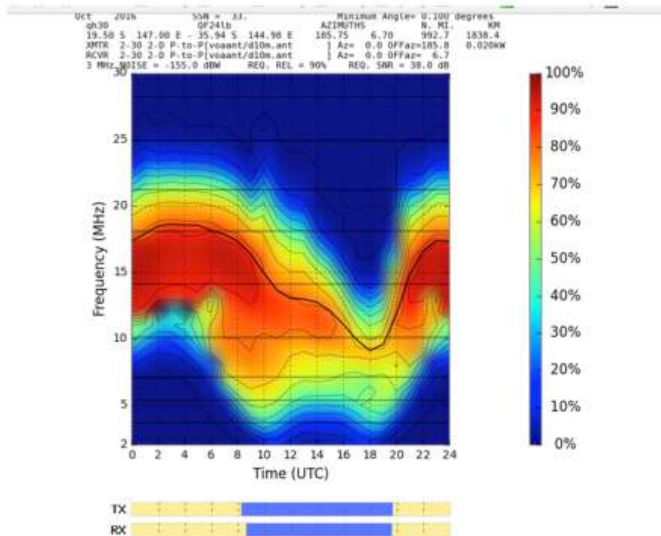


Figure 1: MUF

40M propagation at 0300z (1330k/I) looked very much as expected (Figure 2).

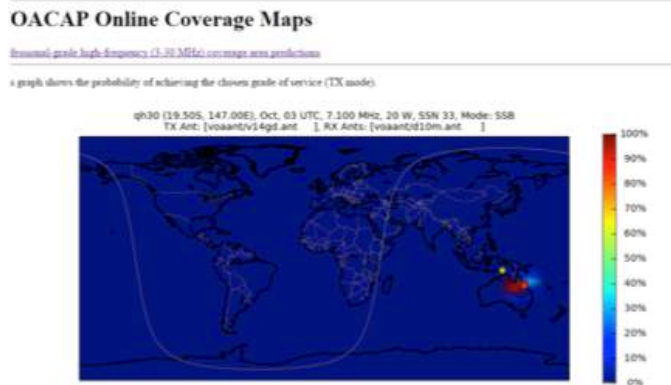


Figure 2: 40M propagation

15M propagation looked relatively OK and was borne out when tuning around the band. (Figure 3)

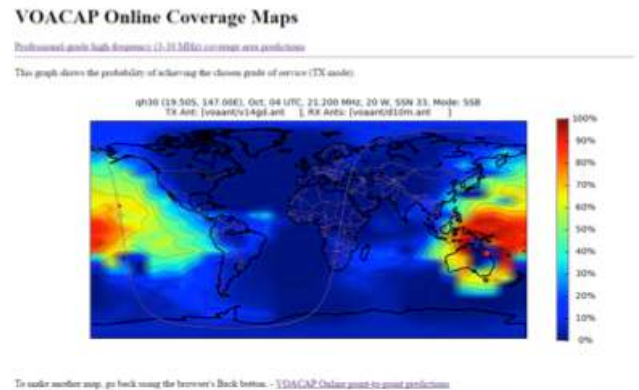


Figure 3: 15M propagation

It wasn't until 0700z (1730k/I) that 40M started to open up from the home QTH to VK5/3. Figure 4.

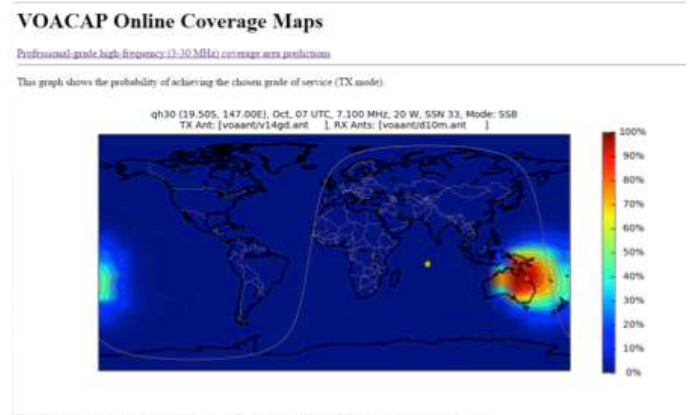


Figure 4: 40M propagation at 0700z

The going was always going to be tough as I have taken down and sold my tribander beam

and only use the linked 20/40M linked dipole on the 10 metre collapsible SOTA beams mast. The KX3 hooked up to the 12V HF Packer Amp delivers me about 35W output from a motor vehicle jump charger while I'm home so I'm effectively operating portable.

Except when I put up the Moonraker! Figure 5. For those operating from the field over the weekend make sure you note the weather conditions behind the Moonraker that I had to 'endure'!



Figure 5: The Moonraker!

The Moonraker vertical is a designed for operation on the 40M band however is just at home on the 15M band and provides me with

terrific world wide coverage on the digital modes at low power. So my options opened up for 15/20/40M.

The day started promising enough with a solid 59 plus signal coming from VK4ZI at the Undarra Volcanic National Park but unfortunately none of my replies to his CQs went unanswered which was quite strange as he is literally just up the road from me at Undarra.

While I watched Parks and Peaks (P&P) for a 15M or 20M station to pop up I ventured onto the digital mode of JT65, turned the KX3 down to 2.5W and worked several Japanese stations (JA) but propagation wasn't quite getting me into Mongolia (JT1).

At last Tony, VK3XV, popped up on 20M in the Ararat Hills Regional Park VKFF-0958. There followed a hard fought QSO with Tony a 44 into Townsville and my signal reaching Tony at 51, both of us experiencing deep QSB. After convincing Tony I was in fact at my home QTH in Townsville and not my normal 'VK4FR port 5' we wrapped up a very challenging but satisfying QSO.

I did chase VK2IO, Gerard, on 15M after it was reported on P&P he was working some JAs but I was unable to hear him. He may well have been on the fringe as represented by Figure 3: 15M propagation.

Eventually as 0700z (1730k/I) rolled around I was starting to make out some park callers but they were just not loud enough to work and at that time the Championship started wrapping up.

Overall I had a very good Championship operating from my home QTH. I was able to test two of my antennas over the long VK distance and also work some DX while waiting for the openings.

The internet has been a tremendous addition to my home operating as I was able to identify frequencies and times most likely to produce results, watch the spots on P&P and also on the WWFF spots. While I picked up the odd job around the yard and cooled off in the pool I watched the weather radar as poor weather rolled through VK5 and VK3. Great to see the pictures from Team PEZO on Facebook later as they battled the elements while I lazed in the pool! Well done guys, great commitment! Australia is vast!

While I didn't fill the log with new parks I thoroughly enjoyed the chase from The Tropics making use of technology and hunting the bands. The one park I managed was a new one for me and I liken it to chasing a rare DX station.

I would like to thank VK5PAS, Paul (as usual) for the championship and Tony, VK3XV for persisting under the conditions to get me in the log. And as always thanks to all those who braved the elements to get the parks on the air, it truly is amazing how quiet the 40M band is this far away from the SOTA/Parks action and is a real credit to all the activators and chasers in the southern states.

Proposed National Park

By Paul VK5PAS

It was recently announced that a Marshall Liberal Government would bring together a number of parcels of land in Adelaide's southern suburbs to form Adelaide's second metropolitan National Park.....Glenthorne National Park.



There is an interesting website which can be located at....

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

There is a very good video to be viewed which can be located at.....

<https://youtu.be/fVgAYx1su9o>



RaDAR

By Paul VK5PAS



I have mentioned RaDAR previously, but I thought it was a worthwhile program mentioning once more. RaDAR stands for Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio.

What makes RaDAR totally different to other amateur radio activities is the requirement to move quickly from one point to another and to communicate from each deployment position. It is a prerequisite within the bi-annual contest to move after every 5 QSO's before further contacts are allowed.

There is a Google+ RaDAR community which can be found at.....

<https://plus.google.com/communities/109283065808971118728>

Spot Gen3

By Chris VK5FR/VK4FR

Recently I purchased the Spot Gen3 Satellite GPS Messenger. First of all, what is it?

The Spot Gen3 is a GPS unit that allows near real time (up to 2.5 minutes) GPS tracking, custom messaging, 'Check in/OK' function, 'Help' function and emergency rescue alert.

Why? Since moving to VK5 and participating in the VK5 National and Conservation Parks Award I have found myself operating from more remote locations and mostly without mobile coverage. But I have a radio right? All good until something happens before or after you're set up. Vehicle accident, snake bite or anything else humans seem to be able to do to themselves. Getting a little older now and I seem to be a bit more aware of my mortality!

The options, can be broken down into three main contenders and each of these will suit each person differently and I'll outline why I went with the Spot Gen3.

The obvious other two options are satellite phone and Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). Neither of which offered the flexibility of the Spot Gen3.

Expect to pay about \$200 depending on where you shop for the basic Spot Gen3 unit. On top of that there is a 12 month subscription in three levels. I've gone for the basic level of functions and this costs US\$165 or around \$200

currently. For that I get Emergency Location (EPIRB), ‘Help’, ‘Check in/OK’ function, ‘Custom Message’ and tracking interval of 10 minutes. Also, your own ‘go find me’ page where others can track your movements and you are able to set up the custom functions I’ll go through below. The annual subscription gives you free email notifications to your assigned contacts and 200 SMS messages, additional SMS messages are US10c

What are the functions? I’ll deal with them in descending order. At the top of the list is the ‘SOS’ function. As it sounds, this is the snake bite/serious car accident button. It links to the Emergency Rescue Coordination Centre and triggers a full scale search and rescue function. DO NOT push this button if all you want is a band aid for a blister! This is the function normally provided by an EPIRB and while there were reports on some forums of cases of failure in this mode there have also been instances of failure of dedicated EPIRBs. I can only hypothesise without knowing the full details but a dedicated EPIRB has an antenna and higher power which we all know will make a difference. Dense canopy cover as well can play a part. All those people who regularly operate in remote environments know how to overcome most of these issues and also how to enhance the signal, tips I won’t cover here, suffice to say I was happy with the limitations of the device and my ability to overcome them in most cases.

The ‘Help’ function is the next level down and can be used to notify family by sending a pre-programmed message to family or friends. This function can be used in the case of a vehicle breakdown or yourself or another member of your party requiring non life threatening

assistance. Something you don’t need the emergency services for but can’t sort out yourself without a little outside help. This function sends the pre-programmed message along with your location to the contacts you have nominated to receive it.

‘Custom Message’ is exactly that, a pre-programmed custom message to alert contacts that an arranged or scheduled event has occurred along with the GPS location.

The ‘Check in/OK’ function is similar to the ‘Custom Message’ in that it alerts your contacts that all is OK or you have arrived in your location without the GPS location being sent.

In all cases where people are being contacted via the ‘Help’, ‘Custom Message’ or ‘Check in/OK’ they are all individually customisable, either in who to contact and by what means SMS or email.

The final function, ‘Tracking’, does just that. In my case it is every 10 minutes. In the top level subscription it allows the interval to be reduced to two and a half minutes.

How do I see it working for me? As I can create different profiles for different activities and have different sets of contacts for each profile if I’m travelling for work or personal requirements I will have a different set of contacts/messages than if I’m using it on a cycle tour or radio.

For radio I intend to place my intentions on one of the social media sites in advance and if people want an email notification they can advise me and I will pre-program a custom message to alert them when I arrive in a park.

I will also provide a link to my ‘go find me’ page so people can track my progress if they have jobs/other bands to check and they are able to see how close or far away I am to my destination.

For the ‘Help’ function I hope to enlist the support of other like minded amateurs who are able to assist if I get stuck.

Hopefully I can give it a run in the near future and report back on the effectiveness of it.

Chris
VK5FR (VK4FR)

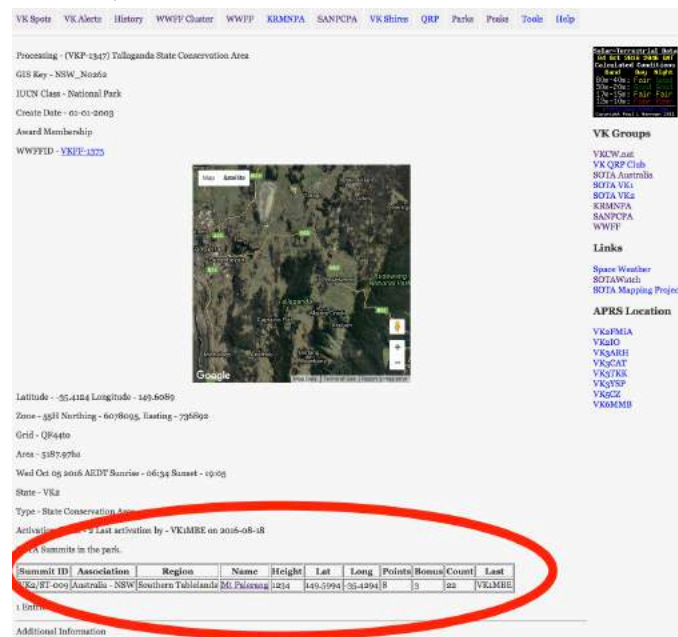


If you are interested in finding out if a summit for the Summits on the Air (SOTA) program is located within a park, you can do so on the parksnparks website.

Simply click on a SOTA peak on parksnparks, and it will bring up the summit’s information page, including the peak name, the reference number, the Association, the region, the

activation count, and a large amount of further information.

Also on that page, it will show if the SOTA peak is located within a park which qualifies for WWFF, the VK5 Parks Award & the KRMNPA.



A reminder that the 2016 VKFF Activation Weekend is fast approaching. It will be held on

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November 2016.

The weekend is designed as a promotion for the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program here in Australia. It is NOT a contest. Just head out to a qualifying WWFF park and make contact with other amateurs.

The weekend is a great time to try activating for the very first time. Or use it as a great opportunity to add a number of parks to your Hunter tally.

If you do intend to activate a park that weekend, PLEASE drop me a quick email with your intentions. I am maintaining a spreadsheet which records all planned activations. The spreadsheet can be found on the WWFF Australia website, or on the WWFF Australia Yahoo group (in the Files area).

More information on the VKFF Activation Weekend and the WWFF program can be found on the WWFF Australia website at....

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

Or please drop me an email should you have any queries. I'm only too happy to answer any questions you may have.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)



VKFF Activation weekend.

**Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th
November 2016**



If you do intend to activate a park on this weekend, please send an email to Paul VK5PAS, at...

vk5pas@wia.org.au

VKFF Team Championship 2016

By Paul VK5PAS

The 2016 VKFF Team Championship was held on Sunday 16th October 2016 between 0000 UTC – 0600 UTC.

The following teams took part.....

1. **‘The Odd Couple’** comprising of husband & wife team Joe VK3YSP and Julie VK3FOWL – Churchill National Park VKFF-0621

2. **‘Tassie Devils’** comprising Jonathan VK7JON and his partner Helen VK7FOLK – Narawntapu National Park VKFF-0005

3. **‘Team Pezo’** comprising Peter VK5PET and Steve VK5ZEO – Mount Magnificent Conservation Park VKFF-0916

4. **‘Team Kookaburra’** comprising Tony VK3XV and Mick VK3PMG – Ararat Hills Regional Park VKFF-0958

5. **‘The Walkie Talkies’** comprising Paul VK5PAS and Marija VK5FMAZ – Monarto Conservation Park VKFF-0828

6. **‘Special K’s’** comprising of Les VK5KLV and Peter VK5KPR – Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park VKFF-1757

7. **‘The Irresistibles’** comprising of Gary VK1ZZ and John VK4VHY (operating as VK4ZI) – Undara Volcanic National Park VKFF-0506

8. **‘The Mad Mix’** comprising of Mike VK6MB, Nick VK6FSEA and Jarrad VK6FFAR – Wellington National Park VKFF-0657



Above:- Les VK5KLV & Peter VK5KPR.
Image courtesy of VK5KLV

A breakdown of contacts for each team is as follows.....

1. **‘Team Kookaburra’** – 150 contacts
2. **‘The Walkie Talkies’** – 138 contacts
3. **‘Tassie Devils’** – 63 contacts
4. **‘The Odd Couple’** – 33 contacts
5. **‘Special K’s’** – 29 contacts
6. **‘The Mad Mix’** – 26 contacts
7. **‘Team Pezo’** – 20 contacts
8. **‘The Irresistibles’** – 7 contacts

The overall winner was Team Kookaburra (Tony VK3XV & Mick VK3PMG). They will receive a glass etched trophy each and a certificate each.



The winner of the 2 ops/single tx/40m & 15m/wire ant/100w or less category was ‘The Walkie Talkies’ (Paul VK5PAS & Marija VK5FMAZ). They will receive a glass etched trophy each and a certificate each.

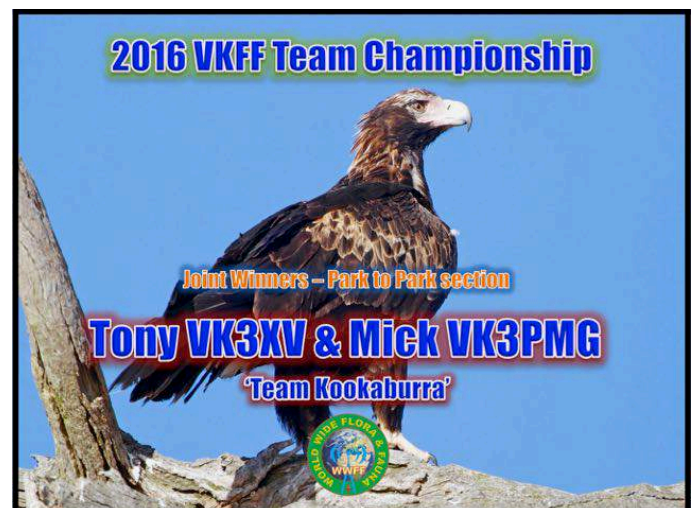


The winner of the QRP section was Team Special K's (Les VK5KLV & Peter VK5KPR). This section was sponsored by SOTABEAMS, and Les and Peter will receive a 25 pound store credit from SOTABEAMS. Many thanks to SOTABEAMS.



The Park to Park section was shared by Team Kookaburra and The Walkie Talkies, both of whom made a total of 24 Park to Park contacts.

They will share a \$50.00 voucher from [Pages of Cobram](#). Many thanks to Peter VK3FPSR of Pages of Cobram.



Participation certificates have been forwarded to all those who took part in the weekend as Activators.



Thankyou to everyone who took part in the event. I would also like to thank the sponsors of this event including SOTABEAMS, Pages of Cobram, and the kind donations of a few amateurs totalling around \$200.00.

More information on the 2016 VKFF Team Championships can be located on the WWFF Australia website....

<http://www.wwffaustralia.com/vkff-team-championship.html>



Above:- Marija VK5FMAZ. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

KRMNPA Weekend

By Tony VK3XV



Hello all,

23 dedicated and enthusiastic Amateur Radio operators will be activating 43 unique, VK3 National Parks, during the 6th annual Keith Roget Memorial National Park Award (KRMNPA) activation weekend. The activation weekend will take place from Friday November 11-Monday November 14. The purpose of the on air period is to provide a condensed weekend of portable activity, to allow as many Hunters and Activators to consolidate contacts as they work towards their Award goals.

Once again in 2016, we have much welcomed Activators making the journey from VK2 & VK5. Expect to hear John VK2AWJ/3, Col VK5HCF/3, Tom VK5EE/3, Paul VK5PAS/3, David VK3TUN (also VK5DG) & Tim VK5AV/3 On Air at some point across the period.

Of course there will also be many of the regular VK3 Portable activators on the Air waves: Allen VK3ARH, Warren VK3BYD, Peter VK3PF, Peter VK3TKK, Hiro VK3EHG, Peter VK3ZPF, Mick VK3PMG, Norm VK3XCI, Rex VK3OF, Greg VKBRQ, Bernard VK3AV, Joe VK3SRC, Johnno VK3FMPB, Julie VK3SRC, Leigh VK3SG, Tim VK3MTB & Tony VK3XV. Activations will take place on several Bands and you can expect to hear both CW and SSB activity across the weekend.

There is 45 VK3 National Parks eligible for the Amateur Radio Victoria sponsored Award and having 43 of them (as of November 7) available at some time across the four days, makes gaining those much needed contacts so much easier. At the time of writing only 2 Parks are not listed to be activated, but this of course is likely to change closer to the event. These 2 Parks are: Burrowa-Pine Mountain NP (maybe will be Activated. Waiting on confirmation) & Great Otway NP .

If you can help with getting a Park on the air for an hour or two please advise Award Manager Tony VK3XV.

All KRMNPAward Activators will also be encouraged to send Logs to Paul VK5PAS for upload to VKFF Log Search..... Double Bagger! Also, you will find some SOTA activities from several Parks..... Triple Bagger!!

Parks N Peaks has all the proposed activations listed as of today.

Full Award information and news on the weekends activities is available from

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

or from

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

Please support the activators KRMNPA Activation weekend.

73 & 44 Tony VK3XV

Recent Park Activations

Despite the quite good weather, there was a limited number of park activations across South Australia during October.

Here is a list of recent park activations by VK5's (that I am aware of).....

- John Forrest National Park WA, VKFF-0250, Paul VK5PAS/6 (22/10/2016)
- Greenmount National Park WA VKFF-0218, Paul VK5PAS/6 (22/10/2016)

- Lesmurdie Falls National Park WA
VKFF-0284, Paul VK5PAS/6
(22/10/2016)



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS in the Lesmurdie Falls NP.
Image courtesy of VK5PAS*

- Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park
VKFF-1763, Paul VK5PAS/p
(19/10/2016)
- Mount Magnificent Conservation Park
VKFF-0916, Peter VK5PET/p
(16/10/2016)
- Mount Magnificent Conservation Park
VKFF-0916, Steve VK5ZEO/p
(16/10/2016)



*Above:- Steve VK5ZEO & Peter VK5PET at Mt
Magnificent. Image courtesy of VK5PET*

- Monarto Conservation Park VKFF-0828,
Marija VK5FMAZ/p (16/10/2016)
- Monarto Conservation Park VKFF- 0828,
Paul VK5PAS/p (16/10/2016)



*Above:- Paul VK5PAS at Monarto CP. Image courtesy of
VK5PAS*

- Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park VKFF-
1757, Les VK5KLV/p (16/10/2016)
- Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park VKFF-
1757, Peter VK5KPR/p (16/10/2016)



*Above: Les VK5KLV & Peter VK5KPR. Image
courtesy of VK5KLV*

- Loch Luna Game Reserve VKFF-1723, Andrew VK6AS/5 (13/10/2016)
- Loch Luna Game Reserve VKFF-1723, Paul VK5PAS/p (13/10/2016)
- Peebinga Conservation Park VKFF-0830, Andrew VK6AS/5 (12/10/2016)



Above:- Andrew VK6AS in the Peebinga CP. Image courtesy of VK5PAS.

- Peebinga Conservation Park VKFF-0830, Paul VK5PAS/p (12/10/2016)
- Mount Monster Conservation Park VKFF-0800, Andrew VK6AS/5 (11/10/2016)
- Mount Monster Conservation Park VKFF-0800, Paul VK5PAS/p (11/10/2016)

For more information on the VK5 National & Conservation Parks Award please have a look at.....

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

And for more information on the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program, please have a look at.....

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

Recent SOTA activations



Ian VK5CZ & Hugh VK5NHG continued to fly the SOTA flag here in VK5, activating a few summits in the Mid North of South Australia.

Here is a list of known recent VK5 SOTA activations.....

- Black Hill VK5/ NE-062, Ian VK5CZ/p (14/10/2016)
- Waite Hill VK5/ NE-066, Ian VK5CZ/p (8/10/2016)
- Waite Hill VK5/ NE-066, Ian VK5CZ/p (8/10/2016)

For more information on SOTA in VK5, please check out.....

<http://www.sota.org.uk/Associations/viewAssociation/prefix/VK5>

12,000th reference activated

By Paul VK5PAS

On the 17th September 2016, Lada OK1FRT activated the 12,000th unique WWFF reference area.....OKFF-1478.

A special certificate was issued to celebrate this achievement.



New VK5 Parks Yahoo members

By Paul VK5PAS



Welcome to the following new members of the VK5 Parks Yahoo group.....

➤ Paul Blundell (SWL)

A reminder that the VK5 Parks Award Yahoo group can be found at.....

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

It is a great way to keep up to date with the latest news, who is activating what park and when, etc.

It is FREE and EASY to join. Why not check it out and consider joining.

Morning tea catch up

By Paul VK5PAS

On Wednesday 19th October 2016, another SOTA/Parks morning tea was held. This time at Tranquillo at Stirling. Attendees were:-

- Tony VK5MRT
- Peter VK5PM
- Lesley VK5LOL
- Hans VK5YX
- Grant VK5GR
- Rob VK5FRSM
- Rod VK5VRB
- Paul VK5PAS



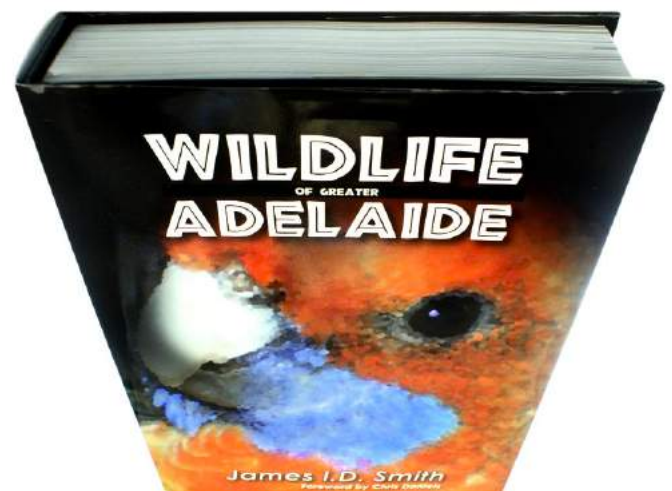
The next get together will be announced soon.

Wildlife of Greater Adelaide

By Paul VK5PAS

Thanks to Bob VK5FO for bringing this publication to my attention.....'Wildlife of Greater' Adelaide'. It is a great book which I highly recommend.

One of Bob's photos appears in the book.



Aussie Backyard Bird Count

By Paul VK5PAS

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count took place during October. This coincided with National Bird Week. To help celebrate this I headed to the newly gazette Monarto Woodlands Conservation Park.

Despite the conditions being quite poor, I qualified the park and made a total of 60 contacts on 20, 40 & 80m.

More information can be found at....

<https://vk5pas.org/2016/10/19/monarto-woodlands-conservation-park-vkff-1763/>

I have a special QSL card on offer to anyone who made contact with me whilst I was in the park.



VK4 Activation News October

By Rob VK4FFAB

The month of October has produced a good number of activations coming out of VK4. With 18 WWFF references being activated and 3 SOTA references. Fred VK4FE has been very busy in the far north activating a number of new references as well as revisiting some previously activated ones, mostly on 20m.

Neil VK4HNS has also been active with a swag of parks including some of the cluster of parks around Crows Nest, Geham, Hampton, Crows Nest, Esk, Ravensborne is a great weekend of activating if anyone is interested HIHI.

Sota activity has been rather slow, with only 3 references being activated between our Sth African visitors Sid and Adelle and Gareth VK4MOB.

A big thanks to everyone who has gone out and activated this month.

WWFF

Fred VK4FE: Mount Lewis NP, Eubenangee Swamp NP, Russell River NP, Mowbray NP, Barron Gorge NP, Keatings Lagoon CP, Speewah CP.

Neil VK4HNS: Moggill CP, Ravensbourne NP, Geham NP, Crows Nest NP, Mount Perry CP, Lake Broadwater CP.

Bill VK4FW: Tarong NP, Cherbourg CP, Ban Ban NP.

Rob VK4FFAB: Samford CP, Deception Bay CP.

Lawrie: VK4SQ Deception Bay CP.

SOTA

Sid and Adelle ZS4AYC: Mt Mary Smokes.

Gareth VK4MOB: Mount Cotton, Kluvers Lookout.

Is the frequency in use?

By Paul VK5PAS



Over the JOTA weekend, I worked Andrew VK1DA/2 who was activating a SOTA/Park on 7.090. Andrew was a good 5/7 to me. Just after working Andrew a VK1 station came up on the frequency and started calling CQ over the top of Andrew. There was no query prior to calling CQ if the frequency was in use. I politely informed the station that the frequency was in use and the reply was ‘*Sorry I never heard anyone*’.

Andrew had obviously heard the station and called the station but there was no response.

Within 30 seconds another station, this time from VK3, came up on the frequency, and again, without asking if the frequency was in use, started calling CQ over the top of Andrew. I again informed this station that the frequency was in use. This time there was no apology, just a comment: “*I couldn’t hear anything*”.

Again, Andrew was able to hear this station and called them. The VK3 station responded to Andrew. Andrew told the VK3 that he was activating a summit/park, and the VK3 advised Andrew that 7.090 was the ‘calling frequency’. I’m not sure what happened from that point, as I turned off the transceiver.

So what’s the point of all this?

New VK5 Parks Facebook members

By Paul VK5PAS



The VK5 Parks Facebook site now has a total of 89 members all across Australia, Europe & USA.

Welcome to the following new members to the site....

- NIL for this period

The VK5 Parks Award Facebook site can be found at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/528980233908284/>

Interstate recipients of the VK5 Parks Award are also included.

If you do receive a certificate, please drop me an email to let me know, with preferably a copy of the certificate, so I can include it here.

vk5pas@wia.org.au

Recent Award recipients

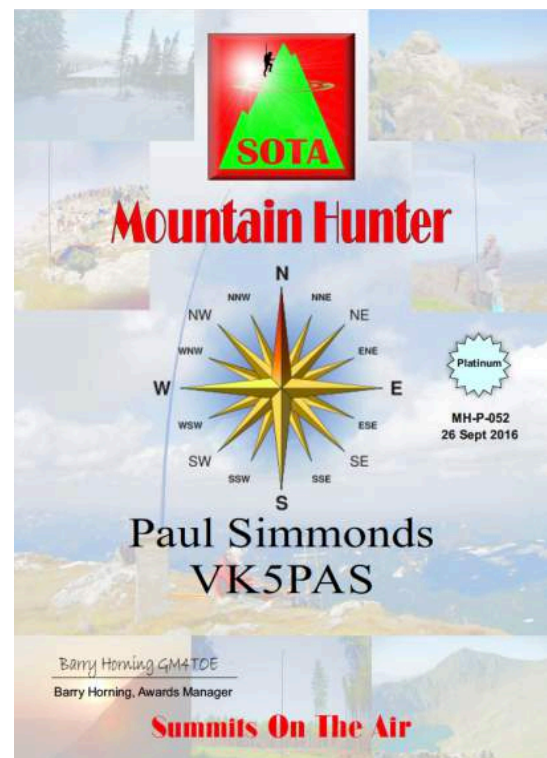
By Paul VK5PAS



Here is a list of South Australian amateurs who have recently qualified for award certificates for SOTA, WWFF, VKFF, VK5 Parks, and KRMNPA.

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

- Paul VK5PAS
 - Platinum Mountain Hunter



World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF)

- **Marija VK5FMAZ**

- Platinum VKFF Hunter



- **Adrian VK5FANA**

- VKFF Hunter Honour Roll 450



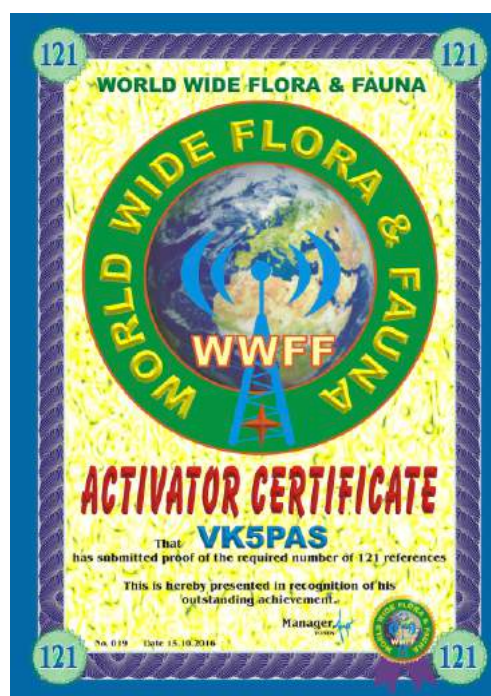
- **David VK5PL**

- Global Hunter - 264



- **Paul VK5PAS**

- WWFF Activator Global – 121 references



VK5 Parks Award

- **NIL for this period**

Keith Roget Memorial National Parks Award.

- **John VK5BJE**
 - Worked all 45 Victorian National Parks

Other.

- **NIL**

Adventure Radio maps

By Paul VK5PAS

I recently provided some lat & long info to Alena OK2APY, the WWFF Map Manager for Adventure Radio. You can now view the location of VKFF references on the Adventure Radio page.

More information can be found at.....

<http://wwff.co/directory/map/>

IOTA

By Craig VK5CE



Hi everyone

Well its that time of year where I'm looking at planning future IOTA DXpeditions. The % claimed and activation history on the IOTA website and % claimed in the past 8 years as per the 2016 IOTA directory give a good indication. However I'm also keen to see what you as a dedicated IOTA hunter need. So please visit:

<http://vkiota.blogspot.com.au/>

and fill in the poll.

This is a chance to make your voice heard and also send in a donation if you are able to.

I've been honoured to be able to activate 13 IOTA's over the past 6 years. This includes AF-119 in S7, OC-286 in ZL9 and most importantly 11 VK IOTA's. I look forward to activating more in 2017.

73s de Craig VK5CE

WWFF website

By Danny ON4VT

WWFF wants to communicate to activators and hunters via one channel : the WWFF web ! We are working very hard to make it a WWFF platform where you can find all needed info within some mouse clicks.

WWFF.co the website !
AGENDA Directory WWFFwatch
upcoming activations WWFF reference listing All WWFF Spots in ONE DXcluster
ADD YOURS !

M A P LogSearch Forum
Find easy WWFF referencens in your area ! Migration in progress Migration in progress
Make nature your shack !

Met vriendelijke groeten, Sincerely yours, 73 44

Danny Van Tricht

ON4VT/OT4V

WWFF Public Relations & Webmaster
WWFF Park to Park Award Manager

WWFF Facebook page

By Paul VK5PAS

facebook

The global WWFF Facebook page now has over 1,000 members. You can find it at.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WWFF44/>

National Parks Week in the UK

By Paul VK5PAS

Next year, the UK WWFF team will be activating numerous National Parks as part of National Parks Week. The dates are 25th-31st July 2016.

More information can be found at....

<https://www.facebook.com/PARKS.TK/>

<http://parks-on-the-air.tk/>

QSL cards

By Paul VK5PAS

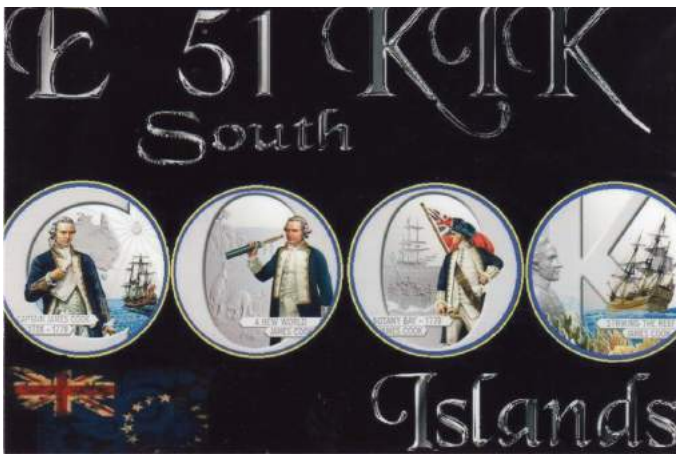
If you happen to receive a QSL card from an overseas or local SOTA or parks or portable operator, please send me a copy to.....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

David VK3BY



Steve E51KIK



YBoAJZ

JAKARTA, INDONESIA
CQ 28 • ITU 54 • GRID: OI33or • IOTA: OG-021

YBØAJZ

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY	QSL
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR					
VK5PAS/p	31	7	2015	0047	14	5-9	SSB	PSK TNR

RIG: ICOM 756PRO III
ANT: KLM 10-30 LPDA
40-6 SteppiR
40-80 Dipole

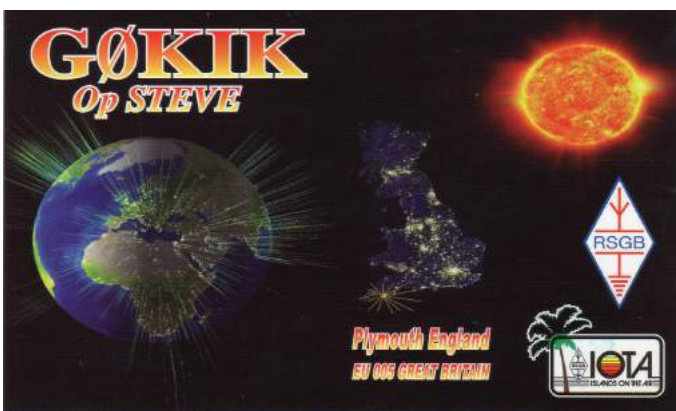
LOG #

DAVID DONALDSON
QSL via W7EB

VERIFIED W7EB

The QSL MAN® - W4MPY

Steve GØKIK



Chasing overseas SOTA & WWFF

By Paul VK5PAS



If you have worked an overseas SOTA or WWFF station, please send me the details to....

vk5pas@wia.org.au

...and I will include it here.

To work the SOTA & WWFF DX, keep an eye on SOTA Watch....

<http://www.sotawatch.org/>

And WWFF Hamspots.....

<http://hamspots.net/wwff/>

Below is a list of VK5 to DX (SOTA & parks contacts) that I am aware of.

Paul VK5PAS.

- ZL4TZ/p, SOTA ZL3/ SL-307 (24/10/2016)
- IZ1NJA/p, IFF-0870 (15/10/2016)
- SP9YFF/p, SPFF-0883 (7/10/2016)

Ham humour



Latest videos

By Paul VK5PAS



If you have put together a You Tube video, or spotted a video of interest somewhere, please let me know.

VK5PAS – Oceania DX Contest

https://youtu.be/GSc_G2uyVog

Glenthorne National Park

<https://youtu.be/fVgAYx1su9o>