
VHF/UHF – An Expanding World

David Smith VK3HZ
Leigh Rainbird VK2KRR

Weak Signal

David Smith - VK3HZ

On July 21st, we again saw a similar opening to the one reported in the last column, where an intense high pressure cell floated across the south of the country. Stations heard include VK5's PO, ZLX, AKK, NY, ZK, DK and JL and VK3's AFW, AXH and HZ. At this location, Roger VK5NY on 70 cm reached S9 + 20 dB on my (recently calibrated) "S" meter. Signals from all stations were over S9 on 2 m.

The Gridsquares League Table is a competition hosted by the NSW VHF DX Group and maintained by Guy VK2KU. In the past, this table has been restricted to VK stations only. Guy has recently decided to allow ZL stations to be listed as well. The latest table has just been released (see August AR) and is updated approximately every 3 months. So, hopefully the next update should see a few new callsigns from across the pond competing with the locals.

On August 7th, a new Region 1 record was set for the 2 m band. A large tropo opening over the Atlantic allowed Tim G4LOH to work RW1ZC/MM who was operating from a fishing trawler off the coast of Mauritania. Total distance was 3493 km. Several contacts were had over several hours with signals reaching S7.

This new record prompts me to think that there are only four things needed for such a contact - you need to be on air, the band needs to be open, there needs to be another station located at the other end of the opening and that station needs to be on. Fairly simple really! Perhaps we need to encourage Russian fishing trawlers with active 2 m stations onboard to operate in the Indian Ocean off the southern tip of WA.

Please send any Weak Signal reports to David VK3HZ at ...

Digital DX Modes

Rex Moncur – VK7MO

Welcome to Peter VK5ZPG at Quorn near Port Augusta, Grid locator PF97aq, who is operational on FSK441 on two metres and participating in the Weekend Activity Sessions. Wayne, VK4WS, has his station going well and completed two metre contacts with three VK3s, as well as VK5 and VK7 in one session.

It is often useful during the FSK441 Activity Sessions to send reports to two stations and the following procedure, which shows the progress of two contacts from the perspective of VK3HY, has been adopted:

VK2AWD/27 VK4WS/R36 VK3HY

AWD/RRR 4WS/73 VK3HY

AWD/73 VK3HY

Note that the call sign of the other station is abbreviated only after full call signs have been exchanged so as to meet the requirements for a valid QSO. In using this procedure one will often need to send more characters than are visible in a WSJT text box, but it is possible to send more characters by typing the full line you wish to send in any box and the first part will just run off the front of the text box.

Please send any Digital DX Modes reports to Rex VK7MO at ...

The Magic Band – 6 m DX

Brian Cleland – VK5UBC

Firstly some beacon news. Jack VK2XQ reports the Sydney beacon VK2RSY is back on air on the new frequency of 50.289 MHz. It is running 12 watts to a horizontal dipole at approx six metres, CW mode and transmission is "VK2RSY QF56mh". Reports are welcome at vk2wi@ozemail.com.au.

John VK4FNQ reports that the Townsville beacon VK4RTL on 50.087 MHz, which was being tested from a private residence, has now been located at the club site on Mt Stuart at 584 meters ASL.

John VK4FNQ at Charters Towers reports a good opening on the 23rd July to an area between mid NSW and northern Victoria when he worked several stations including 5 x VK2, 2 x VK1 and 2 x VK3 all at S9. John also reports hearing the FK8 beacon on the 23rd & 25th July, the VK2RHV beacon on the 19th, 23rd & 26 July and the ZL TV on the 23rd July.

Norm VK3DUT reports hearing ZL TV and the ZL3 and FK8 beacons quite often during July and on the 3rd July worked ZL3AAU & ZL3MF, 9th July ZL4LV & ZL3FV, 17th July ZL3MF, ZL3TY & ZL4LV and on the 18th July ZL3TY.

Dave, a SWL from Adelaide, reports hearing the following in July:

July 3rd 50.047 VK8RAS/b 0310-0314 UTC 559.

July 12th, 50.058 VK4RGG/b 0724-0738 UTC 539 and 0757 UTC 439, 50.288 VK2RHV/b 0725-0735 UTC 549 and 0802-0835 UTC 439, 50.297 VK7RST/b 0726-0740 UTC 559, 50.110 VK4WS 5x4 working VK5RO 0731 UTC.

July 13th, 50.047 VK8RAS/b 0727-0805 UTC 569.

July 17th, 50.110 0316 UTC VK2XQ 5x6, 50.110 0324 UTC VK2BZE 5x6.

Leigh VK2KRR reports that on the 17th of July there was an Es opening just after lunch when he began hearing the 50.297 beacon from Hobart and then worked Wayne VK4WS on 50.110. Leigh was also hearing the Gold Coast beacon VK4RGG on 50.058. Then on 20th July he reports the Toowoomba TV video on 46MHz was audible just after midnight for an hour.

Please remember to send any 6m information to Brian VK5UBC at ...

2 m & 70 cm FM DX

Leigh Rainbird - VK2KRR

This month, 2 & 70 FM DX Outstanding Achiever for season 04 / 05, also the July DX report where we had two good duct openings in the southeast.

Mike VK4MIK from Butchers Creek on the Atherton Tablelands of Queensland is awarded the 2 & 70 FM DX Outstanding Achiever award for the 2004 / 2005 season.

Not only was Mike consistent in sending in reports of all DX that occurred in north Queensland for the whole season, but he was also involved in some of the longest contacts of the season, and in doing so Mike achieved his goal of breaking the 1000 Km barrier. Mike also became involved in the 70 cm band during the season and currently holds a number of spots on the ANVDG records list.

Mike's magic contacts for the season occurred on the 25th of October when he was able to work a number of 2 m repeaters in excess of 1000 km on tropo. These were Gympie at 1231 km; Hervey Bay at 1151 km and Bundaberg at 1118 km. Well done Mike, wonder what your next DX goals will be?

There were two good duct openings in the southeast for July, the first occurring on 04/07. Mount Gambier beacons were heard here, but no reports of any FM contacts being made.

The second duct opening was much better and occurred in the evening of the 20th and morning of 21st July. Good signals this time from Mount Gambier, Adelaide, Mildura and Broken Hill beacons up to 1296 MHz.

John VK5NJ from Mt Gambier was heard working into the Mt Macedon repeater VK3RMM. Shane VK5NRV at Woodside and Barry VK5KCX at Gawler made it to the Shepparton repeater VK3RGV, which is over 600 km.

John VK5PO from Eden Valley was able to make it to a number of VK3 repeaters, which included Mt Tassie at 786 km, Shepparton at 642 km, Otway Ranges at 605 Km and Mt Macedon at 579 km.

Keep an ear out on 146.875 MHz as I am informed the Murray Bridge repeater VK5RMB has been resurrected. VK5RMB was one of the best repeaters in South Australia and has been off air for at least 6 months. Lets hope it's running as good as before and thanks goes out to all those involved in its repair.

On another note, I occasionally receive reports of illegal operation on the 2 & 70 cm bands. If you do hear illegal operators or any other operation that causes unnecessary interference on 2 m or 70 cm bands please send me a message via email.

Please remember to send through any 2 & 70 FM DX reports to Leigh VK2KRR at ...

ANVDG Long Distance Competition

The 2005 / 2006 Australian National VHF DX Group's Long Distance Competition is designed to encourage activity and improve station efficiency, design and performance, plus raise awareness of propagation on bands from 144 MHz to 10 GHz.

This competition has been thought up by Leigh VK2KRR and is based on the groups National Records Table, but runs over a 12 month DX season, from July 1st to June 30th. The ANVDG 2005/2006 Long Distance Competition, if a success, could run each season.

So unlike the ANVDG National records where you'll be very hard pushed to exceed many of the records and where people think "oh well I have been there and done that so there is no point trying", with the yearly competition you have to get out there and do it all again!..... if you can.

The good thing about it is that on the 1st July at the start of the new season, even a 1 km contact on any band could be the current record, which is of course, until someone works 2 km etc. Be interesting to see the progress and highlights as the season unfolds.

For operators wishing to take part in the competition, send info of relevant contacts to the group email anvdg@bigpond.com with the subject of Long Distance Comp. Include as much detail about the contacts as you like, but you must submit: Your details including your name, callsign, town or locality and grid square, claimed

distance, other stations name, callsign, town or locality and or grid square, date of contact.

Each different band is listed separately. There are a number of different categories based on the propagation involved with the top 4 distances listed for each. There are separate listings for each call area from VK 1 to 8. Top 4 National records are also listed for each category and band.

The Long Distance Competition table and other information can be viewed at <http://www.users.bigpond.com/anvdg/Longdistancecompetition0506.htm>