

Satellites from VKFF parks

VKFF Get Together

Bendigo 2024

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VKFF-0740 Gunbower N.P.

March 2019

On the VK3 side of the River Murray.



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KRMNPA award Satellite #1

November 2019



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A short introduction to amateur satellites.

ITF-2 (OSCAR TO-89)

- A typical Cubesat measuring 10cm per side and weighing 1kg.
- Many satellites using the amateur bands are made from one or more cubes.

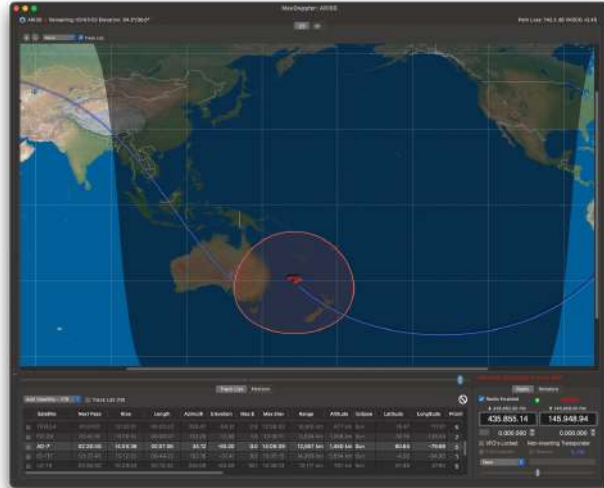
Photo taken at the Tokyo Ham Fair, 2015.



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Footprint of International Space Station (ISS)

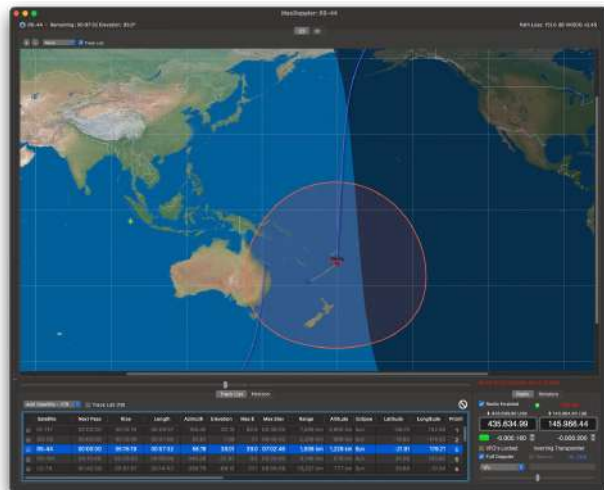
Satellite height of 400km.



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Footprint of RS-44

Satellite height of 1229km.



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VKFF-1010 Calectasia CP

Near Penola, SE VK5.

- Typical of many parks I have been to.
- Lots of trees.
- Not easy.



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VKFF-1082 Poonthie Ruwe CP

Near Taillem Bend, about 100km SE of Adelaide.

Also a Murray River Parks Award park.

- No trees.
- Much better.



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VKFF-0629 Kara Kara NP

West of England Fire Tower.

- Also a 2 point SOTA
- 360 degree horizon
- Good view
- Ideal spot



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VKFF-0392 Norfolk Island NP.

Mt Pitt.

Got to be my favourite operating spot for satellites.

360 degree view over most of Norfolk Island.



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VKFF-0900 Lake Frome CP (near Millicent SE VK5)

2019 luggable setup comprising of:

Elk 2m log periodic antenna, homebrew diplexer.

Collapsable PVC plumbing antenna mount

Kenwood TS-811 70cm All Mode

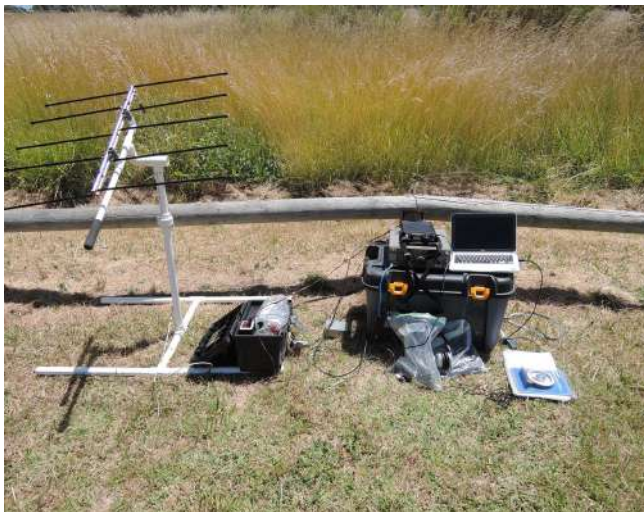
Yaesu FT-817 for 2m

Laptop for tracking

Sealed Lead Acid battery box

Inclinometer, Compass

Headset, logbook, pen



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VKFF-1767 Lawari CP

Hindmarsh Island, near the mouth of the River Murray.

2020 portable set up.

Changes made:

- Esky
- FT-818 for 70cm, linked by Bluetooth
- Lithium battery
- Computer gamer headset
- Smaller logbook, new pen



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VKFF-1020 Christmas Rocks CP

Near Willalooka in SE VK5.

Another view of the 2020 portable setup.

The camera and hat are optional.



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VKFF-1816 Mersey Bluff SR

Devonport, VK7. July 2024. Working
Greencube IO-117. Just off the boat and it
was freezing.

SUMMARY

- Satellite operation from parks is possible, but different to HF.
- Contacts count for VKFF and most other awards
- You wont get 44 QSOs in a day but HF will fill the time between passes
- Start with what you have. Two handhelds and a small yagi will work on the ISS and FM satellites.



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VKFF-0243 Dhillba Guuranda-Innes NP

Yorke Peninsula, VK5.

I would like to end by thanking my wonderful wife Catriona.

She has been with me to most of the parks and SOTA activations and shares my enthusiasm for the outdoors.

She's not so enthusiastic about satellites...

