# Calling Cape Horn

**What do Radio engineers do in their spare time? This one positions himself on Loch's Cape Horn and talks to the world.**

Well not quite the world, but Peter Westgarth from Somerville reckons Cape Horn is the perfect spot for indulging his lifelong passion of radio communications.

Peter's a fully fledged member of the WIA (Wireless Institute of Australia), held a radio licence for 20 years, works for GE all around Australia, and three or four times a year competes in the VHF field days. Bernie Dilger met him while he was setting up for the winter field day. Fifteen thousand dollars worth of equipment came out of his modest sized car. His vantage spot is on top of the world. With manicured lawns, table and chairs, directional markers, and a view to rival better-known tourist spots, Cape Horn is one of Loch's best-kept secrets.

Peter's call sign is VK3APW and he'll spend the next four hours connecting with like-minded radio hobbyists all over Victoria. Occasionally he finds a Queensland frequency. Points are awarded for the number of contacts Peter connects with, within a given time.



Peter Westgarth will be back
on Cape Horn in November.

Offset dishes, prime form dishes, yagi antennas, a battery with numerous umbilical chords, solar panels for extra power, GPS locking devices, a spider web of wires, frequency accumulators, numerous steel boxes that once could have been the innards of car radios, a table and chairs and a big coffee. Peter's set. His first contact is static, then human.

Barry from Ballarat is the first of hopefully 50 respondents. No prizes, 'cept a certificate for his days effort. Mocked by his wife who describes Peter's antics as his "special Olympics," too complicated for most of us, Peter on Cape Horn is a professional with a passive pastime.

Peter will be back in November and while you wouldn't call the above a spectator sport, Peter would be happy to meet aspiring "radio heads".

Welcome to Loch Peter.

The Wireless Institute of Australia can be contacted on 9729 0400.