



OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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Club Website: www.orarc.org

ORARC's Forty-second Anniversary Year

Club Nets on VK2RPM
146.700MHz
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)
Every Sunday at 0830
Every Thursday at 1930

September 2013

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534
VICE PRES: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL 6587.1155
TREASURER: Keith Anderson VKFKJA 6586.3988
SECRETARY: David Hogan VK2FRAB 6582.3006

President's Report

At the AGM in August this year it was particularly pleasing to see a few new faces amongst those elected. Congratulations to everyone who was elected. Only one nomination was received for each position which made the job of Returning Officer Arthur Monck VK2ATM very easy as each candidate was declared elected.



Thank you to David Hogan VK2FRAB for taking on the very important position of Secretary. Larry Lindsay VK2CLL is our new Vice President. Thank you to Keith Anderson VK2FKJA for continuing as Treasurer and Public Officer. Welcome to new Committee members Paul Colledge VK2PPP, Alex Dorahy VK2HBF and Charles Edmonson VK2KCE. Paul and Alex bring a wealth of IT knowledge and experience to the Committee. Life Member Charles brings a long history of active participation in club affairs to the Committee. I am honored to again be President for another term, and to have the support of such a strong team. Your club is in very good hands.

Thank you for many years of dedicated service to outgoing Vice President Bruce Walker VK2HOT, and to long standing Committee Members Arthur

(Continued on page 3)

ORARC VHF/UHF Repeaters

MIDDLE BROTHER

VK2RPM 2 metre (Voice - CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 146.700MHz -I/P 146.100MHz

VK2RPM 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123Hz)
O/P 438.525MHz -I/P 433.525MHz

VK2RPM-1 (APRS Digipeater)
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

TELEGRAPH POINT

VK2RCN 2 metre (Voice)
O/P 147.000 MHz - I/P 146.400 MHz

VK2RCN 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123 Hz)
O/P 438.425MHz - I/P 433.425MHz

VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

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Don't forget to join or re-new your WIA membership.

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



Down The Coax

Monthly meetings held in the S.E.S. Building Central Road,
Port Macquarie.

Monthly Meeting
Saturday 7 September 2013 2:00 pm

Westlakes Field Day Teralba
Sunday 15 September 2013

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 20 September 2013 7.00 pm

Monthly Meeting Saturday 5 October 2013 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 18 October 2013 7.00 pm

Saturday and Sunday 19 and 20 October 2013
56 Jamboree On the Air
Sea Scout Hall Port Macquarie Scout Hall Camden Haven

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 November 2013 2:00 pm

34 Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic
Sunday 3 November 2013

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 November 2013 7.00 pm

ORARC Christmas Party and Monthly Meeting
Saturday 7 December 2013

e-mail Directory

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0830 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

September 2013

VK2CHC	Sep - 01	VK2EM	Sep - 05
VK2TT	Sep - 08	VK2ZHE	Sep - 12
VK2CHC	Sep - 15	VK2EM	Sep - 19
VK2TT	Sep - 22	VK2ZHE	Sep - 26
VK2CHC	Sep - 29		

October 2013

VK2TT	Oct - 06	VK2EM	Oct - 03
VK2CHC	Oct - 13	VK2ZHE	Oct - 10
VK2TT	Oct - 20	VK2EM	Oct - 17
VK2CHC	Oct - 27	VK2ZHE	Oct - 24
			Oct - 31

November 2013

VK2TT	Nov - 03	VK2EM	Nov - 07
VK2CHC	Nov - 10	VK2ZHE	Nov - 14
VK2TT	Nov - 17	VK2EM	Nov - 21
VK2CHC	Nov - 24	VK2ZHE	Nov - 28

Email Directory continued

(continued from page 1)

Monck VK2ATM and Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV, all of whom did not seek re-election this year.

Congratulations to the new Life Members, Allan Madigan VK2OA and Jim Daniel VK2FJKD. At the AGM in accepting their Life Memberships, both Allan and Jim spoke eloquently of their long associations with the club. Their anecdotes brought back many great memories. One thing that they both had in common was that both Allan and Jim obtained their licenses through the club, and that both were taught by Larry Lindsay VK2CLL.



Allan VK2OA receiving Life Membership from President VK2ZHE Henry.

Jim VK2FJKD receiving Life Membership from President VK2ZHE Henry.



Congratulations to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL on being made Clubman of the Year for 2013 in recognition of his continuing dedication to Education. A great many of our members have obtained their licenses through Larry's classes over



Larry VK2CLL presented with the Clubman of the Year award certificate by Arthur VK2ATM.

several decades. This continues to the present day with ongoing classes for the Advanced licence running each Friday night. This follows 5 months of Standard licence classes earlier in the year. In between Larry has run regular very well attended Foundation Licence training and assessment weekends. Another such weekend is planned shortly. Larry lives on a property west of Wauchope so each trip to Port Macquarie is a significant round trip.

Unbeknown to the President, the outgoing Committee also made a 2013 Clubman of the Year award to a very surprised and humbled Henry Lundell VK2ZHE. This perfectly kept secret has resulted in the unique situation of the club making two Clubman of the Year awards for 2013. Committee man in the know, Arthur Monck VK2ATM presented both awards.



Henry VK2ZHE being presented with the Clubman of the Year Award certificate by Arthur VK2ATM

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(from page 3)

This year the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend and the Remembrance Day contest both took place over the same weekend, Saturday and Sunday the 17th and 18th of August 2013.

The club's communications caravan was set up at the Tacking Point Lighthouse on Saturday the 17th of August so that VK2BOR could participate in the 2013 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Thank you to John Winchester VK2NJJ for towing the caravan to the lighthouse early in the morning. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI for claiming our usual spot for the caravan. Lyle brought his own well set up caravan to the lighthouse. The day was overcast and windy with showers in the afternoon so Lyle's caravan offered very welcome shelter to those members who didn't have a chair in the club's caravan. At the end of the day Lyle took his caravan to the QTH of VK2ZHE and then came back and towed the club's caravan to the VK2ZHE QTH so that VK2BOR could continue in the RD contest on Saturday night until the close of the contest at 1pm local time on Sunday the 18th of August. The weather cleared on Saturday evening and Sunday was a perfect sunny day. However, the QRN from the thunderstorms in the southern part of the state resulted in the bands being very noisy.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the VK2BOR operation in both events. Read the full report in this issue of Oxtales.

Club members provided safety communications for the Bago Forest Classic car rally on the morning and afternoon of Saturday the 24th of August 2013. The club's communications caravan was set up at race headquarters at the Kendall showground. Field stations operated from the race start and finish and the intermediate road closure points. Thank you to Bruce Walker VK2HOT for co-ordinating the club's involvement in the event. Thank you to everyone who participated in the event. The weather was perfect.

The next VK2BOR operation will be the 56th annual Jamboree on the Air over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of October 2013. This year VK2BOR will operate as usual on the Saturday from the club's Communications Caravan which will be set up in front of the Port Macquarie Sea Scout Hall in Buller Street. The scouts are planning to set up public displays of their activities during

the event. Please come along and assist with the VK2BOR operation.

The club has been approached by Camden Haven Scouts to run a second JOTA station at the Camden Haven Scout Hall. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI for offering to use his well set up caravan to run this station. He will be assisted by Alex Dorahy VK2HBF. A few extra volunteers will be needed to assist with running this station. This means that the club will have two JOTA stations within radio range of each other which will make it easy for Scouts and Guides to make their on-air contacts to earn their badge for this event.

The 34th annual Beechwood Billycart Classic takes place on the morning of Sunday the 3rd of November 2013. Richard Court VK2CHC is co-ordinating the club's involvement in this event. Please offer your services to Richard. The event is a very popular and our role of providing the safety communications is very important.

Don't forget the club's Christmas party on the normal December monthly general meeting date of Saturday the 7th of December 2013. More details in November Oxtales.

The 2014 Field Day is only 9 months away. It will be held at the same venue as this year's Field Day, the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall. The dates are Saturday and Sunday the 7th and 8th of June of the 2014 Queens Birthday Holiday long weekend.

Thank you to all members for renewing their memberships this year. Welcome to the new members who have recently joined. The result is that we have an all time record number of members, a total of 78.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President



Can anyone help?

Club member Dennis Mead has a Digital Video Cassette (see Photo) but no Camcorder from which to check what is on it. Does anyone in the Club have or know someone who has a Camcorder which uses these particular DVC's, so that I can borrow for a few days to check and take off anything useful off the cassette.



If you can help please contact Dennis via email or phone (Back page or email directory).

Oxtale Stew (anecdotal recipe's) 06-07-13

A good news story by Dennis Meade

Broadband Issues.

When I moved to the Shelley Beach area from near the SES Central Road, I found that my broadband speed was a lot lower than before, down from an average of 14Mbps to around 7-8Mbps, it would also intermittently drop out at various times though the phone still worked.

Various calls to the Telstra Customer Services although polite and helpful did not get me anywhere with persuading them to organise a Technician to check the lines in the area.

As luck would have it during a club get together the I got talking to a telephone technician and he gave me some ideas and ways to get a technician out to check the fault.,

When I called Telstra armed with the wherewithal to convince them to send out a technician which they did and surprisingly one turned up on a Saturday and luckily because a local business was having a similar problem he was going to check one of the area boxes which was known to be problematic when wet weather was around.

He came back a bit later and looked at the main box in the house and found it quite corroded, this he replaced also cutting back the cable and disconnected some unused extension sockets as well.



On using www.speedcheck.net the broadband speed was found to be over 12+Mbps

So while I'm not at the 14Mbps it's a lot better and hopefully the intermittent drop out has also been fixed.

The technician also knew Henry from spending almost a day at his place sorting out a bad earth fault last year.

(Editor's note: Is there any technical person in Port that doesn't know Henry!)

Bago Forest Classic Car Rally

The Oxley Region amateur Radio Club provided assistance with communications for the Bago Forest Classic Car Rally on Saturday 24 August 2013.

Thank you to David VK2DFN for supplying photographs of the event (David has posted photos of the rally plus the Lightship Weekend and the AGM at:

<https://plus.google.com/109457090511514177529/posts#109457090511514177529/posts>)

The day was a fine winters day sunny and warm although rather dusty in some spots. Seventeen club members turned out on the day to help make the day a car rally success. A thank you to the following: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Steve Wynn VK2HOO, Lyle Smith VK2FCVI, Stuart Melville VK2KSM, David Hogan VK2FRAB, Richard Court VK2CHC, Ralph Downes, John Winchester VK2NJJ, Bob Ecclestone VK1ZRE, Bruce Walker VK2HOT, Barry Gilson VK2FBRG, David Newey VK2DFN, Leonie Newey VK2LPN, Bill Brooke VK2ZCW, David Pilley VK2AYD, and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE



Bill VK2ZCW and David VK2AYD operating club station VK2BOR at rally HQ.



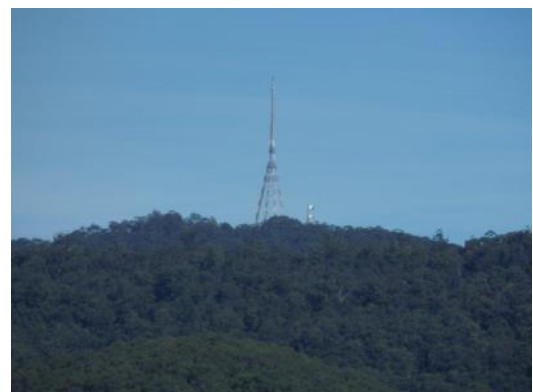
Leonie VK2LPN boils the billy.



Rally Head Quarters Service Park entrance above and work site below



Tyre replacement



Henry VK2ZHE tries out his new camera with a shot of VK2RPM (If you zoom in on maximum and use some imagination you can practically see the repeater antenna!)

**Office Bearers & Appointments Elected
at the Oxley Region Amateur Radio
Club Inc. Annual General Meeting held
in the SES Building, Port Macquarie on
Saturday the 3rd of August 2013**



AGM of ORARC the members decide

President:

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Vice President:

Larry Lindsay VK2CLL

Secretary:

David Hogan VK2FRAB

Treasurer:

Keith Anderson VK2FKJA

Committee Member 1:

Paul Colledge VK2PPP

Committee Member 2:

Alex Dorahy VK2HBF

Committee Member 3:

Charles Edmondson VK2KCE

Public Officer:

Keith Anderson VK2FKJA

Repeater Chairman:

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Oxtales Editor:

John Hansen VK2AYQ

Oxtales Co-Editor:

Trevor Thatcher VK2TT

VK2BOR Station Mgr:

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

QSL Manager:

Bruce Walker VK2HOT

Welfare Officer:

Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV

Publicity Officer:

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Education Officer:

Larry Lindsay VK2CLL

Club Historian:

John Bailey VK2KHB

Social Director:

David Hogan VK2FRAB

WIA Liaison Delegate:

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE

Member Liaison Officer

Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV

Webmaster:

Alex Dorahy VK2HBF



Back to business President Henry VK2ZHE and Stuart VK2KSM get back to running the meeting.

Port Macquarie SES Wins first place

Congratulations Port Macquarie SES

In a first for the Mid North Coast Region, the team from Port Macquarie SES has taken first place in the NSW SES State Disaster Rescue Competition which was held at the Sydney International Regatta centre on Saturday the 24th of August 2013. The team will represent NSW at the National Competition in Melbourne in September.

The team comprised Kevin Sherwood as team leader, Michael Ward VK2FMDW as deputy team leader, with team members Brett Slight, Michael Brumby, Peter Young, Peter Burke, and Ashley Bell as team manager.

Congratulations to all the team on a great victory. We wish them well in the national competition.



A winning SES team

Submitted by Henry VK2HZE

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend Saturday & Sunday 17 & 18 August 2013



VK2BOR operated portable during the daylight hours on Saturday 17 August 2013 from the club's communications caravan at the Tacking Point Lighthouse AU 0034, Port Macquarie, NSW. VK2BOR made 18 contacts from the Lighthouse. The weather during the day at the lighthouse was

overcast and very windy with rain showers during the afternoon. The tea, coffee, soft drinks and hot dogs were very popular. The HF bands were very noisy with QRN and once the RD contest started at 1pm local time it became difficult to find new lighthouses to contact. VK2BOR made contacts in both events during the afternoon.



VK2BOR being operated by Henry VK2ZHE and Bob VK1ZRE

Wet and windy; Lyle VK2FCVI and Alex VK2HBF talk about the conditions.



Special thanks to John Winchester VK2NJJ for towing the caravan to the lighthouse on Saturday morning despite having to head north to a Caravan Club meeting later in the day. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI for towing the caravan back to the QTH of VK2ZHE in the late afternoon after unhitching his own caravan. Lyle's impressively equipped transportable radio shack caravan was a popular place to shelter from the elements during the afternoon for those who could not find a seat in the club's caravan.



Lyle's travelling radio palace with Ross VK2RR and Rob VK2CRF

Log of the Lighthouse Contest

Callsign	Operator	L/H No.	Location Light-house	Frequency kHz	Time UTC	Date	Sig Rep Sent	Sig Rep Rcvd	Comments
VK3IH	Paul	AU0037	Cape Liptrap	7090	0028	17/08/2013	58	59	
VK4BW	Bob	AU0004	Burnett Heads	7080	0032	17/08/2013	58	59	
VK2ATZ	Richard	AU0024	Norah Head	7100	0040	17/08/2013	59	59	
VK2BV	Laurie	AU0022	Macquarie Light	7110	0045	17/08/2013	59	59	
VK2EP	Terry	AU0031	Smokey Cape	7075	0050	17/08/2013	59	59	
VK3PF	Peter	Home	Churchill South	7095	0105	17/08/2013	59	59	
VK5CWL	Roy	AU0095	Cape Willoughby	7095	0115	17/08/2013	56	55	
VK2HBG	Gerald	AU0035	Warden Head	7125	0123	17/08/2013	59	59	
VK7OR	Owen	Portable	Tasmania	7080	0149	17/08/2013	47	57	
VK5AP	Allan	AU0015	Corny Point SA	7120	0208	17/08/2013	47	36	
VK2NRB	Bob	Home	Woonoona	7110	0230	17/08/2013	59	59	
VK7NWT	Scott	AU0039	Table Cape	7110	0235	17/08/2013	36	59	QRP
VK7EK	Eric	AU0039	Table Cape	7110	0303	17/08/2013	57	56	
VK2MB	Dominic	AU0046	Barrenjoey Head	7130	0309	17/08/2013	57	59	
ZL6LH	David	ZL006	Piha Lighthouse NZ	14228	0437	17/08/2013	59	59	
VK5CJ	Andrew	AU0007	Cape Jaffa	14180	0442	17/08/2013	59	59	Museum Kingston
VK3APC	Mark	AU0017	Eastern/McCrae	7113	0551	17/08/2013	55	59	
VK5ARC	Barry	AU0029	Pt Malcolm SA	7191	0758	17/08/2013	57	57	

Remembrance Day Contest

1300 hours local time on Saturday 17 August 2013 to 1300 hours local time on Sunday 18 August 2013.

VK2BOR operated portable from the club's communications caravan during the 24 hours of the RD contest. On the Saturday afternoon VK2BOR worked both Lighthouse and RD stations while the caravan was at the Tacking Point Lighthouse. At 4pm local time the caravan was relocated to the QTH of VK2ZHE at Port Macquarie, NSW. VK2BOR made 92 contacts for a total of 102 points.

After the overcast, windy and wet Saturday at the Lighthouse, the skies cleared and the wind dropped at dusk and the remainder of the weekend was fine and clear. The sausage sizzle and hot party pies were delicious on Saturday night. The bacon and egg breakfast and sausage sizzle lunch kept up the energy on Sunday until the RD concluded at 1pm.

The HF bands were very noisy with QRN all day and night from thunderstorms associated with a cold front in the southern part of NSW. The QRN was extreme during the evening which limited the number of triple scoring contacts which Lyle VK2FCVI was able to make after midnight despite staying up until 2 am.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the two events during the weekend. The weekend was a great success with 16 club members and their families, and one visiting Amateur, Les Keppie VK2DSG from Duri on the Northern Tablelands.



The inside of Lyle VK2FCVI caravan radio shack.

List of Participants in 2013 ILLW and RD Contest 17 & 18 August 2013

John Winchester VK2NJJ, John Bailey VK2KHB
Lyle Smith VK2FCVI, Rob Frost VK2CRF
Bruce Walker VK2HOT, Arthur Monck VK2ATM
David Hogan VK2FRAB, Alex Dorahy VK2HBF and family
Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Bob Ecclestone VK1ZRE
Ray Mullins VK6WRM. Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV
Trevor Thatcher VK2TT, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Ross Boyd VK2RR and XYL Sue
Paul Colledge VK2PPP and XYL Paula
Les Keppie VK2DSG (visiting from Duri)

New Frequencies for Radio Microphones

Date : 15 / 08 / 2013

Author : Jim Linon - VK3PC

From WIA Website



Radio clubs are advised that a large number of wireless radio microphones currently operating under a Class Licence using frequencies between the analogue TV broadcasting channels (520-820MHz), will soon become illegal as the analogue TV frequencies are phased out this year.

An estimated 150,000 wireless radio microphones in use by churches, schools, entertainment venues, fitness instructors, tourism operators and community groups will be affected.

Now is the time for radio clubs and others to check their equipment because 694MHz to 820MHz will be withdrawn to provide the so-called "digital dividend" of spectrum made possible with an end of analogue TV in Australia.

Those radio clubs who own wireless microphones used for presentations are encouraged by the WIA to check the operating frequency of their equipment to ensure it remains compliant with the upcoming frequency re-allocation.

(A check with a local supplier has revealed that many of the brand name suppliers of radio microphones have already phased out the supply of radio microphone equipment in the old spectrum allocation editors note).

Blast from the Past

Looking back through the past copies of Oxtales is a fascinating experience. It is amazing to see how current many of the past comments are today. The following was written by Trevor VK2TT in the June 1995 edition of Oxtales and is applicable today.

“....Ok, members! What about it. The content of “OXTALES” this year has been pretty much hatched in familiar nests. It needs input from a wider spectrum of the membership, to ease the burden on those who compile it, and those who have been helpfully dredging up the old chestnuts to fill the pages with interesting bafflegab (Editors note I really like that word Trevor). There must be other interesting stories out there about “Noddy’s adventures in Hamland”, sad ones, happy ones, hilarious ones. It has been already advised, that you only need to supply the bare bones of the story... we have people who can do all sorts of things with the bare bones. We can guarantee that we will never jeopardise a truly good story with any fear of an overkill in the application of truth or fact. You may never recognise your own story if we have to “colour it up” a bit, but we know you will enjoy reading it. However, to ensure that some of its originality remains, we encourage contributors to do their own tinting and dressing up.

Anything, Homebrew items, Hints/Kinks, Jokes (clean, but not necessarily squeaky, and certainly not racist, sexist or sectarian!), Poems, Limericks, Music, Medical prescriptions (if you can find a funny one!) What about it? PLEASE!!! Your help is needed.”

After reading this I was just going to put the copy away when I saw the following story on the next page from Trevor which I thought was amusing and could be repeated.

From Oxtales June 1995 Trevor VK2TT

“ I am following up a lead on one potentially exciting story, snippets of which I gleaned from the alleged perpetrator’s XYL. I am given to believe that it surrounds a particular Amateur, whose strong interest in CW contests has prevailed over many years. Cleverly disguised facts have been leaked to me which indicate that this particular Amateur unilaterally chose to leave his own wedding reception rather early... in fact will in advance of the garter-throwing bit. It seems he was seeking a front

Runner place in a 24 hour International CW contest which was to begin just one hour prior to the scheduled end of the Wedding Breakfast. The true facts, should they emerge could make interesting copy for these pages. Be watching for further info.. Do you readers out there have any similar stories which reflect dedication to the hobby, sheer bravery, or the like?”

Equipment from the Past

Yaesu FT-7



The Yaesu FT-7 was a rugged, solid state and modular built HF amateur band radio transceiver, suitable for fixed and for mobile operation.

The set was built by the *Yaesu Corporation* in Japan in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The transceiver was very small for its time; by current modern standards however it is a large mobile set.

It is a low-power (QRP) SSB and CW transceiver of which transmitting power is adjustable up from 10 to about 20W. The set was built up with predated synthesisers and microprocessors.

- Freq coverage: 3.5 -4.0, 7.0-7.5, 14.0 – 14.5, 21.0 – 21.5 and 28.5 – 29.0 MHz
- Powersupply: 13.5V DC @ 3A transmit; 0.4A receive
- Dimensions: 23x8x29 cm. Weight: 5 kg
- Emission: LSB, USB, CW Power input: 30W DC
- Transmitter freq response: 350 – 2700Hz (-6dB)
- Ant output impedance: 50 Ohms nominal SO-239
- Microphone output impedance: 500 Ohms nominal
- Receive sensitivity: 0.25 μ V for S/N 10dB
- Image rejection: better than 50dB
- IF rejection: better than 50dB
- Selectivity: -6 dB 2.4 kHz, -60dB 4.0 kHz
- Audio output 3 watts.