



OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.,

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

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ORARC's Forty-third Anniversary Year

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

May 2014

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

The ORARC 2014 Field Day takes place on Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th of June during the Queen's Birthday Weekend. The venue will be the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club hall in Matthew Flinders Drive, Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie. The Field Day dinner will be at 6pm on Saturday the 8th of June at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Ocean Drive. ORARC has booked tables and the full menu is available with payment as you order. The Golf Club has a new caterer this year and the prices are very reasonable.



Please make yourself available when calls are made for assistance in running the Field Day. By sharing the workload we can all enjoy the weekend without anyone being overworked. It is important to make the field day a success as it is the major fund raising activity for the year.

The Field Day program is included with this issue of Oxtales.

Thank you to the club members who ventured into the forest near Herons Creek on Saturday the 15th of March to provide safety communications for the Bago Forest Car Rally. Thank you to Bruce Walker VK2HOT for co-ordinating this event.

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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Down The Coax

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

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 May 2014 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 16 May 2014 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 31 May 2014 2:00 pm
(Note: 1 week early as 7 June is Field Day)

ORARC Field Day
Venue: Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall
Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June 2014
See Field Day Programme for details

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 20 June 2014 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 5 July 2014 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 18 July 2014 7.00 pm

email Directory

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0830 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

May 2014

VK2TT	May - 04	VK2ZHE	May - 01
VK2CHC	May - 11	VK2ICQ	May - 08
VK2TT	May - 18	VK2EM	May - 15
VK2CHC	May - 25	VK2ZHE	May - 22
		VK2ICQ	May - 29

June 2014

VK2TT	Jun - 01	VK2EM	Jun - 05
VK2CHC	Jun - 08	VK2ZHE	Jun - 12
VK2TT	Jun - 15	VK2ICQ	Jun - 19
VK2CHC	Jun - 22	VK2EM	Jun - 26
VK2TT	Jun - 29		

July 2014

VK2CHC	Jul - 06	VK2ZHE	Jul - 03
VK2TT	Jul - 13	VK2ICQ	Jul - 10
VK2CHC	Jul - 20	VK2EM	Jul - 17
VK2TT	Jul - 27	VK2ZHE	Jul - 24
		VK2ICQ	Jul - 31

email Directory (cont'd)

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Bago Car Rally cornering at speed

Thank you to all the club members who participated in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day Sunday the 16th of March 2014 at John Downes Reserve on Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI for taking his Communications Caravan to the park to provide a comfortable operating environment for the VK2BOR HF and VHF/UHF stations. We were unable to use the club's caravan for the event as a section of flooring needed to be replaced. The weather was excellent apart for a very brief light sprinkle of rain and everyone enjoyed the bacon and egg breakfast and sausage sizzle lunch ably cooked by Richard VK2CHC on the Council-provided electric barbeque. Please see the report in words and pictures in this issue.



Interior shot of Lyle's (VK2FCVI) Palace

Thank you to those who attended the Urunga Convention over the Easter Weekend on Saturday the 19th and Sunday the 20th of April 2013. As usual, there was a good contingent of ORARC members at Urunga. Special congratulations to Craig Martin VK2ZCM on his second place in the 2 metre

pedestrian foxhunt, and on his second place in the 2 metre talk-in foxhunt on the Saturday. Craig was only able to attend Urunga on the Saturday this year due to a family commitment on the Sunday but he certainly made the most of his one day in participating in the foxhunts and attending the Convention Dinner. He said it was a long day but a very enjoyable one. Congratulations to Lyle Smith VK2FCVI who took out "the most handsome amateur" prize of a chocolate Easter bunny. Yes, an image was captured of the presentation!



Lyle VK2FCVI with Inge receiving his award

Thank you to the members who replaced the damaged section of flooring in the Club's Communications Caravan during several working bees. The caravan is now serviceable again with only the task of laying new carpet remaining. Special thanks must go to David Hogan VK2FRAB and Arthur Monck VK2ATM for their hard work.

After the ORARC Field Day the club station VK2BOR will participate in the following events in the next few months. Mark your calendar now:

The Remembrance Day Contest which takes place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of August 2014

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend which also takes place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of August 2014

The Scouts and Guides 57th annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) which takes place on Saturday and Sunday the 18th and 19th of October 2014.

There will be more details regarding the RD Contest
(continued page 4)

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and the Lighthouse weekend in the July issue of Oxtales.

I must finish this report with another reminder of the ORARC 39th annual Field Day. It takes place on Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th of June during the Queen's Birthday Weekend at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club hall in Matthew Flinders Drive, Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie. There is a lot of interest in the Field Day this year and we can expect even more visitors than usual.

There will be all the usual attractions at the Field Day. The fox hunts will run on both the Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday. This year we expect to see some very keen competition. The club has purchased two low powered 2 metre fox hunt transmitters and several members will be honing their skills with practice foxhunts prior to the field day. As usual the club is indebted to Brian Linsley VK2BI of Booral who brings his foxes to the field day each year. Larry Lindsay VK2CLL has been searching out fox holes for this year's hunts.

Don't forget the very popular Field Day dinner at 6pm on Saturday the 7th of June at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Ocean Drive.

Sunday the 8th of June 2014 is the trading day of the Field Day. Both Radio Supply and VK2ICE Communications will have a great number of "must have" items for sale. Both have stocked up especially for the Field Day, and will each have an additional table this year. Jaycar will also have a stand at the Field Day this year. If you don't already have one you will be able to pick up a Jaycar catalogue. Amateur Radio NSW and ALARA will be represented. If you aren't already a member, please take the opportunity to join the Wireless Institute of Australia.

Arthur Monck VK2ATM will run demonstrations of software for digital communications. HamStuff is back this year on a completely full 16 GB USB flash drive. Check out the DVDs of past ORARC Field Days and events. Arthur has painstakingly transferred all the club archive video to digital and

the DVDs are a must-have.

Remember to bring your latest project along and enter it into the Home Brew competition. Last year the Home Brew competition was very popular with some excellent projects on display. This year we are

expecting even more entries than ever with several amateurs working hard to complete projects in time for the Field Day.

As usual, the disposal tables will be well stocked this year. There is no charge to sellers so bring your treasures along.

The Field Day barbeque will run hot for lunch on the Saturday and Sunday, and for a bacon and egg breakfast on Sunday morning. The ever popular fruit salad and ice cream dessert will be available for Sunday lunch. As usual, tea and coffee and biscuits will be free throughout the two days to those who have registered.

Don't forget that there are two Monthly General Meetings in May this year. The normal May Monthly General Meeting is on Saturday the 3rd of May 2014. The June Monthly General Meeting has been brought forward one week and will be held on Saturday the 31st of May as the first Saturday of June, the 7th of June, is the Saturday of the Field Day.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

Breaking News



Barry Gilson VK2LBG

Hearty congratulations to Barry VK2LBG formally VK2FBRG on passing the examination to be upgraded to a Standard License holder.

ARTHUR'S VENTILATION SERVICE

By David VK2FRAB

A failure in the seal of the Comm's Caravan side window allowed rainwater to leak in, causing water damage to the flooring.



Bill VK2ZCV & Arthur VK2ATM inspect the damage

Resources of Club member's were mobilised to fix the problem. Henry VK2ZHE's trailer came in handy to transport the large sheet of marine ply and the two metre long aluminium angle from Bunnings to the Caravan site. Bill VK2ZCV visited Mid Coast Fasteners and Bunnings for the screws, drills, Sikaflex, bolts & nuts. Henry VK2ZHE provided the tools, particularly a versatile gadget, ozito Multi-function Tool that can cut in just about any situation and without sawdust billowing into the air.



Arthur VK2ATM removing odd bits

Arthur VK2ATM found the ozito multi-function tool ideal to cut out the rotted panel, especially in tight corners. He joked that he might buy one and go into the ventilation business. After the cutting and removal of rivets it was time to lift the damaged panel. But the panel was not going to come out easy. It had to be extracted with the help of pinch bars and muscle power.



A fine job by Arthur's Ventilation Service

Dennis VK2FAET & Bill VK2ZCV laid out the old panel pieces onto the new panel for Henry VK2ZHE to trace out the pattern.



Dennis VK2FAET & Bill VK2ZCV panel puzzling

Next came the difficult task of cutting the marine ply to the shape of the old panel. Henry VK2ZHE brought out his old trusty circular saw and with the precision of a surgeon, cut along his pencil line and at the difficult sections, employed the ozito multi-function tool. A few scrapes of the edges with his mini plane and the panel was ready.

Did it fit? Well, you will have to wait for the next edition of Oxtales to find out.

Urunga Radio Convention Field Day in Pictures



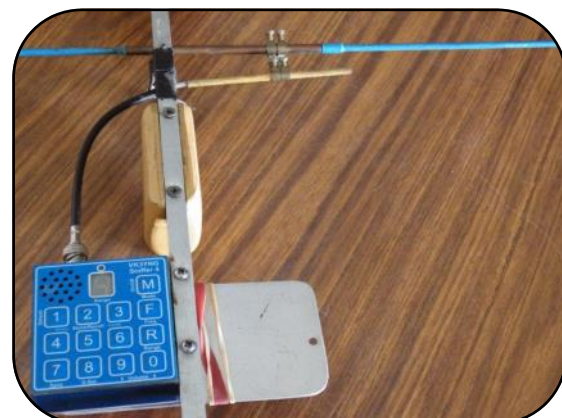
Registration and of course raffles.

Arnold VK2ADA and Inge on duty.



There is always a bargain to be had somewhere as Lyle VK2FCVI and Alex VK2HBF.

VK2YCJ examines an antenna analyzer



Impressive examples of homebrew with VK2ZKT looking on.

VK3NYG sniffer for fox hunts.



Time just to relax

Max VK2BMK (right) and with Arnold VK2ADA chatting (left).



Urunga Radio Convention Field Day in Pictures continued



What would a field day be without a canteen and the volunteers who serve the refreshments.



The large display of past Urunga Field days was a very popular exhibit.



A hunting we will go. The fox VK2DMS prepares to be hunted by VK2FCVI the hound.



Len VK2BLZ tallies up the results for the trophies.

These 2 won by Craig VK2ZCM for second place in the 2 metre pedestrian foxhunt and the 2 metre talk in fox hunt.

Amongst the winners are VK3YNG and VK2CKD



The Palace

By David VK2FRAB

At the 2014 John Moyle Field Day Contest I experienced the “Wow” feeling as I stepped in to Lyle VK2FCVI’s Caravan, stationed majestically in the grounds of John Downes Park Port Macquarie.



Your eyes catch a wall of radios, microphones, speakers, screens and global maps and you immediately think you are onboard some ASIO communication vehicle eaves dropping on a drug smuggling operation. You stand there transfixed while the curious mind drinks in the surroundings until suddenly your mouth starts firing multiple questions at Lyle to



explain the caravan’s conception.

He purchased the Caravan from a mate for \$600 half way through 2013 and started off stripping the starboard side to repair water damage. Next stage was the construction of the communication bench from

yellow tongue floor boards with a half dowel stick glued to the edge to give a neat curve for the grey laminex. Electrical wiring and radio cabling followed. A fuse box leakage circuit breaker and a voltage metre indicator were installed along with press button activation switches. The single caravan light was replaced with several strategically placed LED lights that make visibility comparable to the brightest sunny day. A two inch PVC pipe was fitted to the wall and up into the roof to take the antenna leads and secondary antenna leads were connected to an outside socket plate. Brackets, shelves and hooks were then fixed to hold the UHF, VHF and HF radios. All the cabling and wiring was then cleverly hidden by a long box shelf covered in grey laminex with the added genius of a handle for easy removal.

Then came the great transference moment that Lyle’s wife welcomed with glee. All of his radio equipment was removed from the house (except RFS radio) and placed in the caravan. All of his radio equipment in his shed was removed and placed in the caravan; much to Lyle’s delight, not only because there was more room in his shed, he now had all his radio equipment in the one place.

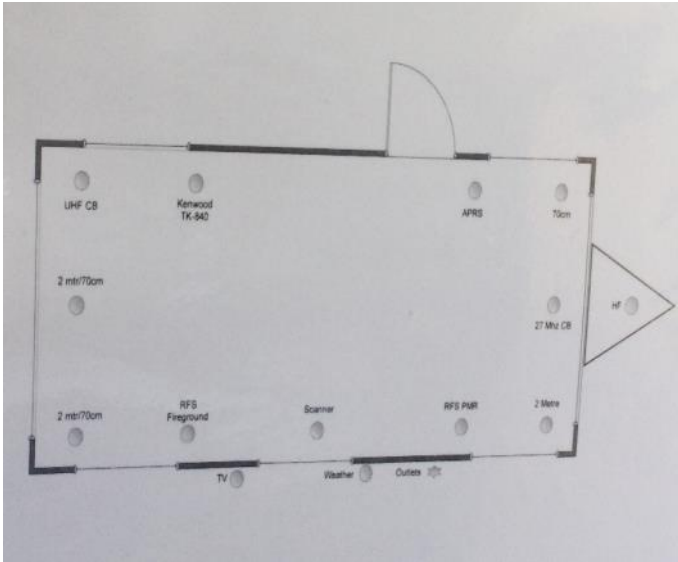
Over the course of six months the interior of the caravan was custom shaped to fit his testing gear and hand-held radios plus modifications to his table and sink. Extras like Weather Station, Televisions, Wireless Internet Unit, Scanners, CCTV for inside and outside views, APRS Unit, and a 27 MHz CB radio were installed. To jog his memory clear-laminated charts were stuck to cupboard doors to display position of his roof antennas, broadcast network frequencies, radio bands, licence frequencies, Q Codes and a list of things to do before locking up the caravan. As far as power goes, that’s covered by 240 volt outlet or generator or two 100 amp batteries.

Besides the radio buff there are things, I think, that show a hint of Lyle’s character like the “hideaway butt ashtray” within easy reach of the bench, the huge extendable light-magnifier and the resourceful idea of hanging under the table two portable magnetic-based aerials from the support bracket.

He says it’s still a work in progress and is often scanning the 409 Shop website, eBay and whatever bargain he can pick up at Field Days. At the moment he is looking for truck tyres to replace the caravan’s
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car tyres. Anybody have spare truck tyres to make his caravan more of a Palace?



The layout of Lyle's caravan palace.

What is Amateur Radio ?

A question asked often . de David VK2AYD

The following was inspired from an editorial by Bob Whelan, G3PJT, President of the RSGB. I thought the new members to our wonderful hobby may also have questions on our past history.

Amateur Radio is about 100 years old and I've been a Radio Amateur for close to 70 years enjoying the evolution of a wonderful developing technology. From the days I built my first Crystal set using a piece of coal as the detector to today's computer driven transceiver.

So what is Amateur Radio? Today it is a means of communication using the electromagnetic spectrum and it covers many fields. Just simply look at the evolution. First communications was by telegraphy using spark transmissions, the thermionic valve was developed and the first big change occurred. Two-way communications over long dis-

tances was possible. Voice communications was developed and broadcast stations appeared. Soon we had television. Then along came the Transistor and the Micro-chip and events changed again. The telephone went mobile and digital equipment became the state of the art. Be aware that digital communications such as Packet Radio was being used by Radio amateurs long before the Internet was born.

Look around your home, your work place, your car, etc., today it is all electronic and these did not just appear from out of space. They were created by technicians of which so many were, yes, Radio amateurs. Think of the evolution and what you enjoy today and try to envisage where it may be 50 years from now.

Amateur Radio encompasses many fields. Over 50 different forms of digital communications is used. Some amateurs like using Telegraphy (Morse code), some enjoy developing new methods of transmitting and receiving pictures, others may like designing antenna's or building their own transmitters and receivers. Some (like myself) enjoy world-wide competitions where mental skills can play a big part in success. Developing equipment for your car, boat, etc., such as GPS and APRS so you are never lost. Some are involved in bouncing signals off the Moon using it as a reflector. All of this can contribute to the development of electronic equipment that the public just take for granted.

SO what is Amateur Radio? This is my response --

“Amateur Radio is a fraternity of enthusiasts that are self-motivated with a desire to understand the basics of radio electronics and the practical workings of the electromagnetic spectrum.”

Please join or renew your WIA membership now.



Linking Repeaters

The following interesting and topical article was found by Bill VK2ZCV



Yagi linking two repeaters

During the 1960s and 1970s, just establishing a repeater was a difficult task. There was little information about how to build and install a successful repeater. There was no Internet to look up thousands of pages on how to build and install a repeater, complete with photographs and videos.

The biggest issue facing anyone building and installing a repeater was desensing. This was a new area few amateurs had dealt with, how to operate a receiver and transmitter in the same amateur band without the transmitter swamping the receiver. So during the 1960s and early 1970s effort was on building and operating a successful repeater.

However once repeaters began to operate in Australia, just as had happened in America, thoughts turned to linking repeaters. It was obvious to forward thinking amateurs that linking two or more repeaters would greatly increase the coverage area. This was not a new concept in the commercial World, but amateurs had limited resources.

However one big problem could not be overcome and that was it was not legal to link amateur repeaters. The regulatory authorities were nervous enough about amateurs even having repeater equipment at remote sites, let alone have them linked.

Even the Federal WIA appeared not to support linking in these early days. Continued requests to the Federal WIA went nowhere. One problem amateurs have when dealing with any organisation, including the WIA, is knowing how to go about it. The Federal WIA was a bureaucracy and had several levels of "government". First you had to convince your local WIA to support and represent the concept of linking. And you had to hope that the person or persons representing the linking concept understood it well enough to represent the submission to the Federal WIA.

Linking at last

After several years the Federal WIA obtained the licence conditions for amateurs to start linking repeaters. The conditions were not open ended, in that repeater builders could not just link what ever they wanted, the permission to link repeaters came with several limitations.

- No more than 3 repeaters to be linked in any given system
- No amateurs to be linked onto bands they were not licenced for
- Links to have identification, the same as repeaters
- Links to have time outs

Links to be on designated band segments
Repeater builders were pleased, that at long last, they were to be allowed to link repeaters. However it did not take long to have issues with the conditions.

Why a maximum of 3...?

Why a maximum of 3 linked repeaters in any given system...? Sure for the moment there was a lot of work to do before the limit of 3 would be reached, but it could be seen that before long this limitation would be a problem.

Linking amateurs onto bands they were not licenced for...

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Also linking amateurs onto bands they were not licenced, posed an interesting problem if you wanted to link, for example, from 2 metres.

Some grades, licenced for 2 metres, were not licenced for 6 metres etc. The only way to prevent amateurs being linked onto bands they were not licenced for was to provide some sort of user initiated control system, that amateurs who could be cross linked, turned on, such as DTMF or CTCSS.

Some argued that linking an amateur onto a band that they were not licenced for should not be a restriction, as it was the linked repeater that was transmitting on the particular band and not the amateur with the limited licence. The debate raged on but the licence condition was not changed.

There were several ways to engineer these links, that had this problem of linking amateurs onto bands they were not licenced for, and the simplest was to use CTCSS. The amateur who did not have the licence restriction, turned on the correct CTCSS tone and the link was established. However most radios back then did not have CTCSS encode and required the amateur to fit such an encoder. Unless amateurs did this, the effort put into providing the cross band link was largely wasted.

This regulation is still a problem today but with the various licence grades now enjoying greater band privileges, it is less of a problem.

Link identification

With the requirement that links had to be identified, the same as repeaters, an "interesting" problem could be seen. If the link had identification, how could it be removed at the other repeater...? The reason for removing the link identification before the link audio was re-transmitted onto the linked repeater was obvious. The linked repeater would have two identifications, one belonging to itself and one belonging to the other repeater that it was linked to.

If the repeater link is using Morse for identification, then one "simple" way to remove the identification from the link once it has been received at the distant repeater, is to notch out the Morse ident using an audio notch filter.

Designated band segments

The regulations designated band segments that links would operate on. The 70 cm band was the primary link band, as there was available equipment and it met engineering requirements. In order to link, primarily 2 metre to 2 metre repeaters, there is only one band that has enough space to provide link requirements.

Link segments were assigned at the low end of 420 MHz and the low end of 440 MHz. No desensing is a primary requirement of any link frequency. It must be far enough away from the operating frequency of the repeaters to be linked. 70 cm repeaters that operate in the 433 to 439 MHz segment could use the 420 MHz segment for linking.

Duplex

The 70 cm link frequencies were often licenced in pairs, one frequency on 420 MHz and one frequency on 440 MHz. The reason for this was to allow duplex linking between repeaters. Duplex linking is not required to link repeaters both ways, but it allows for advanced linking between repeaters. I don't know if any repeaters are linked using duplex linking in Australia.

Below is a simple diagram of a basic link system. Repeater one and two are, for example, on 2 metres. Each of these 2 metre repeaters are connected to a 70 cm transceiver, with the repeaters audios connected to their link transmitter, and the repeaters transmitters connected to their link receiver.

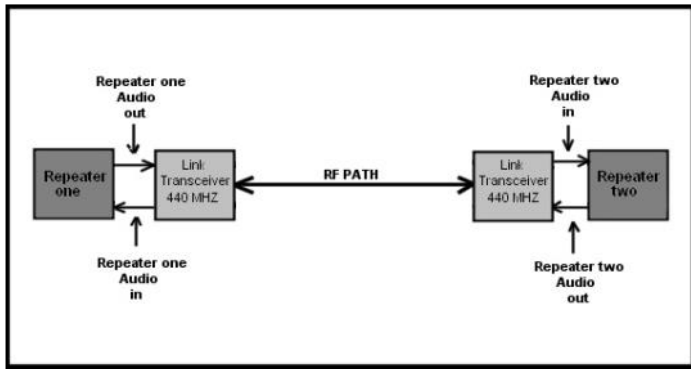
The simple diagram below is a simplex (one way at a time) link between two repeaters. When repeater one is receiving a signal on its input it keys up its link transmitter that transmits to the distant link receiver, that then keys up repeater two and repeater two then re-transmits the audio receiver from repeater one via the UHF link.

The reverse happens when repeater two is receiving a signal on its input. This is a simplex link in that the link transceivers can not receive and transmit at the same time. This is not required for linking. Duplex linking is described on the next page

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WARG linking

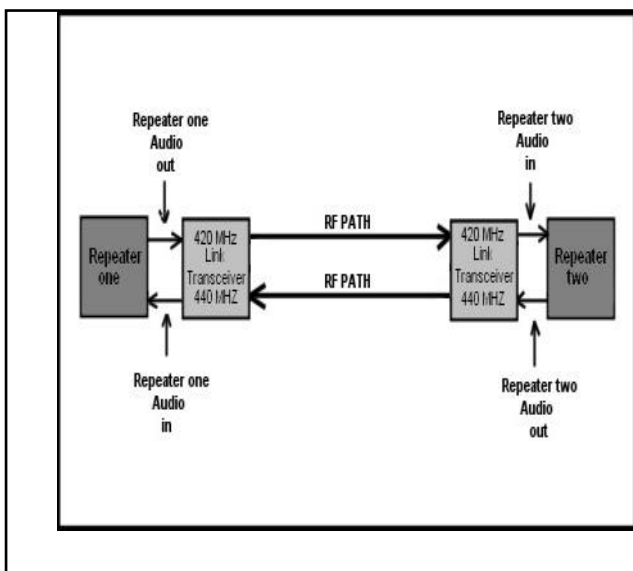


Basic simplex link system

When the initial linking band plans were released, the link frequencies were issued (or could be) in pairs. For example 420.4 - 440.4 MHz. This took some time to understand why. Information is often poorly passed on and the reason for the frequency pairs was discovered in part by accident when talking to an amateur in VK2.

Duplex linking offers various control functions and linking different systems at the same time in different directions. This is rather complex and is very much a futuristic approach that few amateur installations are likely to be able to support. However the frequency planning is there and allows amateurs to use if required.

A duplex link can also be faster switching between overs, as the alternate repeater is already available at each site all the time, and does not have to wait for the turn around time of the simplex link



Duplex link system

WARG was keen to begin linking repeaters but the issue was available equipment. There was not the range of various types of equipment available way back then. As the intention was to link 2 metre to 2 metre repeaters, all linking would be done on 70 cm. However there was another simpler and cheaper option that the regulations had not allowed for, in band or "off air" linking.

In Band Linking

When the regulations for linking repeaters were drawn up, repeater builders, at least in VK6 were not consulted, and as such we ended up with a set of limitations in how we could link repeaters. These in part were discussed above.

However one serious limitation above all others, was that linking had to be on the designated link frequencies. For repeater builders it could be easily seen that in many circumstances there was a easier way to link two repeaters and that was "inband" or "off air" linking.

What is In Band (Off air) Linking...?

In band or off air linking is the same, just a different title for the same thing.

When you drive to a repeater site you hear many other repeaters while parked in your car. This is obvious, as you are at a high location and a tune around the band quickly shows that repeaters can be accessed, even from the mobile. A good antenna on the repeater's tower even drags in more repeaters with noise free signals.

It becomes obvious that all that is needed to link some or all of the distant repeaters you can hear at the site, is to build a link that receives the distant repeater and transmits back to the distant repeater. If all repeaters are on 2 metres then an interesting engineering problem is presented, desensing by and to the "off air" links. Depending on the frequencies used at the linking site and the frequencies of the distant repeaters to be linked, it may not be possible to use "off air" linking.

Receiving and transmitting to distant repeaters from a repeater site to link to the on site repeater, requires the distant repeaters to be on frequencies that are not close to the on site repeater.

(Continued page 13)

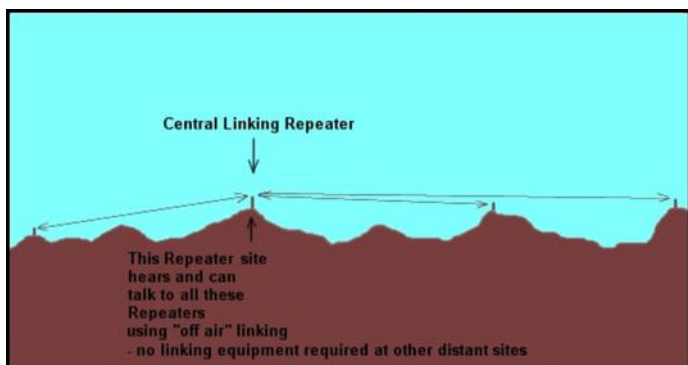
(from page 12)

For example if the on site repeater (central linking repeater) is on 146.1 rx and 146.7 tx, then trying to link a distant repeater on 146.2 rx and 146.8 tx requires a link transceiver that transmits on 146.2 and receives on 146.8.

The link transmitter on 146.2 will cause a great amount of desensing to the on site repeater's receiver on 146.1, only 100 KHz away. And visa versa the on site repeater's transmitter on 146.7 will cause desensing to the link receiver on 146.8.

Cavity filters, even in notch mode will do little to solve the problem. However if the distant repeater you are trying to link to has a strong signal then a low power link transmitter can be used and the strong incoming signal from the distant repeater may be strong enough to not suffer desensing that is noticeable from the on site repeater's transmitter.

If you want to use off air linking it is best to link to repeaters that are far separated from the on site repeater's frequencies. For example the 146.1 - 146.7 repeater is best linked to repeaters above 147 MHz.



Working Bee at Henry's Shed

Just a reminder that there is usually a working bee held at Henry's VK2ZHE shed every Wednesday morning. All members are welcome. A major project being undertaken has been the repair of the club's communication caravan (see story in this issue). Dennis VK2FAET brought a couple of friends who were visiting from the United Kingdom who were very impressed with the extensive facilities and work that was being carried out on the day

Malcom and Roger wished to extend special thanks to the club for changing the working bee date to accommodate their visit.



Henry VK2ZHE, Roger, Malcom and Dennis Meade VK2FAET with Arthur VK2ATM, Lyle VKFCVI hidden and Bill VKZCV in the background.

New Records on 1296 and 50 MHz and 24 GHz

The following new records have been added to the list:

1296 MHz Digital Modes: the first known digital contacts between VK and ZL on 1296 MHz
VK2DVZ - ZL1TPH, 17/01/14, 1906.6 km
VK2DVZ - ZL1TPH, 29/01/14, 2039.7 km

50 MHz Digital Modes: New VK - JA record
VK3GJW - JF8QNF, 23/02/14, 9009.4 km
The previous record was VK3AMK - JH7XRZ, 01/04/13, 8650.2 km
VK3AMK and VK3GJW are both Geoff Wilson.

24 GHz EME: new Australian and world record for 24 GHz CW
VK3NX to LX1DB, 27/04/14, 16324.3 km

Full lists of all present and past VHF records are on the WIA web site:
<http://www.wia.org.au/members/records/data/>

John VK3KM

**John Moyle Memorial Field Day
Sunday the 16th of March 2014 at
John Downes Reserve**



Wonder if there is room for another antenna?

The clubs caravan was undergoing repairs due to flood damage. Lyle VK2FCVI offered the use of his Palace (see article in this issue).



Caravan and antennas set up for operation

Note the use of the squid pole to support a wire antenna.



Master Class Chef Richard VK2CHC with Craig VK2ZCM and Ross VK2RR feeding the troops.



Lyle VK2FCVI and Henry VK2ZHE setting up

Several antennas were quickly erected and operations commenced.



Ross VK2RR asking will that be one sausage or two?

Blast from the Past

Blast from the Past this month is taken from the 1984 mini Oxtales prepared for the 1984 field day.

The following is a list of some of the activities that year:

QSL card contest

You presented 6 QSL cards to be judged on the most interesting.

Handy Kink contest

The best Radio Kinky idea.

C.W Sending contest

This was judged on accuracy of sending not speed.

Computer Programs

Entry was for an original computer program on a print out sheet with an amateur radio orientation.

Dollar a Dip Lucky Dip

Prizes were radio parts goodies.

Fox Hunts

Organised by Bill VK2ZCV

Best Presented Fox Hunt Vehicle

Prizes donated by Todd Holden of Port Macquarie

Video Films

Trade Displays

Surplus Gear Disposal Sale

Special Event Caravan

Thornton Marine loaned a caravan for use by club station VK2BOR for the day. Call backs on 28.840 MHz and Channel 2 on the VK2RPM repeater.

Super Guessing Competition

....Yes we have enlarged our popular raffle contest to now provide no less than FIVE mouth watering prizes which should not be consumed until you arrive home. THREE goes for one dollar must be great value ...

It is interesting to compare this list of events with the ones in our current Field Day Program which is included in the email with the current edition of Oxtales.

Bill VK2ZCV has sent in this interesting view of Port Macquarie. The competition is to guess where it



was taken from and what year it was taken.

For Sale

IBM Thinkpad T41 Laptop, ideal for Amateur Radio use. PentiumM 1.4, 1GB, 40GB HDD, B-Wireless and 1Gb Wired Network, Win7Pro loaded (no licence or media) and XP License. Very tough, quicker than a modern day netbook and still with one of the best screens around. Needs a battery if you want to use it mobile which are \$30 on ebay - \$60

HP DataVault X510 4 Port Home Server/NAS with Windows Home Server - Single low capacity drive (160GB) included, space for 4 SATA drives in total. Perfect for storing all your home digital files - just add drives - \$50

Lots x HP 19" 4:3 TFT Monitors - L1910s from memory - a quality business grade TFT, build the ultimate multi-monitor flight sim! \$50 each

Lots x 3Com 10/100Mb 4/5 Port Network Switches, build a small home network! \$15 each

Lots x 3Com/Netgear 10/100Mb 8 Port Network Switches, build a larger home network! \$25 each

I also have various Core2Duo based desktop PCs for \$50-\$100 of various specs.

It's all got to go! Crazy, crazy, crazy! Email me or call/SMS on (0417) 213-767,

