



OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.,

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Club e-mail address: vk2bor@orarc.org

Club Website: <http://www.orarc.org>

ORARC's Forty-third Anniversary Year

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

September 2014

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Lyle Smith VK2SMI 6585 2497
VICE PRES: Charles Edmondson VK2KCE 6584 0495
TREASURER: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL 6587 1155
SECRETARY: David Hogan VK2FRAB 6582 3006

President's Report

Welcome to my first President's report since the AGM, but firstly, I will take this opportunity to thank Henry, VK2ZHE, for his leadership for the past 5 years, leaving me some mighty big shoes to fill. I will also thank the outgoing committee for their work and welcome the new committee and office bearers to their respective positions.



I was pleased, as my first official function as President, was to:

1. Award David Harding, VK2AIF, his well deserved Life Membership in his 85th year, and
2. Present David Hogan, VKFRAB, with his Clubman of the Year award and badge, and certificate of the club's appreciation.

Both were great achievements and something towards which us young'ns can aspire. Again, congratulations!

I have hit the ground running, with the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW) and Remembrance Day (RD) contests held on the 16th and 17th August. These events utilised the club's communications van at the Tacking Point Lighthouse. Operating for the 24 hours of the RD contest, we made 196 contacts, with 315 points being awarded for that contest, and making 35 contacts for the ILLW, including several from New Zealand. Eighteen ORARC members attended, a great weekend for all, but more details on the weekend further into Oxtales.

(Continued on page 4)

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

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

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 September 2014 2:00 pm

WESTLAKES FIELD DAY
Sunday 14 September 2014 York Street Teralba

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 19 September 2014 7.00 pm

Manly Warringah Flag Pole Contest
Saturday 20 September 2014 – all day

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 October 2014 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 October 2014 7.00 pm

Sat & Sun 18 and 19 October 2014
57th Jamboree On The Air
Port Macquarie, Wauchope & Camden Haven

Bunnings BBQ Sunday 26th October 2014 all day

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 November 2014 2:00 pm

35th Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic
Sunday 16 November 2014

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 November 2014 7.00 pm

ORARC Christmas Party And Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 December 2014

email Directory

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0830 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

September 2014

VK2TT	Sep - 07	VK2ZHE	Sep - 04
VK2CHC	Sep - 14	VK2ICQ	Sep - 11
VK2TT	Sep - 21	VK2EM	Sep - 18
VK2CHC	Sep - 28	VK2ZHE	Sep - 25

October

VK2TT	Oct - 05	VK2ICQ	Oct - 02
VK2CHC	Oct - 12	VK2EM	Oct - 09
VK2TT	Oct - 19	VK2ZHE	Oct - 16
VK2CHC	Oct - 26	VK2ICQ	Oct - 23
		VK2EM	Oct - 30

November 2014

VK2TT	Nov - 02	VK2ZHE	Nov - 06
VK2CHC	Nov - 09	VK2ICQ	Nov - 13
VK2TT	Nov - 16	VK2EM	Nov - 20
VK2CHC	Nov - 23	VK2ZHE	Nov - 27
VK2TT	Nov - 30		

email Directory (cont'd)

ARNSW Pilgrimage (by Lyle Smith, VK2SMI)

In July, while in Sydney, I made a trip out to the Amateur Radio NSW Headquarters at Dural. It was Sunday morning, just in time for the broadcast, and a chance to put faces to the call signs that I have listened to over the past years. I was welcomed to come in, look around, ask questions and take photos.



It was my second visit to Dural, my first being with my father some 30+ years ago and things have changed. The original building and tower are still there (see left, foreground), in the middle of an upgrade to the roof. As a result, many of the antennae have been disconnected and several services are still offline but are expected to be operational in mid August.

Right: The new additions are the building which houses the training and meeting rooms, equipment storage, and a museum. While I was there, they were running a foundation course and it was good to see the attendees eager to gain their licences and get on the air.

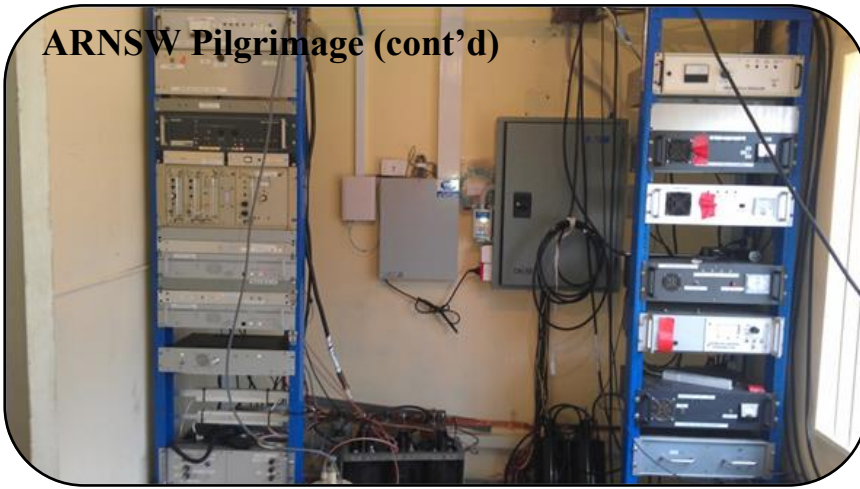


Below: The broadcast booths don't look like they have changed in that 30+ years since my last visit, but "if it ain't broke, why fix it?"; they are functional and serve their purpose.



(Continued page 4)

ARNSW Pilgrimage (cont'd)



ABOVE: The transmitter room. I was told the layout of all the equipment there, but the memory has failed. However, the list includes: Transmitters for 160, 80, 60, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6, 2 Metres, and 70, 23 cm; Repeaters for 6, 2 metres, 70, 23 cm; Beacons for 10, 6, 2 metres, and 70, 23 cm, plus Morse practice beacon transmissions on 3,699 kHz.



Above: The array of antennae mounted from telegraph poles, towers and convenient trees, with the usual set of verticals, dipoles and long wires. A setup that would make the amateur in all of us envious, and our families and neighbours grateful.

(Continued page 5)

ARNSW Pilgrimage (continued)

I would suggest to anyone finding themselves in Sydney, to travel out to Dural and look around and talk to the amateurs there, or visit on one of their disposal days to pick up that bargain we all look for, or on one of the many training/information days they run.

ARNSW operates a broadcast every Sunday morning at 10am and Sunday evening at 7:30pm covering national, state and club news and activities. If you have not tuned into these broadcasts then I urge everyone to make the effort to find out what is happening around our country with other amateurs. There is also a call-back after the broadcast if you want to let them know they were heard. Details of the broadcast, and other services, can be found at www.arnsw.org.au.

President's Report (continued)

The repairs to the communications van's floor has now been completed and new commercial grade carpet laid, so we can expect many more years of trouble free flooring. Like most things, maintenance is required, and the next jobs on the van are to replace the missing panelling near the door and replace the shelf that suffered some water damage. So, the club is looking for help from those DIY carpenters to assist with these repairs.

Also there is a requirement to strip down and service the multi-band vertical on the van, as we had some problems over the weekend with getting it to tune.

The Westlakes Amateur Radio Club hold their annual Field Day on the 14th September. If you are interested, consider car-pooling to save money and that all important CO² production.

The 57th Jamboree on the Air will take place on 18th and 19th October. This year we will be running three stations:

- (1) The club's Communications Caravan for the Port Macquarie Sea Scouts at McInherney Park in Port Macquarie,
- (2) One at the Scout hall in Laurieton (same location as last year), and
- (3) My mobile Ham Shack will be operating from the Wauchope Scout Hall.

We will be looking for three groups of members to operate these stations. A minimum of two-three members are required at each location but the more the merrier. Laurieton station will require a member to bring along an HF radio and a 2-metre rig, with antennae and power supplies to suit. Mains and tables are available in the scout hall.

The Beechwood Billy Cart Classic is on again on the 16th November. Richard, VK2CHC, is the club's organiser and will be looking for volunteers for the check points. So mark it on your calendars

now and be prepared to raise your hand to assist in this activity.

The 6-metre crystals have arrived for the new repeater, VK2RCN, to be installed at Telegraph Point. Testing and alignment is underway in preparation for its relocation from Henry's (VK2ZHE) home QTH when it is ready. So standby to assist, as the filters are quite big and many hands make for light work.

73 from Lyle VK2SMI
(President, ORARC Inc.)



President Lyle VK2SMI awarding David VK2AIF with life membership



President Lyle VK2SMI presenting David Hogan, VKFRAB with Clubman of the Year Award

The following was submitted by Lyle as a light hearted comment on himself.

How many ORARC members does it take to change a light globe?

None, they'd prefer to keep the President in the dark.....

Thank you Lyle for your first Presidents report and contributions to Oxtales. (Editors note)

Vale Arnold Dermid Austin VK2ADA



It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Arnold Austin VK2ADA. Arnold passed away peacefully in the Coffs Harbour Base Hospital on Saturday the 6th of September 2014 at 80 years of age.

Arnold was a Founding member of the Coffs Harbour and District Amateur Radio Club. He was a Life Member. He was the net controller of the club's 80 metre and 2 metre nets since 1981, and was always willing to assist amateurs and encourage young members.

Arnold was A long time stalwart of the Urunga Radio Convention. He was president for many years. His welcoming voice on air reminded mobiles to drive carefully as they called in en route to the Convention. He personally welcomed each arrival at the Registration Desk with his legendary handshake. The same handshake congratulated each winner at the prize giving at the close of the convention.

Arnold was a long time supporter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club activities and was well known to many members. Until the last couple years when ill health took its toll, Arnold and XYL June never missed attending ORARC Field Days. As mentioned in July 2014 Oxtales, Arnold Austin VK2ADA was the Fox Hunt Champion in 2002 and his name and call sign are engraved on the perpetual trophy.

Until his health prevented him from heavy physical exertion Arnold always brought a load of bananas from the plantation of one of his friends to distribute gratis at events such as the Urunga Convention and the ORARC Field Days.

To Arnold's XYL June and their family we extend our sincere sympathy.

Thank you to Fred McSkimming VK2FM and Ken Golden VK2DGT for advising of Arnold's passing, and for the details on which this Silent Key is based.

Vale Arnold Dermid Austin VK2ADA

Submitted by Henry Lundell VK2ZHE



Arnold Dermid Austin VK2ADA Fox Hunt Champion 2002. Arnold's name is engraved on the perpetual trophy.

FUND RAISER!

Our Club will be doing another Bunnings BBQ fundraising activity on Sunday the 26th October. This day's activity should cover the yearly site rental fee for VK2RPM's repeaters at Middle Brother, reducing the need to increase membership fees. Please mark this date on your calendars and give up a few hours each for the club.



ORARC assists WICEN

Submitted by LyleVK2ZHE and Henry VK2ZHE

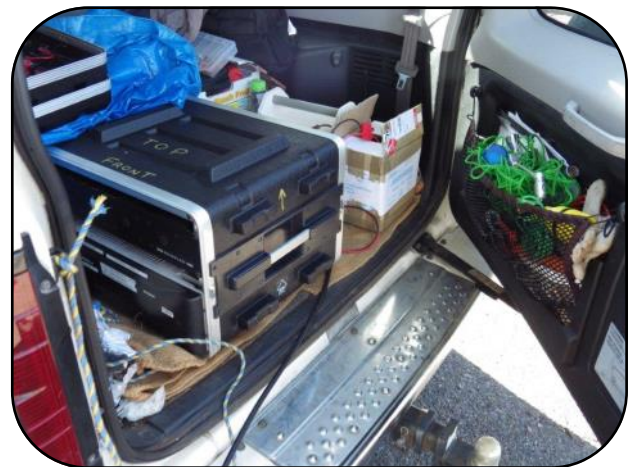
On Sunday the 31st August at 06:30 4 members of our club attended Westport park to assist in the communication for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk.



Bob VK1ZRE, Arthur VK2ATM, Lyle VK2SMI and Compton VK2HRX.

Arthur VK2ATM, Bob VK1ZRE, Henry VK2ZHE, and Lyle VK2SMI met up with WICEN member Compton VK2HRX to set up two repeaters, the first one was a VHF repeater at the high point near Town Beach and the second being a UHF/VHF cross band repeater at Westport Park this allowed for track checkpoints (VHF) to liaise with the officials (UHF).

WICEN portable VHF repeater ready to put into operation.



There were only two hiccups during the day, the first being the failure of the VHF repeater diagnosed by Henry as a faulty DC connector, put a quick acting Compton and a box of
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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please check your name in the Membership Register on rear cover.

Names shown with an asterisk (*) indicate that those members' subscriptions had not been received by the Treasurer at the date of OXTALES being compiled.

Item 3.13.6 of our constitution requires: That any Member whose subscription falls three months in arrears will have membership privileges withdrawn until such arrears are paid.

Just a reminder to members that Jaycar is a major club sponsor and offers financial members a club discount. Jaycar is now open on Sundays.



**7/148 Lake Rd Port Macquarie
Ph. (02) 6581 4476**

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spares driven by Arthur to the repeater site and a replacement connector put the repeater back on air, the second being the loss of one of the portable radios antenna when they were returned.



WICEN portable repeater in place at Mrs York's garden.

The weather was in favour of the Memory Walk with several hundred entrants heading off on their walk/jog with a 2 kilometre and 7.5 kilometre course, and it appeared only a short time before they started returning, as you would expect the returning crowd was a bit drawn out and some appeared worn out from their obvious efforts to run the course, water being distributed to those runners to rehydrate them.



Portable repeater antenna on tripod

Once the track was clear of participants the repeaters were packed away, the handheld radios returned and all gear stowed into Compton's vehicle for his return home, a good day was had by all and the opportunity to assist in this event was great, and the free bacon and egg sandwich for our efforts didn't hurt either.

The ability to put our hobby into practical ways to

assist our community is what WICEN is about and further information can be found at www.nsw.wicen.org.au.

Items for Sale

The following club items are for sale: A WAVTEK 500 Mhz signal generator.



35 MHz dual trace Oscilloscope with probes.



Electric blanket transformer with switched tapings. The club has 2 of these for sale. Transformers can be rewound.



If any member is interested in purchasing these items please contact Lyle VK2SMI by email (see email directory).

Contest reports

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

Remembrance Day Contest

Report by Henry VK2ZHE



This year the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend and the Remembrance Day contest both took place over the same weekend, Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of August 2014. The club's communications caravan was set up at the Tacking Point Lighthouse to operate VK2BOR continuously in both events for both days, including operating right through the Saturday night. The triple points after midnight in the RD contest were a great incentive!

In preparation for the weekend of intensive operation at the Lighthouse the Wednesday morning working bees leading up to the weekend were very busy getting the caravan shipshape. As reported in July 2014 Oxtales, part of the floor in the caravan was replaced and new carpet was purchased and laid throughout the caravan floor



John VK2KHB, Ray VK2JU, Barry VK2LBG and Bill VK2ZCW show how to wash the caravan!

In view of the extended 24 hour operation over the two days a decision was made to set the caravan up in the small parking area immediately to the north of the Lighthouse. This enabled a separate set of horizontal dipoles for 160, 40 and 20 metres to be erected to supplement the 5 band trap vertical HF antenna which is attached to the caravan. It is a testament to the strength of the caravan and its trap vertical HF antenna, and to the skill of the dipole erectors, that the installation survived the weekend unscathed despite the extreme wind and rain that Mother Nature inflicted on the site. Over 40 mm of rain fell and the wind blew from the north at over 20 knots throughout Saturday night. In the small hours of Sunday morning the intrepid midnight to dawn operators Paul Colledge VK2ICQ and club president Lyle Smith VK2SMI feared for their safety as the caravan was buffeted by severe wind and rain squalls. Locating the caravan with a northerly aspect below the Lighthouse was a prudent decision. Had the caravan been located with a southerly aspect at the top of the Lighthouse turning circle the caravan have been more exposed.



Great shot by Bob VK1ZRE showing the expert caravan parking in a relatively sheltered position.

Thank you to Barry Gilson VK2LBG for towing the caravan to and from the Lighthouse, and for so expertly maneuvering the caravan into position at the Lighthouse very early on the Saturday morning. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI who arrived on site with his caravan equally early, and to John Bailey VK2KHB, Des Thompson VK9FLHI, Bob Ecclestone VK1ZRE, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE, Ray Mullins VK2JU, Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Larry Lindsay VK2CCL, David Hogan VK2FRAB, Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ,

Bill Brooke VK2ZCW, Thomas Rae VK2ATR, Jim Neil VK2VIV John Hansen VK2AYQ and Craig Martin VK2ZCM who participated in the weekend.

The team of early morning starters on the Saturday morning made light work of the many tasks required in order to set up for the weekend. The erection of the HF dipoles was particularly challenging. The 160 metre dipole spanned all the way from the top of the very steep slope adjacent to the Lighthouse building to a location amongst the bushland on the high ground to the north of the parking area. The task was made all the more difficult as the dipole had to be trimmed to make it resonant in the band. The bandwidth on 160 metres is very narrow so a couple of iterations were required. The effort was well worth it as this antenna worked extremely well. The 40 metre and 20 metre dipoles were much easier to erect. All three dipoles were connected to a common feeder. The club's Icom HF transceiver has inputs for two separate antennas, either of which can instantly be selected via the front panel controls.

after the caravan was in position. The generator was soon running.

The generator 'shed' with blue cover and high tech



bricks. Note the dipole support for the 160, 40 and 20 metres.

A very effective shelter for the generator was constructed. This was essential as the forecast rain and wind did materialize. Many rocks and bricks were placed on the roof of this shelter to ensure that it stayed in place. There was plenty of time for morning tea before the Lighthouse Weekend officially commenced at 10 am local time. It was pleasing to see so many lighthouses activated. Band conditions were much better than last year with very little QRN. Thank you to all the members who shared the operating and logging.



Stunning view to the north east. Note the end support for the dipoles on top of the hill.

A 160 metre dipole is a long antenna. The same length of wire from the caravan extends up the distant hill.



John VK2KHB, Jim VK2VIV, Lyle VK2SMI and Rob VK2CRF plan and measure out the dipole antennas at the club rooms.

The view to the north east from the caravan was excellent. The enormous seas were spectacular as they broke on the rocky headlands. Intrepid rock fishermen still took the risk to catch a few fish. The dolphins were in their element and their fishing technique was both successful and spectacular in the big seas close to the rocks. *(continued next page)*

VK2BOR was on air using battery power very soon

(from previous page)

As is traditional on the Lighthouse weekends, lunch in the caravan was delicious hot dogs. The gas stove in the caravan worked overtime heating the frankfurters and boiling the kettle for tea and coffee. The Saturday morning was initially warm and sunny so the cold soft drinks from the caravan 'fridge were popular.



The caravan offered respite from the rain showers during the weekend. Jim VK2VIV, Henry VK2ZHE, Barry VK2LBG and Lyle VK2SMI take break.

The Remembrance Day contest commenced at 1 pm local time. VK2BOR then actively participated in both events with paper logging of the Lighthouse contacts and computer logging of the RD contracts. The log keeper was always very busy! Again, there were plenty of stations on air and band conditions remained good although there were fewer contacts to be had this year on 20 metres and the higher bands than in some previous years. It was advantageous to be able to quickly switch between the trap vertical and the horizontal dipoles to select the antenna giving the stronger signal.



A team of two. One to operate and the other to log. Henry VK2ZHE and Rob VK2CRF on duty.

The rain arrived in the afternoon and Lyle Smith VK2SMI very kindly erected his waterproof awning on the club caravan. This was much appreciated as the club's awning is only a sun shade which doesn't keep out the rain. Early in the evening Barry Gilson VK2LBG fired up the barbeque out of the rain under the awning. The aroma of the sizzling sausages and onions soon had everyone lining up for a delicious evening meal.



Lyle VK2SMI demonstrates the hat dance watched by Mark VK2FMGM Bob VK1ZRE and Craig VK2ZCM under the awning.

As the evening progressed the rain became heavier and the wind became very strong indeed. The caravan was a welcome haven which provided an excellent operating environment with all the essential creature comforts. Late in the evening after enjoying a hot soup and a cup of coffee before leaving to go home to a warm bed, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE thought he should boil the kettle for the midnight to dawn shift. Lyle Smith VK2SMI was particularly looking forward to a hot chocolate.

The kettle despite producing a healthy amount of steam seemed to be taking a long time to come to the boil. It then became obvious that the caravan gas bottle had finally run out at this most inopportune time. The gas bottle had not been refilled since the club obtained the caravan in 2008 despite the stove being used every time the caravan has been used on a club event. This is remarkable economy but that economy was cold comfort to Lyle Smith VK2SMI and Paul Colledge VK2ICQ as they continued to operate through the remainder of the night. Of course, had the rain and wind not been so intense it would have been possible to
(continued on next page)

(from previous page)

boil the kettle on the barbeque gas ring outside the caravan. However, Mother Nature's fury throughout the night ensured that this was not an option. Sadly, it was not possible to boil the electric kettle either as the generator does not have enough output to run the kettle. Despite the absence of hot beverages Lyle and Paul continued to make those important triple scoring RD contacts through the small hours, continuing on battery power after the generator ran out of fuel at 4:30 am. Only the QRN from a short intense early morning thunderstorm briefly curtailed operation until it passed. Thankfully the Lighthouse wasn't struck by lightning. Another reason to be thankful that the caravan wasn't in the more elevated and exposed location at the top of the turning circle where the tip of the 5 band trap vertical HF antenna would have been only marginally lower than the tip of the lightning rod at the top of the Lighthouse structure! Needless to say, obtaining and fitting a new gas bottle was a number one priority early on the Sunday morning!



Paul VK2ICQ survives the night.

With a new gas bottle fitted to the caravan in the morning, and the wind and rain giving way to sunshine, thoughts turned to breakfast. Barry Gilson VK2LBG soon had bacon and eggs cooking on the barbeque outside. The awning had to be taken down during the night as it would have been shredded in the strong wind gusts. The caravan gas stove griller made excellent toast for the sumptuous bacon and egg sandwiches which were washed down with hot tea or coffee.

Fortified by the hearty breakfast the VK2BOR operators continued to make contacts. When the rain stopped after sunrise, Lyle powered the caravan using his generator as it seemed that the club's generator might have become damp after it ran out of fuel and would not start after being refueled. However, it transpired that the oil level in the sump had dropped sufficiently to cause the low oil protection to pre-

vent the engine from running. After topping up the sump, the generator started immediately and took over powering the caravan again for the rest of Sunday. There was noticeable electrical noise from the inverter generator. The club's conventional generator doesn't produce any electrical noise at all.

Sunday morning tea was enjoyed by the members who came back to the lighthouse in the morning sun. All too soon it was lunch time again. After a new batch of hot dogs, it was time to start packing up. Thank you to everyone who stayed to do this.



Packing up is just a process for ensuring that there is a place for everything and everything in its place!

Operation continued until 1 pm local time when the RD contest concluded.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in the VK2BOR operation over the two days to make it such a successful and enjoyable weekend despite the weather. VK2BOR made 48 contacts in the Lighthouse Weekend and scored a total of 315 points in the RD Contest.

If you made RD contacts from your home station, please submit your logs as every log that is entered helps the VK2 score.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
VK2BOR Station Manager



Blast from the Past

This month's Blast from the Past was taken from the May 2007 edition of Oxtales. I found the article thought provoking then and I think that it is still is today. I wonder how many of us have used CW as part of our operations during the past year or intend giving it a go in the year to come! The article refers to the participation of David VK2AYD in the 2007 John Moyle contest. (I have edited the original due to space limitations Editor).

THE PASSING OF AN ERA

David A. Pilley VK2AYD

Or should I say "The Demise of Telegraphy" I have been taking part in Field Days for 60 years. My first was in 1947 operating with G2DBF in the U.K.. Everything, including the receiver, was home built. The transmitter had a 6L6 in the final and the ability to squeeze ten watts out it was a challenge. No electronic keying, microphone or computer, just a pump handle and a pencil and paper. Everything ran from car batteries and all this under canvas. Since then I have taken part in many Field Days around the world and watched the changes with fascination.



David Pilley VK2AYD at King Creek

I have a Kenwood TS-50 and all the necessary attachments fitted in an attaché case ready for any emergency that may arrive. A vast difference from the B-2 I once had in a wooden case in my early days. The weather was great so I found a shady Cadagee tree, nosed the car into the southerly side and set up my station on a card table. This time I had an electronic keyer.

The antenna was a base loaded 2.4m whip that I have used on the car in the past. I connected the 40

metre coil to the base and mounted this on a 1.8m al. tent pole and ran a 5m counterpoise to the next nearest tree.

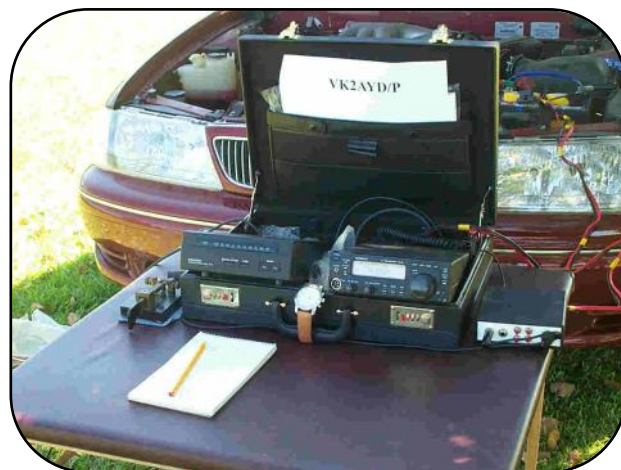
No computer this time, just the old pencil and paper to kindle the memory. At the witching hour (01.00z) I tuned 40 metres from 7001 to 7035 kHz. Not a whisper of a signal. I called CQ; no response. Was my antenna really working!? I grabbed my RF monitor out of the car. Yes! I was showing RF. I tuned up the band – lots of phone stations, everyone S-9. So what's happening down the CW end. It was dead. Well not quite. In the first hour I worked 3 stations on CW!

I thought of my last HF contest where 120 stations an hour was possible – but that was yesterday. This is 2007. By the end of the first 3 hour session I had only 8 stations.

This year (2007) I was looking my log. I kept checking the other bands. A 9M4 had a pile up on 21 MHz, nothing on 14MHz. The second 3 hours was not much better and I did say hello to a few stations I had worked in the first 3 hours. In desperation I changed to 14 MHz where there were a few JA's and R stations to exchange reports with. By the time the 6 hours was up I had only 15 QSO's recorded

At 0700z I switched off. Dismantled my station and drove home, wondering if my key would one day be an antique. In time it could even make the TV Antique show. Perhaps I should donate it to a museum.

But have no doubt, I'll be back again next year – if only to say hello to those few friends I met this year. Maybe go digital or even find a microphone.!



Dave Pilley's Briefcase Station

Amateur radio equipment

This section has previously featured Amateur radio equipment that was used in shacks more than 20 years ago. As a change I thought it would be interesting to feature a radio that has become a popular radio in amateur shacks today. The Kenwood TS2000.



The **Kenwood TS-2000** is an [amateur radio](#) transceiver manufactured by the [Kenwood Corporation](#). Introduced in the year 2000, the radio has come to be very popular among hams for its "all-in-one" functionality. It can transmit on all amateur radio bands between [160 meters](#) and [70 centimeters](#), with the exception of the [1.25 meters](#) and [33 centimeters](#) bands, and the "X" model also has built-in [23 centimeters](#) band capability (which can be added to other models after purchase as an accessory).

The TS-2000 is a [feature-rich](#) transceiver designed to appeal to users who want a high amount of capability and versatility in a single radio. As an "all-band" transceiver, the TS-2000 offers a maximum power output of 100 watts on the [HF](#), [6 meters](#), and [2 meters](#) bands, 50 watts on [70 centimeters](#), and, with the TS-2000X or the optional UT-20, 10 watts on the 1.2 GHz or [23 centimeters](#) band. The (American version) radio's main receiver covers 30 kHz through 60 MHz, 142 MHz through 152 MHz, and 420 through 450 MHz (plus 1240 through 1300 MHz with the "X" model). The sub-receiver tunes between 118 and 174 MHz, and from 220 to 512 MHz (VFO ranges). TX 2M 70cm ? [2]

On the radio's main receiver, Kenwood chose to use [DSP](#) at the [IF](#) level, so a very flexible selection of bandwidths are available without the purchase of mechanical filters, as was necessary on past radios. Users can adjust the low-cut and high-cut frequencies to arrive at the desired bandwidth.

The above information was sourced mainly from Wikipedia

Features

All-mode multibander :

HF / 50 / 144 / 440 / 1200MHz* in one compact rig offering wide-band receive (500kHz to 1300MHz, non-contiguous) and 100W output (HF / 50 / 144MHz) - ideal for both base station use and mobile operation. *TS-2000S/SX require optional UT-20 1200MHz all-mode unit. The UT-20 can only be installed by a qualified technician; do not attempt to install it yourself.

Dual-channel receivers :

Featuring an all-mode multiband transceiver (with satellite mode) plus a sub 144 / 440MHz FM / AM receiver, so two frequencies (HF / 50 / 144 / 440 1200* : ALL MODE + 144 / 440MHz : FM / AM) can be received simultaneously, even on the same band (144 / 440MHz).

*with optional UT-20 1200MHz all-mode unit.

Digital signal processing :

IF-DSP (main band) combines with AF-DSP (sub band) to provide precision filtering and interference reduction.

Satellite communications :

Main-band circuits are used for satellite mode, which thus benefits from IF-DSP.

High-speed processing :

Two 16-bit DSP chips, double-precision computing and a 100MHz speed CPU, plus 24-bit A/D and D/A converters.

High frequency stability :

Built-in TCXO offers professional performance - $\pm 0.5\text{ppm}^*$ (from -10 to + 50°C). *Main-band SSB, CW, FSK, AM modes only.

The Kenwood web site is acknowledged as a source for the above information.

Editors note: The specifications of these transceivers are a far cry from the equipment of old at a price that is commensurate with the performance.



WIA News

Remake of the Amateur LCD

Date : 01 / 09 / 2014

Author : Phil Wait - VK2ASD

The Amateur Licence Conditions Determination (the LCD) specifies Australian amateur licence conditions such as the licence grades, frequency bands, modes and maximum permitted powers. Like all Federal legislation, the Amateur LCD is due to "sunset" (expire) in October next year, and needs to be "remade" in order for the amateur service to continue to operate in Australia.

The WIA views this as a once-in-a-decade opportunity to address not only general amateur licensing issues but also a multitude of specific issues for all current licence grades, to reduce the regulatory burden for both licensees and the ACMA, and to accommodate future developments in communications technologies and applications. The WIA Board decided that all LCD related items raised by members should be 'put on the table' for discussion at this time, and subsequently wrote to the ACMA in July this year. In early August the ACMA wrote back to the WIA advising that they will be forming a position on the various issues following their engineering and regulatory evaluation.

The WIA letter to the ACMA can be viewed on the WIA website.

Draft WIA Repeater and Beacon Policy Released Date : 28 / 08 / 2014

Author : Phil Wait - VK2ASD

After several months of discussion between the WIA and the various stakeholders, the WIA has now released a draft Repeater and Beacon Policy.

The draft policy attempts to strike a balance between the principles of good spectrum management, (the minimisation of cross-interference between repeaters), and the experimental nature of the amateur service and its inherent need for flexibility.

The WIA encourages all stakeholders to review the draft policy, and forward any comments to the WIA by the 1st November, 2014.

The WIA provides for comments to be sent using the link on their webpage.

The band segments and frequencies assigned to amateur repeaters and beacons are also currently under review by the WIA as part of the bandplan review. You are also encouraged to make a submission to that review.

A link for submissions are also provided on the WIA webpage.

WRC 2015 and Proposal for a new 5MHz Amateur Service Allocation

The last WRC meeting in Brisbane, the third in a series of five meetings that are being held in the Asia-pacific region, was sponsored by the ACMA with the assistance of the Australian Department of Communications. Several hundred delegates representing all areas of the radio communications industry and many national administrations attended the meeting. The two main issues of interest to Australian amateurs were: a proposed new secondary allocation for the amateur service around 5300 kHz and a proposed new primary allocation in the 77.5 to 78 GHz frequency band for the radiolocation service that may affect the existing primary amateur service allocation in that band.

Dale Hughes VK1DSH

