

# OXTALES

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Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

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## May 2009

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

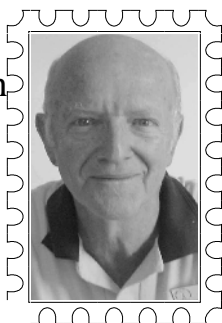
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VICE PRES:	Henry Lundell	VK2ZHE	6582 0534
TREASURER:	John McLean	VK2KC	6584 6220
SECRETARY:	Jim Neil	VK2VIV	6581 2481

## President's Report

All amateurs are familiar with the procedure to be followed on receiving a distress call, particularly if there is no immediate response from another party. An awareness of this procedure has always been necessary in order to obtain our AOC.P. In the current "*Foundation Licence Manual*", the emergency procedure is summarised as "*a responsibility to provide all possible assistance to the station in distress. This will usually mean recording the details and passing them on to an authority or rescue organisation for professional intervention.*"

It is further stated that "*You are authorised to transmit on any frequency necessary to make or respond to a "Mayday" transmission.*" For many of us, this information is "old hat" and would be easily complied with should the situation arise.

In a recent Foundation theory exam the question was asked, "*What would be your action on hearing a distress call on a non-amateur frequency and there was no imme-*



*diate response?"* The required answer was "*Respond and offer assistance.*" Very commendable, you might say. But hold hard – this is a Foundation exam. An intending Foundation class operator is going to be using commercial amateur gear which, while it may well have general receiver coverage, in 99% of cases will be incapable of transmitting outside the proscribed amateur bands without technical modification – which an F class licensee is not permitted to perform. How, then, is he supposed to respond??

A far more realistic answer is the one quoted above from the Foundation Manual, which was, in fact, one of the other possible distractors provided in this question. The question could have been better stated if the phrase "*on a non – amateur frequency*" had  
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## Down The Coax

Note that as the Field Day falls on our next meeting date; the June Monthly Meeting will be held on Saturday 30 MAY 2009.

The May Friday night meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on the 22 May 2009.

**June Monthly Meeting**  
**Saturday 30 MAY 2009 2.00 pm**

**July Monthly Meeting**  
**Saturday 4 July 2009 2.00 pm**

### E-mail directory

*Reflects ALL changes notified up to October 2008*

VK2AG (Lewis) lewisgreen@bigpond.com  
VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au  
VK2EM (Bruce) brucee@supernerd.com.au  
VK2GD (Alan) anu16734@bigpond.net.au  
VK2KC (John) vk2kc@bigpond.com  
VK2KK(Steve) haddie\_007@hotmail.com  
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VK2BOR (ORARC) vk2bor@westnet.com.au  
VK2CJM (Chris) Chris@CalmDowns.org.au  
VK2CHC (Richard) farmsale@midcoast.com.au  
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VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au  
VK2UPR (Paul) vk4upr@dodo.com.au  
VK2VIV (Jim) jim.neil@gmail.com  
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VK2ZCM (Craig) vk2zcm@dodo.com.au  
VK2ZCV (Bill) wsi54224@bigpond.net.au  
VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@westnet.com.au  
VK2ZHE (Henry) lundell@tpg.com.au  
VK2ZTM (Tim) c/- info@tvq.com.au  
VK2ZYZ (Charley) rameses32@yahoo.com  
VK2FABJ (Ailsa) cabrooke@westnet.com.au

## Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sunday**  
(0830 Local)

**Tuesday**  
(1930 Local)

### May 2009

VK2OA	May-03	VK2ZHE	May-08
VK2VIV	May-11	VK2EI	May-12
VK2TT	May-17	VKAYD	May-19
VK2OA	May-24	VK2ZCM	May-26
VK2VIV	May-31		

### June 2009

VK2TT	Jun-07	VKATM	Jun-02
VK2OA	Jun-14	VK2ZHE	Jun-09
VK2VIV	Jun-21	VK2EI	Jun-16
VK2TT	Jun-28	VKAYD	Jun-23
		VK2ZCM	Jun-30

### July 2009

VK2OA	Jul-05	VK2ATM	Jul-07
VK2VIV	Jul-12	VK2ZHE	Jul-14
VK2TT	Jul-19	VK2EI	Jul-21
VK2OA	Jul-26	VK2AYD	Jul-28
		VK2EI	Jul-30

### August 2009

VK2VIV	Aug-02	VK2ZCM	Aug-04
VK2TT	Aug-09	VK2ATM	Aug-11
VK2OA	Aug-16	VK2ZHE	Aug-18
VK2VIV	Aug-23	VK2ZEI	Aug-25
VK2TT	Aug-30		

VK2EM (Bruce) vk2em@tpg.com.au  
VK2DDL (Stan) svellis@tsn.cc  
VK2FBRG (Barry) bgilson11@hotmail.com  
VK2FHKO (Horst) horstko@bigpond.com  
VK2FJKD (Jim) jaidanl@bigpond.com  
VK9FLHI (Des) lhibluelag@bigpond.com  
VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.com.au  
VK2FRTH (Bob) miastar@aussieisp.net.au  
VK2TBC (David) davtar@optusnet.com

### Vale Gunnell Lundell

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club offers condolences to Henry VK2ZHE on the passing of his mother on Saturday 2 May.

The funeral will be held on the chapel at the Port Macquarie Crematorium on Monday 11 May 12 pm Noon. Following the service refreshments will be available at the Tacking Point Surf Club in Mathew Finders drive.

*(Continued from Page 1)*

not been used, in which case it would have been perfectly feasible for a Foundation licensee to respond to the call, even on an amateur frequency not normally permitted for his class of licence.

My point in all of the above is that we need to be realistic in our examination of intending amateur operators and not just “technically” correct in assessing their competency.

*Alan Nutt VK2GD*

El Presidente

### **Car Rally (Burrawan Forest Drive).**

*Report by John VK2AYQ.*



*Roy VK2YOR and Neil VK2EI checking out the rally scene*

The Car Rally on Sunday 29 March 2009 got off to a good start with fine weather promised for the day. John VK2KHB towed the caravan into position and took it back to Bill VK2ZCV's place afterwards.

The generator and antenna were quickly set up with assistance from Neil VK2EI, Charlie VK2ZYZ, Arthur VK2ATM and Bill VK2ZCW and we were ready for the rally. The liaison work by John VK2KC and the printing of maps by VK2HOT meant that we all knew where to go for the communication points.

The caravan was our headquarters and proved to be a resounding success. Not only

was the caravan a focal point for communications; it also provide a comfy environment for operations.



*Bruce VK2HOT OIC Communications*

The work that has gone into setting out was very much appreciated. A civilized place to operate from certainly helps in “keeping on the ball” for communications. Bruce VK2HOT was in charge of the radio assisted by John VK2AYQ Roy VK2YOR and Trevor VK2TT on the computer entering results.



*Trevor VK2TT and Neil VK2EI discuss the finer points of results entries on computer.*

It was interesting to see how the propagation changed during the day. Communications were conducted on simplex and Arthur VK2ATM was able to provide a relay later on in the afternoon as it became difficult to contact those further away from Headquarters. Arthur was also able to time a snake that had been disturbed by the rally driving!



*Arthur VK2ATM preparing for the wildlife!*

I believe that the car club was very im

*(Car Rally continued)*

pressed with our set up and the professional and competent manner in which we provided communications. This really shows our hobby Amateur Radio in a very good light and especially the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

## BARCODES AND RADIO

*By Dave VK2AYD*

The other day I was doing an internet search on Barcodes those 12 digit lines that you find on every retail product. The history is fascinating and stems back to circa 1932 when punched cards were all the rage. It was not until 1948 that Bernard Silver at the Drexel Institute was inspired by MORSE CODE to create the birth of the Barcode.

Did you know the first 3 digits of the code indicates the country of origin?

For example

930-939 Australia

940-949 New Zealand

690-695 China

450-459 Japan

You can find the entire list on the Internet at GS1 Country Codes, or just go to Barcodes at Wikipedia Encyclopedia – there's 14 pages of interesting reading.

### **An Antenna is raised.**

*By John VK2KC*

Earlier this year Paul VK2DEL, Barry VK2FBRG installed on Steve Hadfield's VK2KK tower a TH7-DXX and a 6m beam antenna. Happy DX ing Steve.



*Ground work*



*Matching and terminations*



*An antenna is raised complete with Australian flag .*

### **3 Element Wide Yagi for 20 mtrs**

*Arthur VK2ATM*

Having become dissatisfied with the performance of wire dipoles and trap verticals on 20 mtrs I decided to build a beam primarily for the lower end of the band.

A lot of research, computer modeling and fiddling with a pocket calculator later, I had the bits and pieces together to build a wide spaced 3 element Yagi with insulated elements.

A boom length of 7 meters, made up of 4 meters of 50 mm diameter aluminum tube with two shorter lengths of sleeve fit tubing at the ends, just because I happened to have it left from another project, was used. The sections locked to prevent twisting by heavy 10G stainless screws. The elements similarly made up from 25mm tubing tapering to 18mm.

#### Dimensions

Reflector:	10.534 m
Driven:	5.023 m
Director:	9.464 m

(3 Element Wide Yagi for 20 mtrs continued)

Spacing:

Reflector to Driven 3.187 m

Driven to Director 3.685

Feed: 4.5 turns each side of centre co-axial RG58 Collins balun on 50 mm tube.

Performance:

Gain:	Theoretical	8.6db
	Actual	8db
Front to back		27db
Frontal lobe		3db points
Small side lobes		18db

Reflector and director elements mounted in two insulating clamp blocks on 500mm x 50mm x 25mm extruded aluminium section, which is "U" bolted and double screw locked to the boom with sleeve strengtheners to prevent crushing the boom. The driven elements were mounted on four insulating blocks, two each side of a slightly longer bar.

Mast mounting was done with double "U" bolts and lock screws for the brackets. All fittings, screws and bolts were 316 stainless steel.

Tuning was achieved at a height of 15 m above ground by sliding the driven elements further apart at the feed point. In my case for a resonant frequency of 14.135 MHz a gap of 60 mm and for 14.270 MHz gap 40 mm was found to match. RG 213 cable was used to the shack from the RG58 balun tail, with "N" type connectors.

Element droop was overcome by using two 50 cm posts and the main mast was used to support 4 strands of 60 lb fishing line to each end of the elements with clamps to hold it 50 mm above the element back to about 2/3 from the boom. This was to make it difficult for the birds to perch on the ends of the elements.

A more effective deterrent seems to be the

holographic dolls eyes glued to the end of teach element as the birds have been seen to shy away from a landing.

## Field Day

The OXLEY REGION 34 Annual Field Day will be held on the long weekend in June on Sunday 7 June with an entry fee of \$5.

Please note that the 'FOX HUNTS' will start on Saturday 8 June and be held over Saturday and Sunday. Craig VK2ZCM has volunteered to co-ordinate the fox hunts instead of competing in them this year.

Provisional times for the FOX HUNTS and BBQ are: Please note there is **no** BBQ on Saturday.

### Saturday 6 June 2009

1:00 pm 2 metre mobile

2:00 pm 80 metre pedestrian

3:00 pm 2 metre talk in

5:30 to 6 pm Port Macquarie Scramble any power, any band, any mode any location. Highest number of contacts in 30 mins.

6:30 pm Social tea at the Port City Bowling Club. Smorgasbord at reasonable prices and own expense, or make own arrangements for evening meal.

### Sunday 7 June 2009

9:00 am doors open for sales

10:00 am 80 metre event mobile

11:00 am 40 metre pedestrian transistor

Radio only

11:30 am BBQ lunch \$5 available includes can of soft drink

1:30 pm 2 metre mobile

2:30 pm 2 metre pedestrian

3:30 pm Presentations

Please note that table sales will **only** be on Sunday 7 June.



# OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at June 2009)

Cat. cation	Surname Tph	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Lo-
1 O	BAILEY	JOHN (FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2192
2 D	BELL	ALAN	VK2BEL	COOLONGOLOOK	02 6554 1689
3 O	BIVONA	JOE (ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	0405 040 953
4 L	BLYTH	BOB	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
5 O	BRODIE	BOB	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 0592
6 O	BROOKE	AILSAS (BILL)	VK2FABJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 0547
7 O	BROOKE	BILL (AILSAS)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 0547
8 O	BURGES	ROY (JUNE)	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8801
9 O	DANIEL	JIM	VK2FJKD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 1933
10 O	EDMONSON	CHARLES (PAT)	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 0495
11 D	EKERT	BRUCE (YULIA)	VK2EM	FORSTER	02 6555 4161
12 D	ELLIS	STAN (BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
13 O	GILSON	BARRY (FAY)	VK2FBRG	PORT MACQUARIE	2 6583.8814
14 A	GRAHAM	PAUL (JANE)	VK2GPG	WAUCHOPE	02 6586 4720
15 O	GREEN	LEWIS (PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 9162
16 O	HADFIELD	STEVE (AMANDA)	VK2KK	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587 6160
17 L	HANLON	KEITH	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
18 O	HANSEN	JOHN	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 7932
19 O	HARDING	DAVID (ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586 4980
20 O	HEATON	BOB (KIM)	VK2FRTH	HAT HEAD	02 6567 7537
21 O	KOPPEL	HORST	VK2FHKO	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585 5992
22 L	LINDSAY	LARRY	VK2CLL	BAGNOO	02 6587 1155
23 O	LOOMIS	CHARLEY	VK2ZYZ	WAUCHOPE	-
24 L	LUNDELL	HENRY	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 0534
25 O	MADIGAN	ALLAN (DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585 2043
26 O	MARTIN	CRAIG (JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585 3452
27 O	MCLEAN	JOHN (CORRINE)	VK2KC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 6220
28 O	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 2997
29 D	MILLS	TIM	VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868 1434
30 H	MINAHAN	CHRIS	VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559 3516
31 L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 0960
32 O	NEIL	JIM (CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 2481
33 O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 5387
34 O	NUTT	ALAN (ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 9639
35 O	PILLEY	DAVID (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585 2647
36 O	REES	BRETT	VK2TMG	LAKE CATHIE	Mob 0400 014 641
37 O	ROMAINE	PAUL	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0428 466 075
38 O	ROTH	BILL	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 1776
39 O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 5830
40 L	SINCLAIR	BILL (CORALIE)	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 9302
41 D	TARRANT	DAVID (AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	02 6646 5012
42 O	THATCHER	TREVOR	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585 2278
43 D	THOMPSON	DES (BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
44 O	WALKER	BRUCE (GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8360
45 O	WEBSTER	PAUL (CAROL)	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 3377