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-fifth Anniversary Year

Club Nets on VK2RPM
146.700MHz
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)
Sundays
(during EADST at 0900)
(during EAST at 0830)
Every Thursday at 1930

May 2016

Compiled by VK2AYQ & VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Lyle Smith	VK2SMI	6585 2497
VICE PRES: Richard Court	VK2CHC	6584 6872
TREASURER: Larry Lindsay	VK2CLL	6587 1155
SECRETARY: Henry Lundell	VK2ZHE	6582 0534

President's Report

VK2RCN went off the air (again) in April during the Sunday morning net. The signal started to fade and then all but died. A visit by Arthur, VK2ATM, and myself, later that day, failed to find the cause. With full power restored, and talking to the resident, there was no blackout evident. We did find that the battery for the APRS digipeater was down to 10 volts and the charger had failed, although it was still powering the digipeater but just not charging the battery. We added it to the list of repairs and made our way home.

Later that week, on the Wednesday, Henry VK2ZHE, Arthur VK2ATM and Rob VK2CRF, made a trip back to Telegraph point to sort out the problems. They found that the 2-metre repeater had issues with the filters which were then removed for repair.

While in attendance, the new Yaesu DR-1X C4FM repeater was commissioned. Unfortunately the replacement power

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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
C4FM digital mode capability

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 7 May 2016 2:00 pm

World Telecommunications Day
Tuesday 17 May 2016. AX prefix permitted

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 20 May 2016 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 June 2016 2:00 pm

ORARC Field Day
Saturday and Sunday 11 and 12 June 2016
Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall
Matthew Flinders Drive, Port Macquarie

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 June 2016 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 July 2016 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 July 2016 7.00 pm

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays (0900 AEST)		**Thursdays** (1930 AEST)	
May 2016			
VK2CHC	**May - 01**	**VK2ICQ**	**May - 05**
VK2TT	**May - 08**	**VK2EM**	**May - 12**
VK2CHC	**May - 15**	**VK2ZHE**	**May - 19**
VK2TT	**May - 22**	**VK2ICQ**	**May - 26**
VK2CHC	**May 29**		
June 2016			
VK2TT	**Jun - 05**	**VK2ICQ**	**Jun - 02**
VK2CHC	**Jun - 12**	**VK2EM**	**Jun - 09**
VK2TT	**Jun - 19**	**VK2ZHE**	**Jun - 16**
VK2CHC	**Jun - 26**	**VK2ICQ**	**Jun - 23**
		VK2EM	**Jun - 30**
July 2016			
VK2TT	**Jul - 03**	**VK2ZHE**	**Jul - 07**
VK2CHC	**Jul - 10**	**VK2ICQ**	**Jul - 14**
VK2TT	**Jul - 17**	**VK2EM**	**Jul - 21**
VK2CHC	**Jul - 24**	**VK2ZHE**	**Jul - 28**
VK2TT	**Jul - 31**		

(Cont'd from front cover)

supply had the incorrect terminations so it was left as is for the next visit.

The new (second hand) batteries, donated to the club, were also installed during this visit and we are hoping for longer support time from the repeaters with these new batteries. Henry, Paul VK2ICQ, and myself, returned next weekend to replace the APRS power supply and check the whole system. The faulty filter has been repaired and will be back in service at the next visit.

John Moyle Field Day this year was held on the 19th of March and ORARC attended the activity from the car park of McInherney Park. Set up was from 8am with thanks to Barry VK2LBG, towing the Club's Communications Caravan to the site. Many members helped with the setup and then enjoyed a bacon and egg roll. We operated off the caravan-mounted vertical antenna, with a wedding and a kids' birthday party going on at the park.

Many contacts were made during our session of the contest and late afternoon we finished packing up and heading home. Thanks to Bob VK2ZRE, Barry VK2LBG, Richard VK2CHC, Rob VK2CRF, Mark VK2FMGM, Paul VK2DEL, Dennis VK2DAM, Keith VK2FPTL, John VK2AYQ for attending and making it a great day.

Part of the operating Team Lyle VK2SMI; Barry VK2LBG and Rob VK2CRF

VK2AIF David, received a visit from 5 ORARC members in late April in order to rectify his 2-metre antenna woes. Initially, we checked the V.S.W.R which was at 2.2:1, so the mast was to come down.

Discussion regarding the best way to lower mast safely. Bringing the mast down. Robert VK2CRF near the ladder, Steve VK2ZSW, Lyle VK2SMI and David VK2AIF back to photo.

This involved fitting the winch, removing additional wire antennae that criss-crossed the yard, and a multitude of cable ties. Once down, we established that, for an antenna which had not been looked at for 15 years, it was in good condition and the only problems evident were from the water - invaded feeder and stub cables.

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With a quick cut the new cables were manufactured and terminated.

Antenna co-ax before fixing.

Stuart VK2FSTU and
Trevor VK2TT supervising the work.

After reassembly, it was checked in the lowered position to confirm a working repair, then it was raised back up and all the other wires were returned to their respective positions. It was now checked again and a V.S.W.R at 145.600 MHz was 1.0:1 and at VK2RPM uplink frequency we established a reading of 1.6:1. Not bad for an antenna manufactured for the low end of

Trying to get a stubborn Antenna mast to lower. Rob VK2CRF up ladder (using specialist tool), Lyle VK2SMI giving advice David VK2AIF assisting and Steve VK2ZSW taking evasive action!

the 2 metre band. A test on both the repeaters proved the day's efforts had been put to a good end. Thanks to Trevor VK2TT, Steve VK2ZSW, Stuart VK2FSTU, Rob VK2CRF, and Lyle VK2SMI.

The ORARC Field Day planning has started. We are only weeks away from that great day and we are asking all members to chip in and donate some time, either in preparation prior to, or on, the weekend itself. There are many jobs to fill and we all know that "many hands make for light work"

Lyle Smith,VK2SMI.
President ORARC

Working Bee at Telegraph Point VK2RCN repeater.

Attached are the photos that were taken by Henry VK2ZHE at the Working Bee at the Telegraph Point VK2RCN repeater site on the afternoon of Wednesday the 20th of April 2016.

Tasks completed included the installation of the new Yaesu DR-1X 70cm 438.425 MHz UHF Repeater, plus installation of new 100 ampere hour deep cycle sealed lead acid batteries for each of the three repeaters at the site.

Arthur VK2ATM and Rob VK2CRF with the deep cycle batteries.

Bob VK2CRF with repeater restored to service.

The VK2RCN 147.0 MHz 2 metre repeater was also repaired and restored to service. An intermittent problem was found to be caused by two faulty coaxial connectors, together with a fault in one of the transmitter band pass/band reject cavity filters. The faulty filter was temporarily removed and taken back to Port Macquarie and repaired at the working bee on the following Wednesday morning.

One faulty connector was repaired on site and the cable with the other faulty connector was replaced. Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Rob Frost VK2CRF who attended the on-site working bee with me.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE, Repeater Officer.

A True (tall) Story

(This item appeared in the March 2016 issue of "Mercury", The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society Journal. It was submitted for inclusion in "Oxtales" by David, VK2AIF—).

Back when radio was the only method of long-distance communication, a man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the address that was listed and entered a noisy, busy office including, from an inner office the sound of morse chattering in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter told job applicants to fill in a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

After filling the form the man sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. The other applicants muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons and assumed that the man who went into the back made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes the employer escorted the young man out saying to the other applicants. "thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling, and one said "wait a minute, he was the last in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job." The employer replied , "Sorry, while you've been sitting here we have been sending the following message in Morse Code : 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his."

Jaycar Electronics
Better. More Technical
7/148 Lake Rd Port Macquarie
Ph. (02) 6581 4476

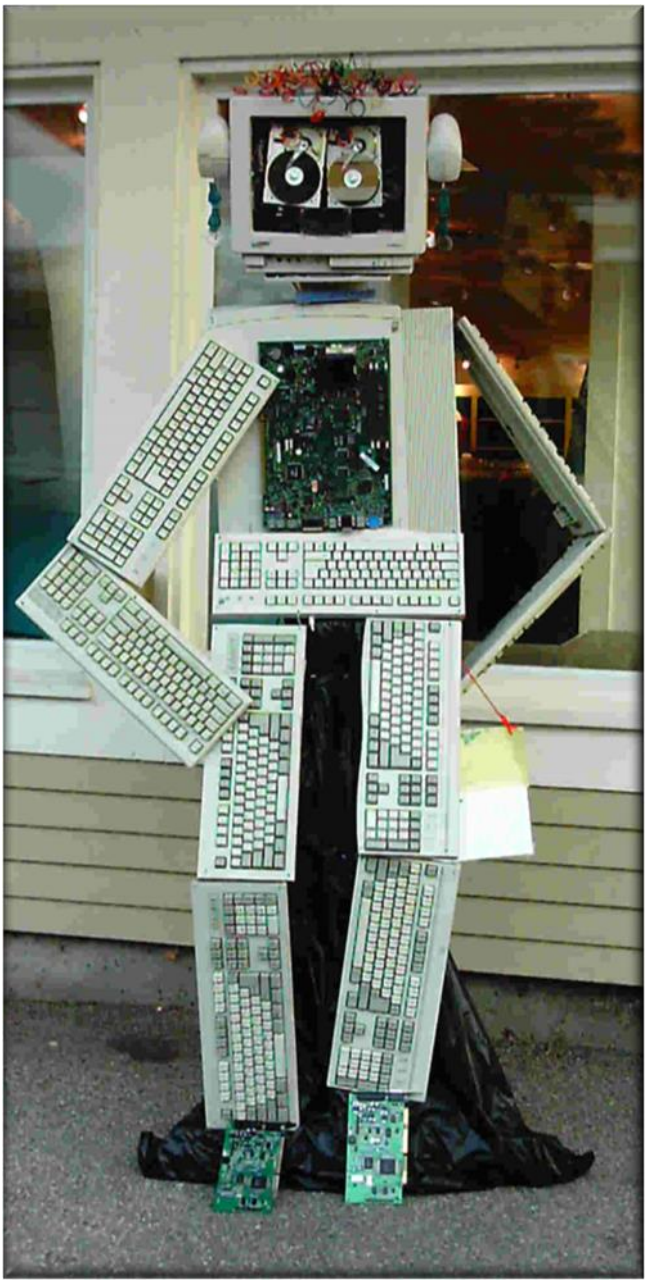
Radio Club Window Decals

From Stuart VK2FSTU I have a car sticker in red on white background and also Black and Gold soon. These are available to club members for $4.00 each and other clubs and public for $5.00 each. I will have them at the next club meeting and at the Field Day in June. Please try to have the correct change available. There is a profit to be made by sale of these for our club, while never large, it's an addition and not subtraction of funds.

A Challenge
COMPUTER JUNK TO GOOD USE.

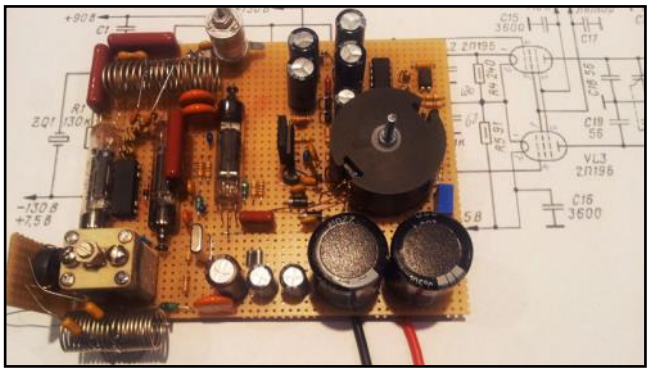
David VK2AYD issued a challenge in the last issue of Oxtales to members on what could be done with our computer junk (*See March Oxtales 20016 issue)*.

In the last Oxtales I suggested we have a competition to see who can turn old computer junk into something useful. No replies. So I thought you may like to see what my new friend from Planet X looks like. If you can find the right key he will also play the National Anthem. Who said it was a "he"?



So come on, who's got imagination in the club?
David VK2AYD

Sputnick Transmitter Recreated



The following article was submitted by Paul VK2ICQ from an original post by Jenny List to the Radio HackAday website.

Sputnik. The first artificial satellite, the launch of which precipitated the space race. Without the frenetic pace of technological advancement as the USA and the USSR vied with each other during the decade following its launch it is safe to say that we might not yet have many of the tools and components we take for granted as electronics enthusiasts and makers today.

Frank Waarsenburg PA3CNO has taken on the interesting task of recreating one of the Sputnik radio transmitters using a set of the original Russian tubes. Sputnik itself was an astounding achievement for the team of engineers and scientists who put it into orbit, but the drive to beat the USA to the post within the 1957 International Geophysical Year meant that it was a surprisingly simple device.

A sphere pressurised with nitrogen and with those iconic whip antennas mounted on its outside, containing a battery, 20 and 40 MHz tube radio transmitters, and a fan cooling system. Its design was a Soviet state secret, but in 2013 Oleg, RV3GM located the schematic used for the transmitter.

The tubes are slightly unusual, being a wire -ended design with all electrodes mounted on rods the length of the glass envelope. This design feature gave them a resistance

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to acceleration and vibration, making them suitable for use in aircraft, missiles, and rockets. Frank faced one or two hurdles during his construction, including the development of a suitable power supply and finding an unfortunate bug in the Russian schematic. If you speak Dutch or are prepared to use a translation tool his full write-up can be found in the Dutch language RAZzies magazine, December issue featuring the power supply (PDF, Dutch), and January issue featuring the transmitter (PDF, Dutch).

The Sputnik satellite has not appeared on its own in these pages before, but we have recently featured the early OSCAR amateur radio satellites and the revival of a piece of space-race-era Soviet rocket technology.

Via [Stefan, HB9TWS], whose English-language coverage of the transmitter was of great help.

Submitted by:
Paul VK2ICQ

Club Bucket Hats

You too could look just as elegant in your own Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club bucket hat. Shown here modelled by Dennis VK2DAM

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club has yellow bucket hats embroidered with the club logo for sale to members at the very reasonable price of $15 each. The hats come in two sizes suitable for adults. One is S/M (56cm) and the other is L/XL (59cm). The measurement is the circumference of the wearer's head that the hat is designed to fit. To order a hat please email the club secretary Henry Lundell VK2ZHE vk2zhe@orarc.org and advise your hat size.

The hats are supplied and embroidered to order. Please allow 4 weeks for delivery.

Where Have all the NDBs Gone?

By Henry VK2ZHE

An NDB or Non-Directional Beacon is a ground-based, low frequency radio transmitter used as an instrument approach for airports and offshore platforms.

On the 26th of May 2016 the biggest single change to Australia's aviation navigation system will take place when 179 ground-based navigation aids are turned off. This is part of the transition to the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) which was set for the 4th of February 2016.

The Airservices Navigation Rationalisation Project (NRP) is switching-off 179 of Australia's ground-based navigation aids, on 26 May 2016. The navigation aids to be decommissioned include, non-directional beacons (NDB), VHF omni-directional ranges (VOR) and distance measuring equipment (DME).

GNSS will now be the primary means of navigation for all instrument flight

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rule (IFR) aircraft, which will be supported by the Backup Navigation aid Network, also known as the BNN. This means that some ground based navigation aids will continue to remain in service.

Details of the Navigation Rationalisation Project are to be found on the Airservices Australia website at http:// www.airservicesaustralia.com/projects/nrp/

The complete lists of the 179 ground-based navigation aids to be decommissioned on the 26th of May 2016 may be downloaded from the website. This includes both Airservices Australia owned aids as well as privately owned aids. The list of the remaining aids forming the Backup Navigation aid Network can also be downloaded from the website. The arrangements for aviation navigation after the 26th of May 2016 decommissionings are documented on the Airservices Australia website http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/

The list of NDBs to be decommissioned on the 26th of May 2016 is far too long to include in Oxtales but of parochial interest is that the Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Lord Howe Island NDBs will remain but most of the surrounding NDBs such as Taree, Lismore etc will disappear.

The biggest change that listeners to the Long Wave band (190 - 526.5 kHz) will notice after the 26th of May 2016 will be the absence of a great many once familiar NDB transmissions. The silences will reflect the end of an era. Before they are lost forever there is only a short opportunity to listen to the many NDBs on the decommissioning list.

It is too late to listen for the Coffs Harbour NDB on 311 kHz though as it was decommissioned ahead of time on the 31st of March 2016 so the CFS morse code ident will never be heard again on 311 kHz. The callsign does live on though on the Coffs Harbour DME and VOR which will remain in service. This article was prompted by a question from Gary Ryan VK2ZKT asking if I knew why the Coffs Harbour NDB was off air and why it was taking so long to be restored.

A useful list of the NDBs in Asia/Pacific area which includes Australia is the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Asia and Pacific Office Frequency list No. 1 which lists facilities in the band 190 - 526.5 kHz as a downloadable pdf file www.icao.int/ APAC/Documents/edocs/ CNSdocs/02freqlist01.pdf It is dated December 2012 but it is handy as it lists the latitude and longitude of the listed NDBs.
For those with an interest in aviation have a look at the Airways Museum website at http://www.airwaysmuseum.com/

The museum is at Essendon airport. It's well worth a visit if you are in Melbourne. The museum preserves the history of Australia's Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) and its predecessors and successors. DCA evolved to become Airservices Australia (ASA) as the service provider and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) as the aviation regulator.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE (ex DCA)

Alzheimers Australia Walk and Jog in Port Macquarie on Sunday the 3rd of April 2016

Photographs and report by Henry VK2ZHE.

The portable WICEN VHF repeater was set up in the location that is the lookout above Mrs York's Garden on the corner of Stewart and Grant Streets near the Port Macquarie Primary School. The photos are a little dark as they were taken in the early morning light.

Location above Mrs York's Garden in the early morning light.

WICEN portable Repeater

The local WICEN members who took part in providing communications for the walk are all members of ORARC. They were Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE, Steve Wynn VK2ZSW and Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU.

Compton Allen VK2HRX of NSW WICEN brought the repeater and hand held radios from Sydney to Port Macquarie for the event. The walk along the waterfront as far as Oxley Oval and back started and finished at the headquarters set up in West Port Park.

Henry VK2ZHE set up the repeater which was needed to provide radio communications between the event officials along the course using hand held radios. VK2SMI, VK2ZRE, VK2ZSW and VK2FSTU together with VK2HRX were based at the West Port Park headquarters. They handed out the radios and trained the officials in the use of the radios and then monitored the traffic to ensure that messages were getting through. The major task at the conclusion of the event was collecting and accounting for all the equipment and then packing it up so that Compton VK2HRX could take it back to Sydney in readiness for the next WICEN event. Thank you to Compton VK2HRX for bringing the equipment to Port Macquarie and overseeing the WICEN Communications for the event.

Compton attended the ORARC meeting on Saturday the 2nd of April and conducted the WICEN briefing for the Sunday event. This was much appreciated as everyone knew their roles for the very early start in the morning. Even with the end of Daylight Saving on Sunday morning we all saw the sun rise as we were setting up! WICEN is providing the communications for similar Alzheimers Australia Memory Jog and Walks at many centres throughout NSW.

Stuart VK2FSTU, Compton VK2HRX and Lyle VK2SMI at memory walk.

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest Sydney Harbour Sunday March 13th from 10:00 to 16:00 local time.

This unique new contest brings hams from all over the nation to Sydney Harbour and invites them to make VHF / UHF contacts from any of the system's ferries and 36 wharves.With all-day travel for just $2.50 using an Opal Card, this is a great way to spend a Sunday! To add some fun, operation is restricted to hand-held radios (any mode) and can include repeater, simplex or "eyeball" (a handshake and an exchange of QSL cards) contacts.

Contestants obtain points multipliers by working multiple ferries and multiple wharves during the six hour contest. A number of awards, including the prestigious "Worked All Ferries" (or WAF Award), are available.

The event was run by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society (VK2BV) with a club station at Rose Bay Ferry Wharf.

Peter VK2MPK went down to Sydney to take part in the competition and took numerous photographs. Peter went down to achieve two goals one was to take part in the event and the other was to 'cross of an item' on his 'bucket' list; that was to go on a Ferry on Sydney Harbour.

Peter said that "it was a GREAT day and had lots of fun".

Not only did Peter VK2MPK fulfil his wish to ride ferries on the harbour; Peter was congratulated as being the person who had travelled the greatest distance to take part in the event photograph of Peter VK2MPK below.

Urunga Radio Conference Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 March 2016

Photographs from the Urunga Radio Conference supplied by Henry VK2ZHE. Field Days have many familiar elements:

Food to feed the hungry masses

Disposals for bargain hunters.

Home brew

Fox Hunting

Trade Displays

Technical discussions

Raffles to be drawn; Trophies to be won

Presentations and of course Fellowship with fellow amateurs

Equipment from the past
Yaesu FT 707

The Yaesu FT-707 was an amateur transceiver that was produced in 1976. The transceiver was available with 100 watt output and also as the FT-707S which was the QRP version with 10 watts output.

The transceiver was for the 80-40-30-20-15-17-12 and 10 meter radio amateur bands. Its was constructed as a metal-cased transceiver with a dicast aluminum front. Modes included AM, CW and SSB modes on the above-mentioned bands without a general frequency coverage receiver

The FT-707 was released in 1976 by the Japanese *Yaesu Musen Corporation* for appx $ 400 US as a 'compact size' rig. This type was in production until 1979 and available as FT-707 (100 watt output) and as FT-707S (10 watt output) QRP version.

Tech Specs

- Frequency range: 80,40,30,20,17,15,12,10 amateur bands (TX and RX)
- Operational modes: AM, CW, USB, LSB
- Transmitter input: AM 80W DC; SSB 240W DC
- Transmitter output: AM 50W; SSB 100W
- Carrier suppression: better than 35 dB
- Unwanted sideband suppression: better than 50 dB @ 14MHz, 1kHz mod
- Spurious: at least – 50 dB
- 3rd order distortion products: at least – 30 dB
- Stability: less than 300Hz from 0-30min after start up
- Receive sensitivity: 25 mV/10db S/N SSB/CW; 1mV/10dB S/N AM
- Selectivity:
  - SSB, 2.4kHz-6 dB, 4.0kHz-60 dB
  - CW, 0.6kHz-6 dB, 1.2kHz-60 dB
  - AM, 3.6kHz-6 dB, 6.8kHz-60 dB
  - Image rejection: 80-12m 60 dB, 10m 50 dB
  - Antenna: 50Ohm balanced
  - Audio output imp: 4 – 16Ohm
  - Audio output: 3W for 4Ohm @ 10% THD
  - Bandwidth control: continuously variable 300Hz– 2.4kHz(SSB)
  - Power requirements: 13.8V DC
  - Current consumption: Rx–DC 1.5A; Tx DC 20A
  - Dimensions: 9.5 x 24 x 29.5cm with rear heat sink
  - Weight: 6.5kg

The transceiver had an impressive range of accessories that included:

FC-707 antenna tuner unit
FP-707 integrated AC power supply / speaker unit
FV-707 external memory and VFO unit

- MH-1B, YM-35/36/37 hand mikes
- XM-455 C/A/S CW, AM, SSB filters
- YM-34 desk mike

Blast from the Past

The following articles are from the May 2006 issue of Oxtales and in light of the recent repair work on the VK2RCN repeater quite relevant.

'VK2RCN Update

Minutes before the ribbons were tied on this issue of OXTALES, Bill VK2ZCV was able to report that as a result of another "working bee", held on Wednesday the 26 April, the refurbished VK2RCN voice repeater underwent a 2 hour, full power operational test, under the watchful eyes of Henry VK2ZHE, Bill VK2ZCV and Jim VK2VIV. This pre installation test involved monitoring the equipment's vital signs, including temperature. It came through with flying colours, showing only a temperature rise in one area that was 2 degrees above the ambient.

On Saturday 29 April, the repeater was reinstalled at Telegraph Pint and restored to normal use by Bill, VK2ZCV and Craig VK2ZCM. Well done gents! Thanks to all who contributed to the overall restoration exercise.

The packet digipeater, VK2RCN, at the same site, has suffered damage, presumably from a lighting strike and is down for analysis and repair. The Wednesday working bees are to continue and volunteers to assist are most welcome.'

Editors note: The original article was written by Trevor, VK2TT who is also co-editor of Oxtales 10 years later.

Also from the May 2006 issue of Oxtales came the following report on the John Moyle Field Day. It is interesting to see the many familiar names and sad to see the members that have since passed away.

' John Moyle Field Day Operations

Club station VK2BOR, operated from the top of a misty and occasionally rainy top of North Brother Mountain near Laurieton, NSW from 0100 to 0700Z, Saturday 18 March 2006.

Principal Operators were:

HF Bruce VK2HOT, Arthur VK2ATM

6M Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV

2M 70Cm Neil Sandford VK2EI (Now SK)

Relief Operators and Assistants:

Barry VK2FBRG, (Now VK2LBG) Jim VK2VIV

Bill VK2ZCW, John VK2KHB

Henry VK2ZHE, John VK2CIF

John VK2JB (now SK) Trevor

VK2TT, Bob VK2EJK, Alan VK2GD (Now SK) Brenton (studying for Foundation Licence) (Now SK)

Photos show at top Bruce VK2HOT and Arthur VK2ATM. Then

Bill VK2ZCV

Jim VK2VIV

Henry VK2ZHE

John VK2JB (SK)

Neil VK2EI (SK)

Second last photo is the 6M operators

Bill VK2ZCV and

Jim VK2VIV

Last photo is of the day rainy and misty.

Big Ecuador earthquake

Date : 22 / 04 / 2016
Author : Jim Linton - VK3PC

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake centred near the coast of Ecuador South America on April 16, the strongest in that country for decades, claimed more than 500 lives as rescuers searched for survivors. The frequency 7.060 MHz was being used as radio amateurs handle emergency traffic.

Widespread destruction was caused with most damage to the Guayaquil and Portoviejo/Manta areas, where a state of emergency was declared in six coastal provinces. Victor Perez HC2DR of Radio Club Guayaquil was in the worst hit areas left without power or mobile phones. "It was possible to rehabilitate the Amateur Radio repeater of that sector and I programmed the radios of the fire department of Manta so that they could use it to communicate their needs."

A further report was that hams in the HC4 district have used their mobile stations or battery power, with moves to get them generators and solar panels to continue their work. Radio amateurs were at the Emergency Operations Centre of Quito. The Echolink Node HC1BG-R remained active serving as the information link from the affected area.

Specialised search and rescue teams from America and European countries were giving their support.

Relief groups and the army had moved to provide humanitarian assistance, as aftershocks as big as 6.1 on the Ritcher scale were being felt by an already traumatised community.

Meantime the earthquakes in Southern Japan have seen no major involvement by radio amateurs providing emergency communications.

-Jim Linton VK3PC, IARU Region 3 Chairman, Disaster Communications

WIA Annual General Meeting 2016

The 2016 WIA Annual General Meeting will be held on Norfolk Island on May 27, 28 and 29. The AGM starts at 9am on Saturday at the Paradise Hotel.

There will also be an organised walk to Mt Bates for a SOTA activation and visit to Jacki Jacki on nearby Philip Island to activate the peak.