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OXTALES

Oxley Amateur Radio
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WYONG Hamfest

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Once again this year's Wyong Hamfest went off well. It was a large turnout. As we drove into the grounds, it wasn't hard to find the place. All you had to do was follow the cars that looked like porcupines with all the antennas sticking out! Once

we got parked and started walking in you got the feeling that you were a kid again going to the Lolly store! It was hard to decide which way to go as there were so many tables set up with any kind of radio gear you could imagine. Also, there were heaps of Seminars,

and even



The Lolly Store!

Transmitter hunts. Good on you, Wyong. See you next year.

VK2IPO

VK2RPM Speaks Again

After being turned off on 28th October (in the last millennium), the repeaters on Middle Brother are

again operational. There were turned off to enable tower upgrading works to be undertaken

by the site owners. Our antennae were required to be moved to allow access to

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particular locations of the tower structure.

It was understood that the upgrading work would be of short duration and that our down-time would be only several days, or perhaps one to two weeks at the most. Things did not quite work out that way.

Although the tower works were completed reasonably quickly, we were unable to obtain firm indications as to where new dishes would be located by the owners, on the new tower extensions. Having recently received verbal indications as to where we could re-install our antennae arrays, we found it necessary to fabricate new mounting hardware to suit the changed locations, and to meet the owner's preferences for mounting arrangements. The major effort in constructing the new mounting hardware was undertaken by Will (VK2XXU). When the prefabrication was completed, under Will's truly professional hands in his home workshop, the hardware was hauled to the site on Will's trailer. The task of getting it all up the mast and the final assembly

thereon, was undertaken by a small team of volunteers comprising Neil (VK2EI), John (VK2JJ), Jim (VK2BZD), Will (VK2XXU) and Trevor (VK2TT).

Two bites at the cherry were necessary. The first day's effort was truncated by weather conditions and a minor hardware glitch that could not be fixed on site because of the fog and rain. However, the voice repeaters on 2-Metres and 70-centimetres were restored on that excursion which took place on Tuesday 4th April. During the following week, on Wednesday, 12th April, four of the above team returned to the scene of the crime and completed the work on the antennae for the packet Digipeaters, on the local VHF port and the Backbone UHF port. Through either "serendipitous" circumstances, or just plain old good technological practice that had been used in the equipment construction,

all repeaters, TNC's, and power arrangements fired up without drama or complaint after their prolonged "hibernation". The backbone digipeater became busy logging calls in its HEARD List within a few seconds of switching on, and contacts were made through the 2-Metre voice repeater immediately it was repowered. At the time of going to press, it can be reported that the ROSE Switch is functioning normally to both VK2RGL and VK2RCH ROSE Switches, and both voice repeaters (2-Metres and 70-cm) are functioning normally.

Thanks to all who participated in getting this gear back on the air. That includes John (VK2VY) who rushed home from work and loaded up the ROSE Switch.

73 de Trevor (VK2TT)
Chairperson, Repeater
Committee.

Port Macquarie Field Day 2000

Alan Madigan reports that all is going well in preparation for the upcoming Field Day here in Port on June 10th and 11th.

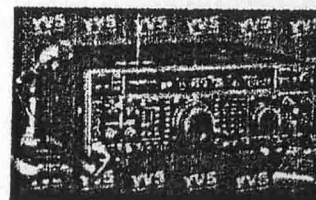
We will desperately need as many volunteers as we can get though. There are always little tasks to be

done, whether it be cook the snags, or help at the door with the admission fees etc. Even if you can only spare an hour of your time to help out this year that would be appreciated by all. Also, the request was made that if possible try to

have exact change, which is \$10.00 for the entry fee. That would be of great help in that it's always easy to run out of money for making change. Hope to see everyone at Field day this year!!



**Field Day
June 10-11**



20 Meter HF Nets

Maritime Mobile Radio nets (Amateur radio)

Please listen first to ascertain the procedures of each net.

Tony's Net. Kenya. 14.316mhz. /0500hrs zulu

S.A. M/M Net. South Africa. 14.316mhz. /0630 & 1130hrs zulu. /7.045mhz. after 14.316mhz.

S.E.A. M/M Net. (Rowdy's breakfast show), Phuket. 14.320mhz. /2400hrs zulu & 7085mhz. / 0030hrs zulu.

Mississauga Net. VE stations with relays. 14.121mhz. /1245hrs zulu. Covers Europe Med, Atlantic, Caribbean and Central America.

Trans Atlantic Net. 21.400mhz. /1300hrs zulu.

U.K. M/M Net. 14.303+/-QRM mhz. /0800hrs & 1800hrs. Zulu

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Caribbean M/M Net. Saint Croix. 7.230mhz - 7.240mhz. /1100hrs. zulu

Maritime Emergency Net. 14.310mhz. /0400hrs. zulu & 14.303mhz. /1800hrs. zulu

Chubasco Net. Mexico West Coast. 7.294mhz. / 1530hrs. zulu S.T. - 1430hrs. zulu D.S.T.

Pacific Seafarers Net. Various controllers / 14.313mhz. / 0200zulu to 0325zulu - roll call. /

<http://www.wcinet.net/~aspect/sf.htm>

Robby's Net. Australia / 14.315mhz. / 1000hrs & 2300hrs. zulu.



Editor's Corner

This month has been a real bonus to me, with the RPM Digipeater going back on-line, and with my purchase of the KAM dual port TNC. It has opened up a lot of possibilities of things that I can get going now. And, I have noticed that I am down at the radios a lot more

now after getting home from the "Salt Mines". I remember when packet first came along. It caught on like wild fire. Everyone ran out and bought themselves a TNC and jumped on the band wagon. Keyboard to keyboard qso's were readily available in those days. But then all the BBS's came along and took

over the frequencies. It got to the point that when you wanted to do a little node hopping and get to your friend down the radio pike, it was almost impossible to do to the bbs traffic on the channel. People lost interest fast in packet due to that I believe. I don't think packet ever really got it's chance to become an icon in the ham

shack that would always keep ones interest. It's personality was taken away when everybody started using the Robotic BBS's and unattended tnc's. There is a need for the bbs stations I believe. And like everything else they have their place in Amateur radio. But, I think what we are missing these days with the

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packeteros is the lack of 1 on 1 keyboard chats.

Since I have the dual-port TNC I would like to try and reestablish the interest of packet by setting up a VHF/HF gateway. It's actually already in place, but I am still looking for a good frequency on HF to let it sit on. Right now it's on 20 meters and available to use when I am at the radios. You can connect to my gateway via RPM and the port rose address. My gateway node to connect to is PRTMAC. My mailbox is VK2IPO-2, and my conference bridge & BBS is VK2IPO. When you connect to me if I am not at the keys you can type //help for a list of commands. When you do that you will see that there is a full CD of radio mods to download, and you can even get a copy of last month's Oxtales sent to you YAPP Protocol!! In the meantime I am considering putting up an antenna for 10 megs and

maybe stick my gateway on 10.149. I think that would be a daytime/nighttime band all around.

By the way if anyone out there is on packet and uses KaGold software please email me. I am looking for someone to get together with on the packet and send some ansi pictures with.

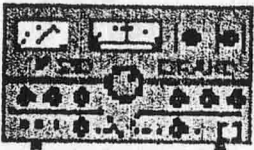
I recently met VK2TV over in Newcastle and here's a few excerpts of an email he sent me via packet radio.

I understand what you're saying about packet activity. It's a bit of a double edged sword with BBS's. Users want the mail but don't want all the traffic, and I completely understand how they feel. The problem really stems from the fact that our packet system never got out of the 80's. We still have (to a large extent) a common backbone frequency, complete with hidden transmitters, and we still have mail forwarding on

user ports. I know a number of sysops who would have provided all the equipment to put a bbs port in at their local node but for some reason the clubs who operate the nodes weren't interested. I guess I'm a bit lucky here being the bbs operator and the club's repeater officer. Also, we have a large percentage of packet operators in the club and they're content to go along with my recommendations. I believe that if the network can be improved so that long distance keyboard to keyboard contacts are again possible, user will return to packet. We can never expect to compete with internet in terms of speed but I think we can make packet fast enough for it to be attractive and useful.

So, keep these things in mind, guys. And give me a connect sometime and have a go at my gateway. I look forward to meeting all the packeteros out there soon!!
DE VK2IPO

Classifieds Ads



*If ya got items
for sale or trade
let VK2IPO
know.*

Wanted: Would like to purchase a 20 amp or better 12 Volt Power Supply. Please respond to Alan Madigan VK2OA.

Wanted: Looking for a 2 metre yagi

of some sort. All responders reply to Larry, VK2IPO. Email: okie@mpx.com.au

Trade: I have a 3 Element Australian made 20 metre yagi that I would like to trade for an

HF Amplifier. Will consider other items you have to trade as well. Respond to Larry, VK2IPO. Email: okie@mpx.com.au or call 65836.924

Wauchope Ham Classes



We would all like to recognize the wonderful job that Larry, VK2CL is doing teaching and getting the mates over there ready

for ham tickets and upgrades, etc. Well done, Larry!!

It looks as though there are 3 more blokes over there ready to take their

regulations exam as well. So, good luck to Gary, Graham, and Craig. Soon they will have callsigns now. Good on yas!

Club BBQ at VK2ZCV



*Is me snag
done yet Bill?*

This years sausage sizzle will be held at Bill's home at: 35 Wayfield Way, here in Port

Macquarie, at 10 am Sunday morning, (30-4-2000). I don't know about you, but I can smell

those bangers cooking already! And I have been looking for an excuse to cop a free meal anyway!

On the Humor-Side

Sign in a Laundromat:
AUTOMATIC
WASHING
MACHINES:PLEASE
REMOVE ALL
YOUR CLOTHES
WHEN THE LIGHT
GOES OUT

THIS IS THE GATE
OF HEAVEN. ENTER
YE ALL BY THIS
DOOR.
(THIS DOOR IS KEPT
LOCKED BECAUSE
OF THE DRAFT.
PLEASE USE
SIDE DOOR.)

Sign in a London
department store:
BARGAIN
BASEMENT
UPSTAIRS

Outside a
photographer's studio:
OUT TO LUNCH: IF
NOT BACK BY FIVE,
OUT FOR DINNER
ALSO

Outside a farm:
HORSE MANURE 50p
PER PRE-PACKED
BAG
20p DO-IT-
YOURSELF

Seen at the side of a
Sussex road:
SLOW CATTLE
CROSSING. NO
OVERTAKING FOR
THE NEXT 100 YRS.

In an office:
AFTER TEA BREAK
STAFF SHOULD
EMPTY THE TEAPOT
AND
STAND UPSIDE
DOWN ON THE
DRAINING BOARD

Outside a disco:
SMARTS IS THE
MOST EXCLUSIVE
DISCO IN TOWN.
EVERYONE
WELCOME

On a church door:

Sign warning of

quicksand:
QUICKSAND. ANY
PERSON PASSING
THIS POINT WILL BE
DROWNED. BY
ORDER OF THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANYONE
LEAVING



Ha Ha Ha Ha !!!

Notice sent to
residents of a
Wiltshire parish:
DUE TO
INCREASING
PROBLEMS
WITH LETTER
LOUTS AND
VANDALS
WE MUST ASK
ANYONE WITH
RELATIVES
BURIED IN THE
GRAVEYARD
TO DO THEIR
BEST TO KEEP
THEM IN ORDER
Notice in a dry
cleaner's window:

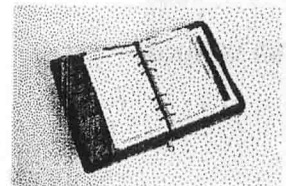
THEIR
GARMENTS
HERE FOR
MORE THAN 30
DAYS WILL
BE DISPOSED
OF.
Spotted in a toilet
in a London office
block:
TOILET OUT
OF ORDER.
PLEASE USE
FLOOR BELOW

Monthly Activities

ORARC club meetings: 1st Sat. 1 p.m. at SES Bldg.

ORARC Social: 3rd. Fri. at 7 p.m. SES Bldg.

Note: Those who wish to put on a demonstration or lecture pertaining to the interest of the members, please contact VK2FSH Prior to the Social meeting.



Let's be
punctual !!

**OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.**

1	F	JOHN ((FLORENCE))	BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	F	JOHN ((MARY))	BAYLIS	VK2JB	LAKE CATHIE	
3	D	ALAN	BELL	VK2BEL	WOOTTON	02 4997.7293
4	F	COLIN ((JAN))	BELLENGER	VK2AF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3803
5	F	BOB	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
6	F	ROY W ((JUNE))	BURGES	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
7	F	BRUCE	CLARK	VK2MAZ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5245
8	F	LARRY ((SHIRLEY))	CONNER	VK2IPO	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.6924
9	F	KEVIN ((JUNE))	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
10	F	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9922
11	F	JIM	DANIELS		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
12	F	TRACY ((CINDY))	DIGNUM	VK2GTM	HERONS CREEK	02 65 85.7061
13	F	CHARLES ((PAT))	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
14	D	STAN ((BETTY))	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
15	F	BADEN ((VALERY))	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
16	F	LEWIS	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
17	F	KENNETH ((-))	GWINNELL		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2860
18	L	KEITH	HANLON -		PORT MACQUARIE	-
19	L	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5349
20	F	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7095
21	F	WILL ((CAROL))	JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
22	F	JOHN ((THEA))	JONES	VK2JJ	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.4522
23	F	DON	JONES		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5084
24	D	BRIAN	KELLY	VK2WBK	TAMWORTH	02 6776.2004
25	F	GARRY ((LINDA))	LAWER -		PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0597
26	F	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5991
27	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
28	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	-
29	F	KEITH ((GWEN))	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
30	F	ALLAN ((DAWN))	MADIGAN	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
31	F	JASON	MARIS	VK2FT	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0426
32	F	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5696
33	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
34	F	TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
35	L	ARTHUR ((WENDY))	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
36	F	RAY	MULLINS	VK2WRM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0685
37	F	LAURIE ((ROBIN))	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
38	F	ALAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
39	F	DAVID A ((DEE))	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
40	F	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
41	F	NEIL ((VERENA))	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
42	F	BILL ((RUTH))	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
43	F	DAVID ((ROMA))	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
44	D	DARYL	ST. JOHN	VK2MZ	FORSTER	
45	F	DAVID ((AILEEN))	TARRANT	VK2HBC	SARATOGA	02 4369.8738
46	F	TREVOR ((PHYLLIS))	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
47	F	NEIL ((WENDY))	TROTTER	VK2NNT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.1940
48	F	BRUCE ((GWEN))	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
49	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	-

F = Full Member

D = Distant Member

L = Life Member

We're on the Web
[Http://www.orarc.tsn.cc](http://www.orarc.tsn.cc)