



OXTALES

First published 1980

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Websites: [<http://mypage.tsn.cc/orarc/page2.html>] and

[<http://portmacquarie.yourguide.com.au/viewclub.asp?clubid=1044&pageid=2012>]

September 2005

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: Currently Vacant
VICE PRES: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582.3557
TREASURER: John Bailey VK2KHB 6582.2192
SECRETARY: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534

President's Report

G'day Folks,

This is not your President speaking! It is your OXTALES Editor, grabbin' some of the space to give you a "Clayton's report". Unfortunately, we do not yet have a President to fill the position rendered vacant at the AGM. Our constitution requires that the position can only be held by one person for a maximum of three consecutive years. Consequently, Alan (VK2GD), was not available for re-election, but has accepted, and was elected to, the position of Vice President. Until some member, willing to take on the role of President accepts nomination for the post, we shall not be able to complete the process of election. Let's hope that this position can be filled quickly.

We must express our thanks to Alan for his three years of tireless leadership of ORARC. It is pleasing to note that Alan, in the Vice President's role, will still be available to continue his valuable assistance in the ongoing issues that carried over from his Presidential reign. Thank you Alan!

I would like to express my thanks to John Hansen (VK2AYQ) for accepting the nomination of Co-Editor for our Newsletter. I have been compiling OXTALES for quite some years now, and although I have enjoyed the task immensely, it is high time that we had some fresh ideas injected into its presentation and content. So members will no doubt see some changes in the forthcoming issues when John's influence will come into play. I



look forward to a continued association with OXTALES, in close co-operation with John. Contributors are still eagerly sought, and their contributions may be submitted via e-mail, snail-mail, by hand, handwritten, typewritten, scratched upon dried banana leaves, or whatever. John & I will get it all into the pages of OXTALES, regardless of how it is stored... but of course, if presented in some electronic form, so much the better... our labour costs become less!

Now, let us see the hands raised for the position of President, and we shall then be able to fill the little box in the left-hand column with a new image.

73
Trevor (VK2TT)
(OXTALES Compiler/Editor)

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Echolink Supplement as a "Centrefold"

Down The Coax

Friday Night Get-togethers

Sept. 9th & 23rd

7.00pm

October Monthly Meeting

Saturday 1st October 2005

2.00pm

Friday Night Get-togethers

October 14th & 28th

7.00pm

Jota/Joti Weekend

October 15th & 16th

Beechwood Billy Cart Classic
(no date known at going to press)

November Monthly Meeting

Saturday 5th November 2005

2.00pm

Net Controllers' Roster

Sundays

Wednesdays

September 2005

VK2OA	Sep-04	VK2ZHE	Sep-07
VK2AIF	Sep-11	VK2AYD	Sep-14
VK2BZD	Sep-18	VK2IEV	Sep-21
VK2TT	Sep-25	VK2GD	Sep-28

October 2005

VK2OA	Oct-02	VK2ZCM	Oct-05
VK2AIF	Oct-09	VK2ATM	Oct-12
VK2BZD	Oct-16	VK2ZHE	Oct-19
VK2TT	Oct-23	VK2AYD	Oct-26
VK2OA	Oct-30		

November 2005

VK2AIF	Nov-06	VK2ZHE	Nov-02
VK2BZD	Nov-13	VK2AYD	Nov-08
VK2TT	Nov-20	VK2EI	Nov-16
VK2OA	Nov-27	VK2GD	Nov-23
		VK2ZCM	Nov-30

December 2005

VK2AIF	Dec-04	VK2ZCM	Dec-07
VK2BZD	Dec-11	VK2ATM	Dec-14
VK2TT	Dec-18	VK2ZHE	Dec-21
VK2OA	Dec-25	VK2AYD	Dec-28

January 2006

VK2AIF	Jan-01	VK2GD	Jan-04
VK2BZD	Jan-08	VK2ZCM	Jan-11
VK2TT	Jan-15	VK2ATM	Jan-18
VK2OA	Jan-22	VK2ZHE	Jan-25
VK2AIF	Jan-29		

February 2006

VK2BZD	Feb-05	VK2AYD	Feb-01
VK2TT	Feb-12	VK2EI	Feb-08
VK2OA	Feb-19	VK2GD	Feb-15
VK2AIF	Feb-27	VK2ZCM	Feb-22

E-mail directory.

Reflects ALL changes notified up to 31st August, 2005

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) am16734@bigpond.net.au
VK2JB (John) jebaylis@midcoast.com.au
VK2OA (Allan) possosa@tsn.cc
VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@felglow.com.au
VK2ATM (Arthur) arfamo@midcoast.com.au
VK2AYD (David) davpil@midcoast.com.au
VK2CHC (Richard) farmsale@midcoast.com.au
VK2CLL (Larry) lindsay@midcoast.com.au
VK2DDL (Stan) svelis@tsn.cc
VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au
VK2FSH (Charles) cpedmond@felglow.com.au
VK2HOT (Bruce) vk2hot@tsn.cc
VK2IEV (Joe) bivona@ozemail.com.au
VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au
VK2VTV (Jim) jimneil@sapt.net.au
VK2XCU (Will) jamo@tsn.cc
VK2YOR (Roy) rburges@intercoast.com.au
VK2ZCM (Craig) vk2zcm@dodo.com.au
VK2ZCV (Bill) wsi54224@bigpond.net.au
VK2ZCW (Bill) cabrooke@tsn.cc
VK2ZHE (Henry) hundell@tpg.com.au
VK2ZIS (Graeme) admiral@midcoast.com.au
Jim Daniel jaidanl@bigpond.com
Barry Gilson fgilson@bigpond.net.au

Another Memo From the Field Day

Bouquets to the following members who donated Cash & Prizes for Raffles, Competitions, & Presentations:



Arthur VK2ATM & Wendy
Bill VK2ZCV & Ailsa
John VK2KCE
Bill VK2CWR
Richard VK2CHC
Graeme VK2ZIS
Henry VK2ZHE
Roma for VK2DAL (dec)
Hettie for VK2BFP (dec)
Mae for VK2LS (dec)
Robyn for VK2AEB (dec)

For Sale

Dick Smith Q-1280 single channel 6.5 MHz 75mm oscilloscope. This CRO was purchased at the club auction of items from the estate of the late VK2BUE, but has not been used, and is now surplus to requirements. Price \$75.
Contact Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
(02) 6582 0534.

AGM Outcome

The 2005 AGM, held on Saturday August 6th, resulted in a good roll-up of members. Despite a little bit of confusion in relation to the precise starting time of the meeting (created by your Editor's typing error... *Blush! Blush! - Sincere apologies!*) the meeting did take place, although one hour later than stated in one place within the July OXTALES.

The election of officer bearers for the 2005/2006 year did not bring about any big surprises as far as changes of faces within the ranks were concerned. Unfortunately, our constitution does not allow more than three consecutive years of service in any one executive position. This meant that our worthy President over the past three years, Alan (VK2GD) had to automatically stand down from the position, and so far we have not yet been able to get another willing candidate for election to the position. The office bearers elected for the 2005/2006 year are as follows:

President	Vacant
V. President	Alan Nutt VK2GD
Secretary	Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Treasurer	John Bailey VK2KHB
Committee	Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV Arthur Monck VK2ATM Bill Brooke VK2ZCW
Public Officer	Roy Burges VK2YOR
Auditor	Victor Hume
Repeater Chairman	Bill Brooke VK2ZCW
Oxtales Editors	Trevor Thatcher VK2TT John Hansen VK2AYQ.
Club Station Manager	Bob Brodie VK2EJK
Welfare Officer	Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV
Publicity Officer	Bill Brooke VK2ZCW
Education Officer	Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
Equipment Officer	Will Jamieson VK2XXU
Club Historian	John Bailey VK2KHB
Social Director	Charles Edmondson VK2FSH
WIA Liaison Delegate	David Pilley VK2AYD

Handy Hint

The bottoms of plastic 2-litre milk bottles make ideal storage trays. Simply cut along the top edge of the moulded ridge which runs around the sides of the bottle about 25mm above the bottom. This can be done with either a pair of scissors or a sharp knife. The result is a neat square tray which has smooth corners. Just the thing to hold all the little bits and pieces which you remove when working on your lawn mower or VCR!

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

A thick blanket of cloud heralding a forecast cold front began to obliterate the morning sun of Saturday 20th August as members arrived at the club rooms to transport the tent and the VK2BOR station equipment to the Tacking Point Lighthouse for the annual Lighthouse Weekend. After some serious discussion the confident "local weather knowledge" prevailed and a decision was made to set up VK2BOR at the lighthouse as planned. Although a few drops of rain fell as the tent was erected, the weather quickly cleared to a fine and sunny, although predictably, windy day. It was a particularly pleasant day out of the wind in the shelter of the tent.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the day. Fifteen members participated. The many hands made light work of both setting up the station and packing everything away at the end of the day, and there was a good representation of club members at the station throughout the day. As usual there was quite a deal of public interest in the station.

Many lighthouse stations from all Australian states were worked. However, there were very few New Zealand lighthouse stations active this year. In contrast to previous years only a few other overseas lighthouse stations were heard despite some 375 lighthouse stations worldwide being listed as active this year. The good HF propagation around Australia and New Zealand more than made up for any lack of DX and the VK2BOR operators were kept busy throughout the day.

The portable station ran flawlessly throughout the day, although the alternator worked a little harder than usual during the latter part of the afternoon to boil the electric kettle when the gas stove unexpectedly ran out of gas.

The day was a great success. We will definitely do it again next year

- Henry (VK2ZHE)

(See Page 6 for photographs)

Apologies.

Apologies to members Graham Palmer and Paul Graham, whose telephone numbers were somewhat messed up by elderly incompetent editorial staff when the membership list was compiled in the July issue of OXTALES. Disciplinary action has been invoked!!

RD Contest 2005

The ORARC club station VK2BOR participated in the 2005 Remembrance Day Contest on both Saturday and Sunday, 13th and 14th August. This year the portable station was set up in the shed at the QTH of Henry VK2ZHE and 10 members assisted. After a barbeque tea at dusk on Saturday the evening crew repaired to the comfort of the specially created temporary shack to listen to the RD opening. VK2BOR sprang into action as soon as the contest started. The evening operation continued until 11 pm.

After the ORARC Sunday morning net the day crew arrived to a bacon and egg sandwich breakfast. The station then ran continuously until the contest closed at

6 pm that evening. A sausage sizzle lunch kept everyone well nourished for the afternoon.

The RD contest again lived up to its name as "the friendly contest". Everyone enjoyed the VK2BOR operation, and station manager Bob VK2EJK was able to submit a very creditable log on behalf of the club.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the operation both successful and enjoyable. The RD contest will definitely be on the club calendar again next year.

- Henry (VK2ZHE)

(See Page 6 photographs)



FoxTales from the 30th Anniversary Field Day in June

The following members were presented with a pocket World Clock Calculator and a Certificate. Henry VK2ZHE & Bill VK2ZCV for 30 years dedication in organising the Transmitter Hunts at our Field Days. Trevor VK2TT for his years of writing and publishing our Newsletters and Field Day Programmes. The Late Lester VK2BFP was also remembered as the founding Oxtales Editor 25 years ago. Larry VK2CLL for his commitment to conducting classes in Radio & Electronics.

These members contributed to the success of our Club and Field Days and have ensured that Amateur Radio will not be lost to future generations. Arthur VK2ATM & XYL Wendy.

Another Fox tale from the 30th Anniversary Field Day in June

Arnold VK2ADA & his XYL June were presented with Wine & Chocolates in appreciation of their long term support of our Field Days. Arnold & June travel from Woolgoolga every year to participate in our Fox Hunts. Everyone enjoys the Bananas they bring, many thanks - Arthur VK2ATM & XYL Wendy.



After the 30th Anniversary Field Day

The Members Incentive Prizes (Purple Tickets) were won by -
Trevor VK2TT - Movie Passes, Snack & Ice Cream
John VK2KCE - Dick Smith Voucher
David VK2AYD - Brandy Balloon

Congratulations & many thanks for your help and assistance which contributed to the success of our 30th Anniversary Field Days.
Arthur VK2ATM & XYL Wendy.

D.I.Y. Project Boxes

By Trevor (VK2TT)

A relatively inexpensive, yet quite functional and aesthetically pleasing home-brew project box can be produced from the off-cuts of aluminium extrusions. Whilst not in the same ball-park as the home-brew units we saw recently at the ORARC field day weekend (made by John VK2CIF and Mark VK2HMJ) the approach outlined in the pictures (right) is one that could find favour amongst those of us who are less skilled in metal work than John & Mark.

Fig. 1 shows the raw material that was pushed into service at my shack, because it happened to be on hand. Some aluminium "U" channel extrusion (32 x 25mm in this case, with a wall thickness of 3mm), some aluminium box-section extrusion (26 x 26mm, with a wall thickness of 1.5mm) and some flat aluminium strip (20 x 3mm or 12 x 3mm if preferred). All "ruler sizes"!

Fig. 2 shows how the box-section fits snugly into the "U" channel, lending itself to being cut to the required length, and split, to form the end plates of a subsequent project enclosure.

Fig. 3 shows how the box section is cut (split) with a hacksaw to produce the two end plates of an enclosure.

Fig. 4 shows a set of sides, end plates, and a pair of cover strips cut from the raw stock to form the necessary elements of an enclosure that houses a Home-brew Modem, suitable for both HF and VHF Packet radio operation.

Fig. 5 shows all the elements clamped in a bench vice ready for drilling appropriately aligned and counter-bored holes to accept PK screws that will hold the assembly firmly in place.

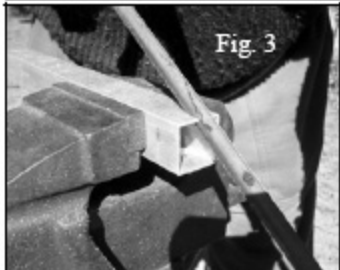
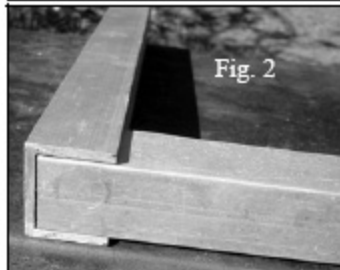
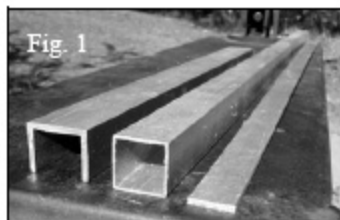
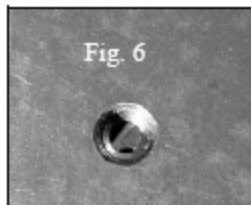
Fig. 6 shows the counter-boring detail to recess the heads of the Phillips-headed PK screws (Better than using a counter-sink tool for this particular application).

There are no doubt other dimensions of these extrusions that would be available from stockers around the town. They would be suitable for similar improvisation to create larger or smaller utility cases for special projects that are so often required in the shack.

Two of the completed projects shown in the picture below employed cover-strips of 12 mm width because that width was adequate for the housing of the small PC boards involved. The 1200BPS modem did not require cover strips at all, because the "U" channel extrusion was of adequate depth to do the full cover job all by itself.

Try this idea next time you need a special box!

Note for Wilbur: There are invisible "safe Jaws" in each vice. (a 21st century development !)



**Pictures From the Recent Portable Contest Operations by VK2BOR Club Station
Remembrance Day and The Lighthouse & Lightship Contests**



Craig VK2ZCM & John VK2CIF
adding an RD QSO to the VK2BOR Log



RD Late night Team looking for one more
QSO Joe VK2IEV, Neil VK2EI, Jim VK2VTV,
Bill VK2ZCV, and Craig VK2ZCM

A Lighthouse Team. Bill VK2ZCW
and Neil VK2EI on the rig, while
Henry VK2ZHE & Alan VK2GD do
some whale-watching!

The lonely wind-swept shack, set up at Tacking
Point for the Lighthouse/Lightship event. Any-
body recognise the two stalwarts in the lower-
right of the shot?



Poignant Pix From the Past



Here is another picture from the past. (Left)! A current member of ORARC, pictured wayback down the dim, dusty corridors of time. He will be identified in November **OXTALES**.

The ORARC mystery Personality in July **OXTALES** was Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV). The picture was taken on 9th January, 1958 at Wacol Qld., when Bill was serving in the 11th intake of the National Service, R.A.A.S.C.

Anybody out there pick him?



Now.



Then

Participants on the RD contest event:
(Operating Portable from shed at QTH of VK2ZHE)
Saturday & Sunday
13th & 14th August 2005

Neil VK2EI, Bill VK2ZCV, Craig VK2ZCM
John VK2CIF, Joe VK2IEV, Jim VK2VIV
Barry Gilson, Bob VK2EJK, Bill VK2ZCV
Henry VK2ZHE.

Participants in the Lighthouse event:
(Portable from Tacking Point Lighthouse Reserve)
Saturday 20th August, 2005

Neil VK2EI, Arthur VK2ATM, Bob VK2EJK
Jim VK2BZD, Jim VK2VIV, Bill VK2ZCV
Bill VK2ZCV, Alan VK2GD, John VK2CIF
John VK2JB, Joe VK2IEV, Craig VK2ZCM
Roy VK2YOR, Trevor VK2TT, Henry VK2ZHE





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.
 (As at 31st August, 2005)

Cat.	Surname	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Location	Tph
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN (FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	L	BAYLIS	JOHN (MARY)	VK2JB	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5703
3	A	BAYLIS	SAM	-	LISMORE	-
4	O	BIVONA	JOE (ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0405040953
5	L	BLYTH	BOB	VK2XUQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
6	O	BRODIE	BOB (JO)	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
7	O	BROOKE	BILL (AILSA)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
8	O	BURGES	ROY (JUNE)	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
9	A	GILSON	BARRY (FAY)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
10	A	GRAHAM	PAUL (JANE)	-	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4720
11	O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME	VK2ZIS	MCMAHONS POINT	02 6559.4836
12	L	HANLON	KEITH	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
13	O	HANSEN	JOHN	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
14	O	HARDING	DAVID (ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
15	O	JAMIESON	WILL (CAROL)	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
16	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
17	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
18	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN (DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
19	O	MARRIOTT	JOHN (ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
20	L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
21	H	MONCK	WENDY (ARTHUR)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
22	O	NEIL	JIM (CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2451
23	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
24	O	NUTT	ALLAN (ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
25	O	PALMER	GRAHAM (LINDA)	VK2TRM	KENDALL	02 6559.4554
26	O	PILLEY	DAVID (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
27	O	ROTH	BILL	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
28	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
29	O	SINCLAIR	BILL	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
30	O	THATCHER	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
31	O	WALKE	GARY	VK2UHF	ROCKDALE	-
32	O	WEBSTER	JIM	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

Category Key: O = ORDINARY A = ASSOCIATE D = DISTANT H = HONORARY L = LIFE

If a member's name does not appear on the above register it means that the Treasurer had not received your 2005-2006 annual subscription at the date of currency of this list. Please ensure that your membership fees reach the Treasurer promptly.

STOP PRESS : Following the recently agreed arrangements to conduct a 3-month trial of IRLP on our 2-metre Voice Repeater VK2RPM using Echolink, we can now advise that the facility is now in place. See the centre-fold supplement in OXTALES on how to give it a work-out. Our thanks to Chris, VK2CJM, for providing the server facilities to make this possible.



Echolink

on

VK2RPM

Supplement to OXTALES September 2005

Introduction

A number of methods have been devised to facilitate the linking amateur stations via the Internet. One of these systems is called Echolink. At the last club meeting, it was decided to proceed with a three month trial to establish a link to VK2RPM. Echolink was chosen due to the ease of implementation as it requires no special interface cards, the software runs on a standard PC (Personal Computer), and is free.

Echolink was primarily devised and written by Jonathon Taylor, K1RFD, with help from others.

Basically the system works by linking two PCs via the Internet. By connecting a headset to each machine, the operators are able to communicate with each other. Yes, that means communication may take place without a radio being involved. Many QSO's take place in this mode. Depending on the setup of each PC, more than one connection may be established, so a round table (or conference) can be conducted.

If, at either or both PCs, the headset is replaced by a transceiver, then the contact will be transmitted into the local area via the local transceiver. Other local stations may take part in the QSO if it were a normal multi-station round table.

For further description of the software and other details refer to the web site:

<http://www.echolink.org>

Operation

There are two modes of operation for amateurs in the Port Macquarie area:

Radio Access

The current operation of the repeater for local contacts will not be affected in any way.

If however, you want to use the additional facilities offered by Echolink, you will need to be able transmit DTMF tones. The currently available

functions and the DTMF codes available are:

Connect to another node: Simply key the node number (See note * below)

Disconnect: #

Request current status: 08

Connect to a randomly chosen repeater: 01

A number of other functions will be added at a later time.

If you want another station to be able to call you via Echolink, they will need to call node 258920 or, if they are using PC access, (see the operation described in the next section), they will need to connect through VK2CJM-R

*Note: The node number is a four, five, or six digit code. You can lookup the node number on the Web at:

<http://www.echolink.org/logins.jsp>

PC Access

The system requirements are fairly modest. The machine which is providing the access is a 200MHz Pentium with 32Mbytes of RAM. An Internet connection that runs no slower than about 20kbits per second would be sufficient although you would not want to be downloading files or web pages at the same time as using Echolink.

If you want to access VK2RPM via your PC then you will need to:

Download the Echolink software from

<http://www.echolink.org>

Register your callsign. This registration process may take up to one day. You may even be requested to send a scanned copy of your latest licence renewal for confirmation purposes.

Once you have completed these two steps you can connect to VK2RPM

by looking in the station list for VK2CJM-R.

Conclusion

This is an extremely brief description of Echolink and its implementation on VK2RPM.

The facility will partially fill the void in linked repeaters that exists south of Coffs Harbour and North of Newcastle.

If you have any questions or comments you are welcome to contact me via email:

minahan@ozemail.com.au

or via VK2RPM Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday

73

Chris
VK2EJ
