



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>]

November 2005

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Bruce Walker VK2HOT 6583.8360
VICE PRES: Alan Nutt VK2GD 6582.3557
TREASURER: John Bailey VK2KHB 6582.2192
SECRETARY: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534

President's Report

THE "CARETAKER PRESIDENT'S" REPORT

Well that's how I see it anyway.

Is it a case of "been there done that" as some old farts in the Club tell me when approached to take on a position -NO- it is a case of me supporting the Club that I am a member of - not just sitting on my backside and letting someone else do it.

Any of you - old or young could do the job of President - you just need to delegate the duties.

Thanks also must go to Alan VK2GD for holding the reins since the AGM.

I will be asking members to chair some meetings, so if asked, just step up and follow the agenda list that the Secretary will put in front of you - it's easy and I will still be at the main table if you have any queries.

Great to see faces of new members (for me anyway) at the last meeting. I will endeavour to have a yarn with you all as time permits.

I hope that the repeaters will be all up and running correctly for the run up to the Christmas holidays.

As was mentioned at the October Meeting, the Field Day will be detuned to a one day event, due mainly to the lack of man power. I think this is a great idea, even though we will need to set it all up the afternoon prior.



Jota/Joti has been and gone for another year (see separate report) and the billycart derby at Beechwood is the day after the November meeting. These types of events give the Club great exposure to gain new members - could even produce some foundation members.

I will try to get along to the Friday night get together and also come on the nets. My 2-metre radio in the work van is always switched on to 146.700 five days a week.

Anyway thanks for having the faith in my ability to run the Club till the next AGM. You will all need to think about whom you want to be President, Secretary and Treasurer at that AGM.

A committee meeting will be organised to talk about the Field Day and (Cont'd P2)

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Down The Coax

Bilycart Classic
Sun Nov. 6th

Friday Night Get-togethers
Nov. 11th & 25th
7.00pm

Christmas Party
&
December Monthly Meeting
Saturday 3rd Dec. (See P 12)

Friday Night Get-together
Dec. 9th only
7.00pm

January 2006 Monthly Meeting
Saturday 7th Jan. 2006
2.00pm

Net Controllers' Roster

Sundays		Wednesdays	
November 2005			
VK2AIF	Nov-06	VK2ZHE	Nov-02
VK2BZD	Nov-13	VK2AYD	Nov-09
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-26	VK2ZCM	Feb-22
March 2006			
VK2BZD	Mar-05	VK2ATM	Mar-08
VK2TT	Mar-12	VK2ZHE	Mar-15
VK2OA	Mar-19	VK2AYD	Mar-22
VK2AIF	Mar-26	VK2EI	Mar-29
April 2006			
VK2BZD	Apr-02		
VK2TT	Apr-09	VK2GD	Apr-05
VK2OA	Apr-16	VK2ZCM	Apr-12
VK2BZD	Apr-23	VK2ATM	Apr-19
VK2BZD	Apr-30	VK2ZHE	Apr-26

E-mail directory.
Reflects ALL changes notified up to 31st August, 2005

VK2EI (Neil) neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2GD (Alan) anu16734@bigpond.net.au
VK2JB (John) jebaylis@midcoast.com.au
VK2OA (Allan) possoa@tsn.cc
VK2TT (Trevor) grumps@felglo.com.au
VK2ATM (Arthur) arismo@midcoast.com.au
VK2AYD (David) davpil@midcoast.com.au
VK2ZHC (Richard) farmsale@midcoast.com.au
VK2CLL (Larry) lindsay@midcoast.com.au
VK2EJK (Bob) rbr01962@bigpond.net.au
VK2FSH (Charles) cpedmond@felglo.com.au
VK2HOT (Bruce) vk2hot@tsn.cc
VK2IEV (Joe) bivona@ozemail.com.au
VK2TRM (Graham) emu@midcoast.com.au
VK2VIV (Jim) jimneil@sapt.net.au
VK2XXU (Will) jamo@tsn.cc
VK2YOR (Roy) rborges@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 jaidan@bigpond.com
Barry Gilson fgilson@bigpond.net.au
Steve Hadfield haddie007@hotmail.com

Welcome Back Bruce!

The Presidential office has been filled! Welcome back! And thank you Bruce!

Bruce, VK2HOT, was elected unopposed, and unanimously, to the office of President at the monthly meeting on October 1st. The office had been vacant since the AGM, when Alan, VK2GD stood down in accordance with constitutional requirements after three consecutive years. Thank you Alan, for three years of dedicated and progressive leadership.

Bruce's return to the Presidential office was sincerely applauded by the entire membership. His earlier track record in the Presidential office (1996-1999 and then Vice President for another year, then a further year as President through the 2001-2 year) gives the membership great confidence that we have another strong leader to follow Alan, VK2GD.

President's Report (Cont'd from P1)

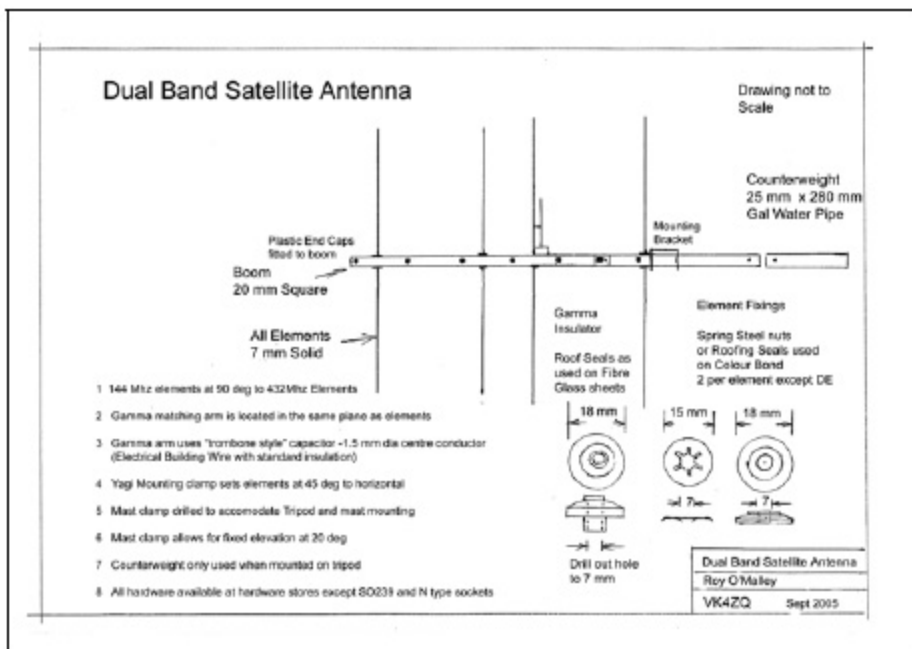
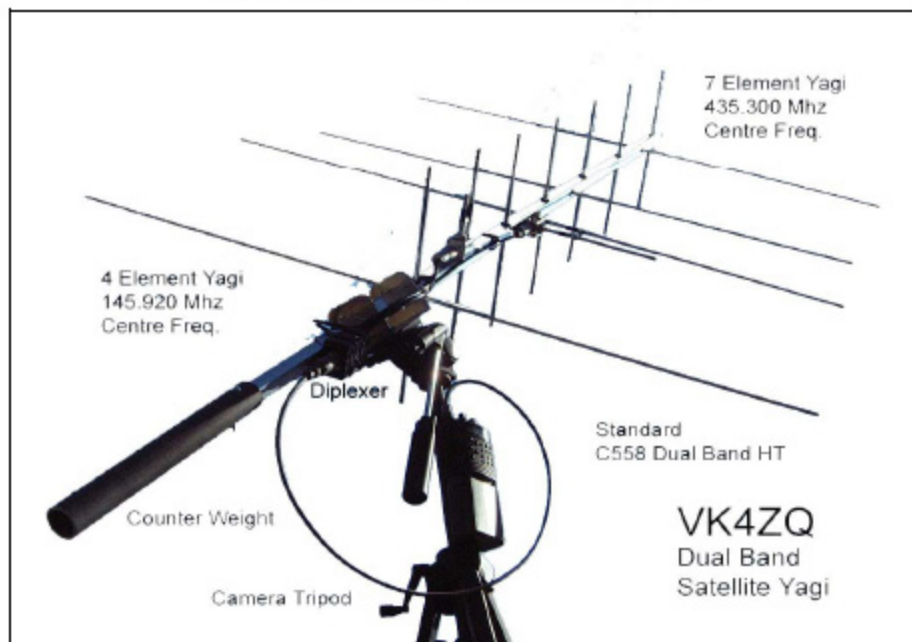
other up-and-coming events. The Secretary will notify those concerned of the time and location.

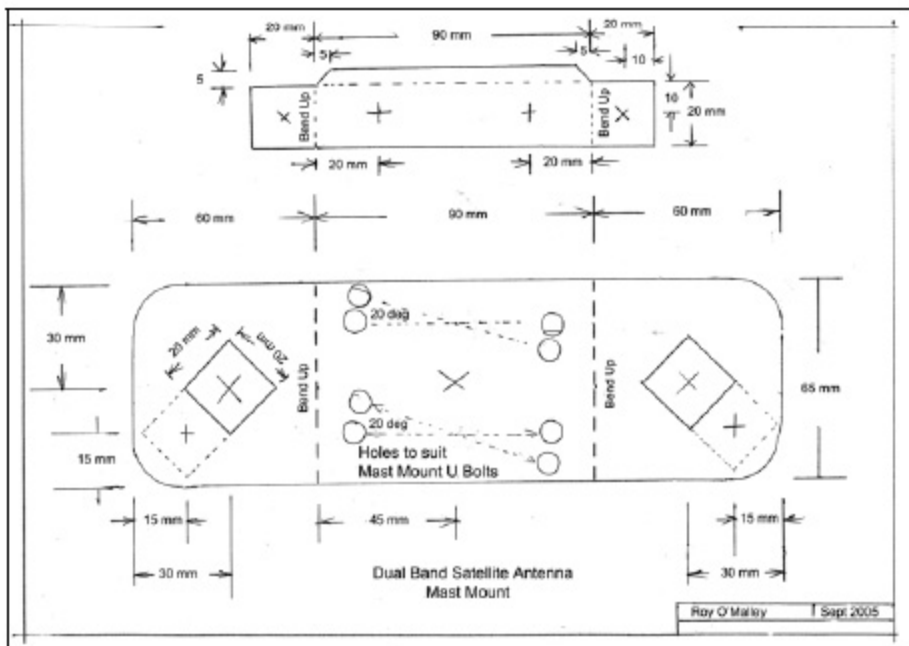
I do not wish to hear the words "been their done that" mentioned at meetings again.

I wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2006.

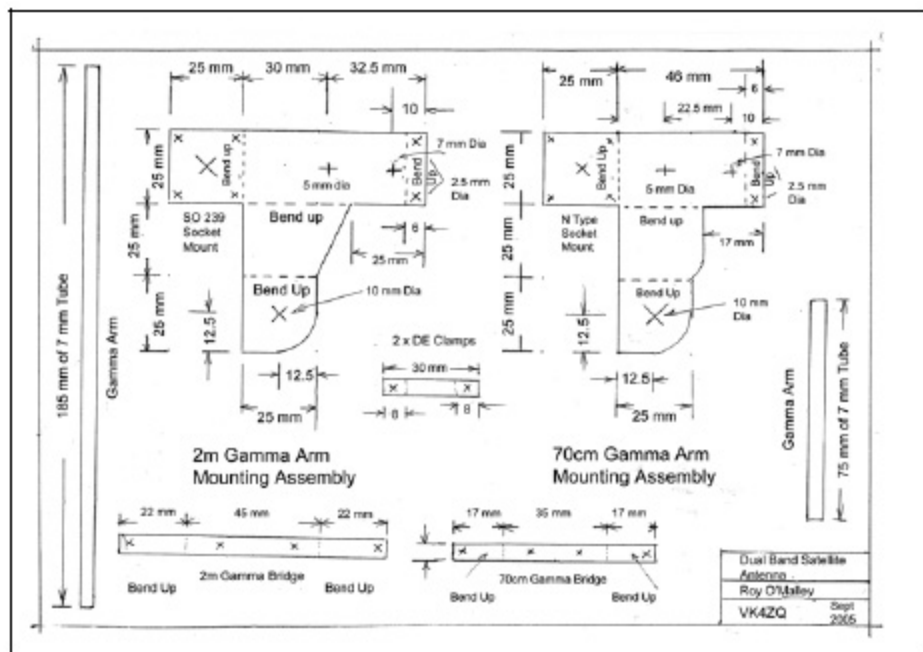
Cheers Bruce - VK2HOT.

Build This Dual Band Antenna (Designed by Roy O'Malley VK4ZQ)





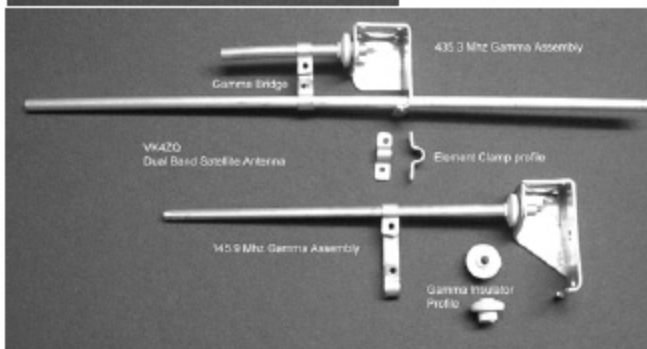
Dual Band Antenna Construction Details



Dual Band Satellite Antenna

Boom Length	1400 mm	
Boom Size	20 mm square	
Element Size	7 mm solid Rod	
Gamma Arm	7 mm tube	
Counter Weight	25 mm Gal Pipe	
	280 mm long	
Mast Clamp	16 gauge	
Gamma & Clamp		
Fabrication	18 gauge	

VK4ZQ		145.920 Mhz		435.300 Mhz	
		Element Length mm	Element Spacing	Element Length mm	Element Spacing
End of Boom	Sep-05		0		0
Reflector	7 mm Rod	1013	382	342	400
Driven Element	7 mm Rod	983	378	325	139
Director #1	7 mm Rod	914	164	315	135
Director #2	7 mm Rod	910	365	309	148
Director #3	7 mm Rod			302	166
Director #4	7 mm Rod			300	183
Director #5	7 mm Rod			295	195
Gamma Arm	7 mm Tube	185		75	
Gamma Inner	1.5 mm Electrical Cable	190		80	



Thank you Roy

Our thanks to Roy O'Malley, VK4ZQ, for this design and the comprehensive constructional details. The reproduced images are necessarily small to fit the OX-TALES pages, which accounts for the small print. If any member

would wish to obtain the Author's original full-sized design files, they are available from Bill, VK2ZCV. Bill can supply the files on your Flash Drive (Memory Stick) on request.

New Amateur Licences Come into Force

(Received via e-mail from David-VK2AYD)

At the first moment of Wednesday 19 October 2005 the new Australian amateur licence structure will come into force.

At that time, the Determination made by the Australian Communications and Media Authority amending the Amateur Licence Conditions Determination becomes the law.

What does it mean?

It means that as from that time the Foundation licence exists, and we hope that the Foundation Licences will be issued by the end of this week, to those who qualified at the Foundation training course conducted by the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society on the weekend of 15 and 16 October.

The amateur Foundation licensee can only use a transmitter that has been manufactured commercially, can only use voice, on either SSB, AM or FM or morse using a manually operated morse key, and not more than 10 watts output power ssb or 3 watts output power AM, FM or CW.

The Foundation station can operate on the 80, 40, 15 and 10 metre bands as well as the 2 metre band and the band 430 to 450 MHz, subject to necessary bandwidth restrictions.

It means that the Standard licence now exists, and this licence includes the existing Novice, and Novice Limited licensees, who now can use any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 8 kHz on the 80, 40, 20 and 15 metre bands, and any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 16 kHz on the 10 metre band, the band 52 to 54 MHz, the 2 metre band, and the bands 430 to 450 MHz, 1240 to 1300 MHz, 2400 to 2450 MHz and 5.650 to 5.850 GHz, with no change to the current output power limits of 100 watts and 30 watts.

It means that the Advanced licence exists, and this licence includes the existing Unrestricted licence, the Limited licence and the Intermediate licence, who can use any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 8 kHz on all bands below 24.990 MHz, any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 16 kHz on the 28.00 MHz to 29.70 MHz

band, any emission mode with a necessary bandwidth not exceeding 100 kHz on the 6 and 2 metre bands and any emission mode with no bandwidth restriction above 420 MHz, and with no change to the current output power limits of 400 watts and 120 watts.

Full details of the Determination and other administrative details including the arrangements being made by ACMA to substitute new licences for existing licences can be found at the ACMA website, www.acma.gov.au, and all amateurs are urged to check that site for the full and authoritative information.

The WIA welcomes the changes.

WIA President, Michael Owen, VK3KI, said today "The WIA welcomes these long awaited changes, and in particular welcomes the new Foundation licence, which we hope will encourage many newcomers to our exciting interest.

We also know that there will be many amateurs operating on the 40 and 20 metre bands for the first time with those bands available to Standard licensees.

We urge all amateurs to make all these newcomers welcome.

The WIA would also like to acknowledge the co-operative approach of ACMA in establishing the new syllabi for the various licences and the establishment of the new WIA assessment of competency system relying on WIA accredited and registered Assessors, essential for the practical assessment required for the Foundation qualification and, indeed, for any first amateur licence."

"Our only regret is that we believe that the power limit of 3 watts for AM, FM and CW for the Foundation licence, while perfectly logical, is unrealistic given the output power of commercially available equipment, particularly older equipment, and that the power limit should be 10 watts.

The WIA has already drawn ACMA's attention to this problem, and has requested that the limit be changed at the first opportunity.

That apart, the WIA believes that these changes to the Australian amateur licence structure will strengthen our hobby, and encourage many more people to become licensed radio amateurs."

The New Foundation Licence—Your Entry into Amateur Radio

What is the foundation Licence all about?

The hobby of Amateur Radio has a long and proud tradition. The very first radio amateurs were true pioneers of radio technology. Amateurs 'invented' and refined much of the early radio technology and were the first to transmit music, radio plays, and information to the handful of people who had the new fangled radio receivers.

During the war years, amateur radio communication was silenced, but radio amateurs enlisted as highly trained and technically competent radio operators in all theatres of war.

After World War II the hobby of amateur radio flourished. Radio clubs sprang up in schools all over the world and kids went home each night to build some new contraption, or have a chat with someone over the wireless. These young people became the mainstay of the technical professions and developed much of the modern technology we use today.

Times change, and Australia is now faced with a serious shortage of people with technical skills. Our country needs more bright young people to become technicians, scientists and engineers, instead of lawyers, money managers and mobile phone salesmen - we already have plenty of them!

The new entry level Foundation Licence provides a great opportunity for young people to foster an interest in communications technology and perhaps lead on to a rewarding career in science, electronics, and communications.

But most importantly amateur radio provides an opportunity to communicate with people. Outback travellers, sailors, retirees, or anyone with a little time to spare and a curious mind will find amateur radio very rewarding. The new Foundation Licence makes an amateur radio Licence very achievable with a just few hours study.

What do I need to know to get a licence?

The emphasis is on candidates having the knowledge of skills to demonstrate a

practical ability to put together an amateur radio from commercial equipment and operate it without causing interference to other users and have the knowledge to be a competent radio operator.

You will also need to be aware of how amateur radio relates to other users of the radio spectrum, your licence conditions, technical basics of electricity and electronics, transmitters, receivers, feedlines and antennas, propagation, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), electromagnetic radiation (EMR).

What bands can I operate on and what are the modes I can use?

The foundation licence operator can operate in the bands listed below using the modes list shown. The foundation licence operator can only use commercially manufactured equipment.

<p>Frequency bands 3.500 MHz-3.700 MHz 7.000 MHz-7.300 MHz 21.000 MHz-21.450 MHz Permitted emission modes Amplitude Modulation (AM) Single Side Band (SSB) Hand Keyed Morse Code</p>
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<p>Frequency bands 28.000 MHz-29.700 MHz 144.000 MHz-148.000 MHz 430.000 MHz-450.000 MHz Permitted emission modes Amplitude Modulation (AM) Single Side Band (SSB) Frequency Modulation (FM) Hand Keyed Morse Code</p>
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What distance will I be able to work on these bands?

3.5MHz (80 metres) up to 150KM during the day and up to 3000KM at night.

7MHz (40 metres) up to 1000KM during the day and during good conditions world wide at night.

21 MHz (15 metres) World wide mostly during the day.

28 MHz (10 metres) World wide during periods of high sunspot activity and up to 3000km in summer.

144MHz (2 metres) local coverage and world wide via IPLP and Echo Link.

432MHz (70cm) local coverage and world wide via IPLP and Echo Link.

Is there a book with all the information I need to know to get a licence?

The WIA has produced a book called the

Foundation Licence Manual. It is a full colour manual consisting of 95 pages of relevant information for those studying, or those who would just like a reference book for Foundation Licence Operators.

The manual contains the all relevant information you will need to know to successfully complete a training course to obtain a foundation licence. It also contains a wealth of information a Foundation Licence operator will need. Items like Band Plans, Electrical Safety information, operating procedures such as the Q code, how to contact you local radio club, the WIA and much more.

Where do I get this book and what does it cost?

Budding candidates can obtain the Foundation Licence Handbook from several sources. It can be purchased via the WIA website, from the WIA office in Melbourne, via many radio clubs throughout Australia, from most amateur radio equipment suppliers and ultimately newsagents.

The recommended retail price for the manual is \$16.50 plus postage.

The booklet will not be available till mid November, 2005

What study do I need to do to be ready to sit for an assessment?

The new licence structure introduces a practical assessment that is common to the three grades of licence. This means that once you have been declared competent by an assessor for the practical assessment as part of the qualification in receiving an amateur licence, that competency is transferable should you upgrade your licence. An exemption is provided for Novice and Novice-Limited licensees who exist prior to the implementation date of the new structure.

Where can I go to attend a course?

The radio clubs will run the foundation Licence training courses. The clubs are the ideal place to learn all about amateur radio. You can meet other hams, attend interesting lectures, and find out lots of information. If you decide to take up amateur radio as a hobby you will soon learn there are hundreds of different facets to the hobby.

The WIA foundation licence web pages

will list all the clubs that are offering training and assessment. If you have trouble finding a club then send us an email to foundation@wia.org.au and we will assist you.

How long does a training course and assessment take?

The standard time for training is around 12 hours, some clubs will conduct training over several nights and some over a weekend. The practical and 25 question multiple choice written assessment takes around 1 hour.

How do I find my nearest club?

A full list of all the radio clubs and their contact details can be found on the WIA web-page, click on the clubs tab on the top right hand side.

How much will it cost me to attend a training course?

Any charges associated with foundation licence training are up to the radio clubs conducting the training. You will need to check with your local club to find out what their charges are.

How much does an assessment cost?

The WIA charge for a foundation licence assessment is \$25.00

How much does the foundation licence cost?

The foundation licence is issued by ACMA and the licence cost is currently \$58.00 per year.

What if the club is a long way from my location?

The WIA has made provision to conduct remote assessments for those people who live a long distance from a radio club or an assessor. A specially-trained assessor will be able to conduct the assessment (via the phone) the candidate will need to be in the presence of a person, such as a local policeman or school headmaster. If you are one of these people and you would like more information you should contact the WIA.

What service does the WIA provide?

The WIA is the peak body representing amateur radio to ACMA, the government instrumentality who administers the radio spectrum, it also represents Australian amateurs internationally. The WIA also produces a monthly magazine sent to members, weekly

broadcasts, provides a bookshop with a discount for members, works closely with the 100 affiliated radio clubs, provides the amateur examination service and helps members with the many questions and information they need to make the hobby more enjoyable.

Where can I find more information?

The Internet is a great source of information on amateur radio, the WIA website has a lot of information including links to club websites and a link to the WIA broadcast pages. You can download last weeks or up to two year of broadcast and listen to them on MP3. The WIA website is www.wia.org.au

Other sites are:

the American Radio Relay League at
<http://www.arrl.org/index.php3>

the Radio Society of Great Britain at
<http://www.rsgb.org.uk/contents.htm>

Radio Amateurs of Canada at
<http://www.rac.ca/>

If you search the web you will find thousands of site world wide that have been set up by radio clubs and individual amateurs, after all there are around three million of us.

If I have other questions whom can I ask?

The WIA does not have the resources to answer a large number of telephone enquiries. All questions should be directed to your nearest club as listed in the club section of the WIA website or e-mail us with your question at

foundation@wia.org.au

Ted Thrift VK2ARA
one of your WIA Directors
02 42729 521
tthrift@iprimus.com.au

Ham Radio In Space: Space Tourist Greg Olsen KC2ONX Returns to Earth

(The following item was ferreted out and submitted by David, VK2AYD. It demonstrates how seriously some members of our fraternity participate in the hobby)

American space adventurer Gregory Olsen, KC2ONX, is back on Earth. The millionaire scientist and a two-man, Russian-American crew from the International Space Station landed in Kazakhstan on Monday, October 10th around 9 a.m. Eastern time.

Olsen, who spent seven days in space, was the third private citizen to visit the laboratory orbiting about 250 miles from Earth. While on board the I-S-S Olson performed scientific experiments and spoke via ham radio to several classes of school children. This included the kids at Ft Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, New York, Princeton High School in Princeton, New Jersey, and his alumnus Ridgefield Park High School in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey.

The trip to the ISS reportedly cost Olson a cool 20 million dollars. On his way back to mother Earth he was accompanied by returning Expedition 11 crew members John Phillips, KE5DRY, and Sergei Krikalev, USMIR.

And a correction to some information from last week regarding Olson's Q-S-O schedule. He spoke with Princeton High School on October 5th, with Ft Hamilton High School on October 6th and on October 7th with Ridgefield Park High. Our thanks to Rick Lindquist, N1RL at the ARRL News for picking up and pointing out that one. (ARNewsline, ARISS, N1RL, others)

Don't Forget!
The ORARC Christmas "Do"
See details on Page 12
And
The Mud-map on how to get there, is on Page 11

Our President Steps Into a New Era

Our President, Bruce, VK2HOT wasted no time in making use of the new privileges that became available at Midnight on Wednesday 19th October. On the afternoon of Wednesday, Bruce was disturbing the ether on 20-MX, working DX on his TH3J Beam to interesting parts of the world. Recent checks on Bruce's activities revealed that he clocked up QSO's to Europe (which included UK, Gotland (Sweden) Poland, and Italy. Costa Rica copped a blast from his RF energy too, adding appreciably to his already impressive country score, that will lead to the DXCC award.

One particularly interesting QSO was with Peter, G2YT, from whom he has already received a QSL card and some attached historical information of particular interest to those "historians" amongst us.. The card, and the historical info is reproduced in the inset below.



op Peter Fox

G2YT

At approximately 100 years old, (G)2YT is one of the earliest UK radio call signs, issued within the first few years of the 20th century. The original holder was Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company Limited., used at the famous Poldhu Radio Station in Cornwall, SW England. History was made from Poldhu in 1901 by it becoming the transmitter for the first successful transatlantic radio signal.

One of the engineers working with Marconi was radio pioneer (callsign XZT in 1912) Mr Crispin (Cris) Redshaw, later to become Chief Engineer of Dorchester Radio - Imperial Broadcasting Company. Cris became silent key in 1974 and his relatives asked me if I would like to resurrect the old call. Having done this, I discovered its fascinating history. I am the FOURTH custodian of G2YT, it having been reissued TWICE previously.

(G)2YT Poldhu was recorded as being used for HF communication tests in 1924 with the AWA [Amalgamated Wireless Australasia Limited] station at Willoughby near Sydney. For further information please see www.qsl.net/vk2dym/radio/Marconi.htm

I am the past and/or present holder of the following calls. G6BPO, G4MCK, G0FOX, VK2EPF, VK6FOX, VK5FOX, C56YT .

First Foundation Licence Issued

Some 16 people qualified at the Foundation Training Course conducted by the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society over the weekend of 16 and 17 October 2005, involving a group of WIA Assessors, led by Nominated Assessor, Ron Bertrand, VK2DQ, and the first Foundation licences were issued the following Friday, 21 October 2005, after ACMA's Determination creating the licence came into effect on the previous Wednesday.

The very first licence issued was issued to Amanda Gray.

Amanda, a legal secretary, was encouraged to undertake the training course by her husband, Chris, VK4XWD. They have two children, aged 6 and 3, and so life is very busy!

Amanda says that she was not really convinced about the course before she started it, but she really did enjoy it and became genuinely really interested as a result, so much so that she had been helping Chris erect an antenna.

She had asked for the call sign VK4FRST before she knew that her licence was, in fact, the first Foundation licence issued in Australia, because she thought she had to be a first something, perhaps the first mum to get a Foundation licence, and was a bit embarrassed

when she was told that she really was the first.

At a special meeting of the Gold Coast club on Sunday 23 October 2005 to mark the issue of the new licence, WIA President Michael Owen, VK3KI, stressed the importance of the changes to the Australian amateur licence structure, and the responsibility imposed on the WIA and the clubs to make sure that the new assessment system retained credibility while hastening slowly to avoid errors but to meet the real demand for the new licenses as soon as practical.

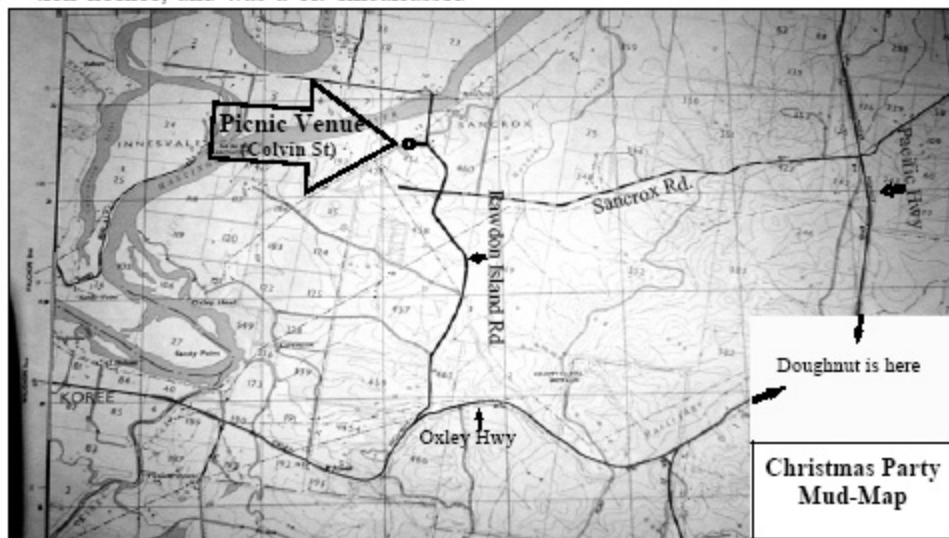
Michael stressed that the WIA fully supported the new Foundation licence as the entry to amateur radio, saying he believed that the licence would attract many new amateurs, who he hoped would retain their interest and qualify to the higher grades.

On behalf of the WIA and to mark her achievement, Michael presented Amanda with a copy of the just released ARRL handbook, and a WIA satchel.

Doug Hunter, VK4ADC, from Ozgear, Brisbane, presented Amanda with an Icom radio, on behalf of Ozgear and Icom.

Amanda and Chris both became WIA members on the spot.

David—VK2AYD



Repeater Update

Members will no doubt be aware that there is substantial ongoing work associated with both repeater sites, Middle Brother, and Telegraph Point.

The following information has been supplied by Henry, VK2ZHE and Bill, VK2ZCV to advise members of the current status of the work in progress.

Our six new crystals ordered from Hy-Q International arrived on 20th October.

These crystals are for the new Philips FM814 and FM815 transmitters and receivers for the Middle Brother VHF & UHF and Red Hill UHF repeaters.

Note that we will trial 438.425 MHz at Middle Brother to see if this channel is free from the interference which has been timing out the VK2RPM 438.525 repeater. If that proves to be successful we will apply to swap the VK2RPM & VK2RCN UHF frequencies.

We will be ordering the crystals for the Red Hill digipeater frequency change, and a spare set of Philips FM828 crystals for the Red Hill VHF repeater frequency pair as soon as we have checked if the digipeater has a 10.7 or a 21.4 MHz IF.

The long term strategy is to have the ex VK2RPM FM828 VHF repeater crystallised up for both 146.7 & 147.0 MHz (with selectable Ident of course) so that in the event of a future failure at either site, the FM828 can be installed to provide continuity of service while the FM814 equipment is taken off site for repair.

There is much work to be done. Don't forget, that amongst other things, there are the new Ident & Control Boards still to be built for the FM814 and the two FM815 repeaters. We need to farm out some tasks!

If your skills can cope with this sort of construction, then Bill and Henry will be most appreciative of volunteers who would like to come forth and offer to share the load.

Christmas Party

Remember! Mark the Christmas Party in your social calendar. The location will be the Sancrox Reserve Recreation Area, (See map P11) time & date **10am to 4pm Saturday, December 3rd**. As usual, sausages, steakettes, bread & butter (margarine!) coleslaw, fruit salad and ice cream, soft drinks, tea and coffee will be provided. **The December meeting will be held at the Party.** The tennis courts have been booked for the day, so those attending are invited to use this facility. Arthur VK2ATM is providing the tennis balls but BYO racquet. Communications on the day will be on the Telegraph Point 147.0 MHz 2-metre repeater (it WILL be on air by then!) The other major event for the Christmas Party is the Investiture of The Stirrer, formalised by "crowning" with the Stirrer's Helmet. To whom it will go this year is in the hands of the current holder, Bob VK2EJK. There are a few hopeful contenders for this prestigious award!



ORARC BBQ Picnic at Dunbogan

The postponed BBQ at Pilot Beach, Dunbogan actually took place on Sunday 18th September in reasonably good weather conditions. There was a stiff breeze on occasions which we could have well done without, but that did not deter the pleasing number of members and XYL's from fronting up.

The catering arrangements (including the logistics of the food and hardware delivery) and the culinary skills of the usual hard workers, were exemplary... all in the capable hands of Henry VK2ZHE, Bill VK2ZCV, John VK2CIF, Craig VK2ZCM, and John VH2KHB, with liberal encouragement and praise offered by various interested, salivating onlookers.

The accompanying photograph shows how it was all done, and depicts quite clearly the club's temporarily modified barbecue. The RTA registered accessory was fitted to provide some breeze mitigation that was necessary to maintain continuity of combustion.

Attendees were, VK2ZIS Graeme, VK2BZD Jim, VK2CIF John, VK2GD Alan and XYL Elaine, VK2FSH Charles and XYL Pat, VK2ZCM Craig and XYL Jenny, VK2KHB John and XYL Florence, VK2ZCV Bill, VK2ZHE Henry, VK2XXU Wilbur and XYL Carol, and VK2TT Trevor and XYL Phyllis.

The picnic facilities available at Pilot Beach are of a high standard and offer strong and spacious shelter from rain and/or sun should conditions turn unfavourable. It is a venue that could well be considered for similar future occasions.

Below - Left to right : Craig VK2ZCM, Bill VK2ZCV, Jim VK2BZD, Graeme VK2ZIS
Preparing the "Nosh-Up" at the Dunbogan Picnic (Pic by VK2ZHE)



JOTA REPORT

Our club's preparations this year started with a meeting with the scouting leaders where they again confirmed that they would organise the internet connection and computers.

On this basis it was decided to again try Echo Link as a medium. This medium was recommended on the scouter's web site. To this end, VK2BOR information was sent to register it, however as of the Wednesday prior to the event, registration had not taken place. The loan of two IBM Laptop computers and a dialup internet connection was supplied by Country Energy and CEinternet.

The club computer started to fail on Wednesday evening. It had been set-up at the QTH of Henry VK2ZHE to check the Echo Link operation. No amount of coaxing over the next two days could make it reliable. The operation at the scout hall was confirmed at midday on Thursday and the Echo Link operation confirmed using VK2ZCV.

After checking the propagation predictions for the day, very poor to non-existent, the decision was made to proceed only with Echo Link in two ways:

- 1) A VHF link via VK2RPM to Echo Link.
- 2) An internet connection using VK2ZCV and Echo Link.

On Saturday the 15 October 2005 we set-up at the scout hall and were ready for our first contact by 11-30am. All worked well.

Twenty two stations were worked between set-up and ending at 7pm, twenty scouts and twenty guides were catered for over the period. A demonstration of satellite tracking drew a lot of interest as did plotting various locations on DX Atlas. Scouting Numbers were reduced this year as some sections were away at camps which had been organised by their area command. One of the computers was left connected to the internet and the scouts participated in JOTI till the small hours of the morning.

My thanks to all who assisted in this exercise, VK2ZHE, VK2HOT, VK2EJK, VK2AYQ, VK2BZD, VK2GD and all at the Friday night gathering trying to resurrect our computer.

Bill VK2ZCV



Top Left: Bill VK2ZCV, Henry VK2ZHE & Alan VK2GD getting the gear together for the big JOTA event.
Top Right: Bill VK2ZCV with a participating Scout and interested parent.
Bottom Left: Bill VK2ZCV maintaining order and decorum within the gathering throng.

(Photographs by VK2ZHE & VK2AYQ)

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 January 2006 **OXTALES**.

The ORARC mystery Personality in July **OXTALES** was Allan Madigan (VK2OA). The picture was taken way back in 1946.

Anybody out there pick him?



Now.



Then

The Editors of OXTALES are getting very low on their supply of "Poignant Pix" for future issues.

If any members have images of themselves taken during their formative years, we would welcome a copy. Scanned digital copies in .jpg format would be ideal, but original photographs present no problem as we have scanning facilities (using a "Non-destructive" process!) with which we can undertake the job ourselves. Your original images will be safely preserved and returned to you in original condition. Trust us!

To maintain the element of "secrecy until revealed in the next OXTALES", we would appreciate the images being passed to us, furtively, in brown-paper envelopes, rather than in a formalised public presentation ceremony at a meeting, or club function... Hi

Thanks! In Anticipation....

The Editors (VK2TT and VK2AYQ)





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

Cat.	Surname	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Location	Tph
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN (FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	A	BAYLIS	SAM	-	LAKE CATHIE	-
3	L	BAYLIS	JOHN (MARY)	VK2JB	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5703
4	O	BIVONA	JOE (ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0405040953
5	L	BLYTH	BOB	VK2XIQ	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	O	COURT	RICHARD (LINDA)	VK2CHC	BEECHWOOD	02 6585.6866
10	A	DANIEL	JIM	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
11	O	EDMONDSON	CHARLES (PAT)	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
12	A	GILSON	BARRY (FAY)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
13	O	GLEESON	BADEN (VALERY)	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
14	A	GRAHAM	PAUL (JANE)	-	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4720
15	O	GREEN	LEWIS (PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
16	O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME	VK2ZIS	MIDDLE BROTHER	02 6559.4836
17	A	HADFIELD	STEVE	-	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6160
18	L	HANLON	KEITH	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
19	O	HANSEN	JOHN	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
20	O	HARDING	DAVID (ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
21	O	JAMIESON	WILL (CAROL)	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	02 6559.8622
22	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
23	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
24	O	LUTTON	KEITH (GWEN)	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
25	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN (DAWN)	VK2OA	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
26	O	MARRIOTT	JOHN (ROSE)	VK2CIF	NORTH HAVEN	02 6559.9245
27	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
28	O	MCLEAN	JOHN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
29	O	MEEHAN	TERRY	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
30	H	MINAHAN	CHRIS	VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
31	H	MONCK	WENDY (ARTHUR)	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
32	L	MONCK	ARTHUR (WENDY)	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
33	O	NEIL	JIM (CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2451
34	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE (ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
35	O	NUTT	ALLAN (ELAINE)	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
36	O	PALMER	GRAHAM (LINDA)	VK2TRM	KENDALL	02 6559.4554
37	O	PILLEY	DAVID (DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
38	O	SANDFORD	NEIL (VERENA)	VK2EJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
39	O	SINCLAIR	BILL	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
40	O	THATCHER	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
41	D	WALKE	GARY	VK2UHF	ROCKDALE	-
42	O	WALKER	BRUCE (GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
43	O	WEBSTER	JIM (MARY)	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.4037

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