

OXTALES

First published 1980

Club Nets on VK2RPM
146.700MHz
Every Sunday 0830
Every Wednesday 1930

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.
PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

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Club Website: www.orarc.org

ORARC's FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

January 2011

Compiled by VK2TT & VK2AYQ

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582.0534
VICE PRES: Bruce Walker VK2HOT 6583.8360
TREASURER: John Bailey VK2KHB 6582.2192
SECRETARY: John McLean VK2KC 6584.6220

President's Report

Welcome to 2011. I trust everyone has had a safe and enjoyable festive season.

The year 2011 marks the 40th anniversary of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. While the actual birthday is the 2nd of October 2011 we will follow the great example set by WIA Centenary last year and take the opportunity to continue celebrating though out the entire year! Of course we will hold a special event on the 2nd of October 2011 to mark the actual anniversary of our founding. As I have mentioned in previous reports, the 2nd of October 2011 is the Sunday of the Labour Day Long Weekend this year. Monday the 3rd is the Public Holiday. Now is the time to let the committee know of any good ideas you may have for the celebration.

The 2011 Field Day will be held at the Tacking Point Surf Club on the Queen's Birthday Weekend next June. We have the Surf Club building booked for Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th of June so the field day will take place over both days. While it will be our 36th annual Field Day, the theme will be club's 40th anniversary. To run a successful field day requires a lot of planning and assistance from as many members as possible. Please consider how you can best contribute. If we share the workload, everyone will be



able to enjoy a great Field Day weekend.

While we are billing this year's Field Day as our 36th annual Field Day, it has been brought to my attention that the following announcement appeared on page 2 in the "VK2 Mini Bulletin" dated September 1973"

"OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB: The annual field day of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club will be held on the 3rd and 4th of November (1973). Saturday the 3rd will be given over to the usual shack crawls, sightseeing, etc., with a talk in foxhunt in the evening. Sunday is the big day with registration, the usual field day events and a barbecue lunch. Venue for this day will be Bonny Hills, 10 miles south of Port Macquarie, and right by the sea. Both VHF FM and

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Down The Coax

All scheduled meetings held in the S.E.S. Building
Central Road, Port Macquarie,

Friday Night Get-Together

Friday 21st January 2011 7.00pm

Mid North Coast Radio EXPO

30th January, 2011

Coffs Harbour

(See President's Report for Details)

February Monthly Meeting

Saturday 5th February 2011 2.00pm

Friday Night Get-Together

Friday 18th February 2011 7.00pm

Central Coast Field Day at Wyong Racecourse

Sunday 27th February 2011

March Monthly Meeting

Saturday 5th March 2011 2.00pm

e-mail Directory

Reflects ALL changes notified up to
10th January 2011

VK2AG	LEWIS	lewisgreen@bigpond.com
VK2EI	NEIL	neilsan@tpg.com.au
VK2EJ	CHRIS	Chris@CalmDowns.org.au
VK2EM	BRUCE	vk2em@tpg.com.au
VK2KC	JOHN	vk2kc@bigpond.com
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VK2VV	GRAHAM	vk2vv@wia.org.au
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VK2AYQ	JOHN	hansenjo@ozemail.com.au
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VK2CHC	RICHARD	yachtsman@midcoast.com.au
VK2CLL	LARRY	lindsay@clearmail.com.au
VK2CRF	ROBERT	robfrst780@hotmail.com
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VK2DFN	DAVID	davidnewey@ymail.com
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VK2HOT	BRUCE	bw_vk2hot@yahoo.com.au
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VK2IEV	JOE	rbivona@bigpond.com
VK2KCE	CHARLES	cpedmond@midcoast.com.au
VK2LPN	LEONIE	leonienewey@ymail.com
VK2VIV	JIM	jim.neil@gmail.com
VK2VTH	STEVEN	sharkbait_@hotmail.com
VK2YOR	ROY	rjburgess@bigpond.com
VK2ZCM	CRAIG	vk2zcm@dodo.com.au
VK2ZCV	BILL	ws154224@bigpond.net.au
VK2ZCW	BILL	cabrooke@westnet.com.au
VK2ZHE	HENRY	lundell@tpg.com.au
VK2ZIS	GRAEME	admiral@midcoast.com.au

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays

(0830 Local)

Wednesdays

(1930 Local)

January 2011

VK2VIV	Jan - 02	VK2AYD	Jan - 05
VK2TT	Jan - 09	VK2ZCM	Jan - 12
VK2OA	Jan - 16	VK2ATM	Jan - 19
VK2VIV	Jan - 23	VK2ZHE	Jan - 26
VK2TT	Jan - 30		

February 2011

VK2OA	Feb - 06	VK2EI	Feb - 02
VK2VIV	Feb - 13	VK2AYD	Feb - 09
VK2TT	Feb - 20	VK2ZCM	Feb - 16
VK2OA	Feb - 27	VK2ATM	Feb - 23

March 2011

VK2VIV	Mar - 06	VK2ATM	Mar - 02
VK2TT	Mar - 13	VK2ZHE	Mar - 09
VK2OA	Mar - 20	VK2EI	Mar - 16
VK2VIV	Mar - 27	VK2AYD	Mar - 23
		VK2ZCM	Mar - 30

e-mail Directory Cont'd

VK2ZTM	TIM	tim.ztm@gmail.com
VK2FABJ	AILSAN	cabrooke@westnet.com.au
VK2FBRG	BARRY	bgilson11@hotmail.com
VK2FCVI	LYLE	vk2fcvi@cv27.net
VK2FJDH	JOSH	holmesj91@gmail.com
VK2FJKD	JIM	jaidanl@bigpond.com
VK2FMDW	MICHAEL	wardymd@gmail.com
VK5DK	COLIN	vk5dk@bigpond.com
VK5JL	LES	lnbjanes@tpg.com.au
VK5NC	TREVOR	vk5nc@bigpond.com
VK9FLHI	DES	lhibluelag@bigpond.com

(President's Report Cont'd)

HF SSB will be manned Friday night and all day Saturday to talk mobiles into the area. For accommodation, there are hotels, motels, camping grounds, etc. in Port Macquarie and a Caravan Park at Bonny Hills. To book accommodation write to Peter Alexander, VK2PA, 97 Hill Street, Port Macquarie, 2444.

Those of us with long memories will remember the "VK2 Mini Bulletin" which during the 1970s was an insert for NSW recipients of the Wireless Institute of Australia monthly magazine "Amateur

Radio". In 1973 the "VK2 Mini Bulletin" was being compiled by Ian Binnie VK2ZIU. The "VK2 Mini Bulletin" as an insert into Amateur Radio magazine superseded the Bulletin which was previously separately posted to each member of the VK2 Division of the WIA. Who remembers the "Bulletin Folding" sessions at 14 Atchison Street, Crows Nest?

Thank you to our ever-vigilant distant member Tim Mills VK2ZTM for sending me a copy of the September 1973 "VK2 Mini Bulletin". Unfortunately, the quality of the scanned image is a little difficult to read so I have quoted the item verbatim from the text. Tim of course today writes the VK2 Notes each month for Amateur Radio magazine. He was intimately involved with the production of the NSW Division Bulletin. I foresee an interesting article for "Oxtales". Thank you in anticipation, Tim.

I clearly remember the Field Day at Bonny Hills. One of the highlights was foxhunting along the sand tracks around Grant's Head. I still remember reversing a great distance along one track after meeting a couple of cars which were returning back along the track after ascertaining that the fox was not down that one!

The fact that the 1973 Field Day was being billed as our annual field day does suggest that we had one in 1972 as well, or perhaps it was just a bold start for a very successful tradition. The club's 40th anniversary is a good time to delve deeply into our history.

I am pleased to be able to thank Bill VK2ZCW for providing a new EchoLink node to restore this service to the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre repeater. The node number is 553696 and is now available for use.

The WIA has announced that the 2011 WIA National Field Day will be held on Sunday the 17th of April 2011 which is close to the IARU World Amateur Radio Day on April 18th. This is good news for our club as the October date of the inaugural 2010 event clashed with local annual car rally for which we have previously provided safety communications. The change of date for the WIA National Field Day will enable the club to participate in both events this year.

The Mid North Coast Radio Expo at Coffs Harbour takes place on Sunday the 30th of January 2011. As usual, this will be

held in the St John's Church Hall in McLean Street, Coffs Harbour. Doors open at 0830 am. The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club will be exhibiting again this year. Don't forget to take a little time out at the Expo to assist on our club's stand.

The Central Coast Field Day at Wyong Racecourse is on Sunday the 27th of February 2011. This year the gates will open at 6:30am. The Flea Market opens at 6:30am and the traders open at 9:00am.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2011.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

Meet our Newest Members

At the conclusion of the January 2011 monthly general meeting, those present were treated to a very interesting talk by Colin VK5DK and Trevor VK5NC. Colin and Trevor travelled to Port Macquarie in order to attempt to work the VK9NA Norfolk Island VHF, UHF and microwave January 2011 DXEpedition. The relatively easy part is doing it on 6 metres but the challenge greatly increases on 2 metres and 70 centimetres and becomes extreme on the microwave bands. The audience learned of the great advantage of the new digital modes which enable contacts to be made even when signals are too weak to make a sideband or CW contact. Of great interest was the logistics of operating portable far from home. Look for a report in the March issue of Oxtales. We welcome Colin VK5DK and Trevor VK5NC as our newest members.

- Henry, VK2ZHE

Members on the Sick List

At our January meeting, a report from our Welfare Office, Bill, VK2ZCV, advised that two of our members, Keith Hanlon and Roy Burges, VK2YOR, were doing stints in hospital. Visitors to both patients reported good progress, with expectations of discharge soon.

Keith is enjoying the comfort of the Port Macquarie Private Hospital, and Roy is being similarly pampered at Wauchope Memorial Hospital.

ORARC'S 2010 Christmas Picnic

This year's annual ORARC Christmas function was held at the Port Macquarie Settlement Point Reserve, adjacent to the Settlement Point ferry wharf. It proved to be a most convenient venue for the 31 attendees (including members, spouses, and some welcome friends) offering a quite spacious undercover seating area and barbecues.

The weather, although not the sparkling summer day normally expected at this time of year, was kind to us in that it did not punish us in any way, except for cloud (which minimised sun-burn exposure, anyway) and a stiff, rather nippy breeze at times. However, had it rained, the available shelter would have enabled us to continue to enjoy the company, chit-chat, and the monthly meeting that followed the luncheon.

There were two "Show-and-Tell" events. John, VK2KC, brought along a "work-in-progress" project that featured a **Skeleton Sleeve Fed Monopole Antenna**. (see John's article on the end result of this project on page six of this issue). Also, Bruce, VK2EM, brought along his latest project... a modified Austar Pay-TV dish, for communication on 10368.1MHz (See Pic opposite)

Since this pic was taken, Bruce has reported: "The dish has progressed into a 'full-blown' transverter... Mark, VK2AMS and myself have been trying to make



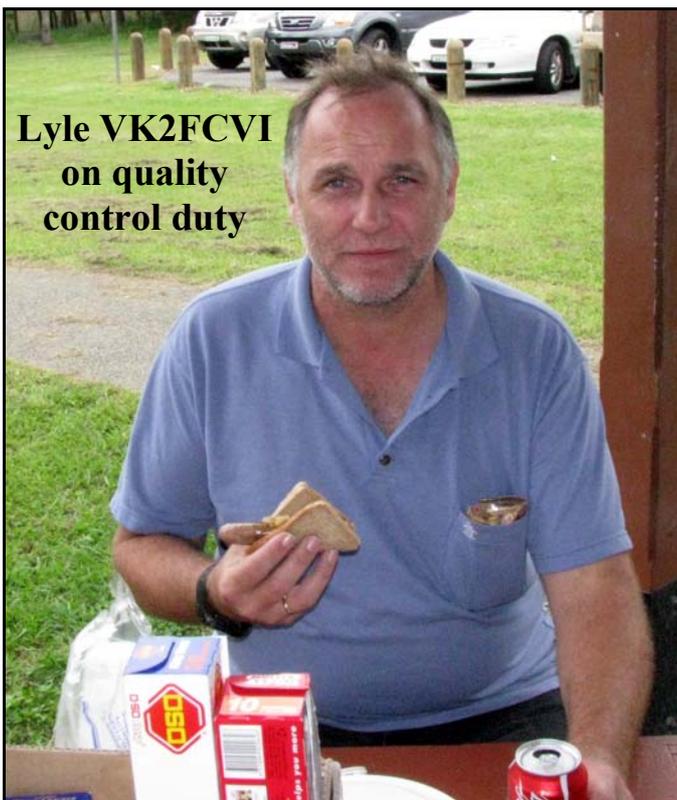
communications on 10368.1MHz for a while.

We went to a quiet place near Cape Hawke in Forster on Wednesday 29/12 and did some tests on our equipment, but it seems that we were too close and we suffered front end overload.

We hope to hear more of this project later.

(See Pics below and on following pages)

**Lyle VK2FCVI
on quality
control duty**



**Chas VK2KCE
savouring the
flavour of a
well-done
"Snorker"**



Right:
**Leonie, VK2LPN
with Pam (XYL of
Lewis, VK2AG)**

(The blue “curtains”
in these pics were
hung as protection
from the stiff breeze
and the potential for
a sprinkle or two)



Left:
**From L to R:
Ailsa, VK2FABJ
Verena ,XYL of
Neil, VK2EI
Yulia (standing)
XYL of Bruce,
VK2EM
Corrine, XYL of
John, VK2KC
who is standing
in background.**

THE SKELETON SLEEVE FED MONOPOLE ANTENNA (by John, VK2KC)

After an internet search for the 'perfect' J Pole antenna, I found an interesting web page at <http://k6mhe.com/files/ssfm.pdf> featuring an



omnidirectional 2 metre antenna which needed no ground plane. It featured a main driven element, which was $\frac{3}{4}$ wave length long, with 4 outer elements each of which were $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength long. The centre element was connected by coax to the transmitter. What fascinated me was the polar diagram of the radiation pattern; it was a near-perfect doughnut.

The article was entitled "A Skeleton Sleeve Fed Monopole" (SSFM) by Danny Richardson K6MHE, so my curiosity was aroused and I built the antenna. It proved to be a great performer, and I used it once when our ORARC members supplied the communications for the local Car Rally Club.

I fitted a threaded eyebolt to the centre element and tied a rope to it and hauled it into a tree, which changed my unreadable 2 metre signal into the repeater to a solid readable signal.

After the Rally I put the antenna aside, exhibited it at the 2007 ORARC Field Day. It aroused only passing interest, so it put it in storage and really forgot about it.

The quest began for an ideal portable omnidirectional antenna for the SES when there was a need for a Radio Forward Control Point in an emergency situation. I built up a J-pole antenna centred on 410 MHz, but was concerned that this antenna would be a tad fragile, and maybe easily damaged. It *did* work OK, but on the night of the big exercise, one of the adaptors (new) was open circuit! Not having a spare, we couldn't use the longer length of coax, but despite that, the J-Pole performed well with the hand-held unit taped to the antenna support pole.

Remembering the SSFM 2m antenna languishing in storage, I decided that one could be scaled down from 146 MHz to 410 MHz; the only hazy area being the element spacing. So I fired off an e-mail to Danny, K6MHE, requesting any information on scaling. He responded almost immediately that he had no idea, but thought that "2 inches or so should be OK!"

I decided that 50mm would be a good starting point. He mentioned that when he was designing and building the 2 metre version, he found that the spacing between the centre and outer elements wasn't all that critical, however, all outer elements

had to be the same distance from the radiator, and the same length.

I built up a prototype and was amazed that the calculations for the scaling down to 410 MHz were spot on and the antenna exhibited a very low VSWR with a very slight trimming of the driven (centre) element.



The antenna has a very broad band-width. Between the 2:1 VSWR points, it covered 390 to 430 MHz!

I began to think that if the spacing wasn't all that critical, I could easily convert the antenna to the UHF CRS band. Accordingly, a set of elements were cut and fitted, and much to my surprise the antenna was spot on again, and exhibited the same bandwidth of 40 MHz between the 2:1 VSWR points.

A little more thinking and I cut a set for the 70 CM band and bingo!! Same result!

According to Danny, K6MHE, the antenna will out-perform the J-Pole, (mainly due to the uniform radiation pattern) with next to no skewing or deformation of the pattern. Danny is very keen to see what I have accomplished with it, as no one has tried to make one for UHF before.

I am very keen to try it out, hoping

that we will have a chance with another exercise with the SES. If not it will serve well as a dedicated 70 cm antenna, or perhaps, a UHF CB antenna?

73.
John VK2KC

More Christmas Function Pictures

Right:
John,
VK2KC,
cautiously
approaching a
potentially
indigestible
sausage. He is
supported by
XYL, Corinne



Below:
A short January monthly meeting was held following the lunch





OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

(As at January 10th 2011)

No.	Cat.	Surname	Given	Spouse Name	Call	Location	Tph
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN	(FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	D	BELL	ALAN		VK2BEL	COOLONGOLOOK	02 6554.1689
3	O	BIVONA	JOE	(ROSE)	VK2IEV	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0405040953
4	L	BLYTH	BOB		VK2XIQ	TELEGRAPH POINT	-
5	D	BRICE	GRAHAM	(CYNTHIA)	VK2VV	SCONE	02 6545.0411
6	O	BRODIE	BOB		VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
7	O	BROOKE	AILSAL	(BILL)	VK2FABJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
8	O	BROOKE	BILL	(AILSAL)	VK2ZCW	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0547
9	O	BROWN	STEVEN		VK2VTH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.7885
10	O	BURGES	ROY	(JUNE)	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8801
11	O	COURT	RICHARD	(LINDA)	VK2CHC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6872
12	O	DANIEL	JIM		VK2FJKD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
13	O	EDMONDSON	CHARLES	(PAT)	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
14	D	EKERT	BRUCE	(YULIA)	VK2EM	FORSTER	Mob 0414532496
15	D	ELLIS	STAN	(BETTY)	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	02 6554.7996
16	F	FLETCHER	PETER	CAROLINE [VK2CZF]	VK2HPF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 2658.45191
17	O	FROST	ROBERT	(SUSAN)	VK2CF	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587.6129
18	O	GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2FBRG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8814
19	O	GREEN	LEWIS	(PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
20	O	GREENWOOD	GRAEME		VK2ZIS	McMAHONS POINT	-
21	L	HANLON	KEITH		-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
22	O	HANSEN	JOHN		VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.7932
23	O	HARDING	DAVID	(ISABELLA)	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586.4980
24	D	HUTCHNESS	COLIN	(PAULINE)	VK5DK	MOUNT GAMBIA S.W.	08 8725.5527
25	O	HOLMES	JOSH		VK2FJDH	BONNY HILLS	02 6585.5148
26	D	JANES	LES	(BEVERLY)	VK5JL	SALISBURY HEIGHTS	08 8281.3878
27	O	KOPPEL	HORST		VK2FHKO	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5992
28	L	LINDSAY	LARRY		VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
29	L	LUNDELL	HENRY		VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0534
30	O	MADIGAN	ALLAN	(DAWN)	VK20A	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
31	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2ZCM	SANCROX	02 6585.3452
32	O	McGUIRE	MARK		VK2FMGM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8875
33	O	MCLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.6220
34	O	MEEHAN	TERRY		VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.2997
35	D	MILLS	TIM		VK2ZTM	BEECROFT	02 9868.1434
36	H	MINAHAN	CHRIS		VK2EJ	HALLIDAYS POINT	02 6559.3516
37	L	MONCK	ARTHUR		VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.0960
38	O	NEIL	JIM	(CAROL)	VK2VIV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.2481
39	O	NEWAY	DAVID	(LEONIE)	VK2DFN	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0430925065
40	O	NEWAY	LEONIE	(DAVID)	VK2LPN	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0401015220
41	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5387
42	D	NIVEN	TREVOR	(BETH)	VK5NC	MOUNT GAMBIA S.A.	08 8723.2432
43	O	PILLEY	DAVID	(DEE)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
44	O	SANDFORD	NEIL	(VERENA)	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5830
45	L	SINCLAIR	BILL	(CORALIE)	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
46	O	SMITH	LYLE	(JEANNINE)	VK2FCVI	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2497
47	D	TARRANT	DAVID	(AILEEN)	VK2TBC	ILUKA	-
48	O	THATCHER	TREVOR		VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
49	O	THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
50	O	WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
51	O	WARD	MICHAEL	(RUTH)	VK2FMDW	PORT MACQUARIE	Mob 0427291276

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