

The year of the New Shack? The year of The Visitors? The year of The Space Ship? I guess it does not matter what excuse I come up with; I am not going to get very much sympathy for being late with this edition! Anyhow, I have finally caught up with the task at hand, so on with the job!

CLUB ACTIVITY:

John Moyle Memorial Field Day:

We decided to accept the challenge issued by W.I.A and take part in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day contest. And what a day it turned out to be! We elected to set up camp on top of Mighty North Brother Mountain, setting sail about 1pm from Port Macquarie, in glorious sunshine.

As we approached North Haven city, we could see North Brother mountain in the distance and it resembled Mt. Fujiama! The heavy shroud of white cloud hung over the top, just like a blanket of snow. When we reached the top and started to set up camp, we darn near had to use walkie-talkies to keep in touch - the mist was so thick! And pretty nippy too!

We strung up a few sheets of heavy duty plastic around the little covered Barbeque area so as to keep out the mist and the cold, snappy breeze. About an hour later we had the rigs set up on 2 and 6 metres, plus H.F. VK2LS designed and made up a quad for 2 mtrs on the spot, ably assisted by VK2YQF. Meanwhile, VK2ATM - VK2 DPE and VK2ZCV had got the long wire up for HF and fired up the generators - we were ready for action. Sadly for us, activity was not so good for our chosen 6 hour stint. But we stuck at it and made the best of it. Despite the conditions, we had a ball and really enjoyed taking part in the contest. Thanks to all the club members who gave us a shout and a few points for the score.

We thought we had it a bit on the rough side until we found out that the boys down Orange way were setting up in snow! I'll take my hat off to our fellows for ingenuity and technical know-how; I reckon they would have sucked a signal off the backside of Mars (the planet) Hi! At closing down time we had to restrain VK2LS (Lew) from going up a 60' extension ladder to retrieve his Quad! It was pitch dark, raining and cold; but Lew's natural instinct to climb, was not to be thwarted!

To date, no results of the Contest are to hand - I know we must get a placing; how far down the list, I'm not quite sure! Tnx to XYL's Gwen and Beth plus a few stray harmonics for helping to boil the billy and cool their impeccable patience.

SPECIAL NOTE: During our involvement in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day, I personally experienced a tinge of sadness and nostalgia. My early introduction to radio took place back in 1945 via the then Radio & Hobbies, of which the late John Moyle was editor. Like many others of that time, I had several queries answered by letter from the service conducted through that great magazine. On one occasion, I went up to the third or fourth floor of the Sun Building in my lunch hour and shared a sandwich with John Moyle and Neville Williams whilst sorting out a query regarding the construction of the 1946 Standard, or Little Jim. By the way, do you know that they were producing some 40,000 copies of Radio & Hobbies per month? I think they had a Goss press which was capable of producing 10 or 12 thousand copies per hour! And that was back in 1946!

CIBIE FOREST CLASSIC CAR RALLY:

Oh! boy - I'm still trying to figure out how we got involved in this major Car Rally event! Somehow or other VK2XU (Ian) volunteered the "maybe" services of our club for the purpose of receiving and relaying progress scores of this second round of the NSW Championships.

However, we did get involved....and what an experience. A few of us had a quick get-together early in the week prior to Anzac week-end, then fronted up at 2.30pm on the day. That was Saturday afternoon - I staggered home at 6.10am on Sunday morning and VK2ZCV (Bill) did likewise a couple of hours later! VK2ATM (Art) got off a little earlier (around 3am) as did Geoff, VK2DPE. VK2XU (Ian) came down off the mountain and back to base at around 7am on Sunday, too. Hence the great silence on 2 metres on Sunday!

VK2ZCV - VK2DQR (Ron) did a top job at control HQ., as did VK2LS (Lew) - VK2BXD (Rick) VK2ATM - VK2DPE - VK2YCG - VK2XU all of whom manned the control check points at various spots out in them thar hills! Anyhow, we made a good fist of the task and received very sincere votes of thanks from the Rally boys. They had provisional placings available all through the Rally, as a result of our club effort. Tnx to all who co-operated in keeping Channel 2 clear! Looks like we are doing the same reporting for the Southern Cross Rally later this year - we haven't been asked....we have been TOLD!

By the way, VK2YCG and his XYL said they were going straight to church service in Taree when they signed out at their Check Point way up at Blue Knob! As a side issue, we gained some very valuable experience in message handling and also the coverage of the Repeater.

THE REPEATER: VK2RPM

"If the Port Macquarie Repeater is off the air longer than 3 minutes, its broken down!"

That was a typical comment I overheard a week or so ago. Since going back to Hill 1 that Repeater, VK2RPM, has certainly had a hefty work out. It caused excitement waves from Woolongong in the south - Lismore in the north and out Murrurundi way in the west, at the least. I've heard many questions as to the set up used, so here is a very brief run down on what our fellows have produced:

"Receive aerial is a Ringo Ranger, up about 50' - single Cavity to U310 pre-amp. Receiver is Hills FM600 (modified) with C.O.R to a balanced land line. Solid state ident timer etc.. Transmitter exciter AWA25M. Home brew 6w P.A. 200' coax plus attenuators. Motorola 30w RF amplifier chip to Cavity. 2x3 Element Beams fed thru phasing harness. One south and one north, approximately." So, there you go!

Congratulations to all who worked on the technical side, plus those who came along from time to time and assisted in some 'bullocky' work. All in all a very successful result, after many, many hours of time consuming effort.

REPEATER PROCEDURES:

We are concerned over some examples of poor operating techniques and it might be timely to put out a friendly reminder or two:

- 1: There is no need to call "CQ" on a Repeater - just your call sign and that you are listening will suffice.
- 2: Long winded overs are taboo. Remember, others could be waiting to use the Repeater, too. Sure, any club sponsoring a Repeater, has a Club net prerogative.
- 3: Always pause after each transmission until the "tail" drops out. Don't clamp your transmit button straight down. The pause allows another person to call in for a "break". Avoids the sin of "timing out" the Repeater, too! Hi!
- 4: For goodness sake cut out the over use of call signs. You are required to identify your station at start of each total transmission and at the end. And, once every 10 minutes in between. Its a bit ridiculous to hear two or three words, followed by two station call signs, then, a reply of yet another few words followed by another two call signs! Sometimes, half a total contact time goes in call signs!
- 5: And by the way; we are very concerned at a growing practice of using "short cut" call signs. Example: VK2BOR becomes JUST 2 BOR. The VK part is left off! When this is done, regulations are broken and an illegal call sign is used. Its a sloppy, lazy habit and we can't afford to see it spread in the Amateur Service, fellows. Clubs who are issued a Repeater Licence, are responsible for some pretty strict special licence conditions. One of them, is the requirement to set up a responsible committee to monitor procedures - so - please help us to keep our "house in order!" This friendly word of advice given now, is surely better than "hearing" from D.O.C!
- 6: Always switch to simplex or QSY for local contacts (that applies to mobiles in short convoy distance, also) where possible. Please don't hold up the Repeater when it is not necessary.
- 7: Common sense, good manners, good operating procedures will make Repeaters do a great job and can be shared and enjoyed by all. Particularly, mobiles. N.B. Wm Orr has written a great article on Repeaters in his book; VHF ANTENNA HANDBOOK.

CLUB HISTORY:

VK2YQF/VWF (Kieth) is now VK2KDL! - Congratulations Kieth, you are our first "K" call.

Congratulations go out to Frank (VK2NUG/YJU) now full call as VK2DUG! Good work, Digger! Not forgetting VK2VEF/YSP now VK2DQR (Ron) plus VK2DPE (Geoff) now in full ranks. I know I have missed someone or two, but will make up for that when a new list of members is updated very shortly. Welcome to VK2VIL (Peter) and VK2VDD (Col) new boys to the area!

MYSTERY:

I wonder who the member was who recently hooked up a flat battery to the charger over night and found that he had a well charged soldering iron the next day! ZUM story my friend! ZUM story!. Hi!

SCHOOLS:

Yes, VK2DUG (Frank) is still doing a great job of training each Monday night at the High School - so - if you care to pop in and lend a hand from time to time, I know Frank and his boys will be glad to see you. Thanks Frank, er (Dugger). Fancy going from VK2NUG to VK2DUG.... some blokes can sure pull rank! Beaut for CW too! One dit to change!

LIBRARY: We are amassing a very good range of books and periodicals in our Club Library, thanks to many donors etc. Contact VK2DPE (Geoff) Full list in next issue, fellows.

FIELD DAYS:

You will see from the attached Programme that our Annual Field Day time is almost here again. And, we need plenty of helpers, - so -

IF YOU CANNOT BE PRESENT TO HELP, PLEASE LET ME KNOW - then I can easily make up a list of those who can be present.

Donations of prizes will be appreciated, very much so!

Donations of cakes (Plenty of) and or sandwiches will also be received with sincere gratitude. We want to do another top job of looking after our visitors - so - please lend a hand and don't leave it to "THEY" (the invisible mob). Please read the programme carefully, and spread the news about our Field Days whenever you get the opportunity. By the way, here is your chance to clear some of your surplus gear....bring it along to the Auction Sale at the Field Day - no commission is charged. Here are some items that have already been notified; if you are interested, please let me know and you can buy it before it gets to auction.....

Item 1: PPL synthesised receiver AM & SSB - 150Khz to 30 Mhz. FM 76 to 108 Mhz.

Computer controlled. Direct key input. 6 Memory - Scan Tuning. Sony ICF 2001
Only 250 db o.n.o

Item 2: 204 BA - brand new. 260 db.

Item 3: Kenwood 120V - good condition - books - mobile mount and noise cancelling Mic.
Best Offer!

Item 4: Multi Mode 2 Mtr IC211 - mint condition. Only 420 db.

Item 5: T. B. A.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Your 1981 club membership fee of \$2.00 is overdue, if you haven't paid it. Please help me to save time and postage..just pop it straight in to the mail. RIGHT NOW .. thanks...

NOTICE OF MEETING:

A General Meeting of all Club members has been set down for Saturday 23rd May, 1981 at 2pm at the Port High School.

Agenda: Minutes of previous meeting.
Matters arising.
Correspondence.
Finance.
1981 Field Day arrangements.
General matters.

Kindly make every effort to be present... please don't forget the date...

WALKABOUT? Haven't heard VK2VWC (Cliff) or VK2VQT (Col) for a while? Believe Cliff has got himself over ORGANISED; and that BOWLS me Too! Last seen, Col had a real GLITTER in his eyes, caused by looking at GOLDEN sun-sets. Hi! Fellows.

Its 12.20am so I must stop the press and rush this epistle to print. Hope this has brought you up to date on happenings.

Yours in Amateur Radio... VK2BFP - Lester - (Secretary)