

OXLEY REGION
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OXTALES

P.O. Box 712
PORT MACQUARIE. NSW

Volume 1: No.6

CHRISTMAS

ISSUE 1981:

Price-Less:

Well, blow the dust off my typewriter - IT IS that time of the year again!

Which leads me into answering a comment I heard fairly recently - "As a Club, we don't seem to have done much this year!" At first, I tended to agree, until I did some mind searching and found that we, ipso facto, got through quite a deal during the year.

Let's take a quick look back:

- 1 : Yes, we managed to hold all our required meetings and took care of the normal load of business matters arising therefrom.
- 2 : Our 1981 two-day Field Day was organised and completed, despite our FRIEND Murphy getting in the way.
- 3 : We responded to the call from W.I.A and made a worth while donation to the all important Tower Appeal.
- 4 : Quite a number of members helped in our club effort to support the John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest - we set up camp on North Brother mountain and did our best. Have since heard we won an award for our efforts!
- 5 : Another really big event, which involved many dedicated club members, was our major exercise in helping to provide communications for the Cibie Forest Car Rally. It was a "long Day's Night" I can assure you - but highly rewarding.
- 6 : Frank (VK2DUG) kept the training schools going through the year - his efforts were rewarded with some new call signs being welcomed to our ranks!
- 7 : Sincere efforts were made to keep the Club Net alive - it is struggling on!
- 8 : We became concerned about ducting problems with VK2RPM - a lot of time and thought went in to resolving this matter, with the excellent help of W.I.A.
- 9 : A list of the Club's assets were detailed and valued for our Trustees.
- 10 : A new WICEN co-ordinator was appointed: (VK2DQR - Ron) to take over from our good friend Lew (VK2LS) who had retired from that position after years of good service.
- 11 : We answered a call from Taree Club, offering to give any assistance with their proposed 70cm Repeater.
- 12 : Our Club's Constitution was drawn up, printed and circulated to members.
- 13 : Special Log Sheets were printed and circulated to interested members, so as to take part in the R.D. Contest. Quite a number of logs were submitted.
- 14 : An initial move was made to set up our Club Library. VK2DPE (Geoff) has that organised and has in fact, provided our lazy secretary with a list. Patience boys!
- 15 : Yes, many of our members have fought the un-ending battle of keeping our Repeater going. These "techs" are our real unsung heros! Despite the pressures of family life and other outside influences - these boys get the job done; not forgetting the distances travelled together with one hell of a tall gum tree to climb!
- 16 : We were lucky indeed, to secure a Phillips Practonics Kit for training purposes, thanks to some pretty fast foot work by our executive.
- 17 : We have kept on with the search for a Clubhouse - and - Oxtales does come out now and again. Yes, I hope we can get through as much next year. Deo Gratis! And not forgetting our club effort for J.O.T.A! Also, Tnx Geoff (VK2DPE) for the photos.

THE 1981 FIELD DAY:

Thanks to the Port Macquarie News, a full report was printed together with a couple of interesting photos.

In retrospect, it was one of the most difficult Field Days we have ever encountered. It was a case of only a few braves and precious few Indians! However, we have learnt to look for better organisation and back-up help for next year.

All in all, the days went off well despite some unfriendly weather. And when a Land Rover breaks an axle en route to Rollands Plains at 8am things get pretty sticky. Particularly when it is loaded with most of the essential gear for the day! That bad break put us behind schedule, from which we never properly recovered.

To all who helped, especially our girls, a sincere and old fashioned "Thank you"!

It was hoped to present a pictorial issue of OXTALES to cover the Field Days with a new approach. Things went off the assumed track and we were forced to compromise - hope you enjoy our effort - we will be trying to do better next time.

Sadly, the day finished on a sour note, with two unpleasant car accidents on the way home. A sudden shower of rain turned the road in to a treacherous mood. Thanks to some pretty fine on the spot organisation by many unselfish boys, the problems were overcome. It was fortunate indeed, that serious injury to those concerned, was averted. Not so for their cars; they finished up badly bent.

Next year, we have called for some radical changes to our Field Days. Please give it some thought - give us your views on some new innovations. We are already planning the proposed new venue, with an eye to keeping costs down for our members and visitors alike.

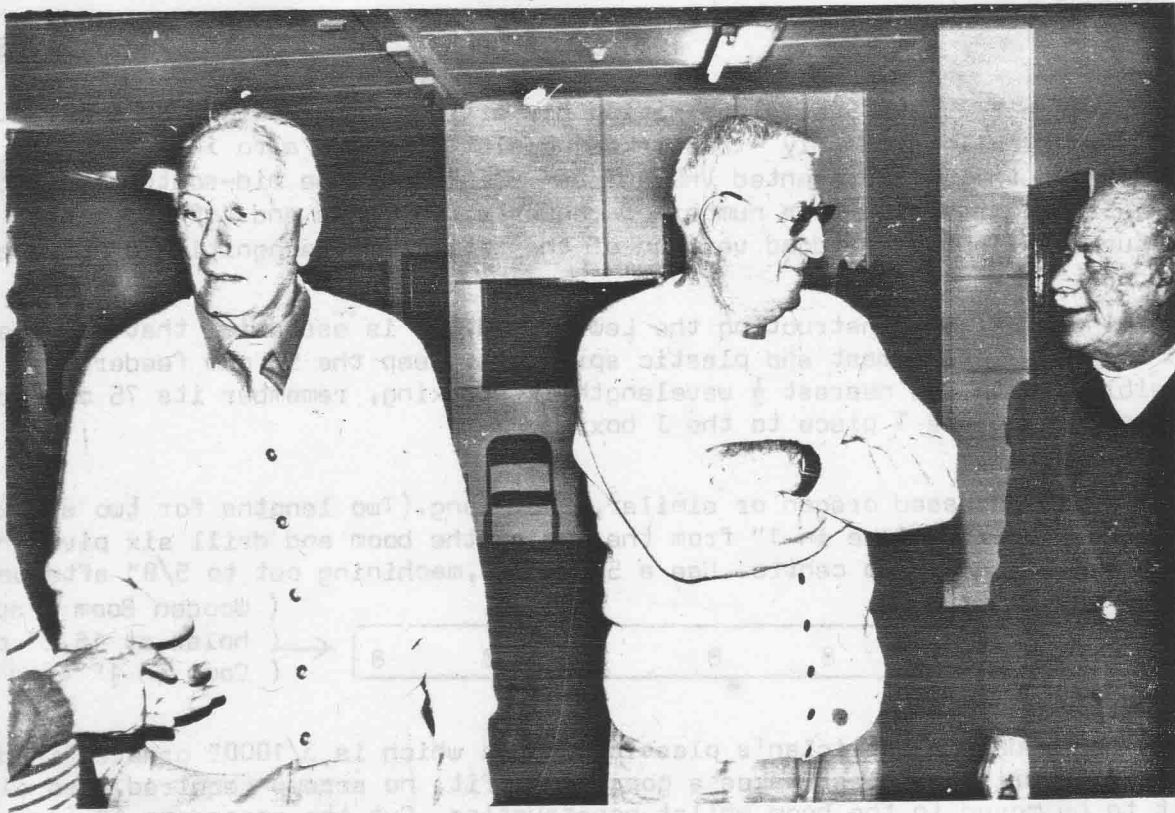
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Please make a note on your calendar that the date for our Annual Meeting has been set for Saturday 30th January, 1982 at 2pm. Also, your Committee has made a recommendation that annual subscriptions remain the same.

CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER:

Sunday 6th December is the big day set aside for our Annual club wind up day for 1981. The site chosen is Telegraph Point, Branch off on to the old Highway near the BP Service Station south of the new bridge. Follow it along until you come to a very pretty picnic spot under the southern approach to the bridge. Give a shout on VK2RPM if you are not sure. The day will commence around 10am and is a B.Y.O arrangement for a continuous barbeque. Its a family day of relaxation and visitors are most certainly welcome. Please pass on the word and make every effort to be present.

LIST OF MEMBERS:

You will find a loose leaf enclosure with this edition of OXTALES, setting out a complete list of Club members. Please let me know of any errors or omissions. Hang it up in your shack and add to it as membership grows. We are not trying to break any records, rather, keep our Club going along the same non-committal but friendly, no pressure lines, as in the past. To our new members we say a warm WELCOME - to our new call sign members we offer our sincere CONGRATULATIONS! Please, always feel free to call on your fellow members if any help or advice is needed. Collectively, we have a wealth of knowledge to gladly pass on!



TOP: No prizes for guessing the topic of conversation here! Enjoying a good chat are (VK2BZA) Peter - (VK2AWD) Bob and (VK2AKO) Len. (l to r)

BELOW: Young John Sinclair (left) trying to make up his mind if he should buy another dart from Michael Clarke. Tnx for your help Michael!



THE LEWIS QUAD:

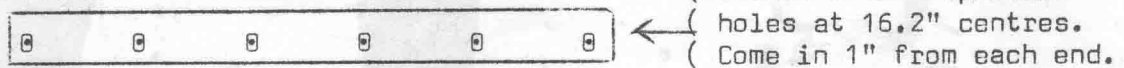
VK2LS:

Congratulations to VK2LS (Lewis) on having his article "The Lewis Quad & DX" published in that very excellent monthly - Weatlakes Newsletter - and also in having the article re-produced in the well presented VHF ANTENNA SPECIAL of the mid-south coast edition of "Lyrebird". In response to a number of requests from this end "of the woods" we will now feature a slightly abridged version of the article in recognition of your effort and success, Lew.

Keep in mind that, in constructing the Lewis Quad, it is essential that you use a wooden boom - a wooden mast and plastic spreaders. Keep the 50 ohm feeder coax as short as possible and to the nearest 1/2 wavelength. If stacking, remember its 75 ohms coax of 1/2 wavelength from the T piece to the J box.

The Boom:

Use 1.75"X .75" dressed oregon or similar, 6'8" long. (Two lengths for two stacks, bolted together for drilling. Come in 1" from the end of the boom and drill six pivot holes spaced at 16.2" centre to centre. Use a 5/32" bit, machining out to 5/8" afterwards. Oil or paint the timber boom.

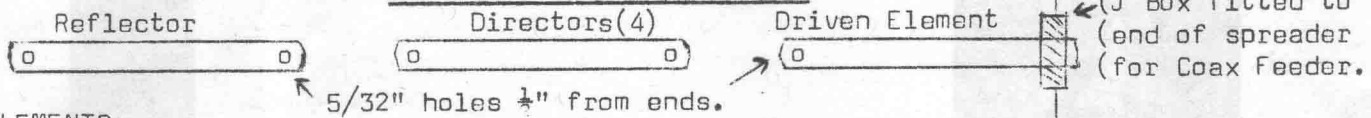


The Spreaders:

Use 16mm heavy duty electrician's plastic conduit which is 3/1000" greater in diameter than the 5/8" drilled holes; makes a good tight fit, no screws required. Also allows the conduit to be moved in the boom whilst constructing. Cut the spreaders 1" longer than the side length of the relevant spreaders; except the driven element, which will have a two-way plastic junction box fitted to one end to accept the coax feeder. For one stack cut:

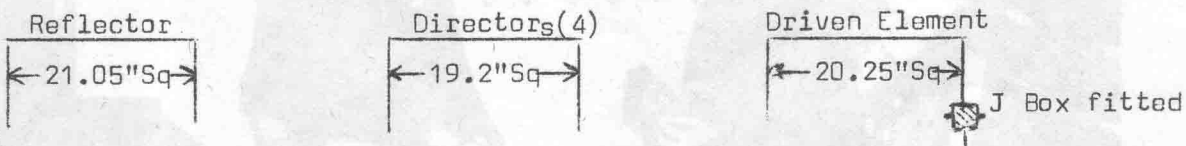
4 Director Spreaders 20.2" long - 1 Reflector spreader 22.05" and a driven element spreader 20" long to start (it will need to be shortened to allow for suitable J box fitted on one end) Drill each spreader with 5/32" holes 1/2" in from each end in the same plane. Use quality glue to fit J box on to conduit spreader as there is a fair pull from the coaxial line.

Plastic Conduit Spreaders:



ELEMENTS:

Make up elements from solid copper or aluminium wire about 5/32" diameter. Copper telephone wire is good; does not tend to bend over. Approx 7 feet of wire required for each element. After cutting wire into lengths; mark a point (with dot of paint) on the wire which will indicate one corner of the loop. This marks a very handy reference point during construction. Now bend wire at each end of the top section so as to form a U shape. The driven element has its ends terminating in the J box which has been fitted to the end of that spreader. Allow for this when shaping this element. The lengths PER SIDE are: DIRECTORS: 19.2" - DRIVEN ELEMENT: 20.25" - REFLECTOR: 21.05"



ASSEMBLY:

Obtain and use a good fixing cement. "Plastibond" is perfect; and quick drying. Insert SPREADERS into holes of boom and centre them. Make sure holes on ends of spreaders are in vertical plane (up and down).

(continued over)

THE LEWIS QUAD: (Continued)

Commencing with the Director Elements; slip the U shape ends through the holes in the end of the DIRECTOR spreaders. Don't try to align them yet; in can be done when all elements have been installed. When the elements have been pushed through the spreader holes; the two lower corner bends can be made at the paint marks and the two ends brought together to form the closed loop in a joiner or crimp lug. Driven element is treated much the same; except that its two ends are brought together in the J box, which then becomes the feed-point for the coax. Two 2 hole by 4 screw connectors are used in the box which is later sealed against moisture entry.

When all elements have been fitted and shaped; centre them on the spreaders. Mix up a two part cement and little by little, fill up the ends of the conduit spreaders to a depth of about $3/4$ ". Make sure you get cement well around the wire element where it passes through inside the conduit spreader. This operation does three things: (1) Fixes element so it can't move off centre (2) Fills end of conduit to stop wind howl (3) gives added strength where it is most needed.

The job should now look neat and firm and ready to fit to its wooden mast with two properly fitted $1/4$ " bolts. A METAL MAST IS TABOO!

The spacing for a two stack will be one wavelength (81.5" approx) so mast should be about 10 feet long in this case.

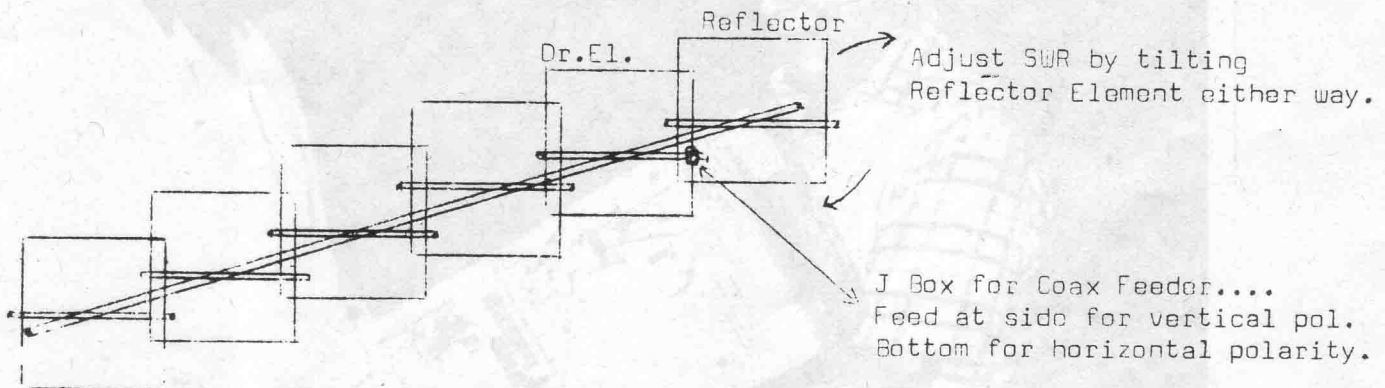
If only one quad is used; insert a bazooka match at the feedpoint.

For two stacks, try a good coaxial type T piece and a $1/2$ wavelength of 75 ohm coax from there to each feedpoint.

Use SWR meter to adjust the array. Feed small amount of power to the array; check for SWR. If it doesn't read 1.5:1 then bend REFLECTOR either TO or AWAY from the Driven Element until this reading is obtained. You may do better than this; but such a reading is O.K using quality 50 ohm coax feeder. The whole array on its wooden mast can now be slipped into the end of 2" steel mast and put into operating position.

As Lew says, "This article does not pretend to present a new concept; or even a new mathematically correct formula -- rather, a cheap and effective 2 metre Quad, well within "home brew" experimental and practical application."

NOTE: Feed the Lewis Quad at the Bottom for horizontal (or on the side for vertical polarity).



Abridged version taken from and
By courtesy: NESTLAKES NEWSLETTER:



TOP: An excited young Wayne (VK2YPF) receiving the Dick Smith donation prize, a VHF Radio, from club president, (VK2ZCV) Bill.

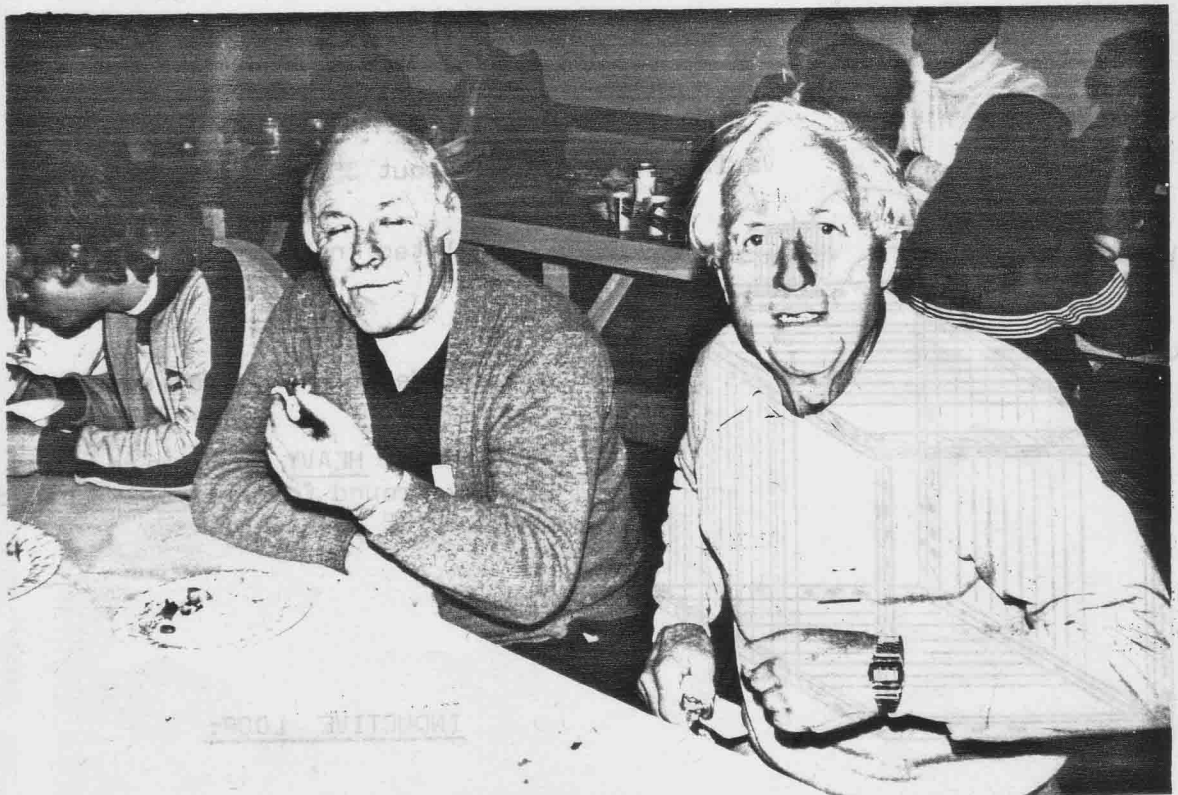
BELOW: CW champion, (VK2PA) Pete (Left) for the second year, accepts his award from club secretary (VK2BFP) Lester.





TOP: He might call himself "The man from the bush" - but Cliff (VH2VK) can sure fly model (and real) aircraft. Here he prepares his DGA6.

BELOW: And former Qantas pilot (VK2AKO) Len is about to finish off a steak sandwich, his friend Bill (VK2WC) calls for a second one!



IMPROVED RADIO RECEPTION: (Using an Inductive Loop)

From VK2XU.

Have you ever wished you could vastly improve a weak or practically non-existent radio signal on your transistor radio? Then carry out this very simple and easy to make "inductive Loop" as an experiment - it will absolutely amaze you.

An Inductive Loop consists of a coil and a variable capacitor. When placed near the ferite rod aerial of a broadcast band radio, this device will dramatically improve reception.

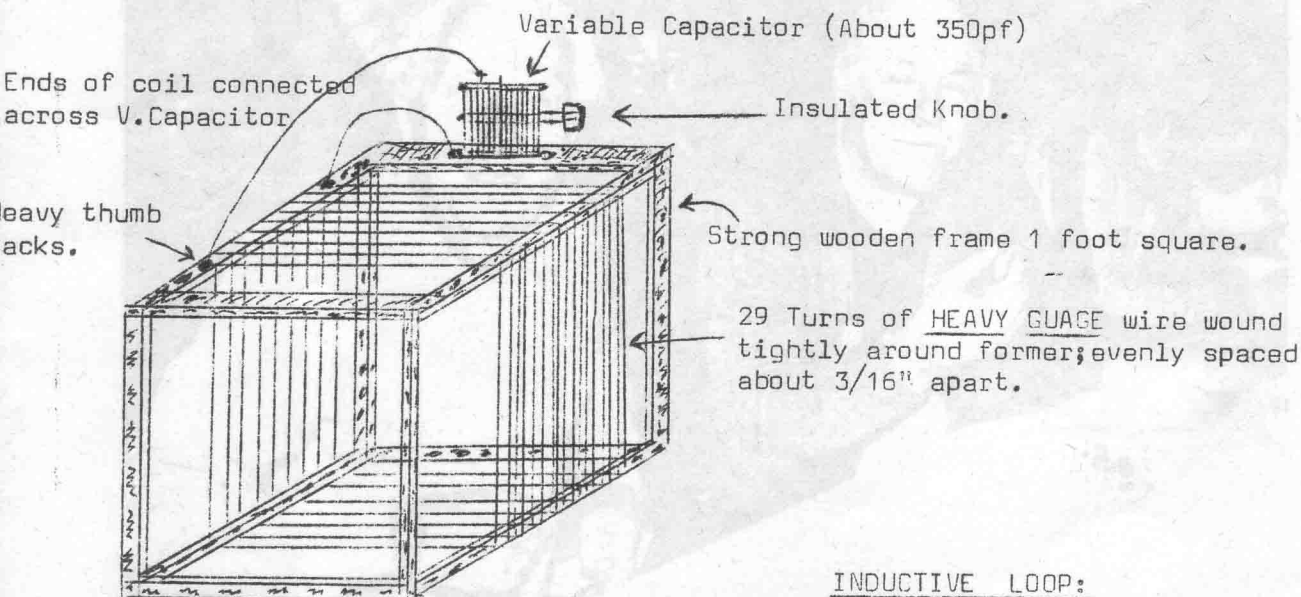
Construction:

- 1: Obtain or construct a wooden former that will accept about 4 feet of wire in one turn. A square box with sides of 1 foot is ideal.
- 2: Next, obtain about 117.5 feet of heavy guage wire.
- 3: Then dig out a variable capacitor of about 350 pf. An old H type two gang will do.
- 4: Now wind on 29 turns of wire around the wooden former. Space the turns evenly over a space of 6 to 9 inches. Secure each end of the wire under a large thumb tack to stop the wire from unwinding.
- 5: Now, mount your variable capacitor on to the wooden frame of the former, connecting it to the ends of the coil you have just wound. One end to the earthed frame of the variable capacitor and the other to the variable stator. Be sure and place an insulated knob on the shaft of the variable capacitor.

Operation:

Place your radio near the coil; select any weak signal, then tune loop capacitor to peak up the signal on your radio. Fantastic! Well worth the experiment!

For further reading on this topic; look up Wireless World - July, 1979.



INDUCTIVE LOOP:



A RARE PHOTO INDEED....IN FACT IT WAS TAKEN 2 YEARS AGO. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
VK2BXO (Rick) VK2ATM (Art) and VK2ZUM (Graham) busy checking CW contest papers.



TOP: VK2ZCV(Bill in cap) planning a sneaky Fox Hideout at Oxley Beach.

Below: Hettie O'Connell samples the afternoon tea she helped prepare; VK2LS(Lew, left) reckons its O.K., whilst Keith (VK2KDL) gives a shout to the rest of the boys.





TOP: Popular and regular visitor Lyle (VK2ZFI) walks off with another trophy whilst NSW WIA president Athol (VK2BAD) is about to collect.

BELOW: Well may "G" land have their two Ronnies; but there's plenty of laughs when VK2's two Lesters get together! (VK2KT) Lester from Taree proudly accepts CW runnerup trophy from (VK2BFP) Lester of Port Macquarie.



THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY:

Low SWR is not proof of a good quality antenna system or that it is efficient. Lower than normal SWR exhibited over a frequency range by a straight dipole or a vertical over ground is a clue to trouble, in the form of undesired loss resistance.

Ref: W. Maxwell. QST. June 1973.

AND...A THOUGHT FOR TOMORROW:

The radiator of an antenna system need not be of self resonant length for maximum resonant current flow; the feed line need not be of any particular length and a substantial mismatch at the line antenna junction will not prevent the radiator from absorbing all real power available at the junction.

Ref: W. Maxwell. QST. June 1973.

Tnx V_k2XU (Ian) for sending in the above thoughts!

SMILE AWHILE:

Paddy was driving at a pretty furious rate through the outer suburbs of Sydney, towing a very smart looking two-horse float.

The Highway Patrol picked him up and he was asked what the great hurry was all about.

"Tis me trainer who wants these two horses at Randwick for the first race and I'm runnin late!" The officer went back and had a look at the float; came back to Paddy and told him that the float was empty: no horses in the float at all.

Quick as an Irish flash Paddy replied: " He's a divil of a man, me trainer; sure and begorrah he's given me the two horses he scratched!"

SYMPATHY CORNER:

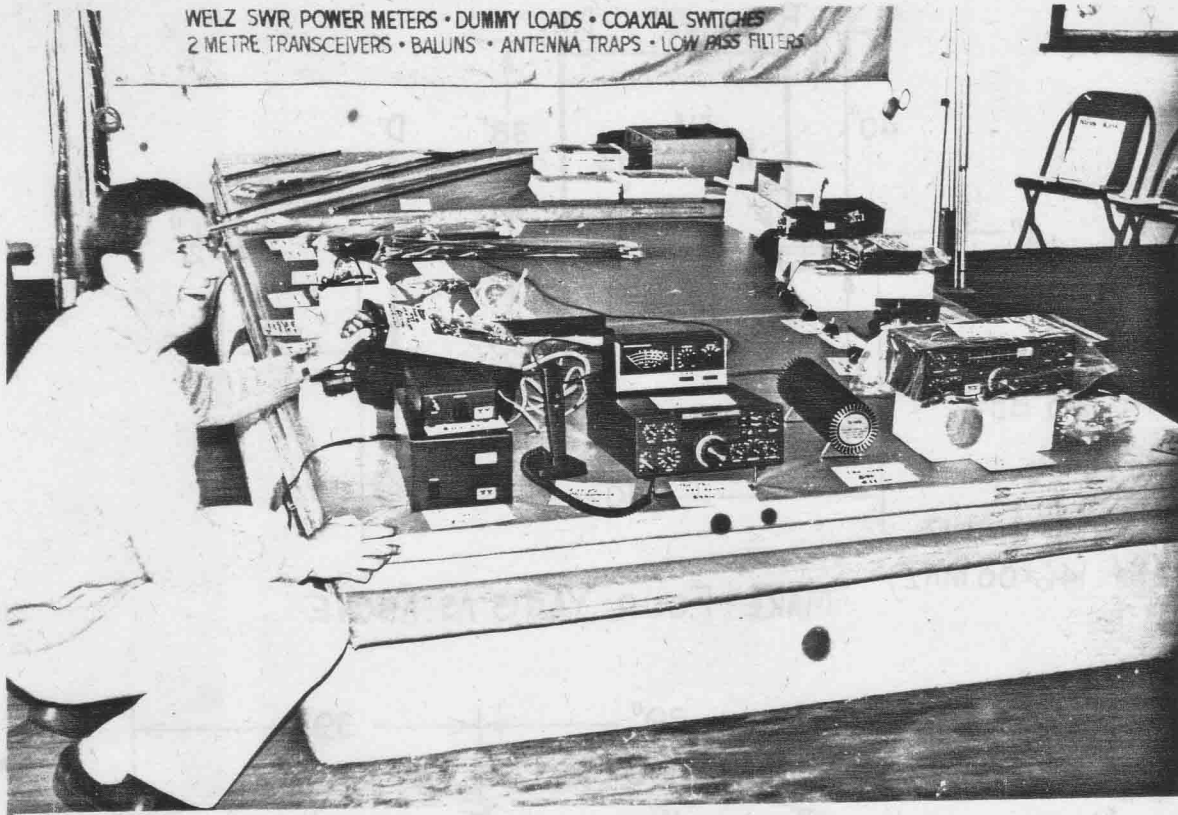
Sorry to learn that Bea (VK2BXD Rick's XYL) had a very nasty experience in a car mishap, not so long back. Saw Bea recently and with her usual beaming smile and wave of the hand; all seems O.K.

V_k2ZCV (Bill) took a slippery type fall resulting in a painfull chip coming off a place that's used a lot to sit down. One month or so later, Bill seems to have forgotten about it, but walks very carefully indeed!

Not to be outdone, Pam (Bill's charming XYL) did some damage to part of her landing gear. For some weeks now, with more to come, Pam has been using crutches for extra legs. Hope you got more sympathy than William, Pam and hope the full healing process will soon be over.

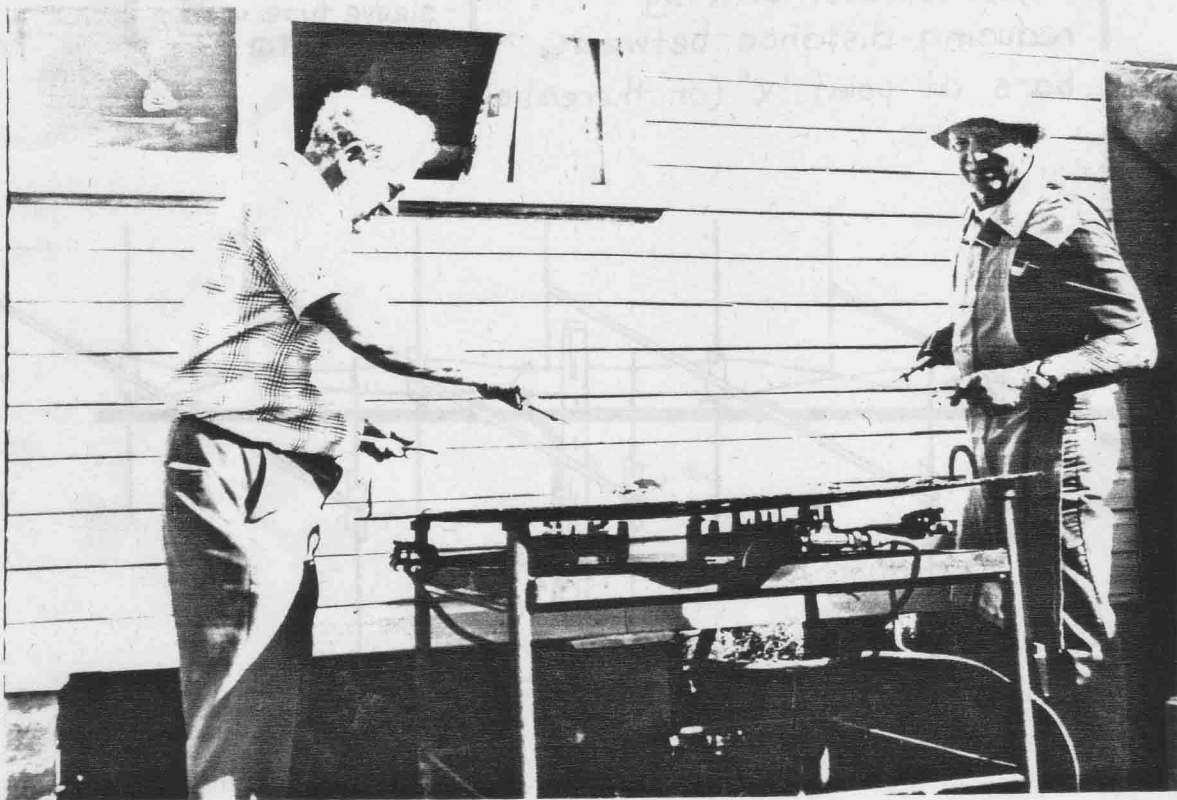
I've heard of some pretty way out experiments in my day; but when it comes to an attempt to cut a BAND in two, Pete's (VK2PA) effort takes the biscuit. Using a BAND saw recently, Pete came so very close to losing a few left hand CW fingers. As it was, he is minus a couple of finger nails, plus the nerve shattering experience of a saw blade coming so close. Painful, and not very amusing.

ANOTHER SMILE: What has a highly intellegent Irishman and a Dinosaur got in common? They are both very much extinct!

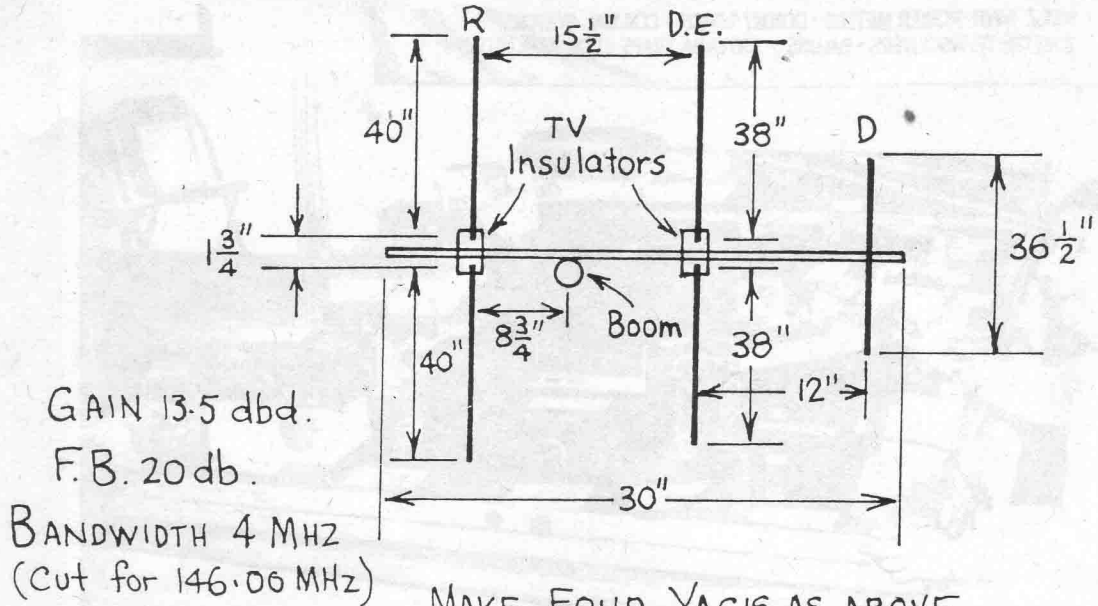


TOP: "Look, here lads! 75% discount!" (VK2DJP) Mike Kilpatrick proudly sets up his display of goodies from Scalar. Tnx Mike!

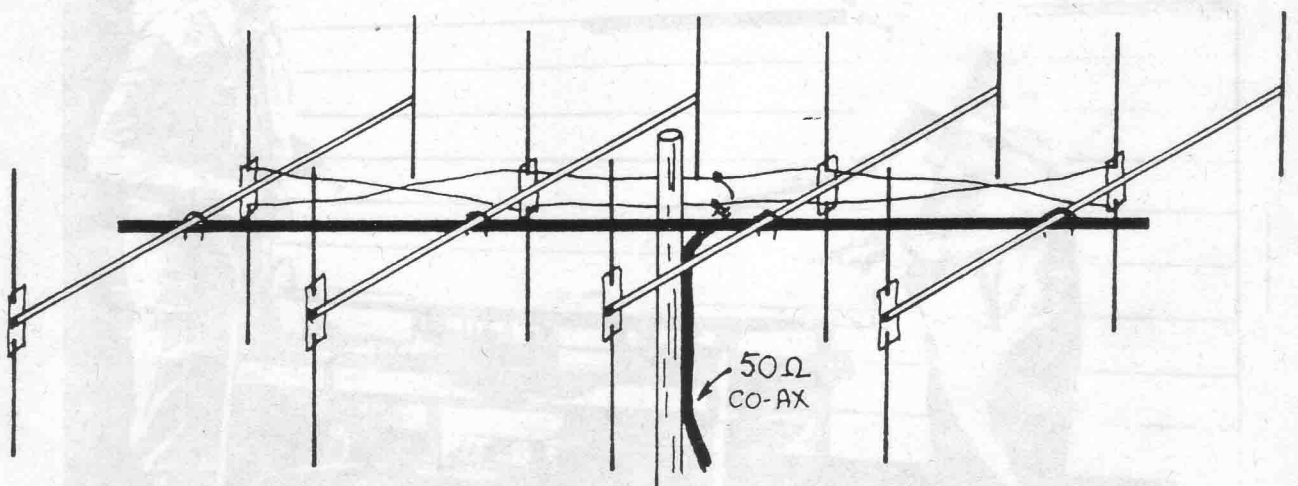
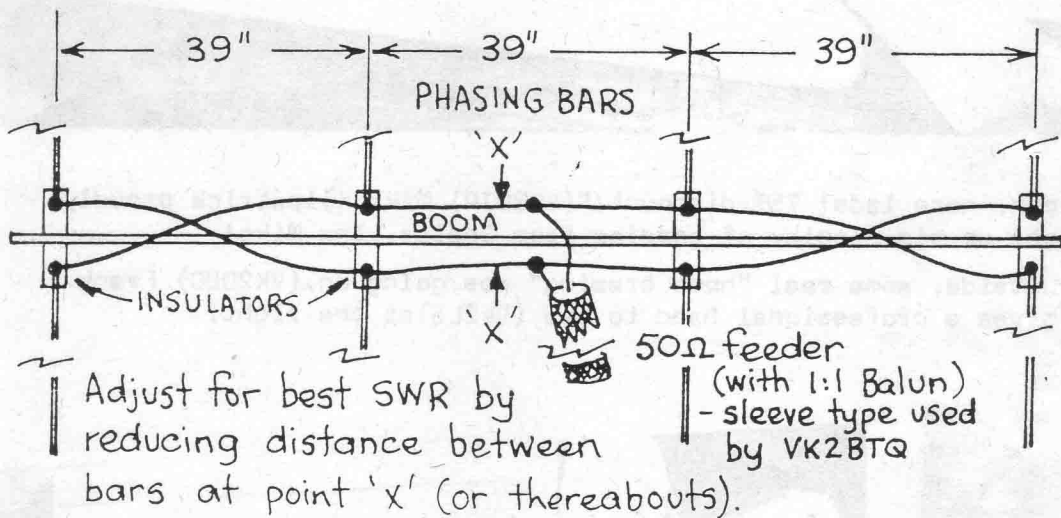
BELOW: Outside, some real "home brewing" was going on. (VK2DUG) Frank gives a professional hand to Lew (Vk2LS) at the right.



PHASED ARRAY AS USED BY VK2BTQ ON 2M.



MAKE FOUR YAGIS AS ABOVE





TOP: VK2BGF (Geoff) on the right, giving helpful advice on the Quizz paper.

BELOW: Quizz helping?? VK2BEK (Eric) has the right idea! He must have given the right info - Margaret (VK2DQG) took out first prize! That's her sitting next to casonova!



TRAVELLERS:

Frank (VK2DUG) and XYL Val, have just returned from a three month trip overseas. They took in the Continent - G land - Ireland, Scotland etc. Thanks for the great QSL cards Frank! Particularly the one from the Emerald Isle and the beautiful one from the Vatican! Glad you both enjoyed the experience.

Word has it that some school teachers are not so hot on knowledge of climatic conditions in other lands! Woolies and long johns for ZL land at this time of the year? Well, I suppose we will see a pretty slim looking VK2ADT and VK4ZC, also their XYL'S pretty soon. Hope the trip went off really well, Jack, Rita & Co.

WISDOM CORNER:

The best place for a "knocker" is outside the door!

Adam blamed Eve; Eve blamed the serpent and the serpent hadn't a leg to stand on!

Too many of us simply READ what we see; too few of us really SEE what we read!
RLOC.

When the One Great Scorer calls
To mark against your name
He marks: not if you lost or won
But how well you played the game!

ARTICLES:

In this edition of OXTALES, you will find a few helpful articles. Thanks to the members who found the time to contribute! Perhaps you have developed a canny idea - or - you may have come across an article in the many and varied publications available. Let us know and they will be gladly featured, to the benefit of this fascinating hobby, and to us as individuals. I had a few more, but time and frustration caught up - anyhow, more for next issue. Particularly, a ripper of a maths question; sharpen up the figure work boys!

FOR SALE: FOR EXCHANGE: WANTED:

ICOM IC701 -- Mint condition. \$.695:
COLLINS 75S-3 RX ...AM/SSB/CW Filters. \$425. Contact VK2SV.

(Let us know your wishes, it can all go in here as a service of mutual benefit.

IN CONCLUSION:

I trust you have enjoyed our Christmas Issue of Oxtales for 1981 - may I wish you a Happy and Holy family Christmas and may 1982 bring good health to us all; prosperity naturally follows. God Bless

Yours in Amateur Radio

Lester

(VK2BFP - Secretary & Ed.)