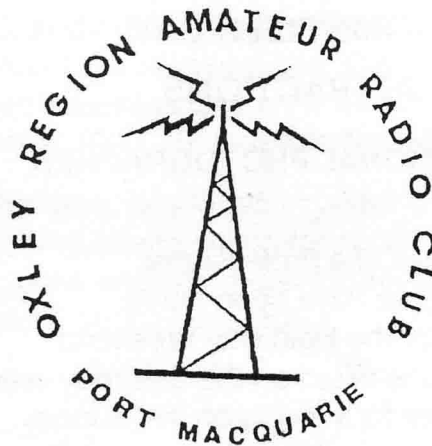


OXTALES NEWSLETTER 1991.

PORT MACQUARIE
FIELD DAY WEEKEND

SATURDAY, 8TH - SUNDAY, 9TH JUNE, 1991



This newsletter comes to you again this year together with the Annual Field Day weekend programme for June 8th and 9th 1991. Please treat it as a personal invitation to be present and participate in another enjoyable week-end at the now well-proven rendezvous in the Surf Club Pavilion on lovely Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie.

The pattern of our local weather has been such that, regardless of what the weather has been like during the preceding week, the Field Day Weekends, for many years now have seen us blessed with superb weather. (Jupiter Pluvius must now have his full call!). Let us hope that this year will be no exception.

The food arrangements for the Saturday evening nosh-up have been reorganised. Instead of the usual "smorgasbord" style meal, there will be Welcome Dinner. It will be a treat for those with a palate for Italian cuisine. Poppa Luigi Kenito Minestrone, known locally as Ken (VK2WKB) has shaken out the moths from his chef's uniform (which he received in a Christmas stocking in 1932) in readiness for his volunteered role of La Chef Supremo.

We are given to believe that his Minestrone is a delight to even the most critical palate, and his Pasta, with trimmings, is said to be out of this world (a little inaccessible to some). The sheer delight of the first two courses will be equalled only by the crusty bread, apple cassata (all washed down with tea, coffee & wine). These praises must be true, because we got the words, in essence, from Ken himself!. It should be a good nosh up. Don't miss it. There will be Lucky Door Prizes for the lucky diners at the Welcome Dinner.

There will be the usual barbecue luncheon on the Sunday, which is prepared as usual by the willing band of helpers under the tough task-master, Larry (VK2CLL). This gastronomic delight comes as part of the fringe benefits covered by your registration fee.



SOME FIELD DAY ATTRACTIONS.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER ON SITE.

The services of a Professional Photographer have been made available for the Field Day Weekend. Photographs taken on the Saturday will be available for viewing on the Sunday. There is no prize for guessing who the Photographer will be. No it is not Lenzio Shuttaire !

CAMEL RIDE(S).

Just a short way along Matthew Flinders Drive, south of the Surf Club Pavillion, one comes across the site of the famous Port Macquarie Camel Rides. And guess what Kids? One of the prizes for the children's "in-hall" competitions is Yes! You got it! ... a fairdinkum ride on a real live camel (real friendly too... none have the name of Saddam Hussein). Anybody ever worked "Camel-Mobile" ? Maybe there's an award ??

WHITE ELEPHANT STALL.

Ladies (and Gentlemen). Browse a while at the WHITE ELEPHANT Stall. You may find the precise item for which you have been searching for so long. The stall is to be stocked by donated pre-loved items for which there is no longer space worthy of their occupancy in the home. The stall will be operated by the local XYL's, all of whom have had special training in the bargaining aspects of modern day marketing. Bring your money with you. If you have any item(s), pre-loved (or post-hated) with which you would seek to part, (only to good, caring homes), then why not donate it to the organisers. Telephone Pat, (065) 84.0495 if you have any donations, please.

RAFFLES.

As usual, there will be two very worth while raffles. One is primarily designed to appeal to the technically minded, for use in the workshop. This prize is a Digital Multimeter "TESTMATE" Model 175A, Complete with Capacitance Meter and Frequency Counter. A worthwhile addition to any workshop, or toolkit. Tickets for this raffle are \$1.00 each.

Now for Raffelario Supremo! This one will ensure that XYL attendance will surpass previous years, and it is also of interest to the OM's who hold to the fashion of longer hair for gentleman. This raffle prize is A Hair Drier plus! It is not one of your stock-standard, common-garden, run-of-the-mill, off-the-shelf, EBGO, hair driers but..... it is described officially as:-

A Kambrook SILENT TURBO HAIR DRIER with Diffuser & Comb.
Plus
Lady Remington Smooth & Shapely Oscillating Nail Care System with File Magic.

Now I ask you. What XYL could do without such a powerful "get-beautiful-quick" kit such as described above? Besides..... all of the above can be put to good use in the shack for making PC boards. The oscillating nail care system works wonders when used to cut through copper tracks! Tickets are \$1.00 each.

Five (5) tickets in each of the above raffles have been included in the envelope. You may wish to purchase some, or sell some. Only butts returned with the appropriate amount of cash, will be included in the draw, at the venue on the Sunday afternoon, around 3.30p to 4.00p.

Tea and coffee, with bikkies, will be on tap throughout the two days, and of course are on the freebie list as usual.

Bring the family, join in the fun, and meet some old and new folks from the other end of the circuit.

See the programme sheets for registration fees.

See the last pages of this Newsletter for other attractions planned for the weekend.

NEW MEMBERS.

Throughout the year, the club's membership register experienced encouraging growth. New names and callsigns added to the ranks, in order of joining date, were:-

Patrick (VK2PPY), Snow (VK2DV), Stuart (VK2BYW), Tracey (VK2MTD)*, Warwick (VK2PWH)*, Bill (VK2MJZ)*, Steve Riley, Niel (VK2RD)*, Gary (VK2NOV)*, Michael Abbott, & Ken (VK2WKB).

(* indicates that either a new licence was acquired, or an existing one upgraded, following attendance at the club's internal training lectures and a resulting successful examination.)

ABOUT OUR CLUB.

Our club meets every Friday night in its rooms in the S.E.S. Hall, Bridge St., Port Macquarie.

Instruction in Radio Theory and Regulations is given in class by VK2CLL (Larry), and Morse training is conducted by our very capable and experienced instructor, Keith Hanlon. We are greatly indebted to these two enthusiastic instructors for their specialised tuition.

Our club is officially accredited by D.O.T.C. and holds the Question Bank for the A.O.C.P. examinations. Our first "devolved" examinations were held in September, 1990. (See details below).

Local students, and those in outlying districts, who intend sitting for such examinations and who need further information, should write to:-

The Secretary,

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club,

P.O. Box 712

PORT MACQUARIE. N.S.W. 2444.

CLUB LIBRARY.

The club library continues to grow with the addition of new handbooks. Loan time on books is restricted to one week, to assist in spreading the library benefits equally to all members.

THE CLUB STATION.

The club station, VK2BOR, located on the club premises, may be activated on HF and VHF and operated by members in accordance with regulatory procedures.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.

During the year we have carried out field exercises such as providing monitor stations at checkpoints in the forest for motor cycle rallies and horse endurance trials. The organisers of such events have been appreciative of the members efforts and have shown their gratitude to the club in the form of generous donations to assist in our continued activities.

The POTTIS

and Uncle Dick

By JIM RUSSELL



The POTTIS appears daily in the HERALD

SPEAKING OF EDUCATION . . .

Does This Ring a Bell?

EMPLOYER (*talking to prospective employee who is about to leave school*): Tell me how good you are at figures. How well can you add?

SCHOOL-LEAVER: I have explored addition for several years in different number bases and in different algebraic structures I have —

EMPLOYER (*interjecting*): That hardly answers my question.

SCHOOL-LEAVER: Well, I know that addition is commutative and associative. For example, I know that 5 plus 7 is the same as 7 plus 5 and that this property does not apply to all binary operators.

EMPLOYER (*wondering what goes on in schools these days*): Do you know the result of adding 5 and 7?

SCHOOL-LEAVER (*patiently*): No, it's not important. I could work it out; the principle is the same for all addition. My teacher, who recently left college, told us that techniques did not matter and that we should only bother with ideas.

EMPLOYER (*wondering what to say next*): Did anyone in your class learn to add?

SCHOOL-LEAVER: A few. Some boys did it as a special project, but not everyone. We could choose anything that interested us. We were encouraged to develop as individuals. Some decided to do no mathematics at all, others made patterns or played cards. The important thing is to be flexible and to understand what you are doing. It's hard to force anyone to do anything; it crushes their personality.

EMPLOYER (*having decided that, although the candidate is not quite what he requires, he may as well find out more*): When I was at school, we didn't make patterns. We used to do geometry with proofs. We had to learn by heart about 40 theorems. We had to work jolly hard; there was trouble if we didn't. In comparison you seem to have been to a sort of holiday camp. Didn't you do any real geometry?

SCHOOL-LEAVER: I did a little work on the isometrics of plane figures — things like reflections, rotations and translations. We

looked at the symmetries of flowers and wall paper patterns.

EMPLOYER (*by now visibly shaken and putting questions with the utmost caution*): Sounds a bit different to the geometry I did. Didn't you ever prove Pythagoras?

SCHOOL-LEAVER: My teacher said you could prove it with rotations but she didn't remember how it went, but in any case the important thing is the experience of playing with shapes. She often said that we ought always to remember the saying, "I do and I understand", and so we always did practical work. We discovered for ourselves and it was considered cheating to use any facts that we hadn't discovered ourselves.

EMPLOYER: Does that mean you didn't read much or do written exercises?

SCHOOL-LEAVER: Yes. Books are old-fashioned. We used television overhead projectors, teaching machines, 8 mm cinelopes, tape recorders, cameras, 35 mm slide projectors, structural apparatus, expanded polystyrene tiles and lots of other equipment. You soon get tired of books; they're so limited. The acquisition of techniques is bad. It clutters up the mind. Mathematics must be ongoing and purposive, not fossilised in books.

EMPLOYER (*wistfully*): We used to do algebra, too. I enjoyed manipulating symbols and solving quadratic equations. I'm sure it also gave me a better understanding of arithmetic.

SCHOOL-LEAVER (*condescendingly*): Of course, these days we look at lots of different kinds of algebras: Boolean algebra, vector algebra, group algebra, and so on. Algebra is just another name for structure.

EMPLOYER (*having decided to end the interview and looking through the papers in front of him*): You seem to have a very different schooling from the one I remember. I notice that you didn't fill in an application form, but telephoned my secretary for an interview. Can you tell me why?

SCHOOL-LEAVER: I can't read or write.

IRONMAN TRIATHLON.

Members of the club again participated in the massive communications effort in support of the running of the 1991 Nutri-metics IronMan Triathlon at Foster-Tuncurry on 14th April 1991. Eight of our members supported The Great Lakes Amateur Radio Club, the organising body for the communications network for this spectacular, world class event.

A large number of international competitors joined with local Australian athletes to make an initial entry total in excess of more than 600. A few dropped out before the start, but a lot more dropped out over the gruelling course!

Over 40 operating jobs, (Voice and Packet operation) were required to be covered to keep information flowing between checkpoints, aid stations, medical-mobile stations and the Triathlon Base station.

Special Packet-Radio software was available (architect Tony, VK2DHU) to streamline the recording and analysis of competitor's progress.

Participating Oxley Region members were :-

Ian (VK2XU) Medical Mobile
Graeme (VK2ZIS) Medical Mobile
John (VK2GJX) Aid Station
Ken (VK2WKB) Aid Station
Paul (VK2BZC) Packet
Tony (VK2DHU) Packet
Trevor (VK2TT) Aid Station

Despite the complexities of the massive task of organising so many stations to be adequately manned (or is it "peopled" these days ?), the smoothness and efficiency with which the communications were handled is a credit to all those who took part, particularly the organisers. Take Bow Dazza!

SUCCESSFUL INSTRUCTION CLASSES.

Our first real live "devolved" examination took place in September of 1990. The fruits of the labours of Larry (VK2CLL) and Keith Hanlon (Morse In structor) became visible with the success of five candidates out of the six attempting the examination. The unsuccessful candidate missed by only a whisker on that occasion, but fronted up again at the next available examination and brought home the bacon. Congratulations to all the new Novice calls, and those who took the step up to the Full Call.

SILENT KEY.

It is with sincere regret that we have to report the passing of one of our respected, popular and long standing members, Jack Hill (VK2ADT).

Jack was a foundation Trustee of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, and was an active and well known amateur within the Port Macquarie community. He gained his AOCP in 1936, and held the same callsign until his passing on 28th September, 1990.

He was an enthusiastic DXer, chalking up many thousands of QSO's throughout the world. Two consecutive years, 1947 & 1948 saw Jack landing the ARRL International DX competition, an award not easily won by the casual amateur!

Amongst Jack's more notable contacts are King Hussein of Jordan, and Marquis di Sicluna, Sicily. The latter dignitary actually QSL'ed the following day by medium of cablegram.

The amateur radio fraternity has lost another of its "achieving" members. His passing has left another void which will be difficult to fill.

A token of the Club Membership's sympathy has been extended to Jack's family.

SICK LIST.

As this Newsletter goes to print, we have to advise that Allan (VK2ALI) is on the sick list and has to have a bit of hospital treatment. All good wishes for a speedy recovery Allan, and BCNU at the Field Days.

RECOVERY LIST.

Our old buddy, Lewis (VK2LS) is coming along well after a stint in the repair shop. There is no truth in the rumour that Lewis is arranging with Paul (VK2BZC) to have a surgically implanted SO239 connected to that steel pin for use as a quarter wave for his hand-held. Lewis is quite happy with his 6 element Quad.

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1991

PRESIDENT

Charles Edmondson (VK2FSH)

VICE PRESIDENT

Arthur Monck (VK2ATM)

TREASURER

Kevin Coulter (VK2MAM)

SECRETARY

Ken Beck (VK2WKB)

COMMITTEE : Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV)

: Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU)

: Paul Webster (VK2BZC)

: John Bartlett (VK2GJX)

: Gerry Slade

DELEGATES : W.I.A. Henry Lundell (VK2ZHE)

: WICEN Vern Keena (VK2VLK)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY : Trevor Thatcher (VK2TT)

ASSISTANT TREASURER : Charles Edmondson (VK2FSH)

REPEATER COMMITTEE : Arthur Monck (VK2ATM)

: Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV)

: Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU)

PUBLICITY OFFICER : Graeme Greenwood (VK2ZIS)