



1992 OXTALES NEWSLETTER

PORT MACQUARIE
FIELD DAY WEEKEND

SATURDAY, 6TH - SUNDAY, 7TH JUNE 1992

Yes it is on again. We are perhaps a little later than usual in getting out this newsletter and programme, but this should only help to refresh the mind as it is a little closer to the event.

Organisers of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club's annual field day weekend, remind all interested amateurs, their families and friends, that planning which began in immediately after last year's event, is well down the track for this year's happening, scheduled for the Queen's Birthday Weekend, Saturday & Sunday, 6th/7th June, 1992.

The venue, as in the two previous years, will be the Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving Pavilion, in Matthew Flinders Drive, at Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie. This has proven to be an excellent site, allowing most events to take place with minimal discomfort should the weather be unkind.

The usual attractions for this fun event, which include the various Fox Hunts, quizzes, competitions (Homebrew contest, Radio Throwing - for YL's/

XYL's, Guess the Resonant Frequency, lucky door prizes etc.,) are again planned, with worthwhile Trophies.

Registration begins at 10.00am on the Saturday and at 9.00am Sunday for those attending on the Sunday only.

Registration Fees:
Full Weekend YL's/XYL's \$8, OM's \$12,
Family \$23.

Sunday only: \$6, \$8, and \$16 respectively.
- A barbecue luncheon on Sunday is included in the registration fees)

Tea, Coffee and Biscuits are provided free throughout both days, and a range of sandwiches will be available for purchase at the venue on Saturday, at reasonable prices.

Enquiries to the Secretary (Trevor, VK2TT, 065 85.2278), or the President (Tracy, VK2GTM, 065. 85.7061).
Written enquiries should be directed to
The Secretary, O.R.A.R.C., P.O. Box 712,
PORT MACQUARIE.)

CLUB JOTTINGS.

Congratulations to Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV on recently achieving the VK record of direct transfer of Packet on 2 metres.

The ex-Middle Brother TV equipment is slowly being sold off. It could be sold faster if a few members didn't want to haggle over h481 prices (Comment from 2AYD).

It has been said that Richard, VK2VHC is a dab hand at getting tractors out of bogs. Members should take note just in case they get bogged some time.....and Keith, VK2KDL has a knack of dropping pistons in Jackaroo's.

David, VK2AYD had a frustrating experience during the Commonwealth Contest last month. With every intention of winning (?), 5 hours into the contest the TS-930S driver transistors went phut. They couldn't stand the strain of David's CW keying. He is now looking for a KWM transceiver or a good transceiver with real old fashion valves that can stand the test. (Someone said he should follow Trevor Thatchers, VK2TT, idea and use the computer key board, perhaps his Morse would sound better).

We are given to understand that Tony, VK2DHU, will have some advice for caravanners when he returns from his current trip "up north". It is understood that the advice will be something to do with faulty sinks and/or taps in vans, and their resulting effects upon flooring materials in vans, if the occupant happens to be a heavy sleeper!!

It was pleasing to see Graeme (VK2ZIS) return unscathed, entire, and only mildly excited, from his very recent visit to the USA. He survived a shopping centre massacre at Phoenix, and dropped in for

a brief friendly chat to the folks in LA, but had fortunately high-tailed it out within a matter of hours of the ruckus getting into gear.

Charles, VK2FSH has taken up golf. He's having trouble keeping his head down, but the fish line and hook connected to the nose and other parts are having the desired effect.

Bill, VK2WST, is spending a lot of time on HF packet. Maybe we can use him as our overseas mail drop. Talking of packet, the gang has changed frequency from 147.575 to 144.775. Those with xtal controlled rigs have yet another expense.

WICEN has restructured and the Baton has been passed to Jeff, VK2BTU, from Vern, VK2VLK.

For those interested in Contests:

May 9/10 CQ-M CW/SSB

May 16/17 ARI Untl CW/SSB

May 30/31 WPX CW

June 20/21 AA CW

June 27/28 1.8 CW

July 11/12 IARU Championship

DATES YOU MUST REMEMBER:

These are our meeting schedules.

Every Friday night (Public Holidays excepted) there is a get-together at our current "Home", The S.E.S. Headquarters in Gordon Street, Port Macquarie. Members and visitors roll in around 7pm and onwards, for a chin-wag, ear-bashing, and erudite conversation (Take your pick!).

On the first Friday in each month, there is a Committee Meeting at which the club's management issues are addressed. Non-committee members are invited to attend these meetings and see their committee at work, and gain an insight to the dynamic management prowess of their elected committee.

INCORPORATION FOR O.R.A.R.C.

The membership's decision to become an incorporated association has been put into effect. The initial application for "Reservation of Name" has been lodged with the Business and Consumers Affairs. Following the receipt of an "all clear" response from the B & C A, our formal application will be lodged. It is hope that within the near future, we will be sporting those three letters "Inc." after our name, and enjoying the security which incorporation offers.

VISITOR'S NET ON VK2RPM (FM VOICE).

At the February Ordinary meeting, a decision was taken to introduce a "Visitor's Net" for the Oxley Region. The net is now conducted on our local 2 meter voice repeater VK2RPM (146.700 MHz with a -ve offset) at 8.00am local time on Sunday of each week. Approval has been granted by D.O.T.C. for the use of the Club Call Sign, VK2BOR, on this net. A roster system, involving eleven membership stations, to each act as net controller, has been approved by D.O.T.C.

So far the net has functioned well. One glitch came about as a result of one station operator miss-reading the roster and failing to turn up on frequency for his turn in the barrel. He shall remain unidentified, but it is worth noting that he was the author of the roster!!! (It takes two to TANGO TANGO).

WEEKLY 80 METER NET.

The AGM and February meetings heard valid comments regarding poor participation in the weekly 80 Meter SSB net, conducted on Wednesday nights at 8.00pm local (3.5975 MHz). For a club membership of up to 60 odd members

(some years) there has been a poor showing of members on this net. It was noted that there are about 6 regulars who support this net, with a few stragglers popping in from time to time. It is hoped that members (and any other amateurs) who are free at this time (assuming they have 80 Meter capability) might drop in to support this group of regulars and hopefully lift the club percentage above 10 % on a more regular basis.

OUR FUTURE HOME.

Our tireless committee is still expending effort to try and acquire a better home. To date there is no real positive indication that a solution is just around the corner, but there are several options being explored. All are more likely to have a longer term result rather than a short term, but at least there are some negotiations taking place, and an application pending which may see some good results.

One option involves a possible shared "headquarters" with the Hastings Community FM Radio Group Inc. Negotiations with that group have been encouraging, and a joint approach has been made to Council to "air" our proposal.

An application for a grant is still current, but at the time of going to press, the outcome is not known. However indications at this stage do not encourage thoughts of an early positive outcome.

TANDY REPRESENTED AT FIELD DAY.

Members and visitors intending to be present at our Field Day Weekend should note that Tandy Electronics will be represented at the venue.

Ordinary Quarterly meetings are held throughout the year, and the next Quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 3rd, 1992.

Another reminder!!! Don't forget the Field Day Weekend on Saturday/Sunday 6/7th June.

O.R.A.R.C. MEMBERS AT FORSTER-TUNCURRY TRIATHLON.

Seven members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club again participated in the international class Triathlon at Forster-Tuncurry on Sunday 3rd May, 1992. Don't get carried away; their participation was in the area of logistical support ... not as direct sporting competitors.

The event, The Nutrimetics IronMan Triathlon, well known in the sporting world, attracted over 700 competitors this year. It is an annual event which demands a massive human effort to organise and support the individual efforts of the competitors, to ensure their safety, comfort, and well-being, as well as to provide supervision of the rules, crowd, and traffic control.

Communications between the various Checkpoints, Aid Stations, Medical Mobile Stations and main control base, were accommodated by a team of Amateurs and Citizen Band Operators, utilising their personal radio equipment and computers. Communications links between twenty-one Aid Stations, 4 Medical Mobile Vehicles, and 16 Packet stations (providing digital links between computers) were established and staffed by the volunteers who came from as far away as Sydney.

The passing of information by voice, and digital modes, enabled officials and

organisers to maintain close control over the action on the entire course which stretched from Tuncurry to Tarbuck Bay, about 40km south of Forster.

The overall co-ordination of the communications team was undertaken by the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Club, under the leadership of Darryl Waldock (VK2DAZ).

The O.R.A.R.C. members who participated, were Richard Court (VK2VHC), Jeff Stephenson (VK2BTU), Tracy Dignum (VK2GTM), Bill Stofmeel (VK2WST, Graeme Greenwood (VK2ZIS), and Trevor Thatcher (VK2TT).

The satisfaction and sense of achievement from participation in this major annual community sporting event has regularly ensured that the organisers have a significant number of amateurs willing to return for the next Triathlon.

SILENT KEY.

The Amateur fraternity in general, and the O.R.A.R.C. in particular recently suffered a sad loss with the sudden and untimely passing of Col Pryce (VK2KQX).

Col was a well known and respected member of the club and the Hastings community. Recently Col became very active in the Packet scene, and was well on his way towards obtaining his "Full Call".

Col's popularity, and large circle of friends and family from within the district, were clearly demonstrated by the large gathering of those who attended to pay their last respects at his funeral service, at the Port Macquarie Crematorium. Many members of the O.R.A.R.C. were present.

VK2RPM ROSE NODE.

Packet enthusiast should note that work on setting up a VK2RPM Rose Switch is well advanced. Andrew, VK2WAC has conducted initial trials which have indicated that all equipment is functioning ok. However a prolonged confidence trial was thwarted by the unscheduled loss of the UHF facility at Lookout (VK2RLO). When that facility is restored, the confidence trial will be completed to ensure that all is well before the equipment is installed on Middle Brother.

HORSE ENDURANCE TRIAL COVERAGE.

The club has been approached by the organisers of local Endurance Rides to provide VHF communications between their checkpoints and base. There are two events for which our services are sought. One is at Kendall on Sunday June 28th, 1992, while the other is at Wauchope on 2nd August, 1992. Both events are based at their respective Showgrounds. At this stage, the precise numbers of stations required are not known, but if members wish to indicate their availability for these events, please contact Jeff (VK2BTU) who, as our new WICEN Regional Coordinator, is making arrangement for coverage, and perhaps will be able to make a WICEN exercise out of one or both of these events.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM "HAM"

Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called "HAMS" ? Well it goes something like this. The word "HAM" was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some

members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert Hyman, Bob Almay and Peggie Murray. At first they called their station Hyman-Almay-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision and they changed it to Hy-Al-Mu, using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from Hy-Al- Mu and a Mexican ship named "Myalmo", so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and identified their station as HAM. In the early pioneer and unregulated days of radio, amateur radio operators picked their own frequencies and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of Congressional committees in Washington and they gave much thought to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity in 1911.

Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulations Bill as the topic of his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed he sent for Mr. Hyman to appear before the committee.

Hyman was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station "HAM" was built and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they couldn't afford the license fees and other requirements which were set up in the bill.

The debate started and the little station "HAM" became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country that were

crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around.

Finally the bill got to the floor of congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station "HAM". That's how it all got started. You can find the whole story in the Congressional Records. Nationwide publicity identified the station "HAM"

with Amateurs. From that time to this and probably to the end of time, in radio, EVERY AMATEUR IS A HAM.

de VK2AYD

(From the Australian Branch of the RNARS "Signal" newsletter and believed to have originated from the Benecia A.R.C. "Log Book" June 89 via N6ERR).

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1992.

PRESIDENT	Tracy Dignum (VK2GTM)
VICE PRESIDENT	Charles Edmondson (VK2FSH)
TREASURER	Kevin Coulter (VK2MAM)
SECRETARY	Trevor Thatcher (VK2TT)
PUBLICITY OFFICER	David Pilley (VK2AYD)

COMMITTEE

Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV)	Arthur Monck (VK2ATM)	Bill Stofmeel (VK2WST)
Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU)	Larry Lindsay (VK2CLL)	

DELEGATES

WIA - Henry Lundell (VK2ZHE)	WICEN - Currently Vacant.
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Lewis Smith (VK2LS)

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Charles Edmondson (VK2FSH)

REPEATER COMMITTEE

Arthur Monck (VK2ATM) Bill Sinclair (VK2ZCV) Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU) Andrew Whalen (VK2WAC)

CLUB LIBRARIAN

Ian Dalrymple (VK2XU)

**OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.**

Tue. 5th May., 1992

	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	PH. NO.
1	PETER	ALEXANDER	VK2PA	ROLLANDS PLAINS	065 85.8254
2	KEN	BECK	VK4WKB	CALOUNDRA	
3	BOB	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.0592
4	BILL	CAVANAGH	VK2WC	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2130
5	CLIFF	COOPER	VK2VWC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.4630
6	KEVIN	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.8325
7	RICHARD	COURT	VK2VHC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.0218
8	NIEL	CUNNINGHAM	VK2RD	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.6380
9	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.9922
10	JIM	DANIELS		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.1933
11	MAX	DATSON	VK2GE	LAKE CATHIE	065 85.5732
12	TRACY	DIGNUM	VK2GTM	HERONS CREEK	065 85.7061
13	JOHN	DUNN	VK2VJD	LAURIETON	065 59.6596
14	CHARLES	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.0495
15	PAUL	GIBSON		WESTHAVEN	065 59.9513
16	BARRY	GILSON		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.8814
17	GRAEME	GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.4684
18	KEITH	HANLON		PORT MACQUARIE	
19	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	065 85.5349
20	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.1301
21	DAVID	JOHNSTON		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.7970
22	PETER	KUCERA	VK2MPK	WAUCHOPE	065 85.3406
23	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.2496
24	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	065 87.1155
25	TONY	LONSDALE	VK2DHU	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.0345
26	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	
27	KEITH	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	065 85.0321
28	JOHN	MCDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.0020
29	DOUG	MCDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.6157
30	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.5696
31	ARTHUR	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.1311
32	A	PERRY		PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.3960
33	DAVID	PILLEY	VK2AYD	VIA WAUCHOPE	065 85.2647
34	PAUL	ROMAINE		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.5736
35	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORTMACQUARIE	
36	ALAN	RYAN		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.2770
37	BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.0329
38	GERRY	SLADE		PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.0738
39	LEWIS	SMITH	VK2LS	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.0424
40	GEOFF	STEPHENSON	VK2BTU	WAUCHOPE	065 85.3991
41	WILLIAM	STOFMEEL	VK2WST	WAUCHOPE	065 85.3971
42	RODNEY	TAYLOR		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.7371
43	TREVOR	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2278
44	PAUL	WEBSTER	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.7553
45	ANDREW	WHALEN	<u>VK2WAC</u>	VIA GLADSTONE	065 65.4519
