



OXTALES NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1993

GENERAL MEETING

1300 Hrs (1 PM) SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 4

The next Quarterly General Meeting will be held at the S.E.S. building at 1 pm Saturday September 4. If you are unable to attend, please call with your apologies to our illustrious Secretary, Will Jamieson, VK2XXU, on 59 8622,

Under the rules of the Club, people who have been members for a period of 10 years and have reached the magic age of 85 and over will be given Life Membership. At this meeting we shall be presenting this Award to Bill Cavanagh, VK2WC. We hope you will be at the meeting.

THE FIELD DAY

Again a great weekend that was prepared and conducted by just a small number of our members and a vote of thanks to all those that assisted. Attendance was equal or better to last year and perhaps we have found the right venue at last.

The winner of the Port Macquarie Mayor Award for the most number of points accrued during the Fox Hunt contests was VK2WY. Winners of the Mens Raffle were VK2DGT, VK2WGH and VK2WAC. The Ladies Raffle was won by VK2KN, VK2WC and Marion Austin.

For those of you that read ARA, you would have no doubt read the editorial praise of our Field Day, saying it definitely is the most friendliest on the coast.

Next year the Queens Birthday will not be a Long Weekend, so, at the time of writing, there is a lot of review going on behind the scenes by the Committee as to what we should do. Come along to the Quarterly General Meeting and voice your views.

CLUB HISTORIAN

Our Vice President Charles, VK2FSH, has kindly offered to create a journal of the history of the club and has accepted the position as Historian. He urgently needs any material that you may have concerning the history of the club from its foundation. Would members please sort through their archives and let Charles have whatever you may have. He suggests you put it in an envelope and mark it with your name and indicate whether you want it returned. Charles will make photo-copies and return same.

RADIO SCOUTING

The next JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) is scheduled for Sunday October 17, from 0001 to 2359 local time. The Committee has suggested that as in previous years, equipment be operated from the various Scout Halls and not from homes. Would all members that can assist with this worthwhile day, please contact President Tracy, VK2GTM.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

PACKET

Activity on 2 metres continues to increase with many new stations coming on-line. The repeater, VK2RPM, certainly gets a big work out, not from just the district, but also from all over. VK2RPM is for use as a gateway to other areas. VK2RPM-1 is for digipeating locally. A few stations that could quite easily work direct are continuing to use the digipeater and in consequence it gets very congested.

If you can work the other station direct, why not QSY and move to say 144.825. (You can talk about the others then without them being able to read it.)! Also remember, everything you say through the repeater is monitored by dozens of Amateurs in the district so if you want to talk

about your love life, use another frequency. Also possibly some of you could cut your Beacon and ID times down to say once every 2 hours. Big Brother is monitoring.

Those who work HF will know only too well the clutter around 14,105, where stations all over the Pacific are pushing out ID's and Beacons. A Carrier Pidgeon could get a message through faster! Thank goodness for CW, it doesn't require repeats!

VOICE REPEATER

In spite of a few hic-ups it seems to be keeping alive and pro-viding communication between Taree and Kempsey. There are other moves afoot to have a repeater on Yarrahapinni and hopefully one day on Caincross.

Some of you may have heard the Scriptures being read over the repeater a few weeks back - has some one a Gateway we haven't heard about yet ?

HF BANDS

These have been pretty dead these past few months with 28 MHz only opening for an hour occassionally and then only to the USA West Coast. In contrast 7 MHz has had opening to South America and Europe as early as 3pm and there have been some excellent opening to South America on 3.5 MHz, but only lasting for about 15 to 30 minutes.

There has been a lot of talk about Amateurs using the frequencies for "commercial" purposes, especially at the top end of 14 MHz where international nets are held. Take a listen up there some- time, you'll be surprised. There was an excellent editorial in the July RSGB Bulletin headed "A Priviledge or a Right". I won't bore you with the text, but be assured it is a PRIVILEGE and we should respect and protect our frequencies.

BBQ BBQ BBQ BBQ BBQ

Our May BBQ held at the home of Peter Alexander, VK2PA, was a great success with over 50 people enjoying Peters hospitality. Many thanks Peter.

Our next BBQ will be a SAUSAGE SIZZLE on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18 AT 3 pm at the home of Bill Sinclair, VK2ZCV at 8 Astromers Terrace, PMQ. The sausages, bread, butter, sauce, cold slaw, coffee and tea will be provided by the Club. A meager charge of \$2 per person is being made to off-set the expenses.

There's a catch to this BBQ. As you all know, Bill was recently married and his new bride has given him marching orders to clean out the garage. If you have never seen inside Bill's garage, then you have missed a treat of a life time. It is full of all sorts of interesting radio goodies.

Everyone attending the BBQ has to take a goodie home with him... it could make for a fun day. If you fail to exit the garage and get completely lost, your next of kin will be advised after 24 hours.

If you fancy a Steak instead of Sausages please bring it with you and Bill will provide the fire!

You can of course also bring anything you want to get rid of (that is Amateur Radio). The proceeds of the day will go toward our Building Fund.

KLACKERS

As you may have read in the local News papers earlier in the month, or seen the happenings on NBN News TV, Trevor, VK2TT and David, VK2AYD have been having fun restoring the early Telegraph system at Timbertown. They are now both committed to dress-up in historical clothing and send messages to each other from Timbertown Railway Station to Timbertown

Post Office on special occasions. The equipment is early 1900 or late 1800's and is authentic. Instead of a buzzer or tone, it has the original Sounder Box which is a thumping big relay in a box that makes clinkety-clack noises. They desperately need operators and, with the large pool of very ancient telegraphists in our district, they hope that some of you out there **THAT CAN READ A SOUND BOX** would like to volunteer your services. The editorial in the papers produced an interesting response from a few WW II veterans, Navy, Army and Air Force as well as a few old "Posties". Unfortunately very few of the veterans knew what a **SOUND BOX** was !

IS AMATEUR RADIO SAFE?

The safety of radio transmitting devices has been much in the news lately. Although most of the recent emphasis has been on portable cellular telephones and their radiation effects, what about us Radio Amateurs ? Are you aware of the dangers you can encounter with RF radiation and the potential effects on our health ?

Some of us, now past 3 score years have been Amateurs since we were in our teens. In those days we built big open transmitters with large tubes, big coils and RF everywhere, yet it can be argued we are still here! But lets not be over confident, most of us at this age are suffering from the **CRAFT** disease. (**Can't Remember A Flippin' Thing**). Was this the bye-product of RF?!

It has not been conclusive that RF fields can be linked to health problems, but at least we should be cautious. Here are some guidelines from May '93 QST.

- * When using an indoor or attic antenna, limit your output power. Keep the antenna as far away as possible from yourself and others.
- * Don't operate RF amplifiers, especially at VHF or UHF, with the covers removed.
- * If operating VHF/UHF mobile at power levels greater than 25 watts, remember that the roof-mounted antenna exposes the occupants to less RF than those mounted on the rear deck.

- * With handheld transceivers, maintain an inch (25mm) or more between your forehead and the antenna. Keep the antenna tip away from your head.

TOUCH LAMPS & MOVEMENT DETECTORS

They seem to be available from every electrical store now-a-days. But be warned, they can become a hazards to the Radio Amateur. Your scribe has Movement Detectors on the outside of the house which are great to light up the drive way when you arrive home late at night. Unfortunately they also react to RF and as soon as I transmit over 75 watts on HF, my outside lights come on!

As yet I haven't found a cure, other than just switching them off which is very necessary when operating in a contest. (No, they do not follow the morse code that is being sent - they just stay on for the required time that they were set for). Like-wise some Touch Lamps are also RF sensitive. They use a chip such as an AMI 8528 MBU and seem to react to low frequencies such as 3.5 Mhz. Again it usually takes RF power around the 100w level to trigger them. They have a small pcb inside and replacing the 100 ohm resistor with a mini choke will eliminate the problem. Do you have any RF experiences at home you can pass on to the members ?

NEW TRANSMISSION MODES

Its only 40 years ago that your scribe was building his first SSB phasing rig and then graduated to a crystal filter type. Back in the 50's everyone called it "Donald Duck" and the "oldies" said it would never take off. Now 40 years later, you cannot find an AM station on the Amateur Bands.

About 12 years ago **PACKET** was born and we built large TNC's and Modems. I remember the first VK/ZL 20 metre QSO (using 1200 baud). Great excitement in the camp. Now just about everyone that has a computer has a TNC attached to his computer. Most of these are multi-functional capable of CW, RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR, SSTV and **PACKET**. Where to next.

If you listen on the HF bands you can hear strange noises that resemble none of the above and they are not from outer space.

PacTOR is perhaps the most well known of the new systems. This was developed by two German hams, Hans-Peter Helfert (DL6MAA) and Ulrich Strate (DF4KV). They combined the capabilities of PACKET with AMTOR and with their data-compression techniques allow you to increase the amount of data transmitted by a multiple as high as four. Most new TNC's being offered in the market place today has PacTOR capabilities.

I'm told there is a new modulation technique called CLOVER about to be unleashed on the market. Yet another challenge.

HAM FESTERS

The following is a synopsis of an article written by Anne Apteryx WING/7 from May '93 QST. She has related them to bird species!

PURPLE DEALHUNTER (*Hunticus bargainicus*). Common specie. Not sure want he wants but looks for the best deal and buys it whether or not he can use it.

WANDERING BUYNOTHING (*Optex nonpurchasicus*). Visits every table and carefully inspects everything but never finds what he's looking for.

GREAT BLUE WHOOPER (*Experticus verbalus*). Easily identified by its call: "I had one of those!" These species makes life miserable for both types of vendoricus species driving away the rare Green Backed Spendalot.


LESSER CHEAPSKATE (*Pricens reducensis*). Found in large numbers. Always trying to get vendoricus to sell at a lower price.

NORTHERN FACEFEEDER (*Munchus constanticans*) Usually found around the food. They are easily identified, talking with their mouths full, or wiping their hands on their pants.

YELLOW-SHAFTED SAPSUCKER (*Vendoricus exptropicus*). Always only has one item for sale. Hard to spot as leaves as soon as deal made.

How's that for some thoughts, there were more....!

Simplified Tax Return

 FORM S		1986 INCOME TAX RETURN SALARY AND WAGES ETC. 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993	
		Your Social Security Number	
Income			
1. How much money did you make last year?.....▶		()	()
2. Send it in.....▶		()	()