



OXTALES

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.
PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

April 1994

Compiled by VK2AYD

PRESIDENT: David Smith VK2DAL 85.1004
VICE PRES.: Charles Edmondson VK2FSH 84.0495
TREASURER: Richard Court VK2CHC 85.26471007
SECRETARY: David Pilley VK2AYD 85.23792647

The Past Two Months

From the numerous pages of minutes I have made over the past two months, our club has been really active.

Firstly, our congratulations to Ray, VK2RWM and Col, VK2GMD for the work they did at Gosford helping the WICEN and the Bush Fire Fighters. Well done. Secondly, a warm welcome to Sam Griffiths and Leo McPherson, VK2CLM who recently joined us.

Most Friday evenings have been dedicated to something or the other and not just the fruitless chit-chat. In February Richard, VK2CHC gave a talk on WICEN and some of the attributes. WICEN is still in desperate need of members.

March was a busy month. Bill, VK2ZCV, gave a very interesting talk on Repeaters and Arthur,

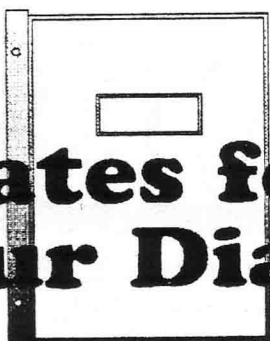
VK2ATM organised the John Moyle Field Day which was held on North Brother Mountain. This was a great day out with 12 of our members operating Portable on HF, VHF and UHF bands.

Tracy, VK2GTM, brought the club BBQ and, if we didn't work any big DX, we all enjoyed the sausage sizzle. I think our best DX was Bolivia on 20 metres.

Our President, David, VK2DAL, organised the manufacture of a club Banner, so we can now proudly display this at any functions we attend.

Our thanks to Jack, VK2KN for his kind donation to the club of a Marconi Signal Generator and miscellaneous gear, and to Lew, VK2LS for the magazines, loud-speakers and sundry electronic parts. We currently have Tracy VK2GTM cataloging our "assets".

The next 2 months has a full diary of talks and events and we hope you will be able to attend.



Dates for your Diary

APRIL

Friday 29th Radio Propagation
VK2FSH

MAY

Friday 6th Aerial and
Transmission Lines VK2XU

Aerial Tuning Units VK2AYD

Friday 13th Transformers, Power
Supplies and Batteries. VK2FSH

Friday 20th PACKET (Basics to
Advanced) VK2DHU

Friday 27th: QSL Cards T.B.A.

JUNE

Friday 3th Flying Colin Terry

Saturday 4th QUARTERLY
GENERAL MEETING 13:30

Followed by a talk by John Howard
(VK2AMH) WICEN State
Co-ordinator, on WICEN.

Friday 10th Field Day finalisation

Sunday 12th FIELD DAY (Port
Macquarie Scout Hall)

Friday 17th Post Field Day
discussion

Friday 24th Awards and Contests
VK2AYD

John Moyle Field Day

This was our first attempt for many years to set up a Portable operation on North Brother Mountain. The weather forecast said rain, but it appears someone in the Club has a friend in high places as the weather held fine right throughout the event although toward the end it got rather chilly.

Call signs seen throughout the day included VK2's UA, LS, DX, AJJ, ATM, AYD, CHC, DAL, GTM, KDL, UPR, WRM.

Although kick-off time was set for 12 midday, we decided to be on-site by 10 am. This would give time for those who hadn't experienced a Field Day before to get a feel of the problems and see the old hands set up their equipment.

Keith, VK2KDL, was first up and running. With the help of his trusty bow and arrow, he strung up a dipole around 6-8 metres high and was soon checking 40 metres out.

David, VK2AYD, put up a Hustler 6BTV all band vertical which was connected to the station of Ray, VK2WRM. They decided to operate on 20/15/10 which were in a pretty dead state.

Arthur, VK2ATM, besides operating the 70 cm station, also provided a portable generator which unfortunately decided to give up after a couple of hours operation.

Luckily, Tracy, VK2GTM, had brought his 12v generator set so power was quickly restored to those that needed it. Tracy operated the 2 metres station.

Paul, VK2UPR, found his battery was a duffer, but with the help of David, VK2DAL, they set up a 80 metre station using a long wire. It worked great, but the mosquito's in that area were getting overly excited about all this new blood that was available! Davids Long Wire must have worked well as they worked into Bolvia on 20 metres after VK2RWM had closed down. Our new BBQ worked well and many snags and steaks were turned to charcoal on it.

David, VK2AYD, was perhaps the most unlucky person of the day. Believing that everything happens in 3's, he proved it ! Firstly he backed his car out of his garage with the car back door still open and put a very large dent in the side of the car. Whilst setting up his Electronic Keying system he blew the power diode and then to top it all his lunch

fell off the table. He assures us that since getting these 3 things off his slate, life is now perfect again! In all, a great day. Next year we may even try to win it !

Result: 276 points.

Building Projects

Did you know the club members that attend on Friday night are building DF attachments for their 2m Hand-helds. We'll be having our own Fox Hunts soon. Bob, VK2XIQ kindly manufactured the PCB's and Bill, VK2ZCV organised the components. So as to have good "class-room" facilities, they built their DF attachments at Wauchope High School under the watchful eye of Larry, VK2CLL.

If you have an idea for a building project, please let our President, VK2DAL, know. We urgently need your input.

FOR SALE

80ft 4 section wind-up triangular tower. Tilt Base mount. Winch cable. All in good condition.
\$500.00

Call Mrs Caine
Home 59 4537 Work 85 2069

The Field Day

YES IT'S ON! Its scheduled for Saturday and Sunday 11/12 June and will be held at the Port Macquarie new Scout Hall located on the water front between the Country Comfort Motel and Westport Bowling Club. We'll be open for pre-registration at 3 pm on the Saturday and will carry out non-competative Fox Hunts so that visitors can get a feel of the town. This will be followed in the evening by a social and dinner.

Sunday is of course the big day and the doors will open at 9 am. At the time of going to press we are not sure will be attending from the trade world. But be assured there will be a good showing of S... Packet and other communication systems on display.

There will be the usual Junk (sorry - Bring and Buy) stalls. Now is the time to bring along those things you don't want any more and invest in something just as useless.

Details of the Field Day will be circulated to Club Members nearer the day.

The Co-Ordinator is Col Belinger, VK2GMD, who should be contacted should you have any questions

One Feeder - Four Antennas

de VK2AYD

I recently purchased a Ameritron RCS-4 Remote Coax Switch. This is a system where a signal is passed down the main coax cable so that you can select any one of 4 remote antenna's. No control wires are needed and you have just one co-ax cable coming into the shack.

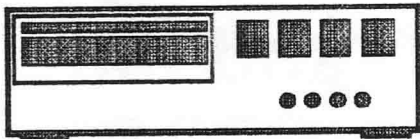
I've been using it in the HF contest recently and find it great for quick selection of antenna's. I have no tuning unit for any of my 80 through 10 metre antenna's as they are pre-matched to the 50 ohm impedance main feed line. However I do have a remote tuner for the 160 metre band which is normally pre-tuned to 1.82 MHz approx. for CW working.

Have you purchased a new piece of equipment we can write about ?

Thatch's Whip

*A pretty YL on a ship,
Liked to QSO on her trip,
But while QRP,
She found Thatch had her key,
And he showed her his quarter
wave whip.*

VCR



TW1

de VK2AYD

Over the summer holidays we had the Grandchildren visiting so I was plagued with the cry "Grandad, can I(I must write a book on these cries)!"

However, one Saturday evening they decided they wanted to watch a video and Grandad wanted to have a go at the Japanese Low Band CW DX Contest. (I won the VK section last year). Calimity. With the VCR operating, as soon as I touched the key of the transmitter away went the TV picture. Even removing the TV antenna from the VCR made no difference, it was a black out. After a brief debate a compromise was reached - one hour video - one hour for Grandad !

A cure was necessary. In the December RSGB Rad-Com was a simple circuit called a "Braid-Breaker". I picked up the bits from D.S. and built it. (Cost

under \$4). Eureka! No problems - providing the TV antenna was not connected to the VCR. With it connected their was slight patterning, enough to be annoying, so I built a second "Braid-Breaker" for the TV down lead and now a clear picture. However, on the UHF (750 MHz) there is some slight attenuation, but not sufficient to notice.

The circuit is available from VK2AYD who can be contacted at the club on a Friday evening.

Component Codes

Ever been confused with the markings on the small capacitors ? The old-timers will remember Farads and micro-Farads and if a capacitor was marked ".001" they knew it meant .001 Micro-Farads. But today they have strange numbers. (Why ? Is this work of big-brother trying to confuse the old and confound the young).

For example: A capacitor marked "104" or "100n" or "0u1" all mean the same thing. It means 100,000 pico-Farad, which is 100 nano-Farad, which is 0.1 micro-Farad. (Still with me?).

"n" or "nano", is 1,000 pico-Farad and u is still micro-Farads.

"104" means 10 followed by 4 zero's and read in pico-Farads. So "331" would mean 330pF. "n33" would also be the same.

Even resistors have changed. The chip-type are marked with a 3 digit code. For example: "220" would mean 22 Ohms (and you thought it was 220 Ohms). "102" would mean 1,000 Ohms. "473" is 47,000 Ohms.

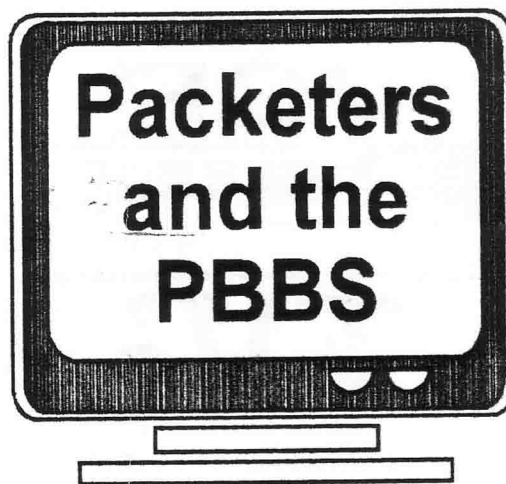
Small RF Chokes are similarly marked. A marking "1u5" means 1.5 micro-Henry. And you thought the change to decimal currency was hard....!

You can find a lot of information on this in the back of the Dick Smith catalogue.

Now what is a "n33" again ?

FOR SALE

If you have anything for sale and would like to include it in "*Oxtales*", please get it to the Secretary before June 12.



The frequency 144.875 MHz is certainly getting crowded. Some evenings its difficult to maintain a sane QSO with the delays waiting for your packet to be transmitted or received.

It has been suggested that we consider using an alternative frequency such as 147.575 MHz for local working. The reason for moving so high into the band is that at this frequency Arthur, VK2ATM, can put another transceiver onto the PBBS without de-sensing the existing transceiver. Yes, its outside the WIA band-plan, but then who locally uses the frequency? It wouldn't cause any interference to stations outside the Hastings area and we could operate into the PBBS and amongst ourselves in peace !

Do you know how to use VK2ATM-1 PBBS or our Digipeater VK2RPM?

Arthur, VK2ATM, gave a very good talk on this last month. He gave those who attended a list of commands. For example, if you want to read all the messages on the PBBS addressed to members of the O.R.A.R.C., you type L> ORARCS (Ent).

If you do receive messages via the PBBS and are not on automatic forwarding, don't forget to kill the message after you have read it.

It is hoped that in July we can get Paul, VK2BZC, to give us a talk on VK2RPM and how to connect to other stations around Australia.

Not Pi in the Sky

Pi, an important value which occurs so frequently in electronics formulae, was traditionally regarded as an irrational number. Computers have finally solved the puzzle and discovered that "pi" has a finite number of decimal places. It ends at the 2,075,932,542,102nd place.

The discovery was recently made at the Advanced Computer Numerics Foundation in Colorado USA.

So the next time you're calculating a resonant frequency and you want a really accurate result why not go all the way, to the two trillionth decimal place.

The Club Nets

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE HF GROUP? THERE USE TO BE 8 OR MORE STATIONS ON THE WEDNESDAY NET - NOW ITS DOWN TO 2 OR 3. IT CAN'T BE THE TV MOVIES BECAUSE THEY DON'T START UNTIL 8.30.

SO HOW ABOUT JOINING THE NET?

Every Wednesday evenings at 8 pm on 3597.5 KHz

Every ^{Sunday}~~Saturday~~ morning on 146.7 MHz (2 metre repeater) at 8 am.

Positions Vacant

We are still in need of a
Publicity Officer.
A volunteer please.

**OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
MEMBERS AT APRIL 10, 1994**

1	PETER ALEXANDER	VK2PA	ROLLANDS PLAINS	065 85 8254
2	KEN BECK	VK4WKB	CALOUNDRA	
3	COLIN BELLINGER	VK2GMD	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3803
4	BOB BLYTH	VK2XIQ	TELEGRAPH POINT	
5	KEN BROWN	VK2AJJ	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1738
6	BILL CAVANAGH	VK2WC	WAUCHOPE	065 85 2130
7	CLIFF COOPER	VK2KVR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 4630
8	KEVIN COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 8325
9	RICHARD COURT	VK2CHC	WAUCHOPE	065 86 1007
10	PETER COX	VK2TCI	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 1236
11	IAN DALRYMPLE	VK2UA	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 9922
12	JIM DANIELS		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1933
13	MAX DATSON	VK2GE	LAKE CATHIE	065 85 5732
14	TRACY DIGNUM	VK2GTM	HERONS CREEK	065 85 7061
15	CHARLES EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 0495
16	BADEN GLEESON		BANORA POINT	075 24 8577
17	LEWIS GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 9162
18	GRAEME GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 4684
19	SAM GRIFFITHS	TAREE		065 52 3149
20	KEITH HANLON		PORT MACQUARIE	
21	PETER HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	065 85 5349
22	SNOW HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 7095
23	WILL JAMIESON	VK2XXU	DUNBOGAN	065 59 8622
24	JOHN JONES	VK2DX	JOHNS RIVER	065 56 5038
25	ANDY KEIR	VK2AAK	BARRAGANYATTI	
26	HORST KOPPEL		LAKE CATHIE	065 85 5992
27	PETER KUCERA	VK2MPK	WAUCHOPE	065 85 3406
28	ANDRIAN LEVI		WAUCHOPE	065 85 2040
29	JACK LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 2496
30	LARRY LINDSAY	VK2CLL	BAGNOO	065 87 1155
31	HENRY LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	
32	KEITH LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	065 85 0321
33	DOUG McDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 6157
34	JIM McINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 5696
35	LEO McPHERSON	VK2CLM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3183
36	TERRY MEEHAM	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 2737
37	ARTHUR MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1311
38	RAY MULLINS	VK2WRM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 0685
39	ARTHUR PERRY		PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3960
40	DAVID PILLEY	VK2AYD	WAUCHOPE	065 85 2647
41	PAUL ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 1830
42	BILL SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 0329
43	GERRY SLADE		PORT MACQUARIE	
44	LEWIS SMITH	VK2LS	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 0424
45	DAVID SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	065 85 1004
46	TREVOR THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	065 85 2278
49	COL TERRY	VK2VQT	PORT MACQUARIE	
50	PAUL WEBSTER	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3377
51	RONALD WYLES		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 5297