



# OXTALES

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

## June 1995

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: David Smith VK2DAL 85.1004  
VICE PRES.: Arthur Monck VK2ATM 83.1311  
TREASURER: John McDonagh VK2VY 82.0020  
SECRETARY: David Pilley VK2AYD 85.2647

## President's Report

*"Imagination is more important than knowledge." (Albert Einstein.)*

Well, we are half way through the year again and the Club does not appear to be enthusing it's members any more than it did two months ago. Our Field day has now been abandoned for this year due to there not being anyone who was willing to put in the effort which is required to be the Co-ordinator. As you will know by now, Kempsey Amateur Radio Club will be, or has by the time that you get this bulletin, held their Field Day on the 10th June, and we certainly hope that our members support it.

With our AGM now only about six months or so away, now is the time that you should be considering the future of the Club and looking to a new Executive Committee. We must get people into these positions who, as Albert Einstein said, have imagination as their prime attribute. Your current executive has just

about had enough, we are performing a caretaker role and are most certainly in damage control mode so far as the Club is concerned.

This is no good for the future of the Club and certainly no good for us. The remedy is in your hands if we are to survive as a viable organisation rather than a Club in name only.

## In This Issue:

President's Report	Page 1
Red Faces	Page 2
Packet Prattle	Page 2
June BBQ	Page 3
E.M.I.	Page 3
Circular Mils	Page 3
New Call VK2MOQ	Page 3
Clothes Pegs	Page 4
Marconi Day	Page 4
Japan Earthquake	Page 4
Satellite News	Page 4
Cost of a Licence	Page 4
Computer RFI	Page 5
CB Radio	Page 5
Internet	Page 5
Bovine Meanderings	Page 6
Packet Racket	Page 6
Good Old CW	Page 6
Visit to VK6-Land	Page 6
Oxtales Content	Page 7
Membership Subs	Page 8
Club Official in Sex Scandal	Page 9

Memberships are due for renewal by the 30th June 1995, and, as we are not now having a Field Day this year, the fees are now our sole source of income. We have recurrent annual costs such as Licence fees, incorporation costs, Insurance, rent etc. which still have to be met, so if you haven't already done so, please fill in the membership renewal form at the back of this bulletin and either remit it with payment of the \$15 annual fee to P.O. Box 712, Port Macquarie, or, bring it with you to one of the June meetings.

Our Equipment Officer has been carrying out a stocktake of our library and other equipment and there are many items of equipment, some of it major, missing. Some equipment is shown as on loan to members for varying lengths of time extending up to years. Any member who has any club property, would they please contact the Equipment Officer (VK2FSH) and arrange to return it to the club.

As from now there will be a maximum loan period on all library and other equipment of 30 days. Renewals of the loan may be obtained, provided someone else is not waiting on it, by bringing it to a meeting and having the loan extended after sighting of the gear by the Equipment Officer or person nominated by him.

The Committee have also reluctantly decided that, because of the tardiness of members in returning borrowed equipment, a system of fines will now come into operation for the late return of equipment. These will be \$1 per month for library and \$5 per month for other equipment.

So, as the Captain of the Titanic said "Don't judge those who try and fail, judge only those who fail to try."

*73's de VK2DAL.*

## **ERRATA - RED FACE ITEM**

It is with red-faced regret that we discovered too late, a serious Boo Boo in our last issue of "OXTALES". The item which gave notice of the Kempsey ARC "Boot Sale", announced the wrong month!!! On behalf of the several volunteers who work furiously to get "OXTALES" on the street in an accurate presentation, we apologise to readers, and particularly to the organisers of the "Boot Sale" for this unfortunate oversight. The date of the boot sale is really **SATURDAY, JUNE 10th**. Please adjust your social/hobby calendars accordingly, and we hope that our error will in no way detract from the success of the day. Please note, that this issue of "OXTALES" has been rushed through ahead of its scheduled distribution date, to ensure that it hits the streets BEFORE that important date.

## **PACKET PRATTLE**

If you were at the May monthly meeting of the club you will be aware of the concern that was expressed regarding the use of VK2RPM as a highway for BBS traffic between Taree and Coffs Harbour. Letters were sent to various people requesting that they program their equipment so that this traffic would only be sent after midnight.

As a result of these letters, there has been a request that further discussion be held regarding this matter, so, it is proposed to

devote part of the Club meeting on the 21st July, 1995 to this matter and any other matters concerning the use of the packet network.

If you wish to contribute or have any views you wish to put forward, please attend the meeting so that we may address your concerns/views, to, if possible, arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

VK2DAL

### JUNE LONG WEEKEND BBQ

*A club lunchtime BBQ will be held at the QTH of Keith Lutton (VK2KDL), Lot 2, Farrawells Road, Telegraph Point, on Sunday 11th June commencing any time after 10am, BYO everything. Keith will be supplying the cooking facilities.*

## ELECTRO-MAGNETIC INTERFERENCE

A recent addition to the RF noise makers is the touch light. Most of them use oscillators in the 150 KHz region and provide harmonics that range high into the HF frequencies.

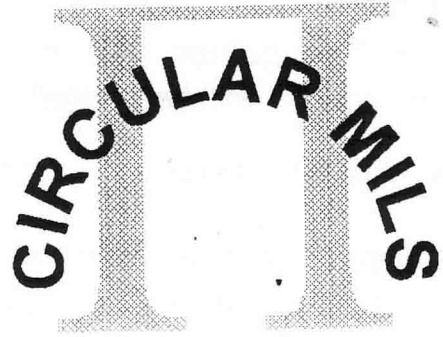
According to tests carried out by the RSGB, some produce inter-ference that cause havoc in the 80 metre band. And they don't have to be a light, as long as they are plugged in and powered-up they radiate. I have a local on 14,002 KHz that reminds me that my beam heading is 070 !

Lamp dimmers are also a source of RFI. They use 'phase control' of the AC mains which results in a waveform with fast

rising edges and become a broadband noise maker.

Do you have any experiences with RFI that you can pass on to our members ?

VK2AYD



What is a Circular Mil ? It's a unit of area used by the U.S.A. No, its not millimetres, but thousands of an inch. It was invented to eliminate that huge intellectual obstacle called Pi ( $\pi$ ).

The cross-sectional area of a round wire in circular mils is simply the diameter squared.

Thus a wire with a diameter of 100 mils (0.1 inch) has an area of  $100 \times 100 = 10,000$  mils. The rest of the world measures area in square units and of course there are  $(4 \pi)$  circular units in every square one.

VK2AYD

## NEW CALLSIGN

Members will recall Baden Gleeson, one of our members who last year moved QTH from Port Macquarie to the Tweed Heads area. Well, we have been informed that Baden, who passed his full call Morse examination prior to departing Port, has now gained his Novice licence and is the proud recipient of callsign **VK2MOQ**.

Congratulations Baden.

## Clothes Pegs

A very useful addition to a tool kit and its been known to make a good telegraphy key (with some additions).

How about some ideas from you ? A prize for the best suggestion. All suggestions (no obscene one's) will be printed.

Idea's by 31st July please. *VK2AYD*

*[First thoughts ? For use as a satisfactory Oddiopc ? - Acronym for (O)lfactory (D)esensitiser (D)uring (I)ngestion (O)ff (P)armesan (Cheese) - Ed.]*

## MARCONI DAY

Peter, VK2PA and David VK2AYD, represented Australia using the call VK2IMD over the weekend of April 22/23. Between them they had 272 QSO's in 40 different countries all on 20 metres. They did it Marconi style, on telegraphy, of course !

Your Hon. Sec is strutting like a peacock since he won the VK/ZL DX Contest last year, on telegraphy, of course !

## JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

Over 200 amateurs provided communications in the Kobe disaster on January 17. This was at the request of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Operations were mainly restricted to 430 mHz and 1260 mHz and the equipment was supplied by JAIA members (Japan Amateur Radio Equipment Industry Association).

Special call signs 8J3\*\*\* were issued for the disaster. *VK2AYD*



## Satellite News

The Russian satellite RS-15 was launched on December 26 last. Its transponder frequencies are:

*Uplink : 145.858 to 145.898 KHz*

*Downlink: 29.354 to 29.394 KHz*

*CW Beacons: 29,352.5 and 29,398.7 kHz*

*Modes CW and SSB only.*

The AMSAT 3-D Satellite is due to be launched in 1966. It will be using the following bands: 21, 28, 145, 436, 1296, 2400, 5668, 10451 and 24048 mHz.

It was interesting to read in QST that the Shuttle "Endeavour" flight STS-67, carried 6 licenced amateurs. Commander Stephen Oswald KB5YSR at the helm. They concentrate on talking to schools in their off-time and included Australia in their agenda.

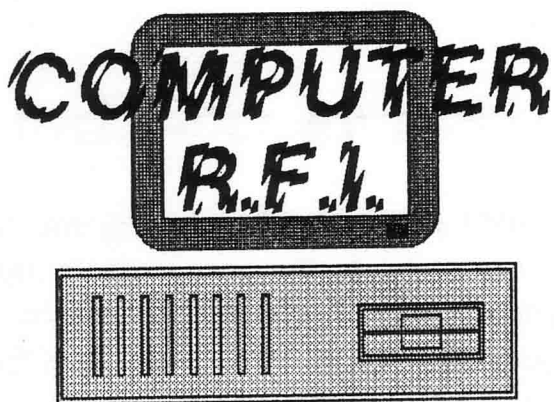
## COST OF A LICENCE

As most of you know, licence's in the USA are issued free for a period of 10 years, but very shortly they are going to let amateurs "roll their own" call signs from designated blocks.

Reading between the lines, it appears that a few of the extra-class licencees with calls like WS1O can apply for the old type of one-plus-two calls like K1CE.

But its going to cost. Big deal, the FCC proposes to charge \$3 per year, although there is talk of \$7 per year (\$70 for 10 years). I wonder why the Australian SMA needs to charge \$51 when they have so few licences to administer. I wonder what the year end financial report looks like !

VK2AYD



*March QST had four very good points on how to minimise computer interference to your radio.*

- 1. Use shielded cables for all your computer connections.*
- 2. Locate your station antenna well away from the computer.*
- 3. Operate the computer in its original case, with all internal shielding in place. If you've taken the computer out of its case for any reason, make sure you put it back with every screw in place. A small crack can radiate a lot of RF energy.*
- 4. If you are shopping around for a computer, take your Hand-held or a small portable HF receiver. Find a low noise emitting computer.*

*As an added point, I've found it is the monitor that has given me the most problem with radiation. The lead I now use has ferrite beads in the cable from the computer and it has reduced radiation considerably. Good quality monitors usually have these installed.*

VK2AYD

## CB RADIO

Last month, following the John Moyle Field Day publicity that Peter, VK2IPC, had written and placed in the PMQ News, I received a call from a CB'er asking for help with his UHF radio. Not having any experience with this mode, I suggested he call Richard, VK2CHC, who I knew has a UHF CB in his work vehicle.

The outcome was that Richard went over to the Hatch and set the station up for the person. A thankful CB'er and a good deed by a Radio Amateur.

VK2AYD



Did you know that Tony, VK2DHU and Col, VK2VQT had opened an Internet office in Port Macquarie ?

Last month they invited club members to a demonstration of Internet in operation and we found it very interesting with the ability to access just about any part of the world instantly.

If anyone is interested in Internet, it is recommended you visit Tony or Col at their shop at Settlement Shore Shopping Plaza, Near Mitre 10 and Big Mac's. As well as all the necessary TNC's and software, they also have a good range of CDROM's for computers.

## BOVINE MEANDERINGS

*When the big storm hit in March it brought down Bill's (VK2WST), HF beam. He is back on air again, but this time with a vertical.*

Charles (VK2FSH) has acquired a computer and TNC for VHF packet. Where are you Charles ? CON PSE.

Did you hear about the Amateur from Wauchope who, on coming out of the Hastings Co-op, to the parking lot, found the front fender (bumper) of the car hanging off & bent. After spending 5 minutes trying to re-attach the bumper, and prolific swearing about the missing roof bars and cracked head lamp protectors, he discovered it wasn't his car. (I wonder how he got on recently in Western Australia)! VK2AYD

## PACKET RACKET

Congratulations to Arthur, VK2ATM, who eventually solved the reason why we couldn't access his PBBS on 147.575 MHz. It was all in the software. So now, if you find 144.875 MHz is busy and you want to use the PBBS, switch to 147.575 MHz. I've tried it from King Creek and it works ! VK2AYD

## GOOD OLD CW!

Overheard on the ham bands (many years ago) in a CW QSO :-

Ham No.1: HI OM = UR SIGS EXCLNT  
599 ERE = CUD I HVE UR QSL CARD  
FR TE DXCC ? BK

Ham No.2: YES OM UR 599 ERE BUT  
DID U SAY U WANTED MI QSL CARD  
FOR THE DXCC? BK

Ham No.1: NO OM = I SED I WANTED  
UR QSL CARD FOR THE DXCC BK

Ham No 2: SORI OM = I THORT U SED  
U WANTED MY QSL CARD FOR THE  
DXCC = 73 + VK2TT

## VISIT TO VK6-LAND.

To fulfil a long held ambition, my XYL, Phyllis, and I made the car-trip across to Perth via the Nullarbor and return. The return visit took in the southern areas, Bunbury, Busselton, Cape Leeuwin, Albany, and Esperance.

Anyone contemplating the trip can be assured that the road conditions are really excellent (despite the nasty 20 km bit caused by the cyclonic rains of recent months).

As a result of the rains, the Nullarbor Plain presented quite a picture. Green and lush, and of course, very flat. Whilst not quite approaching a rain-forest, it is not as "treeless" as I had expected. There are very few locations on the road across the plain from where there is not some form of a tree visible, albeit a very stunted tree.. but a tree none-the-less. Notwithstanding, it is not a first-choice place to go scouting for firewood to cook a damper in a camp-oven! It could end up in a long search.

We took three whip-antennae (20, 40, and 80 Mx) with which to use in conjunction with a magnabase and an ICOM IC-730 transceiver.

All operating was undertaken while stationary, because an 8-foot whip on a magnabase, sitting atop a Commodore at 110kmph could become quite an ugly sight after passing an oncoming 3-unit road-train also getting along at a cool 110+Kmph.

Propagation, and conditions generally were excellent throughout the three-and-a-bit weeks period. Completely noise-free reception conditions and good propagation paths enabled all skeds on all bands to be successfully kept.

Cape Leeuwin to Burleigh Heads was the greatest distance spanned, and that was only limited by the difficulties in setting up station any farther south-west than the Cape.

We were honoured enough to be invited as visiting guests to a specially rescheduled luncheon meeting of the W.A. Old Timers Club at "Cascades" function centre at Maylands. It was great to meet many familiar old faces, plus new faces, many of which had previously been either voices and/or dit/dahs at the other end of QSO's over the years.

Twenty-seven (oldtimers and XYLS included) were organised together by Clem, VK6CW, for the luncheon, allowing us a special opportunity to meet with so many members of the fraternity. Transportation to and from the venue was provided by a colleague of some 40 years standing, Des, VK6ZJ.

Thus the trip to "the West" was another very enjoyable adventure, and highly recommended to anyone who wishes to take it gently. At around no more

than 600 to 700 km per day (less if you have the time) the travelling conditions were not found tiresome, or boring, but quite the contrary. However, we now both have a significantly modified understanding of the concepts of time and distance.

*Trevor (VK2TT)*

## OXTALES CONTENT

Ok, members! What about it. The content of "OXTALES" this year so far has been pretty much hatched in familiar nests. It needs input from a wider spectrum of the membership, to ease the burden on those who compile it, and those who have been helpfully dredging up the old chestnuts to fill the pages with interesting bafflegab. There must be other interesting stories out there about "Noddy's adventures in Hamland", sad ones, happy ones, hilarious ones. It has been already advised, that you only need to supply the bare bones of the story... we have people who can do all sorts of things with bare bones. We can guarantee that we will never jeopardise a truly good story with any fear of an overkill in the application of truth or fact. You may never recognise your own story if we have to "colour it up" a bit, but we know you will enjoy reading it. However, to ensure that some of its originality remains, we encourage contributors to do their own tinting, and dressing up.

Anything. Homebrew items, Hints/Kinks, Jokes (clean, but not necessarily squeaky, and certainly not racist, sexist or sectarian!), Poems, Limericks, Music, Medical prescriptions (if you can find a funny one!). What about it? PLEASE!!! Your help is needed.

I am following up a lead on one potentially exciting story, snippets of which I gleaned from the alleged perpetrator's XYL. I am given to believe that it surrounds a particular Amateur, whose strong interest in CW contests has prevailed over many years. Cleverly disguised facts have been leaked to me which indicate that this particular Amateur unilaterally chose to leave his own wedding reception rather early... in fact, well in advance of the garter-throwing bit. It seems he was seeking a front runner place in a 24-hour International CW contest which was to begin just one hour prior to the scheduled end of the Wedding Breakfast. The true facts, should they emerge, could make interesting copy for these pages. Be watching for further info in next issue. Do you readers out there have any similar stories which reflect dedication to the hobby, sheer bravery, or the like?

VK2TT - Your harmless drudge who compiles "OXTALES".

### **Membership Subscriptions**

Members are again reminded, and again in the nicest possible way of course, that our annual membership subscriptions are to be paid by the 30th June 1995. This simply means that we should pay our subscriptions BEFORE midnight on that day to maintain continuity of membership.

There has been no danger of P.O. Box 712 exploding with a high volume of subscription renewal mail in response to last issue's reminder notice.

See April "OXTALES" for valid reasons for formalising your status in relation to membership. This formality is most important, not only to the club, but to each of us as individuals.



**The Secretary  
Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.  
PO Box 712  
Port Macquarie 2444**

**Enclosed is my membership subscription of \$15 for 1995:**

**Name: ..... Call Sign: .....**

**Address:.....**

**..... Post Code: .....**

**Phone:.....**