



# OXTALES

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

## August 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*

*"Do not use a hatchet to remove a fly from a friend's forehead." (Chinese proverb.)*

Whilst there are quite a few months to go before the long weekend in June, 1996, it is reasonable to assume that our Club could, in the not too distant future, be asked by the Kempsey Club if we intend utilising that long weekend for the holding of a field day. If and when we are asked it would be reasonable to expect that an answer be given fairly promptly. If we again relinquish the use of this particular weekend we might as well say that we will not again hold a field day, or at least not over that particular weekend.

Having said this I am now asking you, the members, if Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club is to have a 1996 Field Day, and if so, who will be co-ordinating it. Now is the time for a start to be made in regards to the planning, the nomination of a co-ordinator, and the marshalling of resources for the day. If we miss out in 1996, then I am afraid that so much

damage will have been done that the Club may have extreme difficulty in mounting any Field Days in the future. It's up to you....

By now all subscriptions for the 1995-96 membership should have been paid. If you have overlooked them, send a cheque for \$15 to our P.O.Box 712, Port Macquarie, or bring them to the next meeting.

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For those who have not renewed their subscription, this issue of Oxtales will be last one sent.

Our Equipment Officer, Charles, has requested that we have a working Bee at the clubrooms to sort out the junk in the storeroom. We will be arranging to do this and will require about 4 people on a date to be advised, probably a Saturday.

At our meeting on Friday 7th July, VK's 2IPC and 2BZC brought along some "state of the art" equipment and demonstrated its use to the members. It proved to be a very interesting night which was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending. Thanks Peter and Paul.

*"Behind every successful man stands a proud wife and a surprised mother-in-law." (Brooks Hays)*

*73's de VK2DAL*

## **OXTALES CONTENT**

In the last issue of "OXTALES" you will no doubt recall a foreshadowing of a potentially interesting story of an Amateur who left his Wedding Breakfast somewhat early to participate in a CW Contest... remember? the OM who never got to throw the garter! There was promise of an interesting story in that, but sadly, and understandably, it ended rather abruptly and, you guessed it... tragically.

It seems the keen CW "contestor", in his haste to depart the nuptial festivities, had either engendered ill-will in someone by so doing, or more likely, was perceived by another unknown contestant as a threat.

That is a threat to the unknown contestant's chances in the CW contest.

What precisely transpired to bring about the untimely end of our hero will, perhaps, never be known in detail. However, the facts are that he was found, only a few short hours after his departure from the wedding breakfast, slumped over his log, paddle, and bottle of "keep-awake" pills, as dead as 10 meters in the trough of the 11 year sunspot cycle. Readers will agree that is really quite dead!

The ensuing coroner's inquest returned an open finding, but did establish quite clearly that death had been caused by strangulation. However, no murder weapon such as a garrotte, sash-cord, or the like was ever found. There were clear markings on the victim's throat that indicated that constriction on the trachea - the tube wot he breathed through - up to the time of death, anyway - had been brought about by means other than the grasp of human hands. A "patterned band" of bruising, resembling that of a frilly garter, showed clearly on his neck. Investigating officers were unable to identify or suggest any likely weapon, or advance any motive for the mysterious slaying of what we no doubt must all see as an innocent, and dedicated, man.

On the brighter, human side, a close friend, who was best-man at the truncated wedding celebration, subsequently married the grieving widow some 7 to 10 days later. Brighter news still, was just around the corner. The new groom recovered the deceased's contest log following its eventual release from various court exhibits. Analysis of the log, showed that our hero had indeed scored brilliantly in

the contest during the short, and no doubt thrilling period between the time he departed his nuptials and the instant of his untimely demise.

Sympathetic members of our hero's local club, extrapolating from the initial results recorded in the log, theorised that our hero would have undoubtedly scored magnificently. Almost certainly he would have won the contest. A submission was made to the XYZRL (a now defunct international Amateur body) and an award, the only one of its kind, THE "STIFF" LUCK AWARD was issued, posthumously!

Today, that award hangs in the study of the second husband of the once grieving widow. The husband has just started studying for his Novice call theory... he has passed the Morse!

Can't some members give me some better items than this for the next issue ???

VK2TT

## FOR SALE

*Yaesu FT7 HF rig. Suitable for novices, going cheap.*

*Contact: Arthur (VK2ATM) -  
Telephone 065 83.1311*

## TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGING

Noticed this one floating by on the packet stream the other week. The packet stream?? (One lane of the INFORMATION SUPER-HIGHWAY ??? Nah! more like the Goat track from Middle Bro.!)

Anyway, here it is:-

*"I was talking to a farmer the other day, and he was telling me about his troubles. He said:-*

*"It all started back in '66' when they changed from pounds to dollars, and me overdraft doubled.*

*I was just gettin' used to this when they brought in kilograms instead of pounds, and me flamin' wool clip dropped by 'alf!*

*Then they changed the rain to millimetres and we 'aven't had an inch of rain since. So, what do they do next?!.. They bring in a thing called Celsius and the temperature's now about 20 degrees... this is less than freezin'. No wonder the flamin' wheat don't grow !.*

*This wasn't enough, they had to change us over from acres to hectares, and I end up with only 'alf the flamin' land I had !.*

*So I sits me down one day and has a little think.*

*I reckon that with daylight savin' I was workin' seven extra hours a week for no extra money. So I decide to sell the place. But just to cap it off, I'd just put the place in the agent's hands when they*

*changed miles to kilometres, and now I find that I'm too flamin' far out of town for anyone to buy the bloomin' place!!!!."*

Ho! Hum!

*VK2TT*

## **INSTANT REAPPRAISAL ?**

A Technician/Instructor giving initial training to a first-time owner of a PC.

Technician: Now, you just move the little mouse and point it at the little house.

Customer: I am spending thousands of dollars on a highly sophisticated machine. I do not need to be treated like a child!

Technician: Fine then! Just exit to the system and log onto the C: drive, switch to the A: prompt where you can re-enter the spreadsheet directory and redefine parameters of the existing file.

Customer: Thank you. I will just move the little mouse and point it at the little house.

*Wendy Monck*

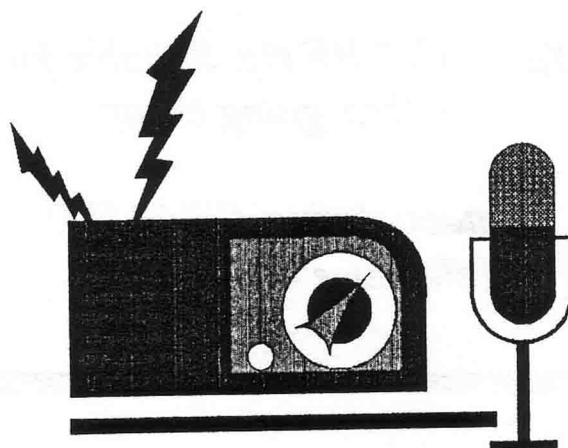
## **APOLOGIES TO BADEN GLEESON.**

A sincere apology is offered to Baden (VK2MOQ), now of Banora Point, on two counts. Despite Baden's advice to the club of his success in gaining his novice call, our publication of this good news in this worthy newsletter, was delayed by misadventure within our "micro-burocracy". We fixed that bit up quick smart when Baden brought it to our attention, BUT..... the membership list used for publication in the very same issue that carried the announcement, did not

reflect the pristine new callsign. There is a sound story which explains the reason, but it cannot be used as an excuse. Nonetheless, apologies Baden. Our faces are quite red. The records are straight, and let us hope that our type setters have archived the out-of-date Membership List file.

## **OXTALES DISTRIBUTION**

As already stated in the President's report, members are reminded that future issues of OXTALES will be distributed to Financial members only. If your name does not appear on the membership list which appears elsewhere in this issue, AND your Annual Subscriptions are not forthcoming, this will be the last issue of our newsletter that you will receive. Members wishing to terminate their membership of the club are also reminded of the formal requirement to signify their intention in writing to the Secretary.





## ONE-HANDED PC KEYBOARD

A few years ago I saw the replacement for the conventional keyboard. It was a two-handed device that worked by applying pressure with the fingers and thumbs in various combinations. For some reason, although it was found to be much easier to master than the conventional keyboard, it was never released for general use. (It would have put the keyboard people out of business).

InfoGrip USA has recently introduced their one-handed keyboard called the BAT and designed specifically for the PC. Data is entered by "chording" (pressing a key or a combination of keys simultaneously much like playing a chord on a piano). This leaves the other hand free to operate a mouse, or in the case of an amateur radio operator, a morse key paddle. It is claimed that most people can achieve moderate proficiency in about 10 ours which is much less than is needed to learn to touch type on a conventional keyboard.

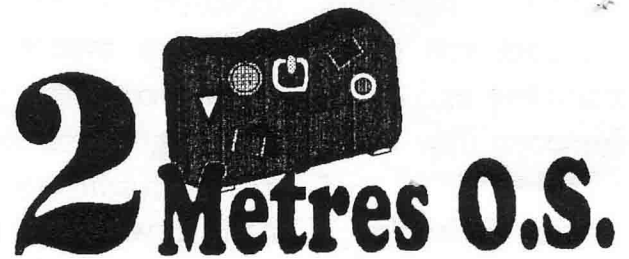
Cost of these keyboards is \$US199 and they can be right or left handed !

*VK2AYD*

## WARNING BAD SOFTWARE

According to the June Digipeat Newsletter some cretin out there is distributing a file called PKZ300B.EXE and PKZ300B.ZIP. This is NOT a version of PKZIP and if used it will try to erase your hard drive. The most recent version is 2.04G (which is included on the compress Utilities disk). SO BE WARNED.

*VK2YAD*



As most of you know, Dee and I just returned from a couple of months long service leave from retirement, which took us through the USA and the UK. As I already hold licences in both these countries (N3AFU and G3HLW respectively), I didn't have need to apply for any special permission. The USA tour, which was visiting the National Parks, took us up through California, Oregon and Washington to Canada, then back through Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona and Nevada.

Everywhere seemed to be alive with 2 metre voice repeaters, but I found some of them require a sub-audible tone to open them, (around 100 Hz). These I couldn't use as I had no sub-audible tone system on my and-held and when I enquired at the local radio store in L.A. if there was a module for my TR-415, I was told it would cost \$70 so decided to use only the "open" repeaters. Most repeaters seemed to have very extensive ranges as they were located on high mountains, so operating from a tour bus was not difficult to make contacts and I was able to talk to many friends that I had met on 20 metres as well as make new friends. In some cases with personal meetings. The most memorable was at Salt Lake City. Here K7UOT took us to the Mormon Temple where we heard the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir (accompanied by the Australian organ) sing 5 anthems.

Finding the frequencies was not a problem as most repeaters appeared to be in constant use so it was just a matter of scanning and once you made contact with someone they would quickly give you info on all the local repeaters. At Kamloops in British Columbia, Canada I was met by VE7EKS who presented me with a complete map of all repeaters in the VE6 and VE7 states. There must have been over 200 repeaters.

The UK was a different story. They are only allowed to use 144 to 146 MHz. 146 to 148 MHz is allocated to the police, so if you take your hand-held with you, be careful not to tune it above 146 or you could be breaking the law. They also require hands free operation when mobile.

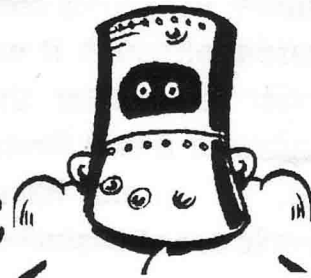
There are not many voice repeaters in the UK, but those that are active have excellent coverage. They all require a tone burst of 750 Hz to open them. Once open the tone burst is no longer required unless the repeater is idle for 2 minutes. I found all that was necessary was to make a verbal high pitch whistle and the repeater opened. In London I could only access one repeater GB3WL (West London), however using Bill's (VK2ZCV) car window antenna, I could get coverage for at least 80 Km radius. Two metres was more like a B band, full of mobiles travelling the London Orbital or motor-ways. However the language was much better and it was a great way to find out about road conditions. I was also very amused with the sense of humour used on this repeater. They always seemed a happy bunch.

I spent a couple of days at the RSGB HQ operating GB3RS on 20 and 80 metres but

never heard a VK, but then, I was using CW and it was night over here. Aboard HMS Belfast I also operated GB2RN for a few hours, but contacts were only within Europe.

Yes, its great to be back home!- VK2AYD.

## WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE



A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Hopalong Capacity, the unrectified criminal who escaped from the Weston Primary Cell, where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the Gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18-turn coil, Milli Henry, who was found choked and robbed of Joules. Armed with a battery of carbon rods, Capacity is a potential killer. Hopalong Capacity is also charged with driving a d.c. motor over the Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the band pass. Be careful not to put him in a trap, as in reactance he may offer series resistance.

The Electromotive Force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic filed, where he had gone to earth. They failed to detect him and now believe Capacity has returned ohm via the short circuit.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current who was playing Ohm on the range on his harmonic.

VK2AYD

(From the Navy-Marine Corps MARS Newsletter).

# Is this YOU?



Are you an active member,  
The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the throng?  
Do you take an active part  
To help the work along?  
Or are you just satisfied  
Merely to belong?

Do you assist the meetings  
To help to make them 'tick'?  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about the clique?  
Think this over, member,  
You know right from wrong.  
Are you just a member,  
Or do you just belong? (Anon.)

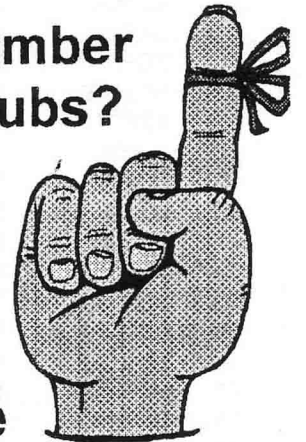


# HIGHER SPEED PACKET RADIO

AAPRA advise that there are stations in Sydney using 4800 bps on 145.150 MHz and 9600 bps on 439.200 MHz. We receive the AAPRA newsletter quarterly and members will find copies of it at the club rooms. If you are into packet radio they are well worth reading.

Now that Novice licence holders can use Packet on 2 metres, our digipeater will be even more loaded, so please be considerate with its use. If you want to contact our PBBS, VK2ATM, remember we also have the 147.575 MHz freq.

**Did you remember  
to pay your subs?**



**This could be  
your last Oxtales**

# ORARC Inc. List of Members

## August 1995

|    |           |           |        |                 |             |
|----|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1  | KEN       | BECK      | VK4WKB | CALOUNDRA       | 074 91 5798 |
| 2  | COLIN     | BELLINGER | VK2GMD | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 82 3803 |
| 3  | KARL      | BILGER    | VK2DYX | TAREE           | 065 512024  |
| 4  | KATHRYN   | BILGER    | VK2CKB | TAREE           | 065 512024  |
| 5  | PHILLIP   | BOWMAN    |        | VIA JOHNS RIVER | 065 56 9664 |
| 6  | MARK      | BRENTON   | VK2XFK | FREDRICKTON     |             |
| 7  | KEN       | BROWN     | VK2AJJ | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 1738 |
| 8  | BILL      | CAVANAGH  | VK2WC  | WAUCHOPE        | 065 85 2130 |
| 9  | KEVIN     | COULTER   | VK2MAM | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 8325 |
| 10 | RICHARD   | COURT     | VK2CHC | WAUCHOPE        | 065 86 1007 |
| 11 | PETER     | COX       | VK2TCI | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 81 1236 |
| 12 | IAN       | DALRYMPLE | VK2UA  | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 84 9922 |
| 13 | JIM       | DANIELS   |        | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 1933 |
| 14 | CHARLES   | EDMONDSON | VK2FSH | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 84 0495 |
| 15 | BADEN     | GLEESON   | VK2MOQ | BANORA POINT    | 075 24 8577 |
| 16 | LUKE T.   | GOW       | VK2EQ  | CUNDLETOWN      | 065 53 9933 |
| 17 | RODNEY J. | GOW       | VK2NO  | CUNDLETOWN      | 065 53 9933 |
| 18 | GRAEME    | GREENWOOD | VK2ZIS | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 4684 |
| 19 | SAM       | GRIFFITHS | VK2LSG | TAREE           | 065 52 3149 |
| 20 | KEITH     | HANLON    |        | PORT MACQUARIE  |             |
| 21 | PETER     | HILL      | VK2BZA | LAKE CATHIE     | 065 85 5349 |
| 22 | JOHN      | JONES     | VK2DX  | JOHNS RIVER     | 065 56 5038 |
| 23 | JACK      | LEEDS     | VK2KN  | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 2496 |
| 24 | GARRY     | LEEDS     | VK2NOV | LITHGOW         |             |
| 25 | ADRIAN    | LEVI      |        | WAUCHOPE        | 065 85 2040 |
| 26 | LARRY     | LINDSAY   | VK2CLL | BAGNOO          | 065 87 1155 |
| 27 | TONY      | LONSDALE  | VK2DHU | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 84 0345 |
| 28 | HENRY     | LUNDELL   | VK2ZHE | PORT MACQUARIE  |             |
| 29 | KEITH     | LUTTON    | VK2KDL | TELEGRAPH POINT | 065 85 0321 |
| 30 | JOHN      | McDONAGH  | VK2VY  | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 82 0020 |
| 31 | DOUG      | McDONALD  | VK2EUM | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 6157 |
| 32 | LEO       | McPHERSON | VK2CLM | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 82 3183 |
| 33 | TERRY     | MEEHAN    | VK2KL  | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 2737 |
| 34 | ARTHUR    | MONCK     | VK2ATM | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 1311 |
| 35 | DAVID     | PILLEY    | VK2AYD | KING CREEK      | 065 85 2647 |
| 36 | PAUL      | ROMAINE   | VK2UPR | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 84 1830 |
| 37 | BILL      | SINCLAIR  | VK2ZCV | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 82 0329 |
| 38 | GERRY     | SLADE     |        | PORT MACQUARIE  |             |
| 39 | DAVID     | SMITH     | VK2DAL | WAUCHOPE        | 065 85 1004 |
| 40 | TREVOR    | THATCHER  | VK2TT  | WAUCHOPE        | 065 85 2278 |
| 41 | RONALD    | WYLES     |        | PORT MACQUARIE  | 065 83 5295 |