



OXTALES

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

October 1995

Compiled by VK2TT

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

President's Report

*"A friend is a gift that you give yourself."
(Robert Louis Stevenson)*

I know that most of our members read "OXTALES" however it is interesting to note that it would appear that almost anything can be published in it, (provided it is not defamatory) without there being any response from members. I refer to the June edition where on the front page listed as being "in this edition" was the caption "Club Official in Sex Scandal, page 9." Do I detect a note of cynicism on the parts of either the magazine's compiler or publisher?

Has this ever happened to you? Some years ago I read an article entitled "Why I sacked my secretary" which I will now relate and which may bring back memories for some. It is told (supposedly) in the first person by a prominent executive of one of our larger companies.

" It was a beautiful morning, it was my 45th birthday and I had gone down to

breakfast. There, sitting at the table were my wife and three teenage daughters. We all had breakfast without so much as "happy birthday" or any sort of recognition of this important day. Somewhat crestfallen, I drove to work, parked the car and walked through the general office to my office, again without so much as a "good morning".

By this time I was feeling rather depressed that none of my family, or anyone else for that matter, could be bothered about the fact that it was my birthday and I was

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I was so cheered that someone had finally remembered this important day that I said to her, "thank you, it's such a beautiful day, how about I take you out to lunch to celebrate?"

She agreed, and a little later we went down to the car to drive to a restaurant when she said, "lets not go to a restaurant, how about we go back to my flat for a few drinks?"

I readily agreed and went to her flat. After we had arrived she said, "The lounge room is a bit of a mess, do mind going into the bedroom while I clean up and get the drinks organised?" to which I readily agreed.

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73's de VK2DAL

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Have you ever wondered where Amateur Radio will be a decade from now? I've watched it progress over the past 50 years from when we were pioneers and built everything ourselves to the present day where we are just appliance operators.

I'm sure a decade from now telegraphy will no longer be mandatory, but what of technology? Last month I was reading all

about COHERENT CW, which only requires a bandwidth of 10 Hz (yes 10 c/s) which means that 100 stations could occupy a bandwidth of one kilohertz.

It is currently being experimented with by Amateurs using telegraphy and operating .035 KHz up on most bands. As yet I haven't heard it, but then my trusty TS-930S isn't really capable of reducing its passband to such fine limits. Will analogue voice transmissions be replaced by digital voice transmissions on HF and what will this entail? Already with voice digital voice compression exceeding the levels required, soon we will have code-excited linear predictive (CELP) speech coders. Will Packet radio be transmitted on VHF at speeds greater than 9600 bd?

What are your thoughts on the future technology we shall expect to see?
(Some of us still hope to be around then....)

VK2AYD

SHACK CLEARANCE

Bill (VK2ZCV) is having a major shack clearance. He is currently clearing all surplus hardware and oddments. Ring Bill on (065) 82.1227 to arrange a "browse and select" visit.



SO YOU HATE CONTESTS!

The following are reprints from "The Last Word" in the RSGB August edition of Rad.Com.

Epistle from Robert Taylor G4KTI to anti-contesters.

Once upon a time there was a man who did complain bitterly about a plague of contests. Then, lo, wondrous to behold, there came a summer weekend without a single contest!

"Ah, Heaven at last!", he thought, in all innocence. But, alas, he was mistaken. For verily, all the multitude of deprived contestants did descend on the bands in their thousands, to chat of this and that and of Auntie Susie's hernia, as was their inalienable right, just like any other licensee. And ten seconds begat ten minutes, and there was chaos in the land. And the man who complained did perforce switch off, and sigh; "Thank goodness there will be a contest next weekend".

A Grim(m) possibility, or just a fairy tale?
Think about it! -VK2AYD-

John Melvin G3LIV, a keen Field Day tester, relates this one.

One year we decided to use helium and a 6ft met balloon to support our 80 metre dipole. However, some of the locals thought we had erected the balloon for their target practice with air rifles and just prior

to the contest shot it down. If caught by the irate members of the club there would have been two little crosses in the middle of the NFD site. We only had the one balloon and no other way of supporting the 80 metre aerial.

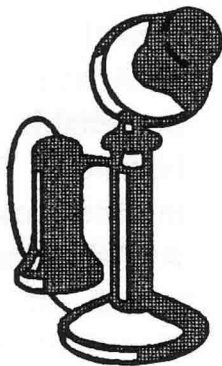
How do you find a replacement balloon on a Saturday with a couple of hours to go? Well, someone mentioned an easily-purchased alternative made by the London Rubber Company. So we visited the local barbers. This little packet contained three 'balloons' which were inflated to an enormous size, quite a sight. 80m was airborne and working.

By the way, we won the single station part of the contest that year!

didja get it? *-VK2AYD-*
(Yeah! Sounds like a very "safe" solution... Ed.)

Telephone RFI

Ian Dalrymple reports that many hams know that the Telecom Touch Phone 2000 is prone to RFI. What very few know, however, is that a cure is available. For some reason, Telecom is rather secretive about it.



A touch Phone replacement is available which has been modified to cure the RFI problem (Item No. 227, Serial No. S550). Your local Telecom representative may not know about them but they definitely are available.

Ian suggests you tell your neighbours if they have complained about your transmissions coming through the phone.

FLUKE DMM WARNING!!

Appearing on the packet BBS's during the month of August, was a warning regarding a safety hazard in the Fluke Series II, Models 21, 23, Kit 23, 70, 73, 75, and 77, digital multimeters bearing serial numbers between 60990000 and 63752000. (If the S/N of your DMM is preceded by a "9" or followed by an "R", this warning does not apply.

The manufacturers have released an operational safety notice which explains as follows:-

WHEN THE MALFUNCTION OCCURS, THE METER MAY NOT INDICATE THAT HIGH VOLTAGE IS PRESENT, PLACING THE USER IN A POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS SITUATION.

The malfunction may occur when a voltage input greater than 400 Vdc is applied in either voltage functions, AC or DC. The meter may go into a lock-up state and will indicate a reading of (or near) zero volts.

The failure mode commonly occurs when the positive lead (red) is connected first to a high voltage supply and then the common (black) lead is connected.

To correct this problem, Fluke will modify your meter without charge. Even if you normally do not use your meter in the voltage range mentioned, it is recommended that you return your meter to you nearest Fluke service centre.

Steward Bloopers

Quite by accident, I stumbled across an interesting document during the month. It was a printout of an article titled "The World According to Student Bloopers," which was a compilation by a Richard Lederer, St. Paul's School (presumed to be a USA school). His introductory paragraph said:-

"One of the fringe benefits of being an English or History teacher is receiving the occasional jewel of a student blooper in an essay. I have pasted together the following "History of the world" from certifiably genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the United States, from eighth grade through college level. Read carefully, and you will learn a lot."

Here are some of them. I shall feed you a few at a time through the future issues of "OXTALES".

"Without the Greeks we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - Doric, Corinthian, and Ionic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Styx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in the Iliad, by Homer. Homer also wrote the Oddity, in which Penelope was the hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer, but by another man of that name.

Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper.

The government of England was a limited mockery. Henry VIII found walking

difficult because he had an abcess on his knee. Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen". As a queen she was a success. When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops, they all shouted, "Hurrah." Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armadillo."

Feel better informed now ?? There are many more to come!
-VK2TT-

Life's a Bitch

10 great modern truths.

(From R.N.A.R.S Newsletter)

1. *Anything worth having is either immoral, illegal or fattening.*
2. *In order to get a bank loan, you must first prove that you don't need one.*
3. *Beauty is only skin deep, but ugliness goes right to the bone.*
4. *Computers do what you tell them to do - not what you want them to do.*
5. *When you dial a wrong number, its never engaged.*
6. *If you really want to make an enemy you should do someone a favour.*
7. *If, on any given evening, there are only two TV programmes worth watching, they'll be on at the same time.*
8. *You never find something you've lost until you replace it.*
9. *It takes longer to lose weight than it did to put it on.*
10. *Stamps which don't stick when you want them to will stick to other things when you don't want them to.*

What is the frequency used in a Microwave oven ?

PACKET RACKET

John (VK2VY), our money hoarding Treasurer, drew "OXTALES" attention to an interesting item which happened to be floating by on the turgid packet stream the other day. The item is quite comprehensive, but too lengthy to include in its entirety in our illustrious Newsletter. However, the summary alone is enough to make any packeteer (assuming that we are ALL caring and sharing in our attitude towards the use of time and spectrum) to have a think - and a close look - at one's TNC parameters, and our very own operating techniques. Perhaps we could all find something significant in our own set-up and operating practices which, if changed, may go a long way to overcoming the "clutter" our local ROSE/Digi freq. Take a look at the summary below.

The article, according to the packet header, was launched by VK2YQA.:-

'With the recent mail on being "left behind" and "what a really bad/slow network we have" I though I might make a few observations about how we can make better what we already have.

THE SUMMARY.....

You have, or are causing, a problem if:

- You are using a handheld and an indoor antenna because you can "easily" access the BBS or Node.
- You are using a beam and/or low power
- You are using a one to one digipeater to go anywhere
- You have you station parameters set too aggressively (persists/slot)

- Your TXdelay is too large
- Your packet lengths are large and have many frames
- Your FRack time is too short or your ax25 and/or tcp maxtime is too short
- You insist on moving large amounts of data in prime interactive use time.'



SETI

(Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.)

August QST had a very interesting article which asks "Will hams be the first humans to receive signals from alien civilisations?"

It was claimed there are over 10,000 advanced civilisations in the Milky Way, according to the Drake equation. But our galaxy contains over 200 billion stars !

A group of Radio Amateurs, under the direction of Paul Shuch, N6TX, are seeking help from Amateurs around the world to take part in searching the skies.

Anyone interested can write to Paul at P.O. Box 555, Little Ferry N.J.07643 USA.

- de VK2AYD.

Ham Trivia

1. If you have a computer with a VGA screen, what does VGA mean?
 2. What is an LCD display?
 3. Who is the President of the WIA?
-

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O.R.A.R.C.Inc. LIST OF MEMBERS OCTOBER 1995

PETER	ALEXANDER	VK2PA	ROLLANDS PLAINS	065 85 8254
KEN	BECK	VK4WKB	CALOUNDRA	074 91 5798
COLIN	BELLINGER	VK2GMD	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3803
KARL	BI;GER	VK2DYX	TAREE	065 512024
KATHRYN	BILGER	VK2CKB	TAREE	065 512024
W.L. (Bob)	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	
PHILLIP	BOWMAN		VIA JOHNS RIVER	065 56 9664
MARK	BRENTON	VK2XFK	FREDRICKTON	065 63 1663
KEN	BROWN	VK2AJJ	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1738
BILL	CAVANAGH	VK2WC	WAUCHOPE	065 85 2130
KEVIN	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 8325
RICHARD	COURT	VK2CHC	WAUCHOPE	065 86 1007
PETER	COX	VK2TCI	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 1236
IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2UA	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 9922
JIM	DANIELS		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1933
CHARLES	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 0495
BADEN	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	BANORA POINT	075 24 8577
LUKE T.	GOW	VK2EQ	CUNDLETOWN	065 53 9933
RODNEY J.	GOW	VK2NO	CUNDLETOWN	065 53 9933
LEWIS	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 9162
GRAEME	GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 4684
SAM	GRIFFITHS	VK2LSG	TAREE	065 52 3149
KEITH	HANLON		PORT MACQUARIE	
PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	065 85 5349
SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 7095
JOHN	JONES	VK2DX	JOHNS RIVER	065 56 5038
HORST	KOPPEL		LAKE CATHIE	
JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 2496
GARRY	LEEDS	VK2NOV	LITHGOW	
ADRIAN	LEVI		WAUCHOPE	065 85 2040
LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	BAGNOO	065 87 1155
TONY	LONSDALE	VK2DHU	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 0345
HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	
KEITH	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	065 85 0321
ALAN	MADIGAN		WAUCHOPE	065 85 2043
JOHN	McDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 0020
DOUG	McDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 6157
JIM	McINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 5696
LEO	McPHERSON	VK2CLM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 3183
TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 2737
ARTHUR	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 1311
RAY	MULLINS	VK2WRM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 0685
IAURIE	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 3981
DAVID A.	PILLEY (Esq.)	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	065 85 2647
PAUL	ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 1830
BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 1776
BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 0329
GERRY	SLADE		PORT MACQUARIE	
DAVID	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	065 85 1004
WILLIAM	STOFMEEL	VK2WST	BONNY HILLS	065 84 8104
COL	TERRY	VK2VQT	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84 8104
TREVOR	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	065 85 2278
BRUCE	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	
PAUL	WEBSTER	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82 2377
RONALD	WYLES		PORT MACQUARIE	065 83 5295

TOTAL MEMBERS = 56