



OXTALES

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

April 1996

Compiled by VK2TT

PRESIDENT: David Smith VK2DAL 85.1004
VICE PRES.: Bill Sinclair VK2ZCV 82.0329
TREASURER: John McDonagh VK2VY 82.0020
SECRETARY: David Pilley VK2AYD 85.2647

President's Report

"The harder you work, the luckier you get." (Gary Player)

There are now two months until the ORARC Field Day. What are YOU doing to help?? Bruce Walker (VK2HOT) is the Field Day Coordinator, but it's of little consequence how keen he is or how good a job that he does, if he doesn't have the active support of the Club members.

Please come forward and offer your services in some aspect of the Field Day organisation and running on the day. Without your support, the day will be destined to failure.

The John Moyle Field day and BBQ was held during March, again at the top of North Brother mountain. We set up and operated one HF station and one 70cm station. There were 12 persons in all in attendance including XYL's, and whilst some radio activity was engaged in, it was a great day for those who attended because of the radio, but more importantly, the

social aspects of the day. I regret to say that the persons attending were the usual ones who we see at the meetings and generally keep the club operating.

It would be very gratifying to see more of the members who we don't see at meetings attend some of these type of functions.

It would seem that our 2m repeater is still being grossly under-utilised. This would lead one to the conclusion that we do NOT need a second 2m voice repeater.

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Our April monthly meeting, which fell due on Easter Saturday, was conspicuous by the lack of attendance. I realise that the timing was off, but surely we could have mustered more than half a dozen members to attend. Everyone would not have been away, and, I note that priority was given to the Urunga Field Day by some.

Our Club does not appear to have any heart or depth. We will not really succeed as a Club unless we place Club's welfare higher on our list of priorities.

" When the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name, He marks, not that you won or lost, but how you played the game." (Grantland Rice)

73's to you all,

de VK2DAL

FIELD DAY JUNE 9TH, 1996

As foreshadowed in the last issue of OXTALES, our traditional June Field Day Weekend will be held on Sunday 9th June 1996.

Bruce Walker (VK2HOT) has undertaken the role of co-ordinator, and he reports that plans are progressing on schedule for this event. Although we did not hold the event in 1995 due to difficulties in obtaining a co-ordinator, it is hoped that missing one year will not detract from the widespread interest and good attendance that we have enjoyed over the previous years.

The fact that we have a willing co-ordinator in Bruce, should not cause us to relax and expect him to do it all. The success of such an event that demands extensive attention to detail, in even the most seemingly minor functions, requires a significantly large team to "get it all together" and support the co-ordinator.

With almost 60 members in the club, it is hoped that there will be no shortage of willing workers who will individually come forward and accept some responsibilities for the multitude of tasks that need attention. Don't sit back and wait for Bruce to scream "Help". If you cannot come along to the monthly meetings to get across the workload and grab some tasks, then the next best thing to do is to contact Bruce and signify your willingness and availability. It is pretty certain that Bruce will be able to allocate you some task(s) that will suit your abilities and available time. Please do not SIT IN THE WINGS and wait for the day to arrive. The success of the big day depends largely upon what happens in the months, weeks and days leading up to it. It is NOW mate! NOW! It is in our very own hands.

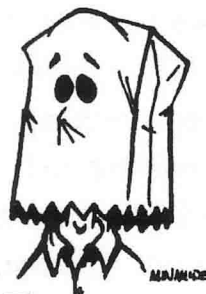
Our Secretary has asked me to specifically include in this issue a plea for some firm planning on interesting activities that can be undertaken and demonstrated on the day. Our venue, and our presentation of our hobbies and activities are hopefully going to attract some visitors from the "non-amateur" section of the community. It is his hope, and no doubt the hope of all of us, that we present our hobby in an interesting and widest practicable way.

Demonstrations of working systems such as Packet, Weather Fax, SSTV, Satellite Communication, or any allied techniques involving test equipment, PC's, smart gubbins boxes like DSP filters and the like, are typical of what we could seriously consider and present. Our region contains some very worthwhile stations and systems operated by competent and innovative licensees, and it would be great to see them "put on a show".

There are perhaps other unusual amateur activities, less understood by the fraternity at large, but carried on in the relatively secretive confines of shacks scattered throughout the valleys of the Hastings, Wilson, Camdenhaven, Macleay, and Manning Rivers. SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) comes to mind. Anybody out there got any spookie stuff to put on show ?

Jokes aside, most of us would agree that we would not wish to be seen as running only a low key "Junk Exchange" (despite the fact that most of us enjoy that part of it too!) but rather as a group with wider practical experimental interests in communication technology. We have the resources (human, hardware and expertise) to do the things that will impress and interest not only a visitor or two, but other amateurs seeking to broaden their horizons. Get the gear out fellahs, and get it souped up and ready to do some tricks on the 9th June.

- VK2TT
(as Compiling Editor)



MAJOR RAFFLE PRIZE Drawn at the Field Day on June 9



The major prize in the O.R.A.R.C. Inc., Field Day Raffle has been donated by two Port Macquarie businesses. Our club is most appreciative of this generous support. The donors are:-

Rick Flanagan , Auto Pro
Hastings River Dr., Port Macquarie
&
Garry Bolton, Auto Electrical,
Hastings River Dr., Port Macquarie

This major prize comprises Six Nights free accommodation for two adults at the winner's selection from a list of over 100 motels, resorts and guest houses from which to choose, throughout Australia.

The accommodation is to be taken as 3 x 2-nights at each location, and conditions apply. The major condition is that evening meals and breakfasts must be purchased at the establishments at which the accommodation is provided.

The prize is valid until 1st October 1996. Full particulars of the available locations are provided in the "Australian Getaway Directory". A copy of this directory will be presented to the winner along with the necessary documents immediately after drawing.

Members requiring any earlier information relating to this prize should contact Bruce (VK2HOT) on (065) 83.8360.

Tickets for this raffle, which also includes some minor prizes, are priced at \$1 each, or 3 for \$2. We have included with your APRIL OXTALES, ten (10) tickets, of which you may purchase some, or all, and/or sell to others. Members who are attending the field day should ensure that their sold ticket butts (and cash) are handed to the organisers by 12 Noon on the 9th June. Members who are NOT attending the field day, should post their sold ticket butts and remittance to reach the Secretary, O.R.A.R.C. Inc., P.O. Box 712, Port Macquarie, no later than Wednesday 5th June, 1996. Numbers for butts that are not returned by the above deadlines, will not be included in the draw.

-VK2HOT (Field Day Co-Ordinator)

LOCAL HAMS SUPPORT COMMUNITY EVENT

The two day Endurance Ride (a sort of "horses for courses" wing-ding) held at Kendall over the recent Easter weekend, was provided with communications support by local Amateurs. WICEN Regional Co-Ordinator, Richard (VK2CHC) was supported by WICEN & ORARC members VK2XFK (Mark), VK2GMD (Col), VK2FSH (Charles), VK2XIQ (Bob), and VK2TT (Trevor). Another local amateur, VK2CE (Kevin), provided an ideal base station in the form of his private caravan which he placed at the disposal of the communications group at the Kendall showground for 48 hours.

Kevin also participated in manning remote checkpoints for the duration of the event.

To assist in accommodating a shortfall of available licensed amateurs to cover all checkpoints for this event, Mark and Roger Court (sons of VK2CHC) rendered valuable assistance to the communications network by manning CB links which were set up to bridge the gaps in manning.

Special thanks and appreciation are due to Kevin, Mark and Roger for their valuable support to the WICEN/ORARC members who, collectively and individually, committed extensive hours and personal resources to this community event.

- VK2TT

WRTC-96 UPDATE



Our local "brass-pounding Olympian", VK2AYD, shouted out these few words as he dashed through the passenger lounge on his way for a week's holiday

in the Jewel of the Pacific, Norfolk Island. (I believe he was taking VK2DAL as his bag carrier on this jaunt.)

Special awards are being issued by the IARU for the WRTC-96 event which will take place on 13th/14th of July, 1996. The WRTC section is due to commence operations at 1200Z on 13th. Special one-letter call signs are being issued to each of the teams, e.g. W6A, K6B etc. David understands that he will be operating an OMNI-6 (Ten-tec) transceiver.



Heavenly Thoughts

Back in July '95, two amateur astronomers, Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp discovered a new comet, now known as the Comet Hale-Bopp. It was discovered some 7.2 astronomical units from the Sun. Now, what's an astronomical unit you may ask. It's the nominal distance from the Earth to the Sun which is 150 million kilometres.

Comet Hale-Bopp is estimated to pass by planet Jupiter in March 1996 and then will head toward the Earth, passing us in April 1997. Its size is yet to be determined because of the fuzziness caused by the amount of gas and dust it was dispersing. It is thought to be big and could be very spectacular. We shall see!

1996 is going to be a very busy year for the Space Agencies around the world. It could be called the year of the Martian. In February the USA sent "Delta 2" off to look at asteroid Eros. (I always thought he was at Piccadilly Circus London).

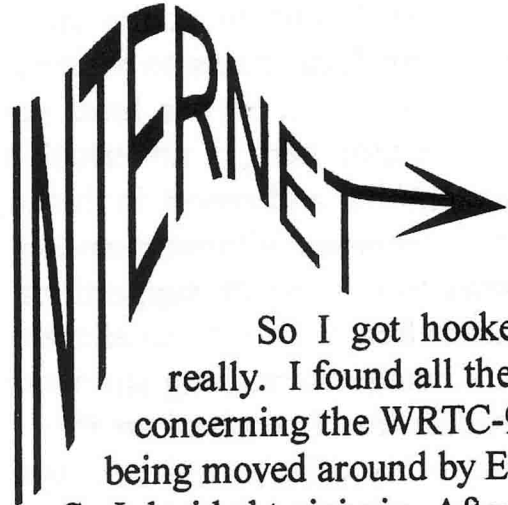
In November both the USA and Russia are launching surveyor stations to circle Mars and eventually land and transmit information back to earth.

In December in the USA, their programme "Pathfinder" is being unfolded to explore the surface of Mars. So keep an ear open - you could really work some DX.....!

For those of you that are contemplating following the weather satellites, at the

time of writing there were 2 U.S. and 2 Russian satellites active in polar orbit. (NOAA 12 & 14 and Met 3/5 & 2/21). Only one Russian Satellite appears to be transmitting on 137 MHz at any one time. Obviously they are finding the cost of fuel expensive up there and are economising.

- VK2AYD.



So I got hooked. Not really. I found all the traffic concerning the WRTC-96 was being moved around by Email.

So I decided to join in. After all the frustration of Packet I find this is a dream. You can pre-prepare your traffic, log on to the Port Internet, and "zip", it's gone and all your incoming messages are also in your computer. Time on the phone to clear 10 full pages to overseas addresses was 3 minutes. It could have been less but I am only using a 2400 baud modem and I'm still learning about the various programmes.

I've found lots of my friends overseas have Email, so old acquaintances have been rekindled - and it doesn't interfere with my AR activities.

No, I haven't given up packet. I've just moved to 147.575 where I can access our BBS and not listen to those other BBS's who say they only move traffic after midnight and think midnight is from 8am to 8pm. Why they don't use UHF I'll never know. Whinge!

- VK2AYD

the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purpose of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about 0.78 miles per household, a total trip of 75.5 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc.

This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.

4. The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized Lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison - this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth, 5. 353,000 tons travelling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecraft re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of

energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporised within 4.26 thousandths of a second.

Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

In conclusion - If Santa DID deliver presents on Christmas eve, he's dead now.
- VK2AYD

MORE STUDENT BLOOPERS

(From Richard Lederer, St. Paul's School)

"The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. Shakespeare never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He lived at Windsor with his merry wives, writing tragedies, comedies, and errors.

In one of Shakespeare's famous plays, Hamlet rations out his situation by relieving himself in a long soliloquy. In another, Lady Macbeth tries to convince Macbeth to kill the King by attacking his manhood. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couplet. Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained."

Phew! We live and learn! More next issue.

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

List of Current Members April 1996

1	PETER	ALEXANDER	VK2PA	ROLLANDS PLAINS	065 85.8254
2	KEN	BECK	VK4WKB	CALOUNDRA	074 91.5798
3	COLIN	BELLENGER	VK2GMD	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.3803
4	KATHRYN	BILGER	VK2CKB	TAREE	065 51 2024
5	KARL	BILGER	VK2DYX	TAREE	065 51 2024
6	W. L. (BOB)	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
7	PHILLIP	BOWMAN	-	VIA JOHNS RIVER	065 56.9664
8	MARK	BRENTON	VK2XFK	FREDRICKTON	015 401508
9	KEN	BROWN	VK2AJJ	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.1738
10	KEVIN	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.8325
11	RICHARD	COURT	VK2CHC	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2379
12	PETER	COX	VK2IPC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.1236
13	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.9922
14	JIM	DANIELS	-	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.1933
15	TRACY	DIGNUM	VK2GTM	HERONS CREEK	065 85.7061
16	CHARLES	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.0495
17	BADEN	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	BANORA POINT	065 84.1246
18	RODNEY J	GOW	VK2NO	CUNDLETOWN	065 53.9933
19	LUKE T	GOW	VK2EQ	CUNDLETOWN	065 53.9933
20	LEWIS	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.9162
21	GRAEME	GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.4684
22	SAM	GRIFFITHS	VK2LSG	TAREE	065 52.3149
23	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
24	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	065 85.5349
25	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.7095
26	JOHN	JONES	VK2DX	LAKE CATHIE	065 85.4522
27	HORST	KOPPEL	-	LAKE CATHIE	-
28	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.1206
29	GARY	LEEDS	VK2NOV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.3978
30	ADRIAN	LEVI	-	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2040
31	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	BAGNOO	065 87.1155
32	TONY	LONSDALE	VK2DHU	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.0345
33	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	065 -
34	KEITH	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	065 85.0321
35	ALLAN	MADIGAN	-	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2043
36	JOHN	MCDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.0020
37	DOUG	MCDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.6157
38	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.5696
39	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.1998
40	LEO	MCPHERSON	VK2CLM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.3183
41	TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.2997
42	ARTHUR	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.1311
43	RAY	MULLINS	VK2WRM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.0685
44	LAURIE	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.3981
45	LESTER	O'CONNELL	VK2BFP	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.4274
46	DAVID A	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	065 85.2647
47	PAUL	ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.1830
48	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.1776
49	BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.0329
50	GERRY	SLADE	-	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.3817
51	DAVID	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE NSW	065 85.1004
52	WILLIAM	STOFMEEL	VK2WST	BONNY HILLS NSW	065 84.8104
53	COL	TERRY	VK2VQT	PORT MACQUAIRE	065 83.5268
54	TREVOR	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2278
55	BRUCE	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.8360
56	PAUL	WEBSTER	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.3377
57	RONALD W	WYLES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.1085



LAST REMINDER !

**DON'T FORGET THE
O.R.A.R.C. Inc., FIELD DAY**

SUNDAY 9th JUNE 1996

**The Organisers and our generous Sponsors (See Centre fold)
wish to remind you of this enjoyable day devoted to
Amateur Radio activities.**

**Bring the OM, YL, XYL, Family to
The Sea Scout Hall, Buller Street
PORT MACQUARIE**

**Do not forget the raffle tickets we sent you for purchase or
sale to others. Please ensure that the butts for sold
purchased tickets are returned by the following deadlines:-**

- 1. If attending the function, lodge them by
12.00 noon on 9th June.**
- 2. If unable to attend then please post them to
reach the Secretary by 5th June.**

*Butts not returned by the above dates/times cannot be
included in the draw.*

**Don't forget that your registration fee includes a
BBQ Lunch!**



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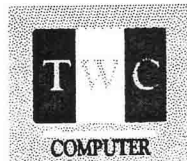
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