



OXTALES

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

April 1997

Compiled by VK2TT

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President's Report.

Hi There,

The field day is getting closer. We had a bit of a set-back at the beginning, but things are now falling into place.

What we really need is for all members to scout around and find at least one \$25 sponsor who has a business card and possibly a banner. One to be put in the programme and the other to be put up in the tent.

The success of the field day rests with the club members, so if you find a sponsor, let me know. So far we have KCE and ZCV.

The Wednesday night nets on 2 metres and 80 metres, need more participants, so please make an effort and come up on the local repeater at 7.30pm for the 1/2 hour net, then on to the 80 metre net on 3579.5 KHz at 8.00pm.

The trip to the mount on the 16th of March was a great day from what I was told. Ian did us proud with 29 contacts in a very short time.

I cannot understand why the contest finishes at 11.00am. Could be so the ORARC members could fire up the BBQ in readiness for a mid-day meal ? Hi Hi.

The night at the Hot Wok was well attended with 6 couples in attendance and all having a good night and a great chin-wag.

We still need to get the antennae up and working at the S.E.S Building. It looks to me as if the wire only needs to be fixed back at each end.

If somebody has a Slim-Jim or similar 2-Metre antenna not being used, and would like to put it to good use at the club room, then we could also get 2-metres and possibly packet up and running.

73 de Bruce (VK2HOT)

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Up & Coming Events, or "Down the Coax"

Friday, 8th April, 1997, 7.00pm
Social Night at S.E.S. Building,

Saturday, 3rd May, 1997, 1.00pm
Monthly meeting at S.E.S. Building.

Friday, 16th May, 1997, 7.00pm
Social Night at East Port Bowling
Club

Saturday, 31st May, 1997, 1.00pm
Monthly Meeting at S.E.S. Building
[Major Meeting prior to Field Day
Weekend]

Saturday, 7th June (PM)
Field Day Set-up and Dinner at West
Port Bowling club at 6.30pm for
7.00pm, followed by a 2-Metre Fox
Hunt.

Sunday, 8th June, 1997
Field Day in full swing.

Report on the John Moyle Field Day, 1997.

OXYTALES journalists swooped on Ian (VK2XU) when he entered the club's meeting rooms on Saturday 5th April. They were hopeful of getting a prepared press release from him which would expose all that took place at the John Moyle Field Day event that ORARC members held on the summit of North Brother. No such luck! Ian was prepared only to give a short interview to one lucky hack. Here is the outcome, tainted somewhat with journalistic licence, and a liberal application of fact distortion to enhance what had already been an apparently enjoyable day.

The adventurous group that ascended the mountain, comprised Ian (VK2XU), Bill (VK2WST) plus XYL Toni, David (VK2DAL), Lester (VK2BFP), Charles (VK2FSH), Bill (VK2ZCV) plus YL Ruth, and last but by no means least, "Peppie" (VK2DAWG I think) 2nd Op from the FSH shack.

They arrived in the somewhat later stages of the contest on the Sunday morning, and by the time they had installed their gear and a portable field antenna, a 40-metre 1/4 wave Sloper with counterpoise, only 59 minutes of contest time remained.

Using a large 12 volt battery supply to power a Kenwood TS570-S, Ian (XU) set to work to rack up a good score in the remaining time, urged on by the gathered throng. There was a rumour circulating that Toni and Ruth brought their fluffy feathered cheer-squad hardware and did a turn at the beginning of every QSO, but that is just what it was... a rumour!

In the 59 minutes available to him, Ian made 29 good contacts with VK1/2/3/4/5/7. Conditions on 40-M at that time were excellent, and despite the late start, the team was delighted with the results.

When the contest concluded at 1100 E.A.D.S.T., the participants wound up the event with a Barbie. We are told that individuals cooked their own tucker... doesn't anyone trust a community chef any more?

Anyway, a big "Well Done" tribute to the small group. Bit of a pity there was not more support from the membership, but let's hope for a larger attendance next year.

VIDEO SHOW AT SOCIAL NIGHT.

The Social night held at the club rooms attracted around 10 members. Apart from a good opportunity for indulging in informal chit-chat, ear-bending, and the exchange of ribald anecdotes, it enabled the group to enjoy a viewing of an interesting video tape.

David (VK2AYD), our RadioSport "Olympian" who participated in last year's WRTC-96 in California, acquired a video taped "documentary" of the event, which he brought along to the meeting. After significantly invasive surgical excursions into the entrails of the club's elderly Video Monitor and VCR (some say the new technique of Phaloplasty was involved, but I doubt it), the combination responded to the kiss of life and began to function. The gathering was then treated a showing.

It was a well narrated and produced video treatment of the events leading up to, during, and following this unusual, but prestigious event in the culture of the radio amateurs who play at contesting".

OXTALES readers will recall David's written account of this event that appeared in this newsletter in the latter half of last year. The video tape shows it all in graphic detail, and to a hardened "contester" it would surely be the next best thing to being there.

To those who missed out on the viewing at the social night, and would wish to see it, they may be able to come to an arrangement with David.

The social nights have great potential for activities such as the above, so if

any member has something to show, play, talk about, or demonstrate, why not arrange to do just that at one of our future get-togethers.



NOSTALGIC VIDEOS.

Lester (VK2BFP) has put some very worthwhile time and effort into producing two copies of a video tape that comprises snippets from past field days and other ORARC activities. The two copies brought to the club on Saturday 5th April, have gone out on loan already, but will be returned by the next meeting for others to borrow.

Some of the images have not been enhanced by the passage of time, and some perhaps point to the improvements that have taken place in video recording since the first clips were taken, but this "historical" quality adds to their mystique and charm.

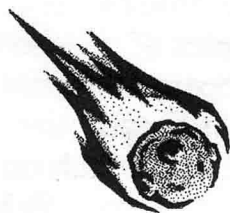
Recognising on screen, those apple-cheeked boyish faces that we now know as "old timers", seeing images of the "old timers" of those days who are now SK's, brings home the fact that ORARC has chalked up its own unique and substantial history. Our thanks must surely go to Lester for his painstaking effort in collating, editing and producing these copies. They will certainly serve to prolong the visible link with those past years.

Sadly, time and wear from playing will take its toll on the images, but let's commit some of it to memory by borrowing and viewing ... viewing is the next best thing to being there.... someone said that before!

SYMPATHY to DAVID

(VK2AYD)

Through the pages of *OXTALES*, the membership wishes to extend sincere sympathy to David Pilley and his family in the sad loss of David's mother. Mrs. Pilley, who lived in England, passed away in recent weeks.



HALE- BOPP

The dedicated Comet Watchers would no doubt be aware of the presence of the comet Hale-Bopp in our skies at the present time. Casual observers may be interested to know a few details about where it is, and when to look. The bad news is that most of the time it is there coincides with bright daylight. There is, however a period just after sunset when viewers with a good North-westerly outlook may be able to catch sight of it.

By the time you read this, the following data, computed from some recent orbital elements, should be current and may assist in some way for a glimpse to be caught of this rare visitor.

Sat. 26th April, through to Wed. 30th have the following times:-

Sunset will be at 1717 E.A.S.T. on the Saturday & be approximately 1 minute earlier on each day following .

At the time of sunset on each day, Hale-Bopp's co-ordinates will be as follows:-

Azimuth on the Saturday will be 316° decreasing by approximately 1° on

each day following.

Elevation on the Saturday will be 13° increasing by approximately 0.5° on each day following.

So you will have roughly around an hour after sunset to locate it before it also sets.

It will continue to be visible in the North-western sky for some weeks yet, but by around August, you will be able to get up early and look at it in the early mornings in the North-east. So, Good Comet watching.

For those of us who are not up to speed on Hale-Bopp, the following extract from a packet bulletin may be of interest. It originated from:-

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
JPL (NASA)

Contact: Stephanie R. Zeluck

Comet Hale-Bopp was discovered independently on July 22, 1995, by astronomer Hale and amateur astronomer Bopp from outside their respective locations of Cloudcroft, NM, and Phoenix, AZ.

At the time of its discovery, Comet Hale-Bopp was more than 929 million kilometers (577 million miles) from Earth, appearing over 1,000 times brighter than Comet Halley did at that same distance.

Recently, Comet Hale-Bopp has been visible in the northeast sky in the early morning before dawn, and in the northwest sky just after evening twilight. In the coming days, the comet will no longer be visible in the early morning hours. At the time of the "Comet Chasers" event, Hale-Bopp will appear quite bright and about 25

degrees up from the horizon in the northwest sky just after sunset. This will be the highest point at which the comet will appear, and it will set in the west after about two hours.

"Comet Hale-Bopp is living up to its advanced billing" said Yeomans, supervisor of JPL's Solar Systems Dynamics Group. "It's the brightest comet in 20 years, and can be easily seen by inexperienced observers. The only comparable comet was Comet West seen in March 1976, which at its best was slightly brighter than Hale-Bopp is now, but I'm hopeful that this comet will become as bright as Comet West. It's rare that you get one that's so civilized -- showing up in the evening sky about an hour after sunset in the middle of prime time."

Comets, composed of ice and dust, are believed to be remnants of the birth of the solar system. Their primordial material may lend clues in learning more about the origin and evolution of the planets. Originating in a region from beyond the orbit of Pluto, comets can have orbits taking several thousand years to complete. Hale-Bopp last passed by Earth 4,200 years ago, and is not expected to return for another 2,400 years.

Anybody gonna hang around for the next viewing?



Really Now!!

Ten Year-Old: "Dad! This magnet you bought me is no good."

Dad: "How did you work that out?"

Ten-Year-Old: "Well! Look, it won't pick up this Floppy Disc you just saved!"

Around the ORARC Traps

ZCV awaiting a hospital appointment (Get well fast, Bill).

FSH has problems with RF in his telephone.

WST is about to embark on ATV.

BFP put up a G5RV antenna and HF operation is imminent.

XU recently learnt how to change a tyre on his car.

TT and AYD did guest operator stints in the International Marconi Day event at special station VK2IMD.

If anyone offers you a 1895 telegraph system on a 400mm square board, contact TT... like FAST!

DAL is snorkling in Fiji.

AYD is road testing a TS-570S and loves it (CW of course).

KDL has head light problems on his car.

ZCV & WST have received ATV signals from the Lakes area.

HBC is now running a Kantronics TNC



Contesting de VK2AYD

Yes I'm still at it, but not as often as in past years. As I've got older, I find 48 hours non-stop is a bit much so I've changed my operating strategy to "Single Band" only. With the present sun spot cycle at a low ebb, this means about 8 hours a day operating time which suits my metabolism much better.

Working single band is relatively slow operating and chances of reaching

over 120 QSO's an hour is only possible in the first few hours. It soon dwindles to around 40 or 50.

As you know the great Amateur Radio moment in my life was representing Australia in the WRTC Contest last year. I also picked up a couple of plaques for the Japan International DX Contest, both Low Band (7MHz) and High Band (21MHz).

Contesting doesn't require a big station. I only have a 3 element triband Yagi at 10 metres and a couple of inverted V's for the low frequencies. Yes, I use a computer for logging and CW keying. It does require patience and dedication. Contests are not just CW. Nearly all have SSB segments. It sure would be nice to have another contester in the area. How about joining me for a contest?

- David (VK2AYD)



SATELLITES

So you think that 10m is dead? Try listening between 29.360 and 29.400MHz on USB or CW. You might even hear a DX pile-up. This is the down link of the RS-10 satellite.

RS-10 has been circling the earth for over 9 years, functioning 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The satellite is in a circular orbit of altitude 1000 km set at 82.9 degs. to the earth's equator. It takes just 105 minutes for the satellite to make a complete circuit of the earth, so it performs 13.7 rotations a day. As our planet rotates, RS-10 "drifts" west by some 26 degs. each orbit.

RS-10 is equipped for several modes of

operation and is earth-station commanded. Up frequencies can change from 21 MHz to 145 MHz. It is currently set for the 145 MHz up-link.

Beacon.....29.357 MHz (CW)
Robot.....29.403 MHz (CW)
Uplink.....145.865 - 145.905 MHz
(USB or CW)
Downlink.....29.360 - 29.400 MHz
(USB or CW)

The satellite has a big footprint which covers Australia. If you want to know the next pass then check your ITRACK or SATSCAN programme.

If you haven't got a computer then just leave your receiver tuned to 29.357 MHz and eventually you will hear the Robot sending Morse. This is technical data on the condition of the satellite and is sent at 20 wpm.

Once you've got it you can soon make a table of expected passes and remember each day it will be 31 minutes later than the previous day.

You could even talk to yourself by transmitting on 145 and listening to yourself on 29. To find your down link frequency remember the magic number 116.505. For example if you transmit on 145.870 MHz your signal will appear at 29.365 MHz (145.870 - 116.505). And don't be surprised if you hear your signal drift as much as 3 KHz. This is the Doppler effect and Doppler effect is another subject..

You have six opportunities a day to access RS-11. (4 will be fringe passes)
de VK2AYD From March RSGB Radcom.



Condolences to Snow Hodder, VK2DV

Through the pages of **OXTALES** the membership expresses sincere sympathy to Snow on the passing of his XYL, Phyl.

So You Noticed!

Yes, one would need to be asleep to have *not* noticed that **OXTALES** looks different. Hopefully it is not "different enough" to tarnish its image. Every effort has been made to preserve its distinctive framework as closely as different software packages and hardware will permit.

Perhaps not every member knows that the **OXTALES** format we have been enjoying for the last few years (well... since the availability of publishing packages and quality printers) was designed and printed by Larry (VK2CLL). It was a time consuming task that Larry performed voluntarily for each issue, when he received the "raw" file bearing its dubious content.

With an upgrade of software and hardware in the VK2TT shack, it became possible for the newsletter to be produced without the need for double handling, and the hassle it no doubt was for Larry to dove-tail the production task into his already tight work schedule.

To remove the load off Larry, this issue has been set up and printed in the VK2TT shack. Hopefully, the font variations, caused by the use of a different publishing package, will not offend readers. If there is *no* offence, then subsequent issues will be produced this way, subject of course to all the worldly variables that can impact on good intentions.

Thanks to Larry for the original design

and presentation of the newsletter, and of course for the hours expended over the past several years in setting it up every two months. This design will be preserved as closely as possible. It is a good design, and deserves retention.

- Trevor (VK2TT)

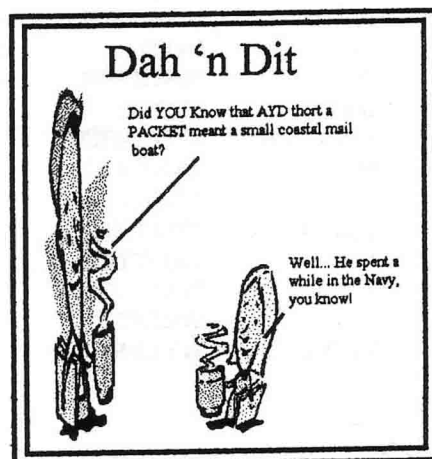
Contributions for **OXTALES**.

There was a dramatic drop in voluntary contributions of material for inclusion in **OXTALES** during the compiling period. I am sure that members out there must have some interesting hobby related information so desperately needed.

Whilst it is not hard to plagiarize items from bulletin boards and the like, the quality of the content is always enhanced if there is some original, local input. We have a couple of faithful contributors who support the pages, but it would be nice to have more membership involvement. Give it a go... somebody... Per-leeesee!!

Don't forget the May meeting on Sat. 3rd
It's an Important one.... The Field Day is
coming up, and there is a lot to be done.

REMEMBER... our field day sinks or
swims depending upon what we, as
individuals, do or don't do!



OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.

AS AT 22ND APRIL, 1997.

	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.
1	PETER	ALEXANDER	VK2PA	ROLLANDS PLAINS	065 85.8254
2	MARIO	BAGNASCHI	-	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.1874
3	KEN	BECK	VK4WKB	CALOUNDRA	074 91.5798
4	COLIN	BELLENGER	VK2AF	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.3803
5	W. L. (BOB)	BLYTH	VK2XIQ	PORT MACQUARIE	-
6	KEVIN	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.8325
7	RICHARD	COURT	VK2CHC	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2379
8	PETER	COX	VK2IPC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.1236
9	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.9922
10	JIM	DANIELS	-	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.1933
11	CHARLES	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.0495
12	PETER	GAVIN	-	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.6854
13	BADEN	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.2018
14	LEWIS	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.9162
15	GRAEME	GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.4684
16	SAM	GRIFFITHS	VK2LSG	TAREE	065 52.3149
17	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
18	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	065 85.5349
19	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.7095
20	JOHN	JONES	VK2DX	LAKE CATHIE	065 85.4522
21	PETER	KUCERA	VK2MPK	WAUCHOPE	065 85.3406
22	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.1206
23	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	065 87.1155
24	TONY	LONSDALE	VK2DHU	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.0345
25	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	065 -
26	KEITH	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	065 85.0321
27	ALLAN	MADIGAN	-	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2043
28	JASON	MARIS	-	TELEGRAPH POINT	065 85.0426
29	JOHN	MCDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.0020
30	DOUG	MCDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.6157
31	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.5696
32	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.1998
33	LEO	MCPHERSON	VK2CLM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.3183
34	TERRY	MEEHAN	VK2KL	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.2997
35	ARTHUR	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.1311
36	RAY	MULLINS	VK2WRM	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.0685
37	LAURIE	NEWHAM	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.3981
38	LESTER	O'CONNELL	VK2BFP	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.4274
39	DAVID A	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	065 85 2647
40	PAUL	ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 84.1830
41	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81 1776
42	BILL	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.0329
43	DAVID	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE NSW	065 85.1004
44	WILLIAM	STOFMEEL	VK2WST	BONNY HILLS NSW	065 84.8104
45	DAVID	TARRANT	VK2HBC	WAUCHOPE	065 85.6381
46	COL	TERRY	VK2VQT	PORT MACQUAIRE	065 83.5268
47	TREVOR	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	065 85.2278
48	NEIL	TROTTER	VK2NNT	LAKE CATHIE	065 85.4430
49	BRUCE	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	065 83.8360
50	PAUL	WEBSTER	VK2BZC	PORT MACQUARIE	065 82.3377
51	RONALD W	WYLES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	065 81.1085



CE KEVIN