



OXTALES

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

October 1998

Compiled by VK2TT

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President's Report

Hi All,

Well Christmas is getting closer, so put your orders in to the XYL, YL or children now so they have time to save up.

Camp Quality was a great event for the Club as was the Billy Cart Derby and fun run and JOTA. These events are covered elsewhere in this great edition of Oxtales. I would like to thank the members who assisted in these events. A great effort and good exposure for the Club within this community.

Work is going well at both RPM and RCN with a small band of willing hands doing a tremendous job.

I would advise all members to check the renewal dates on their licences with the ACA. With the 3 or 5 year system it is easy to overlook this and we do not want unlicensed operators using the system that WE pay for.

If you are not sure or cannot find your licence then contact me, or if you are on the Internet then look it up on the following ACA Web Page:

<http://www.aca.gov.au/database/rad-comm/licence.htm>

Scroll down the page and enter your VK call sign and hit search and it will tell you the required info.

73 de Bruce (VK2HOT)
President ORARC.

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DOWN THE COAX

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER
MEETING - SES BUILDING : 1 PM

THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
OUTING AT CONTASIA : 6 PM

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
MEETING - SES BUILDING : 1 PM

SUNDAY-13 TH DECEMBER
XMAS BBQ AT VK2JJ's HOME : 1 OAM
(The location of John's QTH is
LOT 17 LAKESIDE WAY
Lake Cathie.)

RESULTS OF THE 1998 JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY

48 logs were received from all over Australia and some from New Zealand. Our Club VK2BOR results are as follows:-

23rd out of 48 entries (6 and 24 hour portable combined).

3rd in the portable 6 hour section out of 13 (includes single and multi operators).

1st in the multi-operator section.

We scored 264 points and for our efforts we will receive a certificate. Thanks to all those that took part in the trip to the number one fire tower. Can we do better in 1999? If the

wildlife count as 50 points each then we could win easily.

Mister Contest, better known as David VK2AYD also, has been contesting with a 5th place in the 1998 Pacific 160 metre contest, scoring 208 points and a certificate. He also entered the Commonwealth contest in the open section and finished in 16th place with a score of 4514. Well done David, keep it up.

Cheers from VK2HOT Bruce

Club Station Set Up at Camp Quality.

On 28th, 29th September and the 1st October, the Oxley Regional Amateur Radio Club Station, VK2BOR was set up at the the camp Quality site at Bonny Hills and was operated by seven Club members. There was

Wanted.

Tower reaching 40 feet or more with winch tilt-over. Preferably triangle type and free standing. Must be in good order and of heavy construction to withstand wind and weight. If you suit my requirements, please call me, **(Jason, VK2FT)** on (02) 6585.0426

one HF base and one VHF base working and over the time that they were in operation, many contacts were made with other Camp Quality sites by the children and their companions.

Activities which were provided on site, apart from Amateur Radio, included an abseiling tower and flying fox which was established and operated by our State Emergency Services Group. Petrol driven mini Jeeps, Hot air Balloon, many craft type activities plus too many other to list.

It was good to see our club involved in such a worthwhile activity, which I know was appreciated by the Kids and the camp organisers. These camps are a Community driven event which relies totally on community support for their success. I would like to thank those club members who took part for their support for this event and by doing so have not only provided an insight into amateur Radio to these Kids, but have also presented our Club to the Community at large. I would also like to thank Wendy Monck for producing 75 grab bags of goodies which were distributed to those attending the camp.

David (VK2DAB)

Repeater Committee Report.

Since the last report the following has, or has not, taken place.

Middle Brother Digipeater.

The VHF digipeater has been removed and tested and found to be operationally sound. The problem lies in the antenna which appears to be open circuit. A new antenna has been built by VK2VY and will be substituted for the faulty one and the digipeater restored to service as soon as possible. VK2VY and VK2TT will be carrying out this as soon as it can be arranged. To date when they have booth been available the weather has been such as to make climbing the tower dangerous, and when the weather has been suitable, the people have been unavailable.

Steel mesh has been purchased to repair the rusted out portions of the cabinet housing our repeaters and these repairs will be carried out as soon as possible.

Telegraph Point.

The paperwork for the transfer of all three licences from Mt. Cairncross to Telegraph point has been completed, and approval for the move given to the ACA by the WIA. The Australian Communica-

tions Authority's Mr. John Lockwood, has indicated to me by phone that there would be no further problems regarding the move, and will let us know when to pay the \$50 transfer fee.

The voice repeater has been assembled into the rack and cabinet along with the cavity resonators which have been modified for use at the repeater frequencies. These cavities have still to be tuned, which will be done by VK2ZCV, using his spectrum analyser and other equipment. Steel mesh has been obtained to vermin-proof the cabinet and as soon as this is done, and the approval for license transfer confirmed, the rack and contents will be commissioned at the new site.

Boy Blythe, VK2XIQ, is preparing a digipeater for operation at the same site and is currently building a power supply for it. As soon as they are ready and an aerial installed on the tower, the new digipeater will also be commissioned.

Dave (VK2DAB)

STOP PRESS.

24-10-1998

The Secretary advises that written approval has been received for the transfer of repeater facilities from Cairncross to Telegraph Point..

Winston said:

"Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us.
Pigs look us in the eyes... as equals."

David Suzuki

David Suzuki said on S.B.S. Nov. '97 that the entire Indian Subcontinent, of over one thousand million people, uses the same amount of energy as greater Los Angeles.!

(more linears and contesters in W'land than in VU'Land, perhaps? Ed.)

Beechwood Fun-Run & Billy Cart Derby

On Sunday Morning 8th October, 1998, five willing members of the ORARC attended the Beechwood course, to support the 19th running of the Beechwood Billy Cart Derby.

When we arrived, the truck provided for the PA system, radio base and official podium was already in position so all I had to do was hook up the speaker cables and plug the PA system into the mains, and mount a magna-bas antenna. The rest of the crew had their equipment already installed in their vehicles along with hand-helds.

This year, the organisers added some home comforts to the control centre (the table top of the truck). The base station operators and officials never had it so good. On the back of the truck was mounted a steel frame with a cover to provide shade for all on board and this allowed a nice high spot for the

magna-base of the two-metre antenna.

The Fun-run comms worked well technically, but we had to cope with the usual problem of difficulty in reading many of the numbers on the runner's bibs as they flashed passed the check points. Bibs, folded over in the breeze, or flapping in the contestant's face as they sped past, made it hard for the observers to identify and announce the competitors's numbers before the body had disappeared along the track.

For the main event, the Billy Cart race, we had Roy (VK2YOR) - who picked the short straw - set up in the commentary vehicle to lead the field on the down the hill run (Hopefully keeping in front of the carts). Using his 10-watt 2-meter radio for the comm's down the hill, the setup worked just fine (not for the faint hearted I understand... Pappinbarra Road has some twisty spots, and in places there are steep gradients. Gravity driven Billy Carts have been known to catch up with the commentary vehicle, and almost end up inside it... ask VK2CE (Kevin) who once - *and only once* - supplied and drove the commentary vehicle. Kev., soon after that, left

the district and now lives quietly on the South Coast!).

All in all, everybody had a great day, because the weather stayed fine, the food and drinks available were great, and the club's service to this community organised event for local charities, went off without a hitch.

Members attending and making their equipment and time available were Ian (VK2XU), Jason (VK2FY), Roy (VK2YOR), John (VK2KHB) and yours truly, VK2VY. OH! and a special thanks to Roy (VK2YOR) and XYL for coming to the rescue at such short notice. Thanks to all who attended.

Cheers John (VK2VY)

Jota98 Report

- Port Macquarie -

On Saturday morning, Members of ORARC attended the Buller St Scout Hall. We arrived at around 8am and set up the club's new HF radio and the G5RV antenna went up after planting the two poles. The two meter station was setup next and we were on air by 9.30am.

We made some contacts both on 2-meters and HF but local Scout in-

terest was low and we had to go and ASK some kids to talk on air!

Some of the few that were present stayed around for a few hours but it was the kids we were short of, we sat around most of the day waiting for the Scouts to turn up. It was not until about 430 pm that some arrived.

The ORARC members were looked after with food and drinks all day but with the lack of interest and action from the scouts it made a rather dull affair.

Band conditions were rather good I thought, but the ORARC boys just gave out signal reports to the calling CQ JOTA stations.

Well the best part of the day was around 6pm when someone lit the BBQ and we enjoyed steak sandwiches and drinks. But that was the time I had to go to Hollingsworth Street hall to set up a 2nd station.

Arriving at the hall I planted the clubs multi-band vertical antenna and watered it in well because of the sandy ground. I was greeted in the hall by lots of smiling faces, keen to get on air, and it was not long before we made some contacts across VK but we only had an hour or so of operating before they bedded down for the night. I then returned to Buller Street where we kept the station

running (Still No Scouts!) until we closed at 11pm..

Sunday morning we arrived at the hall to find only ORARC members (no Scouts) but as band conditions were good, it was very hard to keep Paul off HF and I sat around drinking coffee (I wish I had some grog now) till I had to depart to Hollingsworth Street hall..

Arriving at the hall I had the help from VK2AF and VK2HOT and we soon had the 2-meter and HF stations on air. However, due to the lack of action on 2-meters by any local JOTA stations, we just kept the HF running till we closed at 1230 and returned to Buller Street hall...

As I said before, conditions on HF were great, and if the local scout members had attended it would have made a great weekend .

In closing, I must say that due to the lack of attendance by the scouts this year, I don't think I'll be giving up my spare time at the Buller Street Scout hall next year, unless changes are made.

Cheers

John. VK2VY)

No Jota at Wauchope.

Despite a ready, willing, and able ORARC crew being available for the usual event at the Guide Hall, the Wauchope Guide officials advised that they would not be participating this year.

A Sterling Idea.

The British silver standard for coinage and plate contains 92.5% silver and 7.5% copper, and this "standard silver" has been in almost continuous use for over 800 years. In fact it originated in Roman times, and the Anglo-Saxon silver pennies were of this standard. It is also known as "Sterling silver", a term which came into use in the twelfth century, being so called after the expert melters, or coiners, from East Germany - who were known as Easterlings - and were employed by Henry II to improve and standardise the British coinage which had become debased. The coins made by these melters were known as "Easterling" silver, but with the common custom of shortening long words it was in due course called "Sterling". This term has long been used to denote standard quality beyond dispute for both silver coinage and plate, and in course of time has become part of the currency of our common speech as an expression of genuine quality and high merit.

(From: *Working in Precious Metals*. Earnest A. Smith 1933)

John (VK2JJ)

(For info: Encyclopaedia Britannica contains the following entry under this subject...Ed.)

Sterling: the standard of purity for silver. The term sterling silver denotes any silver alloy in which pure silver makes up at least 92.5 percent of the content.

One theory is that the word sterling comes from the name Easterlings--coiners from east German states brought to England during the reign of Henry II (1154-89) to improve the quality of the coinage. A more plausible derivation is from the Old English word *steorling* ("coin with a star"), for small stars occur on some Norman pennies.

Famous Beer Quotes.

Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep mouth shut - Ernest Hemingway.

He is a wise man who invented beer.
- Plato.

A woman drove me to drink and I didn't even have the decency to thank her - W. C. Fields.

You're not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on.
- Dean Martin.

Answers to Last Month's Quiz.

Q1. (c) Q2. (c) Q3. (b) Q4. (c)
Q5. (a) Q6. (c) Q7. (c) Q8. (c)



OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Inc.
MEMBERSHIP REGISTER.
(Current at 22nd October, 1998)

Cat.	FIRST NAME (Spouse)	SURNAME	CALL SIGN	TOWN/CITY	TPH. NO.	
1	F	JOHN (FLORENCE)	BAILEY	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2192
2	F	JOHN	BAYLIS	VK2JB	PORT MACQUARIE	
3	F	COLIN (IAN)	BELLENGER	VK2AF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3803
4	F	BOB	BRODIE	VK2EJK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0592
5	F	ROY W	BURGESS	VK2YOR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9349
6	F	PETER (COLLEEN)	BURLS		PORT MACQUARIE	65835161
7	F	BRUCE	CLARK	VK2MAZ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5245
8	F	KEVIN (JUNE)	COULTER	VK2MAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8325
9	F	RICHARD (LINDA)	COURT	VK2CHC	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2379
10	F	IAN	DALRYMPLE	VK2XU	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9922
11	F	JIM	DANIELS	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1933
12	F	CHARLES (PAT)	EDMONDSON	VK2FSH	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.0495
13	D	STAN	ELLIS	VK2DDL	TUNCURRY	
14	F	BADEN (VALERY)	GLEESON	VK2MOQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.2018
15	F	LEWIS (PAMELA)	GREEN	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
16	F	GRAEME	GREENWOOD	VK2ZIS	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.4684
17	L	KEITH	HANLON	-	PORT MACQUARIE	-
18	D	BARRY	HARWOOD	VK2BAZ	GUNNEDAH	
19	L	PETER	HILL	VK2BZA	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.5449
20	F	SNOW	HODDER	VK2DV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7095
21	F	DON	JONES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.5084
22	F	JOHN (THEA)	JONES	VK2JJ	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585.4522
23	D	BRIAN	KELLY	VK2WBK	TAMWORTH	02 6776.2004
24	F	JACK	LEEDS	VK2KN	PORT MACQUARIE	0265825991
25	L	LARRY	LINDSAY	VK2CLL	WAUCHOPE	02 6587.1155
26	L	HENRY	LUNDELL	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 65 -
27	F	KEITH (GWEN)	LUTTON	VK2KDL	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0321
28	F	ALLAN (DAWN)	MADIGAN	VK2MAI	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2043
29	F	IASON	MARIS	VK2FT	TELEGRAPH POINT	02 6585.0426
30	F	JOHN (KARIN)	MCDONAGH	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.0020
31	F	DOUG	MCDONALD	VK2EUM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.6157
32	F	JIM	MCINTYRE	VK2CJM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.5696
33	F	JOHN	MCLEAN	VK2KCE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.7400
34	L	ARTHUR (WENDY)	MONCK	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.1311
35	F	ALLAN	NUTT	VK2GD	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582.3557
36	F	DAVID A (DEE)	PILLEY	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585.2647
37	F	PAUL (BARBARA)	ROMAINE	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.1830
38	F	BILL	ROTH	VK2CWR	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581.1776
39	F	NEIL (VERENA)	SANDFORD	VK2EI	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584.9162
40	F	BILL (RUTH)	SINCLAIR	VK2ZCV	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9302
41	F	DAVID (ROMA)	SMITH	VK2DAL	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.1004
42	D	DARYL	ST. JOHN	VK2MZ	FORSTER	
43	F	DAVID (AILEEN)	TARRANT	VK2HBC	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.6381
44	F	TREVOR (PHYLLIS)	THATCHER	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585.2278
45	D	GRAEME	VIRTUE	VK2GJ	BRUNSWICK HEADS	
46	F	BRUCE (GWEN)	WALKER	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.8360
47	F	JIM	WEBSTER	VK2BZD	PORT MACQUARIE	-
48	F	RONALD W	WYLES	-	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583.9742

F = Full Member D = Distant Member L = Life Member

