



OXTALES

First published 1980

Club Nets on VK2RPM
146.700MHz
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)
Sundays 0900
Thursdays 1930

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.,

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Club email address: vk2bor@orarc.org also on Facebook as Oxley

Region Amateur Radio Club

Club Website: <http://www.orarc.org>



ORARC's Forty-eighth Anniversary Year

November 2019

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell	VK2ZHE	6582 0534
VICE PRES: Paul Colledge	VK2ICQ	6580 9912
TREASURER: Dennis Meade	VK2DAM	6582 2998
SECRETARY: Henry Lundell (act)	VK2ZHE	6582 0534

ORARC VHF/UHF Repeaters

MIDDLE BROTHER

VK2RPM 2 metre (Voice - CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 146.700MHz - I/P 146.100MHz

VK2RPM 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123Hz)
O/P 438.525MHz - I/P 433.525MHz
C4FM digital mode capability

VK2RPM-1 (APRS Digipeater)
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

TELEGRAPH POINT

VK2RCN 2 metre (Voice)
O/P 147.000 MHz - I/P 146.400 MHz

VK2RCN 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123 Hz)
O/P 438.425MHz - I/P 433.425MHz

VK2RCN (6m Repeater)
O/P 53.800 MHz - I/P 52.800 MHz

VK2RCN-1 (APRS Digipeater)

President's Report

November 2019



JOTA 2019



On Saturday the 19th of October ORARC club members set up one station for the 62nd annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). VK2BOR operated from the club's communications caravan adjacent to the Port Macquarie Sea Scouts' Boatshed at McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River. VK2BOR operated during

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Down The Coax

Monthly meetings & Friday Nights held in the
SES Building Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 November 2019 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 November 2019 7.00 pm

Spring VHF UHF Contest
12 noon Sat 23 to 12 noon Sun 24 November
2019

White Ribbon Coastal Walk Against Domestic
& Family Violence

Tacking Point to West Port Park Port Mac-
quarie
Sunday 1 December 2019 7:00 am to 11:00 am

ORARC Christmas Party
And Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 7 December 2019
From 10 am. BBQ Lunch 12 noon
Long Point Winery Picnic Area

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 20 December 2019 7.00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 January 2020 2:00 pm

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 January 2020 7.00 pm

Net Controllers' Roster

Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0900 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

November 2019

VK2FMGM	Nov 3	VK2EM	Nov 7
VK2FMGM	Nov 10	VK2ZHE	Nov 14
VK2FMGM	Nov 17	VK2ICQ	Nov 21
VK2FMGM	Nov 24	VK2EM	Nov 28

December 2019

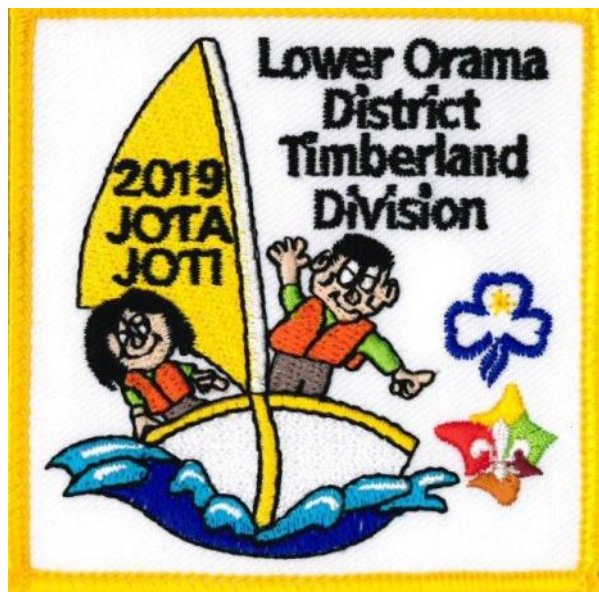
VK2FMGM	Dec 1	VK2ZHE	Dec 5
VK2FMGM	Dec 8	VK2ICQ	Dec 12
VK2FMGM	Dec 15	VK2EM	Dec 19
VK2FMGM	Dec 22	VKZHE	Dec 26
VK2FMGM	Dec 29		

January 2020

VK2FMGM	Jan 5	VK2ICQ	Jan 2
VK2FMGM	Jan 12	VK2EM	Jan 9
VK2FMGM	Jan 19	VKZHE	Jan 16
VK2FMGM	Jan 26	VK2ICQ	Jan 23
		VK2EM	Jan 30

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the daylight hours of Saturday the 19th October only.



JOTA station VK6BJW at Geraldton in Western Australia was worked via Echolink through the Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre repeater. Ten NSW scouts spoke with 10 separate Western Australian Scouts by this means.



HF antenna horizontal dipole

The Port Macquarie JOTA station was very busy this year as Port Macquarie was a District JOTA Event covering the area between Camden Haven and Coffs Harbour with Scouts and Guides from the Lower Orama District Timberlands Division very keen to make their on-air contacts. In all 43 Scouts and Guides at the event made individual contacts. In addition, the VK2BOR operators continued to speak with Scouts and Guides at other JOTA stations during a couple of lulls in the otherwise continuous stream of local Scouts and Guides waiting to make on-air contacts.

At Port Macquarie the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts set up a varied range of outdoor activities and a sausage sizzle. The outdoor activities were very popular and nicely complimented JOTA. The Jamboree on the Internet was set up with several computers under a marquee erected adjacent to the Communications Caravan. This year was the 23rd JOTI. JOTI was popular but interestingly, most Scouts and Guides ranked talking on the radio for JOTA, canoeing, and Morse Code as their favourite activities.

HF propagation was reasonable. Horizontal dipoles supported by a central portable flagpole were set up along the river bank for the 40 and 20 metre bands. VK2BOR made contacts on 40 metres and all the scouts and guides patiently waiting for their turns on air got to talk with JOTA stations in NSW, ACT and Queensland. JOTA stations from Queensland, Victoria and the ACT were worked on 40 metres including VK4TG on the Sunshine Coast and the VK1BP Baden Powell flagship JOTA station in Canberra. No JOTA stations were heard on 20 metres this year.



JOTI Internet Set up

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The various games of skill included several different forms of target accuracy and consistency. The balloon bursting “TNT” activity punctuated the entire day with loud bangs. The participants wore protective earmuffs and glasses as they pumped up the balloons by hand but spectators had to stand well back! The rope bridge opposed crossing tested both balance and strategy. The catapult was very popular. Despite the guaranteed dunking in water containers, riding the cleverly constructed crane was particularly popular.

It is fortunate that the chairs at the VK2BOR operating position have hard plastic seats as many of the Scouts and Guides arrived wet for a turn at the microphone to make on air JOTA contacts! Clearly, getting wet in participating in the activities that involved immersion or spray was an enjoyable part of the day.

Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Mark McGuire VK2FMGM, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE, Ivan Southwell VK2FIJN and John Hansen VK2AYQ. The teamwork in setting up the caravan, supervising and operating the radio, and then packing up at the end of the day made for a very enjoyable day. Special thanks to John Bailey VK2KHB for arriving early to help with setting up. Taree visitor Graeme Frappell VK2GCF called in during the setting up to meet some of the ORARC club members. Graeme is intending to move to Port Macquarie next year so is another potential club member.



Arthur VK2ATM with the Communications Caravan.

At a special ceremony during the day, Tracey Walsh, 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts Group Leader and organizer of the event, presented ORARC with an attractive Appreciation Certificate. She also presented each JOTA volunteer with an individual appreciation certificate and both the 2019 JOTA JOTI patch and the very attractive Lower Orama Timberland Division 2019 JOTA JOTI patch. Thank you, Tracey.



Beechwood Billycart Classic



This year the Beechwood Billycart Classic was held on Sunday the 27th of October 2019. This event is run down the longest course in Australia. It is about 5 kilometres long. As usual, ORARC members provided the safety communications for the event. The safety communications is critical to the running of the Classic. Thank you to Richard Court VK2CHC for co-ordination of the many volunteers who were needed to man all the check points. The commentator for the commentary vehicle called in sick at the last minute so the updates from the checkpoints provided the only information on the progress of the race for the

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public address at the finish. Arthur Monck VK2ATM set up the interface to the public address system expecting to just patch in the commentary but found himself the intermediary keeping the public address abreast of the race progress. Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU provided net control as well as manning his checkpoint.



Gravity takes its toll!

Thank you to all the volunteers. Callsigns included VK2CRF, VK2DAM, VK2FMGM, VK2ATM, VK2CLL, VK2BIG, VK2ZRE, VK2AYQ, VK2SMI, VK2FAIL, VK2IJS, VK2FRJH and XYL Jo and VK2ZHE. Those who participated in the day will recognize themselves in the group photographs included in this issue of "Oxtales". Special thanks go to Glen O'Riley VK2FAIL for coming up from Taree to participate.



Rob VK2CRF, Dennis VK2DAM, Larry VK2CLL, Richard VK2CHC, Lyle VK2SMI, Mark VK2FMGM and Bob VK2ZRE

Commiserations to Paul Colledge VK2ICQ who had planned to fly his drone to capture some action video from his checkpoint but had to pull out at the last minute when he was hospitalised with a collapsed lung. Paul had made detailed on site preparations for flying the drone on the weekend prior to the Classic. Paul is back home on light duties awaiting surgery. We all wish Paul a good recovery. Despite the day of the Beechwood Classic being their wedding anniversary Paul and his XYL Paula VK2FPDC had volunteered for the Classic. With Paul in hospital Paula had to pull out of the event too.

The event ran smoothly despite a few exciting moments near the start. The leading carts managed some serious speeds down the mountain and provided a great sight for the spectators who watched from their favourite strategic vantage points. The lead cart reached speeds in excess of 100 kilometres per hour which pushed the commentator-less Commentary vehicle to its limits to stay ahead.



The main race was run and completed before the junior event started. The junior event consisted of several races which are



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always contested with much enthusiasm.

As always, Beechwood put on entertainment with food and drink stalls to make the Classic an enjoyable family day out. The event had been intensively advertised. This large attendance resulted in parking being at a premium with all spaces near the finish occupied very early in the day. Cars were parked along the road for two kilometres either side of the finish. After the main race concluded, traffic was eventually able to bypass the road closure at the finish via a newly opened subdivision road. However, the road into the subdivision was located just behind the starting line for the junior races so traffic moved very slowly.

The entertainment was enjoyed by a very large crowd and the food and drink stalls did a roaring trade. In keeping with tradition, the weather was perfect. This encouraged the large crowd to stay and enjoy the entertainment for the afternoon.

The organisers formally thanked ORARC for its role in helping to make the Classic safe and enjoyable. ORARC has been promised a cheque for \$150.00 as a kind donation which will greatly assist with club projects. We look forward continuing our long-standing support and participating in next year's event.

Spring VHF UHF Field Day

The annual Spring VHF UHF Field Day takes place from 01:00 hours UTC on Saturday the 23rd of November to 01:00 hours on Sunday the 24th of November 2019. This equates to 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday Eastern Australian Daylight Saving Time.

The contest rules are available on the WIA website at <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/documents/2019%20Spring%20VHF-UHF%20Field%20Day%20Rules.pdf>

The ORARC club station VK2BOR has participated in this annual Field Day in past years. However, this year club members are encouraged to participate from their individual stations.

White Ribbon Coastal Walk



ORARC members will be providing safety radio communications for the 2019 White Ribbon Liberty Coastal Walk Against Domestic and Family Violence from the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club to Westport Park in Port Macquarie on the morning of Sunday the 1st of December. The club has supported this annual event for several years. The safety communications requires operators at the start and finish, and at the major check points along the course.

The finish of the walk is at West Port Park. The intermediate check points are at Shelly Beach, Flynn's Beach and Town Beach. An operator will also be at the Town Green.

The club's Communications Caravan will be set up at the West Port Park finish. Due to the shadowing by the steep coastal terrain at the Lighthouse Beach start, and the checkpoints at Shelly Beach and Flynn's Beach, a relay will be required to enable those locations to communicate with the finish and the rest of the course.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered for the event.

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A few more operators are still required.

Please contact Henry Lundell VK2ZHE if you are able to help. Set up is from 7am and the event will be over by 11am. Port Macquarie Marine Rescue will be running a barbeque at the West Port Park finish. The mobile coffee truck should also be at the finish.

As with all recent club major communications events, participation is recognized by WICEN so WICEN members will receive credit for their time in the field.

A full report on the walk will appear in the January 2020 issue of Oxtales.

Christmas Party

Members and their families and friends are cordially invited to attend the club's 2018 Christmas Party on Saturday the 7th of December. The party will feature the traditional sausage sizzle lunch followed by a delicious home made dessert. Please bring your own salads and some pre-lunch nibbles.

The venue is the picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery at 6 Coinda Place, Lake Cathie. Coinda Place runs off Long Point Drive which in turn runs off Houston Mitchell Drive. This is the "Ghost Road" which runs between Ocean Drive just south of Lake Cathie, and the Pacific Highway. The location is easy to find but a map is available on the Vineyard web site at <http://www.longpointvineyard.com.au/contact-us/>

There are two tables on the picnic area deck but it is a good idea to bring your own folding chair and table if you have one.

The fires came very close to the vineyard but thankfully it was contained before it could spread to the vineyard itself.

Please see the separate notice of the

Christmas Party in this issue of "Oxtales".

Thank you to Committee member Arthur Monck VK2ATM for securing the venue with free use of the picnic facilities for the ORARC Christmas Party again this year. The ORARC Christmas Party has been held at this excellent popular venue for the past couple of years. The Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery management was very pleased to welcome us back so we clearly make a good impression.

The Winery and the Art Gallery will be open on the day. Please take the opportunity to visit during the day.

The club's communications caravan will be not on site for the party but the club will still provide free tea and coffee and soft drinks as usual.

There will not be a December Monthly General Meeting during the Christmas Party. If business arises during December such items will be discussed at the normal December Friday Night Get Together at the SES Building at 7:30 pm on Friday the 20th of December 2019. The next Monthly Meeting will be the normal January Monthly General Meeting at the SES Building at 2 pm on Saturday the 4th of January 2020.

Distant Members now Eligible to Vote at ORARC Meetings

Approval has been received from Fair Trading NSW for the amendment to the Constitution of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. so that Paragraph 3.4.2 of the Constitution now reads "A Distant Member shall be entitled to participate in all business proceedings of the Club and receive all notices and news letters but shall not be eligible to hold office." The special resolution to make this amendment was passed by the required two thirds majority at the Special General Meeting which was held on Saturday the 7th September 2019.

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The above change to the constitution means that Distant Members are now eligible to vote on matters in the event that they attend an ORARC meeting in person. ORARC does not have proxy voting so members have to be present at a meeting in order to cast a vote.

ORARC 2020 Calendar

Steve Wynn VK2ZSW has been busy creating the club's 2020 calendar. Despite the delays caused by the fires it is hoped that Calendars will be available at the Christmas Party. The price for the calendars will be a mere \$2 each. The annual calendar has become a "must have" for every ham shack. The calendar is indispensable for putting a face to members' callsigns. There are a few new faces on the 2020 calendar. In addition, the information on the calendar will ensure that you never miss a club meeting or net.

The club is indebted to Jaycar Port Macquarie for subsidizing the printing costs of the calendar. This enables the calendars to be sold for the low price of \$2 each.

2020 Callbook

Sadly, a 2020 Amateur Radio Callbook is not being produced so the long-established annual callbook has ceased publication.

VK2RCN Telegraph Point Repeaters

There has been a lot of work by the sub-committee appointed to develop a new site for the VK2RCN repeaters at Telegraph Point. An application has been made for a grant to help fund the works. The result of the application will be announced early in the New Year.

The VK2RCN 53.800 MHz 6 metre FM repeater is currently out of service. The repeater had been experiencing an

intermittent audio level problem so it was removed for repair. Unfortunately, this was done just as the fires approached the area so there may be a delay in completing the repair and placing the repeater back in service. Mains power at the site failed on the 9 November when fire burnt power poles. The repeaters are off air until power is restored which is expected to be on the 19 November.

Parrot Repeater Test

The parrot repeater on 147.475 MHz with 91.5 HZ CTCSS required for access, is still on test. The VHF radio coverage from the site is looking very encouraging. The mountain top site is located between Long Flat and Pappinbarra. The fires in the area are a threat but so far the site has been spared.



Parrot Repeater set up

Amateur Radio Licence Training and Assessments

Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL has been busy as an RFS volunteer fighting the fires but training and assessments for the Foundation Licence and assessments for the Standard and Advanced Licences will be conducted before Christmas.



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Mid North Coast Region WICEN



Amateurs are invited to join Mid North Coast Region WICEN. Meetings are held in the SES building in Central Road Port Macquarie after the conclusion of the ORARC monthly general meetings on the afternoon of the first Saturday of each month except December.

Silent Key

Sadly, esteemed Life Member Charles Edmondson VK2KCE (ex VK2FSH) passed away on Monday the 11th of November 2019. Charles had recently moved into Bethany Aged Care. His unexpected passing is all the more poignant as it coincided with Remembrance Day. A full Silent Key appears in this issue of Oxtales.

I wish all members and their families and friends a safe and happy Christmas and best wishes for 2020.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President



The previous photograph is of something that is not seen every day. It is a photo of the Sydney Harbour catamaran ferry Golden Grove crossing the bar on the afternoon of 25 October 2019, as she entered the Hastings River on her way to Birdon Marine. Henry VK2ZHE just happened to be in the right place at the right time! She took 14 hours to make the trip to Port from Sydney Harbour.



The above photograph is of the presentation of the Clubman of the Year 2019 badge to Mark McGuire VK2FMGM at the Friday Night Get Together on the 20th of September 2019.

Mark was presented with the certificate for the Clubman of the Year 2019 at the AGM (photo on page 3 of September 2019 Oxtales).



Cartoon
supplied by
Larry
VK2CLL

Additional Photographs of JOTA and the Beechwood Billycart Classic



Beechwood Billycart Classic



Arthur VK2ATM and Lyle VK2SMI in discussion



Preparing for action Rob VK2CRF, Lyle VK2SMI, Stuart VK2FSTU, Rod, VK2FRJH, Bob VK2BIG, Larry VK2CLL, Richard VK2CHC and Glen VK2FAIL



Mounting point of HF Dipole on Surf club.

Below the Hastings River provided a scenic backdrop to the JOTA activities.



Silent Key – Charles Edmondson VK2KCE ex VK2FSH



It is with great sadness that we record the passing on Monday the 11th of November 2019 of Esteemed ORARC Life Member Kenneth Charles Edmondson VK2KCE at Port Macquarie. He was 92 years old and was born on 15th November 1926 in Leeton New South Wales.

Charles had recently moved from his home in Port Macquarie to Bethany Aged Care in Port Macquarie due to a decline in his mobility.

Pat, his late wife, predeceased Charles.

Charles previously held the callsign VK2FSH but changed it to VK2KCE when long-time holder of VK2KCE, fellow club member John McLean, relinquished it when he changed his callsign to the two-letter call VK2KC when it became available. Charles had always coveted VK2KCE as his initials were KCE despite being known as Charles rather than Kenneth.

Charles was a long-time active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. He was a past President and

Charles was made a Life Member in 2012.



Charles was a very proud member of the National Servicemen's Association NSW and was a foundation member of the Port Macquarie Sub Branch. He was one of the National Servicemen and partners who unveiled the first National Servicemen's Memorial in McInherney Park at Port Macquarie on the 10th of July 2001. He was present when the current plaque on the memorial was unveiled on the 14th of September 2011. Charles and his late wife Pat are recorded on the plaque.



The funeral service for Charles will be at 11:30 am on Tuesday the 19th of November 2019 in the Chapel at the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Crematorium on Philip Charley Drive in Port Macquarie.

A more detailed Silent Key article in memory of Charles will be included in the January 2020 issue of Oxtales.

Vale: Charles Edmondson VK2KCE

The ORARC Christmas party will be held this year the venue:

The Long Point Vineyard & Art Gallery
6 Cooina Place, Lake Cathie
Saturday 7 Dec, 2019, at 10am.

(Please Note that there will **not** be a December Monthly meeting at this event.)

The Entrance Gate



(Below) The large viewing deck which overlooks the picnic area, has been reserved for our Christmas Get-together. There is one large table with seating, but it might be advisable to bring a chair and a small table if you have one. There is plenty of shade with a covered BBQ, and the toilets are nearby. Members can drive up to the area, unload, then park back under the shade of the trees.





WIA DX Awards Start Dates Normalized

Date : 08 / 11 / 2019

Author : Graham Alston - VK3GA - WIA Awards Manager

The Awards Committee has decided to set the start date for all awards to the same date, the first of January 1946. All QSO's from this date onwards are now eligible for all awards. Previously, awards had different start dates, depending on when they were first created. This means participants in the awards program may now qualify for new awards and/or endorsements. To ensure all your QSO's are now eligible, simply upload all your QSO's between this date up to and including 1/1/1990 into the online Awards system. Alternatively, just upload your whole log. Then perform a "Show Award Status".

73, Graham Alston, VK3GA, WIA Awards Manager, on behalf of the Awards Committee

WWV celebrates 100 years

Radio station WWV to celebrate 100 years



Date : 26 / 10 / 2019

Author : Peter Clee - VK8ZZ

Standard Time and Frequency station WWV celebrates its centenary on October 1. Radio amateurs have been asked to participate by taking measurements and sharing their results.

The world's oldest licensed radio station, which operates from a location just north of Fort Collins, will turn 100 years old on Oct. 1 That may sound like a long time for a radio station, but WWV specializes in time.

The radio station is best known for the broadcast of the national time standard 'the atomic clock' which is closely synchronized with Coordinated Universal Time, the measure by which clocks are synchronized throughout the world. It also has played an important role through the years setting frequency standards for other radio operators. In those early days of radio, "people didn't know where they were on the dial,"

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Dave Swartz of the WWV Centennial Committee stated.

WWV broadcasts over six transmitters, each one dedicated for use on a single frequency. The transmitting frequencies and time signals of WWV, WWVB and WWVH, along with the four atomic (cesium) clocks from which their time signals are derived, are maintained by NIST's Time and Frequency Division, which is based in nearby Boulder, Colorado. WWVB's carrier frequency is maintained to an accuracy of 1 part in 10¹⁴ and can be used as a frequency reference. The broadcast time is accurate to within 100 ns of UTC and 20 ns of the national time standard.

The transmitters for 2.5 MHz, 20 MHz, and the experimental 25 MHz put out an ERP of 2.5 kW, while those for the other three frequencies 5 MHz, 10 MHz and 15 MHz use 10 kW of ERP.

Each transmitter is connected to a dedicated antenna, which has a height corresponding to approximately one-half of its signal's wavelength, and the signal radiation patterns from each antenna are omnidirectional. The top half of each antenna tower contains a quarter-wavelength radiating element, and the bottom half uses nine guy wires, connected to the midpoint of the tower and sloped at one-to-one from the ground with a length of $\sqrt{2}/4$ times the wavelength as additional radiating elements.

IMPORTANT NEWS for Foundation Licence candidates

Date : 05 / 11 / 2019

Author : Foundation Manual Publication Team

On the 12th of September this year the ACMA announced wide-ranging amendments to the regulatory conditions for the amateur

radio Foundation licence, most significantly removal of prior restrictions on the use of digital modes for radio communication, such as DMR.

The Foundation Licence Manual has been the prime study resource for those wishing to gain a Foundation licence in Australia. This highly successful WIA education publication is currently in its third edition.

The WIA Foundation Manual publication team has released a supplement to update the Foundation Licence Manual (3rd Edition) to reflect the new Licence Conditions. The supplement is available for download from the link below and also accessible from the Foundation Licence Manual Page on the WIA website (under the "Your Amateur Licence" dropdown menu)

CAUTION: At the time of writing this news item, the ACMA has NOT yet released changes to the Foundation licence syllabus which remains unchanged, and it appears unlikely that syllabus changes will occur before December 2019. The supplement (see URL above) does contain some possibilities, loosely based on the United Kingdom 2019 Foundation licence syllabus. The syllabus items are examples only of what may be included. At the time of writing they do not form part of the Foundation licence assessment.



Equipment from the Past

Yaesu FT-757GX



The Yaesu FT-757GX was a popular Amateur HF transceiver covering 160 to 10 meters and has ten memories. It was introduced in the 1980 with a retail price between \$800 and \$900. The transceiver was compact in size which added to its popularity for mobile use.

The general coverage receiver tunes from 500 kHz to 30 MHz. Power is 100 watts in CW, SSB, FM and 25 watts AM. The FT-757GX features IF Shift, Electronic Keyer, Squelch and Noise Blanker.

The top panel has CW adjustments. The rear panel has numerous input and output jacks. The FT-757GX requires 13.8 VDC at 19 Amps. Supplied with DC cord and MH-1B8 hand mic.

Specifications:

Frequency: TX 10 to 160 m Plus WARC

RX .5 to 30 MHz

Mode: AM/FM/USB/LSB/CW

Memory Channels: 10

Power supply: 13.5 DC

Current: RX: Max 2 A

TX: Max 19 A

Dimensions: 238x93x238mm

Weight: 5.2 kg.

AF Power: 3 Watt.

Receiver: Triple Conversion
Superheterodyne image
Rejection >70 dB

Other features: Built in iambic keyer. Full
QSK. CAT interface.

For Sale

Lewis Green VK2AG reluctantly has to sell, due to ill health, his very well maintained station which is comprised of a Yaesu 757-GX transceiver with matching power supply, speaker and auto antenna tuner. The sale also includes microphone, documentation and circuit diagrams. See photograph of the actual equipment below.



The above equipment has been well maintained and is in good working order. Price \$400. The equipment is to be sold as a complete station.

Arthur VK2ATM is handling the sale on behalf of Lew's family. Members who are interested in purchasing this equipment should contact Arthur via his email arfa-mo@midcoast.com.au or telephone number which can be found in the Members Directory on the last page of Oxtales.

Blast from the Past

'Blast from the Past' is the part of Oxtales where we reflect on what the club was doing in years gone by. This month's 'Blast' is taken from the 2009 November edition of Oxtales.

In November 2009, Henry VK2ZHE was President, Jim VK2VIV was both Vice President and Secretary and John VK2KHB Treasurer. The club had financial 41 members.

The main club activities reports for the month were JOTA and the Billy Cart Derby.

The Billy Cart event was called *The Billy Cart Classic* and held at Beechwood on Sunday 25th October 2009. Our Club supplied 11 members to provide safety communications and enable a mobile commentary from a van that travelled just in front of the competitors. Roy VK2YOR (SK) used to be the "lucky" operator inside the commentary van, a position that he held for years.

John VK2KC provided a most interesting report of the day's activities. Highlights of his report are reproduced as follows.



'On Sunday morning, when most folks laze around or sleep in, 11 members of the ORARC, made their way to Beechwood to provide communications for their annual Billy Cart Classic.'

By 9:30am we had gathered to set up the mobile communications for the event. Roy 2YOR setup his 2m transceiver in the commentary vehicle to supply the running commentary. This vehicle preceded the Billy Carts down the hill and the mobile commentary was received at the control point where Trevor 2TT had patched his 2m transceiver into the PA system to allow the running commentary to be broadcast to the crowd of supporters and onlookers.

The commentary frequency used 146.425 MHz simplex, and for the safety points 146.500 MHz. The balance of us were then dispatched to 7 points along the course to supply communications for any emergency situations that may have arisen to Bill 2ZCV who manned the communications centre and was situated at the finish point. Fortunately no incidents were reported, and all our members demonstrated the professionalism that is a hallmark of the amateur radio fraternity.



(Trevor VK2TT, Bill VK2ZCV (SK) and Arthur VK2ATM setting up the PA link)

For those of us manning the emergency reporting points the Billy Carts were in view for only a short time, but the speed of some was quite impressive, prompting a comment from Larry 2CLL, "3 wheels and streamlining is the way to go".

The Flag Marshall who was assigned to my position was very impressed with our communications and the professional way we communicated and commented, "It makes my UHF CB handheld look like a toy!"

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Roy 2YOR reported that the speed of the commentary vehicle reached 90kmph as they made their way down the mountain! The occupants of the van were very impressed at the way the 2 way radio system worked flawlessly, again a great example of technical expertise and a "can do" approach that our club members demonstrate.

A big thank you to Arthur ATM, Charles KCE, Craig ZCM, Neil EI, Bill ZCV, Bill ZCW, John AYQ, Larry CLL, Trevor TT, Roy 2YOR and Lewis AG, who gave of their time to promote our sport of Amateur Radio.'



Charles VK2KCE, Lewis VK2AG, Neil VK2EI, Alisa VK2FABJ, Bill VK2ZCW, John VK2KC, Arthur VK2ATM and Larry VK2CLL

*John
VK2KC*

The report on the clubs participation in JOTA for 2009 also makes interesting reading. An abridged version is presented below. The event was held at the Sea Scouts Hall which presented particular problems for antenna placement and parking for the Club's Communications Caravan.

JOTA - JOTI 2009

'ORARC members supported the Sea Scouts at the Buller St hall on Saturday 17 October from 1200 to 1700.

The ORARC caravan was moved by Barry 2FBRG from Henry's 2ZHE at 0630 In spite of the early set up assisted by John 2KC, space was already limited with the only option being to park the van parallel to the rear of the building with the van door facing the Hall entrance.

The HF multiband antenna was erected at the front of the van and a 4 element 70cm antenna pointed north towards the Coffs Harbour and Dorrigo repeaters.

Bill 2ZCW and Neil 2EI spent about 3 hours endeavoring to set up the Sea Scouts 2 ancient laptop computers with a Telstra wireless interface. The two wireless modems were provided free by Telstra for use between 1200 and 2400 on the Saturday. Both computers were supposed to be pre-configured but unfortunately again this did not happen. After many futile attempts we always ended up with the statement "Searching", clearly a network interface problem. About 1600 the Scout Leaders managed to contact Telstra and after several attempts contacted a "Techo" who concluded there was a problem with the Sim card activation with the result....No JOTI again this year.

The radio side saved the day with 21 70cm contacts via the Dorrigo repeater with excellent support provided by Gary 2ZKT and Carol 2FSCR.

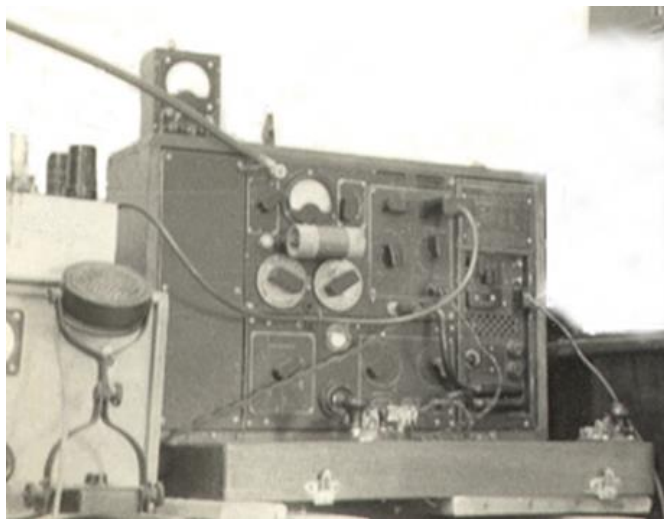
Dismal conditions existed on HF with little activity and very high local noise level from the vertical antenna. We need to resurrect the horizontal all band antenna that may have provided a lower noise level. However due to the high QRN and audio competition in the van from the 70cm precluded HF contacts. 2m was not possible due to RFI with the 70cm link. This will be a project for the Wednesday working bee to install suitable filters to enable simultaneous operation on both links. the van facilities and operation

Overall; the Leaders were very pleased with the ORARC operation and impressed with the van'

73 Neil VK2EI

More Nostalgia

David VK2AYD sent in the following interesting article that was prompted by the September 2019 issue of Oxtales on the B3 spy set pictured below.



Above photograph is of David VK2AYD's actual B3 set that he used in the 1950s.

The article in September 2019 Oxtales on the B2 transceiver brought back memories. The picture attached was of my B2 that I hiked around the Mediterranean 1951-54. As the article said, it was strictly a Crystal controlled CW transceiver with an output of circa 20 watts.

In those days, (under by then callsign of ZB1HLW) when the Ionosphere was at its best, you could work the world easily. For home use I modified mine and added a VFO and modulator I also had an HRO

as a back-up receiver.



The photograph above is of my modern day portable rig, a Kenwood TS-50.

Note the B2 spy set is in a wooden case which added considerably to the weight and the TS-50 in a nice attaché case.

I would like to go Solar but am running out of time (and knowledge)!

73 David VK2AYD

Editors note:

The TS-50 has impressive specifications that include a 100 W output, 100 memory channels, operation possible between 160 m to 10 m on multiple modes with a 500 KHz to 30 MHz general coverage receiver built in. All the features in a much smaller package with a weight of under 3 Kg compared with the B3 weight of more than 15Kg.

Larry VK2CLL has supplied a number of humorous cartoons one of which is below.



General Interest

The following two items were from the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club Inc's November newsletter.

AMSA TO DITCH HF The end of an era?

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is seeking feedback on the proposal to cease HF radiotelephone monitoring of distress and safety communications in Australia on 1 January 2022.

The state and Northern Territory marine agencies or volunteer marine rescue organisations monitor the HF radiotelephone distress and safety calling frequencies. The proposal to cease monitoring has come from the Maritime Agencies Forum (MAF), a national body that enables marine safety agencies to identify, agree and monitor the ongoing work required to implement the National Standard for commercial vessels, which coordinates technical maritime safety advice and operational maritime policy nationally.

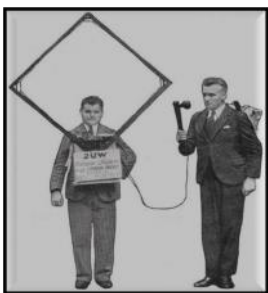
However, the use of HF radiotelephone as the first and only means of distress and safety calling has steadily declined. In the four-year period to March 2018, there were only two distress and six urgency communications initiated by vessels, where only HF radiotelephone was used.

The consultation applies to all vessel categories; however, vessels operating outside VHF coast station range and without a global maritime distress safety system radio, such as Inmarsat, or HF digital selective calling radio are those mostly affected.

From Radio Resource International - October 2019.

The Roving Mike

Donald Knock



The "Roving Mike" photographed in April 1932. Mr. Buckell, on the right carries the high voltage supply in his pack. Otherwise the entire short-wave transmitter is contained in the extremely small outfit carried by Mr. Knock, along with the frame antenna.

For weeks Australia had been talking about the forthcoming opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge. Rumours of extensive plans broadcasting during the big day celebration culminated in radio 2UW being entrusted the big job of letting the rest of Australia know what was happening.

Everyone interested in radio broadcasting today knows what a great success the undertaking proved to be. Through March 1932, 2UW, through

a chain of 23 stations, kept thousands of listeners fully informed. Mr. Oswald Anderson, manager of 2UW, decided to develop a new innovation, the "Roving Mike" as an outside broadcast station.

It was decided to build a portable shortwave transmitter which could send the signal to a receiver at the Manly wharf. The signal would then be fed into a landline to the 2UW studio for retransmission to listeners. It was necessary to design the transmitter so that everything could be carried by two persons and yet provide freedom of movement and access to the microphone.

The author carried the transmitter, and Mr. Buckell, the announcer, carried the microphone and the B batteries supplying plate current. The transmitter was designed to fit into an army pack which I carried on my chest, and the B batteries were stored in another pack on the back of the announcer. Two lengths of double flex between announcer and operator provided for connection to the plate supply and microphone. The microphone was a Stromberg-Carlson solid back Post Office telephone type.

Standard Telephones Ltd. sent along one of their public address systems, which provided four hefty exponential speakers overlooking the Manly wharf. The output from the shortwave receiver was taken through a line transformer to the landline and also shunted across the public address system. The result of this was that the P.A. system speakers told of the "Walking Broadcaster's" doings, and that 2UW could take the transmission over the landline in the control room as required.

During the morning, between live broadcasts from the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the "Roving Mike" was used to interview well known Manly residents. We were then offered the opportunity to be taken around the bay in a speed boat with the "Roving Mike". We naturally agreed, and with fears for the safety of the loop aerial, hung on for dear life as the aquaplane roared away from the jetty.

Mr. Buckell, in between taking showers of spray, persisted with his running commentary despite the boat just missing the bow of the Ferry, Curl Curl. After arriving back at the wharf, we were greeted with cries of "Wonderful! Everything came through perfectly. The best stunt yet".

On the way home, we approached the Harbour Bridge at midnight with the fact that we had overlooked that thousands of cars were waiting to make the first dash across, the moment this great structure was opened. It took us over an hour to cross amid the smell of exhaust fumes and burning clutches.

Still, that bridge is something to be proud of, and the celebrations of that day gave us a new interest in the utility of shortwave transmissions for outside broadcasts with a "Roving Mike".

From Radio Monthly 21st April 1932.