



# 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 ninth Anniversary Year

## November 2020

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell	VK2ZHE	6582 0534
VICE PRES: Paul Colledge	VK2ICQ	6580 9912
TREASURER: Dennis Meade	VK2DAM	6582 2998
SECRETARY: Henry Lundell	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 2020

While some restrictions have been eased, the continuing mandatory restrictions imposed to reduce the spread of infection by the COVID-19 virus is still impacting on club activities. The club's face to face activities are still cancelled until the end of January 2021 but it is hoped that it will be possible to hold the ORARC Christmas Party in the covered picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. The venue is booked and the Committee is investigating the practicality of holding the Christmas Party and will announce the final decision shortly. It would be good to have a social activity to end the 2020 calendar year.

Thankfully, Australia has managed to control the spread of the virus within our borders. This has been achieved through very strict restrictions. World wide

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ORARC Christmas Party  
Saturday 5 December 2020  
From 9 am. BBQ Lunch 12 noon  
Long Point Winery Picnic Area – Pending

## Down The Coax

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

Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 7 November 2020 2:00 pm – Cancelled

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 20 November 2020 7.00 pm – Cancelled

Spring VHF UHF Contest  
12 noon Sat 28 to 12 noon Sun 29 November 2020

White Ribbon Coastal Walk Against Domestic &  
Family Violence  
Tacking Point to West Port Park Port Macquarie  
– Cancelled

ORARC Christmas Party  
Saturday 5 December 2020  
From 9 am. BBQ Lunch 12 noon  
Long Point Winery Picnic Area – Pending

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 18 December 2020 7.00 pm – Cancelled

Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 2 January 2021 2:00 pm – Cancelled

Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 15 January 2021 7.00 pm – Cancelled

Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 6 February 2021 2.00 pm Pending

## Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays  
(0900 Local)

Thursdays  
(1930 Local)

### November 2020

VK2FMGM Nov 1 VK2ICQ Nov 5

VK2FMGM Nov 8 VK2EM Nov 12

VK2FMGM Nov 15 VK2ZHE Nov 19

VK2FMGM Nov 22 VKICQ Nov 26

VK2FMGM Nov 29

### December 2020

VK2FMGM Dec 6 VK2EM Dec 3

VK2FMGM Dec 13 VK2ZHE Dec 10

VK2FMGM Dec 20 VK2ICQ Dec 17

VK2FMGM Dec 27 VKEM Dec 24

VK2ZHE Dec 31

### January 2021

VK2FMGM Jan 3 VK2ICQ Jan 7

VK2FMGM Jan 10 VK2EM Jan 14

VK2FMGM Jan 17 VKZHE Jan 21

VK2FMGM Jan 24 VK2ICQ Jan 28

VK2FMGM Jan 31

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disruption to social and business life continues with the virus still spreading in a great many countries so international travel is still on hold.

Amateur Radio is a hobby which has enjoyed a very significant increase in participation in these difficult times. The amount of on-air activity and workshop construction is at an all-time high. The retailers of Amateur Radio equipment and electronic equipment and components continue to report that their businesses are booming. Mention was made in the September Issue of Oxtales of the newly released very popular Icom IC-705 all band QRP transceiver. This month Yaesu released another new transceiver, the FT-DX10. This is a HF and 6 metre hybrid SDR radio with a 5 inch colour touch screen. The FT-DX10 will be seen as a competitor for the Icom IC-7300 transceiver. There is speculation that Yaesu may release a VHF UHF companion transceiver for the FT-DX10 to compete with the Icom IC-9700 2 metre to 23 cm transceiver.



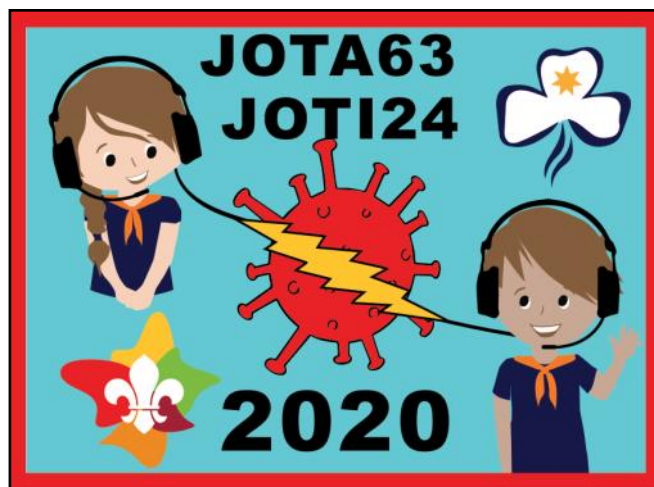
HF band conditions have improved significantly in the past few weeks and all the bands up to and including 10 metres have been particularly active with stations using a full range of modes. While SSB speech remains as popular as ever for contests and rag chewing, the digital data and voice modes are very much in evidence on all bands. CW and RTTY are enjoying an upsurge in activity. There have been a few openings on 6 metres recently so the summer sporadic E season has started early. At the same time a lot of VHF and UHF activity has been noted. Digital voice hot spots are popular with

DMR, DStar, C4FM (Yaesu Fusion) and P25 being the most common modes. Satellite communications is popular with many stations being heard on most satellite passes. The SSTV transmissions from the ISS has caused a lot of interest. VHF and UHF ducting, particularly up and down the coast has resulted in many long distance contacts being made with a close eye being kept on the path across to New Zealand.

Ian Lindquist VK2IDL has his high power DMR hot spot transmitting and receiving on 439.325 MHz simplex. Please see his article on the hotspot in this issue.

In the coming issues of Oxtales we hope to bring readers more news on the various ways of making contacts on air including details of the various digital data and voice modes on both HF and UHF and VHF. In addition, while international travel is still not possible, it is always interesting to read of past DX-peditions. Thank you to Bruce Ekert VK2EM for his article this month on his 2015 trip to Cambodia where he operated on HF using the JT65 digital mode. Amongst the photos accompanying Bruce's article is an amazing photo showing how the power and other cabling is run in the streets.

## JOTA 2020



The 63<sup>rd</sup> annual Jamboree on the Air took place over the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. It also was the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree on the

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Internet. Sadly, the annual ORARC participation in JOTA was another victim of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

The club is very apologetic to the 1<sup>st</sup> Port Macquarie Sea Scouts who have keenly run JOTA and associated activities every year for most of the history of ORARC. 2020 was the first year that club members were unable to set up a station for JOTA. It is most upsetting to break with such a long tradition but the 1<sup>st</sup> Port Macquarie Sea Scouts have been very understanding.

We look forward to being able to participate in JOTA again next year.

### **Beechwood Billycart Classic**



The 41<sup>st</sup> annual Beechwood Billycart Classic was to take place on the morning of Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2020.

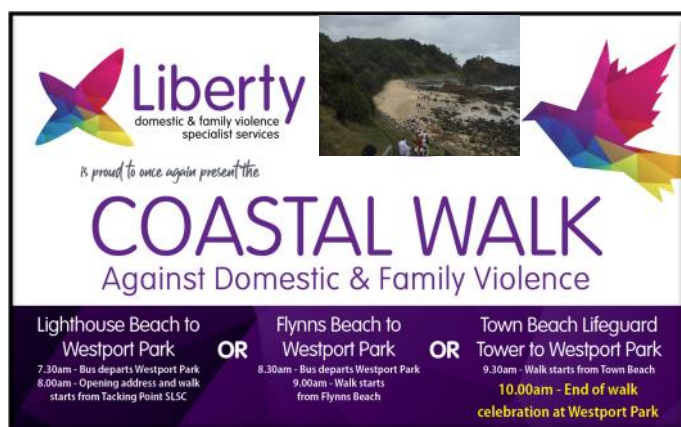
Sadly, the event was another victim of the COVID-19 restrictions and the 2020 Beechwood Billycart Classic had to be cancelled.

ORARC members have provided safety communications for the Beechwood Billycart Classic every year. We look forward to continuing the Club's involvement in next year's Classic when hopefully the current COVID-19 restrictions will have been lifted.

The Beechwood Billycart Classic is normally a great family day out with plenty of entertainment and food stalls in the

finish area adjacent to the Beechwood Hotel.

### **White Ribbon Coastal Walk**



The annual White Ribbon Coastal Walk Against Domestic & Family Violence from the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club to West Port Park in Port Macquarie normally takes place on a Sunday in late November or early December. In previous years, members of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club have provided the safety communications for the event. The club had been invited to do this again for the 2020 event.

Unfortunately, the 2020 walk has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. The organisers apologise for the inconvenience caused by the cancellation of this year's walk. ORARC has been invited to participate in next year's walk.

### **Spring VHF UHF Field Day**

The annual Spring VHF UHF Field Day takes place from 01:00 hours UTC on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November to 01:00 hours on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. This equates to 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday Eastern Australian Daylight Saving Time.

The contest rules for 2020 are not currently available on the WIA website but the rules for 2020 are the same as those for 2019 which are available on the website at

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<http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/documents/2019%20Spring%20VHF-UHF%20Field%20Day%20Rules.pdf>

Note that the above 2019 rules apply for the 2020 event with the exception that the dates for 2020 are from 28<sup>th</sup> of November to the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, and that the deadline for submitting logs is Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.

The ORARC club station VK2BOR is unable to participate in this year's annual Spring VHF UHF Field Day due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Club members are encouraged to participate from their individual stations.

### **Christmas Party**



It is hoped that the relaxation in some of the COVID-19 restrictions will permit the club's 2020 Christmas Party to be able to be held on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. The ORARC Committee is closely monitoring the situation and after consultation with the venue management will shortly announce if the Christmas party can proceed.

If the party can be held, the venue will again be the covered picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery at 6 Cooinda Place, Lake Cathie. Cooinda 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/>

If the party can be held, the announcement will advise the arrangements that will have to be followed.

Note that there will not be a December Monthly General Meeting regardless of whether or not the Christmas Party is held. The Committee will advise when club face to face meetings are able to resume.

### **ORARC 2021 Calendar**

This year John Hansen VK2AYQ will create the club's 2021 calendar. Steve Wynn VK2ZSW who has created the calendar for many years is unable to do the 2021 calendar as he is about to undergo surgery. The club is very appreciative that John has taken on the calendar while Steve is indisposed. We look forward to Steve being able to resume the calendar creation in time to do the 2022 calendar next year.

It is planned that the 2021 calendar will be available at the Christmas Party, assuming the party is able to be held. The price for the calendars will again 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 2021 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.

### **2021 Callbook**

Sadly, a 2021 Amateur Radio Callbook is not being produced.

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The long-established annual callbook ceased publication after the 2019 Callbook was published. Negotiations are still underway and it is hoped that eventually publication of an annual callbook can resume.

### **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. The Development Application has been approved. The lease for the site has been signed. The Funding Deed for the grant which will partially fund the construction of the equipment shelter and the footings for the mast will shortly be submitted. Work is in progress to obtain a Construction Certificate so that site works can commence when the grant funds are received.

A further grant application was submitted this year to partially fund the connection of mains power to the site. An announcement of the success or otherwise of this application is expected in November 2020.

The VK2RCN 53.800 MHz 6 metre FM repeater is still out of service. It is hoped to have a replacement repeater operational early in the new year.

When the new VK2RCN repeater site is completed, in addition to the existing repeaters, the VK2RCN facilities will include a UHF multimode digital voice repeater supporting DMR, DStar, P25, C4FM and NXDN.

### **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 Committee is investigating the feasibility of establishing

a 2 metre repeater at this site.

### **Amateur Radio Licence Training and Assessments**

Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL is working towards running training and assessments for the Foundation Licence and assessments for the Standard and Advanced Licences before Christmas. A number of candidates are awaiting assessment and additional prospective candidates should contact Larry as soon as possible.



### **Mid North Coast Region WICEN**

Amateurs are invited to join Mid North Coast Region WICEN. When face to face meetings resume, WICEN meetings will be 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. For further information, please contact Larry Thompson VK2LJT.

I wish all members and their families and friends a safe and happy Christmas and best wishes for 2021.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President



## Port Macquarie Public DMR Hotspot

By Ian VK2IDL

After a period of testing we now have a public DMR Hotspot operating in Port Macquarie which is available for ORARC members to use. The purpose of the public DMR Hotspot is to encourage more DMR usage among our members.

The Hotspot is operating on 439.325 MHz simplex and provides coverage over much of Port Macquarie although it is a bit patchy along Pacific Drive from Shelly Beach to Lighthouse Beach. You should be able to access any of the standard user-activated talk groups on the Australian DMR+/DMR MARC network.

For those who are not familiar with DMR, here is a brief rundown.

### Why use DMR

DMR radios operate on the 2m/70cm frequency bands and communicate through repeaters in a similar way to the current analog system. The main difference is that the DMR repeaters are connected by IP addresses (i.e the internet). This allows them to be easily linked to each other to form a world-wide network of interconnected DMR repeaters across over 40 countries.

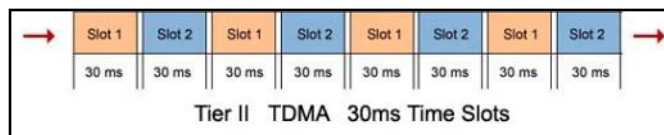
This network allows you to talk to other amateurs anywhere in Australia or the world at any time using just a handheld radio.

### What is DMR

DMR stands for Digital Mobile Radio. It is an open digital standard that has become popular among amateurs, particularly since an increasing number of Chinese manufacturers have released good, low priced, Tier II DMR radios.

DMR uses a process called TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access). The TDMA system divides each channel into two reoccur-

ring time slots. The voice (or data) from the transmitting radio is assembled into packets and inserted into one of the time slots. A receiving radio listening to the same time slot can reassemble the data packets into a continuous stream of voice or data. Each time slot carries a separate conversation, effectively dividing the channel into two. You can select the desired time slot when programming your radio.



### Hotspot

A Hotspot provides access to the DMR network when there is no local repeater coverage. A Hotspot connects to your home internet and acts as a private repeater to provide a personal link between your radio and the DMR network. When you talk on your DMR radio the Hotspot receives your signal and passes it through the internet to the DMR network. Responding signals return from the DMR network and are retransmitted locally by your Hotspot where they are received by your DMR radio. As long as you have an internet connection you have access to the DMR network.

Since there are currently no DMR repeaters on the mid north coast, ORARC members who want to use the DMR system will generally need to build (or buy) their own Hotspot. This is where the public Hotspot comes in.



*Personal DMR Hotspot*

## Using the Public Hotspot

A public Hotspot provides access to the DMR network for those who do not have their own Hotspot. It provides a lower cost entry into the world of DMR without the additional expense or complication of setting up your own Hotspot.

The public Hotspot is similar to a personal Hotspot except it is set up for public access and operates at a higher power level. To use the public Hotspot all you need is a compatible DMR radio like the Retevis RT3S or the Baofeng DM5-R, amongst others. Both are dual band 2M/70cm handheld radios and both support both DMR and analog FM so you can still use them on the local repeaters. When buying, you should also get a programming cable as you'll need to be able to program channels and talk groups. There are several ORARC members who can assist in programming various models. There are also lots of YouTube videos explaining the process for those who want to try themselves.

## DMR User ID

To access the DMR network you will need to register and obtain a DMR ID. The DMR ID identifies you on the network. To register go to <https://www.radioid.net/register> . You will need to provide proof of your amateur licence status. Once you are received confirmation from the registration site you will be able to access the DMR network.

You only need one DMR ID. Even if you plan to have more than one DMR Radio or are planning to run multiple Hotspots, you still only need one DMR ID.

## Using Talkgroups (TGs)

Talk Groups are like chat rooms. They group people together by region or topic (e.g. **TG505** links all Australian DMR repeaters together allowing you to call anyone within Australia, **TG1** links every DMR repeater world wide, **TG8851** links DMR repeaters in the South Pacific region, etc).

A list of the available talk groups can be found here:

<https://vkdmr.com/using-dmr/>

The Public Hotspot has **TG505** (Australia), **TG1** (World) and **TG3** (USA) set to "Static". This means all you need to do to is to select them on your radio and you will be automatically connected and any traffic on these talkgroups will be heard.

All other talkgroups are set as "Dynamic". This means you must connect to them manually otherwise you will not be able to hear any traffic on them. To connect, select the desired talkgroup and briefly press your PTT (called a "kerchunk"). This will connect your radio to the talkgroup allowing you to hear and communicate normally through that talkgroup. The system will automatically disconnect you after a period of inactivity.

## Monitoring the DMR Network

There is a DMR database website that displays the current Australian DMR activity.

To view the database go to [hot2.vkdmr.com](http://hot2.vkdmr.com). From here you can monitor the DMR network to see who is active. You can see a list of all the Hotspots that are logged into the Australian DMR network. You can also see when someone is transmitting, what Talk Group they are using and which Hotspots the signal is being routed to.

If you transmit and your signal is being successfully processed by the DMR system you will see yourself appear on this list while you are transmitting.

Article by Ian VK2IDL



## Amateur Radio in Cambodia

By Bruce VK2EM

I suppose that the first digital mode that I used, like most 'old' amateurs, was Morse Code. But the first time that I can remember working 'real' digital was in the 90's when I ran a Packet Radio station from my home for Westlakes Radio Club. It ran under NOS software and was a full 'packet forwarding' system, with a Bulletin Board System (BBS) as well. I ran this for many years, until the demise of the packet systems, as well as complaints from the XYL that Packet bursts on 2M were knocking out her reception of CH5A TV! During that time, I also connected to the Packet BBS on the Space Station MIR. That was exciting. Unfortunately, I don't have any photos from that time, as photography and cameras weren't as easily obtainable, or a priority for me.

The next time that I remember becoming really involved in 'digital' communications, was in 2014, when the JT65 mode became popular. There had been other digital modes before that, like RTTY (radioteletype), Olivia, Hellschreiber, PSK31, etc, but none of them excited me. A couple of friends insisted that I should try JT65, that it was easy to set up and operate, it was the 'mode' of the future, and contacts could be made 'everywhere'! They were correct, even though the contacts were brief!

Late in 2014, as my wife comes from overseas, the family arranged for a family reunion, roughly half way between here and there; here being Australia, there being Siberia Russia, and half way being Cambodia!

Why Cambodia? Well, airfares were cheap, accommodation was excellent and cheap, and we had never been there! I took my FT-817, T1 antenna tuner, homebrew digital interface, laptop, small 12V switchmode power supply, and a homebrew dipole for 17 and 15 metres with 10M of RG-174 miniature coax, a 3 metre telescopic fishing rod, and some short pieces of 'hook and loop' (Velcro),

(see photographs below).



*Above the homebrew dipole*



*FT817, tuner and homebrew digital interface*

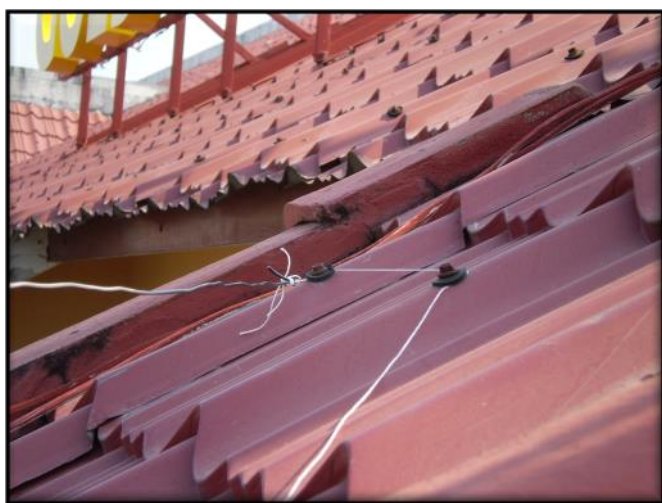
We applied for our visas, and I applied for a Cambodian Amateur licence, all online. We received our visas, but I heard nothing from the Cambodian Communication authorities. I rang the hotel to confirm our booking was for an 8th (top) floor room, with a balcony... the girl, in broken English, 'Yes'.. talking to her was fun!

I looked up Cam *Continued on next page*

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bodian amateurs on QRZ, and found an expat Dutchman who lived near the hotel where we were staying. After some emails, he assured me that there was a Radio Inspector's office close by in Sihanoukville (pop 2M).

In February 2015, we went to Cambodia. Being the 'dry' season, I didn't have to worry about waterproofing the antenna, but I took many metres of small nylon 'string' to tie the ends down. I didn't have to take warm clothes, which left room for the radio gear.



*Tying the ends of the dipole down*

The trip to Sihanoukville was reasonably uneventful, I didn't have to declare my radio at Customs, but the bus trip from Phnom Penh (250km), was mostly on a 3 lane highway, where 'might is right', or first in first served! But the bus had excellent, free, Wifi.

On the second day there, having not heard about my Amateur licence application, so I went to the RI's office, and (broken English) showed them copies of my licence, my application for Cambodia, Passport, visa, etc. They rang their head office in Phnom Penh, and 10 minutes later confirmed that they were able to issue me an Amateur licence for Cambodia. I had bought a SIM card at Pnom Penh airport, so the said they would confirm my licence later that afternoon, 'If you pay a \$30US licence fee'. And, sure enough, I received a text message about 4pm, that I was XU7AFA.



I had set up my station on a shelf in our hotel room, with the very small coax going out through a crack in the doorway.



I had put an announcement on QRZ.com, and eQSL, that I was operating JT65 only from Cambodia, when time allowed. It is amazing what can be done with 5W and an exotic callsign.

In between family commitments, having 'brunch' and a few beers with Wim, my new-found Amateur friend, in 2 weeks, I had 242 contacts in 38 countries logged; that is mainly due to everyone creating an absolute pileup every time I came on air, and a QSO in JT65 taking 5 minutes to complete.

However, all-in-all, my trip proved, that with some research online beforehand, like studying the hotel architecture, applying for a radio licence, and talking to other amateurs near where you will be staying,

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most difficulties can be overcome, and an enjoyable holiday may be had!

Just as an aside, the last photograph is a glimpse the power line network, ... and the power grid!



Bruce VK2EM.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Bruce for sharing his interesting account of amateur radio operating on holidays with us. I hope that this might inspire other members to share their interesting experiences with us in future editions of Oxtales.

## Equipment from the Past

### Yaesu FT DX 100



The Yaesu FT 100 was first introduced in 1966 and has been referred to as the first in a long line of modern Yaesu transceivers for the amateur market.

In 1966 Yaesu Musen Company released their first HF transceiver. It was a complete compact base/mobile station, mainly of solid state construction. Known as the FT-100, it represented a quantum advance in technology for that time, particularly for the mobile ham radio operator.

The FT-100 was considered to be a major advancement in amateur radio technology for its time in that it could be used mobile on 12 volts, while most other amateur stations at that time were comprised of separate tube type transmitter and a stand alone tube type receiver. There were several versions of this transceiver with the FT-100 being the first, followed by the FT-100B (Mk2 version) and later the FTDX 100 as shown. These radios were sometimes called the "Cadillac" of amateur radio a reference to the solid construction and considerable price costing more than \$600 USD (this is approximately more than \$6,000 Australian today.) Even second hand versions in 1975 sold for 500 USD which was worth more than \$4,000 dollars today.

Specifications for the FT-100 / FTdx-100 SSB CW / were 120 watts (50 AM mode) with receiver sensitivity of 1 Uv. Built in VOX, 100 KC crystal calibrator, S-meter which shows total cathode current of the final tubes and relative power output.

The FTdx-100 was also sold by the (Swiss) European importers know as Sommerkamp and rebranded as the Sommerkamp FTdx-150, the radio was still built by Yaesu and identical in all ways



Reference: [www.rigpix.com/yaesu/ftdx100.htm](http://www.rigpix.com/yaesu/ftdx100.htm)



## WIA Release New Members Benefits Initiative

Date : 25 / 09 / 2020

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK

The WIA board is excited to announce the Stage 1 release of the new 'WIA Members Benefits Program'. This is currently in the form of a simple Membership Card, consisting of your Callsign, (up to 2 may be shown), your membership number, expiry date and a list of all the current vendors participating in the program.



The WIA and several vendors have teamed up to provide a range of discounts and savings to WIA members when using their services or purchasing from them. All you need to do is produce your membership card or quote your current membership number in most cases.

Discounts will vary depending upon the retailer, each vendor has their own discount structure for WIA members. Some very deep discounts are being offered by the major electronics component retailers listed on the card.

Depending on your purchases and chosen supplier, the realised annual savings alone can easily be in the order of several times

the initial cost of your WIA membership subscription. Given the potential real savings and your financial investment in your hobby already, can you really afford to not be a WIA member now ?

Your Membership card is simply downloaded from the WIA website via Memnet by following these instructions:

- 1) Login to Memnet with your Membership number (or callsign) and Password via the Link shown further down this page.
- 2) On the 'MY WIA' Page - Select 'Pay Invoice'
- 3) Select 'Receipt' Button on the most recent invoice shown
- 4) Print out your last receipt
- 5) Cutout, fold and laminate your Membership Card ready for use.

Conditions of use, a list of vendors and other information relating to the new program will be listed on the WIA website shortly, including some more great new membership rewards and benefits.

The WIA Board and the many volunteers who support our organisation are continually working on programs and initiatives to increase the value of WIA membership for you. Whether that be via International representation to the IARU, ITU, WRC, local representation to the ACMA or AMC or providing support and benefits at an operational level at the local Radio Club or in the home and ham shack directly via our new benefits program.

Not a WIA Member? Then become a WIA Card Carrying Member now and 'Enjoy the Benefits'.

Follow the Link Below or go to the WIA web page:

<https://wia.memnet.com.au/MemberSelfService/NewMemberForm/WIA/NewMemberForm.aspx>

The Wireless Institute of Australia, Your WIA, Our WIA, My WIA  
The National Association for Amateur Radio in Australia.

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## Happy 20th Anniversary ISS!!

Date : 02 / 11 / 2020

Author : Frank Bauer - KA3HDO



November 2, 2020 Represents the 20th anniversary of continuous crew operations on the ISS. On behalf of the ARISS International Team, we would like to extend 20th Anniversary Greetings to all five ISS space agencies (NASA, Roscosmos, ESA, CSA and JAXA), to all the astronauts, cosmonauts, and private explorers that visited or had extended stays on ISS, and to the international ground operations team. We thank you for allowing ARISS (also known as ISS Ham Radio) to be part of your journey of exploration and discovery! And we look forward to continuing the ISS journey with you in the future!

ISS crew operations began on November 2, 2000 with the arrival of the Expedition One crew. The Expedition One crew included Commander William (Bill) Shepherd, KD5GSL, Soyuz Commander Yuri Gidzenko, and Flight Engineer Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR

Just a few days after the crew arrived, they set up our first ISS ham radio system. It was installed in the Zarya (FGB) module and consisted of an Ericsson Handheld radio, Packet/Power supply, Headset and interconnecting cables developed by the USA and Russian teams. For transmissions, ARISS Russia team member Sergey Samburov brilliantly worked with his Rus-

sian colleagues to acquire use of a VHF antenna in Zarya previously employed for docking and no longer needed. The installation of the ISS Ham Radio is briefly described in the Nov 10, 2000 Expedition One Status Report: An extract is printed below:

*Friday, Nov. 10, 2000 - 2 p.m. CST  
Expedition One Crew 11.10.00*

*The Expedition One crew spent a relatively quiet day today aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as they prepare for the arrival of an unmanned resupply craft late next week.*

*The only significant activity on tap for Saturday calls for the crew to begin the setup of ham radio equipment in Zarya. ISS crews will use that gear to talk to schools and other ham radio operators throughout the world as they orbit the Earth.*

*After station setup on November 11, first operations of the ARISS ham radio system started on November 13, 2000, just 11 days after the Expedition One crew arrived.*

Thus, November 13, 2020 represents the 20th Anniversary of continuous operations of the ARISS ham radio system on ISS. ARISS plans a year-long celebration of our 20th anniversary. NASA is also celebrating 20 years of ham radio on ISS.

As we approach our 20th anniversary, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our entire ARISS international team. You volunteer for our youth, for ham radio worldwide, and to further the ideals of Ham Radio in space. What a phenomenal team!!

73, Frank Bauer, KA3HDO  
ARRISS International Chair  
Executive Director, ARISS-USA



## Blast from the Past

'Blast from the Past' is the section of Oxtales where we reflect on what the club was doing in years gone by. This month's 'Blast' is taken from the 2010 November edition of Oxtales.

In November 2010, Henry VK2ZHE President, Bruce VK2HOT was Vice President Secretary John VK2KC and John VK2KHB Treasurer. The club had 49 financial members.

The main activities reported on were the Beechwood Billy Cart Classic, JOTA, The National Field Day and an extensive working bee at the Telegraph Point repeater site.

Arthur VK2ATM also demonstrated that motorcycling and mobile operation do go together as illustrated in the photograph below!



*Arthur VK2ATM with his new trusty steed fitted out for fast response mobile operations*

Also a milestone was recognized in the November 2010 issue as Lyle VK2SMI was presented with club membership after successfully completing his foundation License. Photograph on the next page.



Presentation of membership to Lyle with the then callsign of VK2FVCI now with call VK2SMI.

Tim Mills VK2ZTM (SK) presented a very interesting Amateur Radio History Lecture to the general meeting pictures below.



Editor's note: An interesting exercise would be to name the participants in the meeting photograph.

*Continued on next page*

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## Photographs from the Beechwood Billy Cart Classic



Part of the control point crew Richard VK2CHC, Charles VK2KCE (SK), Neil VK2EI (SK), Henry VK2ZHE, Arthur VK2ATM, Rob VK2CRF, Bill VK2ZCV (SK) behind Larry VK2CLL.



Trevor VK2TT and Roy VK2YOR (SK) on the finish line control point.

Thanks to all members, Richard VK2CHC, Charles VK2KCE (SK), Neil VK2EI (SK), Henry VK2ZHE, Arthur VK2ATM, Rob VK2CRF, Larry VK2CLL, Trevor VK2ATM, Lewis VK2AG, Bill VK2ZCV (SK), Bill VK2ZCW (SK), John VK2AYQ and John VK2KC

## National Field Day



Set up with Arthur VK2ATM and John VK2KHB.



John VK2KC with a member of the public Bruce VK2HOT giving hints on operating

## Telegraph Point Working Bee



Jim VK2VIV in the foreground leads the charge

The hard workers included Bill VK2ZCW (SK), John VK2KHB, Arthur VK2ATM, Trevor VK2TT, Richard VK2CHC, Neil VK2EI (SK), Jim VK2VIV and Henry VK2ZHE



## MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

## Membership List as at 1, November 2020

No.	Cat	Surname	Given Name	Spouse	Call	Location	Phone
1	O	BAILEY	JOHN	(FLORENCE)	VK2KHB	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2192
2	D	BAYLISS	KEITH	(DEBBIE)	VK2FPTL	COOPERNOOK	0478 606 464
3	D	BLACKMORE	MARK	-	VK2XOF	BAULKHAM HILLS	02 9639 0663
4	L	BLYTH	BOB	-	VK2XIQ	TELEGRAPH POINT	-
5	O	BREWSTER	DAVID	-	ZL3DS	LAKE CATHIE	0407 749 748
6	D	BRICE	GRAHAM	(CYNTHIA)	VK2VW	SCONE	02 6545 0411
7	O	BRUCESMITH	SANDY	(KAY)	VK2WH	PORT MACQUARIE	0435 356 466
8	D	CAMPBELL	JAMIE	-	VK2YCJ	HAMILTON	0418 628 321
9	O/F	COLLEDGE	PAUL	(PAULA)	VK2ICQ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6580 9912
10	O/F	COLLEDGE	PAULA	(PAUL)	VK2FPDC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8829
11	O	COOPER	GORDON	(GLENDA)	VK2GFC	LAKEWOOD	02 6559 6502
12	O	COURT	RICHARD	(LINDA)	VK2CHC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 5658
13	D	DORAHY	ALEX	(ANNE)	VK2HBF	TOORMINA	0400 849 098
14	O	ECCLESTONE	BOB	(DIANA)	VK2ZRE	KEMPSEY	0419 414 412
15	D	EKERT	BRUCE	(YULIA)	VK2EM	FORSTER	0414 532 496
16	O/F	FLETCHER	CAROLINE	(PETER)	VK2CZF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 5191
17	O/F	FLETCHER	PETER	(CAROLINE)	VK2HPF	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 5191
18	O	FROGGATT	DARREN	(KRISTY)	VK2MIA	PORT MACQUARIE	0488 01 8102
19	O	FROST	ROBERT	(SUSAN)	VK2CRF	PAPPINBARRA	02 6587 6129
20	D	GARLAND	JOHN	-	VK2CJG	JEWELLS	02 4948 1950
21	O	GILSON	BARRY	(FAY)	VK2LBG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8814
22	L	GREEN	LEWIS	(PAMELA)	VK2AG	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 9162
23	O	HALL	RICHARD	-	VK2BXO	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 6588
24	O	HANSEN	JOHN	-	VK2AYQ	PORT MACQUARIE	0427 407 973
25	L	HARDING	DAVID	-	VK2AIF	WAUCHOPE	02 6586 1947
26	D	HARPER	JOHN	(VIVIANE)	VK2LJ	SYDNEY	0417 254 763
27	D	HIRSCHEL	ALLAN	-	VK2OK	DOUBLE BAY	0415 259 777
28	D	HUTCHESON	COLIN	(PAULINE)	VK5DK	MT. GAMBIER	08 8725 5527
29	D	JANES	LES	(BEVERLY)	VK5JL	SALISBURY HEIGHTS	08 8281 3878
30	D	JOHNSON	STEVE	-	VK2SJJ	BELLINGEN	0466 334 626
31	O	JONES	PAUL	(SANDRA)	VK2DEL	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 3772
32	D	KEIR	ANDREW	(BARBARA)	VK2AAK	DARAWANK	02 6554 3498
33	O	KOPPEL	HORST	-	VK2FHKO	LAKE CATHIE	02 6585 5992
34	O	KUCERA	PETER	-	VK2MPK	WAUCHOPE	0429 229 290
35	L	LINDSAY	LARRY	(PENNY)	VK2CLL	HUNTINGDON	02 6587 1155
36	O	LINDQUIST	IAN	(BERNADETTE)	VK2IDL	PORT MACQUARIE	0414 419 462
37	L	LUNDELL	HENRY	-	VK2ZHE	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 0534
38	D	MACNAUGHTON	JENNY	-	VK2BA	MUDGEE	02 6372 4053
39	O	MCDONAGH	JOHN	(KARIN)	VK2VY	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 0020
40	O	MARE	HANS	-	VK2MRK	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 7080
41	O	MARTIN	CRAIG	(JENNY)	VK2CSM	SANCROX	02 6585 3452
42	D	McADAM	PETER	-	VK2EVB	COFFS HARBOUR	-
43	O	McGUIRE	MARK	-	VK2FMGM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8875
44	O	McLEAN	JOHN	(CORRINE)	VK2KC	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6584 6220
45	O	MEADE	DENNIS	(SUE)	VK2DAM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6582 2998
46	D	MEEHAN	TERRY	-	ex-VK2KL	KEMPSEY	-
47	D	MELVILLE	STUART	-	VK2KSM	NORTHERN RIVERS	0419 043 316
48	O	MESSINA	TOBY	-	VK2XTX	PORT MACQUARIE	0417 293 377
49	L	MONCK	ARTHUR	-	VK2ATM	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6581 0960
50	O	MULLINS	RAY	(LYNNE)	VK2JU	PORT MACQUARIE	0432 559 400
51	O	NEWHAM	LAURIE	(ROBIN)	VK2ELN	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 5387
52	D	NIVEN	TREVOR	(BETH)	VK5NC	MT. GAMBIER	08 8723 2432
53	D/F	O'BRIEN	GRAHAME	(JUDY)	VK2FA	CARDIFF	02 4954 8688
54	D/F	O'BRIEN	JUDY	(GRAHAME)	VK2HZV	CARDIFF	02 4954 8688
55	D/F	PETTET	JOHANNA	(STEVEN)	VK2FJMM	ILARWILL VIA MACLEAN	02 6645 5290
56	D/F	PETTET	STEVEN	(JOHANNA)	VK2ZVG	ILARWILL VIA MACLEAN	02 6645 5290
57	L	PILLEY	DAVID	-	VK2AYD	KING CREEK	02 6585 2647
58	O	PISANI	VIC	(MEREDITH)	VK2UVP	BONNY HILLS	02 6584 8361
59	D	PRATT	PETER	-	VK2PX	PENNANT HILLS	0418 965 962
60	O	RAE	THOMAS	-	VK2ATR	PORT MACQUARIE	-
61	D	RAY	ROBERT	-	VK2ZWZ	SINGLETON	0412 573 86
62	D	ROMAINE	PAUL	-	VK2UPR	PORT MACQUARIE	0428 466 075
63	O	SANDERS	BILL	(SUELENE)	VK2FWHP	REDBANK	0437 004 228
64	O	SMALL	ROBERT	(LYNN)	VK2BIG	LAKE CATHIE	02 6584 8148
65	D	SWINDLEY	RON	-	VK2DDQ	KEMPSEY	0417 299 397
66	O	SMITH	LYLE	(JEANNINE)	VK2SMI	WAUCHOPE	-
67	D	SMITH	MURRAY	(MARGARITA)	VK2LAT	RAINBOW FLAT	0423 781471
68	D	SMITH	STEVE	(HELEN)	VK2IS	RAWDON ISLAND	0404 612 126
69	O	SOUTHWELL	IVAN	-	VK2IJS	PORT MACQUARIE	0439 611 452
70	O	TERRY	COL	(KATHLEEN)	VK2LCT	YIPPIN CREEK	0429 002906
71	L	THATCHER	TREVOR	-	VK2TT	WAUCHOPE	02 6585 2278
72	D	THOMPSON	DES	(BETTY)	VK9FLHI	LORD HOWE ISLAND	02 6563 2152
73	O	THOMPSON	LARRY	(KATHLEEN)	VK2LJT	TUNCURRY	02 6555 7994
74	O	WALKER	BRUCE	(GWEN)	VK2HOT	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6583 8360
75	D	WALKER	STUART	-	VK2BMX	BEECROFT	02 9869 0515
76	O	WALSH	STUART	(JENNIFER)	VK2FSTU	WAUCHOPE	02 6586 4490
77	O	WARD	MICHAEL	(SEREENA)	VK2FMDW	PORT MACQUARIE	0418 291 276
78	O	WINCHESTER	JOHN	(PAULINE)	VK2NJJ	PORT MACQUARIE	02 6580 3031
79	O	WYNN	STEPHEN	(LYALLE)	VK2ZSW	YIPPIN CREEK	02 6585 3327
80	D	YORSTON	ROBERT	-	VK2CAN	ROSEVILLE	02 9426 3727

Cat Key : A = Associate D = Distant F = Family L = Life O = Ordinary