



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 fiftyfirst Anniversary Year

July 2022

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 (DMR)
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)
SX 145.175 MHz 1200 Bps

President's Report

July 2022

President's Report



Membership Renewals

July marks the start of a new Financial Year for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Membership renewals became due on the 1st of July. Please renew promptly. The simplest way to pay is by direct deposit but Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM will always be pleased to receive payments by cash or card in person at the club meetings. EFT is available at all ORARC Meetings. Cheques may be posted to the club at PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444. If you are paying by cheque it would be appreciated if you could please add 50 cents to the cheque amount to cover the cost of depositing the cheque into the ORARC account.

The Committee is pleased to advise that

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Down The Coax

Monthly meetings & Friday Nights held in the S.E.S. Building Central Road, Port Macquarie. * All activities subject to ORARC COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 July 2022 2:00 pm

Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster 10 am all welcome including
spouses
Thursday 14 July 2022

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 July 2022 7.00 pm

Annual General Meeting
Saturday 6 August 2022 2:00 pm

Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 August 2022 after AGM

Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
Thursday 11 August 2022

Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 19 August 2022 7.00 pm

Down The Coax continued on page 3

Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

Sundays
(0900 Local)

Thursdays
(1930 Local)

July 2022

VK2FMGM	July 3	VK2ICQ	July 7
VK2FMGM	July 10	VK2EM	July 14
VK2FMGM	July 17	VK2ZHE	July 21
VK2FMGM	July 24	VK2ICQ	July 28
VK2FMGM	July 31		

August 2022

		VK2EM	Aug 4
VK2FMGM	Aug 7	VK2ZHE	Aug 11
VK2FMGM	Aug 14	VK2ICQ	Aug 18
VK2FMGM	Aug 21	VK2EM	Aug 25
VK2FMGM	Aug 28		

September 2022

		VK2ZHE	Sep 1
VK2FMGM	Sep 4	VK2ICQ	Sep 8
VK2FMGM	Sep 11	VK2EM	Sep 15
VK2FMGM	Sep 18	VK2ZHE	Sep 22
VK2FMGM	Sep 25	VK2ICQ	Sep 29

Stop Press

Due to concerns over breaching Privacy, the July 2022 and subsequent issues of Oxtales will no longer contain the Email Directory of members which has previously been on page 2, or the Membership Register which has previously been on the back page of the newsletter.

You will notice that the spaces normally occupied by the Email Directory and the Membership Register are shown as intentionally blank in the July 2022 issue of Oxtales.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President, Oxley Region Amateur Radio
Club Inc.
PO Box 712
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

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Down the Coax continued from Page 2

**Remembrance Day Contest
0300 UTC Saturday 13 August 2022 to 0300
UTC Sunday 14 August 2022**

**International Lighthouse and Lightship Week-
end 20 & 21 August 2022
VK2BOR entered for Tacking Point Lighthouse**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 September 2022 2:00 pm**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 16 September 2022 7.00 pm**

**The 64th Jamboree On The Air will take place
on 15 and 16 October 2022.
VK2BOR planned to operate from the Club's
Caravan at McInherney Park**

*President's Report Continued from
page 1*

again there is no rise in the cost of Membership Subscriptions for the 2022-2023 Financial Year. The fees are the same as those of last year. Ordinary Membership remains at \$40 per annum. Associate Membership remains at \$20 per annum. Distant Membership remains at \$10 per annum. Family Membership remains as a single fee equal to the membership fee for the most expensive membership included in the members covered by the family membership. For example two Distant members covered by a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$10. An Ordinary Member and an Associate Member included in a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$40. Two Ordinary Members covered by a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$40.

Membership subscriptions may be paid by Direct Deposit to the club's Regional Australia Bank account:
Bank Name: Regional Australia Bank
BSB: 932000
Account Number: 500032744
Account Name: Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Please use your callsign as the reference for the payment.

It is important that all members renew their memberships and also encourage those who are currently not members to join or rejoin ORARC. The more members we have, the easier it is to keep our fees low. The club has a lot of fixed expenses and we rely on membership subscriptions to cover those expenses. Your membership subscription is greatly valued.

Annual General Meeting

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. will be held at 2 pm on Saturday the 6th of August 2022 in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. Now is the time to consider nominating for one of the club office bearer positions. They all become vacant at the AGM. The strength of the club lies in having an active Committee to inspire and lead the club to do the many worthwhile things that enable the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club live up to all of its objectives to serve its members and the community, and to promote Amateur Radio as a hobby.

The formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting and the office bearer nomination form accompany this issue of Oxtales.

The current Committee has worked very hard to make the club's 2021– 2022 Financial Year a very successful one.

New VK2RCN Repeater Site at Telegraph Point

The club's sound financial position and a couple of substantial grants and donations have enabled the club to continue to work towards completing the most ambitious and expensive project the club has undertaken since it was formed. This is the new repeater site at Telegraph Point for the VK2RCN repeaters. The project to create a new greenfield repeater site became necessary when the club was

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advised a couple of years ago that it would soon have to vacate the existing VK2RCN repeater site.

The project had its genesis when ORARC members including Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Paul Jones VK2DEL, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, John McLean VK2KC and several others set out to obtain a suitable site. The club is indebted to Paul Jones VK2DEL for obtaining the donations that started the fund towards the cost of the new site. John McLean VK2KC kindly donated the mast sections needed for the site. After investigating a number of possible sites, a suitable site on the same ridge line as the existing VK2RCN site was identified on private property whose owners were very supportive of the Club's objectives to build a new repeater site to continue the excellent service provided by the existing site.



New repeater site identified Arthur VK2ATM has a vision of the eventual mast in the bush.

Once the new site was identified club president Henry Lundell VK2ZHE undertook the tasks of managing the project, setting up a formal long term lease of the site, applying for a Development Application and applying for grants towards the cost of the project. The Club is indebted to Levado Law + Property for pro bono undertaking the legal work to set up the leases.

As anyone who has set out to build a structure in recent years will attest, the path to obtain approval for a Development Application and a Construction Certificate so that actual site work can commence, is far from straight forward. The process took far longer than envisaged and incurred significant expenses for professional Civil and Engineering services which exceeded the amount budgeted so the project manager made a donation to make up the shortfall in the budget. Unfortunately, it was not possible to obtain these services pro bono. The Club is grateful that the Port Macquarie Hastings Council waived the fee for the DA which was a worthwhile saving.

The club was successful in obtaining two grants from the NSW Government Community Building Partnership towards the project. Unfortunately, both grants were only partial funding of the amounts applied for, but the grants of \$23,361.00 in the 2019 grants round and \$6,800.00 in the 2021 grants round are still a substantial contribution towards the cost of the project. The 2019 grant money has been received and the club has just received the 2021 money.

The works to the agreed scope of the 2019 grant were completed on the 28th of June 2022 and the Completion Report for this grant was submitted on the 30th of June 2022 which was the approved extended deadline.

Editors Note: A very extensive photographic report on the preparation of the new site can be seen in the May edition of Oxtales.



After obtaining the Construction Certificate so that site works could commence, the site was prepared.

From Bush to bare earth

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An earthmoving contractor with a bulldozer was engaged to carry out this work which included the access road directly from the main road as the originally planned access via the property owners' entrance was too wet.



Arthur VK2ATM, Rob VK2CRF and Henry VK2ZHE pumping water from the dam to fill the tank at the site.

The spoon drain crossing from the main road proved to be too muddy. Fortunately, club member Michael Ward VK2FMDW donated a quantity of used bricks which were placed to firm the bottom of the drain to make it passable. Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Rob Frost VK2CRF for transporting and placing the bricks, photographs below and Dennis VK2DAM for photographing the work.



In the words of the song "mud, mud, glorious mud, nothing quite like it for stirring the blood!!"

The final major milestones were the completion of the mast foundations and guy anchors and having the equipment shelter ready for fit-out. As members will be aware, in order to meet the mast Engineering Specifications and inspection, the Club had to engage the mast manufacturer, Future Engineering and Communication to construct the mast foundation and guy anchors. The cost of this again exceeded the budget. The project manager made a donation which has kept the Club's expenditure within the project budget. Editors note: Photographs of the mast and guy foundations may be seen in the May Oxtales photographic report.

Fortunately, the cost of the equipment shelter and its foundations is within the project budget. It was not possible to construct the planned Besser Block equipment shelter by the 30th of June 2022 deadline due to the Besser Blocks and the previously arranged bricklayer no longer being available after the extended wet weather delays and the subsequent building industry demands after the flood damage. Instead, the Club went to the contingency plan to install a 6 metre shipping container as the equipment shelter.

A "Single Use" shipping container in as new condition was obtained from a Coffs Harbour company who delivered it to the site and placed it on the concrete foundations that had been constructed by volunteer labour. Thank you to the hard working site committee Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Rob VK2CRF. Special thanks go to Ken "Chainsaw" Lindsay for his expertise and assistance on site in constructing the foundations for the container. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for his on site work and participating in the working bee to receive and place the container on the foundations.

The cost in meeting this milestone was kept within budget by the astute negotiation of a very favourable price for the purchase of the container and

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delivery to site, the construction of the foundations by volunteer labour, and the generous donation of the cost of the ready mix concrete by Dennis Meade VK2DAM.



Arthur VK2ATM and Larry help prepare the foundations for the equipment shed.

The concrete pour in operation.



The concrete slabs poured, Ken Chainsaw shows how screeding should be done.

The workers make their mark. Note Ken 'Chainsaw' is a well known popular local Country and Western Singer and performer.



Rob VK2CRF, Lyle VK2SMI and Arthur VK2ATM oversee the positioning of the equipment shed.

As part of the purchase cost, the container was supplied freshly painted. It is fitted with protected air vents, and was supplied with a fitted and fastened unmarked painted heavy duty form ply floor which is ready for use. See photograph below.



Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Rob Frost VK2CRF and Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for welding the tiedown brackets which attach the container to its foundations. Photographs below.



Arthur VK2ATM, Rob VK2CRF, Dennis VK2DAM and Lyle VK2SMI with the new equipment shed.

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The working bee for this critical work on Saturday the 9th of July 2022 was carried out on one of only a few fine days between periods of heavy rain from the East Coast Low Pressure rain depressions which are still ongoing.

The Community Building Partnership grant program advised that they were awaiting completion of the Club's 2019 grant before processing the Funding Instrument for the 2021 grant. Now that the 2019 grant Completion Report has been submitted it is expected that the Club will receive the awarded 2021 grant money soon if everything is in order.

The 2021 grant is towards the connection of power to the site. Originally, it was intended to trench an underground mains power connection from the property owner's residence. However, with the recent increases and projected future continuing increases in the cost mains power availability and consumption, the current cost of off grid solar power is now cost effective. Therefore, the Club has decided to run the site on off grid solar. While site shading from the trees to the north of the site reduces the effectiveness of solar panels in the winter months, the opportunity to purchase a large number of second hand solar panels has made it feasible to obtain sufficient solar power during the winter months. The Funding Instrument scope for the 2021 \$6,800.00 grant is based on contributing towards the cost of the installation of off grid solar power.

The erection of the mast and installation of antennas and LDF4-50 coaxial cable feeders will proceed in the next couple of months. Again, in order to comply with Work Health and Safety and Engineering requirements, the mast manufacturer Future Engineering and Communication have been engaged to carry out this work.

The Club is supplying the antennas and mounting brackets which have been donated

by VK2ZHE, having purchased them when WICEN organized a bulk purchase of antennas from local manufacturer RFI. The 6 metre folded dipole antenna was refurbished and set up on frequency at ORARC working bees a couple of years ago prior to the fires and floods and COVID-19. As previously mentioned, John Mclean VK2KC has kindly donated the five sections of mast required for the 30 metre mast. All the other materials for the erection and fit out of the mast will be supplied by the contractor. The mast will be fitted with a Safety Climb which will enable the mast to be climbed by qualified riggers if the need arises in the future. This feature will save the cost of hiring a 30 metre cherry picker or crane if minor mast works have to be carried out in the future.

The work to insulate and line the container and fit it with a roof to turn it into a quality equipment shelter is ongoing. The installation of the solar panels and the solar controllers and batteries and their wiring will be a big project in itself. This will be done with volunteer labour and a lot of materials have already been donated.

The repeater equipment is already on hand with exception of a 2 metre duplexer. At present the VK2RCN 147.0 MHz repeater uses separate transmit and receive antennas but it is desirable to run the repeater transmitter and receiver into a single antenna via a duplexer. A separate 2 meter transmit antenna is available in the event that a duplexer is unable to be obtained. The Club built the duplexer for the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre repeater at Middle Brother. Parts are available but building a duplexer is a major undertaking.

After the experience gained at the existing VK2RCN site, it is clear that the equipment needs to be in enclosed rack cabinets so that humidity and dust can be better controlled. The Committee will be very pleased to hear from anyone who may have one or two enclosed 19 inch rack cabinets that would be suitable for the site.

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The project has been significantly delayed by the effects of the 2020 fires, the 2021 storms and major floods, the continuing heavy rain and flooding in 2021/2022, and the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition the unplanned extra work to address the civil and certified engineering design issues took additional time and money and resulted in having to negotiate a changed on line Construction Certificate application process. ORARC is indebted to King and Campbell Pty Ltd for pro bono successfully lodging the Construction Certificate application on behalf of ORARC.

There will be a further progress report in September 2022 Oxtales.

Existing VK2RCN Repeater Site at Telegraph Point

As previously reported, the VK2RCN site suffered two major lightning strikes in March 2022. The second strike severely damaged the repeater equipment and destroyed the underground power line to the repeater shelter.

Due to the continuing wet weather the property owner has been unable to run a new underground power cable to the site. Each time the ground has dried out the rain has returned. Without power it has not been possible to reinstate the VK2RCN repeater services and they still remain off air. The plan is to reinstate the repeater services at the existing site as soon as power is available. The new VK2RCN site will not be completed until later in the year.

Club Activities

Normally ORARC runs a surprising number of activities and events each year. These range from the Monthly General Meetings, the Friday night get-togethers on the third Friday of each month, the weekly Sunday morning and Thursday evening

club nets on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz Middle Brother Repeater, the Wednesday morning working bees, and of course special events such as the Christmas Party, the annual Field Day on the June long weekend, and the Antenna Shootout. The club station VK2BOR participates in the John Moyle Field Day, the Remembrance Day contest, the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, and the Jamboree on the Air. In addition, club members provide the safety communications for events such as the Beechwood Billycart Classic, the annual White Ribbon Walk in Port Macquarie, and car rallies in the area.

Most of the above activities had to be cancelled last year and so far this year due the restrictions imposed by the continuing COVID-19 crisis which first began to impact on activities early in the 2020 calendar year.

On a positive note, the club managed to hold very successful Annual Field Days at the Wauchope Showground Hall and Field Day Dinners at the Port Macquarie Golf Club during the Queens Birthday Long Weekends in 2021 and 2022 with only the 2020 Field Day having to be cancelled. The timing of the Club's Christmas Parties on the first weekend in December each year turned out to be most fortuitous as the 2020 and 2021 Christmas Parties at the Long Point Art Gallery and Vineyard covered picnic area were both able to be held.



Club face to face meetings have been held under the Club's COVID-19 Safety

Plan each month this calendar year. The AGM at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of August 2022 will be a face to face meeting in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

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Remembrance Day and International Lighthouse and Lightship Contest

The club's participation in both the Remembrance Day Contest on the 13th and 14th of August 2022 and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on the 20th and 21st of August 2022 will be decided at the August Monthly General Meeting which will be held immediately after the conclusion of the AGM.

JOTA



Discussions are taking place with the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts regarding the ORARC participation in the Jamboree On The Air on Saturday the 15th of October 2022.

It is a requirement of the Scouting Association that all volunteers must have a Working With Children (WWC) check number. Anyone who does not already have a WWC number can easily obtain one on line at

<https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check> For volunteers there is no cost. Simply complete the on line form and you will receive an email. Print out the email and take it the RMS NSW Government Service Centre (In Port Macquarie it is in the building in Central Road that was originally the Motor Registry) where you will have to show your Drivers Licence for identification. The counter staff will verify the identification and you will receive the

WWC number shortly afterwards by email.

Those who already have a WWC check number should check the expiry date of their certificate. Use the "Renew Your WWC Check Number" option. If your expiry date is prior to the 15th of October 2022 you will need to follow the above procedure to renew your WWC check number well before JOTA.

Beechwood Billycart Classic

The tentative date for the 2022 Beechwood Billycart Classic is Sunday the 23rd of October 2022. As this is an outdoor event it is hoped that the event will be able to take place and ORARC will be able to provide the planned safety communications.

Coffee Morning

Another regular activity has been added to the Club's Calendar.



By popular demand an informal Coffee Morning will be held on the second Thursday of each month. The inaugural one at Brooklyn's Burger Bar in the Sovereign Hills Shopping Centre at Thrumster near the "Donut" (the junction of the Oxley Highway and the Pacific Highway) on the morning of Thursday the 9th of June 2022 proved to be very popular with at least 16 attendees.

Making the Coffee Morning on the second Thursday of each month a regular activity was unanimously supported at the July 2022 Monthly General Meeting. The Coffee Mornings have been added to "Down the Coax".

The Thursday 14th of July 2022 Coffee Morning will again be at the Brooklyn's Burger Bar.

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In August the Coffee Morning will be on Thursday the 11th of August 2022.

In September the Coffee Morning will be on Thursday the 8th of September 2022.



Ian VK2GL and Rod VK2AJ enjoy the morning.

Ian Lindquist VK2GL has undertaken to organize the Coffee Mornings and members are reminded that spouses are also very welcomed; Thank you, Ian. He will send an email reminder to members via the ORARC closed Google Group, and post a reminder on the Club's Facebook page prior to each Coffee Morning. In his reminder Ian will advise the venue which may change in subsequent months.



Henry VK2ZHE and Arthur VK2ATM in discussion and Lesley asking where are the spouses and XYLs today.

Shawn VK2NM and Paul VK2UPR with Barry VK2LBG



Part of the crew Larry VK2CLL, Grahame VK2FA, Rob VK2CRF, Ray VK2JU, front of table Ivan VK2IJS

ORARC 2022 Annual Field Day



The very successful ORARC 2022 46th Field Day was held in perfect weather on Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th of June during the Queens Birthday June long weekend. As well as being a very enjoyable Field Day for everyone, the Field Day was a financial success as well.

Thank you to Paula Colledge VK2PDC for completing the COVID-19 Safety Plan for the Field Day and setting up the procedures for the event. Fortunately, social distancing was easily maintained in the spacious Showground Hall, and the other activities at the Showground such as foxhunting were held outdoors. The Field Day Dinner in the spacious Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club simply followed the Golf Club safety plan.

The 2022 Field Day was held at the Wauchope Showground Hall over the two days.

The Field Day Dinner was held in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on the evening of Saturday the 11th of June 2022. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for again



sponsoring the hire of the Function Room for the Field Day Dinner. Gary has generously offered to sponsor the hire of the Port Macquarie Golf Club Function Room for the 2023 Field Day Dinner. The room has been booked for Saturday the 10th of June 2023. Thank you, Gary.

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(Additional Field Day Photographs may be seen at the conclusion of the Field day report.

There were 99 paid registrations, exactly the same number as at last year's Field Day. The regular contingent from Sydney and environs, the Central Coast, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Great Lakes and Taree, Kempsey and Coffs Harbour areas, the Clarence and the Northern Tablelands made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list includes home towns such as Sydney, Newcastle, Umina Beach, Lemon Tree Passage, Wyoming, Forster, Tuncurry, Taree, Wingham, Harrington, Coopernook, Kempsey, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Lismore and Lord Howe Island. When added to the many locals from the Hastings and Camden Haven valleys it is clear that the Field Day is indeed very popular. Thank you to everyone who attended. A number of the regular attendees were unable to make it this year but are all planning on attend in 2023. Please tell all your friends about the great weekend. We look forward to an even bigger attendance next year for the 47th annual Field Day.

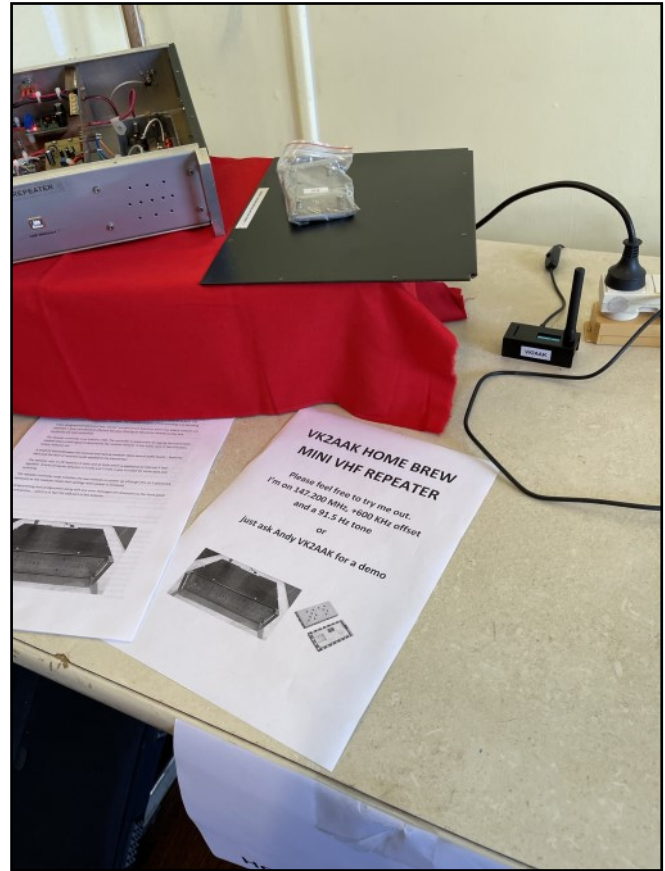
Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with many complimentary comments regarding the venue and the excellent catering. No-one went hungry and lots of people found great bargains from the traders who had brought stock in especially for the Field Day.



The disposals tables were very busy with lots of bargains as shown in the photograph left and below.



The technical demonstrations created a lot of interest. This year digital communications and VHF/UHF digital voice were showcased. Andy VK2AAK ran



demonstrations of his Home Brew Mini VHF Repeater as shown in the above photograph.

The DMR clinic which was particularly popular and quite a few DMR Code Plugs were loaded into newly purchased and existing DMR radios during the weekend. Some people came up from long distances especially to have code plugs loaded.

Ian



VK2GL and Paul VK2ICQ loading code pugs.

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Trade Displays

Radio Supply

Radio Supply had a large stock of a wide range of accessories and electronic items which attracted a continual amount of custom over the two days of the Field Day. Many of the regulars take advantage of the personal shopping at the Field Day to make their annual purchases of accessories such as connectors and adaptors but are always tempted by the other items on offer.

Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Carol Ryan VK2CSR for their long-time support of the annual Field Day, not only just for their stand, but for their ongoing very generous sponsorship in the hire of the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club for the Field Day Dinner.



Gary VK2ZKT and Carol VK2CSR from Radio Supply

We were very pleased to welcome back QSL Comms as a trader at the Field Day. Mark brought along a very comprehensive range of his inventory. His full inventory can be seen on the QSL Comms web site at <https://qslcomms.com.au/> His purpose-built trailer was absolutely jam packed. Prior to the Field Day, QSL Comms advertised that people should pre-order any special items that they wanted, especially bulky items such as antennas, so that the items would be available for collection at the Field Day.



QSL Comms very generously donated a range of prizes which very significantly increased the prize pool for the Field Day. The donated prizes included a highly coveted TYT MD-UV380 hand held DMR/Analog FM hand held transceiver, a Portable LCD illuminated Digital Microscope, an RSP1 Msi2500 Msi001 SDR Receiver covering 10kHz-1GHz, a 6:1 Coax Remote Antenna Switch kit, an Avair 2 way High Performance coax switch, a coaxial connector Hex crimping tool, and an 8 in 1 programming USB cable with Disc.



Gary displayed a range of his beautifully constructed home brew projects and recent restorations on the Radio Supply stand. Gary had been very busy and demonstrated his expertise in achieving a very professional high quality result through attention to detail and use of readily available resources as shown in the photograph.

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The club is particularly appreciative of these generous donations which greatly increased interest in the major raffle and the lucky door draws. Thank you, Mark.

Disposals

The many diverse bargains from the disposals tables stocked by various vendors were keenly sought. There was everything from transceivers, test equipment and surplus commercial equipment to antennas, cables, connectors and hardware. There were some high quality items at very keen prices for discerning buyers. Special thanks go to club member Wade Boyd VK2EST from Wingham who brought a vast array of computer related and other items along to both sell and give away. Wade donated the takings from the sales to the Club. Thank you for your generosity, Wade. Thanks go to Bruce Ekert VKEM for transporting Wade and his items to the Field Day as Wade had not been well and was unable to drive himself all the way to and from the Field Day. There were even quite a few give-aways of very useful new items and magazines. Everyone went home with at least something. Quite a few people went home with a great many bargains.

Give Aways

Jaycar

Jaycar donated a very large number of items such as pocket screw driver kits, USB rechargeable key ring torches, LED torches, propelling pencils, pocket protectors, Jaycar reusable carry bags and a host of other useful items and catalogues and magazines that were all distributed for free. Jaycar Port Macquarie also donated several very nice Field Day prizes including a Powertech 20 AH USB Power Bank with wireless charger, a Protech TD2500 Cordless 42 Piece Screwdriver Set with mains charger in carrying case, a Protech TD2510 Cordless Lithium Ion

Battery powered 55 Piece Screwdriver Set with USB charging in a carrying case, and a Powertech TD2117 35 Piece Multi-purpose Precision Tool Kit with Vinyl Case.

Battery World

Thank you to Battery World Port Macquarie for a generous donation of a large number of useful give away items including LED flicker candles, compact folded reusable carry bags and a large number of high quality stainless steel Battery World 25th Anniversary pens. The pens in particular were highly coveted and were equitably distributed.

Field Day Dinner

The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was extremely popular again this year with approximately 35 people enjoying excellent food and a pleasant social evening in the Function Room. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous sponsorship by Radio Supply of the hire of the Function Room for the dinner. The spacious function room provided a very pleasant environment for the Field Day Dinner and ensured that social distancing was easily maintained.

It is with pleasure that we can announce that the 2023 Field Day Dinner will again be in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. ORARC wishes to express its sincere thanks to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous sponsorship by Radio Supply of the hire of the Function Room which has been booked for the 2023 Field Day dinner on Saturday the 10th of June 2023.

VK2EM Digital Display

Thank you to Bruce Ekert VK2EM for running his digital modes demonstration display and high power hotspot on both days of the Field Day. His display created a lot of interest and he was kept busy answering questions and showing what can be done with digital communications,

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especially with low power and simple antennas.

ORARC Stand

This year Paul Colledge VK2ICQ and Ian Lindquist VK2GL/VK2IDL ran an extremely popular stand demonstrating DMR radio communications. Throughout the weekend they were kept very busy answering an endless number of questions on DMR at all levels. The offer of loading code plugs into radios for those who had their DMR ID numbers was eagerly taken up by a large number of people. At least one person came up from Sydney especially to have a code plug loaded into his radio. Ian prepared for the Field Day by updating the code plug for the common popular DMR radios such as the Retevis RT3S and TYT MD-UV380 hand held DMR transceiver.

For those who missed out on obtaining a DMR code plug at the Field Day or who would like to update their code plugs, please see the article by Ian Lindquist VK2GL/VK2IDL in the July 2021 issue of Oxtales and visit his VK2IDL website at <http://vk2idl.com/index.php/dmr-digital-mobile-radio/>

ALARA Stand



Thank you to Diane Wilson VK2DNE for running the Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA) stand this Year.

The stand was visited by a great many people during the weekend, some just to say good day, and others who were keen to learn more about ALARA.

ALARA <http://www.alara.org.au/> is one of many international associations of ladies in Amateur Radio. In Australia there are some 200 members. ALARA is very pleased that Diane Wilson VK2DNE is going to continue running the ALARA stands at future events.

Fox Hunts

Fox hunting has a strong tradition at the annual Field Days and this year competition was as intense usual, albeit with fewer participants. Some of the regulars were unable to attend this year but there was still a competitive field of hounds in each hunt.

Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL who hid and recovered the fox hunt transmitters with help from John Hansen VK2AYQ, Grahame O'Brien VK2FA, Riley O'Brien VK2KZV and Wade Boyd VK2EST.



This year the club had three newly built 4 Watt self contained 80 metre foxes. Building the foxes was a co-operative effort between Ian Lindquist VK2GL who built the transmitters and

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE who mounted the transmitter boards in their waterproof "ammo case" housings and set up the transmitters with keyers and 12 Volt AGM deep cycle batteries. 80 metre resonant HVT-400 mobile helical whips mounted directly on the ammo cases were used as antennas with a four wire counterpoise. The only complaint from the hounds was that the signals from the transmitters were too strong! Despite one

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transmitter failing and the rest of the events being run with only two transmitters, the new transmitters were a great success.

Thank you too to Peter Kucera VK2MPK for starting the hunts and doing the recording and scoring. Thank you, Peter.



Field Day Results

Congratulations to 2022 Fox Hunt Champion Gerard Hill VK2IO of Castle Hill. The Runner-up Fox Hunt Champion was Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby with Jeff Pages VK2BYY of Umina Beach third. The top hunters are always keen to see their names engraved on those little shields that added to the Perpetual Trophy each year. There is very little space left on the Perpetual Trophy to add new shields so the new shields are now being placed on the sides of the pedestal. In a few years the trophy will be full and we will then need a new Perpetual Trophy.

Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby took out the trophy for the best presented amateur vehicle. There were several worthy contenders but Chris's vehicle stood out.

Andy Keir VK2AAK of Darawank near Forster won the trophy for the Home Brew Competition with his innovative 2 metre analogue repeater.

The various entries on the home brew table and the display by Gary Ryan VK2ZKT demonstrated that the art of Amateur Radio home brewing was still popular.

Thanks to many generous donations the major raffle and lucky door prizes were of an extremely high standard this year. The prizes included a DMR hand held transceiver, a Tecsun high quality portable receiver, an SDR receiver, a high capacity USB power bank and various powered and unpowered tools and even an air fryer. Thanks to QSL Comms, Jaycar Port Macquarie, Radio Supply, Tecsun Australia and VK2ZHE.

The full lists of all the prizes and the winners appear in this issue of Oxtales.

The Major Raffle first prize winner Diane Wilson VK2DNE of Lemon Tree Passage took home the much coveted TYT MD-UV380 DMR/Analog FM hand held transceiver donated QSL Comms.

The second prize in the raffle, the Tecsun PL368 compact LW/MW/SW/FM full coverage AM/FM/USB/LSB/Synchronous AM radio receiver donated by Tecsun Radios Australia and VK2ZHE was won by Ian Lindquist VK2GL of Port Macquarie.

With a total of 9 prizes in the Major Raffle the draw was keenly watched. The subsequent prizes, all donated by QSL Comms, Jaycar, and VK2ZHE included a wide range of high quality prizes.

The Callsign Lucky Door first prize of an LCD illuminated microscope donated by QSL Comms went to John Winter VK2PJW of Krumbach.

The callsign Lucky Door draw second prize of a 6:1 remote coax switch kit donated by QSL Comms was won by John Bailey VK2KHB of Port Macquarie.

In all there were 7 prizes in the callsign lucky door draw. These were donated by QSL Comms, and VK2ZHE.

In the non-callsign lucky door draw, first prize of the high power USB Power Bank was won by Tonia

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Archer of Port Macquarie. There was a total of 4 prizes donated by Jaycar and VK2ZHE.

Full lists of all the Major Raffle, Callsign Lucky Door Draw and Non-Callsign Lucky Door Draw prize winners and a full list of Trophy winners appear in this issue of Oxtales.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Field Day weekend. There are too many people to individually thank in this column but as already mentioned, many of the volunteers put in extraordinary efforts during the weekend as a number of those who normally volunteer for various tasks were either absent or not able to undertake the tasks that they had done in previous years. It did mean that some people doubled up and undertook more than one task. The result was that the weekend events all ran smoothly and everyone was well fed.

The Wauchope Showground hall has a dedicated kitchen but there was still a lot of work in setting up to barbeque and serve delicious food and drink throughout the weekend. Thanks to Paula Colledge VK2PDC for writing the COVID Safety Plan and ensuring compliance with the COVID-19 safety requirements that were in force during the Field Day. Compliance necessitated hiring a glass fronted Bain Marie to keep the hot food hot and even a glass cookie jar and tongs, all of which Paula arranged. The innovation of the post and plastic chain to define the queuing line for the food worked well and will be used again next year.

John Bailey VK2KHB did a great job in obtaining all the provisions. As he has done for many years, John very generously donated most of the food and consumables, and all of the soft drinks. The generosity of John and other benefactors such as Henry Lundell VK2ZHE who donated the sausages, steak, bacon and the fruit salad and ice cream ensured that that sale of the very reasonably priced food was profitable.

Special thanks go to Paula Colledge VK2PDC Lesley, Sue Meade and John Bailey VK2KHB who tirelessly worked all weekend to serve the food and drink while running the barbeque. The basic kitchen was a great help with its sink and hot water for washing up. Importantly, it also had refrigerator and freezer space. Also, thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL who transported the barbeque, and to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for providing the marquee for shade and setting up the barbeque.

Thank you to again to the food service team. There was always someone behind the counter to provide immediate service. The free tea, coffee and biscuits were continuously available in the dining alcove which worked particularly well and drew much favourable comment. As only the food service counter volunteers could handle the food due to the COVID safety requirements the workload was much



higher again this year.

Part of the food service team Lesley and Sue and below Paula VK2PDC



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The breakfast bacon and egg sandwiches were particularly popular on both days. The sausage sandwiches on both days were very popular. The steak sandwiches on both days were so popular that the steak ran out and Paula Colledge VK2PDC produced her famous hamburger patties which proved so popular that they will on the menu again next year. Word of how delicious the food was spread very quickly. The secret was in the quality of the ingredients and the expert barbequing. As always the fruit salad and ice cream dessert nicely rounded out Sunday lunch.

Thank you also to those who tirelessly ran the registration desk at the entrance to the hall and sold all the tickets for the food, drinks and the raffle. Special thanks must go to David Pilley VK2AYD, Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM. At the end of the weekend Dennis was happy that the money and ticket sales reconciled after he accounted for the EFT sales, and that the Field Day had made a substantial profit. Some members took the opportunity to pay their membership subscriptions. The availability of EFT was a new innovation which proved popular. Thank you to Dennis Meade VK2DAM for donating the tablet which ran the contactless card reader.

Thank you to the many willing hands who set up the hall on Saturday morning and then packed everything up on Sunday afternoon. The Showground Caretaker did a check as the hall was finally swept and everything was stowed. He was happy.



Day is done, hall cleaned

It was hard to believe that only a few hours earlier the hall and environs had been a hive of activity with 99 attendees and a mountain of paraphernalia. Thank you to everyone for a great job. ORARC promptly received a refund of the \$250.00 bond for the hall together with another accolade for being model hirers. The \$250.00 bond was rolled over as the bond for the hire of the Showground Hall in 2023 for next year's Field Day.

The generosity of the benefactors who so kindly donated all the prizes, food and drink is greatly appreciated. The financial success of the Field Day while keeping registration at a low \$5 per person is due to the generosity of these donations.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the Field Day. The support is greatly appreciated.

The 2023 Field Day is only 11 months away. It will be the 47th annual Field Day. As already mentioned, the Wauchope Showground Hall has already been booked and the bond lodged. The Golf Club Function Room has already been booked for the Saturday night Field Day dinner. Thank you for Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for again sponsoring the hire of the function room. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to another enjoyable successful Field Day in 2023.

Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments

The next Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments will be conducted on the weekend of the 30 and 31 of July 2022.

Candidates are unable to attend the July weekend and others who would like to obtain their Foundation Licence or upgrade, please contact Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL. This will help Larry to plan the next Assessment weekend which will be conducted when sufficient candidates have registered. Once you

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have registered your interest, Larry will contact you as soon as it becomes possible to run another training and assessment weekend.

Note also that remote assessment is possible. Please contact Larry VK2CLL for further information.

ORARC 2022 Christmas Party



The ORARC Christmas Party is held on the first Saturday in December each year in place of the December Monthly General Meeting. The 2022 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday the 3rd of December as marked on the ORARC 2022 calendar.

The 2022 Christmas Party venue remains the same as in previous years. It is the covered outdoor picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. The Christmas Party is always an enjoyable opportunity to socialize with members and their families. We look forward to seeing everyone there on Saturday the 3rd of December 2022.

WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group



The WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group holds its monthly meetings after the conclusion of the ORARC Monthly General Meetings in the SES

Building in Port Macquarie. Current and prospective WICEN members are invited to

attend the meetings. Anyone interested in joining WICEN should come along to the meetings. For more information, visit the WICEN NSW website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/>

The WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group conducts a net on the WICEN 80 metre frequency of 3600 kHz LSB at 7 pm local time on Thursday nights. The nets finish in time for members to participate in the ORARC Thursday night net at 7:30 pm on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre repeater.

ORARC closed Google Group

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. has a closed Google Group which is used to send emails to members. The group is administered by ORARC Vice President and Webmaster Paul Colledge VK2ICQ. Email addresses of those in the group are not shared with anyone else. Only a very small number of emails are sent via the group each month. The agendas and minutes of ORARC monthly meetings are emailed to members this way. As well you will receive notification of the monthly informal coffee morning.

If you haven't been receiving the ORARC meeting agendas and minutes by email it means that either the email that you provided Paul VK2ICQ is no longer current, or that you haven't been added to the group. Membership of the ORARC closed Google Group is not mandatory but you will not receive emails sent via the group if you are not a member.

If you haven't been receiving the ORARC meeting agendas and minutes, and wish to be included in the ORARC closed Google Group, please send an email to vk2zhe@orarc.org and your request will be passed on to Paul VK2ICQ.

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Welcome

New Members

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club welcomes new member Derek Archer of Port Macquarie. Derek is looking forward to the next Foundation training and assessment weekend as he is very keen to obtain his Foundation Licence.



Gerard VK2IO
Riley VK2KZV



Grahame VK2FA
Judy VK2ZZV

Life Membership

Members are reminded that members are eligible for Life Membership when they turn 85 years. There is at least one member who will become eligible in 2022. Life Membership can only be conferred at the AGM. Please advise the Committee urgently if you or any members that you know are turning 85 this year so that the motion to bestow Life Membership can be included in the agenda for the AGM as motions cannot be received from the floor at the AGM.



Helen and Chris VK2YMW



Kevin VK2CKD, Bob
VK2ZRE and Diana



Stuart VK2BMX,
Erik VK2EJH



Richard VK2OKR, Gavin
VK2YAK, Mark VK4AN

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

2022 Field Day additional Photographs

Field Day Dinner



Jamie VK2YCJ



David and John VK2PJW



Above Betty, Des VK9FLHI, Dennis VK2DAM, Barry
VK2LBG below
Arthur VK2ATM, Lesley and Sue



Barry VK2LBG and Fay



Carol VK2CSR

Gary VK2ZKT



Ian
VK2GL

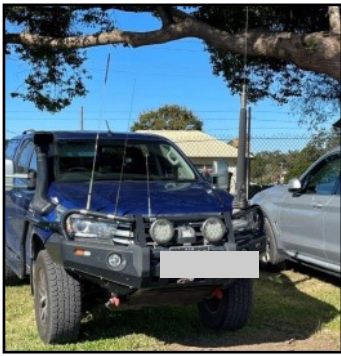
Ray
VK2JU



Arthur
VK2ATM



2022 Field Day Additional Photographs.



The field day saw a variety in personal transport from vehicles with porcupine antennas to the classic lines of a Royal Enfield Motorcycle and a wide range of other vehicles.



Larry VK2CLL the leader of the fox hunts strides down the hall to organise the hunt.



Have you ever wondered what the foxes do when waiting for the hounds to appear?

Some play trains whilst hiding in the local park at Wauchope that houses a miniature steam railway ride.



Other foxes are more adventurous and practice their bogging and recovery skills!



Ooops the fields around Wauchope prove to be very soggy after the rain.

However help was at hand so no foxes were harmed!



The hard working staff at the registration, meal and raffle ticket desk.



Left Dave VK2AYD and Right Arthur VK2ATM



Below Dennis VK2DAM and Arthur VK2ATM reconcile the takings.



Below Many took advantage of the field day to catch up with old friends. Below Bruce VK4MAZ, Peter VK2MPK and Paul VK2GPG catch up.



Joe VK2BG catches up with long time member Barry VK2LBG

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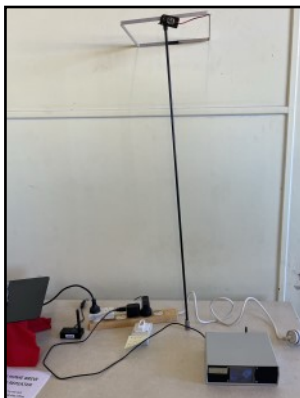
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Field Days also provide a time to chat and discuss various technical matters and also just to relax



Lyle VK2SMI and Paul VK2ICQ take a few minutes out just to sit and think

Kevin VK2CKD contemplates what he could do with these disposals.



Interesting items of home brew, left Andy VK2AAK's 2 meter repeater set up.

Gary VK2ZKT Tri Band HF Whip antenna right and details below.



Riley VK2KZV, Judy VK2ZZV and Noelene VK2ANF share a talk around the ALARA table.

Tri Band HF Whip Antenna

40, 20, 10 Mtrs

SO239 Base

Tripod mounted

1.7 mtr telescopic whip antenna

All materials from Bunnings, MFJ and Jaycar



Thomas VK2ATR and Paul VK2ICQ chat about the field day.



2022 Compact Communications Receiver

Technology has come a long way.....

Tescun PL330 Pocket Communications Receiver

AM, FM, SSB capability
Direct Frequency Entry
Synchronous AM Detection
ETM+

Portable, lightweight
Rechargeable BL-5C Li-Ion battery included

Specifications:
Frequency range: LW 153-913 kHz, MW 530-1710/522-1620 kHz, SW 1771-20999 kHz, FM 64-107.9-108.07-108.08-108 MHz
Frequency Tuning Steps: LW/MW: 5 kHz, SW: 5 kHz, SSB 0 kHz/1 kHz
Hz, Synchronous Detection: 5 kHz/1 kHz/500Hz, FID: 100/10 kHz
Frequency memories: LW: 100, MW: 100, SW: 300, FM: 100

Examples of new technology from Radio Supply a Tescun 2022 PL330 Pocket Compact Communications Receiver .

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2022

Major Raffle

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	TYT MD-UV380 VHF/UHF DMR and Analog Hand Held Transceiver with USB programming cable	QSL Comms	VK2DNE	Diane Wilson	Lemon Tree Passage
2nd Prize	Tecsun PL368 SSB LW/MW/SW/FM Receiver with Keypad Frequency Entry and USB Rechargeable battery	Tecsun Radios Australia/VK2ZHE	VK2GL	Ian Lindquist	Port Macquarie
3rd Prize	Air Fryer 1400 W 3.2 litre capacity with digital control. Hauffmann Davis SA-AF-553D	VK2ZHE	VK2XUV	Shayne McBride	Forster
4th Prize	RSP1 Msi2500 Msi001 SDR Receiver 10kHz-1GHz	QSL Comms	VK2AYQ	John Hansen	Port Macquarie
5th Prize	Protech TD2500 Cordless 42 Piece Screwdriver Set with mains charger in carrying case	Jaycar	VK2CLL	Larry Lindsay	Huntingdon
6th Prize	CR-V 53 piece 1/4 inch Drive Ratchet kit in Carrying Case	VK2ZHE	VK9FLHI	Des Thompson	Lord Howe Island
7th Prize	Protech TD2510 Cordless Lithium Ion Battery 55 Piece Screwdriver Set USB charge in carrying case	Jaycar	VK2AYD	David Pilley	King Creek
8th Prize	Coax Connector Hex Crimping Tool	QSL Comms	VK2ANF	Noelene Faulkner	Elland - Grafton
9th Prize	Digiitech XC-5227 Bluetooth Speaker	VK2ZHE	VK2ZRE	Bob Ecclestone	Kempsey



Diane VK2DNE first raffle prize (left)



Ian VK2GL second prize presented by Vice President Paul VK2 ICQ with Henry VK2ZHE in the back ground.



Shayne VK2XUV third prize (left).



John VK2AYQ fourth prize (right)

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2022

Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Portable LCD illuminated Digital Microscope 1-600X with LCD Screen. 6 Hour Working battery	QSL Comms	VK2PJW	John Winter	Krambach
2nd Prize	6:1 Coax Remote Antenna Switch SO-239 1.8MHz--60MHz kit 61CX-RMT 12V DC	QSL Comms	VK2KHB	John Bailey	Port Macquarie
3rd Prize	Avair 2 way High Performance coax switch SO239 AV-SW2M	QSL Comms	VK2UPR	Paul Romaine	Port Macquarie
4th Prize	SWR Meter Pearce Simpson X SWR2 SO239 Connectors Single meter	VK2ZHE	VK2HRZ	Sean Rowe	Harrington Waters
5th Prize	LED Headband Magnifier YJ7127C-A	VK2ZHE	VK2GTS	Gary Thompson	West Kempsey
6th Prize	8 in 1 programming USB cable with Disc	QSL Comms	VK2EM	Bruce Ekert	Tuncurry
7th Prize	Digiitech XC-5227 Bluetooth Speaker	VK2ZHE	VK2IF	Scott Dening	Kempsey

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2022

Non-Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Powertech 20 AH USB Power Bank with wireless charger	Jaycar	Tonia Archer	Port Macquarie
2nd Prize	Powertech TD2117 35 Piece Multi-purpose Precision Tool Kit with Vinyl Case	Jaycar	Derek Archer	Port Macquarie
3rd Prize	Powertech MB3663 Emergency Phone Charger	VK2ZHE	Trish Fitzpatrick	Taree
4th Prize	Powertech MB3663 Emergency Phone Charger	VK2ZHE	Lyn Sidebottom	Bonville

ORARC Field Day 2022 - Trophy Winners			
	Callsign	Name	Town (Home QTH)
Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Saturday 2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt	VK2BZC	Paul Webster	Port Macquarie
Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
Sunday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Fox Hunt Champion	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Best Presented Amateur Vehicle	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Best Home Brew Display	VK2AAK	Andy Keir	Darawank



*Chris VK2YMW
2M mobile, 80M
mobile, 80M pe-
destrian.
Runner up Fox
Hunter Champion
Best Presented
Amateur Vehicle*



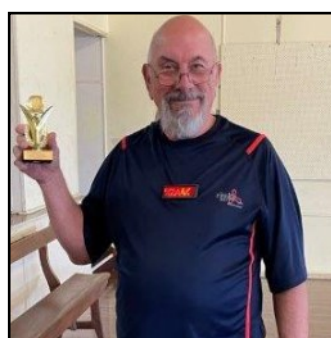
*Right Gerard
VK2IO 80M Pe-
destrian*



*2M Pedestrian and
below
Fox Hunt Champion*



*Paul VK2BZC 2M
talk in below Andy
VK2AAK best Home
Brew Display*



Above

*Jeff VK2BYY 2M mobile.
Note: Jeff also competes in
his pedestrian events with his
trademark 'bare feet' even in
the wintertime!*

Fox Hunt Perpetual Trophy with Champion Shields



Gerard VK2IO with 2022 individual Fox Hunt Championship Trophy and winner of the Perpetual Championship Trophy.

jaycar 

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2022 Field Day Winners are Grinners minor prize Winners from the raffles



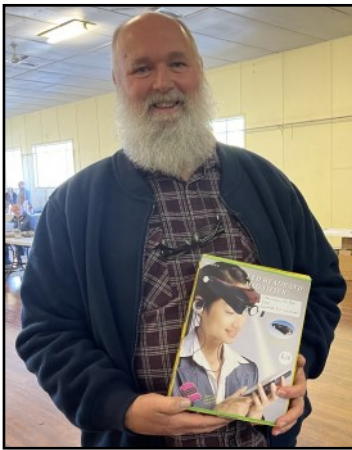
David VK2AYD 7th Major Raffle Prize donated by Jaycar.



Noelene VK2ANF 8th prize major Raffle donated by QSL Communications.



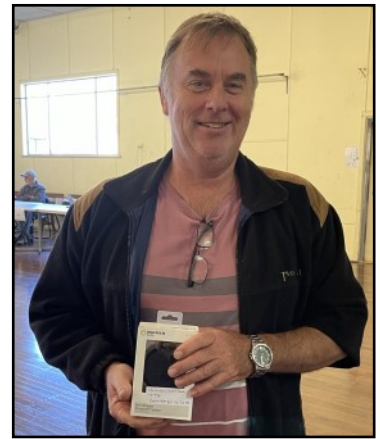
John VK2KHB 2nd Lucky Door Prize donated by QSL Communications.



Garry VK2GTS 5th Lucky Door Prize donated by VK2ZHE.



Bruce VK2EM 6th Lucky Door Prize donated by QSL Communications.

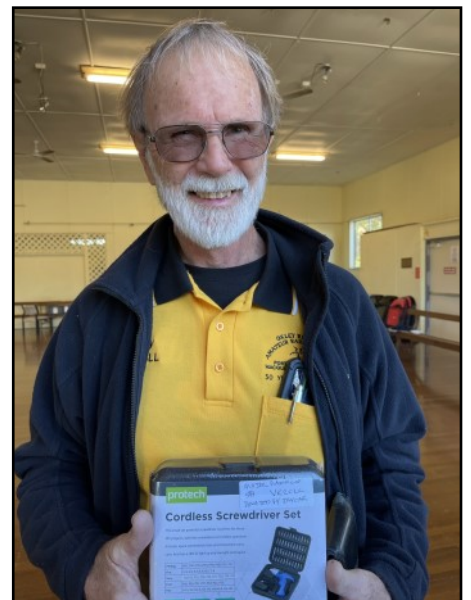


Scott VK2IF 7th Lucky Door Prize donated by VK2ZHE.



Left Bob VK2ZRE 9th Major Raffle Prize donated by VK2ZHE

Right Larry VK2CLL 5th Major Raffle donated by Jaycar



Blast from the Past

Blast from the Past' is the section of Oxtales where we reflect on what the club and its members were doing in years gone by. Members are also encouraged to send in items relating to club members or club activities in previous years.

This month starts with Peter VK2MPK and what he was doing in 1988 (nearly 34 years ago). If any of our members remember having a contact with Peter during this event or have one of the QSL Cards issued Peter would like to hear from you. This would also make a worthwhile human interest story in a future Oxtales.



A novice 'ham' radio operator has taken to the airways in rocket-like fashion after only six months of holding a licence.

Peter Kucera of Bains Farm, Clairville, has become one of the elite few to procure use of a bicentenary special event call sign.

Only eight such signs have been issued in Australia and QSL cards from these people are expected to be sought after by radio operators from all over the world.

After only three weeks on the radio Peter was invited to become one of seven operators to conduct a radio session for morse code enthusiasts.

Peter teaches slow morse learners

and novices wishing to upgrade their morse code on shortwave length.

These special call signs will operate only over the duration of the bicentenary year.

Peter has been notified that his call sign will be V188NSW — Victor Ian 88 New South Wales.

Peter's use will be limited to 24 hours.

He will begin transmitting on his special events call sign tomorrow from 11am (000 hours UTC).

The object is to be heard all around the world.

Each contact will be logged and after contact has been verified the special bicentenary QSL card will be sent out to each contact.

This month's blast is taken from the 2017 July issue of Oxtales. The club had 68 members. Henry VK2ZHE was President, Paul VK2ICQ Vice President, Larry VK2CLL Treasurer and Jim VK2VIV Secretary.

The main events reported upon in the July 2017 issue were, The 2017 Field Day and the Alzheimer's Australia Memory Walk

and Jog event in Port Macquarie on the morning of Sunday the 4th of June 2017. Communications for which were provided for by WICEN.

'... The setting up was done in the pre-dawn darkness with a very early start. The walk started and finished at Westport Park and the route went to Windmill Hill and back via the Town Green and Town Beach. It finished by noon ...'

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Part of the team at Westport Park checking radio's in and out. Lyle VK2SMI, Steve VKZSW, Stuart VK2FSTU and Rob VK2CRF.

' . . . Those participating were Steve Wynn VK2ZSW, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE and Stuart Walsh VK2FSTU (now VK2WAL) . . . '

' . . . Henry Lundell VK2ZHE set up the WICEN portable VHF commercial high band repeater on the headland overlooking Mrs York's Garden at the top of Clarence Street Port Macquarie . . . '

It is interesting to see the results of 2017 Field Day and the Trophy Winners Table is reproduced below. Three of the 2022 Fox Hunters Gerard VK2IO, Chris VK2YMW and Jeff VK2BYY won trophies in 2017. Gerard and Chris also being FOX Hunt Winners and Runners up as they were this year!



Lyle VK2SMI Best Presented Amateur Vehicle, photograph above. Henry VK2ZHE presenting the trophy.



ORARC Field Day 2017 - Trophy Winners			
	Callsign	Name	Town (Home QTH)
Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2ZCM	Craig Martin	Sancrox
Saturday 2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt	VK2ZCM	Craig Martin	Sancrox
Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Sunday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
Fox Hunt Champion	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Runner Up Fox Hunt Champion	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Best Presented Amateur Vehicle	VK2SMI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope
Best Home Brew Display	VK2SMI	Lyle Smith	Wauchope

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Dayton Hamvention usually attracts about 35,000 attendees from all over the world, although most are from the USA. This is over 100 times bigger than our local ham-fests. It's hard to comprehend unless you have experienced the event first hand. Rough statistics this year suggest about 29,000 to 30,000 attendees. (Official attendee numbers just released were: 31,367)

Down a little this year but Covid is still quite prevalent in most parts of the USA. Also many countries borders are still restricted or closed to tourist travel.

There are 6 main buildings that cater for over 460 vendor booths. The outside flea market or car boot sales area, which is the whole inside arena at the Green County Fairgrounds has just over 2700 spaces available. This year most spots were taken up by sellers.

The weather in Dayton is quite predictably unpredictable but you can guarantee hot and humid days of around 28 to 30C with a humidity in the 70-80% range, along with the usual thunderstorm and Tornado warnings, which we had in both cases.

The Hamfest Program is comprehensive and starts early on Thursday morning with "Contest University" or 'CTU'. Registrations from 7am, with CTU starting at 9am till 5pm finish. This year CTU was live streamed on Youtube and will be available for viewing after the event.

Evenings are taken up by specialist dinners. The DX Dinner and Contest dinners are the favourites of many and this is where DXers and Contesters are recognized for their contributions to Amateur Radio and inducted into the respective halls of fame.

Afterwards the "Hospitality Suites" take over, which are social get togethers with tall stories and tales of that ATNO that got away. Hamvention runs 9am till 5pm Friday, Saturday and the first half of Sunday 9am until

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WIA represented at Dayton Hamvention 2022

Date : 30 / 05 / 2022

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK

On the 19th-22nd of May, new WIA Director Chris Dimitrejivic VK3FY and WIA Vice President Lee Moyle VK3GK attended Dayton Hamvention in Ohio USA representing the WIA.

Dayton Hamvention is renowned to be one of the "big three" hamfests in the world. The other two are Friedrichshafen in Germany being held in late June and Tokyo Hamfair which is to be held in August later this year.

For those local VK hamfest attendees, here is a size comparison. Wyong Field Day, or Mayham which is VK's biggest hamfest we understand gets about 500-600 attendees. Local VK3 hamfests attract about 250-350 attendees with often having 40-70 vendor tables booked is not uncommon.

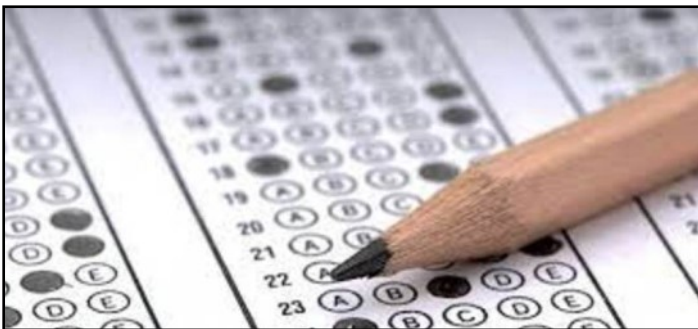
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1pm close. First prize giveaway this year was an ICOM IC7851, with many consolation prizes.

WIA Directors Chris and Lee took the opportunity to meet with other International peak body representatives such as ARRL, RSGB, DARC and IARU. They discussed the potential changes to our VK licencing structure, high power proposals, examination processes amongst many other things. Lee commented that "It was great to meet ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR and ARRL FCC Council David Siddall, K3ZJ. Early discussions were had about reciprocal licencing processes along with CEPT and HAREC compliance."

The WIA will be following up with ongoing zoom meetings to solidify the relationships.

Although this trip was partly official WIA business, it was totally self funded by both Chris and Lee and as such, no WIA member's funds were used.



AMC Online Remote Exams Approved For Under 18 Year Old Candidates

Date : 29 / 05 / 2022

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK

The WIA recently received official AMC documentation confirming a shift in Amateur Radio Remote Exam Procedure.

Previously under the constraints of this policy, anyone under the age of 18 years of age was unable to sit an Online Remote Amateur Radio Exam Session.

As you could imagine, this policy had quite a negative impact on the ability to bring Youth and teenagers into the Amateur Service, especially during the last two years during the Covid pandemic and lock downs that ensued, as "face to face" exam sessions were extremely restricted or not allowed.

Recent discussions by WIA members with ACMA and AMC have enabled AMC to amend the Amateur Radio Examination Policy to allow under 18's to sit exams via remote. (Remote examinations can only be conducted by an AMC Level 3 Assessor)

However some specific conditions must first be met and information received from the Office of Maritime Communications AMC Amateur Radio is quoted below.

"Remote assessments for candidates under the age of 18 are permitted to be conducted and have additional stipulations. A condition of conducting a remote online assessment for a candidate under the age of 18 is for a parent/guardian to be present in the room whilst the examination is being conducted.

This change will also be in conjunction to the proposed fully online Examination service AMC have been proposing to be released for use later this year.

The WIA thanks the AMC/ for their consideration in amending their Exam Policy as this simple change is a big win for the AMC, AMC Assessors, WIA and the Amateur Radio Service in Australia.

If you know of any potential Under 18 year old who may wish to sit their Amateur Radio Examination, either via online or Face to Face, then contact the WIA office for further information and study materials. Email: nationaloffice@wia.org.au

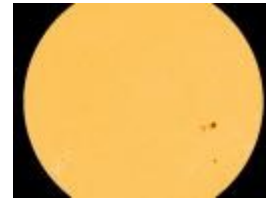




was established in 1973 by ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®.

The K7RA Solar Update

07/08/2022



On July 7 Spaceweather.com reported a G-1-class geomagnetic storm underway, with possible increase to G-2 class. They said it was caused by a co-rotating interaction region. The storm subsided, but then came back early on July 8.

Late on July 7 Spaceweather.com presented this animation of a large new sunspot AR3053 emerging over the sun's eastern horizon:

<https://bit.ly/3bYQImG>

Notice that unlike here on Earth, the sun's eastern horizon is on the left? Perhaps we can explain that in a future bulletin. Your input would be appreciated.

When I suspect HF conditions are disturbed due to geomagnetic activity, I look at the latest K index on this site:

<https://bit.ly/3RiFMAh>

The left column of K indices starts at 0300 UTC and repeat every three hours. At the end of the UTC day, an A index number is assigned.

Sunspot activity increased this week, with average daily sunspot numbers going from 49.1 to 62.6. But oddly, average daily solar flux was down slightly from 105.3 to 103.5.

Taking a longer view, solar activity is stronger than it was a year ago, when average daily sunspot number was 34.7 and

ARRL Foundation Announces



2022 Scholarship Awards

07/07/2022

The ARRL Foundation Board of Directors has approved the recipients of the 2022 ARRL Foundation Scholarships as recommended by the Scholarship Committee. Foundation Scholarships totalling \$921,250 will be awarded to 139 deserving radio amateurs pursuing higher education. Individual scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$25,000.

Applications for 2023 ARRL Foundation Scholarships are expected to open on October 1, 2022. More information about the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program is available at www.arrl.org/scholarship-program.

The ARRL Foundation administers programs to support the amateur radio community, and

average solar flux was 86.9 as reported in ARLP027 in 2021.

Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2330 for Friday June 24th, 2022

David VK2AYD is kindly supplying various Amateur Radio Newsline Reports on the world of Amateur Radio.

BRINGING AMATEUR RADIO TO A MORE DIVERSE COMMUNITY

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: We begin this week with a look at a special project that is creating amateur radio opportunities for a more diverse community of enthusiasts, starting with the very youngest among them. We hear from Ralph Squillace KK6ITB how this initiative is putting ham radio and science into the hands of children of colour in lower-income neighbourhoods.

RALPH: Get ready for Jasmine and Jose, two school kids who fell in love with amateur radio after visiting a family friend who's a ham. Now the friends want to build a simple radio of their own. While these two children are fictional characters in a book that tells their story in both Spanish and English, the magneticor, should we perhaps say electromagnetic?, draw of kids to amateur radio is very real. That's why the science educators at the California-based nonprofit group, Science is Elementary, is preparing to publish this tale of the youngsters' amateur radio journey as a book in their new series.

"Jasmine and Jose Build a Radio" is geared to 7-year-old readers and will be produced with accompanying kits for 2,240 youngsters. The project is being funded with a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications. The grant will include publication of companion readers or adults and will cover the costs of school-based activities in which the kids build radios of their own. The books and kits will be provided

free to youngsters attending school in low-income communities in the San Francisco Bay area. If you don't live in the region, take heart: Everyone else will be able to download the book and the adult reading companion for free as PDFs.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Ralph Squillace KK6ITB.

BALLOON LAUNCH TO FEATURE CROSSBAND REPEATER

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Amateurs in Kansas have rescheduled the launch of a high-altitude balloon with a crossband repeater on board and they're hoping to keep it busy making contacts. Jack Parker W8ISH has those details.

JACK: Good things are worth waiting for and members of the Independence Amateur Radio Club, NØID, only have to wait a little bit longer for the rescheduled launch of the high-altitude balloon they are sending skyward with a crossband repeater and APRS on board. The Kansas hams are especially excited because the launch, rescheduled from earlier this month, will coincide with the Great Plains Super Launch on July 16th.

The Super Launch is a wide-ranging event in which a number of similar balloons will be launched at sites throughout the Midwest. Stan Pierson, AEØLM, secretary of the Independence club, told Newsline that during the club balloon's expected two-hour flight over southeast Kansas, it will communicate with one of the Super Launch balloons flying high over Wisconsin. Using a common downlink, but separate uplinks, the balloons will permit radio operators in both areas to talk to one another using VHF/UHF radios. The crossband repeater has an uplink on 147.91 MHz and a downlink on 449.01 MHz

Those who cannot be on site at Riverside Park for the launch or reside out of the area and wish to track the balloon can follow its journey following the 8 a.m. launch that day at [www dot aprs dot fi \(www.aprs.fi\)](http://www.aprs.fi)

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For Amateur Radio Newslines I'm Jack Parker W8ISH.

JUST FOR FUN: A NOT-SO-TRIVIAL QUIZ

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Now here's something that's just for fun: If you think you know ham radio, play along with two teams during a trivia quiz you'll be able to watch online starting Tuesday June 28th. As we hear from Paul Braun WD9GCO, one team's members are very familiar to Newslines listeners.

PAUL: A team from Amateur Radio Newslines took part in an event that was both trivial and non-trivial at the same time.

The Newslines team, consisting of captain Paul WD9GCO, Neil WB9VPG, Kevin N5PRE, Andy K9AWM, and Dave WB8ODF squared off against a team from the Ham Radio Workbench podcast led by team captain George Zafiroopoulos KJ6VU in an amateur radio trivia contest hosted by Kyle Krieg AAØZ.

The two teams fought four rounds featuring questions that ranged from general ham radio knowledge to specialized technical topics. We can say that the teams were very evenly matched, but we won't tell you who won, that would spoil all the fun, wouldn't it?

The competition will be released in two different forms on Tuesday, June 28th in video on Kyle's YouTube channel and in audio format on the Ham Radio Workbench feed. You will find links to both in the text version of this newscast on our website.

According to all who participated, it was a lot of fun and both sides made new friends, as should happen in ham radio events. And we're ready for a rematch any time they're ready.

For Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Paul Braun, WD9GCO

SPECIAL EVENT IN AUGUST TO HONOR ABANDONED, ABUSED PETS

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: If you think amateur radio is going to the dogs, you're right, but those dogs are getting plenty of company, as we hear from Ed Durrant DD5LP.

The dog days of August will soon be upon us and so too will August 26th, known as International Dog Day.

A number of hams around the world have decided to run with the pack by getting special event call signs and getting on the air to publicize the needs of abandoned and abused pets who have ended up in shelters, dogs as well as cats.

Hanz, YL3JD, wrote in a QRZ.com forum that he will be operating CW from his shack in Latvia using the call sign YL1DOG starting on Monday the 22nd of August until the 26th. Hanz wrote: [quote] "I feel obligated to give exposure to this. In my power as a radio amateur and animal lover bringing attention to these abandoned pets is the least I can do." There are plans for other call signs to be on the air too, including Joop PG4I, signing as PF6DOG, and Edwin, PDØSOT, signing as PD6DOG.

International Cat Day is being celebrated on August 8th. Yevgeny, YL2TD, will be among those on the air from the 7th until the 9th of August. He will be using the call sign YL1CAT.

The list is growing but organizers are looking for even more operators to call QRZ on behalf of shelter animals.

Visit the website catsanddogsontheair.com to get the details. Then email Hugo CT7AOV to have your station included on the list.

Equipment from the Past

Yaesu FLDX-400 Transmitter



The Yaesu FLDX-400 was a desk top Amateur band only transmitter. For 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters amateur bands. Modes of operations were CW, AM, and SSB. FSK operation was possible with an adaptor.

The FLDX-400 was introduced in the late 1960's and early 1970's with a recommended base retail price of about \$350 with an external VFO and speakers which would then push the price up to over \$400.

The transmitter was valve driven with 18 valves and 33 (as stated in a Bail Electronics 1970's price list) semiconductors with a manual driven tuning dial. Output power was 75 watts AM and 100 Watts SSB. The power output valves were two 6JS6C/6KD6 pentodes. Weight was 18 kg. The dimensions were 370mm X 150mm X 290mm. Thus making the set quite large and formidable desk top unit. The FLDX-400 was mains operated on a 100 to 240 volt supply

The transmitter gained a reputation of being of very high quality and after a suitable warm up period of being frequency stable. The dial tuning in particular was reported to be very smooth.

FLDX-400 occasionally can be seen for sale today however the equipment is now more than 50 years old and would usually require some work to bring the equipment up to operational status today. Recently one such set appeared at the disposals table at the Field Day which was in very good condition and the owner had replaced many of the compo-

nents. Although it attracted plenty of interest it was still there at the end of the day.

The FLDX-400 at the Field Day was offered with an Amateur Band only Hallicrafters Model SX-111 receiver also in excellent condition details of which appear below.

Hallicrafters Model SX-111

Amateur Receiver



The Hallicrafters SX-111 is an Amateur band only receiver covering the 10m, 15m, 20m, 40, and 80m bands plus 10 MHz WWV. The SX-111 is a Superhet, double/triple conversion type receiver with IF frequencies of 50.75 kHz and 1.65 MHz

There is a notch filter with variable selectivity from 500 Hz to 5 kHz. Automatic Noise limiter. Also a BFO with product detector, 100 kHz calibrator and S-meter.

The valves used include a 5Y3 rectifier, OA2 voltage regulator, 6AQ5 audio output, 12AX7 audio amp. & BFO, 6BJ7 AGC, detector & ANL, 6BY6 product detector, 6BA6 2nd. mixer, 12AT7 2nd. conversion oscillator, two 6DC6 as 2nd. & 1st. IF, 6BY6 mixer, 6C4 1st. conversion oscillator, 6DC6 RF amplifier and 6AU6 crystal calibrator.

This was a fairly standard type of set up used in receivers from the 1960s. In 1961 the recommended retail price was around \$365 which made the set a relatively expensive piece of equipment at the time.

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Power was 240 volt only and the receiver was built in a sturdy metal case with dimensions of 475mm X 262mm X 224mm and a weight just over 16 kg.

The SX-111 when pared with the Yaesu FLDX-400 have a combined weight of more than 32 kg on the desk top and also take up quite considerable space!

Various reports on the performance of the Hallicrafters receiver indicate that the set needed considerable time to warm up to minimise frequency drift most noticeable on SSB. However the same was probably true for many other valve receivers at that time.

These old pieces of equipment certainly look the part and have a very satisfying tactile feeling to their operation. In addition most of the components were not proprietary and could be relatively easily sourced even today. This is one reason why they have become quite attractive to restorers as they are relatively easy to work on. In the words of one such restorer they also “in the dark give out an attractive glow!”



Hallicrafters SX-111 above and

Yaesu FLDX-400 below



Acknowledgements:

[Yaesu FLdx-400, Desktop Shortwave Transmitter | RigReference.com](https://www.rigreference.com)
<https://www.egham.net/review>
<https://www.radiomuseum.org>

Lost at Field Day

From David Pilley VK2AYD

At the ORARC Field Day at Wauchope on Saturday 11th June I lost my 65 year old Signature Class ring.

Cold weather shrunk my finger and it must have got lost in someones goody box. It is one of a kind.

On one side it depicts a microphone and on the other side a satellite dish inscribed with the c/s G3HLW.

Embedded on the top surface is an ancient Telegraphy Key!

If you happen to see it please email me or call me as it has great sentimental value.

David VK2AYD Wauchope

0401 926 099



Stop Press

Due to concerns over breaching Privacy, the July 2022 and subsequent issues of Oxtales will no longer contain the Email Directory of members which has previously been on page 2, or the Membership Register which has previously been on the back page of the newsletter.

You will notice that the spaces normally occupied by the Email Directory and the Membership Register are shown as intentionally blank in the July 2022 issue of Oxtales.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President, Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.
PO Box 712
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

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