

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

September 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

September 2022

President's Report



VK2RCN New Site at Telegraph Point

Thursday the 9th of September 2022 marked a major milestone in the establishment of the new site at Telegraph Point for the VK2RCN repeaters with the long-awaited erection of the 29 metre guyed mast.

This was quickly followed by the installation of the antennas and coaxial cable feed cables to the container which forms the equipment shelter. The photographs on the following pages of the report show the impressive crane lifting the top sections of the mast into position. Once the sections were bolted together the guys were attached and tensioned. The crane was then lowered and the mast then stood on its own.

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Down The Coax

**Monthly meetings & Friday Nights held
in the S.E.S. Building Central Road, Port
Macquarie.**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 September 2022 2:00 pm
Nano VNA Demonstration by Bob
VK2ZRE**

**Coffee Morning Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
10am Thursday 8 September 2022**

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

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 October 2022 2:00 pm – ADS
-B Aircraft Tracking by Paul VK2ICQ**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger
Bar, Thrumster
10am Thursday 13 October 2022**

**The 65th Jamboree On The Air will take
place on 15 and 16 October 2022
VK2BOR JOTA Port Macquarie
Participation Cancelled**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 October 2022 7.00 pm**

**Beechwood Billycart Classic
Sunday 23 October 2022**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 5 November 2022 2:00 pm –
Network Radio Demonstration by Paul
VK2ICQ**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger
Bar, Thrumster
10am Thursday 10 November 2022**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 18 November 2022 7.00 pm**

**Spring VHF UHF Contest
Sat & Sun 26 & 27 November 2022**

Down the coax (continued on next page)

Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays
(1930 Local)**

September 2022

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

October 2022

VK2FMGM	Oct 2	VK2EM	Oct 6
VK2FMGM	Oct 9	VK2ZHE	Oct 13
VK2FMGM	Oct 16	VK2ICQ	Oct 20
VK2FMGM	Oct 23	VK2EM	Oct 27
VK2FMGM	Oct 30		

November 2022

		VK2ZHE	Nov 3
VK2FMGM	Nov 6	VK2ICQ	Nov 10
VK2FMGM	Nov 13	VK2EM	Nov 17
VK2FMGM	Nov 20	VK2ZHE	Nov 24
VK2FMGM	Nov 27		

**VK2BOR Participation – Call for ex-
pressions of interest**

**Liberty Coastal Walk Against Domestic
& Family Violence
Tacking Point to West Port Park Port
Macquarie
Sunday 27 November 2022**

**ORARC Christmas Party
(no Monthly General Meeting)
Saturday 3 December 2022
Long Point Winery Picnic Area**



Continued from front cover

Raising High The VK2RCN mast.



The mast sections are delivered to the site above and bolted together below.



The mighty mobile crane arrives on site on Thursday 8 September 2022



Lifting the mast sections into place and the attachment and tensioning of the mast guys (photograph below).



The bottom two mast sections were stood up and guyed first. Next the top 3 sections were lifted and bolted to the standing bottom sections.

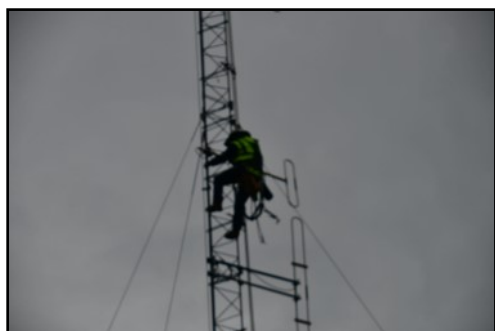
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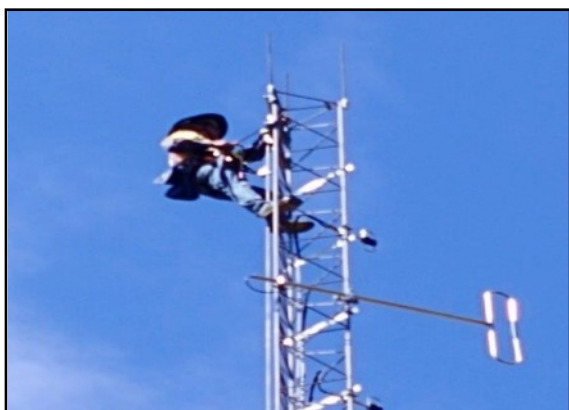
Once the top guys were attached and tensioned the mast was climbed and the lifting straps removed from the top. The guyed mast can then be seen standing on its own. Photograph below.



Next the 12 folded dipole antennas were attached.



Shane the rigger attaching the antennas



Antennas attached

This was followed by running the 12 coaxial feed cables down the mast to the container. The feeders are all LDF4-50 low loss coax cable. The cable tray for the feeders was bolted between the mast and the side of the container.



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As can be seen above all coaxial cables have been neatly run in sequence and terminated on the N type bulkhead feed through connectors on the side of the container. All the feeders have numbered labels at the antennas and where the cables attach to the side of the container.



Each guy anchor point is earthed, as is the base of the mast. The cable tray between the mast and the container provides a low impedance bond between the mast and the container.



The container is also earthed.

At the top of the mast are three one metre tall lightning rods.

A separate rod is attached to each of the three mast legs.

Future engineering and Communication swept each antenna and feeder before attaching the feeder to the feed through connectors on the side of the container.



Note the neat arrangement of in sequence numbered connectors for 12 antennas (photograph on the previous page.)

The Ethernet cable entering the container via the gland nut fitting attaches to the Ubiquity 5.7GHz link antenna outdoor unit which can be seen mounted on the mast.



The outdoor Ethernet cable has been run separately down the mast and into the building. Once the Ubiquity link has been tested and proven viable the Ethernet cable will be run permanently in conduit to protect it.

VK2ZHE had the privilege of being the first person to feed RF into each of the 12 VHF and UHF antennas and make on air contacts. There was almost no measurable reflected power on any of the 12 antennas which all performed superbly. Photograph on the next page.

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“The proof of the pudding!”



Antennas being tested with RF on air.

As expected the antennas near the top of mast had the strongest signals from distant stations. There are antennas for 6 metres, 2 metres and 70cm. One antenna is a VHF mid band antenna which be used for testing with WICEN.

ORARC only had one 6 metre side mounted dipole antenna. There was provision to mount a second 6 metre antenna. The VHF mid band side mounted dipole was available so it has been mounted in place of the second 6 metre antenna until one is available at a later date.

The mast looks very impressive with a total of 12 folded dipole antennas for 6 metres, 2 metres and 70 centimetres. The Ubiquity 5.7GHz link antenna has been mounted on the mast and visually aimed but its pointing will optimized when the viability of this this link to Port Macquarie is tested.

After the experiences with lightning at the previous VK2RCN site, a lot of care has been taken with earthing and lightning protection.

Astute readers will have noted the three finials at the top of the mast. These are three substantial lightning rods. The uppermost antennas are mounted a little way down from the top of the mast so that

they are protected by the lightning rods. All the antennas are side mounted folded dipoles which are intrinsically earthed to the mast.

Now that the mast and its antennas and feeders are in place the next phase of the project is the construction of the roof and erection of the solar panels on the shipping container equipment shelter. The site is off-grid solar powered with 5 kilowatts of solar panels to charge the batteries which will power the repeaters.

Once the solar panel installation is completed, the repeater equipment will be installed. The target for commissioning the VK2RCN repeaters at the new site is November 2022.

The volunteers working on this project have already had a very busy year but the intensity of the work will be extreme in order to complete the final stages by the November target date. Special thanks go to Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Dennis Meade VK2DAM, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Henry Lundell VK2ZHE, Lyle Smith VK2SMI, Ian Lindquist VK2GL and John Bailey VK2KHB.

The Club is indebted to “Chainsaw” Lindsay for his expertise and work in constructing the concrete footing for the container, and his ongoing advice. While the construction of the mast footings and guy anchor blocks, and the erection of the mast and installation of the antennas and their coaxial cable feeders has been carried out under contract by Future Engineering and Communication, all the other work on site has been, and is continuing to be done by the small band of dedicated volunteers.

We are all looking forward to the return of the VK2RCN 438.424 MHz DMR Radnet Repeater, the 147.0 MHz 2 metre analog FM and C4FM Fusion digital voice repeater, the VK2RCN-1 145.175 MHz APRS digipeater and the 53.8 MHz 6 metre FM voice repeater.

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As well there will be the new 70cm multi mode digital voice MMDVM repeater. Also, the VK2RCN 147.0 MHz repeater will be linked to the Middle Brother VK2RPM 146.7 MHz repeater once the required infrastructure is installed. This valuable ORARC asset will provide a lot of radio communications facilities for use by all licenced Amateurs within the coverage area.

It has not been possible to obtain a new underground mains power connection at the existing VK2RCN site which has been off air since the two major lightning strikes in March 2022. As the commissioning of the new VK2RCN site is now only 2 months away, the VK2RCN repeaters will remain off air until the new site is commissioned.

Membership Renewals

Thank you to all the members who have already renewed their memberships this year. However, quite a few membership subscriptions are still outstanding. Please contact the ORARC Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM if you are unsure of your financial status. Your continuing membership is greatly valued by the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The membership subscriptions form a very significant part of the club's annual income.

If you haven't renewed yet, please renew as soon as possible. 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

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 please 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.

Monthly General Meeting Guest Speakers

ORARC Monthly General Meetings now have a short 15 minute business meeting followed by a lecture or demonstration by a guest speaker.

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There is time to socialize over afternoon tea after the guest speaker has finished.

The motion to formalize the change in Monthly General Meeting format was unanimously passed at the 2022 AGM in August.

At the 3rd of September 2022 Monthly General Meeting Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE presented a very interesting and informative talk and practical demonstration of the application of the Nano VNA to Amateur Radio. Everyone at the meeting went away with a much better understanding of the capabilities of the Nano VNA.



Bob VK2ZRE information talk on the Nano VNA

below

Audience of ORARC club members



Parts included with the Nano VNA measuring instrument.

Nano VNA displaying a Smith Chart of frequency response.



At the 1st of October 2022 Monthly General Meeting Paul Colledge VK2ICQ will present a talk and demonstration of ADS-B aircraft position tracking using the Raspberry Pi and PCs. This is a very interesting topic. Paul will show you how to very simply set up to track aircraft in real time using equipment which you may already have.

At the 5th of November 2022 Monthly General Meeting Paul Colledge VK2ICQ will demonstrate Network Radio. This will be a very interesting session. Come along and find out what Network Radio can do for you. Some people may already have heard Paul using his network radio from his car while mobile to make contacts on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater via EchoLink. Yes, you can operate Amateur Radio mobile without mounting an antenna on your vehicle.

Note that there is no December Monthly General Meeting. Instead, the ORARC Christmas Party is

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held on the First Saturday of December. The 2022 Christmas Party is on Saturday the 3rd of December 2022.

The Committee is seeking suitable guest speakers for the 2023 Monthly General Meetings. Please contact the Committee if you are able to assist in booking suitable speakers, or if you have suggestions for suitable topics.

AGM

The ORARC in person Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday the 6th of August 2022.

Thank you to Arthur Monck VK2ATM for being the Returning Officer and conducting the AGM elections.

Written nominations were received for the Committee positions. This was most encouraging and got the AGM elections off to a good start.

I am most honoured to have been re-elected as President, Secretary and Public Officer for the 2022 – 2023 year. I was also re-elected as Repeater Chairman and VK2BOR Station Manager.

Congratulations to Paul Colledge VK2ICQ on being re-elected Vice President.

Congratulations to Dennis Meade VK2DAM on being re-elected as Treasurer.

Congratulations to the elected Committee members, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Rob Frost VK2CRF and Lyle Smith VK2SML. Retiring Committee Member Ian Lindquist VK2GL did not seek re-election due the workload of his other commitments. Thank you, Ian, for your contribution during your terms on Committee.

Larry Lindsay VK2CLL is continuing in his long serving role as Education Officer. Many members have obtained their licences

and upgrades through Larry's classes over a great many years. Anyone thinking of obtaining a licence or upgrading should contact Larry. Larry, together with Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Steve Wynn VK2ZSW have AMC accreditation to conduct assessments so the club is well placed to run assessments locally. Steve Wynn VK2ZSW as a level 3 assessor reminds members that remote assessments can be set up through AMC so anyone who is ready for assessment does have this option if attending an assessment is a problem.

Paul Colledge VK2ICQ was re-elected as Webmaster. Paul has built the ORARC website to an extremely high standard and continues to regularly update it with both club news and breaking Amateur Radio news. The website is a great ambassador for the club, and for the Amateur Radio service as a whole. Thank you, Paul.

John McLean VK2KC did not seek re-election as Facebook Administrator for health reasons. After the AGM Derek Archer VK2DJA volunteered to fill the vacant position and was appointed ORARC Facebook Administrator at the 3rd of September Committee Meeting. Thank you, Derek. The ORARC Facebook continues to be very popular. Sincere thanks go to John VK2KC for his initiative in setting up the Facebook Page, and for being its Administrator until handing over to Derek.

Derek Archer VK2DJA is also the QSL manager.

Congratulations to John Hansen VK2AYQ on being re-elected as Oxtales Editor. The club is indebted to John for his tireless work in continuing to publish Oxtales to a very high standard. Thank you and congratulations to Arthur Monck VK2ATM for on being re-elected as Assistant Oxtales Editor.

Also, thank you to Ian Lindquist VK2GL, Sue Meade, Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Darren Froggatt VK2MIA for their ongoing work as Oxtales

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proof readers. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes in publishing each issue of Oxtales.

John Bailey VK2KHB was re-elected as Club Historian. Congratulations and thank you to John for continuing to maintain the ORARC history. There is a lot of history to keep track of now that the club is in its 51st anniversary year.

Ian Lindquist VK2GL was elected as Social Director. Ian is continuing to co-ordinate the very popular Coffee Mornings on the second Thursday of each Month. To date the Coffee Mornings have been held at Brooklyn's Burger Bar in the Sovereign Hills shopping centre at Thrumster but Ian is looking at other venues and assessing the interest in doing lunch.

Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE was elected to the WIA liaison position.

A full list of all the Office Bearers elected at the 2022 AGM is included in this issue of Oxtales.

The AGM closed after the presentation of two awards:

Life Membership was awarded to long time active ORARC member John Bailey VK2KHB. While John became eligible for Life Membership on turning 85 years, the Life Membership award recognizes John's valuable contribution to the Club over many decades. As well as being Club Historian, John is a past Treasurer.



Arthur Monck VK2ATM was awarded Clubman of the Year 2022 for his dedicated ongoing valuable contribution to the club. Arthur has worked tirelessly on the project to create the new site at Telegraph Point for the VK2RCN repeaters. Throughout the project he has carried, and is continuing to carry a very high workload in all aspects of the project from its inception and site selection through to the design for off grid power and the use of a shipping container as the equipment shelter when it became impossible to build the preferred Besser Block building to meet the deadline for the grant. The club has benefitted greatly from Arthur's initiative and attention to detail in design and obtaining quotations for materials and services.



RD Contest

This year the Remembrance Day contest and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend took place on consecutive weekends.

The RD contest took place over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday the 13th and 14th of August 2021. A call was made for volunteers to operate the club station VK2BOR in the contest but there were no offers.

Propagation was good and the activity on the Amateur Bands during the contest was extraordinary. Every available frequency on 80, 40 and 20 metres was continuously occupied. Many people were on air for the full 24 hours of the

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contest. On Saturday night between midnight and dawn 160 metres was crowded with dozens of stations taking full advantage of the bonus points for the nocturnal 160 metre contacts. The new single letter Contest Callsigns were very much in evidence but it is significant that most operators mentioned their normal callsigns so that everyone could tell who they were.

While the club station VK2BOR didn't operate in the RD contest this year, it was pleasing to hear quite a few ORARC members participating in the contest.

Those of us who submitted our RD logs generated by the VKCL Contest Logging software spared a thought for the developer of the software, Mike Subocz VK3AVV who passed away on the 5th of January this year after a long illness.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 2022 - 25th Anniversary



Certificate of Participation in the 25th Anniversary event on 20-21 August 2022

Using the Call Sign VK2BOR at ILLW No AU0034 Tacking Point Lighthouse

<https://illw.net>

The ILLW took place on the weekend after the RD Contest on Saturday and Sunday the 20th and 21st of August 2022. A call had been made for volunteers to operate VK2BOR in the ILLW. There were no offers but station manager Henry Lundell VK2ZHE did operate VK2BOR from the Tacking Point Lighthouse for a short while. This was important in order to be eligible for a Certificate of Participation in the 25th Anniversary ILLW.

The recent roadworks and "upgrade" of parking at the Tacking Point Lighthouse now make it very difficult to obtain a parking spot at the Lighthouse which is an extremely popular tourist spot. I made three fruitless trips to the Lighthouse on the Saturday with the intention of operating VK2BOR from my car in the ILLW. Each time it took over 20 minutes to negotiate the Lighthouse loop road in the bumper-to-bumper traffic also looking for parking spots. I finally obtained a parking spot in the lower carpark on my fourth attempt at 4:30pm. At least VK2BOR made a few 2022 ILLW Lighthouse contacts!

Clearly, it will no longer be practical to take the ORARC Communications caravan to the Tacking Point Lighthouse for future ILLWs. It has been suggested that we should again try to obtain approval from the Port Macquarie Hastings Council to set up VK2BOR inside the Lighthouse building for the ILLW. The last time the Council opened the door of the Lighthouse the queue of people wanting to look inside the building stretched almost to the Tacking Point Surf Club. If we are able to gain access to the building the door would have to be kept locked. While this is contrary to the objectives of the ILLW as a public interest event, the crowd control issues have to be considered.

JOTA 2022

The 65th annual Jamboree on the Air will take place over the weekend of the 15th and 16th of October

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2022. It is also the 26th annual Jamboree on the Internet.



Sadly, the annual ORARC participation in JOTA 2022 has been cancelled.

The 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts had hoped to have their new boathouse completed at McInherney Park in time for this year's JOTA. The old building has been demolished but the shortage of materials and labour after the recent natural disasters has delayed construction of the new boathouse. Due to COVID-19 social distancing considerations it is not possible to operate the JOTA station from the Club's Communications caravan. It had been planned to set up VK2BOR in the new boathouse where there would have been space for meaningful distancing. After discussions with 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts, it was decided to cancel the 2022 JOTA operation and plan for JOTA 2023.

1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts have keenly run JOTA and associated activities every year for most of the history of ORARC. Hopefully, the tradition can resume with JOTA 2023.

Tracey Walsh, Group Leader of 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts has asked that her thanks on behalf of the Group be conveyed to

all those ORARC members who normally participate in setting up running the VK2BOR JOTA station each year and were intending to do so again this year. The 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts greatly appreciates the ongoing support of JOTA by ORARC club members and looks forward to a successful 66th annual Jamboree on the Air in 2023.

In preparation for JOTA 2023 next year club members are reminded that it is a requirement of the Scouting Association that all volunteers must have a Working With Children (WWC) check number. Volunteers whose numbers are about to expire will need to renew their checks in time for next year. 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>. Renewals can be accessed using the same link. 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 to 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. Note that you can add your Working With Children Check to your Service NSW Credentials and Licenses on your mobile phone.

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

Beechwood Billycart Classic



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The 41st annual Beechwood Billycart Classic will take place on the morning of Sunday the 23rd of October 2022.

After the cancellations of the last couple of years it is great news that the 2022 Beechwood Billycart Classic is confirmed.

ORARC members have provided safety communications for the Beechwood Billycart Classic every year that it has run.

The Club has been invited to provide the safety communications again this year. A call for volunteers was made at the ORARC September Monthly General Meeting. Additional volunteers are still needed. All you need is a 2 metre handheld radio. As it is an outdoor event social distancing is not a problem. The event only takes a short time during the morning.

The Beechwood Billycart Classic is 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 Liberty Coastal Walk Against Domestic & Family Violence from the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club to West Port Park in Port Macquarie will take place on the morning of Sunday the 27th of November 2022. More information is on the Liberty website at <https://libertyservices.org.au/get-involved/coastal-walk-against-domestic-violence/>

In previous years, members of the Oxley

Region Amateur Radio Club have provided the safety communications for the event and we look forward to continuing to do so again this year. There will be a call for volunteers at the October Monthly General Meeting.

There will be more news regarding the 2022 walk in November Oxtales.

Christmas Party



The ORARC Christmas party is on Saturday the 3rd of December 2022.

The venue is again the covered deck picnic area at the very popular Long Point Art Gallery and Vineyard.

Mark your calendar now. The Christmas Party is a very enjoyable social activity for members and their families. There will be a sausage sizzle lunch followed by a delicious dessert. There will be some soft drinks and tea and coffee. There is no charge. Just bring some nibblies for the morning. The cellar door will be open.

2023 Field Day

The 2023 Field Day is only 9 months away. This will be the 47th Annual Field Day.

The dates of the 2023 Field Day are Saturday and Sunday the 10th and 11th of June during the 2023 Kings Birthday Holiday long weekend. Planning is already in progress.

The venue will be the same as last year, the hall at the Wauchope Showground. The hall has been booked for

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2023 and the deposit already paid. The hall provides a spacious indoor venue with excellent access and parking in the showground. There is a separate alcove in front of the kitchen which provides a quiet area to sit down and enjoy the tasty food from the barbeque and the free tea, coffee and biscuits.

The Wauchope Showground permits camping and the rates are very reasonable but those wishing to stay on site in their own caravans or motor homes (\$20) or tents (\$10) should book ahead as the number of campsites is limited and the June Long Weekend is always a popular weekend. After the COVID-19 restrictions of 2021 it is expected that the showground will be even more popular than usual in 2022 For bookings see the website at <http://www.wauchopeshowsociety.com.au/camping.html> The phone number for the on site caretaker is 0475 111 074 . The campsites have mains power and the amenities include toilets and hot showers. The Showground is pet friendly and you can even stable your horse for \$10 a night.

The Field Day Dinner will be at 6pm on Saturday night the 10th of June 2023 in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply Pty Ltd at Bellingen for the generous sponsorship of the function room hire which has already been paid for. The Function Room is a very pleasant venue for the Field Day dinner. As in past years the excellent full dinner menu of the Restaurant will be available at club prices.

There will be more details in the November 2022 issue of Oxtales.

WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group



WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region 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 cordially invited to attend the meetings. Anyone interested in joining WICEN should contact Larry Thompson VK2LJT or Rob Frost VK2CRF. For more information, visit the WICEN NSW website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/> .

The WICEN AGM was held on Saturday the 3rd of September 2022 as an in person and virtual meeting using Google Meet videoconferencing on line. Unfortunately, most Mid North Coast Region WICEN members were unable to participate as the WICEN AGM coincided with the ORARC September Monthly General Meeting and the MNCR WICEN meeting which they attended. The details of the AGM and election of WICEN NSW office bearers may be found on the home page of the WICEN NSW website at <https://nsw.wicen.org.au/> .

New Callsigns

At the Foundation Training and Assessment weekend on the 30th and 31st of July 2022 conducted by assessors Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE at Port Macquarie, all three candidates were successful. Derek Archer is VK2DJA, Brendan Grainger is VK2BDO and Iain Hodges is VK2BYO. Derek and Brendan are from Port Macquarie and Iain is from Failford.



Brendon VK2BDO, Derek VK2DJA, Iain VK2BYO and assessor Larry VK2CLL.

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Life Member



Congratulations to long time active ORARC member John Bailey VK2KHB on being awarded Life Membership of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club at the 2022 AGM. As well as being Club Historian and always ready to participate in Club activities, John is a past Treasurer.

Silent Keys

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of esteemed ORARC Life Member David Harding VK2AIF of Wauchope on the 15th of August 2022 aged 93 years.

We also record the sad passing of Max Francis VK2BMK of Coffs Harbour on the 4th of August 2022. He was aged 94 years. Max was a founding and Life Member of the Coffs Harbour and District Amateur Radio Club.

There are Silent Keys Vale David Harding VK2AIF and Vale Max Francis VK2BMK in this issue of Oxtales.

Thank you to Trevor Thatcher VK2TT for advising of the passing of David Harding VK2AIF. Thank you to Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE for advising of the passing of Max Francis VK2BMK.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President



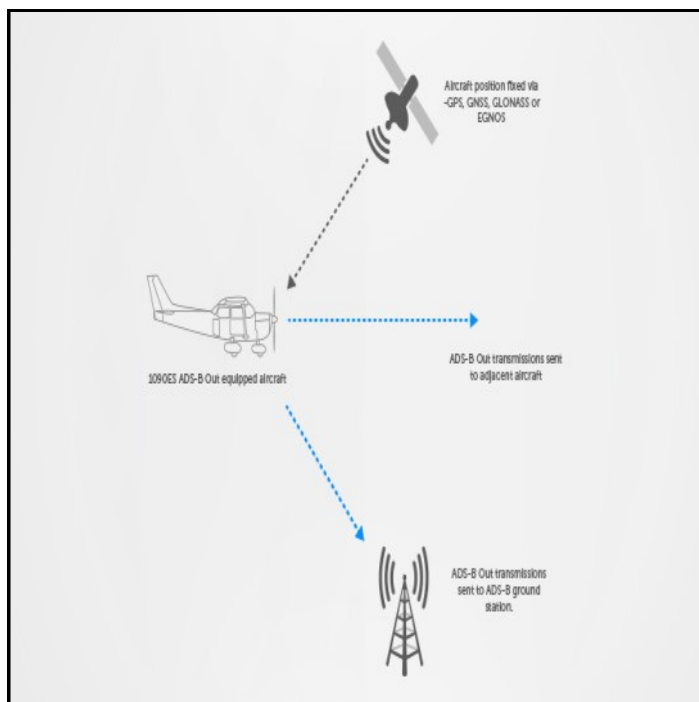
The new mast incorporates the inbuilt arrestor ladder system to facilitate safe climbing by accredited riggers.

Photograph shows the arrestor wire and the mast earth.

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A preview of what Paul ICQ will be talking about at the October Monthly meeting.



position information delivered directly to the cockpit.

Paul VK2ICQ will describe how this surveillance can be achieved by using equipment that amateurs already may have at home.

A raspberry Pi tracker is shown below.

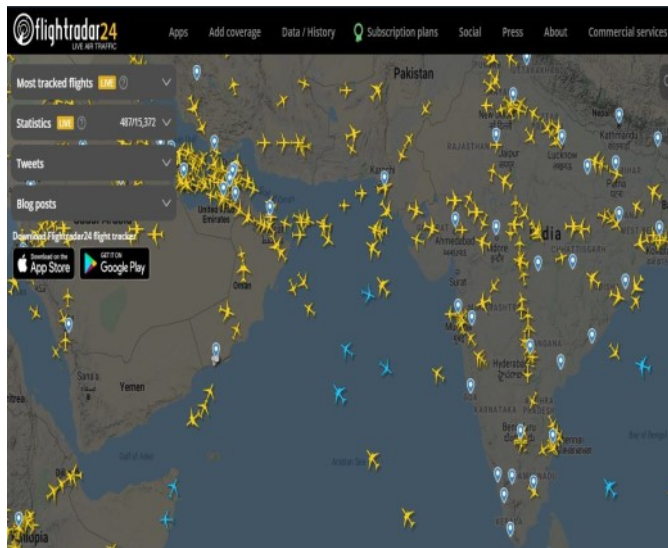


Automatic Dependent Surveillance –Broadcast (ADS–B)

Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast (ADS–B) is an advanced surveillance technology that combines an aircraft's positioning source, aircraft avionics, and a ground infrastructure to create an accurate surveillance interface between aircraft and ATC. ADS–B is a performance–based surveillance technology that is more precise than radar and consists of two different services: ADS–B Out and ADS–B In.

ADS-B Out works by broadcasting information about an aircraft's GPS location, altitude, ground speed and other data to ground stations and other aircraft, once per second.

ADS-B Out airspace and equipment requirements are contained in 14 CFR § 91.225 and the equipment performance requirements are contained in §91.227. ADS-B In provides operators of properly equipped aircraft with weather and traffic



List of Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Bearers

At the Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club on Saturday the 6th of August 2022, the following office bearers were elected:

President: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Vice President: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Secretary: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Treasurer: Dennis Meade VK2DAM
Committee Member 1: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
Committee Member 2: Rob Frost VK2CRF
Committee Member 3: Lyle Smith VK2SMI
Public Officer: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Repeater Chairman: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Oxtales Editor: John Hansen VK2AYQ
Oxtales Co-Editor: Arthur Monck VK2ATM
VK2BOR Station Mgr: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
QSL Manager: Derek Archer VK2DJA
Welfare Officer: Dennis Meade VK2DAM
Publicity Officer: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Education Officer: Larry Lindsay VK2CLL
Club Historian: John Bailey VK2KHB
Social Director: Ian Lindquist VK2GL
Webmaster: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Facebook Administrator: Derek Archer VK2DJA *
WIA Liaison Delegate: Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE
Member Liaison Officer: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ

*Derek Archer VK2DJA appointed after AGM to fill vacancy





The WIA DX Awards Program is pleased to announce a new award, the “Fifty on 50 Award”.

Date : 05 / 09 / 2022

Author : Graham Alston - VK3GA

The WIA DX Awards Program is pleased to announce a new award, the “Fifty on 50 Award”.

This award recognises 50MHz (6m) contacts from VK and its territories with Amateur Radio stations from at least 50 DXCC Entities around the world.

Confirming 50 DXCC entities on VHF is extremely difficult. This award recognises those elite operators who have invested considerable time and expertise, as well as knowledge of 6m propagation, on both terrestrial and space paths.

This award is only available for Australian members of the Awards program.



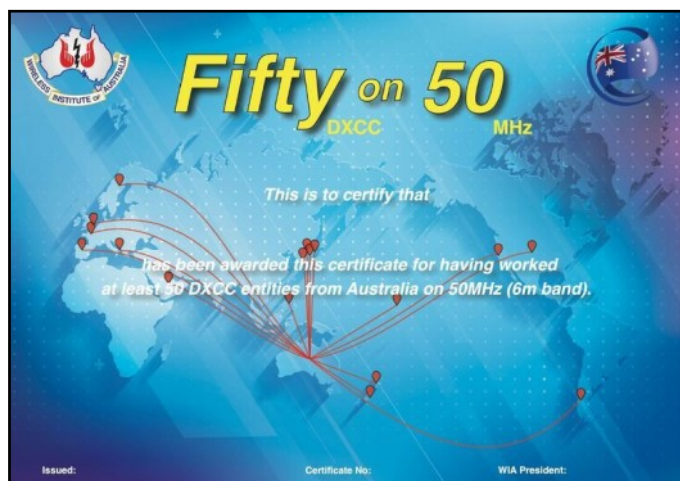
We are deeply saddened by the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Date : 09 / 09 / 2022

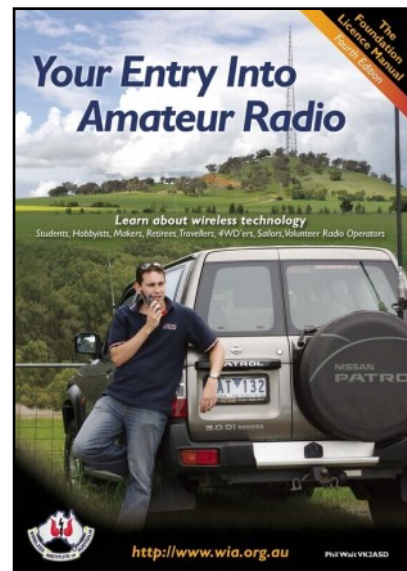
Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. She was the embodiment of grace, class, dignity, and strength. She left her mark on history, and will be missed.

Our thoughts are with the all members of the Royal Family at this sad time.



New Foundation Manual Has Arrived



Date : 11 / 08 / 2022

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK

The new edition Foundation Licence Manual Edition 4, has landed in the WIA's store. This 4th edition has been totally updated and now includes an introduction to AC theory, capacitors in

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ductors and resonance, digital techniques and ADC/DAC's, decibels, and SDR radios.

Like previous editions, it is intended both as a study guide for obtaining a Foundation grade licence, and as a basic introduction to wireless technology. It is also an excellent reference source and guide for operational protocols and procedures for the experienced operator.

WIA members discounted price is set at \$25 per manual. Non-members pricing is \$35. Postage is \$15.

WIA Affiliated clubs can purchase Box quantities of 21 manuals and postage is set to \$25 per box.

The foundation manual can be purchased from your local club or directly from the WIA website.

Go to the bookshop section on the WIA website to purchase.

WIA Director Steven Green VK2TSG Awarded Penrith '2022 Citizen of the Year'

Date : 26 / 07 / 2022

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK



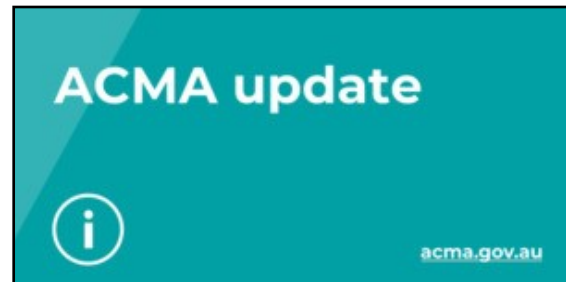
Congratulations to WIA Director Steven Green VK2TSG for being awarded the Penrith City "2022 Citizen of the Year" award.

The Local Celebration Awards celebrate and recognise Penrith City residents who go above and beyond, who dedicate their time and spirit of generosity to making Penrith City a great place to live, or who work tirelessly for the benefit of others, to those who contribute and make a difference in Penrith.

Steven Green has dedicated many thousands of hours to volunteering for numerous community organisations throughout Penrith and NSW.

Steven is a National Director for the Wireless Institute of Australia, the Public Officer and acting Secretary for the Enrolled Nurse Professional Association based in Kingswood, and the President of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club where he and his team provide radio communications training and support including, emergency preparation.

ACMA updates its spectrum management work program.



Date : 15 / 07 / 2022

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK

ACMA updates its spectrum management work program.

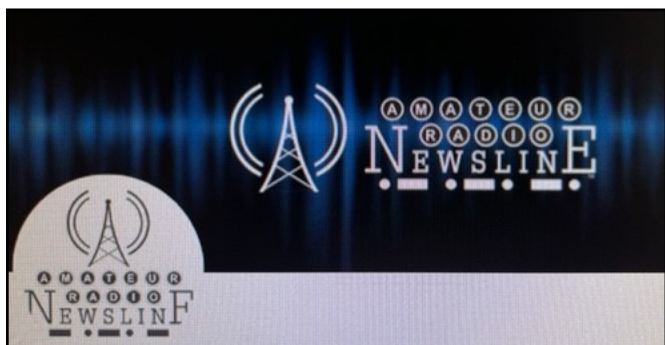
ACMA have released their annual progress report for the Five-year spectrum outlook 2021–26 (FYSO), updating the status of work scheduled for the period 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022.

The report shows that ACMA's 2021–22 work program is largely complete. Where priorities have been delayed or deferred, this is primarily due to the need to address additional and unplanned issues, or because of the introduction of unexpected, competing priorities.

ACMA expect to release the FYSO 2022–27 in the coming months. For more information see details on the ACMA website.

www.acma.gov.au.

Amateur Radio Newslines Report 2330 for Friday 9 September, 2022



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

Amateur Radio Newslines Report 2341 for Friday September 9th, 2022

WEBB TELESCOPE TRANSMITS DIRECT IMAGES OF EXOPLANET



PAUL/ANCHOR: Our top story comes to us from space. Radio waves have transmitted something remarkable to astronomers here on Earth -- long-awaited imagery from outside our solar system. Kent Peterson KCØDGY has more on that story.

KENT: The James Webb Space Telescope's first direct image of a planet outside of our solar system has been transmitted to scientists, offering promise for deeper research into exoplanets. NASA reported that astronomers received the image of the planet in orbit around a star estimated to be 385 light-years from Earth. The image was taken with a near-infrared camera and the Mid-Infrared Instrument, which each focus on different portions of the infrared spectrum.

There have been only a few dozen direct im-

aging of exoplanets such as this one. Astronomers have identified over 5,000 exoplanets, but only by an indirect method of observing starlight dimming as the planet passes in front of the star they are observing.

NASA expressed hope that these new infrared images will be a gateway to deeper study of exoplanets.

SATELLITE WILL BE FIRST OF ITS KIND FOR ROMANIAN STUDENTS

PAUL/ANCHOR: Construction is to begin in Madrid on a small ham satellite that will be a "first" for the Romanian teenagers who designed it. Ed Durrant DD5LP gives us a closer look.



ED: AMSAT-EA is giving its support to a small amateur radio satellite designed by students in Romania, a project considered the first of its kind for Romanian students. Known as the ROM-2 mission, the satellite, built with the support of the Romanian organisation ROMSpace, is to be assembled in Madrid at the AMSAT-EA facilities. AMSAT-EA, which has registered the satellite internationally, will be responsible for the satellite once it has entered orbit.

The satellite's maintenance data will be transmitted via CW. The satellite will fulfill its mission to take photographs with a 2 MegaPixel camera and transmit them to hams who will be able to retransmit them from their own

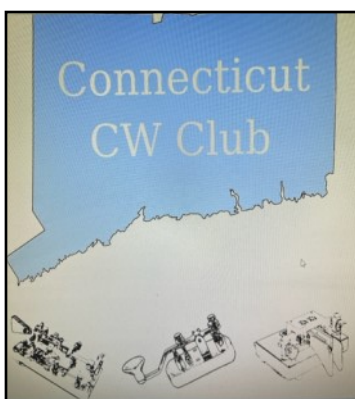
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stations using the SSDV protocol. They will use the frequency of 436.235 MHz. SSDV packets will be transmitted from the satellite using GFSK.

The students attend the International Computing High School in Bucharest and are between the ages of 15 and 18.

CONNECTICUT CW CLUB HOSTS FIRST CONTEST



PAUL/ANCHOR: Whoever said that fresh beginnings can't be fun probably didn't belong to this small but growing group of CW enthusiasts. Randy Sly W4XJ tells us about them.

RANDY: You don't have to live in the state of Connecticut to be a member of the Connecticut CW Club but yes, it helps if you enjoy sending and receiving Morse Code. Members are going to get that chance in a big way this month:

The club is having its inaugural CW contest starting on September 17th at 1200 UTC and ending September 18th at the same time. To participate and qualify for a certificate, you need to join the club -- and membership is free! Members have already signed up from North Carolina, California, Arkansas, New Hampshire and yes.....Connecticut.

Operators who have the three highest scores - and the operator who makes the longest-distance QSO - will receive certificates.

According to its website, the club has other goals too: sharing portable operations, including SOTA and POTA, having biweekly social meet-ups and teaching newcomers the ins and outs of CW. The group's meet-

ings are held in person and in Zoom so members who don't live locally can still attend. See the website [ctcw dot club \(ctcw.club\)](http://ctcw.club) for details.

YOUTH PLAQUES ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN OCEANIA DX CONTEST

PAUL/ANCHOR: There's extra excitement for younger amateurs in this year's Oceania DX contest. Graham Kemp VK4BB tells us why.

GRAHAM: Two new, youth-related, plaques have been added to the phone section of this year's Oceania DX contest on October 1st from 0600 UTC, sponsored by Oscar Reyes, VK3TX, a noted DXer and an IARU Region 3 director.

The two new plaques are intended to engage younger hams. The "World Youth Phone plaque" will recognise the highest-scoring amateur of 25 years or younger from outside of Oceania. The "Australia Youth Phone plaque" will recognise the highest-scoring amateur 25 years of age or younger from within Australia.

This is the 77th running of the contest whose aim is to get non-Oceania stations to contact those around the Pacific region and the bands promise to be busy with VK and ZL operators calling CQ Oceania DX contest.

Acknowledgements. With thanks to AM-SAT-EA, the ARRL; CQ Magazine; David Behar K7DB; DXNews; GOTA Hams; the Indian Academy of Communication and Disaster Management; OceaniaDX contest; Ohio Penn DX; QRZ.com; Southgate Amateur Radio News; shortwaveradio.de; Space.com; Wireless Institute of Australia; the YLBeam; and you our listeners, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newslines. We remind our listeners that Amateur Radio Newslines is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that incurs expenses for its continued operation. If you wish to support us, please visit our website at arnewsline.org.



QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Returns September 17 - 18

09/09/2022

The 5th QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo is September 17 - 18, 2022. The fully-interactive and full-featured virtual ham radio convention will provide great interactive presentations, new content, and excellent networking opportunities including 50+ amateur radio presentations on a wide variety of subjects.

For the first time, anyone can share their latest ham radio project, technology, operating mode, DXpedition, or history in the new Project Gallery. Submit your presentation article, video, or slideshow at Project Gallery Submission.

Meet with ARRL representatives and other exhibitors in state-of-the-art video lounges. Visit the ARRL booth to meet over live video with ARRL staff and get your specific questions answered. Other exhibitors will answer product questions, provide technical training etc.

Tickets are only \$10 and grant full access to the Expo weekend, presentations, Project Gallery, and Exhibitor video lounges as well as the 30-day post-Expo on-demand period where all presentations and resources are

available.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.qsotodayhamexpo.com.



Route 66 On the
Air Special Event
09/02/2022

The annual Route 66 On the Air Special Event will take place September 10 - 18, 2022. The purpose of the event is to commemorate the history of the "Mother Road" connecting the east and west United States.

Now in its 23rd year, the Northern Arizona DX Association (NADXA) started the event, which is now coordinated by the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC) in San Bernardino, California.

There will be 21 stations with 1x1 call signs on the air from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, all with consecutive calls starting with W6. NADXA will operate three of the 21 stations, including W6G (Flagstaff, Arizona), and W6S (Arizona Rover 1). They'll set up at various spots along Route 66 east of Flagstaff, and W6T (Arizona Rover 2) will be set up in Bellemont. Later in the week, the event will be moved to Parks, on old Route 66, west of Flagstaff.

The history of the Mother Road began in 1926, when US Highway 66 was established. It was the first major improvement to the link between the west coast and the nation's heartland. Through stories, songs, and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America in its entirety. The demise of Route 66 began in the 1950s, as construction began on the new interstate highway system. US Route 66 was officially decommissioned

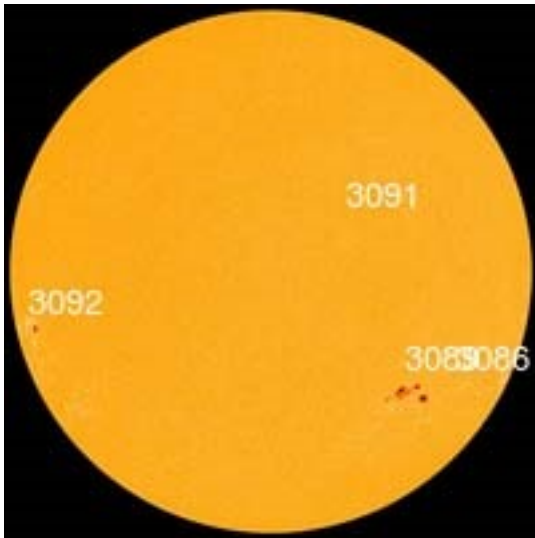
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in 1986, but today, small portions of the highway still exist in several states.

For more information on participating stations, certificates and decals, and the Route 66 On the Air Special Event, visit the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC) and Northern Arizona DX Association (NADXA) websites.

Visit the ARRL Special Event Stations database at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations to find other on-the-air events and commemorations.



The K7RA Solar Update

09/02/2022

The past week saw many interesting events. The DRAO observatory at Penticton, British Columbia (the source of 10.7 cm solar flux measurements) was overwhelmed by solar flares, and at 2000 UTC on August 28 reported a solar flux value of 251.9, and the next day at 1700 UTC, a value of 357.1.

The 2000 UTC local noon numbers are the official solar flux number for each day, so for the August 28 value I chose to report the 2300 UTC number of 133.5 instead.

I checked with astronomer Andrew Gray at Penticton, and he reported, "The high values are indeed because of solar activity, both yesterday and today flares occurred

right during our flux measurements."

Solar activity increased this reporting week (August 25-31) with average daily sunspot numbers rising from 58.7 to 74.9 and solar flux from 104.5 to 123.8.

Three new sunspot groups appeared on August 25 at the beginning of the reporting week, but none until September 1, with two new sunspot groups. The daily sunspot number rose from 42 on Wednesday to 67 on Thursday. Total sunspot area peaked on August 27.

Predicted solar flux is more optimistic in the Thursday night version, as opposed to the Wednesday forecast reported in the ARRL Letter.

At 0209 UTC on September 2 the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning: "Disturbed conditions caused by a high speed wind stream in a geoeffective direction are expected September 3-5."

Frantislav K. Janda, OK1HH shares his weekly commentary:

"The recent rise in solar activity, especially during August 27-30, was triggered by two sunspot groups, AR3088, which on 29 August fell behind the western limb of the solar disk, and AR3089, which on 30 August passed through the central meridian, so entered the region of the so-called present active longitudes.

"Both sunspot groups are in the southern hemisphere of the Sun, while in both were daily registered flares of moderate magnitude.

Newsweek Magazine has been reporting interesting solar news recently:

<https://bit.ly/3q5XACl>

And Forbes.

<https://bit.ly/3AOWD6G>

<https://bit.ly/3e5kJIF>

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's blast is taken from the 2017 September issue of Oxtales. The club had 68 members. Henry VK2ZHE was President, Paul VK2ICQ Vice President, Larry VK2CLL Treasurer and Steve VK2ZSW Secretary.

The main events reported upon in the September 2017 issue were, the Remembrance Day contest and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend which took place over consecutive weekends in August 2017. This enabled the club to operate VK2BOR for 24 hours in the RD contest from the Camden Haven Airfield, and then during daylight hours on the following Saturday from the Tacking Point Lighthouse in the ILLW. Club members also helped move a fellow member's tower mast VK2FSTU (now VK2WAL) to a new position in his back yard.

The Remembrance Day Contest was held at the Campden Haven Airfield and the following are extracts from Henry VK2ZHE's report.

"... Thank you to Bob Small VK2BIG for negotiating the use of the Camden Haven Airfield camping area for this year's RD contest. This proved to be an excellent HF location in very pleasant surrounds on the southern bank of the Camden Haven River. The club's communications caravan was set up and VK2BOR operated for the full 24 hours of the Remembrance Day contest.



Thank you to all the members who participated in the weekend. It was a great success in all respects. The willing hands made setting up and packing up seem effortless. Those present included Richard Court VK2CHC, Lyle Smith

VK2SMI, Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Norah Wyles, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE and Diana, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Sue, John Hansen VK2AYQ, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ, Jacob Donre and Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.

Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for bringing his trailer mounted mast and HF antennas. The mast made it easy to erect the full size dipole antennas for 160, 80, 40 and 20 metres. The HF 5 band trap vertical on the caravan gave a choice of antenna polarization on most bands. Signals on both transmit and receive were consistently significantly better on the horizontal dipoles.

VK2BOR made a very respectable number of contacts for a total score of 412 points. The incentive multipliers for 160 metres, and for contacts in the small hours of the morning, made the 24 hour operation and the erection of the 160 metre dipole very worthwhile.



Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for bringing his gazebo which was set up beside the club caravan to provide shade during the day and cover during the evening.

The weather during the weekend was perfect. Those members not operating the station enjoyed the Saturday evening warming themselves around the blazing fire that was fed by the trailer load of firewood that Richard Court VK2CHC very kindly brought along. It was a most pleasurable social evening . . .



Rob VK2CRF and Richard VK2CHC start a night shift.



Put another log on the fire.

Rob VK2CRF and Lyle VK2SMI warm up.

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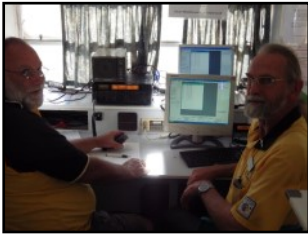
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Henry VK2ZHE keeps the fire stoked up as the cold increase and daylight fades



Rob VK2CRF, Dennis VK2DAM and Lyle VK2SMI preparing for work.



Lyle VK2SMI and Bob VK2ZRE prepare to make contacts.



Arthur VK2ATM, Sue, Richard VK2CHC and Diana enjoy the fine day.

In addition to the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent riverside setting, no one went hungry. Chef Richard Court VK2CHC ran the barbeque to produce delicious lunches on both days, dinner on Saturday night and a bacon and egg breakfast on Sunday morning.

The Airfield has two cabins which enabled Richard VK2CHC, Arthur VK2ATM and Henry VK2ZHE to stay overnight in comfort.

Those members who were unable to participate in this year's RD Contest missed out on arguably the most enjoyable club activity for many years.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

The club's communications caravan was set up at the Tacking Point Lighthouse on Saturday the 19th of August so that VK2BOR could participate in the 2017 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend during the Saturday daylight hours.

Thank you to John Winchester VK2NJJ for towing the caravan to the lighthouse early in the morning. Thank you to John Bailey VK2KHB for claiming our usual spot for the caravan. As can be seen from the photographs, the site was a little crowded as the carpark is quite small.

Lyle Smith VK2SMI brought his trailer mounted mast which greatly simplified erecting the HF dipole antennas that he provided for 80, 40 and 20

metres. As it was to be a daylight hours only operation, the 160 metre dipole was not erected this year. The HF 5 band trap vertical on the caravan gave a choice of antenna polarization on most bands. As was the case during the RD contest the previous weekend, signals on both transmit and receive were consistently much better on the horizontal dipoles. The exception was 20 metres during the afternoon where some signals such as those from VK4GHL at Grassy Hill Lighthouse at Cooktown in far North Queensland alternated between being several S points stronger on the vertical and then several S points stronger on the horizontal dipole every few minutes.

The day was fine but the wind was relentless and increased as the day went on. It was very pleasant inside the caravan and several people took turns in operating VK2BOR. The coffee was very popular and the 70th birthday cake that Dennis Meade VK2DAM brought along for morning tea was a special treat. Happy Birthday, Dennis.



The strength of the wind can be gauged by looking at the club's vertical antenna which would bend and sway alarmingly in the wind gusts.

The weather held until about 3 pm when an ominous dark band of cloud was spotted heading northwards up the coast towards the Lighthouse. That was the cue to pack up but fortunately it remained fine until everything was packed up and we departed after 4 pm.



Lyle's VK2SMI trailer mast being set up with Stuart VK2FSTU (Now VK2WAL), Steve VK2ZSW and Bob VK2ZRE helping.

The club's Honda EU20i inverter generator (donated by Arthur VK2ATM) ran for the full day on a single tank of fuel and provided high quality AC power. The generator itself is very quiet, and with it placed under its cover between a couple of vehicles, it simply could not be heard over the wind . . ."

Equipment from the Past



Hallicrafters Model S-38 Communications Receiver

The Hallicrafters Model S-38 Communications Receiver was a very popular shortwave radio introduced to the market in 1946 at a price of under \$50 US. The low price ensured very brisk sales for a market looking for consumer electronics immediately after World War II. It introduced many thousands of people to shortwave and CW listening, making it the entry-level receiver for the Hallicrafters line.

Radio Amateurs were attracted to the Model S-38 due to its relatively low cost and compact size and low weight under 6 Kg. The model line was kept in production with different updates until 1961.

Description

Using six valves, the S-38 is a transformerless AC/DC radio with a metal cabinet and integrated speaker. Following the original S-38 were models S-38A through to S-38E, remaining in production until 1961.

The S-38 offered good sensitivity and more expensive shortwave receivers, it had a separate bandspread tuner, automatic noise limiter (ANL), and beat frequency oscillator (BFO) for CW listening.

The frequencies covered were from 540 KHz to 32 Mhz in four bands. Many amateurs considered S-38 the most desirable model in this line, since later models lacked the BFO feature. With distinctive semi-circular dials, the S-38 through S-38C mod-

els are very recognizable. Models S-38 through S-38B are black, some with a wrinkle finish. The S-38C has grey hammertone paint.

The S-38D and S-38E variants had a rectangular dial but retained the same electrical features as earlier models. A photograph of the later model is shown with the earlier S-38 models below.



The S-38 series were postwar AC-DC general coverage single conversion receivers. Given the low-end circuitry, these sets were very sensitive when aligned and operated correctly.

The earlier models saved weight by having one side of the power lead attached to the chassis with no earth wire to the power socket. Thus having the potential of having the chassis 'live'. The earth end of the antenna coil was not connected to the chassis. Buyers of second hand S-38 were advised to check that the original insulation between the chassis and metal cabinet was in good conditions and for safety should operate the radio through an isolation transformer.

The original S-38 (no letter) had 6 valves with one used for the BFO. It also has a variable BFO control on the front panel and an additional red slide switch on the left side for noise limiter. Toward the end of the original 6 tube S-38 model run, a 5 tube version was introduced which became the "A" and the standard for the entire series, using regenerative IF for the BFO. The last of the series, S-38E) had a rear-panel variable BFO injection control and used seven-pin miniature tubes. All the others models used octal tubes.

Acknowledgements:

Radiomuseum.org, eham.net, antiqueradio.org, people.ohio.edu.

Silent Key – David William Harding VK2AIF (SK)



It is with great sadness that we record the passing of esteemed ORARC Life Member David William Harding VK2AIF known as Dave to his many friends. He passed away at Wauchope on 15th of August 2022 aged 93 years.

David was born on the 11th of January 1929 at Paddington, NSW.

One of the family eulogies at David's funeral told of his childhood family secret of David's brush with a bushranger who knocked on the front door of the family home in Lakemba and asked for and left with his father's gun.

David started work as an apprentice chef in 1946. Although he ultimately pursued a technical and military service career which also brought out his organisational and administrative skills, his culinary skills always came to the fore throughout his life. His prowess in the kitchen made him particularly popular with his extended family.

From 1947 David worked for AWA and several other well known companies including

AWA, HMV and Admiral in the manufacture of radio and then television receivers.

David joined the Citizens Military Forces in 1949. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1954. In 1955 during the Maitland floods he was called up for full time duty with the Regular Army as a radio operator on the amphibious 6 wheel drive DUKW vehicles which performed many rescues in the flood waters (Photograph of DUKW loaded with rescued people in 1955 below).



In 1961 he took up full time service in the Regular Army with postings at Paddington and Lidcombe before being posted to the Royal Australian Medical Corps where he served a term in Papua New Guinea.

In 1970 during the Vietnam War, David was posted to the 110 Signal Squadron in South Vietnam. After Vietnam David transferred to the Medical Corps. He was discharged from full time duty as a Major in 1975. He then resumed CMF duty in the Army Reserve until Army retirement in 1984 after 35 years of service.



David at his wedding in Lakemba in 1952

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David married Isabella Gilroy at St Andrews Church at Lakemba on the 5th of January 1952. They went on to have four children and several grandchildren.



David and Isabella in later years.

Their first house was at Greenacre before moving to Hazelbrook in the Blue Mountains.

David had always been an active Amateur Radio operator. He held the callsign VK2ZDH for many years until he upgraded to VK2AIF which held great significance to him. When choosing where to live it was important that there should be enough room for his antennas. When he travelled to visit his family, especially those in Melbourne, he always brought his antennas with him so that he could get on air.

David was active on HF and VHF. He particularly enjoyed 6 metres and had many contacts on both FM and SSB.

During the years that he lived at Hazelbrook, David was an active member of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.

David retired from his position as Security

Manager with Woolworths at Blacktown in 1995.

In retirement David and Isabella moved to Wauchope where he became an active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. He was very proud to be awarded Life Membership at the AGM in 2014.



David receiving Life Membership Certificate from President Lyle VK2SMI

ORARC set up a display in the club's communications caravan strategically positioned in the Wauchope RSL carpark for the 2015 ANZAC Day march on the 25th of April in Wauchope.



David VK2AIF with Arthur VK2ATM at Wauchope RSL with radio display.

David marched as he did every year but took time to join his fellow ORARC members to look over the display. He reminisced over the receiver which Arthur VK2ATM was demonstrating. *Continued on next page*

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ORARC member Craig Martin VK2CSM who was then VK2ZCM also marched but spent some time with the display.



David VK2AIF and Craig VK2ZCM at the Wauchope 2015 Wauchope ANZAC day March.

As well as Amateur Radio, David spent many years as an active Lions Club member.

David lived his life by his principles, Firm, Fair and Friendly. He was a devoted generous family man. He never forgot a birthday. He always ended up being Father Christmas. His devotion to Isabella was steadfast right through the difficult period before her sad passing.

The well attended Funeral for David was held on Friday the 26th of August 2022 in the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Chapel at Port Macquarie. The heartfelt family Eulogies drew from David's rich life in serving his country and his devotion to his family. They all mentioned his technical skills and his passionate enjoyment of Amateur Radio throughout his long life.

The RSL tribute highlighted David's many achievements in his 35 year distinguished Army career in a variety of roles and postings. David clearly was highly respected in both his personal and Service life. He will be sadly missed.

Among the mourners at the funeral was David's long time friend Trevor Thatcher VK2TT, also an ORARC Life Member. In

their later years of both living alone, as well as regularly meeting up for coffee, they had a daily 2 metre sked to check on each other's welfare which resulted in life saving action on a number of occasions.



Henry VK2ZHE President of the ORARAC Amateur Radio Club with Trevor paying their respects to David at his Funeral at the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Chapel.

Trevor was accompanied by his daughters and family members including son in law Ian VK2JMW (Photograph below).



David was my first on-air contact when I arrived in Sydney early in January 1970 to start work at DCA.

A couple of hours after arriving at my boarding house in Morton Street in Wollstonecraft

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I unpacked my 6 metre converted TCA1649 FM transceiver and connected it to the home built 6 metre ground plane that I had brought with me from Port Macquarie. With the ground plane sitting on the ground I called CQ on 52.525 MHz FM which was the only frequency that I had crystals for.

Immediately VK2ZDH came back to me. That was the first of a great many contacts that I had with David. We always smiled about that first contact between VK2ZHE with the 6 metre ground plane on the ground and VK2ZDH.

I feel very privileged that one of the last on-air contacts that David made as VK2AIF before he passed away was with me. He called me on 40 metres to say hello just as I completed a regular sked. Little did I realise that it was to be our final QSO.

Vale: David William Harding VK2AIF

Submitted by Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

The following photographs illustrate a couple of items from David VK2AIF (SK) Amateur Radio Equipment collection.

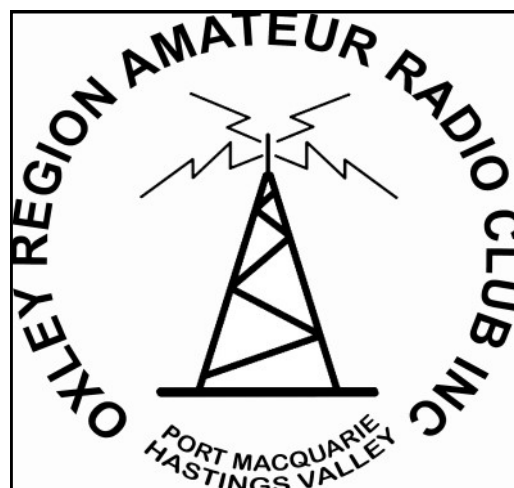


Hammarlund HQ-OneEighty HF Receiver

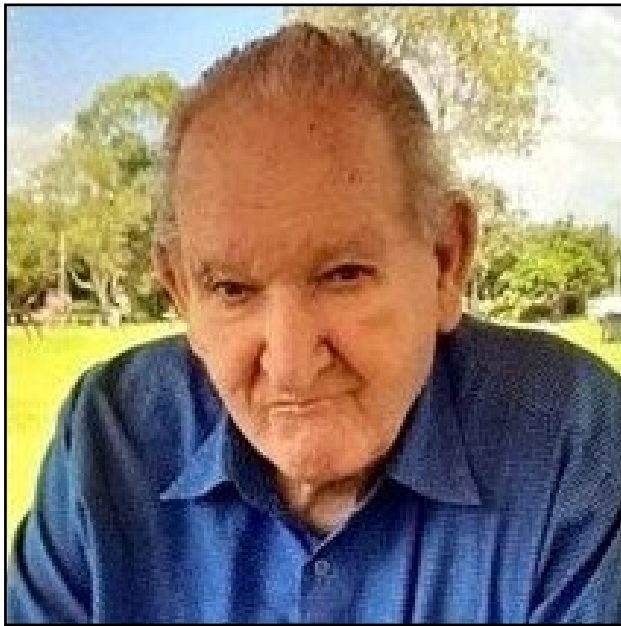
David was also an avid home-brewer of radio equipment as can be seen by his impressive home-brew transmitter that he built pictured below.



David's son-in-law Ian VK2JMW is looking for someone to give the above transmitter a 'good home'. Interested people please contact Henry VK2ZHE for contact details.



Silent Key – Maxwell Kadwell Francis VK2BMK known as Max.



It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Maxwell Kadwell Francis VK2BMK known as Max on the 4th of August 2022. He was aged 94 years.

Max had been an active Amateur Radio operator for almost 70 years. He was one of the many stations regularly on air throughout the day on 40 metres in the earlier days as his service business permitted. He travelled regularly and was well known in the Amateur fraternity. I first met Max when he visited the late Peter Alexander VK2PA when I was in his shack at Hill Street in Port Macquarie in 1969.

In the 1960s when Max lived at Scone he was the WIA NSW North West Zone Officer. He was one of the organisers of the Annual Zone Conventions at Tamworth and was the point of contact for bookings for accommodation and campsites for those attending the conventions. The Zone Conventions were very popular in those days. Max provided regular reports which were recorded in the pages of Amateur Radio magazine.

Max later moved to the North Coast and was instrumental in the formation of the Coffs Harbour and District Amateur Radio

Club as a founding member in 1978. He continued to be very active in club affairs. Max was a Life Member of the Club. Max always looked forward to meeting up with his many friends at the annual Easter Urunga Radio Conventions.

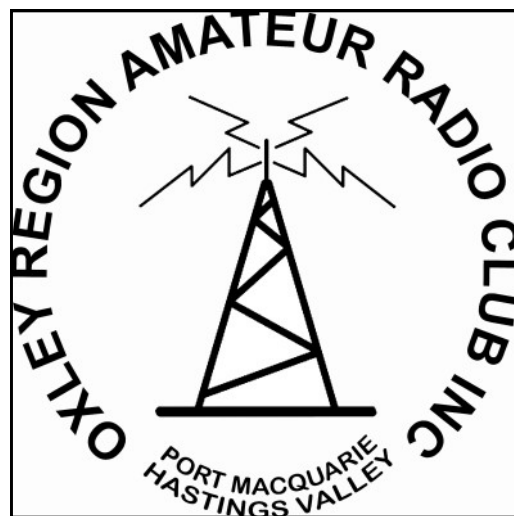
In retirement Max moved from Bellingen to Dorrigo where he continued to regularly call back to the weekly VK2WI Sunday broadcasts until ill health curtailed his activities a couple of years ago and he moved to Coffs Harbour. In Dorrigo he had expected his home to be an excellent location for Amateur Radio but while this proved to be so on VHF, he was plagued by power line noise on HF.

As was his wish, Max was privately cremated at Coffs Harbour.

Thank you to Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE for advising of Max's passing. During a timely visit to Coffs Harbour, Bob saw the Death Notice in the Coffs Harbour Advocate.

Vale: Maxwell Kadwell Francis VK2BMK known as Max.

Submitted by Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.



New Equipment News

Posted by VK3FS in Amateur Radio
ATV.

New ICOM IC-905 VHF/UHF/uW transceiver



ICOM announced the new IC-905 VHF/UHF/Microwave transceiver at the 2022 Tokyo Ham Fair. It takes the same form factor as the IC-705 which was also announced at the Tokyo Ham Fair in **2019** and shipped during August 2020 here in Australia.

The IC-905 is a multimode transceiver that covers the 144, 430, 1240, 2400 and 5600 MHz bands. It has an optional module CX-10G for the 10 GHz band. The radio also supports FM ATV.

Output power is 10 W on 144 / 430 / 1200 MHz, 2 W on 2400 / 5600 MHz and 0.5 W on 10 GHz

Not much more is known about the IC-905 as of 21/8/22 as there are no details apart from **pre-release information** on any Icom site although this will change in time.

Specifications:

- The industry first VHF/UHF/SHF all mode transceiver with 144/430/1200/2400/5600 MHz and 10 GHz* coverage.
- Output power of 10 W for 144-1200 MHz, 2 W for 2400 and 5600 MHz, as

- well as 0,5 W for 10 GHz*.
- Color LCD touch display, waterfall and intuitive menu modelled after the IC-705.
- Power over Ethernet (PoE) technology improves the RF-module installation
- ATV (Amateur TV)

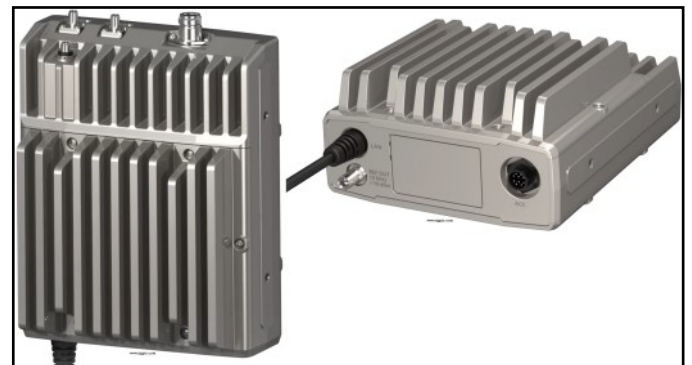
*10 GHz possible with the optional CX-10G transverter.

Release date and price to be announced. All stated specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation.

Other Features

- Large 4.3-inch touch-screen colour LCD display
- Real-time, high-speed spectrum scope & waterfall display
- Easy digital-mode settings
- High-performance GPS antenna (supplied)
- Full D-STAR functions (DV/DD mode)
- ATV (Amateur TV) in FM mode SD card slot

The IC-905 system consists of a controller in IC-705 style, connected to an outdoor IPX5 waterproof RF module via LAN cable, adopting PoE technology. This effectively eliminates coax cable losses.



For ultimate frequency accuracy and stability, the system is controlled by a 1 PPS clock signal from a built-in GNSS/GPS receiver.