



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: <https://www.orarc.org>

ORARC's fifty third year

March 2024

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

President's Report



March 2024

ORARC 2024 Field Day 8 & 9 June Kings Birthday Weekend

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of June for the ORARC 48th Annual Field Day over the 2024 Kings Birthday Weekend.

The venue for the 2024 Field Day is the Wauchope Showground hall in High Street, Wauchope. This hall is an excellent venue and will support all the usual Field Day activities. The Field Day has been held in the Wauchope Showground for the last few years and both locals and visitors continue to be very pleased with the venue. There is plenty of on-site parking and the area is safe for the fox hunts.

The Wauchope Showground permits camping and is pet friendly. For two people an RV or caravan is \$20 per night with

ORARC VHF/UHF Repeaters

MIDDLE BROTHER

VK2RPM 2 metre (Voice - CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 146.700MHz - I/P 146.100MHz
VK2RPM EchoLink Node Number 916007

VK2RPM 70 cm (DMR Radnet)
O/P 438.525MHz - I/P 433.525MHz

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-CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 53.800 MHz - I/P 52.800 MHz
VK2RCN-5 (APRS iGate Digipeater)
SX 145.175 MHz 1200 Bps

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Down The Coax

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

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 March 2024 2:00 pm**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
10am Thursday 14 March 2024**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 March 2024 7.00 pm**

**John Moyle Memorial Field Day
Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 March 2024**

**Urunga Convention - 71st Annual Convention
Cancelled
Saturday and Sunday 30 and 31 March 2024**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 6 April 2024 2:00 pm**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
10am Thursday 11 April 2024**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 19 April 2024 7.00 pm**

**ANZAC Day AX prefix permitted by ACMA
Thursday 25 April 2024**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 4 May 2024 2:00 pm**

**Central Coast Field Day 1 North Rd, Wyong
Sunday 5 May 2024 (Note New Venue)**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
10am Thursday 9 May 2024**

**World Telecommunication Day
Friday 17 May 2024. AX prefix permitted**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 17 May 2024 7.00 pm**

**Antenna Shootout Huntingdon
Sunday 19 May 2024 10.00 am**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 June 2024 2:00 pm**

**ORARC Field Day Wauchope Showground
Hall
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June 2024**

Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays
(1930 Local)**

March 2024

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

April 2024

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

May 2024

		VK2ICQ	May 2
VK2FMGM	May 5	VK2EM	May 9
VK2FMGM	May 12	VK2ZHE	May 16
VK2FMGM	May 19	VK2ICQ	May 23
VK2FMGM	May 26	VK2EM	May 30

Field Day Dinner Sat. Port Macquarie Golf Club

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
10am Thursday 13 June 2024**





power and a tent is \$10 per night with power. The use of toilets and hot showers is included. You can even get a stable for your horse for \$10 per night! Contact the on-site caretaker 0475 111 074 for bookings. The web page is at <http://www.wauchopeshowsociety.com.au/camping.html>



The Field Day dinner as usual will be at 6pm at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday the 8th of June. The dinner will be held in the Seabreeze Function Room. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply of Bellingen for kindly sponsoring the hire of the function room for

the Field Day Dinner. As usual, please place your orders at the Restaurant. The club offers an extensive dinner menu to cater for all tastes at club prices.

There will be all the usual displays and activities at the Field Day. Entry is still a very modest \$5 which covers admission on both days. The barbeque will work overtime with bacon and egg sandwiches for breakfast both days and sausages and steak for lunch both days. Tea and coffee and biscuits will be free all day for those who have registered. Soft drinks and bottled water will be available for purchase.

Radio Supply of Bellingen will have a large range of accessories and other items at their stand at the Field Day. Gary Ryan VK2ZKT will have a range of his home brew and restoration projects on display. These always create a lot of interest and inspiration.

QSL Communications will have a stand at the Field Day as a trader. QSL Comms have an extensive range of products including DMR digital voice and analogue FM transceivers, digital radio hotspots, test equipment, antennas, antenna mounts, power supplies, spare batteries for various radios, programming cables for various radios, coaxial cable and connectors etc. Have a look at the QSL Comms website <https://qslcomms.com.au/> for details. Note that items can be pre-ordered for collection at the Field Day.

This year long time ORARC supporter Jaycar Port Macquarie are hoping to set up a stand at the Field Day. At the time of publication the Port Macquarie store was still awaiting formal company approval. A Jaycar stand is certain to be a big drawcard. There will be an update in the May 2024 issue of Oxtales.

Fox hunting is always popular. The 80 metre foxes provide excellent range for the 80 metre mobile hunts. There will be mobile and pedestrian fox hunts on

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both 2 metres and 80 metres. If you don't already have a sniffer, now would be a good time to build or buy one for each band.

There is no charge or commission for disposals. While Sunday is the main trading day there will always be items on the tables on Saturday.

The programme for the Field Day will be included in the May issue of Oxtales. There will be some changes to the foxhunting programme to enable the hunts to run more smoothly and finish earlier on the Sunday.

The planning for the Field Day is already well under way. We look forward to another very successful Field Day. There is plenty of space in the Wauchope Showground Hall for social distancing. The Field Day Dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club is in the spacious separate Seabreeze function room.

The successful running of Field Day weekend is dependent upon the efforts of many members to undertake the myriad of tasks that are required, both in preparation, and during the Field Day itself. Please help where you are able. This will spread the work-load so that everyone has time to enjoy the weekend. There is a list of Field Day jobs in this issue of Oxtales. Please let the Committee know if you can assist.

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
48th ANNUAL FIELD DAY
Saturday and Sunday the 8th & 9th of June 2024

TRASH & TREASURE
TRADE DISPLAYS
FOX HUNTS (Saturday and Sunday)
HOME BREW COMPETITION
FREE COFFEE, TEA & BISCUITS

www.orarc.org | Talk-in frequency 146.700 MHz (91.5 Hz CTCSS) Station Callsign VK2BOR

\$5 ENTRY | WAUCHOPE SHOWGROUND HALL
Field Day Dinner - Saturday 8th PORT MACQUARIE GOLF CLUB

Contact: **HENRY LUNDELL VK2ZHE** email: vk2zhe@orarc.org

Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments

The new Amateur Radio examination and licensing arrangements with ACMA are now in place and ORARC is ready to run Foundation Licence Training weekends as soon as sufficient candidates have registered. Under the new arrangements the Club is now able to run assessments for all grades of licences on demand at relatively short notice.

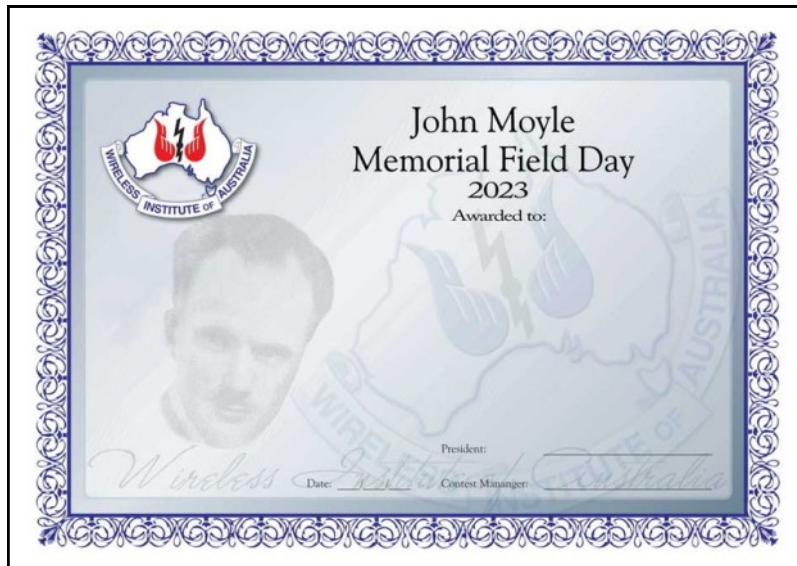
Please contact Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL to register for the above training and assessments.

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An easy way to make an enquiry is to fill out the contact form on the ORARC website <https://www.orarc.org/> Larry will promptly contact you by email or telephone.

John Moyle Memorial Field Day 16 & 17 March 2024



The John Moyle Memorial Field Day is major Amateur Radio contest event in March each year. This year the contest commences at noon on Saturday the 16th of March and finishes at one minute to noon on Sunday the 17th of March 2024.

Normally the ORARC club station VK2BOR participates in the Field Day from the club's communications caravan. Unfortunately, it was not possible to make the necessary arrangements to set up the station this year.

Members are encouraged to operate their individual stations during the Field Day. Please spend some time on air and give the field stations some much needed contacts.

For more information on the John Moyle Memorial Field Day visit <http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle/>

Don't forget to submit a log if you make some contacts in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day.

VK2BOR is planning to operate portable next year in the 2025 John Moyle Memorial National Field Day Contest. Please let the ORARC Committee know if you would like to participate.

Urunga Convention 30 and 31 March 2024 Easter Weekend Cancelled



The Urunga Radio Convention has a long history. Until the cancellation of the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and now the 2024 events which were to be the 71st Annual Convention, the convention had been held annually each year since 1949. It is hoped that the delayed 71st annual convention will now be held over Easter in 2025.

For some history and photographs of past conventions visit the web site <http://users.tpg.com.au/goldy2/> .

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World Telecommunication Day



World Telecommunication Day is on Friday the 17th of May 2024.

The day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.

In Australia the ACMA authorizes the use of the AX prefix for Amateur Radio Stations in lieu of the VK prefix on World Telecommunication Day.

Central Coast Field Day at Wyong Sunday 5 May 2024



The Central Coast Amateur Radio Club Committee has advised that the 2024 Central Coast Field Day will be held on Sunday the 5th of May 2024 at a new venue. The venue this year is 1 North Rd, Wyong. Like the previous location of the Wyong Racecourse, the 1 North Road venue is a short walk from Wyong railway station.

For Traders, Exhibitors and the Car Boot Sale the 1 North Road venue will open at 6:00AM. For Field Day attendees the Entry Ticket Presales begin at 8:00am and General Entry opens at 8:30am.

More information and a map showing the new location are available on the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club web site at <https://www.ccarc.org.au/wyong-field-day-2024/>

Antenna Shootout Day Sunday 19th of May 2024



For many years the club's popular annual Antenna Shootout had been held on the first Sunday in February at the Tuffins Lane sports fields. Many members requested that future Antenna Shootouts be held during the cooler months as it's usually very hot during February.

In response to this, last year's very successful Antenna Shootout was held at Huntingdon on Sunday the 14th of May 2023.

The 2024 Antenna Shootout will be held on Sunday the 19th of May 2024 at Huntingdon, a short distance west of Wauchope. Larry VK2CLL has kindly offered to again host the Antenna Shootout on his property there. There is ample room for the antenna test range.

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Larry VK2CLL and XYL Penny were the perfect hosts last year and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day which was a perfect mix of social morning and afternoon tea with the antenna shootout itself and an absolutely delicious barbeque lunch in between. The 2024 Shoot Out will be run the same way. Last year's event coincided with Mothers Day but this year the Shootout will be held on the Sunday after Mothers Day. Partners and children are most welcome again this year.

There will be facilities to test antennas on 6 metres, 2 metres and 70 centimetres. Now is the time to think about building new antennas and selecting the antennas that you already have that you would like tested.

The Antenna Shootout will be an enjoyable family day out with a barbeque sausage sizzle lunch and plenty of opportunity for socializing in a quiet rural setting.

Mark your calendar now for Sunday the 19th of May 2024.



Coffee Mornings

The informal Coffee Mornings at 10am on the second Thursday of each month continue to be very popular. The venue is Brooklyn's Burger Bar in the Sovereign Hills shopping centre at Thrumster.

Brooklyn's Burger Bar have a copy of the ORARC Calendar and always have a large table reserved for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Coffee Morning. The mornings have proven to be very well attended monthly event. The Coffee Mornings are a great opportunity to meet fellow members and their families socially over a leisurely morning tea. Photograph on the next page.

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ORARC Monthly General Meetings and Friday Night Get togethers

The Monthly General Meetings and Friday Night Get togethers are held in the air-conditioned comfort of the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The business part of the Monthly General Meetings is kept to approximately 15 minutes so that the major part of the meeting can be devoted to the guest speaker.



At the April Monthly General Meeting on Saturday the 6th of April 2024, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ will present a comprehensive guide to Tidy HQ which is now live and enables ORARC members to securely log in on line and check and update their membership details. For convenience it is possible to make your membership renewal payments when logged into Tidy HQ through online payment application Stripe. Doing so will attract a small surcharge but members are welcome to continue to make their payments by Direct Deposit or cash at meetings. There is no surcharge for Direct Deposit or cash payments. Come along to the April Monthly General Meeting to learn how to use Tidy HQ.

Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM Repeater Site

The Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM repeaters are working well, although the 4G internet data connection for the DMR repeater is still experiencing intermittent dropouts. The Committee is continuing to investigate this problem in order to make the connection as reliable as the VK2RCN internet connection which uses the same equipment and service provider.

Telegraph Point VK2RCN Repeater Site

The VK2RCN off grid repeater site at Telegraph Point is working well. The extraordinary effort over several years by members at the site to complete ORARC's most ambitious project has resulted in a very reliable site which is serving the Amateur Radio Service very well indeed.

The decision to install solar off grid power at the VK2RCN site means that there are no ongoing power bills and the repeaters are more reliable as they are not subject to the mains power outages which inevitably occur on the spur line which runs

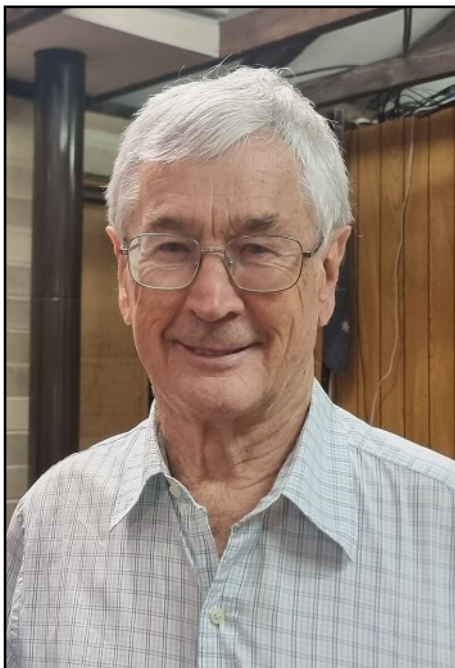
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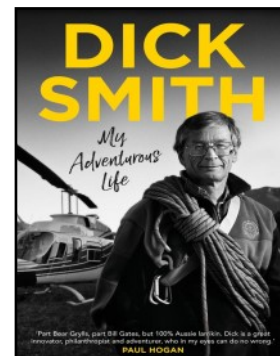
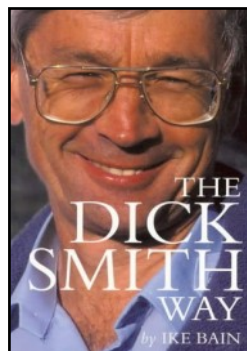
along the ridge line past the repeater site. The savings to ORARC amounts to several hundred dollars a year.

Over the last 12 months the solar panels have supplied all the power required to run all the equipment at the site and kept the 10 Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries fully charged. They have done so even during cloudy weather and throughout the winter months when the sun has been low in the sky and there has been significant shade from the trees on the northern side of the site. So far it has not been necessary to make use of the contingency to use the back up generator and battery chargers.

Milestones



Past ORARC member Dick Smith VK2DIK celebrated his 80th birthday in style with some 200 of his friends at the Miramare Gardens in Terry Hills on Monday the 18th of March 2024. Dick is well known to both the Amateur Radio and the wider community for his entrepreneurial, adventure and philanthropic activities over the last 7 decades. Oxtales has previously reviewed the books “The Dick Smith Way” by Ike Bain and “Dick Smith – My Adventurous Life” by Dick Smith which go some of the way towards documenting Dick’s life. Dick was born on the 18th of March 1944 as Richard Harold Smith.



Dick’s 1960s Neutral Bay taxi radio business became a car radio business at Gore Hill and in the 1970s grew into the Dick Smith Electronics chain of stores which as well as serving electronic hobbyists also sold electronics to the wider market. For many years Dick Smith Electronics were the Yaesu dealers in Australia. After selling Dick Smith Electronics to Woolworths in 1980 Dick went on to found Australian Geographic Magazine and continued his many aviation and other adventures.

Dick has always had a sense of humour and will be well remembered for his well publicized 1978 April Fool's Day stunt of towing a purported iceberg from Antarctica into Sydney Harbour, and for crossing the Sydney Harbour bridge on his motorized pogo stick.



In the 1970s when he had a property at Ross Glen, Dick joined the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and for many years he was a regular visitor to ORARC Field Days. Dick’s arrival by helicopter at the 1979 Field Day at Rollands Plains was particularly memorable as recorded in the August 1982 issue of Oxtales. Photograph on the next page.

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Happy Birthday Dick.

VK2AYD – A Family Tradition

Congratulations to Amanda Thomas VK2AYD for carrying on her family's Amateur Radio tradition in obtaining her Foundation Licence and being licenced as VK2AYD. Amanda is very proud to hold the callsign of her late well-known father and ORARC Life Member, David Pilley. Amanda is also an ORARC member. Well done, Amanda.

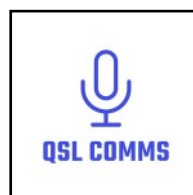
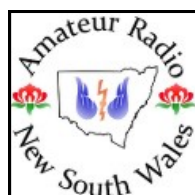
Silent Key – John Marriott VK2JB ex VK2CIF



It is with great sadness that we record the passing of John Marriott VK2JB of North Haven. He passed away at Hornsby Hospital in Sydney on the 14th of March 2024. His funeral was on the 22nd of March 2024 in Sydney. John will be well remembered as a previously very active ORARC member who was a prolific Home Brewer. John and his wife Rose ran a very popular fish and chip shop in North Haven for many years. Many of us enjoyed their particularly delicious chips whenever we passed through North Haven.

Please see the separate Silent Key article Vale John Marriott VJ2JB in this issue of Oxtales.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President.



Supporters from the 2023 and hopefully this years 2024 Field Day





Amateur Radio Class Licence Has Commenced From Today
Date : 19 / 02 / 2024
Author : ACMA 19 February 2024

New amateur radio arrangements have begun.

In December 2023, we announced new arrangements for amateur radio, including the upcoming Radiocommunications (Amateur Stations) Class Licence 2023 (the class licence).

The class licence has now commenced. It means qualified amateur operators can operate foundation, standard or advanced amateur stations without needing to apply for an individual licence or pay any fees. Alongside the class licence, there are new arrangements for qualifications, examination assessors, call signs and overseas visiting amateurs.

Around 180 accredited assessors are ready to conduct and assess amateur radio examinations.

We have also opened applications to become an accredited assessor. The Accredited Assessor Guidelines have been updated, providing more detail about the accreditation requirements for applicants from New South Wales.

Surrender Your Licence And Apply For A Refund*

Date : 02 / 02 / 2024
Author : ACMA

Surrendering Existing Licences

When the amateur class licence commences, the current amateur licences (non-assigned amateur licences that authorise foundation, standard or advanced station operations) will no longer be needed.

Amateurs who wish to retain their call sign(s) must ensure their licence(s) is active until the amateur class licence commences. More detail on call sign retention is in the call signs section below.

* As an individual licence will no longer be required to operate when the amateur class licence commences, current licensees can choose to surrender their licence and may be eligible for a pro-rata refund on the annual tax already paid.

The minimum the ACMA can refund is \$41, which means only licensees with an **expiry date of 9 December 2024** or later may be eligible for a refund.

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Refund eligibility is determined from the date the ACMA accepts the surrender, so early submission of surrender applications is encouraged. You can submit a surrender application now (guidance on how to surrender a licence is below), seeking that it be surrendered on 19 February 2024.

If an amateur licensee does not wish to surrender their licence, the licence will continue to exist for the remainder of its term.

The ACMA will not renew any non-assigned amateur licences after the amateur class licence commences.

To surrender a non-assigned amateur licence, email your surrender request, including your licence number, customer ID and the date you would like your licence to be surrendered to info@acma.gov.au.

We issue refunds by cheque or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). If you would like your refund by EFT, you will need to complete an EFT details form. This form will be emailed to you when the surrender is processed.

The refund will not be processed until the surrender has taken place, so you won't receive it until February 2024 at the earliest.

Our refund policy is available to view on the ACMA website.

More information relating to the Class Licence can be found on the ACMA website.

Declaration of Election

Date : 07 / 01 / 2024

Author : WIA Returning Officer - John Marshall

DECLARATION of ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Clause 14 of the Constitution of the WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA (WIA) specifies the way in which Directors of the WIA are to be elected to that position.

Three (3) directors will retire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting which will be held in May 2024, namely Lee Moyle VK3GK, Steven Green VK2TSG and Chris Dimitrijevic VK3FY. Each retiring director was eligible for re-nomination.

A call for nominations for the position of Directors of the WIA was made in the WIA National News Broadcast and in Amateur Radio Magazine in accordance with the Election Regulations.

I advise that I have received Three (3) valid nominations from WIA members for the position as director of the WIA by the advertised closing date for nominations, as follows:-

- Steven Green VK2TSG
- Lee Moyle VK3GK
- Chris Dimitrijevic VK3FY

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As advised in the Call for Nominations there will be three (3) vacancies at the conclusion of the AGM to be held in May 2024 and therefore no election will be necessary.

I therefore formally declare these Three (3) nominees as having been elected to the position of Director of the Wireless Institute of Australia.

These Directors elect will take up their role at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in May 2024. They will remain in that role for a period of two (2) years.

The existing four (4) continuing Directors are:-

- Scott Williams VK3KJ
- Peter Schrader VK4EA
- Peter Clee VK8ZZ
- Giles Kirby VK5GK

These continuing four (4) directors will retire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in 2025.



YLRL Celebrational Women's Special Event



brates International Women's Day with

03/01/2024

The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) is hosting an International Women's Day YL Parks on the Air®

(POTA) Party from 0000Z - 2359Z on March 8.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year's theme is Inspire Inclusion.

To celebrate the day, the goal of this special event is to activate any POTA park during the 24-hour event window using any mode and frequency within your license class. Contacts can be submitted to the POTA database. YLRL encourages participants to wear pink, decorate their station, and to share experiences and photos on social media using the hashtag #YL_POTA_Party.

The YLRL was founded in 1939 by Ethel Smith, K4LMB (SK), who was the group's first president, and it continues to use her call sign today. She served as the Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Virginia Section from 1966 - 1969, and later as ARRL Assistant Director for four different Roanoke Division Directors. In 1972, she received the ARRL Roanoke Division Service Award.

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HAARP Needs Ham Help

Amateur radio operators and radio astronomers are being asked to help monitor a new research project by the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP).

The project officially began on February 28, but it will run until March 3, 2024. Some examples of experiments planned for the project are the production of extremely low frequency (ELF) and very low frequency (VLF) emissions and studies on the effects of ionospheric plasma waves on orbiting satellites.

HAARP scientists believe these experiments will help lead to a greater understanding of the production and enhancement of ELF and VLF waves, as well as lay groundwork for future studies of satellite interactions with space plasma.

Operating frequencies will vary, but all HAARP transmissions will be between 2.8 and 10 MHz. Actual transmit days and times are highly variable based on real-time ionospheric and/or geomagnetic conditions. There are no specific data collection requests from funded investigators, but reception reports from hams are appreciated and may be submitted to uafgi_haarp@alaska.edu or mailed to HAARP PO Box 271, Gakona, AK 99586.

Below are the anticipated operating times and frequencies:

March 1 from 0130 to 0800 UTC: 2.8, 3.25, 3.3, 4.1, 5.4, 6.8, and 9.6 MHz

March 2 from 0230 to 0900 UTC: 3.25, 4.5, 5.8, and 9.6 MHz

March 3 from 0200 to 0800 UTC: 2.8, 3.25, 3.3, 4.1, 5.4, 6.8, and 9.6 MHz

Numerous experiments will operate at frequencies based on the f_0F_2 critical frequency calculation from the Gakona, Alaska, ionograms. For updates on ionospheric conditions in Gakona, consult the ionograms from the HAARP Diagnostic Suite.

Amateurs are reminded that another way they can use their stations to advance scientific understanding of the ionosphere is participating in the upcoming HamSCI Solar Eclipse QSO Party and associated events surrounding the April 8 eclipse.



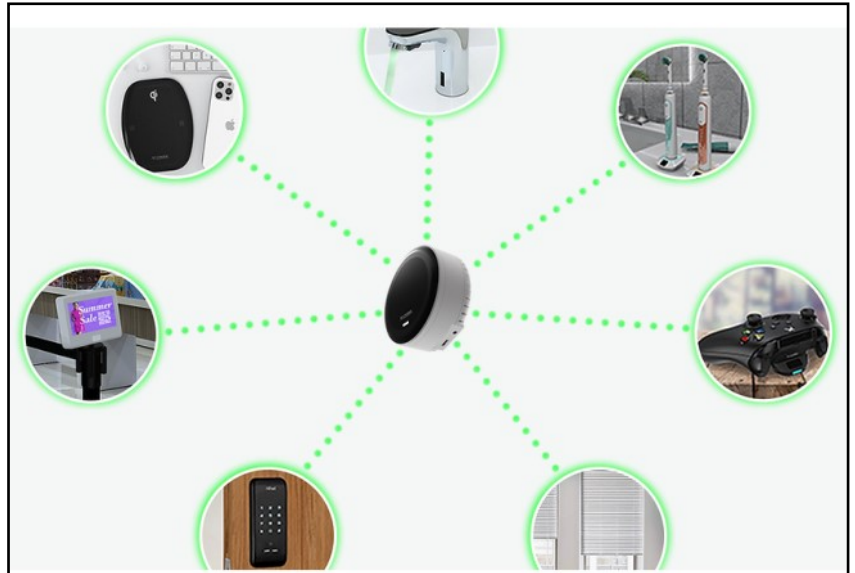
Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2419 for Friday March 28 and 29, 2024 (Extracts)

WIRELESS POWER TRANSFER USES INFRARED

PAUL/ANCHOR: Need to charge your batteries? Have you ever thought about transferring that power wirelessly? A company in Israel doing just that - and Kent Peterson

KCØDGY tells us about it.

KENT: Technology developed 10 years ago in Israel to permit wireless transfer of power has begun showing up in some world markets. The over-the-air system uses infrared sent from transmitters that transform electricity into infrared beams which they then send to nearby devices that need their batteries recharged. Line of sight is necessary for the transmission to be successful and one transmitter's signal can cover about 130 square meters of area. For it to work, each device needs to have receivers attached to convert the infrared signals back into electricity.



The company, Wi-Charge, has trademarked this far-field wireless technology under the name "AirCord." It is designed to replace the traditional need to plug devices in using cords to recharge them. According to the company website, the technology is already in use in some countries in the retail, commercial and industrial sectors. Wi-Charge states that AirCord sends narrow beams that focus only on the devices equipped with receivers and has been certified as safe by the Food and Drug Administration and Underwriters Laboratories in the US and by the International Electrotechnical Commission in the UK.

OVERSEAS HAMS GET EXPANDED PRIVILEGES UNDER AUSTRALIA'S NEW LICENSE SYSTEM



PAUL/ANCHOR: If you're planning to visit Australia anytime soon and want to get on the air, John Williams VK4JJW has some encouraging news to share.

JOHN: Whether you are a US Technician class operator, a Foundation licence holder in the UK or a ham with entry-level privileges in certain other countries, the new class licence

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arrangements in Australia now permit you to get on the air - up to a maximum of 365 consecutive days. Visitors from a list of countries no longer need to make a separate application for a licence; they need only append VK slash before their home callsign.

The Australian Media and Communications Authority has posted a list of countries with currently recognised foreign licence equivalents who may operate under Australian licence rules. Visit the ACMA page at the address given in the text version of this newscast script at arnew-sline.org

The ACMA makes it clear, however, that hams seeking to relocate to Australia will still need to apply for a licence in VK and receive a new VK home call.

This is John Williams VK4JJW.

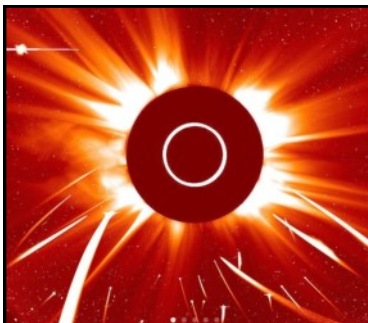
POTA COMPLETES GLOBAL PARK RELABELING, CHINA RETURNS TO PROGRAM



STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The Parks on the Air program had a welcome announcement recently for fans of portable operation. Jim Meachen ZL2BHF shares this development.

JIM: There's good news for POTA hunters: As POTA completes its conversion of labels to conform to the ISO-3166-2 standard, China has returned to participating in Parks on the Air. China's re-entry follows a number of discussions to resolve what POTA describes as "simple language barriers." According to documentation on the POTA website, the misunderstanding over POTA's reorganisation of its code system resulted in an unfortunate breakdown in communications because of these language issues. On Monday, March 25th, POTA announced on its website: [quote] "We are happy to be able to reactivate China so quickly!" [endquote]

NASA SUNGRAZER PROGRAM HONORS HAM FOR COMET-HUNTING SUCCESS



STEPHEN/ANCHOR: NASA's Sungrazer program is honouring an amateur radio operator in Australia for having tracked down previously unknown comets by studying spacecraft imagery. We hear about him from John Williams VK4JJW.

JOHN: Congratulations to Peter Berrett, VK3PB, who has been recognised by the NASA Sungrazer programme as one of the top successful volunteer comet-hunters. Sungrazer is a NASA-funded citizen science programme that encourages anyone to participate in the discovery and reporting of previously unknown comets. According to Sungrazer, Peter was the first to locate a comet in imagery from the Parker Solar probe launched by NASA in 2018. Using a computer programme he wrote for this purpose, he has also identified comets in archived images that were collected by four spacecraft.

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 2019 March issues of Oxtales. The club had 74 members. Henry VK2ZHE was President and acting secretary, Paul VK2ICQ Vice President, and Dennis VK2DAM Treasurer.

The major activities for the month were planning for the field day as the club was unable to secure the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club and were fortunate that Larry VK2CLL was able to negotiate the hire of the Wauchope Showground hall for the June weekend. The club also held a 40 Metre Dipole Antenna Building and Testing day. Oxtales for the month had reports on the Wyong and Urunga field days and also on the Antenna Shoot out at Tuffins Lane that had been held in February.

Unfortunately the planned John Moyle Memorial Field Day 16 & 17 March 2019 had to be cancelled due to the large amount of rain that had started to fall. The field day was to be held at the Camden Haven Airfield however the wet conditions would lead to very boggy conditions.

Below are extracts from the antenna shootout report;

'Thank you to the members who arrived early to set up the caravan in the carpark. The interior of the caravan was kept quite comfortable with the aid of the electric fan. As in past years, Arthur Monck VK2ATM brought along his spectrum analyser to make the received signal strength measurements. The VHF and UHF receiving antennas made by John McLean VK2KC were set up and connected to the spectrum analyser. John VK2KC was unable to attend the shootout but last year he checked the antennas and ran through the setting up procedure with several members at a Wednesday working bee. The test set up went together smoothly.



The photograph at left show Bob VK2ZRE and Arthur VK2ATM logging the results.

Last year provision was made to test 6 metre antennas in addition to the usual 2 metre and 70 centimetre antennas but this year only 2 metre and 70 centimetre antennas were tested.

The club's Honda inverter generator ran faultlessly throughout the day. The generator operated in shade under the portable generator shelter.

The transmitting site was set up at the far end of the sportsfield. Thank you to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for bringing his equipment and setting up in one of the very conveniently located open sided gazebos that had been set up in readiness for the up the football competition the following weekend.

On 2 metres in the directional category Ivan Southwell VK2IJS was a clear victor with his 4 element yagi at 6 dBd. In the 2 metre omnidirectional category the Arrow style vertical antenna submitted by Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE was the winner with 2 dBd gain.

In the 70 centimetre omnidirectional category the Arrow style vertical antenna submitted by Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE was the winner with 5 dBd gain.

It was very pleasing to see the great number of home-made antennas submitted this year.

Those participating in the shootout included VK2ZRE, VK2ATM, VK2SMI, VK2IDL, VK2DAM, VK2IJS, VK2ZHE, VK2CRF, VK2ICQ, and VK2UPR.

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Thank you to Ivan Southwell VK2IJS for running the barbeque. Those in attendance enjoyed a delicious bacon and egg breakfast and an excellent sausage sizzle lunch. No-one went hungry and the covered picnic tables meant that everyone could eat sitting down under very welcome shade'.



Some of the crew Ian VK2IDL (Now VK2GL), Rob VK2CRF, Arthur VK2ATM, Ivan VK2IJS, Lyle VK2SMI, Bob VK2ZRE with Jovan in the background.

Below: The transmitting site.



Report extracts from the 40 Metre Dipole Antenna Building and Testing Day 10 March 2019.

'The 40 metre dipole construction and testing day was held at the SES Building in Port Macquarie on Sunday the 10th of March 2019 to coincide with the 40 metre antenna Buildathon at ARNSW at Dural. The 40 metre dipole construction day was an ARNSW initiative by ARNSW to promote hands on construction by Amateurs.

Thank you to those who came in on the Sunday morning to assist with setting up for day. They included Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Rob Frost VK2CRF, Barry Gilson VK2LBG, Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE, Dennis Meade VK2DAM and Larry Lindsay VK2CLL I'm pleased that the day at Dural went well too.

We had 18 antenna kits sold with 17 constructed and tested on Sunday at Port Macquarie. The 18th one was built by Ray Mullins VK2JU at the following Wednesday working bee. Ray wasn't able to be present on the day as a family commitment called him to Melbourne.



The day certainly went well. The building commenced at 12:30 pm after a delicious pizza lunch at 12 noon.'

Participants Dennis VK2DAM, Barry VK2LBG, Paul VK2UPR, Ian VK2IDL, Henry VK2ZHE, Rob VK2CRF Arthur VK2ATM, Paul VK2DEL, Larry VK2CLL and Bob VK2ZRE. Below inspection station.



Laying out antenna for testing.



Equipment from the Past

Yaesu FT-767gx



The Yaesu FT-767GX is a 100 watt all solid state HF transceiver covering 160 to 10 meters amateur bands plus a triple conversion general coverage receiver that tunes from 100 kHz to 30000 kHz.

The FT-767GX was also designed to accept additional, optional band modules for coverage of the key amateur bands above 30 MHz including 6 meters, 2 meters and 70 cm. The FT-767GX has a built in HF antenna tuner. Other features include: IF shift, Notch, Electronic Keyer, Squelch, QSK, dual VFOs, Noise Blanker, Attenuator, Passband Tuning and memories. The radio operates from 100/110/117/200/220/240 VAC. (368x129x295mm 15.5 kg).

The FT-767 GX series was introduced by Yaesu in 1986 as a flagship transceiver with a retail price of more than \$3,000 depending upon the number of additional modules fitted. Accessories included automatic antenna tuners modules for 2 metre, 6 metre and 70 cm. Cables for CAT interfaces for Apple 2 computers and also RS232 interfaces. The FT-767 GX was discontinued in 1989.

The set provided Amateur Operators a complete 'shack in a box' experience especially if the additional modules were installed. Many of these sets are still in operation with amateurs today. Although it should be noted that the sets are up to 34 years old and

SPECIFICATIONS GENERAL

Type: Amateur HF/VHF/UHF transceiver Frequency range: TX: 10-160 m + WARC
RX: 0.1-30 MHz with (6 m, 2 m and 70 cm options).

Modes: AM / FM / SSB / CW / AFSK. Memory Channels 10. Repeater Offset No dedicated. Use VFO A/B split instead.

Power supply: Mains: 100 / 110 / 117 / 200 / 220 / 234 VAC (3-pin IEC C14 connector)

Current drain / power consumption:

RX: 55 VA TX: Max 650 VA

Antenna impedance / connector: 50 ohm (20-150 ohm with ATU) / SO-239

Dimensions (W*H*D): 368*129*295 mm (14.5*5.08*11.61")

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Weight: 13.5 Kg (30 lb), without options

Other features: Built-in keyer and auto-ATU. CAT control.

Receiver system: Triple conversion superheterodyne 1st IF: 45.03 MHz 2nd IF: 8.215 MHz
3rd IF: 455 KZ

Transmitter Power. AM: 25 W FM:100 W: SSB (PEP): 100 W: CW/FSK: 100 W: 2 m/10 W band
module: 6 m/10 W band module: 70 cm/10 W band module (440-450 MHz) :70 cm/10 W band
module (430-440 MHz).

Second hand prices today vary greatly ranging from \$300 to over \$1,000 Australian Dollars de-
pending on the number of modules installed and the overall condition. Although the sets are all
solid state, some are coming up to be 38 years old and many may require replacement of various
components for example capacitors.

Rear View of Yaesu FT-767 with 2m and 6m modules installed.



Matching SP-767 external speaker



Below MD-1 microphone and
MH-1 microphone



Acknowledgements:

<https://www.ebay.com/>

<https://www.eham.net/>

Yaesu FT-767GX, Yaesu FT767GX (universal-radio.com)

RigPix Database - Yaesu - FT-767GX

Current Amateur Radio Equipment

Yaesu FTDX-101 MP



It is interesting to compare the release of a newer high end amateur receiver with those of 30 plus years ago. The recommended retail price of the Yaesu FTDX-101 MP is around \$7,000 depending upon configuration and promotional deals. As would be expected the features are very impressive as is the power output of 200 watts without an external amplifier.

The following has been gleaned from various suppliers and the Yaesu website.

Features:

The FTDX101MP is a 160-6 Metres 200W Transceiver that uses SDR technology in a Hybrid SDR Configuration. In addition to the Narrow band SDR receiver, the Hybrid Configuration Digital Processing with Direct Sampling SDR permits inclusion of a Real-Time Spectrum Scope. (using optional 300Hz and 1.2kHz roofing filters).

The radio has a Digital Processing Generated Real-Time Spectrum Scope. The Narrow band SDR receiver removes strong out of band signals by using a superheterodyne method, with narrow band roofing filters which significantly attenuates unwanted out of band frequency components, and the wanted signals within the passband are converted to digital by a high resolution 18-bit A/D converter and sent to an FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) for signal processing. If there are powerful AM stations near your location or in challenging operating situations where there are a lot of strong signals in the band from Contests, DX-pedition activities, those signals outside the pass band can be attenuated by the very effective roofing filter in the newly developed VC-Tune RF Preselector. Frequency automatic adjustment RF Preselector VC-Tune

Newly developed VC-tune circuit drives a variable capacitor (VC) with a high precision stepping motor following the frequency. This eliminates the conventional preset method of switching coils and capacitors. When there are multiple strong signals in the band, press the "VC TUNE" key and turn the MPVD (Multi-Purpose VFO Outer Dial) ring on the VFO dial to activate the high-precision stepping motor to adjust the variable capacitor. Fine tune to the optimum point that attenuates the strong signal in the band while operating the VFO dial.

The radio also has a 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream system display in addition to a conventional Waterfall display with a 7-inch TFT Colour Touch Panel Display at a resolution of 800 x 480 pixels. The radio has PC Remote Control Software to

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enable connected to LAN or Internet PC control software to performed remote operation of the transceiver from a remote location via the LAN or the Internet is available. (Requires optional external LAN unit).

Specifications Amateur HF/VHF transceiver

Frequency range:

TX: 10-160 m + WARC and 60 m, RX: 0.03-75 MHz

Modes AM / FM / SSB / CW / RTTY / PSK

Channels / memory management: 99 regular (Can be organized into 6 groups with 20 memories in each).

Power supply: Mains (FPS-101 external PSU with speaker, included as standard)

Current drain / power consumption: RX: 100 to 120 VA, TX: Max 720 VA

Antenna impedance / connector: 50 ohm (ATU off) Three SO-239 connectors.

Dimensions (W*H*D): 420*130*355 mm, Weight: 13.5 Kg.

Other features: CTCSS/PL. Voice memory. Dimmer. RTTY and PSK encode/decode. SD/SDHC card slot. Clock.

Twin RX. VC-tune units for both main and sub RX included from factory.

Double conversion superheterodyne

1st IF: 9.005 MHz, (Main) - 8.9 MHz (Sub) 2nd IF: 24 KHz

AF output power / speaker: 2.5 W at 10% distortion

Transmitter. RF output power: HF, 6 m AM 50 W, FM: 200 W SSB (PEP): 200 W CW: 200 W RTTY/PSK: 200 W.



Rear View of the FTDX-101 MP

Acknowledgements.

www.eham.net/

Yaesu.com

[YAESU FTDX101MP HF/50 MHz TRANSCEIVER with 200 Watt Output \(locuradigital.com\)](http://YAESU FTDX101MP HF/50 MHz TRANSCEIVER with 200 Watt Output (locuradigital.com))

www.rigpix.com

Silent Key – John Charles Marriott VK2JB ex VK2CIF



It is with great sadness that we report that John Marriott VK2JB ex VK2CIF of North Haven passed away in Hornsby Hospital on the 14th of March 2024.

John originally came from Tenterfield but grew up in Sydney where he attended Asquith Boys' High School. John went on to attend the Technical College in Taree.

Later in life he moved to North Haven where he worked in the fire protection industry before retiring. John didn't quite retire as he and his wife Rose ran a very popular fish and chip shop in North Haven for many years.

John joined the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club in 2004 as an active member.

John was a very keen home brewer. His projects were always of a very high standard. Amongst his favourite projects were QRP HF SSB transceivers which he enjoyed building and operating. His impressive projects were always a drawcard at the Home Brew competition at the annual Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Field Days.



Mark VK2HMJ with John VK2CIF/VK2JB at an Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Field Day.

Displaying John's extensive home brew station.

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John's enduring close friendships included those with fellow home brewer Craig Martin VK2CSM, previously VK2ZCM, of Sancrox near Wauchope and John Baylis VK2JB of Lake Cathie who both predeceased him as Silent Keys. John was very proud to take over the callsign VK2JB in memory of John Baylis.

In later years despite health issues and having let his radio club membership lapse, John continued his on air contacts. One of his regular contacts was with Dave Avery VK2WQ, previously VK2BRA, in Sydney. After they had known each other on air for some time they discovered that they had both been students at Asquith Boys' High School at the same time but hadn't met each other during their school days as their classes had been one year apart.

John will be sadly missed and will always be remembered for his enthusiasm for Amateur Radio.

The funeral service for John was held at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium on Friday the 22nd of March 2024. The Amateur Radio fraternity was represented at the funeral.

Thank you to Dave Avery VK2WQ for advising of John's passing.

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

The following photographs are of John's 'Radio Shack' and work bench.



Vale John Marriott VK2JB