



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

May 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

May 2024



ORARC 2024 Field Day

The ORARC 2024 48th annual Field Day takes place on Saturday the 8th and Sunday the 9th of June during the 2024 Kings Birthday Weekend.

The Field Day dinner will be held in the Seabreeze Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on the evening of Saturday the 8th of June 2024.

The Field Day program is being sent out with this issue of Oxtales. You can also view and download the program on the ORARC website at <https://www.orarc.org/>

Daytime Venue

Activities are in the Wauchope Showground Hall in High Street Wauchope on Saturday the 8th and Sunday the 9th of June 2024.

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.

ORARC meetings held in the S.E.S. Building Central Road, Port Macquarie.

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

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

**Antenna Shootout Huntingdon
10am Sunday 19 May 2024**

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

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

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

**ORARC Field Day Wauchope Showground
Hall
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June 2024
Field Day Dinner Sat. Port Macquarie Golf
Club**

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

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 June 2024 7.00 pm**

**Winter VHF/UHF Field Day
Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June 2024**

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

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

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

**Annual General Meeting
Saturday 3 August 2024 2:00 pm**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 3 August 2024 after AGM**

Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays
(1930 Local)**

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

June 2024

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

July 2024

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

ORARC Direct Deposit Details

As an alternative to renewing on line by logging in to TidyHQ, 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

The logo for Jaycar, featuring the word "jaycar" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark blue background. To the right of the text is a colorful graphic of a network or starburst with several nodes connected by lines.

Registration is \$5 per person which covers attendance at the Field Day for both days. There are no discounts available. Note that there will be some substantial lucky door prizes drawn during the prize giving on Sunday afternoon. The major raffle will have great prizes as usual. While you are at the registration table, remember to buy your raffle tickets along with the tickets for the food and drinks.

The Showground hall is an excellent venue and will support all the usual Field Day activities. There is plenty of on-site parking and the area is safe for the fox hunts.

Due to popular demand the traders will be open for business on both Saturday and Sunday. Similarly, the disposals will be open both days.

The Wauchope Showground permits camping and is pet friendly. For two people an RV or caravan is \$20 per night with power and a tent is \$10 per night with power. Contact the on-site caretaker 0475 111 074 for bookings. The web page is at:

<http://www.wauchopeshow society.com.au/camping.html>

Field Day Dinner



The Field Day Dinner is on Saturday the 8th of June 2024 at 5pm in the Port Macquarie Golf Club Function Room. Sign in and follow the Golf Club COVID safety requirements.

Meals and drinks are at Golf Club prices. There is an extensive menu to cater for all tastes.

We must especially thank Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply Pty Ltd of Bellingen for his sponsorship of the Port Macquarie Golf Club Function Room hire for the Field Day Dinner again this year. Thank you, Gary. Gary has been a long-time supporter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. His company, Radio Supply, has exhibited at every ORARC Field Day for a great many years, and he has always been very generous in his sponsorship.

Field Day Attractions

The Field Day will have all the usual attractions with 2 metre and 80 metre fox hunts on both days, disposals; bring your items to sell, no commission charged, traders, barbeque lunch also over the two days.

Food and Drink

Bacon and egg breakfasts will also be available on the two days. Don't miss out on the traditional fruit salad and ice cream dessert following Sunday lunch. As usual, tea and coffee and biscuits will be free throughout the weekend to those who have registered; Just help yourself from the table in the kitchen

Soft drinks and bottled water will be available for purchase. Prices are very reasonable as can be seen on the Field Day program.

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Tickets must be purchased at the registration desk for all food and drinks items. The tickets will be redeemed at the serving counter in the kitchen area of the hall.

Raffles

Remember to purchase your raffle tickets from the registration desk. As usual the Major Raffle will have some substantial prizes. Thank you to the sponsors who have generously provided prizes. The sponsors to date include Jaycar Electronics Port Macquarie, Radio Supply of Bellingen, QSL Comms, Tecsun Radios Australia and Battery World Port Macquarie.

The raffle will be drawn at 2:30 pm at the prize giving on Sunday afternoon.

Lucky Door Draw

There will be the usual Lucky Door prizes drawn during the prize giving on Sunday afternoon. There are excellent prizes for those with call signs and for those without call signs so everyone attending is asked to please register. Entry in the draw is automatic when you register.

Disposals

Bring your items to sell, no commission charged. It is a great opportunity to sell items that you no longer need, and a tremendous opportunity to find some real bargains. There is always a shortage of tables so please bring your own tables if you are able. Please note that you are responsible for the security of your items. The club is unable to accept liability. Items may be left on the tables overnight on the Saturday night but as there is no security in attendance during the night it is suggested that valuable items not be left unattended overnight. The hall will be locked overnight from 5pm on Saturday until it is opened by the on-site caretaker on Sunday morning.

Repeaters Monitored During the Field Day

The club station VK2BOR will monitor the Middle Brother VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre FM voice repeater for calls during the Field Day. This repeater requires a 91.5Hz CTCSS sub audible tone for access. You can transmit to it on 146.1 MHz using Yaesu Fusion C4FM digital voice and it will retransmit you as analogue FM on 146.7 MHz

In addition VK2BOR will monitor DMR Talk Group 505. The Telegraph Point VK2RCN 438.425 MHz DMR digital voice repeater provides excellent coverage in Port Macquarie and Wauchope. The VK2RMPM 438.525 MHz DMR repeater has excellent coverage south of Port Macquarie and down to Taree down the Pacific Highway. You can call on Talk Group 505 via any DMR repeater or suitable hotspot that you can access.

The Telegraph Point VK2RCN 147.0 MHz 2 metre FM voice repeater and the VK2RCN 53.8 MHz 6 metre voice repeater both provide excellent handheld radio coverage in both Port Macquarie and Wauchope. No CTCSS tone is required to access the 147.0 MHz repeater but it transmits a 91.5 Hz CTCSS tone which allows you to use CTCSS on your 147.0 MHz receiver to prevent interfering signals from opening your receiver squelch in the absence of transmissions from the repeater. The 6 metre 53.8 MHz FM repeater requires a 91.5 Hz CTCSS tone in order to access the repeater.

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Traders

This year we are pleased to have three major traders at the Field Day: By popular demand the traders will be open for business on both Saturday and Sunday.

Radio Supply

Radio Supply

Radio Supply of Bellingen <http://www.radiosupply.com.au/> will have a full range of accessories as well as the usual range of items such as the now hard to get analogue multimeters. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Carol VK2CSR for their ongoing support of the Field Day.

QSL Communications

We welcome back QSL Communications to the Field Day as a trader again this year. QSL Comms have an extensive range of products including DMR digital voice and analogue FM transceivers, antennas, antenna mounts, power supplies, spare batteries for various radios, programming cables for various radios, and coaxial cable and connectors etc. Have a look at the QSL Comms website <https://qslcomms.com.au/> for details. At the Field Day the very popular Anytone and TYT DMR and analogue radios will be available. Also available will be multimode digital hotspots and the very popular Nano VNA. You can place your orders on line prior to the Field Day and pick your order up at the Field Day. QSL Communications have confirmed that they will be present on both Saturday and Sunday this year.



Jaycar Port Macquarie

Jaycar Port Macquarie will have a stand this year. They will be showcasing and demonstrating a range of products including 3D printers. In addition to their extensive inventory of electronic components and hardware, Jaycar stock a very wide range of equipment and tools for the Radio Amateur. <http://www.jaycar.com.au>.



The Jaycar store in Lake Road, Port Macquarie will be open throughout the Kings Birthday Weekend.

RTM Road Tech Marine Port Macquarie

RTM Port Macquarie will be beside the Jaycar Port Macquarie stand. RTM carry many lines in common with Jaycar but additionally have an extensive range of items for those on the road and on the water. <https://www.roadtechmarine.com.au/>

Mad Dog Coils

Meet Marty Nelson VK4KC at the Mad Dog Coils <https://maddogcoils.com.au/> stand. He will have his range of HF loading coils and antenna hardware for portable HF operation available. Marty is the Australian administrator for Parks on the Air (POTA) and will also run the POTA stand next to his.



ORARC

As a special service at the Field Day the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club will be able to install a code plug in your newly purchased or existing DMR radio, if it's one that they have a code plug for. The timeslots of a number of talkgroups changed earlier this year so this is an opportunity to get an updated code plug which also includes a current user ID database. There are a lot of new callsigns on DMR and many of us have noted that an increasing number of stations are only displayed as ID numbers without callsign and name details. This is an indication that your database is out of date.

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Models that code plugs will be available for include the TYT MD-UV380 which takes the same code plug as the Retevis RT3S. Also learn more about the OpenGD77 firmware with many enhanced features for these and other radios. Please see Paul Colledge VK2ICQ on the ORARC stand.

If you are contemplating purchasing a DMR radio for the first time you will need a DMR ID in order for your new radio to be programmed ready for you to use. You should apply for a DMR ID prior to the Field Day so that it will be available by the weekend of the 8th and 9th of June 2029. Just go to <https://vkdmr.com/> to learn about DMR and follow the link to apply for a DMR ID.

Please read the very informative DMR article by Ian Lindquist VK2GL/VK2IDL in the May 2021 issue of Oxtales. Past issues of Oxtales are available as .pdf files for reading or downloading on the ORARC website <https://www.orarc.org/> Note that the DMR RadNet repeaters provided by ARNSW are part of the VK-DMR network (formerly known as DMR-MARC). Matt Perkins VK2FLY presented an excellent 8 part “Introduction to DMR” series on the VK2WI broadcasts between 11 February 2024 and 31 March 2024. The transcripts and audio files of these broadcasts including Matt’s Introduction to DMR Series are available for download on the ARNSW website at https://arnsw.org.au/html/news_vk2wi.htm There are other world-wide DMR networks such as Brandmeister which can be accessed using a hotspot or some other repeaters.

Fox Hunting

Foxhunting has always been an important part of ORARC Field Days. This tradition has been carried on continuously since the very first Field Day. I have previously mentioned the report by Pierce Healy VK2APQ in his column in the December 1972 issue of Electronics Australia where he reported on the foxhunts that were held during the ORARC Field Day that was held on the 13th and 14th of October 1972. This was only one year after the club was formed in 1971.

The new 80 metre foxes work very well with all foxes being clearly heard at the start, even for the mobile event. The 2 metre and 80 metre hidden transmitter hunts are always keenly contested. If you don’t have a dedicated 80 metre sniffer, remember to bring your transistor radio along for the Sunday morning 80 metre radio pedestrian foxhunt. In the past only unmodified transistor radios could be used in this event but this year there is no restriction and you can use your 80 metre sniffer for the hunt. The Saturday afternoon 2 metre talk in foxhunt offers an opportunity for those without direction finding equipment to participate in a foxhunt.

Home Brew Competition

Remember to bring your latest project along and enter it into the Home Brew competition and display. Last year the Home Brew competition was very popular with some excellent projects on display. This year we are expecting even more entries than ever with several amateurs working hard to complete projects in time for the Field Day.

Also have a look on the Radio Supply stand. Gary Ryan VK2ZKT will have an interesting range of his home brew projects on display. Gary has been very busy home brewing over many years. He will have lots of interesting home brew and restoration projects for you to look at.

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ALARA



ALARA have had a stand at ORARC Field Days for many years but there won't be one this year. For more information go to the ALARA website at <http://www.alara.org.au/> Also, see the ALARA column in each issue of Amateur Radio Magazine.

ARNSW



ARNSW <http://www.arnsw.org.au/> is a long time supporter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Amateur Radio NSW is very active with the VK2WI weekly Sunday morning and evening news broadcasts and a wide range of other activities and projects supporting Amateur Radio. The ORARC news appears in the VK2WI club news each week.

The VK2RCN 438.425 MHz RadNet DMR repeater at Telegraph Point and the VK2RPM 438.525 MHz RadNet DMR repeater at Middle Brother have both been provided by ARNSW as a major support item to benefit ORARC and all amateurs within the coverage area of these repeaters.

Parks on the Air - POTA



Operating portable HF Amateur Radio from parks throughout the world has become very popular. Call in to the POTA stand and learn how you can activate the parks near you, or those on your travels. Meet keen POTA operators Marty VK4KC, John VK4MUD, Richard VK2AUS and Bruce VK2EM and Wade VK2EST.

Helping to share the load at the Field Day

Please make yourself available when calls are made for assistance in running the Field Day. By sharing the workload we can all enjoy the weekend without anyone being overworked. It is important to make the field day a success as it is the major fund raising activity for the year.

Field Day Program



The Field Day program is included in the email with this issue of Oxtales. The program can also be downloaded from the ORARC website <https://www.orarc.org/>

Annual Membership Subscriptions Due 1 July 2024

ORARC Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM reminds ORARC members that annual subscriptions are due for renewal on the 1st of July 2024.

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Membership fees for the 2024 – 2025 Financial Year will be the same as last year. The Committee is very pleased that almost every member renewed their subscriptions in the 2023 – 2024 Financial Year. This almost perfect level of renewal and the addition of a substantial number of new members during the year despite a number of members becoming Silent Keys means that the club is able to hold member subscription rates at their current rates.

Ordinary Membership is \$40.00 per annum, Associate Membership is \$20.00 per annum, and Distant Membership is \$10.00 per annum. A Family Membership discount applies.

TidyHQ



Members are now able to check their membership status by logging in to TidyHQ. To access TidyHQ simply click on the MEMBER PORTAL button at the top of the Home Page of the ORARC web site <https://www.orarc.org/> This will take you to the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club TidyHQ Membership Portal. Click on the green Log In button at the top right-hand corner of the page. Use your email address to log in. When you first log in you should set your password. If you forget your password there is a “I forgot my password” link which will send you a temporary password to your email address.

Renewals for the 2024 – 2025 financial year are now open. When you are logged in to TidyHQ you can securely pay your membership renewal via the **Stripe payment option**. **There is no surcharge to members for paying this way. This is the recommended method of paying your renewal as it will immediately update your membership status.** If you prefer you can pay your membership renewal by direct deposit to the ORARC bank account, or by cheque or by cash at any of the ORARC meetings, or at the Field Day.

TidyHQ will send you an email reminder if you do not renew by the 1st of July 2024.

ORARC Direct Deposit Details

As an alternative to renewing on line by logging in to TidyHQ, 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

Alternatively, you can pay by a cheque made out to Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club and post it to PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444, or you can pay in person at the club meetings or at the Field Day during the June Long Weekend. Contactless card EFT will be available at the Field Day, and at Club meetings.

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Antenna Shootout Day 19th of May 2024



Due to popular demand, the 2024 Antenna Shootout at 10am on Sunday the 19th of May 2024 will be held at Huntingdon. Thank you to Larry VK2CLL and Penny for again hosting the event at their property this year.

The address for the Antenna Shootout is 145 Huntingdon Road, Huntingdon. Huntingdon Road is on the right hand side of the Oxley Highway just past Colonels Creek a short distance west of Wauchope. Just look for the ORARC banner at the entrance to the property on the left hand side of Huntingdon Road.

The day will start at 10am with a sumptuous morning tea served on the veranda of the house. The antenna shootout will then commence. There will be a sausage sizzle barbeque lunch. After packing up there will be afternoon tea to be enjoyed before departing.

Antennas for 6 metres, 2 metres and 70 centimetres are able to be tested. A table of the results will be included in the July issue of Oxtales.

We look forward to seeing you at the Antenna Shootout.

Coffee Mornings



The informal Coffee Mornings at 10am on the second Thursday of each month continue to be 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 popular.

The dates of the Coffee Mornings are listed in "Down the Coax" in this issue of Oxtales, and are shown by a yellow square on the second Thursday of each month on the ORARC Calendar.

The Coffee Mornings are a great opportunity to meet fellow members and their families socially over a leisurely morning tea.

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 at 2pm on the

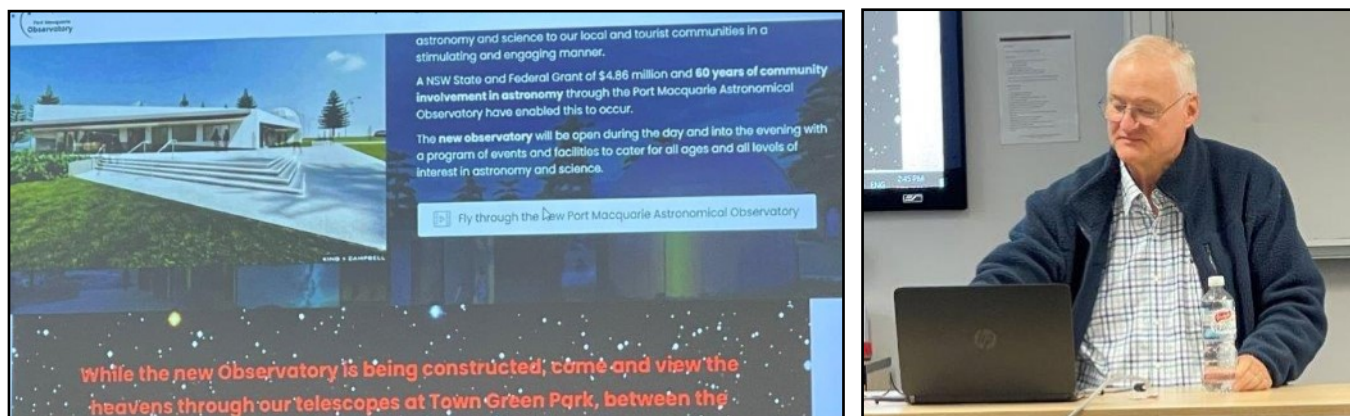
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first Saturday each month is kept to approximately 15 minutes so that the major part of the meeting can be devoted to the guest speaker.

At the April General Meeting on Saturday the 6th of April 2024, Paul Colledge VK2ICQ demonstrated how members are able to log in to the ORARC TidyHQ member portal to check their membership details and financial status. Paul also demonstrated how to pay membership renewals on line via Stripe while logged in to Tidy HQ.

The well-attended May General Meeting on Saturday the 4th of May 2024 was treated to a very interesting presentation on the soon to be completed new Port Macquarie Astronomical Observatory by Peter Fletcher VK2HPF (photograph below). Peter explained the many features of the building with the aid of excellent on screen graphics. Peter also discussed the opportunities for Radio Amateurs to become involved in the Observatory.



Friday Night Get-Togethers

The Friday night get togethers are at 7pm on the third Friday of each month. They are a great opportunity for show and tell, and for socializing over tea or coffee and biscuits in the comfortable air conditioned SES Building.

VK2RCN 147.000 MHz 2 Metre Repeater

Some members have been experiencing interference on their 147.0 MHz receivers, particularly when mobile in various places in Port Macquarie. While a CTCSS tone is not required in order to access the Telegraph Point VK2RCN 147.000 MHz repeater, the repeater now transmits a 91.5 Hertz CTCC tone. This allows 147.000 MHz receivers to be operated with CTCSS enabled which will prevent interference and unwanted signals from opening the receiver mute in the absence of transmissions from the repeater.

Telegraph Point VK2RCN Off-Grid Solar Powered Repeater Site

The Telegraph Point VK2RCN repeater site is totally off-grid. The individual access to the 29 solar panels has enabled them to be flexibly connected in series and series/parallel to provide optimum solar energy to the separate 30, 20 and 15 amp 12 Volt solar controllers which charge the ten separate Lithium Iron Phosphate 12 Volt batteries that power the various repeaters and other site loads. Each 12 Volt battery has its own MPPT solar controller.

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Each solar controller is fitted with individual Bluetooth connectivity which enables full monitoring of the power system. With 7.25 kilowatts of installed solar panels and 18 kilowatt hours of stored battery power it is expected that the site will have sufficient off grid power even during prolonged low sun periods including during the winter months when there will be significant shading from the trees to the north of the site when the sun is low in the sky.

So far the batteries have been fully charged each day despite some days being very dull in overcast and rainy weather with reduced hours of sunlight as the winter Solstice on the 22nd of June approaches. With the wet summer and autumn and the continuing wet mild winter, the trees to the north of the site have grown taller in the last year and the leaf canopy is particularly dense which has increased the amount of shade at the site this winter. The state of the batteries is being carefully monitored.

Provision has been made to recharge the batteries using an external generator if this becomes necessary. An earthed generator shelter has been built beside the equipment shelter and a weather proof 240 Volt AC power inlet has been installed on the outside of the shelter to connect the generator into the shelter to power several mains operated 20 and 30 amp 12 Volt DC Lithium Iron Phosphate battery chargers. The shelter has an electrical earth in addition to the lightning protective earth which is bonded to the mast earth.

The site has a 12 Volt DC solar battery charged pure sine wave 600 Watt 240 Volt 50 Hz AC inverter to power small AC loads without having to run a generator.

The site is fitted with 12 Volt DC solar charged battery operated LED internal and external lights. The lights provide good illumination for working inside the shelter and the external lights provide an oasis of light around the shelter when working at night.

The temperature inside the shelter is being continuously monitored by the DMR internet router. It shows that with the 12 volt battery powered ventilation fans continuously drawing outside air into the equipment shelter to maintain positive pressure, the temperature inside the shelter is remaining significantly above the very cold winter night time outside air temperatures at the site.

The wet summer and autumn resulted in significant weed germination around the mast and building. Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL for treating the new weed germinations to keep the ground around the site free of weed growth as part of the strategy to mitigate against fire hazard.

Education

Now that Amateur Radio licences are a Class Licence, and Amateur Radio Licensing is administered by the ACMA, there is no charge for Amateur Licences and Amateur Radio Licence assessments are free.

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. will run Foundation Licence Training weekends and assessments as soon as sufficient candidates have registered. Candidates should contact Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL to register. The simplest way to do this is via the Contact Form on the ORARC website <https://www.orarc.org/>.

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Please provide your name, phone number and email address on the form and Larry will contact you.

If you have self-studied and are ready for assessment, the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc is able to conduct assessments for any grade of licence at short notice. Contact Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL to register. The simplest way to do this is via the Contact Form on the ORARC website <https://www.orarc.org/> Please provide your name, phone number and email address on the form and Larry will contact you to make the arrangements. The Club has several ACMA Accredited Assessors. Please note that you can only sit for assessment for the same grade of licence once every three months.

WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group



The WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group holds a monthly meeting at the conclusion of the ORARC Monthly General Meeting on the first Saturday of each month. A number of new members have recently joined WICEN. They are looking forward to participating in the activities of the group.

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

The WICEN mid band VHF repeater at the VK2RCN site at Telegraph Point is now on air and working well. Like all the other equipment at the site it is off-grid solar powered so is not subject to mains power grid interruptions.

More information on WICEN may be found on the WICEN (NSW) website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au>

ORARC 2024 Christmas Party



The ORARC Christmas Party is held on the first Saturday in December each year. The 2024 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday the 7th of December as marked on the ORARC 2024 calendar.

After the success of the ORARC 2023 Christmas Party last year we look forward another great Christmas Party this year on Saturday the 7th of December 2024. The venue remains the same. It is the excellent covered outdoor picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery.

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Milestones



Congratulations to ORARC Founding Life Member Arthur Monck on his 90th birthday on the 1st of May 2024. Arthur has held many positions and made a great many contributions to the Club in his 53 years of continuous active membership since the meeting that formed the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club in 1971.

Congratulations to ORARC Life Member John Bailey VK2KHB on turning 87 years old on the 1st of June 2024. John has been a continuous active member of the Club for the last half century. His many contributions to the Club include holding the position of Treasurer for many years. He is also the Club Historian.

Life Membership

ORARC members are reminded that they are eligible for Life Membership at 85. Any members turning 85 please let the Committee know as Life Membership proposals must go before ORARC AGMs which are held in August each year.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President





QRP Day will be held on June 17 2024



The interest in QRP activities is everlasting in the amateur radio community worldwide. QRP radio communications demonstrate the high technical abilities of radio amateurs, and offers many advantages including the reduction of QRM on the amateur bands.

The 10th IARU Region 3 Conference held in September 1997 in Beijing has resolved the following recommendations based on the document (97/X/14) submitted by NZART, which says;

"That Region 3 Societies help to promote the IARU objectives for QRP operation, specifically:

- i) to support QRP operation on June 17 each year;
- ii) to foster QRP activities by their members;
- iii) to encourage regular publication of QRP articles in their national magazines; to provide QRP sections in any national contests; and
- v) to assist other Societies with the promotion and development of QRP."

Accordingly, member Societies are requested to note the above resolution and take appropriate actions with reference to the holdings of the following events, for example, in order to contribute to more effective use of radio spectrum:

- 1) QRP Field Day;
- 2) QRP Contest;
- 3) Distribution of QRP Transmitter Kits and Reference Book; and
- 4) Workshop of QRP Operation.
- 5) Activation of QRP co-memorial stations

73,
Yuki, Yosuke Uchiyama, JH1NBN
Secretary, IARU Region 3

Continued on next page



Date : 01 / 04 / 2024
Author : IARU Region 3
b2024 IARU HF World Championship Contest

The 2024 IARU HF World Championship Contest takes place the second full weekend of July, beginning 1200 UTC Saturday and ending 1200 UTC Sunday (13-14 July 2024). Both Single and Multi operator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

All licensed amateurs worldwide are eligible to participate in this contest. The objective of this contest is to contact as many other amateurs as possible, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

Multipliers are the total number of ITU zones plus IARU member society HQ stations worked on each band (not mode). Thus, your Society's HQ stations participation is very important for the multipliers.

IARU officials represent a maximum of four multipliers per band (AC, R1, R2 and R3). Our two regional AC members have the option of using "AC" or our regional designator "R3". Regional EC members who are not AC members must use our designator "R3".

You can find the complete rules at this URL
<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

Enjoy and good luck!

73,
Yuki, Yosuke Uchiyama, JH1NBN
Secretary, IARU Region 3



ARRL Volunteers Obtain Ham Exemption to Pennsylvania Handsfree Law

Member-volunteers of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® in Pennsylvania have successfully protected the legal right to use amateur radio while operating mobile within the state. A handsfree distracted driving bill had worked its way through the legislature over the past several years, and ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF, successfully advocated for an exemption for licensed radio amateurs. “The bill survived until just before the latest vote, which stripped out our exemption but left in exemptions for commercial drivers, including truck drivers, bus drivers, and public transportation [drivers],” he wrote in a message to ARRL members in Pennsylvania.

In April, the exemption was stripped from the bill, sending Pennsylvania hams into a state of worry. ARRL members in the state rallied, contacting their state legislators to explain the benefit that licensed operators provide to the state. The bill also was going to remove the ability for first responders, such as volunteer firefighters, to use radios in their personally owned vehicles. “Hundreds of emails then went out to legislators

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and such and back to me. We also helped our volunteer emergency responders who were in the same boat as us with radio use from their personal cars. Many members are also emergency responders as well, and they picked up on this too,” said Famiglio.

This week, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted in favor of accepting the bill with the exemption. The senate passed it last summer. The bill is now on its way to Governor Josh Shapiro’s desk, where he is expected to sign it. Mobile use of amateur radio will continue in Pennsylvania, thanks to ARRL advocacy and government relations carried out by member-volunteers.

2024 ARRL Youth Rally A Success at Dayton Hamvention



The second day of the 2024 ARRL National Convention, hosted at Dayton Hamvention® was a success and attendee turnout is impressive. The chilly, cloudy morning soon gave way to mostly blue skies and scorching sunshine.

The heavy attendance was especially apparent in the expo buildings, as hoards of hams flocked to the manufacturer booths – not only to escape the heat outside, but to browse the huge variety of equipment. The aisles are

flanked by exhibitors like FlexRadio, ABR Industries, Begali Keys, Icom, GigaParts, DX Engineering, Ham Radio Outlet, and many more big names in amateur radio manufacturing.

At the ARRL exhibit booths, Eric Stoddart, K8ERS, stands aside the ARRL Momobeam Dual Band Antenna he had just purchased. “Looks like it’s going to be a good antenna! Hopefully it will perform as well as it looks, and that in the next few weeks it’ll be on the air,” he said before disappearing back into the sea of other hams, most of whom were also carrying new purchases.

The antenna is perfect for hams with limited space who would like to take advantage of the global operating opportunities propagation is affording near the peak of Solar Cycle 25. It features an integrated 10-meter Moxon and a 6-meter yagi.

Back in Forum Room 2, Carole Perry, WB2MGP, kicks off the highly anticipated ARRL Youth Rally headed by ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, by thanking all those who helped make the rally possible. She told the audience – made up of young hams, their parents, sponsor representatives, and plentiful volunteers -- “They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, look around this room. It takes a team to support this youth forum.”



The first youth presenter out of many was sixth-grader Cameron Frey, KD9VGV. In only 2 years since being introduced to amateur radio, he has become a

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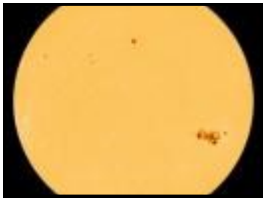
General-class, fully fledged Parks on the Air® fanatic, and that's just part of his ham radio repertoire. "I've done more than 100 central activations, and more than 40 different parks. I've also hunted more than 700 different parks," Frey said with pride.



The Youth Rally continued for most of the day with a slew of activities planned for the young hams. To break the ice, the young people were encouraged to catch a satellite pass outside of the forum room that just happened to be overhead at the start of the rally's next phase.

The Youth Rally was capped off with a forum about the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program www.arrl.org/wewantu featuring speakers from many of the participating colleges and universities. "Getting people hooked on Ham Radio through hands on activities is the goal of the 2024 ARRL Youth Rally".

The K7RA Solar Update



ASWFC GEOMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE WARNING ISSUED AT 2302 UTC/09 MAY 2024 BY THE AUSTRALIAN SPACE WEATHER FORECASTING CENTRE.

Four halo CMEs first observed over 08-09 May are expected to arrive at Earth on 10-May, starting at 1000 UTC +/- 10 hours. G4 geomagnetic conditions are expected on 10-May, reducing to G3 with a chance of G4 on 11-May.

Six new sunspot groups appeared this reporting week, May 2-8, one each day on May 2-4, two on May 5 and another on May 6. On May 9 two more sunspot groups emerged, and the daily sunspot number rose to 170.

Average daily sunspot number increased from 124.6 to 138.3, and average daily solar flux rose from 144.9 to 177.6.

The solar flux is peaking now and may peak again around June 11-12 at 205.

"So far, on the lower shortwave bands, we have seen rapid and large increases in attenuation during large flares, up to and including disruption of communications for tens of minutes to hours. The phenomenon is abbreviated SWF (Shortwave Fading), belongs to the SID (Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance) group. SWF is named after two physicists, John Howard Dellinger and Hans Mogel, as the Dellinger effect, or sometimes Mogel-Dellinger effect.



Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2429 for Friday May 17th, 2024

POWERFUL SOLAR STORM BRINGS AURORAS, SHUTS HF COMMUNICATION



JIM/ANCHOR: We begin this week's newscast with a look at the monumental solar flares that struck us here on Earth -- a storm with a magnitude not seen in more than 20 years. We have details from Randy Sly, W4XJ.

RANDY: The sun erupted in a series of powerful geomagnetic storms that began on Friday the 10th of May and continued into the following

week, generating spectacular auroras seen around the world and all but shutting down HF radio communications. Satellite systems, including the massive Starlink constellation, reported degraded operating conditions and space scientists told satellite operators that their orbits could be unexpectedly altered. At the outset of the storm, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expressed concern over the impact the magnetic disturbances would have on power grids and navigation systems.



This was the first solar burst of its kind in more than two decades, emerging as the first G5-level solar storm since 2003. Curtains of light could be seen shimmering from the aurora borealis to the north and the aurora australis to the south as the Earth's magnetic field became charged with overwhelming infusions of the sun's energy.



While the visuals were dazzling, HF propagation was anything but -- and it challenged amateur radio operators who, in spite of it all, managed to still get on the air, with some finding the 6-metre band more hospitable.

National Public Radio quoted scientists as saying that the storm's radiation could disrupt some low-altitude satellites' orbit by adding to atmospheric drag and cause direct damage to

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satellites at higher altitudes. NOAA space scientist Rob Steenburgh told NPR that the International Space Station's position inside the magnetosphere would keep it largely protected.

RECALLING THE MORSE CODE MIMICS OF THE US MILITARY



JIM/ANCHOR: Our final story this week is no illusion but the story itself deals with some of the greatest masters of illusion in the US military during wartime. We hear more from Ralph Squillace KK6ITB.

RALPH: The 23rd Headquarters Special Troops - members of the "Ghost Army" - were the magicians of the military whose efforts went well beyond the inflatable cannons, tanks and trucks - or other tools of trickery - contained in arsenal to confound the enemy. The top-secret unit's 82 officers and 1,023 soldiers were experts who used visual, sonic and radio trickery to render realism to fictional military manoeuvres. Like the impersonators of the entertainment world who can recreate the voice and personal style of some celebrities, some of the troops learned to do the same with CW. The unit's Signal Company Special adopted the rhythm and signature touch of certain enemy soldiers' fists, modifying their radios' sounds as well and then transmitting on enemy frequencies with their bogus messages. In that guise, they sent scripted reports and created fake traffic nets designed to be intercepted by German intelligence and send their military off course.



Ham radio, of course, hopes to keep things real -- our nets as well as our QSOs. This documentary is an eloquent reminder, however, of how radio can help change the course of history, whether in war or peace.

NORTHEAST INDIAN HAMS HOLD FIRST DISASTER DRILL



JASON: Amateur radio operators in the northeast Indian state of Nagaland participated in an unprecedented and comprehensive mock disaster exercise in cooperation with state authorities.

The May 9th drill was designed to sharpen disaster-management skills and create greater resiliency in the state, especially in regions where conventional communications, such as cell service, can be disrupted by disaster.

The exercise was the result of a collaboration between the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority and Open Source Classes for Amateur Radio India, also known as OSCAR India. OSCAR India is a programme of the All India School of Management and Information Technology. OSCAR India had worked in late April with the Nagaland disaster management officials to prepare as many candidates as possible to sit the ham radio exam being offered by the Ministry of Telecommunications later this year.

Johnny Ruangmei (ROO ANG MAY), the state disaster authority's joint chief executive officer, told the media that Nagaland can now count itself as one of the first states in India to formalize a robust system of disaster communications.

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 May issues of Oxtales. The club had 84 members. Henry VK2ZHE was President and acting secretary, Larry VK2CLL Vice President, Keith VK2FKJA Treasurer, and David VK2 FRAB Secretary.



Hearty congratulations were given to Barry VK2LBG (photograph on the left) formally VK2FBRG on passing the examination to be upgraded to a Standard License holder.

The club was also well represented in the Urunga Radio Convention Field Day.

The major club "working bee" was a repair to the communications caravan that had suffered water damage.

The Club also took part in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day held at the John Downes Reserve as can be seen in the photographs below:

... John Moyle Memorial Field Day Sunday the 16th of March 2014 at John Downes Reserve



The club's caravan was undergoing repairs due to water damage. Lyle VK2FCVI (now VK2SMI) offered the use of his communication caravan called the "Palace".

Lyle VK2FCVI and Henry VK2ZHE setting up

Several antennas were quickly erected and operations commenced.



Caravan and antennas set up for operation

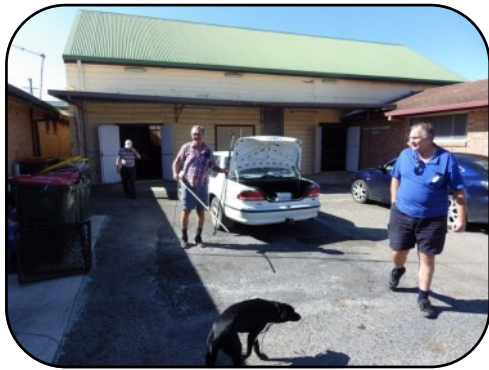
Note the use of the squid pole to support a wire antenna.

Master Class Chef Richard VK2CHC with Craig VK2ZCM (SK) and Ross VK2RR (SK) feeding the troops. Right



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Urunga Radio Convention Field Day in Pictures



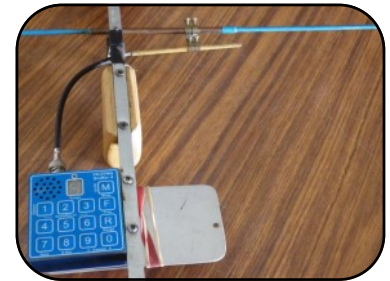
A hunting we will go. The fox VK2DMS prepares to be hunted by Lyle VK2FCVI (Now VK2SMI) the hound.

Right These 2 won by Craig VK2ZCM (Now SK) for second place in the 2 metre pedestrian foxhunt and the 2 metre talk in fox hunt.



Left Impressive examples of homebrew with Gary VK2ZKT Radio Supply looking on.

Right VK3NYG sniffer for fox



ARTHUR'S VENTILATION SERVICE

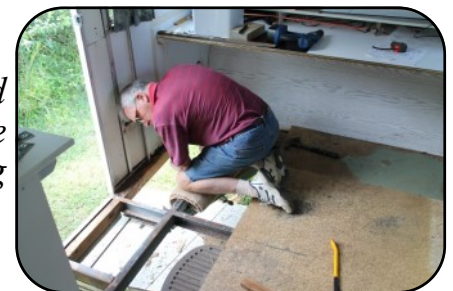
By David VK2FRAB

A failure in the seal of the Comm's Caravan side window allowed rainwater to leak in, causing water damage to the flooring.

Resources of Club member's were mobilised to fix the problem. Henry VK2ZHE's trailer came in handy to transport the large sheet of marine ply and the two metre long aluminium angle from Bunnings to the Caravan site.



Bill VK2ZCV (SK) and Arthur VK2ATM prise the damage flooring out.



Dennis VK2FAET (Now VK2DAM) and Bill VK2ZCV (SK), laid out the old pieces onto the new panel for Henry VK2ZHE to trace out the pattern.

Bill VK2ZCV visited Mid Coast Fasteners and Bunnings for the screws, drills, Sikaflex, bolts & nuts. Henry VK2ZHE provided the tools, particularly a versatile gadget, Ozito Multi-function Tool that can cut in just about any situation and without sawdust billowing into the air. Arthur joked that he might buy one and go into the ventilation business! '

Equipment from the Past

Icom IC-746



The Icom IC-746 was a popular all mode Amateur Band transceiver that covered the amateur bands between 160 to 10 meters and include 6 meters and 2 meters. It had 100 Watts output available on all bands - HF, 50 MHz and 144 MHz, making the IC-746 a practical choice for all-around base station use.

The Icom IC-746 was introduced in 1997 and had a production run until 2002 and was a fully solid state transceiver with an initial recommended retail price of approximately \$2,300 US which is equivalent to about \$4,400 Australian in todays money. Prices today on eBay range up to 800 US (Australian approximately 1,200\$ plus postage more than 230 \$).

The Icom IC-746 HAD die-cast aluminium chassis and a large cooling fan to stabilize the PA circuit, providing 100% full duty cycle operation. It has 100 alphanumeric memories, spectrum display, Twin PBT, CTCSS encode/decode, APF, two stage preamp, keypad entry, automatic antenna tuner and electronic keyer. DSP digitally transposes receive audio components in all modes of operation to produce desired AF frequency characteristics at the IF stage of the transceiver. This built-in DSP provides: noise reduction, automatic notch filter and selectable APF. The digital bar graph meter displays ALC, power output and SWR simultaneously!

The radio automatically selects from the three separate antenna inputs (HF, 6 meters, 2 meters). A built-in automatic antenna tuner operates on the HF bands plus 6 meters. The rear panel has three antenna jacks. The 746 requires 12 VDC at 20 Amps.

The IC-746 supplied a with HM-36 hand mic, spare fuses, DC power cable and key plug. The dimensions were 29cm x 12 cm x 32cm

Features

Spectrum Scope, 102 Memories, RIT/XIT

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Noise Blanker, VOX Function, Dual Display, 100 Watt Output, 40 Watt Output (AM)
Built-in Automatic Antenna Tuner 180-6 Meter, Full Break-In CW, CW Keyer, 100% Duty Cycle, Rx Antenna Jack, DSP Notch, 1 Hz Readout, Memory Keyer, RF Attenuator 6/12/18 dB

SPECIFICATIONS

GENERAL Type: Amateur HF/VHF transceiver

Frequency range

TX: 10-160 m + WARC / 50-54 / 144-146 MHz

RX: 0.03-60 / 108-174 MHz, Tuning steps: Down to 1 Hz

Frequency stability: ± 5 ppm @ 0 to 50°C (20 to 122°F)

Mode: AM / FM / SSB / CW / RTTY

Channels / memory management: 99 regular with 9 character alpha tags, 2 scan edges

Non-volatile EEPROM storage

Repeater shift / offset: $\pm 0-4$ MHz in 1 KHz steps

Power supply: 13.8 VDC $\pm 15\%$

Current drain / power consumption: RX: 1.8 to 2 A, TX: Max 20 A

Antenna impedance / connector: 50 ohm Three SO-239

Dimensions (W*H*D): 287*120*316 mm (11.3*4.72*12.44")

Weight: 8.9 Kg (19.62 lb)

Other features: CTCSS/PL. Auto ATU. Electronic keyer. Simple spectrum scope.

VOX. DSP. CI-V computer control.

RECEIVER SECTION

Receiver system: Triple conversion superheterodyne

1st IF: 69.01 MHz, 2nd IF: 9.01 MHz, 3rd IF: 455 KHz

Sensitivity: AM (10 dB S/N), 0.5-1.8 MHz: 13 uV, 1.8-30 MHz: 2 uV (Preamp 1 on)

6 m/2 m: 1 uV (Preamp on)

FM (12 dB SINAD) 28-30 MHz: 0.5 uV (Preamp 1 on), 6 m: 0.25 uV (Preamp 2 on)

2 m: 0.18 uV (Preamp on)

SSB/CW/RTTY (10 dB S/N) 1.8-30 MHz: 0.16 uV (Preamp 1 on), 6 m: 0.13 uV (Preamp 2 on), 2 m: 0.11 uV (Preamp on)

TRANSMITTER SECTION

RF output power:

AM: 5-40 W, FM: 5-100 W, SSB (PEP): 5-100 W, CW: 5-100 W

Modulation system: AM/SSB: Balanced modulation

FM: Variable reactance modulation

Max FM deviation (Factory set): Max ± 5 KHz

Spurious emissions: HF: Better than -50 dB

VHF: Better than -60 dB

Microphone impedance / connector: 600 ohm / 8-pin (Metal locking ring connector)



Acknowledgements.

ICOM IC-746 (eham.net)
<https://www.eham.net/>
QST 1998

Closure of MFJ by Owner Martin F. Jue K5FLU

The following article was submitted by Henry VK2ZHE.

MFJ Enterprises announced the closing of its production facilities in Mississippi starting in May 2024. After 52 years of operation, MFJ will halt all production on May 17th including Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics. MFJ was founded by Martin F. Jue (K5FLU) in 1972.

It's a very significant bit of news that will affect almost every active Amateur Radio operator. There wouldn't be many of us who didn't have several pieces of equipment from MFJ and its associated companies.

MFJ Enterprises, was founded in 1972 by Martin F. Jue, and was a manufacturer of a broad range of products for the amateur radio market. They specialized in station accessories, such as antenna tuners and antenna switching equipment. MFJ manufactured more amateur radio products than any other company in the world. Representative products have been described in QST Magazine and CQ Amateur Radio.

The initials "MFJ" in the company name are those of the founder, Martin F. Jue (ham radio callsign K5FLU).

Existing stock will continue to be sold past May 17th. Repair services will be offered for the foreseeable future.



A Heavy Sad Heart

April 25, 2024

Dear Fellow Hams and Friends,

It is with a sad heart as I write this letter.

As many of you have heard by now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024. This is also the same for our sister companies' Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vectronics.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything in businesses including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had

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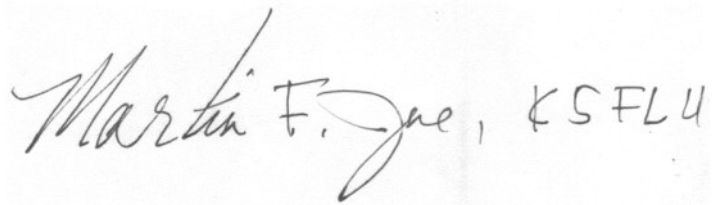
and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement but life is so short and my time with my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our employees who have helped build this company with me over the years. We have many employees who have made MFJ their career for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a worldwide name and a profitable business for so many years. You all are so much appreciated.



Sincerely Yours, 73s

Martin F. Jue, K5FLU

Illustrations below are just a fraction of the vast range of MFI products.



Tescun Radio

Oldest Radio Competition

Recently Tescun Radio held a competition to find who might have the oldest radio in their collection. The winner was Garry Burrow VK4CBI from The Gympie Communications and Electronics Group Inc. The following is an extract from Tescun Radio's web site.

' We are thrilled to announce the winner of our Oldest Radio competition, Gary Burow VK4GCB! Gary's vintage Phillips radio, built in 1929, has captured the hearts and minds of our community with its rich history and timeless charm.

Have a look at these fantastic photos from Gary!

'Here I am with my Phillips type 2516 radio, made in Holland in 1929, and it still works!

Top left is the antenna selector, top right is the tuning. Big knob in the centre is the volume'



A Glimpse into History:

The Phillips Type 2516 radio was a marvel of its time, boasting cutting-edge features that revolutionized the way people experienced radio. With its sleek design and superior performance, it quickly became a beloved household item, bringing news, entertainment, and music into homes across the globe.

Key Features:

Vintage Elegance: The Phillips Type 2516 radio exudes vintage elegance with its polished wooden cabinet and intricate detailing, making it a timeless centerpiece for any room.

Exceptional Sound Quality: Despite its age, this radio delivers exceptional sound quality, thanks to its advanced engineering and meticulous craftsmanship.

Longevity: Built to last, the Phillips Type 2516 radio has stood the test of time, remaining fully functional and captivating enthusiasts with its enduring charm.



Definition of Artificial Intelligence from ChatGPT

Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE

During a regular 40 metre sked, the question was asked "What is Artificial Intelligence?" Jamie 2YCJ, asked the question of Chat GPT and here is a response plus a bonus of a poem about Amateur Radio written by ChatGPT.

Artificial Intelligence from ChatGPT

Narrow AI (Weak AI): This type of AI is designed to perform a narrow task, such as facial recognition or language translation. Narrow AI systems excel at specific tasks but lack the ability to generalize beyond their programmed capabilities.

General AI (Strong AI): General AI refers to AI systems that possess the ability to understand, learn, and apply knowledge across different domains, similar to human intelligence. General AI remains largely theoretical and is not yet achieved.

Artificial Superintelligence (ASI): ASI would surpass human intelligence in every aspect and could potentially solve complex problems beyond human capabilities. This level of AI is purely speculative and remains a subject of philosophical debate.

AI technologies encompass various subfields, including machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, robotics, and expert systems. Machine learning, in particular, plays a crucial role in AI development, enabling machines to learn from data without being explicitly programmed.

AI applications are diverse and pervasive, spanning industries such as healthcare, finance, transportation, entertainment, and more. Examples include virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa, recommendation systems used by streaming platforms, autonomous vehicles, medical diagnosis systems, and fraud detection algorithms.

While AI offers significant potential benefits, such as increased efficiency, improved decision-making, and the ability to tackle complex problems, it also raises ethical, social, and economic concerns. These include issues related to job displacement, bias in algorithms, privacy concerns, and the potential for misuse or unintended consequences. As AI continues to advance, it's essential to consider these implications and ensure that its development and deployment align with ethical principles and societal values.

ChatGPT response to a request to write a poem about amateur radio follows:

'Amateur radio, a world of sound, A vast universe of frequencies all around, Where people from far and wide, Join together in a hobby they cannot hide.

With each button press and twist of dial, They connect to strangers from near and far a mile, Sharing stories, knowledge and laughter too, In a community bound by a love of the airwaves that's true.

From the tallest tower to the simplest rig, Amateurs around the world come together to fiddle and twig, With every frequency, tone and wave, They send messages that travel miles and pave.

In moments of emergency and distress, They are the heroes who put their skills to the test, With messages of help and hope they send, Comforts the hearts of the families of those they tend.

Amateur radio, a world of wonder and delight, Where hobbyists come together and share their light, A community connected by the magic of the air, An adventure that takes us all to places beyond compare.'

Editors note: both of the above were responses from the ChatGPT app at the time of request. A future request may well produce a different response from the app.

The responses certainly provide much "food for thought".

For Sale

Club Member John Bailey VK2KHB is attempting to rationalise his Amateur Radio equipment and is offering the following items for sale. Both Items are in their Original Boxes.

ICOM- 746 HF and VHF all mode Transceiver in as new condition in original box.



Asking price \$1,000.

HUSTLER 4 Band Vertical Antenna model number 4BTV in original box.

Asking Price \$200

Further details can be had by contacting John Bailey VK2KHB directly on Telephone 65822192 or mobile 0402283954



Reminders

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

Annual Subscriptions Due

ORARC Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM reminds ORARC members that annual subscriptions are due for renewal on the 1st of July 2024.

The next issue of Oxtales will be a “bumper” issue with photographs and reports of the recent highly successful Antenna Shoot Out at Larry VK2CLL’s QTH with much appreciated hospitality provided by Larry’s family.

Oxtales depends upon contributions from our members; please feel free to contribute articles, photographs and amusing cartoons.

Contributions may be sent by email to the editors, Arthur VK2ATM, or John VK2AYQ at hansen-jol@bigpond.com or the President Henry VK2ZHE.

