



# 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

## July 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

### 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

### President's Report

July 2024



President's Report

### Membership Renewals

July marks the start of a new Financial Year for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Membership renewals became due on the 1st of July. Please renew promptly.

Now that TidyHQ is active you can check your membership status on line via the Member Portal on the ORARC website <https://www.orarc.org/> Just click on the MEMBER PORTAL link in the grey menu bar near the top of the Home Page and follow the prompts to log in to TidyHQ. You have to create a password for secure access. You can only access your own details.

The simplest way to pay your membership is via the payment option when you are

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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 6 July 2024 2:00 pm**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,  
Thrumster  
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**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,  
Thrumster  
Thursday 8 August 2024**

**Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 16 August 2024 7.00 pm**

**Remembrance Day Contest  
0300 UTC Saturday 17 August 2024 to 0300  
UTC Sunday 18 August 2024**

**International Lighthouse and Lightship Week-  
end 17 & 18 August 2024  
VK2BOR entered for Tacking Point Lighthouse**

**Monthly General Meeting  
Saturday 7 September 2024 2:00 pm**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,  
Thrumster  
Thursday 12 September 2024**

**Friday Night Get-Together  
Friday 20 September 2024 7.00 pm**

**The 67<sup>th</sup> Jamboree On The Air will take place  
on 19 and 20 October 2024.**

**Beechwood Billycart Classic  
Sunday 27 October 2024**

**ORARC Christmas Party – Saturday 7 Decem-  
ber 2024 – Long Point Vineyard and Art Gal-  
lery Covered Picnic Area.**

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

**Sundays  
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays  
(1930 Local)**

**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		

**August 2024**

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

**September 2024**

VK2FMGM	Sept 1	VK2ICQ	Sept 5
VK2FMGM	Sept 8	VK2EM	Sept 12
VK2FMGM	Sept 15	VK2ZHE	Sept 19
VK2FMGM	Sept 22	VK2ICQ	Sept 26
VK2FMGM	Sept 29		

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### 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**

### Vale Cindy Dignum VK2VDW

“ Cindy Dignum VK2VDW of Wauchope passed away on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2024. Cindy had been married to Tracy Dignum VK2GTM and together they had four children who were all with Cindy when she passed away. Cindy was the sister of ARNSW Secretary Eric van de Weyer VK2VE.”

**jaycar**

logged into TidyHQ. You can also pay by Stripe by direct deposit to the ORARC RAB bank account but Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM will always be pleased to receive payments by cash or card in person at the club meetings. Cheques may be posted to the club at PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

The Committee is pleased to advise that again there is no rise in the cost of Membership Subscriptions for the 2024-2025 Financial Year. The fees are the same as those of last year. Ordinary Membership remains at \$40 per annum. Associate Membership remains at \$20 per annum. Distant Membership remains at \$10 per annum. Family Membership remains as a single fee equal to the membership fee for the most expensive membership included in the members covered by the family membership. For example, two Distant members covered by a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$10. An Ordinary Member and an Associate Member included in a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$40. Two Ordinary Members covered by a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$40.

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**Bank Name: Regional Australia Bank**

**BSB: 932000**

**Account Number: 500032744**

**Account Name: Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

Please use your callsign as the reference for the payment

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

### **Annual General Meeting**

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. will be held at 2 pm on Saturday the 3rd of August 2024 in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. Now is the time to consider nominating for one of the club office bearer positions. They all become vacant at the AGM. The strength of the club lies in having an active Committee to inspire and lead the club to do the many worthwhile things that enable the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club live up to all of its objectives to serve its members and the community, and to promote Amateur Radio as a hobby.

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

The current Committee has worked very hard to make the club's 2023– 2024 Financial Year a very successful one. The 2024 Annual Field Day weekend was particularly successful through the hard work by all who assisted and the very generous donations of cash and kind. The VK2RCN off-grid solar powered repeater site is running solely on solar power so there are no ongoing ever increasing mains electricity charges to pay.

## Monthly General Meetings



The business at ORARC Monthly General Meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie is kept to approximately 30 minutes so that there is time for a guest speaker or presentation.

There will not be a guest speaker after the 3rd of August 2024 Monthly General Meeting as it will take place after the conclusion of the AGM.

At the September 2024 Monthly General Meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 7th of September, the guest speaker will be Sandy Brucesmith VK2WH. Sandy has been an Amateur during the last 7 decades so he has a long history in the hobby. Many members will remember Sandy as VK2AD which he relinquished during a period in New Zealand. Needless to say VK2AD had been reissued by the time he returned to Australia so he is now VK2WH. Sandy will speak on Amateur Radio in the post war years of the 1950s and 1960s with a look into the major changes in the 1970s.

Please contact the Committee if you would like to do a presentation after one of the Monthly General Meetings, or if you have any suggestions regarding suitable speakers, or if you have any topics that you would like to be presented.

## Club Activities

ORARC runs a surprising number of activities and events each year. These range from the Monthly General Meetings, the Friday night get-togethers on the third Friday of each month, the weekly Sunday morning and Thursday evening club nets on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz Middle Brother Repeater, the Coffee Morning on the second Thursday of each month, and of course special events such as the Christmas Party and the annual Field Day on the June long weekend, and the Antenna Shootout. In addition, club members provide the safety communications for events such as the Beechwood Billycart Classic.

In the past the club station VK2BOR has regularly participated in the John Moyle Field Day, the Remembrance Day contest, the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, the Jamboree on the Air, and the VHF/UHF Summer and Winter Field Day Contests. The Committee encourages members to volunteer to participate in these events. The Club's well-equipped Communications Caravan has been under utilised since COVID but it is hoped that this can be turned around.

## ORARC 2024 Annual Field Day



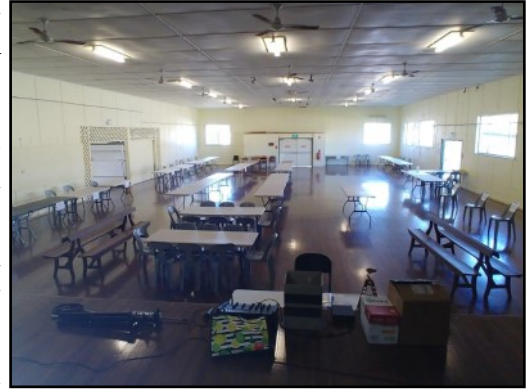
The very successful ORARC 2024 48th Field Day was held in perfect weather on Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of June during the Kings Birthday June long weekend. As well as being a very enjoyable Field Day for everyone, the Field Day was a financial success as well.

The 2024 Field Day was held at the Wauchope Showground Hall

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*Continued from previous page* over the two days. The Hall has already been booked again for the 2025 Field Day on Saturday and Sunday the 7th and 8th of June 2025.

Special thanks must go to Peter Fletcher VK2HPF, Larry Lindsay VK2CLL, Grahame O'Brien VK2FA, Judy O'Brien VK2ZZV and Wade Boyd VK2EST who set up the showground hall on Friday the 6th of June in readiness for the early influx of traders and visitors on the Saturday morning. Peter picked up and prepared the PA system kindly loaned by Paul Webster VK2BZC and transported the PA system and the tables loaned by Henry Lundell VK2ZHE. This greatly simplified the logistics and was greatly appreciated, especially by Field Day Manager Henry Lundell VK2ZHE.



The very enjoyable Field Day Dinner was held in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on the evening of Saturday the 8th of June 2024. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for again sponsoring the hire of the Function Room for the Field Day Dinner. Gary has generously offered to sponsor the hire of the Port Macquarie Golf Club Function Room for the 2025 Field Day Dinner. The room has been

booked for Saturday the 7th of June 2025. Thank you, Gary.

There were 112 paid registrations. It is pleasing to see that the attendance is still continuing to increase each year. The regular contingent from Sydney and environs, the Central Coast, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Great Lakes and Taree, Kempsey and Coffs Harbour areas, the Clarence and the Northern Tablelands made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list includes home towns such as Sydney, Newcastle, Maitland, Warners Bay, Wyong, Lemon Tree Passage, Wyoming, Gloucester, Nahiab, Rainbow Flat, Forster, Tuncurry, Taree, Wingham, Harrington, Coopernook, Kempsey, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Armidale, Coonabarabran, Wollongong, Brisbane, Adelaide and Lord Howe Island. When added to the many locals from the Hastings and Camden Haven valleys it is clear that the Field Day is indeed very popular. Thank you to everyone who attended. Please tell all your friends about the great weekend. We look forward to an even bigger attendance next year for the 49th annual Field Day.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with many complimentary comments regarding the venue and the excellent catering. No-one went hungry and lots of people found great bargains from the traders who had brought stock in especially for the Field Day. The extremely popular DMR Clinic and the increased number of exhibitors created a lot of interest.

## Disposals



The disposals tables were particularly busy this year with lots of bargains, and lots of free items. The hall was set up with double the number of disposals tables of previous years. The turnover in disposals items was impressive with a continual stream of

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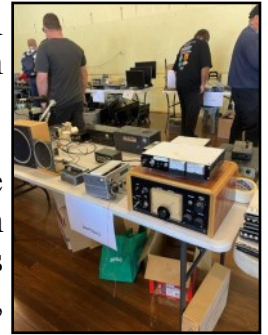
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items being added over the two days. A surprising number of items were sold within minutes of being placed on the tables.

There were many diverse bargains from the disposals tables. There was everything from transceivers, test equipment and surplus commercial equipment to antennas, cables,

connectors and hardware. There were some high quality items at very keen prices for discerning buyers.



Amongst the major collections of disposals items were lots of equipment and a vast array of hard to get components from the estate of the late John Marriott VK2JB. John's sons Stephen and Ron did a tremendous job in bringing the items to the Field Day. Many people went away with bargains. Thank you to Stephen and Ron for their generous donation to ORARC.

### **DMR Clinic**



The DMR clinic was extremely busy with Paul Colledge VK2ICQ and Ben Waters VK2BJW (Photograph on left) loading lots of DMR Code Plugs and firmware updates into both newly purchased and existing DMR radios during the weekend. Some people came up from long distances especially to have code plugs loaded. Thank you to Ian Lindquist VK2GL for providing the updated Codeplug for the Retevis RT3S and TYT MD-UV380 hand held transceivers which is available as a download from Ian's

website <https://vk2idl.com/index.php/dmr-digital-mobile-radio/>

### **Trade Displays**

#### **Radio Supply**

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

Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Carol Ryan VK2CSR for their long-time support of the annual Field



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Day, not only just for their stand, but for their ongoing very generous sponsorship in the hire of the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club for the Field Day Dinner.

Gary displayed a range of his beautifully constructed home brew projects and recent restorations on the Radio Supply stand. Gary had been very busy and demonstrated his expertise in achieving a very professional high quality result through

attention to detail and use of readily available resources. His working display of his restored Icom IC-R75 receiver created a lot of interest. Photograph on the left.

### QSL Comms



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

QSL Comms very generously donated a range of prizes which very significantly increased the prize pool for the Field Day. The club is particularly appreciative of these generous donations which greatly increased interest in the major raffle and the lucky door draws. Thank you, Mark.

### Jaycar and Road Tech Marine



This year the Port Macquarie stores of Jaycar and Road Tech Marine (RTM) joined forces to set up a spectacular exhibit displaying a representative range of products stocked by the two stores. Respective store managers Krystie and Amber did an amazing job of setting up their stands and speaking with the visitors to their stand. They both have superb product knowledge and are extremely helpful. There was everything from test equipment, electronics, radios, CB and marine transceivers, antennas, 12 and 24 Volt fridges and freezers, lights, networking products, inverters, batteries, electrical accessories, hardware, tools and camping requisites.

Most people are already familiar with the extensive range of electronic and electrical equipment, components, tools and hardware in the Jaycar range but not everyone may have been aware of the equally extensive range of additional products carried by RTM for the road and marine market.

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The collective product range of the Jaycar and RTM stores is far too extensive for it to be practical to take a worthwhile inventory for sales at a show but both stores were open for the three days of the Kings Birthday holiday weekend and Port Macquarie was only a short drive from Wauchope for people to take advantage of Field Day special prices and have immediate access to the full range of stocked products.

Jaycar set up a working display of one of its popular 3D printers. This display created a lot of interest. Lots of people went away with samples of various useful items they saw being printed. A significant number of people were inspired to buy printers after seeing just how versatile and easy to use the printers are.



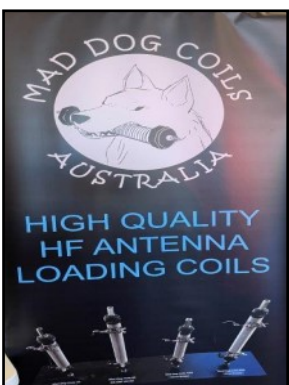
In addition to many of the lines carried by Jaycar, RTM carry a wide range of items for those with trailers, caravans, motor homes and boats and for those participating in outdoor activities. The Benelec display showcased a range of cellular products as well as the familiar range of Benelec antennas. Other items ranged from multifit spare wheels to satellite television.

Many people were seen comparing the weight of a range of lead acid and Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries on display. There were examples of a range of off grid power products including batteries, inverters and portable power stations for run the technology that everyone now takes for granted when away from home.

As a special treat many of us had the opportunity to taste freeze dried ice cream for the first time. Yes, it tastes and feels like normal ice cream. It's another one of the many things available from RTM!

There were lots of give away Jaycar and RTM goodies bags and other freebies handed out over the two days.

### **Mad Dog Coils**



Keen Parks on the Air (POTA) operator Marty Nelson VK4KC set up his Mad Dog Coils <https://maddogcoils.com.au/> business stand for the first time this year. His stand was a welcome addition to the Field Day and created a lot of interest and did a brisk trade in his coils and antenna mounts and accessories.

Since the Field Day Marty has added his MDC Mutt EFHW Transformer and Antenna to his product range. The Mutt incorporates a 56:1 transformer to feed end fed wire antennas.

### **Parks on the Air (POTA)**

Marty Nelson VK4KC as the Australian POTA Co-ordinator also set up the Parks on the Air Stand. This stand created a lot of interest and attracted a lot of active POTA operators as well as a lot of people keen to learn just what is needed in order to activate a park.



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Marty and several very experienced POTA operators including Gerard Hill VK2IO, John Jones VK4MUD, Richard Osborne VK2OKR and Bruce Ekert VK2EM spent a lot of time encouraging and mentoring the many people who were new to POTA operation, or were interested in participating in this interesting Amateur Radio activity.

The experienced group went out and did a couple of quick POTA operations during the weekend and Wade Boyd VK2EST amongst others went with them to see first hand how it was done.



### Bruce Ekert VK2EM



Bruce Ekert VK2EM displayed and demonstrated a very interesting range of his projects. His stand was very popular with those wishing to learn more about the various modes of digital communications and the art of portable operation. Bruce is well known as a keen portable operator. Most people will be

familiar with Summits on the Air (SOTA) but Bruce has also popularized Parks on the Air (POTA) and Beaches on the Air (BOA) <https://www.beachesontheair.com/>

Bruce entered his impressive home brew portable station project in the Home Brew Competition. He won first prize!



### Mobile One

Mobile One didn't set up a stand this year but Greg Ackman VK4BBX called in to the Field Day and spoke with many people. Mobile One is a long standing well-known Australian manufacturer of antennas and accessories for both the communications industry and the Amateur and CB market. <https://www.mobileone.com.au/>



### Redcap Antennas Kaysan

Sandy Bruce Smith VK2WH is known for his range of Kaysan Engineering rail products but he also manufactures a range of

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Redcap VHF and UHF antennas. Sandy's stand had a steady stream of visitors throughout the weekend. He had an interesting range of useful items for sale including some of his 3D printed hardware and heavy duty fiberglass tubing. Sandy has done a lot of research into the optimal 3D printing media for strength, UV and temperature tolerance and high voltage withstanding qualities for his products. For Amateur Radio his VHF Yagi antenna element mounts which includes a version with provision to support a gamma match, greatly simplify antenna construction.

Many people just took the opportunity to catch up with Sandy and reminisce over his long association with Amateur Radio and the electronics industry during the last six decades. He was previously VK2AD and is well remembered for his years with Dick Smith and with Kenwood Australia before spending time running his own business in New Zealand.

## ALARA



Sadly, there was no Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA) stand this Year's Field Day. For more information about ALARA visit <http://www.alara.org.au/>. ALARA is one of many international associations of ladies in Amateur Radio. In Australia there are some 200 members. It is hoped that ALARA will be able to run an ALARA stand at future events.

## Battery World



Thank you to Battery World Port Macquarie for their generous donation of a range of useful give away items which were highly coveted, none more so than the very useful attractive caps.

Battery World are a regular valued supporter of the ORARC Annual Field Days.

## Field Day Dinner



The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was very popular again this year with approximately 30 people enjoying excellent food and a pleasant social evening in the Function Room. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous sponsorship by Radio Supply of the hire of the Function Room for the dinner. The spacious function room

provided a very pleasant environment for the Field Day Dinner and ensured that social distancing was easily maintained.

It is with pleasure that we can announce that the 2025 Field Day Dinner will again be in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. ORARC wishes to express its sincere thanks to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous ongoing sponsorship by Radio Supply of the hire of the Function Room which has been booked for the 2025 Field Day dinner on Saturday the 7th of June 2025.

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## Fox Hunts

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

Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL who hid and recovered the fox hunt transmitters with help from John Hansen VK2AYQ.



This year the club again had the three 4 Watt self-contained 80 metre foxes that were built in time for last year's Field Day. The foxes are in robust waterproof "ammo case" housings with their transmitters and keyers powered by inbuilt 12 Volt AGM deep cycle batteries. 80 metre resonant HVT-400 mobile helical whips are mounted directly

on the ammo cases and a four wire counterpoise completes the antenna system. The only complaint from the hounds was that the signals from the transmitters were too strong!

Thank you to Larry Lindsay for setting up and pre testing the foxes for the 2 metre mobile and pedestrian events.

Thank you to Peter Kucera VK2MPK for doing a sterling job as starter and recorder for the foxhunts.



## Field Day Results

Congratulations to 2024 Fox Hunt Champion Gerard Hill VK2IO of Castle Hill. The Runner-up Fox Hunt Champion was Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby.

The top hunters are always keen to see their names engraved on those little shields that are added to the Perpetual Trophy each year. There is very little space left on the Perpetual Trophy to add new shields so the new shields are now being placed on the sides of the pedestal. In a few years the trophy will be full and we will then need a new Perpetual Trophy.

Ben Waters VK2BJW took out the trophy for the best presented amateur vehicle. There were several worthy contenders but Ben's vehicle narrowly won from Grahame O'Brien VK2FA's newly fitted out Ford Ranger.

Bruce Ekert VK2EM of Tuncurry won the trophy for the Home Brew Competition with his impressive portable radio pack.

The various entries on the home brew table and the displays by Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Bruce Ekert VK2EM demonstrate that the art of Amateur Radio home brewing is still popular.

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Thanks to many generous donations the major raffle and lucky door prizes were of an extremely high standard this year.

The prizes (shown below) included a hand held transceiver, two Tecsun high quality portable receivers, a 2 metre/70cm mobile transceiver, various items of test equipment and tools. Thanks to QSL Comms, Jaycar Port Macquarie, Radio Supply, Battery World, Tecsun Australia and VK2ZHE.



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

The Major Raffle first prize winner Andy Keir VK2AAK of Darawank took home the much coveted Tecsun PL368 compact LW/MW/SW/FM full coverage AM/FM/USB/LSB/Synchronous AM radio receiver donated by Tecsun Australia and VK2ZHE.

The second prize in the raffle, the Tecsun PL330 compact LW/MW/SW/FM full coverage AM/FM/USB/LSB/Synchronous AM radio receiver donated by Tecsun Australia and VK2ZHE was won by John Bickle VK2XBJ of Sydney.

With a total of 16 prizes in the Major Raffle the draw was keenly watched. The subsequent prizes, all donated by QSL Comms, John Bailey VK2KHB, Jaycar Port Macquarie and VK2ZHE included a wide range of high quality prizes.

The Callsign Lucky Door first prize of an Abree AB250 mobile 25 Watt compact VHF/UHF transceiver donated by QSL Comms went to Scott Dening VK2IF of Kempsey.

The callsign Lucky Door draw second prize of a mobile antenna mounting base with a 5 metre cable terminated in a PL259 plug donated by QSL Comms was won by Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby.

In the non-callsign lucky door draw, first prize of the 131 Piece Tool Set with Carrying Bag was won by Steve Zeros of Newcastle. The second prize of the 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle and Neoprene Roll Up Jigsaw Holder was won by Lesley of port Macquarie.

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Field Day weekend. There are too many people to individually thank in this column but as already mentioned, many of the volunteers put in extraordinary efforts during the weekend as a number of those who normally volunteer for various tasks were either absent or not able to

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undertake the tasks that they had done in previous years. It did mean that some people doubled up and undertook more than one task. The result was that the weekend events all ran smoothly and everyone was well fed.

The Wauchope Showground hall has a dedicated basic kitchen but there was still a lot of work to barbeque and serve delicious food and drink throughout the weekend. Thanks to Paula Colledge VK2PDC, Lesley Ware, Wade Boyd VK2EST, Riley VK2KZV and to John Bailey VK2KHB for running the busy kitchen throughout the two days of the Field Day. As with last year a professional glass fronted Bain Marie was hired to keep the food hot. Sue Meade also helped, dividing her time with working on the registration desk.



The secret weapon this year was the professional electric grill purchased especially for the Field Day by Paula Colledge VK2PDC. It worked overtime in cooking a vast quantity of sausages, steak, onions and bacon and eggs in the kitchen instead of needing to use an outdoor gas barbeque. This worked extremely well and saved a great many steps by not having to go outside to cook.

John Bailey VK2KHB did a great job in obtaining all the provisions. As he has done for many years, John very generously donated most of the food including most of the eggs, all of the consumables, and all of the soft drinks. The generosity of John and other benefactors such as Wade Boyd VK2EST who donated some of the steak, John Winter VK2PJW who donated some of the eggs Henry Lundell VK2ZHE who donated the sausages, most of the steak, the bacon and the fruit salad and ice cream ensured that the sale of the very reasonably priced food was profitable.

Thank you to again to the food service team. There was always someone behind the counter to provide immediate service. The free tea, coffee and biscuits were continuously available in the dining alcove which worked particularly well and drew much favourable comment.

The breakfast bacon and egg sandwiches were particularly popular on both days with a record of 92 sold. The sausage sandwiches on both days were very popular. The steak sandwiches on both days were very popular. Word of how delicious the food was spread very quickly. The secret was in the quality of the ingredients and the expert barbequing. As always the fruit salad and ice cream dessert nicely rounded out Sunday lunch.

Thank you also to those who tirelessly ran the registration desk at the entrance to the hall and sold all the tickets for the food, drinks and the raffle. Special thanks must go to Sue Meade, Arthur Monck VK2ATM and Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM. Photographs on the next page. Thank you to everyone who donated cash or goods to be sold on behalf of the Club.

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At the end of the weekend Dennis was happy that the money and ticket sales reconciled after he accounted for the EFT sales, and that the Field Day had made a substantial profit. Some members

took the opportunity to pay their membership subscriptions. The availability of EFT proved popular and is now taken for granted as some people no longer carry cash.

Thank you to Dennis Meade VK2DAM for running the EFT facility.

Thank you to the many willing hands who set up the hall on Friday and then packed everything up on Sunday afternoon. The Showground Caretaker did a check as the hall was finally expertly swept by Chris Baird VK2CJB and everything was stowed. He was happy. It was hard to believe that only a few hours earlier the hall and environs had been a hive of activity with 112 attendees and a mountain of paraphernalia. Thank you to everyone for a great job. ORARC promptly received a refund of the \$250.00 bond for the hall together with another accolade for being model hirers. The \$250.00 bond was rolled over as the bond for the hire of the Showground Hall in 2025 for next year's Field Day.

Thank you to Wade Boyd VK2EST who brought two long wooden tables for use in the hall for the Field Day and then donated them to the Wauchope Show Society for use in the hall with an expectation that ORARC will be able to use them again next year.

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

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

The 2025 Field Day is only 11 months away. It will be the 49th annual Field Day. As already mentioned, the Wauchope Showground Hall has already been booked and the bond lodged. The Golf Club Function Room has already been booked for the Saturday night Field Day dinner. Thank you for Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for again sponsoring the hire of the function room. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to another enjoyable successful Field Day in 2025.

### **Antenna Shoot-out Day 19th of May 2024**



The 2024 Antenna Shootout was held Sunday the 19th of May 2024 at the Huntingdon property of Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Penny who again generously hosted the event this year. The weather remained fine for the day.

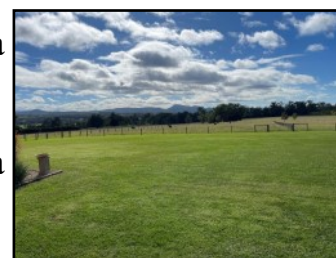
The property has a perfect ready made antenna range adjacent to the long straight driveway to the house from Huntingdon Road in a quiet rural setting.

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Photographs left and right of the antenna range.

The day started at 10am with a sumptuous morning tea served indoors.



Huntingdon is a pleasant half hour drive from Port Macquarie but for Dennis VK2DAM and Sue the trip turned into an adventure when they had to return home in limp mode when their car's transmission failed 5 minutes after setting out. They thought they would have to miss the shootout but in a bit of fortuitous timing Ray VK2JU and Lynne who were just departing home in Port Macquarie were contacted by phone and very kindly agreed to pick up Dennis and Sue and take them to the Shootout. Lynne had another commitment so couldn't stay for the Antenna Shootout so John VK2AYQ kindly brought Ray, Dennis and Sue back home at the end of the day.



The antenna shootout commenced after morning tea. The receiving antennas were set up on a tripod on the elevated verandah of the house with a clear view down to the transmitting site.



Arthur VK2ATM set up on the veranda with his spectrum analyser to measure the received signal strengths from the signal radiated from the reference and test antennas at the transmitting site. Bob VK2ZRE assisted Arthur with the setting up for the various measurements.

At the transmitting site Henry VK2ZHE, Larry VK2CLL John VK2AYQ and Dennis VK2DAM set up the transmitter and the reference and test antennas. A power meter and a 10 dB coaxial power attenuator ensured that identical power was delivered to both the reference and test antenna for each set of measurements.

All went very smoothly with the antenna measurements and Arthur VK2ATM recorded the results on the pre prepared spreadsheet on his laptop computer.

A total of six two metre antennas were tested and a total of five 70 centimetre antennas were tested. Photographs below.



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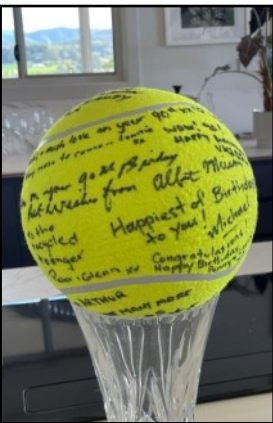
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Congratulations to Larry VK2CLL for winning the Shootout with his home brew VHF/UHF J pole antenna which outperformed the commercially built version which Bob VK2ZRE submitted. Larry also had the antenna with the most gain with his home built 2 metre yagi antenna.

Once the antenna measurements were completed everyone sat down at the tables on the patio and enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle barbeque lunch. Then came the surprise 90th Birthday celebration for Arthur Monck VK2ATM.

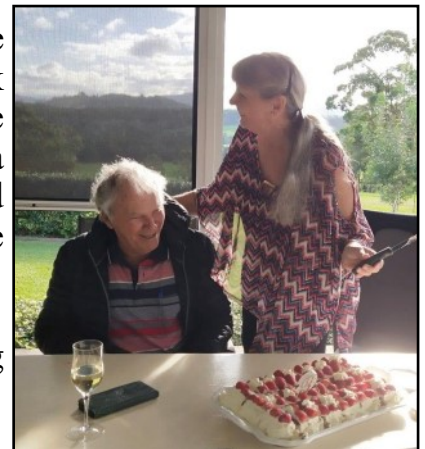


Arthur had turned 90 years earlier in the month but the gathering at the Antenna Shootout was a perfect opportunity for a celebration party complete with



Champagne and a magnificent birthday cake with loud exploding party poppers to mark the occasion. It was a truly memorable celebration and Arthur was presented with a giant tennis ball that everyone present had signed with good wishes to mark the occasion.

Thank you to Larry and Penny for hosting the Shootout again this year.



Those at the Antenna Shootout included Larry VK2CLL and Penny and Claudia, Arthur VK2ATM and Lesley, Bob VK2ZRE and Diana, Dennis VK2DAM and Sue, John VK2AYQ, Ray VK2JU, Ben VK2BJW and Henry VK2ZHE.

## **Remembrance Day and International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend**



This year both the Remembrance Day Contest and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend are on same weekend, the 17th and 18th of August 2024.

Options for participation of the Club station VK2BOR in the RD Contest and ILLW will be discussed at the August Monthly General Meeting which will be held immediately after the conclusion of the AGM on Saturday the 3rd of August 2024.

Since all the “improvements” at the Tacking Point Lighthouse it is no longer practical to set the Club’s Communication Caravan up at the Lighthouse itself. The ORARC Club Station VK2BOR is registered for the 2024 ILLW at the Tacking Point Lighthouse.

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Last year we tried a simple portable operation from a vehicle shoehorned into a parking spot. This worked quite well for making contacts. It does limit the opportunity to interact with the public and showcase Amateur Radio but it is practical.

Access to the Tacking Point Lighthouse has been explored with the Port Macquarie Hastings Council. Access has been denied in past years but it is being pursued again for this year. Operation from within the Lighthouse building would make it possible to participate in both the ILLW and the RD Contest simultaneously.

Unfortunately, operating VK2BOR in the ORARC Communications Caravan from the Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving Club carpark in Matthew Flinders Drive is marginally too far from the Lighthouse and does not fully comply with the intent of operating from the Lighthouse in the ILLW, but it would be an option for participation in the RD Contest.

## **JOTA**



Discussions are taking place with the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts regarding the ORARC participation in the 67th Jamboree On The Air on Saturday the 19th of October 2024.

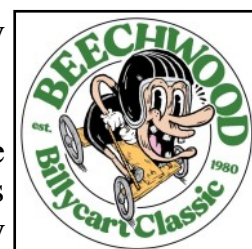
It is a requirement of the Scouting Association that all volunteers must have a Working With Children (WWC) check number. Anyone who does not already have a WWC number can easily obtain one on line at <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>. For volunteers there is no cost. Simply complete the online form and you will receive an email. Print out the email and take it the RMS NSW Government Service Centre (In Port Macquarie it is in the building in Central Road that was originally the Motor Registry) where you will have to show your Drivers Licence for identification. The counter staff will verify the identification and you will receive the WWC number shortly afterwards by email.

Those who already have a WWC check number should check the expiry date of their certificate. Use the “Renew Your WWC Check Number” option. If your expiry date is prior to the 19th of October 2024 you will need to follow the above procedure to renew your WWC check number well before JOTA. It is wise to renew your WWC Check number before it expires as it is much simpler than reapplying after the renewal date.

## **Beechwood Billycart Classic**

The date for the 2024 43rd Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic is Sunday the 27th of October 2024. ORARC have been invited to provide the safety communications again this year. Note that this is the weekend after JOTA.

ORARC members have provided the safety radio communications for the Beechwood Billycart Classic each year that it has run. The Club needs as many members as possible to volunteer a couple of hours on the Sunday morning of the event to man the start, finish and checkpoints along the downhill route. All that is needed is a 2 metre hand held radio for the radio communications.



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The Beechwood Billycart Classic is a major event in Beechwood. It draws a big crowd and there is always family entertainment and food stalls at the finish in front of the Beechwood Hotel.

### **Coffee Morning**



The informal Coffee Morning is held on the second Thursday of each month. Please see “Down the Coax” on page 2 of Oxtales for the dates which are also marked on the ORARC calendar.

The venue is Brooklyn’s Burger Bar in the Sovereign Hills Shopping Centre at Thrumster near the “Donut” (the junction of the Oxley Highway and the Pacific Highway). The location has proved to be very popular as it is halfway between Port Macquarie and Wauchope and being just off the highway reduces

travel time for everyone. Brooklyn’s Burger Bar have a copy of the ORARC calendar and always have a large table prepared and reserved for the Club’s Coffee Mornings.

The Coffee Mornings are a great opportunity to informally meet up with members over a great morning tea. There is always a lot of interesting discussion over a wide range of topics. Everyone is welcome including partners and visitors. At least a couple of our recent members were introduced to the Club at Coffee Mornings.

### **Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments**

The next Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments for all grades of licences will be conducted as soon as sufficient candidates register.

The Amateur Radio Service Licence is now a fee free Class Licence and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) is now responsible for both examinations and licencing.

There is now no fee to sit for any of the three grades of Amateur Radio licence. However, candidates can only sit for the licence once in any three month period. ACMA charge a small fee for the initial issue of a callsign to successful candidates but under the Class Licence arrangements there is no annual licence fee. Callsign holders must still advise ACMA of any change of address.

Candidates who would like to obtain their Foundation Licence or upgrade, please contact Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL. This will help Larry to plan the next Assessment weekend which will be conducted when sufficient candidates have registered. Once you have registered your interest, Larry will contact you as soon as it becomes possible to run another training and assessment weekend.

Larry Lindsay VK2CLL can arrange to run assessments at a mutually convenient time for candidates who have self-studied and wish to sit for the Foundation, Standard or Advanced Licence.

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

### **ORARC 2024 Christmas Party**



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

The 2024 Christmas Party venue remains the same as in previous years. It is the covered outdoor picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. The Christmas Party is always an enjoyable opportunity to socialize with members and their families. We look forward to seeing everyone there on Saturday the 7th of December 2024.

### **Port Macquarie Observatory Redevelopment - Port Macquarie Astronomy and Science Centre**



As most people will be aware, the original Astronomical Observatory built in the 1960s in Rotary Park near Town beach in Port Macquarie has been demolished and in a major redevelopment has been replaced by the Port Macquarie Astronomy and Science Centre on the same site. The new building is almost complete.

ORARC Club member Peter Fletcher VK2HPF is the Vice President of the Port Macquarie Astronomical Association Inc. Peter did a presentation on the new Port Macquarie Astronomy and Science Centre at the ORARC 4th of May Monthly General Meeting to a very attentive audience.

As its name implies, the new Port Macquarie Astronomy and Science Centre will be more than just an astronomical observatory. Peter Fletcher VK2HPF has invited ORARC to explore ways in which ORARC members can contribute to showcasing science in the new centre. This opens up the opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio in its many forms. Suggestions so far have included satellite communications, radio communications in its many forms and radio astronomy but members are invited to contribute their suggestions. Please contact the ORARC Committee with your suggestions. The new centre is a perfect opportunity that should not be missed.

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## **WICEN**

### **WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group**



The WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group holds its monthly meetings after the conclusion of the ORARC Monthly General Meetings in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. Current and prospective WICEN members are invited to attend the meetings. Anyone interested in joining WICEN should come along to the meetings. For more information, visit the WICEN NSW website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/>

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

### **ORARC closed Google Group**

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. has a closed Google Group which is used to send emails to members. The group is administered by ORARC Vice President and Webmaster Paul Colledge VK2ICQ. Email addresses of those in the group are not shared with anyone else.

Only a very small number of emails are sent via the group each month. The agendas and minutes of ORARC monthly meetings are emailed to members this way. As well you will receive notification of the monthly informal coffee morning. The only other item is the Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club (HADARC) monthly newsletter, QUA which HADARC kindly shares with ORARC members. In exchange, HADARC emails copies of the ORARC bimonthly newsletter Oxtales to HADARC members.

If you haven't been receiving the ORARC meeting agendas and minutes by email it means that either the email that you provided Paul VK2ICQ is no longer current, or that you haven't confirmed your membership of the Google group. Membership of the ORARC closed Google Group is not mandatory but you will not receive emails sent via the group if you are not a member. If you have received an email request to confirm your membership of the Google Group but have not yet done so, please complete your confirmation.

If you haven't been receiving the ORARC meeting agendas and minutes, and wish to be included in the ORARC closed Google Group but have not received an email request to confirm your membership of the ORARC Closed Google Group, please send an email to [vk2zhe@orarc.org](mailto:vk2zhe@orarc.org) and your request will be passed on to Paul VK2ICQ. There are currently 15 ORARC members who have not confirmed their email addresses in the closed ORARC Google Group.

### **Life Membership**

Members are reminded that members are eligible for Life Membership when they turn 85 years.

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The Committee has not been advised of any members becoming eligible this year or next year. At least two members will become eligible for Life Membership in 2026

Life Membership can only be conferred at the AGM. Please advise the Committee urgently if you or any members that you know are turning 85 this year so that the motion to bestow Life Membership can be included in the agenda for the AGM as motions cannot be received from the floor at the AGM.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE  
President

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2024					
Callsign Lucky Door					
	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
<b>1st Prize</b>	Abree AB250 Mini Mobile VHF/UHF 25 Watt Mobile Transceiver with Colour Screen	QSL Comms	VK2IF	Scott Dening	Kempsey
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Mobile Mounting Base M type with 5 Metre RG58 Cable terminated with PL259 Plug	QSL Comms	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
<b>3rd Prize</b>	CR8900 Quad Band Mobile antenna 10, 6 & 2 Metres and 70cm	QSL Comms	VK2WH	Sandy Brucesmith	Port Macquarie
<b>4th Prize</b>	Retevis Speaker Microphone to suit RT3S Transceiver	QSL Comms	VK2NM	Shawn Cain	Werris Creek
<b>5th Prize</b>	BN-24198 LED Worklight	VK2KHB	VK2KJ	Ken Jackson	Grafton
<b>6th Prize</b>	Jackly JK6032 Interchangeable Tip Screwdriver set in Case	QSL Comms	VK2WAL	Stuart Walsh	Tuncurry



Paul VK2ICQ presenting 2nd Prize to Chris VK2YMW



Sue drawing out raffle tickets with Henry VK2ZHE being the MC.



Shawn VK2NM receiving 4th Prize from Paul VK2ICQ

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ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2024				
Non-Callsign Lucky Door				
	Description	Donated By	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	131 Piece Tool Set With Carry Bag	VK2ZHE	Steve Zeros	Newcastle
2nd Prize	1000 Piece Jigsaw Puzzle Plus Neoprene Jigsaw Roll Up Holder	VK2ZHE	Leslie	Port Macquarie
3rd Prize	Bluetooth Speaker Rechargeable	VK2ZHE	Kel Burns	Concord



Lesley collecting the second prize from Paul VKICQ.

ORARC Field Day 2024 - Trophy Winners			
Trophy	Callsign	Name	Town (Home QTH)
Saturday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt	VK2CLL	Larry Lindsay	Huntingdon
Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2KZV	Riley O'Brien	Cardiff
Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Fox Hunt Champion	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Runner- Up Fox Hunt Champion	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Best Presented Amateur Vehicle	VK2BJW	Ben Waters	Port Macquarie
Best Home Brew Display	VK2EM	Bruce Ekert	Tuncurry



Gerard VK2IO with his six trophies, Larry VK2CLL 2 Metre Talk in Fox Hunt, Riley VK2KZV Sunday 80 Metre Mobile, Ben VK2BJW Best presented Vehicle and Bruce VK2EM Best Home Brew.



Left Chris VK2YMW Runner up Fox Hunt Champion.  
Right Gerard VK2IO Fox Hunt Champion



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## ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2024

### Major Raffle

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Tecsun PL368 SSB LW/MW/SW/FM Receiver with Keypad Frequency Entry and USB Rechargeable battery	Tecsun Radios Australia/VK2ZHE	VK2AAK	Andy Keir	Darawank
2nd Prize	Tecsun PL330 SSB LW/MW/SW/FM Receiver with Keypad Frequency Entry and USB Rechargeable battery	Tecsun Radios Australia/VK2ZHE	VK2XBJ	John Bickle	Turramurra
3rd Prize	Quansheng VHF/UHF 2 Metre 70cm dual band hand held Analogue FM Transceiver with 6 Metres Receive	VK2ZHE	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
4th Prize	Protech TD2512 High Torque Electric Screwdriver	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CLL	Larry Lindsay	Huntingdon
5th Prize	73 in 1 Screwdriver set in carrying case	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2EST	Wade Boyd	Wingham
6th Prize	Germanica GPM1800 Pizza Maker and Grill	VK2ZHE	VK9FLHI	Des Thompson	Lord Howe Island
7th Prize	Digitech QM1020 Multifunction Analogue Multimeter	VK2ZHE	VK2HPF	Peter Fletcher	Port Macquarie
8th Prize	Digitech QM1020 Multifunction Analogue Multimeter	VK2KHB	VK4EMP	Eric Perry	Indooroopilly
9th Prize	12Volt 8 Amp 24 Volt 4 Amp Pulse Repair Battery Charger	VK2ZHE	VK2ZZV	Judy O'Brien	Cardiff
10th Prize	Australian Geographic outdoor Adventure Binoculars	VK2ZHE	VK2EST	Wade Boyd	Wingham
11th Prize	Multifunction Work Lights USB C Fast Charging battery with USB Output for mobile phone charging	VK2ZHE	VK2EST	Wade Boyd	Wingham
12th Prize	Protech TH1993 Third Hand PCB Holder Tool	Jaycar Port Macquarie	VK2CJG	John Garland	Jewells
13th Prize	Doss Mains Powered Soldering Iron	QSL Comms	VK2BMX	Stuart Walker	Wahrooga
14th Prize	Jackly JK6032 Interchangeable Tip Screwdriver set in Case	QSL Comms	VK2OKR	Richard Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage
15th Prize	Retevis Speaker Microphone to suit RT3S Transceiver	QSL Comms	VK2OKR	Richard Osborne	Lemon Tree Passage
16th Prize	Mobile VHF/UHF Antenna 2 Metres and 70cm	QSL Comms	VK2UPR	Paul Romaine	Port Macquarie



Paul VK2ICQ presents first to Andy VK2AAK

John VK2XBJ second prize

Gerard VK2IO third prize

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## Long Distance Repair of Electronic Equipment

Bob VK2ZRE found the following interesting article on the following site. [https://www.spaceconnectonline.com.au/nasa/6246-nasa-fixes-all-four-voyager-1-instruments?utm\\_source=SpaceConnect&utm\\_campaign=21\\_06\\_2024&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Daily&utm\\_emailID=30abb16b9bdf23f4159003c0978c03ae5e8c49ff90e857a44944ea69f6352a6a](https://www.spaceconnectonline.com.au/nasa/6246-nasa-fixes-all-four-voyager-1-instruments?utm_source=SpaceConnect&utm_campaign=21_06_2024&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Daily&utm_emailID=30abb16b9bdf23f4159003c0978c03ae5e8c49ff90e857a44944ea69f6352a6a)



**NASA has confirmed that it has fixed all four science instruments on Voyager 1 after the spacecraft encountered problems in November 2023.**

The probe communicates by sending binary code back to Earth but had switched to sending unintelligible data.

“We’d gone from having a conversation with Voyager, with the 1s and 0s containing science data, to just a dial tone,” NASA previously explained.

However, controllers identified the issue was located within the flight data subsystem, which effectively packages the data so it can speak to researchers. The team found a workaround that switched the code to a new location, enabling them to bring two of the four instruments online in April and finally all four now.

The painstaking mission was complicated by the spacecraft’s location more than 24 billion kilo-metres away from Earth, meaning each command took 23 hours to reach the probe.

“While Voyager 1 is back to conducting science, additional minor work is needed,” said NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

“Among other tasks, engineers will resynchronise timekeeping software in the spacecraft’s three onboard computers so they can execute commands at the right time.

“The team will also perform maintenance on the digital tape recorder, which records some data for the plasma wave instrument that is sent to Earth twice per year.”

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Voyager 1 was launched 16 days after its twin, Voyager 2, in 1977.

The pair took different trajectories, which meant Voyager 2 took longer to reach the gas giants Jupiter and Saturn but allowed for further encounters with Uranus and Neptune.

On 25 August 2012, Voyager 1 became the first human-made object to leave the solar system, in a milestone moment for space exploration.

The news comes after NASA similarly lost all contact with Voyager 2 in July 2023 when its teams sent the spacecraft an incorrect command that tilted its antenna away from Earth, severing contact.

It was brought back online the next month after staff sent it an “interstellar shout” using the “highest-power transmitter”.

The article illustrates the extent that radio signals can travel into the universe and the mind boggling distances involved, 24 billion kilometres away from Earth, with a signal transit time of 23 hours each way!

And now for something completely different and lighthearted also from Bob VK2ZRE.

### **REWARD OFFERED**

A REWARD OF 500 MICROFARADS IS OFFERED FOR THE INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF HOP-A-LONG CAPACITY. THIS UNRECTIFIED CRIMINAL ESCAPED FROM A WESTERN PRIMARY CELL WHERE HE HAD BEEN CLAMPED IN IONS AWAITING THE GAUSS CHAMBER.

HE IS CHARGED WITH THE INDUCTION OF AN 18 TURN COIL NAMED MILLI HENRY WHO WAS FOUND CHOKED AND ROBBED OF VALUABLE JOULES. HE IS ARMED WITH A CARBON ROD AND IS A POTENTIAL KILLER.

CAPACITY IS ALSO CHARGED WITH DRIVING A DC MOTOR OVER THE WHEATSTONE BRIDGE AND REFUSING TO LET THE BAND-PASS.

IF ENCOUNTERED, HE MAY OFFER A SERIES OF RESISTANCE. THE ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE SPENT THE NIGHT SEARCHING FOR HIM IN A MAGNETIC FIELD, WHERE HE HAD GONE TO GROUND. THEY HAD NO SUCCESS AND BELIEVED HE HAD RETURNED OHM VIA A SHORT CIRCUIT.

HE WAS LAST SEEN RIDING A KILOCYCLE WITH HIS FRIEND EDDY CURRENT WHO WAS PLAYING A HARMONIC.



## Dayton Hamvention May 17-19th 2024

WIA Directors meet with ARRL at Dayton Hamvention

Date : 01 / 06 / 2024

Author : Chris Dimitrijevic - VK3FY

Dayton Hamvention May 17-19th 2024

WIA Directors Lee Moyle VK3GK and Chris Dimitrijevic VK3FY, attended this year's Dayton Hamvention which was held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Centre in Xenia, Ohio.

This event opened with pouring rain, but that did not dampen the crowds that had come to see that latest gear that was being displayed for the first time. Both Lee VK3GK and Chris VK3FY met with ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR (See photograph below). The discussions included various topics concerning amateur radio in today's day and age, membership numbers and Youth.



This year's event has achieved a record number of attendees with the attendance of 35,877 having been announced by Dayton Hamvention Committee recently.

Whilst attending the DX Dinner it was a pleasure to hear that the W8S Swains Island was awarded the South West Ohio DX Association's DXpedition of the year. Lee VK3GK, who was the Oceania Pilot on this DXpedition was able to be present with Steve N2AJ the East Coast Pilot to join the team on stage to be presented with the award.

### **CQ DX Hall of Fame inductees for 2024 were:**

VE3LYC Cezar Trifu

W3UR Bernie McClenny

K2MGA Richard Ross

At the Contest Dinner on the Saturday evening the following were inducted into the

### **CQ Contest Hall of Fame:**

PP5JR Sergio Lima de Almeida.

N2IC Steven London

K2MGA Richard Ross

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If you have never visited Dayton Hamvention, you need to put it on your "bucket list", and visit it at least once, as it is much more than just your "local Hamfest"

## **ACMA, VK9/VK0 Callsigns and Class Licence Callsign Documents**

Date : 01 / 06 / 2024

Author : Scott Williams - VK3KJ

With the recent introduction of Class Licensing, following is the current situation with the WIA's position on the use of VK9 & VK0 prefixes and Callsign Documentation.

The WIA's position is that we are seeking to have the regulator, ACMA, restore the original call area designations. For that to happen would take an update to the Class Licence to correct this.

Discussions to achieve this so far have proved very positive and we are hopeful that a resolution and restoration of the status quo prior to the class licence can be achieved in the near future. We will update the members when a conclusion on these discussions is reached with ACMA.

In the meantime, Lord Howe Island operators will need to either use the VK2/ prefix or take out a VK2 callsign.

Likewise, any planned operations from Heard and Macquarie Islands will, for now, use the VK9/ prefix (should any DX-pedition venture there). (Unless the operators hold grandfathered existing VK9 or VK0 callsigns)

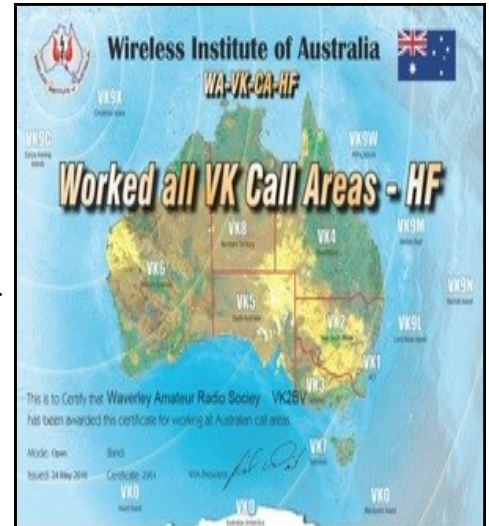
We are also aware of concerns from international DXpedition teams seeking VK9 callsigns to come and activate Australian territories. We are intending to discuss this further with ACMA to see if the previous status quo can also be restored whereby they can apply for a VK9/ VK0 callsign on a temporary 12 month basis - along similar lines to special event callsigns.

In the meantime, they will need to identify as VK9/[your home call] until we can convince the regulator that they should restore the status quo for these arrangements as well.

Finally, the WIA has also raised the concerns about suitable identification documents being provided to radio amateurs that confirm their rights to use the class licence and their qualification and associated callsigns. We have some way to go with our ACMA discussions on these points and will continue to work on these in the coming meetings with the ACMA.

The WIA continues to enjoy a strong productive relationship with the ACMA and we hope to progress these matters for a positive resolution.

Scott Williams, VK3KJ.  
WIA President





## ARRL and Momobeam Introduce Dual-band Beam Antenna for 6- and 10-Meters

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has a new product to help radio amateurs get active and on the air.

As Solar Cycle 25 continues to increase HF radio propagation on the upper bands, ARRL has partnered with the Italian antenna manufacturer Momobeam to design a dualband beam antenna to help take full advantage of the exciting opportunities for distant contacts. The ARRL Dual-band Momobeam 6/10 Antenna is an easy-to-use antenna with a small footprint and a big reach. The beam features a 10 meter Moxon (28 MHz) and 6 meter Yagi (50 MHz).

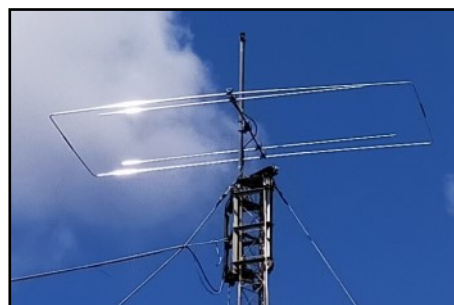
At just over 10 pounds and with a turning radius of approximately 6.5 feet, the design is compact enough to fit places that otherwise wouldn't have space for a beam antenna. It comes with two sets of hardware for both permanent installation and portable use for temporary deployments such as 2024 ARRL Field Day or park activations. Photographs below.

It is lightweight and can be turned with a simple TV rotator. The 10-meter Moxon is an effective design for this dual-band antenna, as it's around 30% smaller than a traditional Yagi and uses no traps or other shortening techniques that reduce performance. A Moxon antenna includes a number of antenna configurations that were referred to by Les Moxon, G6XN (SK), and have received attention over the years in QST and editions of The ARRL Antenna Book.

The feed system uses an open sleeve feed method, coupling the driven element of the 50 MHz section by proximity and length to the 10-meter driven element with minimal loss. "Just attach a single coaxial cable to included SO-239 equipped coaxial pigtail, and you're ready to go on two bands!" said Inderbitzen.

"It's surprising how few amateurs have experience with antennas beyond basic wire designs," said Inderbitzen. "Our interest in introducing this antenna is to increase the depth and breadth of knowledge and experience among our members." Inderbitzen added that members should watch for more content, including video tutorials, coming from ARRL about the antenna. More information about the antenna can be found at [www.arrl.org/beam](http://www.arrl.org/beam) where future content will also be published.

While this antenna was produced exclusively for ARRL, Momobeam offers many of its popular antenna designs in the US through its partnership with Ham Radio Outlet.



Continued on next page



## The K7RA Solar Update

07/12/2024

New sunspot groups, nine in all, emerged on every day of this reporting week, July 4 to 10. One on July 4, another on July 5, two more on July 6, another each on July 7 and July 8, two more on July 9 and another on July 10.

On July 11, two more sunspot groups emerged, and the total sunspot area expanded by 13 per cent. Despite the appearance of so many new sunspots, average daily sunspot number declined from 181.6 to 129, compared to the previous week. Average daily solar flux barely moved, changing from 175 to 176.6.

Predicted solar flux for the next month is 205 on July 12 and 13, 210 on July 14 and 15, 205 on July 16 to 18, 195 on July 19 and 20, 200 on July 21 to 25, 190 on July 26, 180 on July 27 to 29, 175 on July 30, and 170 on July 31 through August 2, then 165 on August 3 to 6, 160 on August 7 and 8, 175 on August 9, 180 on August 10 to 13, 195 on August 14 to 16, and 200 on August 17 to 21.

Predicted planetary A index is 8, 15, 18, 12 and 8 on July 12 to 16, 5 on July 17 to 20, then 10 and 8 on July 21 and 22, then 5 on July 23 to August 3, then 12, 10, and 5 on August 4 to 6, then 12, 8 and 5 on August 7 to 9, then 12, 10 and 8 on August 10 to 12, then 5 on August 13 to 15, and 10 and 8 on August 16 and 17 and 5 on August 18 and beyond.

Predicted planetary A index is 8, 15, 18, 12 and 8 on July 12 to 16, 5 on July 17 to 20, then 10 and 8 on July 21 and 22, then 5 on July 23 to August 3, then 12, 10, and 5 on August 4 to 6, then 12, 8 and 5 on August 7 to 9, then 12, 10 and 8 on August 10 to 12, then 5 on August 13 to 15, and 10 and 8 on August 16 and 17 and 5 on August 18 and beyond.



## Amateur Radio Newsline Report Number 2438.

### FCC CHARGES 13 LANDOWNERS IN CONNECTION WITH PIRACY



The FCC has charged 13 landlords in the NYC area in connection with illegal radio broadcasting.

Sel Embee KB3TZD has that report.

Thirteen New York area property owners have been put on notice by the Federal Communications Commission which is charging them with permitting individuals to engage in illegal radio broadcasts. The properties were identified by the FCC as being in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Spring Valley which is north of New York City. The FCC also sent notices to land owners in Newark and Irvington, New Jersey, to the city's immediate west.

The enforcement action taken on July 11th was done under the PIRATE Act which strengthens the agency's powers of sanction and sets higher penalties for violations. An FCC press release said that if the property owners continue to permit illegal radio activity, they could face fines of as much as \$2.4 million.

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Through Enforcement Act, which took effect in April of 2021. Editors note: These radio stations were operating illegally in the FM Broad Casting Band between 87.5 MHz to 108 MHz.

### **DAVE KALTER YOUTH DX GROUP JOINS IOTA CONTEST**



**JIM/ANCHOR:** A new adventure will begin on the 27th of July for the young radio operators who are part of the Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure. The young amateurs will be using the special event callsign K3Y on the HF bands during the RSGB IOTA contest that weekend. For the second consecutive year, they will be hosted by the K3LR Contest Group station in western

Pennsylvania - one of the world's largest contest stations. The youth team will be Ian, KI8NA, and Lily, W8LIL. They will be accompanied by youth mentors Katie, KE8LQR and Grace, KE8RJU. A press release from the Youth DX Adventure organization said that there were housing issues this year for the team's planned international trip.

For details, visit [youthdxa dot org \(youthdxa.org\)](http://youthdxa.org)

(JIM STORMS, AB8YK)

### **POTA'S SUPPORT YOUR PARKS WEEKEND ARRIVES**

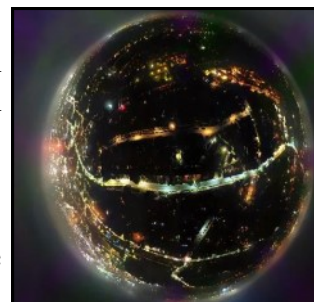


**JIM/ANCHOR:** Parks on the Air's summer edition of Support Your Parks weekend arrives on the 20th and 21st of July and the bands are likely to be busy with activators and chasers. This is one of POTA's five official events conducted throughout the year. The next Support Your Parks weekend will be on October 19th and 20th. Participants in Support Your Parks weekend events are eligible for downloadable certificates.

### **NASA: IONOSPHERE'S PLASMA 'BUBBLES' TIED TO INTERFERENCE**

**PAUL/ANCHOR:** We amateurs aren't the only people who sometimes scratch our heads over the bizarre behaviour of the ionosphere. Even the experts at NASA have their moments of doubt. Kent Peterson KCØDGY tells us why.

**KENT:** The images of two oddly shaped ionospheric plasma "bubbles" have been captured by a NASA spectrograph project and scientists are saying that they may be tied to disruptions in radio communications. They are hoping for a better understanding of these electrically charged shapes - and why they occur - in their search for clues into how to make radio communications more resilient during disturbances such as major solar storms.



The images of these rarely seen shapes were captured by a NASA mission known as Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk, known by the acronym GOLD. GOLD is a two-channel spectrograph launched six years ago with the mission to capture images of ionospheric weather.

NASA scientists believe that storm activity in the ionosphere

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created the oddly shaped plasma bubbles that they saw. GOLD has captured them previously but only during extreme space or terrestrial disturbances. They are shaped like the letter "C"-- or its reverse -- and sometimes the letter "X.." They typically form near the magnetic equator of our planet. Normally, plasma bubbles are long and straight, leading scientists to believe these odd shapes are the result of forces such as terrestrial winds.

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

## **NEW ZEALAND CW OPS TO DEMONSTRATE BASIC SENDING**

JIM/ANCHOR: CW op in New Zealand are getting ready for a repeat performance of a successful public demonstration held last year. Jim Meachen ZL2BHF tells us what they've got planned.



JIM: Based on their successful demonstration of a CW radio station last year at the Museum of Transport and Technology in Western Springs, members of the Franklin Amateur Radio Club and the NZ Net are planning to do it again. When the visitors get on the air on the 18th of August, under the supervision of licensed hams, the message they will send will be a simple one: their own names, which they will send using a Morse key. As the signal goes out on 40m, Neil ZL1NZ, and Paul, ZL1AJY, will be listening and will respond by sending the person's name back to them.

Peter Henderson, ZL1PX, president of the Franklin Amateur Radio Club, told Newsline that the popular event grew out of a request from the museum itself after staffers noticed that the most popular exhibit in the Telecom Exhibition Centre was the Morse code key and buzzer. The museum had told Peter last year that many families stopped to try it out and to practice sending messages. That's what inspired the idea of a live, on-the-air event.

This is Jim Meachen ZL2BHF.

## **TEAM PREPS FOR ST. PAUL ISLAND DXPEDITION CY9 DXpedition**



A DXpedition team is getting ready to operate from Canada's St. Paul Island - and it might be the last visit for a while, according to Dave Parks WB8ODF.

DAVE: A wind-swept, environmentally sensitive, treeless island in Canada is about to become home to a team of 10 DXpeditioners. They will be getting on the air on the 26th of August and remain until the 5th of September. This is the St. Paul Island CY9C DXpedition, which has been granted access to the island by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans for this short window of time.

The island, which is off the coast of Nova Scotia in the Cabot Strait, has designations in three award schemes: POTA, as CA-0122; Lighthouse, STP-002; and IOTA, NA-094. This is a return trip for many on the team, who will be focusing on CW but also operating SSB, FT8 and RTTY. There will also be satellite and moonbounce operation.

## 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 2014 July issues of Oxtales. The club had 83 members. Henry VK2ZHE was President and Larry VK2CLL Vice President, Keith VK2FKJA Treasurer, and David VK2FRAB Secretary.

The main activities reported upon were, the years field day held at the Tacking Point Surf Club, Telepoint working bee, the installation of the Club's VK2BOR Echo Link node and the completion of the Club's Communication Caravan floor restoration project. Also on a sad note reports on three silent keys.

### **'DID IT FIT?'**

By David VK2FRAB

Continuing the saga about replacing a rotted floor panel in the Comm's caravan from last edition of Oxtales, it can be reported that the new panel almost fitted perfectly first try.



While Henry VK2ZHE did a few nips and scrapes on the panel, Arthur VK2ATM secured the aluminium angle to the girders with sikaflex, bolts and nyloc nuts.

Once the panel fitted to everyone's satisfaction, Arthur VK2ATM and Steve VK2HOO stepped in to drill holes. Then they fastened the panel down with self tapping screws.

Now all that's left to do is to find a piece of carpet to cover the whole caravan floor.'

### **'Working Bee Telegraph Point'**

By David VK2FRAB



*Gathering around the antenna*

Henry VK2ZHE thought it would be a good idea to have a working bee at the Telegraph Point Repeater on Wednesday 16 July. The objective was to clear away fire hazards and install ICOM 3000 Transceiver.

Barry VK2LBG arrived first with his whipper-snipper and proceeded to give the grass a number 1.5 cut. Next to arrive was Steve VK2HOO followed by Henry VK2ZHE, Lyle VK2FCVI and Rob VK2CRF

After the rat scat had been swept out and the batteries topped up it was time for morning tea catered by Henry's refreshment bar and Rob's tasty tea bun treat.

While Rob thrust his chainsaw at nearby saplings and branches, Henry, Steve and Lyle began operation ICOM install. The Philips 815 Transmitter had to be moved down a notch to make way for the ICOM then it was just a matter of reconnecting

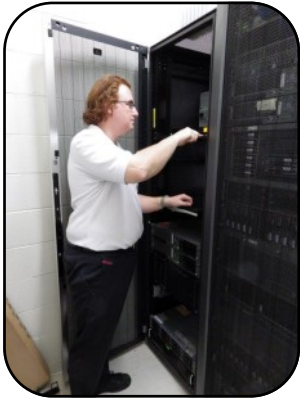
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the cables. A test call to Paul VK2ICQ revealed a transmission problem but luckily Henry had his metering equipment handy and he identified the cause. Further test calls with Bruce VK2HOT proved the Repeater to be up and running.'

### 'Echo Link



Our club ORARC was successful in obtaining a Development Grant from Amateur Radio New South Wales (ARNSW) for the purchase of a transceiver and power supply to operate the VK2BOR Echo Link Node.

Paul VK2ICQ installing the Echo Link equipment in his computer room rack.'

### ORARC Field Day 2014 Photographs



Field Day at Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club inc.

Field Day dinner at Port Macquarie Golf Club.



Disposals Left.

A large contingent of Fox hunters ready to prey on the foxes.



BBQ Chefs cook up a storm.

Fox hunters receive their trophies. Right.



# Equipment from the Past

## Kenwood TS-120V



The Kenwood TS-120V was a low powered Amateur Transceiver introduced by Kenwood in 1979 and continued in production until about the 1990s. The transceiver had a frequency range of 10 to 80 meters in 9 bands. Output power was a maximum of 10 Watts and was multi-mode. The recommended retail price was approximately \$600 USD and sold in Australia usually in the \$700 to \$800 depending upon the accessories purchased with it.

The Kenwood TS-120V used a single conversion system using a Phase Locked Loop with FET balanced mixers and MOS FET devices and was completely solid state. Its features included a Built in Digital Display which was a blue fluorescent display which was common to many of the Kenwood transceivers of the 1980's. The radio also had a Built in IF shift Circuit to enable passband tuning to help alleviate adjacent channel interference.

The transceiver was designed to operate on LSB/USB/and CW in the 3.5 - 29.7 MHz bands. WWV (14.5 - 15 MHz) was also included to allow for frequency calibration. The all solid state design featured a wide band final stage thus eliminating peaking controls. Four FIXED channels could be installed, one for each of 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz bands. The 3.5 MHz and 28 MHz FIXED XTAL position could also be exchanged by simply moving a connector on the AF-GEN unit. The TS-120S(V) was equipped with VOX, balanced gate system noise blanker and a 25-kHz marker to assist with dial calibration.

Kenwood also offered a wide range of optional accessories including , Regulated Power Supply (PS-30. PS-20). Mobile Mount (MB-100). CW Filter (YK-88C). External VFO (VF0-120) and an External Speaker (SP-120).

Kenwood sold the set as being suitable for either mobile or base station operation. Some amateurs felt that the blue digital display although pleasant to look at took quite a bit of power to operate when using the set as a portable radio. The modification was the installation of a switch to simply turn the power off to the display. Another modification was to replace the display lamps with LEDs to reduce power consumption and increase the VFO stability by decreasing heat inside the rig.

Rear view TS120V



PS-30 Power Supply CW Filter YK-88C



AT-120 Antenna Tuner



### Acknowledgements:

[www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hamhf/PC1a.html](http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hamhf/PC1a.html)

[www.eham.net/reviews/view-product?id=511](http://www.eham.net/reviews/view-product?id=511)

[www.rigpix.com](http://www.rigpix.com)



PC-1 Phone Patch

100 Watt Linear Amplifier



# Current Amateur Radio Equipment

## XIEGU X6200 HF TRANSCEIVER |



The Xiegu X6200 is a portable HF SDR transceiver for transmitting and receiving amateur radio frequencies from 0 to 30MHz as well as the 50 MHz band (6m), in all modes (AM/FM/SSB), with integrated sound card for digital modes, integrated FT8 mode decoding, FT8 transmission in wireless mode, automatic antenna tuner, recorder and call launcher, integrated Bluetooth and WIFI. It offers a maximum power output of 8W

(on 12V power supply) and 5W on battery (included and detachable), as well as the ability to listen to the 108-136MHz aviation band in AM as well as the 88-108MHz FM radio band in wide FM (WFM).

### Features (from advertising brochure).

**Precision RF Direct Sampling:** RF Direct Sampling System for crystal-clear signal quality across HF/50MHz bands, including WFM/Airband reception. The X6200 supports a wide range of communication modes, including SSB, CW, AM, NFM, DIGI, and WFM.

The Xiegu X6200 features a compact frame, a built-in replaceable 3200mAh battery, and substantial interference shielding. It is suitable for both desktop and field POTA activities, offering 4-5 hours of operation time on a single charge. The transceiver has a 4-inch high-resolution colour screen paired with a sensitive receiver for fine signal analysis, with spectrum displays and waterfalls to wide bandwidth spectral views.

The built-in automatic antenna tuner ensures optimal signal reception and transmission, facilitating smooth and efficient communication in any environment. The Xiegu X6200 has an integrated sound card, FT8 decoder, and support for BT/WIFI operations.

The NEW Xiegu X6200 is a self-contained 8 watt HF/6m direct sampling SDR transceiver with a large colour display, automatic antenna tuner and a detachable high capacity battery.



Side views of the Xiegu X6200 showing the BNC antenna connection and two USB and a card interfaces.

Australian delivery is expected to be in July 2024 with a recommended retail price of \$1,750.



### Acknowledgements:

<https://www.qslcomms.com.au>

<https://xiegu.eu>

<https://www.radioddy.com>

## Field Day Sponsors



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*thanks all our sponsors for their  
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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 [hansenjo1@bigpond.com](mailto:hansenjo1@bigpond.com) or to the President Henry VK2ZHE.

Thanks to K4ADL <https://www.qsl.net/k4adl/> for the use of his cartoons.