Daniel McGrath writes "Exxon is one of my favorite words. It occurred to me this morning the question of whether there is any way that you could create a palindrome containing that word..."

One can, in fact, construct such a palindrome, but it requires a bit of explanation. My daughter Susan's dental hygienist has the given name Xenia. Let us suppose that Xenia is talented in art. Her mother, noting that Exxon is sponsoring a competition for the best drawing of a certain barnyard animal, exhorts her to enter:

DRAW AN OX, XENIA--GAIN EXXON AWARD!

Actually, this is not the first Exxon palindrome. Some years ago, John E. Connett of Minneapolis described the activities of an exceptionally well-trained ox:

AH, AN OX XEROXES SENILE FELINES, SEX OR EXXON (AHA!)

Since it is not easy to persuade even a senile feline to be photocopied, one is well-advised to substitute SUSSEX for SENILE FELINES, SEX!

How about a palindrome with even more X's? Connett abandons Exxon to reach the eight-X plateau:

Lana, I'm a gal--I am!
Ron, amoral,
Lifts a fax of Taft.
A fax I fix, of a fox--
A fax of a fox I fix--
A fat, fat, fox!
A fast-fill aroma, Norma--
I lag--am I anal?