

BARG News



Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. # 6953T
ABN 44 247 200 143

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President: John Kennedy VK3AIG
Secretary: Doug Ellery VK3FDRE
Treasurer: Roger De Valle VK3ADE

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY January 22, 2013
At 7.30 pm

Contacting us

You can write to the club at the address below, or e-mail the secretary.

The Secretary : B.A.R.G. Inc.
Box 1261
Mail Centre
Ballarat. Vic. 3354.

Or E-Mail: vk3bml@barg.org.au



BARG INC. LIFE MEMBERS

Maurie Batt *	VK3FGC
Gordon Cornell	VK3LBA
Norm D'Angri	VK3KGL
Harry Hekkema	VK3WN
Kevin Hughes	VK3AXH
Ian McDonald	VK3AQM
Phil Seddon	VK3DCS
Charlie Stewart	VK3BNC
Bob Terrill	
Stan Widgery *	
Jim Wright *	

CLUB INFORMATION
REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RWA*	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	147.100 MHz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(2 m Packet Repeater)	144.750 MHz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(70 cm Voice Repeater)	438.475 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(70 cm Beacon)	432.535 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBU-1	(2 m APRS Repeater)	145.175 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RBT	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	146.650 MHz	Green Hill

* **IRLP** Node 6310 using VK3RWA

CLUB e-mail vk3bml@barg.org.au.

CLUB NETS VK3BML 3.608+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)
146.650 MHz - Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm. (VK3RBT Repeater)

WIA Broadcast Sunday 11.00 am via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to Harry VK3KGL

Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail member.vk3kgl@barg.org.au

Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater

Every Sunday at 11.00 am, WIA National News.
Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News
Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat

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COFFEE at the CLUB

(A Cuppa Tea is also available)



Join us for a Cuppa and a yarn or two on the
2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
(except January & December) at the Clubrooms.
We start at 10.30am and finish at about
11.30am, in time to get home for lunch.
**COME ALONG AND JOIN US IN A NIBBLE
AND A NATTER. (XYLs ARE WELCOME.)**



B.A.R.G Items for Loan.

Antenna Analyser MFJ269 HF-VHF-UHF

Antenna Analyser MFJ249 HF/VHF

UHF Antenna Analysyer

Antenna Analyser VHF. Autek.

Receiver Drake SSR-1.

Receiver FRG-7.

Transceiver TS-530.

Oscilloscope BWD 509.

Grid Dip Oscillator.

Safety Belt.

Antenna Gin Pole.



My first Sota activation -from Mt Bunninyong Sota identifier VK3/VC-018.

Well it went well and I certainly learned a lot and need to fine tune a few things that's for sure, spent time with analyser getting a simple 40 m co-as fed dipole perfect at home which helped as 1 less thing as a variable.

Some handy links <http://www.sotawatch.org/> <http://sotamaps.wsstvc.org/> and <http://www.qrz.com/db/VK3HRA> <http://www.qrz.com/db/VK3WAM>

Arrived at Mt Bunninyong Saturday had a total of 4 contacts and 3 summit to summit qso's which were great as due to most activators only use qrp etc.

All contacts are centred around the Gmt day and you need 4 contacts per day, I had 3 before zero hour zulu so no good and 4 after zero hour(11am local) but 2 were with same operator at different peaks.

So due to not being 4 separate contacts/call signs was not counted as a successful Sota operated yes a lot to learn with this program so will go again to Mt Buninyong to get that out of the way.

Hope to get out this Saturday either Buny or Warrenheip, operation has to be away from a car and no petrol generators so basically on foot although solar panels are fine.

Took FT817 and Ldg Z11 Atu (original model) in case but will be handy in future if I want to do a multi HF band effort, need water/snacks/hat/seat/pen and notepad for log/squid pole etc etc and suddenly weight becomes an issue.

Also have a 7in Galaxy tablet that has internet and a 4G wireless device which is great as you can then notify the world on Sota website you are active on whatever freq etc.

Not essential but a smart phone would work and of course you can always request the chasers that work you to spot you.

As yet not a huge number of activators in VK but 3 and 5 and vk1 are now going and other states are trying to be recognised for Sota, a few people are chasers and a few hams just work you out of curiosity.

Apart from Allen VK3HRA from Lal Lal and myself are only ones locally active at the moment but more people are getting interested.

Announced on 650 rprr saturday but no Barg members were worked probably due to H/Fest weekend so will do the same this coming weekend also take 2/70cn H/H in case of contacts on simplex.

If anyone needs additional info please contact me vk3det@vic.chariot.net.au

So if you want to expand into a fairly new aspect of portable operation in the fresh air have a go at Sota, even start like I did as a home station CHASER.

Regards Ernie VK3DET.



Mount Buninyong 10GHz Contacts

On Monday 18th Feb I ventured up to the east side of Mount Buninyong and together with President John VK3AIG and Kevin VK3WN setup my portable station on 10GHz to have a go at contacting tow Melbourne stations Gavin VK3HY and Rob VK3MQ who were setting up their stations in the Mt Dandenong Observatory car park.

2 metres SSB was to be used to liaise on. We were using 20 watts to a vertical magnetic base and when contact was established signals were over S9.

After the gear and dish was all setup Gavin sent a series of morse dashes and his signal was fantastic. After peaking the dish (Ex Austar Satellite TV) his signals were over S9. Next was Rob VK3MQ whose signals were almost as strong and again over S9.

Both John and Kevin had overs with both stations and now have the incentive to complete their 10G projects to join in this interesting activity.

I also had just a contact at S1 with Alan VK3XPD operating from his home qth however I don't think the dish was correctly aligned as on previous occasions we have been around S8.

A very interesting band and we all had an enjoyable morning. The next trick is to find a suitable location where we can point both East and West without tree obstruction.

Till next time – 73 Ian – VK3AXH

BARG March Calendar.

~ March 2013 ~						
◀ February						April ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 CONSTRUCTION Build you own "J" Pole Material provided. 7.30pm	5 2m Call-In 8.00pm 146.650Mhz. VK3RBT.	6	7 BARG Net 8.00pm 3608Khz	8	9
10	11 LABOUR DAY.	12 2m Call-In 8.00pm 146.650Mhz VK3RBT.	13	14 BARG Net 8.00pm 3608Khz.	15 Dinning Night Royal Mail Hotel.	16 JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAYS BARG station operating!
17 JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAYS. "K5B" Special Event Station	18	19 2m Call-In 8.00pm 146.650Mhz. VK3RBT.	20 COMMITTEE MEETING 7.30pm	21 BARG Net 8.00pm 3608Khz.	22 BARG Meeting! 7.30pm. Note changed Date due to Easter!	23
24	25	26 2m Call-In 8.00pm 146.650Mhz.	27	28 BARG Net 8.00pm 3608Khz.	29 Good Friday. NO MEETING!	30
31	Notes: ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS PLEASE DETAILS TO VK3BNC. Have you heard VK3RCW on 145.650Mhz. or VK5VF on 50.320Mhz??					

More Calendars: [April](#), [May](#), [June](#)



BARG Construction Night!

Our first construction night got off to a flying start with fifteen starters.

Our first project was to drop the 80/40m dipoles and carry out repairs. The general lack of weeds and grass made it more enjoyable so we need to keep an eye of this so it doesn't get out of hand during the year. Perhaps next night we may be able to do a bit of tree pruning to free up the dipoles.

Adjourning inside we were then treated to a historical DVD on "HF antenna Trap making" by Craig's little brother! This was supported with actual traps demonstrating the different techniques shown in the DVD.

Perhaps Craig may return some time to talk about how you can put together some antennas to occupy smaller building blocks. Thanks Craig!

This was a very special night for our youngest member Jay who invited us all to celebrate his birthday with him. He provided cakes which we consumed with coffee which made it a great night.

Lastly we had a look at a couple of working SDR programs demonstrating how simple and easy it is to set up one of these "dongles" and listen into all manner of VHF and UHF signals. At our next meeting we will take orders for these "dongles" (less than \$20.00) and get a bulk purchase so have a think about this great little project. (These "dongles" are small plug in "USB" sticks that permit TV operation from your PC or laptop.)

Next month is a hands on project with all materials supplied and all the help you need! What is it? "J" pole Antennas, yes for what ever frequency that you want, 2m, 70Cm, utilities bands, your choice! Build, test and take home!

Don't forget our up coming Field Day on March 14th with new frequencies, yes 2m simplex!

Look forward to seeing you there and any new faces, **Bob VK3BNC**.

Bring a friend to the Construction Night and get a free coffee!

FRIDAY 22nd February....- General Meeting

VK3ALM is coming !!!

There will be a DEMONSTRATION of a Potable device, what looks like a phone, but not used as a phone, NO SIM card, with all your playable Amateur Radio APPS !!!

It's all free to use !!!

It's a very cheap device and should not be missed.....

This is a oncer only.....

This demo can't be repeated !!!

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to Roger and members at last month's General Meeting for discussion on how we can make the Group more interesting.

We hope a number of suggestions will bear fruit.

Well Done Ernie for getting the radios fired up on last Saturday morning. (see report)

Kevin VK3WN and myself had the pleasure of accompanying Ian VK3AXH to the east side of Mt Buninyong on Monday where he made contact with two Melbourne stations located at Mt Dandenong on 10 Ghz.

Beautiful signals.

Well contructed gear.....

See you all Friday evening....

John VK3AIG