

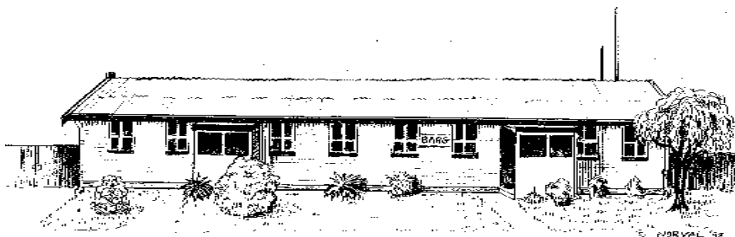
BARG News

CHRISTMAS Edition



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

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2007



President: Bob Pitcher VK3NBV
Secretary: Ian McDonald VK3AXH
Treasurer: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC

NEXT MEETING - January 2008

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

Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC
Jim Wright	SK
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Phil Seddon	
Stan Widgery	SK



CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750 Mhz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100 Mhz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750 Mhz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475 Mhz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(Beacon)	435.535 Mhz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBU-1	(APRS)	145.175 Mhz	Mt Hollowback

IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RRWA

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

CLUB NET VK3BML 3.610+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

WIA Broadcast and Club Call Back. Sunday's 11.00 via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to Harry VK3KGL

Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater

Every Sunday at 11.00 am, WIA National News, followed by VICLINK

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat

Every Wednesday night at 9.30 pm, Spectrum Tasmania News

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A few words from the President.....



Bob, VK3NBV

Well Christmas is here again and I hope everyone has put in your orders for all that good gear you require for the shack, which is of course the most important room in the house. Gail doesn't read this. Have you noticed the power supply dimming down in your area, maybe it's the Christmas Lights. They tell me David and family 3UR, have about 15,000 LED's running in Alfredton and I guess a lot more. I certainly intend having a look over this Christmas period.

The only function over this month is our Christmas Function on December 14 Friday at 6.30pm at the clubrooms. It's BYO drinks and a bowl of sweets or salad. Meats, onions rolls are being supplied by BARG.

Construction night is cancelled, no committee meeting or general meeting.

We will be back in January for a committee meeting, dining night and General Meeting.

Well that's it, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73's Bob Pitcher VK3NBV..

COMING UP IN JANUARY

Wednesday 19th Committee Meeting 7.30pm

Dining Night. Friday 18th 6.30pm at The North Britain Hotel 502 Doveton St, North, Ballarat.
Bookings to myself at pitch@ncable.net.au or 53360998.

General Meeting January Friday 25th at 7.30pm.

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QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library



QST Review 2007-12 Dec

By Craig VK3CMC

Now the final edition for this year.

- P30 Hybrid Cascode – A General Purpose AGC IF Amplifier.
- P34 A Remotely Controlled Station for HF Digital Modes.
- P36 The Octopus – Four Band Vert HF Antenna for Portable use.
- P40 GB3SSS Marconi's Transatlantic Leap revisited.
- P43 The Doctor is in: Answers questions about antennas and masting proximity effects.
- P45 Tri Band portable antenna. EE-3 by Evans.
- P46 A Computer Interface for CW.
- P48 Hands on Radio. Exp #59 – Smith Chart Fun 1.
- P50 Clean up sigs when using PSK31
- P51 Hints & Kinks. Isolation tnx,Pkt & the FT221, opening “wall Warts” transformers for repair.
- P53 REVIEW. Yaesu FT-450 HF & 6M transceiver.
- P58 FPM-1 Frequency meter/Counter Power meter Kit.
- P61 FCC News. Read how the American administration deals with illegal/pirate usage and other transgressions.
- P71 Old Radio. Looks at when Homade was King C1968
- P73 Eclectic Technology. Discusses merits of NOT going onto Win VISTA.
- P99 Ham speak. Terminology used in this edition. A to Z.

Well apart from all the advertisements that's all there is for this year.

73 Craig VK3CMC

Last night [Sat 1 Dec] while fiddling with the computer I was monitoring the VK5RSE beacon on 2M (I didn't even know I had left it on as the volume was set down very low) and I suddenly heard this CW ident came up from nowhere. Was around 2330 hrs so I went and listened in the shack and the Beacon was 5/9+ so I switched over to 70cm and the same there 5/9. Beam was pointed West so I gave a CQ call on 2m but there was no activity about. I left the beacon run on 2M for abt an hour before turning it off still at the 5/9 report.

Craig, vk3cmc

QST Magazine.

Listings of "Hands On Radio Experiments." Published todate.

Compiled 28 Jan 2007

Last 24 Oct 2007

Experiment.

Exp 13	Attenuators Type- Pi, LT,H,O.	Feb2004
Exp 15	Switchmode Regulators Pt1.	Apr 2004
Exp 17	The Phase Shift Oscillator	June 2004
Exp 21	The L Network	Oct 2004
Exp 22	Stubs	Nov 2004
Exp 23	Open house at N0AY shack	Dec 2004
Exp 42	Notch Filters	Jul 2006
Exp 43	R.F. Oscillators	Aug 2006
Exp 44	RF Osc Part 2.	Sep 2006
Exp 45	Hartley & Colpitts Osc.	Oct 2006
Exp 46	Crystal Osc/Class C Amp	Nov 2006
Exp 48	Baluns	Jan 2007
Exp 49	Read Schematics	Feb 2007
Exp 51	Filter Design Pt2 BP & Chebychev	Apr 2007
Exp 52	Poss on SWR bridge	May 2007
Exp 53	RF Peak Detectors	Jun 2007
Exp 54	Precision Rectifiers	Jul 2007
Exp 57	Double Stubbs 1.	Oct 2007
Exp 58	Double Stubbs 2.	Nov 2007

Craig VK3CMC

Don't forget the RAFFLE Tickets.....

Please make an effort to sell them.....

It's easy money for Club use.....

Friday December 14, 2007-12-07

The only function over this month is our Christmas Function on December 14 Friday at 6.30pm at the clubrooms. It's BYO drinks and a bowl of sweets or salad. Meats ,onions rolls are being supplied by BARG



VK3AXH

The Secretary's Page

Minutes of BARG General Meeting November 2007

Welcome: Meeting opened by President Bob VK3NBV at 7:35pm

Apologies: VK3CAZ, VK3HRZ, VK3CIS, VK3FPOL, VK3FSDH, VK3CFH, VK3ZRF, VK3FITM, VK3PAL, VK3ASH, VK3KQB, VK3HHK, VK3HHJ, VK3BNC, VK3FGLD.

Minutes of the October General Meeting as per the Newsletter

Moved VK3VBA/VK3DCS Carried

Secretary Report:

Correspondence: Incoming – Vicstate re Investment, VK3RMB licence, QST & AR Cards and Silent Key List from Norm VK3LBA, Raffle Tickets

Outgoing – Card to Brian (VK3KQB) and wife Beryl

Moved VK3AXH/VK3ADE Carried

Treasurers Report: Finance Statement tabled – for Hamvention and Club Accounts
Balance: \$9939.53

Moved VK3FGC/VK3KGL Carried

Business arising from correspondence was a suggestion the committee look into subscribing to QEX (quarterly magazine)

Reports:

Raffle Tickets – Ian VK3AXH reported there are still around 14 books to be returned and the deadline is the January 2008 General Meeting.

Hamvention – Report on the event as per the November newsletter. A motion was moved by Kevin VK3WN/Vk3ADX and carried that Ian Vk3AXH be given a vote of thanks for being the coordinator of this year's Hamvention.

Beacons – Roger VK3ADE reported both the 70cm and 23cm beacons are running and expect to be finalized in the not too distant future.

IRLP – Roger VK3ADE reports the new Vertex radio and ncable link are now working well after the offending tree limbs were removed by Neil VK3GND and Bob VK3BNC.

Mast and Radio Mod Project – Jeff VK3PAP reports the new yagi is installed but has some SWR which may be managed by the HF radio. The rotatable dipole is still yet to be installed. A motion was put by Ian VK3AXH/Craig VK3CMC and carried that Jeff and others who assisted with this project receive special thanks for their efforts.

Construction Group – Ian VK3AXH reported the RF milliwatt meter's were almost finished and some calibration been completed. The next project will commence in Feb 2008 with the low powered microwave SWR bridge. It was also suggested that a range of projects was required to keep the construction group active into 2008 and beyond.

Ammenities – Doug VK3VBA – Doug organized a few prizes for some lucky members sitting in the right seat at the meeting. Doug also organized a sandwich tea/coffee supper to be enjoyed after the guest speakers presentation. It was also suggested that members using cups for tea/coffee kindly wash them when finished.

General Business:

Applications for membership were received from VK3NLY and VK3FNLY and approved. A warm welcome was given to Shaun and Lawrence (Laurie) McInerney

A motion to purchase a suitable ladder for use at the club rooms for any maintenance and mast/antenna work...Moved VK3PAP/VK3CMC and Carried. Gordon VK3FGC and Ian VK3AXH to investigate and purchase. In addition it was suggested a 20 metre extension power cord be purchased for works being performed within the club grounds.

President Bob VK3NBV reminded members of the BBQ on Friday 14th December to be held at the Rooms from 6:30pm. Members and Partners were asked to bring either a salad or sweet. The Club will supply meat and its BYO drinks.

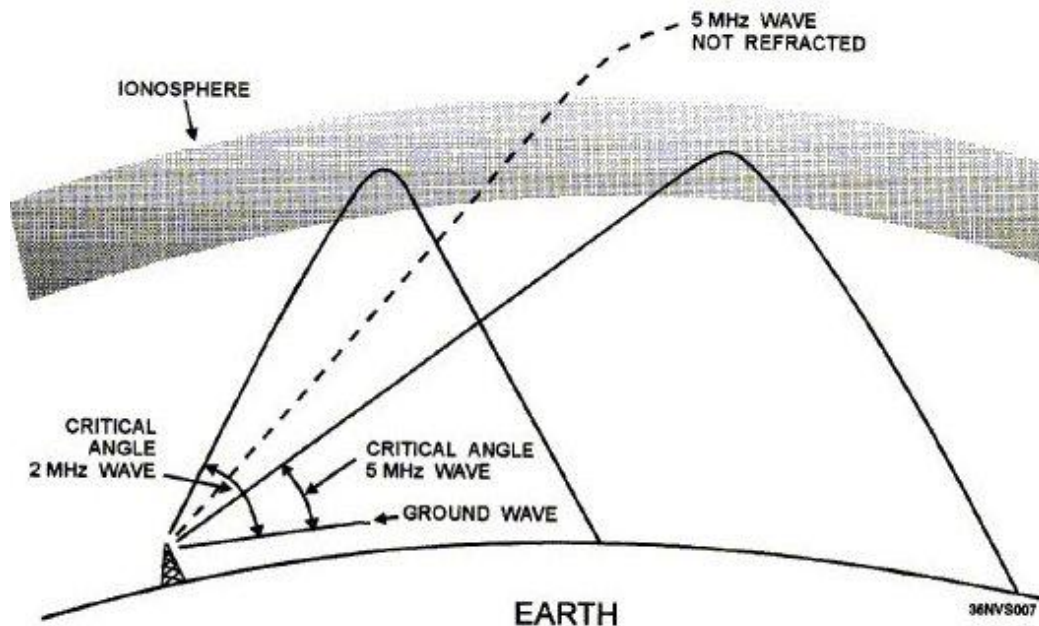
The Club received an invitation to attend a meeting at the Town Hall regarding the Strategic Development Plan for the Ballarat Airport and Surrounding area. No one attended however Ian VK3AXH indicated there is a comprehensive paper available on the Website explaining the proposed changes and likely effect on existing tenants within the Airport grounds.

A motion was put that membership application forms be made available at any club activity to enable visitors to become members of BARG. Events such as the Hamvention and field days being examples. Moved Bob VK3WB/VK3BVI Carried

Ian VK3FHUT asked how the club disposed of old equipment. As there are a few items that fit this category a list will be put together and included in the newsletter where tenders will be called for. The successful bidder will be responsible for equipment removal and the price and successful bidder details will appear in a subsequent newsletter.

Expressions of interest were called for those wanting to participate in the John Moyle Field Day next year. Approx 10 showed interest in this event. Some planning will get under way in the early part of 2008

Meeting Closed 8:27pm



Propagation Report for December 2007

HF Bands

Little to report this month. However there is likely to be in the near future when Neil VK3GND gets his new beaut inverted "L" up for 160 metres. Neil has been working away on this band for a while now with mixed success. The latest is Neil has received several good reports including one from a VK7 located at Perth (Tas) with a 5x9+20 signal. There are more mods to be done yet with ground radials and to make it exactly as the antenna designer says. Neil's signal will be so strong you may not even have to turn on your radio hi. If you have been busy setting up new installations then let us know about it.

50 MHz

Kevin VK3WN reports little activity this month. There has been a few spasmodic openings to VK4 and some TV carrier from ZL but nothing of any significance

VHF Bands

Enthusiasts on these bands have had a great time recently with another opening to VK6. In addition there has been regular propagation into VK5 and VK7. Local club members heard working on both 2m, 70cm and 23cm include – VK3AIG, VK3IDL, VK3AXH, VK3GND, VK3WN, VK3CMC and possibly others.

The two Ian's VK3IDL and VK3AXH conducted a test across town on 2.4GHz. With VK3AXH's station setup on the flat roof of his garage and VK3IDL using his gridpack antenna located on his mast a successful contact was made around 8:30pm a few Sunday evenings ago. Even though low height and significant obstructions were in the path the signal reports were excellent with 5x9+ in one direction and 5x2 in the other. The lower report being only 50mW being used at one end.

Testing was also performed on the “BIG WHEEL” antenna for the 1296MHz beacon. With the antenna held up in the shack at VK3AXH a successful contact was made with Ian VK3IDL at 5x9 signals. With some mechanical tidy up the antenna will be ready at the end of the week

This activity is generating quite a lot of interest from members interested in higher band operation.

Construction Group

With no meeting this past month there is nil to report. Don't forget to think about some Projects for the new year.

Many thanks to all that have contributed to this section of the newsletter over the past 12 months. I wish to extend best to you all for the coming Festive Season and 2008

Till next time, 73 de VK3AXH

The Real Foxhunter.....



This article came from the Hamilton Spectator Newspaper.

Was written by Peter Flinn and retyped for BARG news as it was not very good readable.

Obituary

“Woody” – fire radio pioneer



By Peter Flinn
Serra Group Communications Officer, Dunkeld

JOHN Stanley Brudenell, Young Woodburn, of “Wandobah” Dunkeld and known to all his friends as Woody, has died in Hamilton aged 86.

Farmer, scout leader, yachtsman, pianist, historian, collector extraordinaire, volunteer firefighter, radio expert and “ham” (VK3AGD) – John Woodburn was a remarkable man and a leader in many fields. He was a Life Member of both Dunkeld Fire Brigade and Dunkeld and District Historical Museum.

Woody joined Dunkeld Fire Brigade in 1943 and was immediately made 6th lieutenant. He remained a lieutenant until 1954 when he was elected Captain and was a “wireless lieutenant” from 1957 to 1975.

In all he was a brigade member for 64 years. Perhaps this is not surprising the loss of his parents home in Dunkeld during the disastrous 1944 fires would have been scared into his memory.

Woody’s involvement in the development of radio communication for the fire service is the stuff of legend. He continued the pioneering work of Hugh O’Rorke of Westmere and Leigh Simpson of “Sazli” Dunkeld (Woody’s father-in-law), who in 1946 were responsible for forming the first effective fire brigade communications network in the world. It is interesting to note that this development was met with apathy, indifference and even opposition from the CFA and others at that time. O’Rorke was once told that a wet bag was far more effective at a fire than a radio!

By 1952 there were 157 radio stations operating in Victoria but it was only the following year that the CFA appointed a radio engineer and decided to develop communications State-wide. By contrast John Woodburn was there right from the start. After World War II he and Leigh Simpson bought a suitcase radio used by British spies in occupied Europe from the Wireless Institute of Australia for £12/10/00. It was used both as a

base station and a mobile. Woody also built the first ever listening set for a private fire tanker and with Hugh O'Rourke's son Kevin designed a two-way high frequency (HF) base radio in 1962 which was used at "Wandobah" as part of the Westmere Group network until the late 1970's.

By the early 1960's the authorities were convinced. Following serious fires in Western Australia Woody, Kevin, Tony Wilson and others were asked to visit the West and spread the message about the value of radio communications during bushfires.

A convoy of vehicles and equipment including Woody's indefatigable Mercedes HOF - 353, formed "Operation Phoenix", and headed off across the Nullabor on what became an Australian communications milestone.

Sadly the old "Merc" having completed more than 6000,000 km last year became part of a compressed heap of scrap metal collected from "Wandobah" in the "Smorgon Steel Great Scrap Roundup". Ironically this process resulted in a generous donation of nearly \$1000 to Dunkeld Fire Brigade so Woody's old car has helped the volunteer fire brigade cause even as it was being squashed flat!

Today we take for granted the extensive radio communication system which is a basic and essential facility for all firefighting operations. We should pause to remember the hard-fought battles by Woody and his colleagues all those years ago not only against the vagaries of temperamental equipment but also with uncooperative bureaucrats.

Woody's extraordinary collection of communications equipment through the years has to be seen to be believed. Some of it is on display at the Dunkeld Museum and it is pleasing to note that the family intend to carefully preserve his legacy for posterity.

I count it a privilege to have know Woody for more than 35 years. Others of course knew him far longer. He was a loyal supporter of Serra Fire Brigade Group and even during last summer was able to pass on very useful weather information from his radio contacts during a fire. He frequently participated in radio skeds on his UHF set as "Wandobah" Base and as recently as a month ago requested me to program the new frequency of the Cherrymount (Glenthompson) Repeater into his listening set. Sadly, I was too late to meet his request.

John Woodburn was a brilliant and unique individual and will be sorely missed by his family, colleagues and friends. However his memory will live on as long as any firefighter picks up a radio microphone and transmits a message about a fire.

Woody's wife Garland predeceased him in 2006 and his children Tom, Wendy and Jane, sons-in-law Chris Macpherson and Craig Oliver and grandsons Leigh and Lachlan Oliver survive him.

This is the very last Newsletter for 2007.

Hope to see you all at the BARG BBQ on Friday 14th December at the clubrooms.

I have a working IRLP node (Node 6036) running out of home (Mnt Helen) on 439.175 for those in Ballarat that may struggle to get to Ben Nevis, club members are welcome to use it. It should cover most of Ballarat proper, can't say it's perfect but it seems to work. The PC will eventually go out to the club rooms.

Roger, vk3ade