



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group
Inc. #6953T
November
Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting
Friday 27th November @ 7:30pm

Virtual Meeting via Webex

All Welcome



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 1218
Mail Centre
Bakery Hill Vic. 3354

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

We're on the web
www.barg.org.au

Presidents November Report

Welcome to the November issue of the BARG newsletter. With the warmer weather it's pleasing to hear that the COVID restrictions are slowly being lifted, allowing more opportunity for club activities and field operations. Along these lines, the coffee mornings have restarted cafe catch ups, though the net version is running also.

We have run a small working bee out at the club to tame the lawn grass weeds out the back, and also neaten up the front. Here's what it looked like before we started:



And here's the finished product:



The next meeting will still be a virtual one. Hopefully this will be the last of the virtual meetings. This meeting will see several presenters talk about some simple antenna set ups. Ben will send out the Webex details a couple of days prior to the meeting.

Reminder that the BARG field day is Saturday 5th of December. As discussed at the last meeting, this will be on 40 and 80m. One more band than had been used in prior field days. (2m had been proposed, but we agreed to drop that band.) Start time is 12:00pm midday, Ballarat local time, through to 4pm. (01:00 UTC to 05:00 UTC. Earlier proposals suggested a start time of 10am, for 6 hours. But we agreed at the last meeting to reduce the time to 4 hours.)

For those who've not been out portable before, there'll be some good tips on antennas in the talk in Friday's presentation.

Roger (VK3ADE) is also working to get the remote base running, so there's opportunity for one or more operators who aren't able to get out in the field to run VK3BML via the club station. Call out in the meeting Friday if you'd like to take advantage of that opportunity.

This coming weekend, 28th and 29th of November, is the VHF/UHF field day. Several club members are going to Mt Mercer with stations covering 2M right up to 10GHz. Provided good weather. They be there for about 6-8 hrs on Saturday and not the Sunday. If you're keen to see what there up to, I'm sure they'd be happy to have others tag along.

That weekend is also the VKFF parks activation weekend, which I plan to participate in. So there should be a fair bit of activity on the bands. It'd be a good time to fire up your favorite rig and see who's about.

That will pretty much take us to the end of the year. We're planning to have a break up on December the 11th. The last few years we've had a prepared meal out at the club. At this stage it doesn't look like we'll be able to have the same arrangement, so instead a BBQ outside at the club is being proposed. This will allow for better social distancing than an indoor event.

Stay tuned for details on this over the next few weeks.

73

Malcolm

VK3OAK

SILICON CHIP MAGAZINE.. September 2020.

Sil Chip 2020-9

FEATURES & REVIEWS

P12 5G Networks

P32 The History of the Australian General Purpose Outlet. A very interesting read about how we developed our current GPO system and the mish mash of sockets still in use

P72 Advanced Vehicle Diagnostics with OBD2 dongles Use a Android or mobile phone to diagnose car faults.

CONSTRUCTIONAL PROJECTS.

P24 High Power Ultrasonic Cleaner. Make your own bath to clean larger items.

P42 Shirt pocket sized Audio DDS Oscillator. Very accurate and a readout display all powered by 3V battery.

P68 The Night Keeper Lighthouse. For beginners but looks quite good for youngsters to try assembly and have a finished night light afterwards. May even have to build one for my front gate.

P86 USB Super Codec – Part two

YOUR FAVOURITE COLUMNS.

P49 Circuit Notebook. Incl LP flashing LED thermometer, Adj supply using fixed voltage Switch Mode regulator



P61 Serviceman's Log. Always interesting faults and how to find them. This one is temperamental.

P96 Vintage US Marine Corp TBY-8 squad radio

EVERYTHING ELSE.

P2 Editorial viewpoint.

P4 Mailbag, your Feedback.

P106 Ask Silicon Chip

P111 Market Centre.

P112 Notes and Errata

P112 Advertisers Index.

Until next month happy reading and constructing.

SILICON CHIP MAGAZINE.. OCTOBER 2020.

Sil Chip 2020-10

FEATURES & REVIEWS.

P10 Satellite Navigation in Space. Thinking now in three dimensional.

P32 Improved ADS-B Reception on a Computer.

P68 Review: The CAE Sound Cam.

P100 Matrox ALT-256 Graphics Card

CONSTRUCTIONAL PROJECTS.

P22 d1 Mini LCD Backpack with WiFi

P:36 A Flexible Digital lighting controller

P72 USB Super Codec – Part Three. The final part

P90 High Power Ultrasonic Cleaner – Part Two.

YOUR FAVOURITE COLUMNS.

P48 Circuit Notebook

P61 Serviceman's Log

P85 Vintage Radio. The AWA 501 console radio

EVERYTHING ELSE.

P2 Editorial

P4 Mailbag

P51 Online Shop

P98 Product Showcase

P101 Ask Silicon Chip

P111 Market Centre and Notes and Errata

P112 Advertisers Index.

Until next month happy reading and constructing.



FEATURES & REVIEWS.

- P14 MEMS [Micro-Electromechanical Systems]
- P83 Rundown on New 8 pin PIC Microcontrollers
- p86 The Vintage Matrox ALT-512 Graphics card.
- P104 Electronic Wearables & JAYCAR Sparkle stitch.

CONSTRUCTIONAL PROJECTS.

- P24 Eight Small LED Christmas Ornaments
- P34 Two Large LED Christmas Stars.
- P44 Balanced input Attenuator for the USB Super CODEC.
- P94 Flexible Digital Lighting Controller Part two.

YOUR FAVOURITE COLUMNS.

- P61 Circuit Notebook.
- P64 Serviceman's Log.
- P70 Vintage Radio RCA BP-10 miniature portable radio .

EVERYTHING ELSE.

- P4 Editorial viewpoint.
- P6 Mailbag, your Feedback.
- P31 Online Shop
- P107 Ask Silicon Chip
- P111 Market Centre.
- P112 Notes and Errata
- P112 Advertisers Index.



Until next month happy reading and constructing.

This guy is clearly keen on working the sats, with steerable 2m and 70cm yagi's set up permanently.

Apparently he also also likes horse riding.



80m Net Roster. Thursday @ 8 pm on 3.608 MHz

| Date | Name | Call | Alt Name | Alt Call |
|-----------|---|--------|----------|----------|
| 26-Nov | Scott | VK3MCL | Paul | VK3TXR |
| 3-Dec | Paul | VK3TXR | Chris | VK3QY |
| 10-Dec | Chris | VK3QY | David | VK3KQT |
| 17-Dec | David | VK3KQT | Scott | VK3MCL |
| 24-Dec | Scott | VK3MCL | Paul | VK3TXR |
| 31-Dec | No official net tonight. NEW YEARS EVE. | | | |
| 7-Jan-21 | Paul | VK3TXR | Chris | VK3QY |
| 14-Jan-21 | Chris | VK3QY | David | VK3KQT |
| 21-Jan-21 | David | VK3KQT | Scott | VK3MCL |
| 28-Jan-21 | Scott | VK3MCL | Craig | VK3KG |

Mystery Item

Can you identify this thing? Get your Google foo out and see if you can work it out. Craig, VK3KG will share the details in the meeting on Friday for those of us that can't work it out.



VHF and Above for November 2020

As reported last month we have been waiting for the warmer weather to arrive and give some lift to propagation which has begun to happen particularly in the past week.

Beacons from NW Tasmania on both 2m and 70cm have been heard regularly as well as a noticeable lift in signals from Millicent (nr Mt Gambier) on both 2 and 70. The outcome has been some excellent signals from VK5PJ on 2m with signals at 5x9+40dB as an example.

Over this weekend excellent propagation was had on 2m, 70cm and 23cm with contacts being made into MtGambier and also towards Melbourne. Stations heard were VK3BNC, VK3TOT, VK3ZAZ and VK3AXH. It's a good chance to check out that your antenna's are working as they should and even though some of us have been active for many years the BUZZ is still there when it happens.

Gippsland beacons that are seldom heard at my qth are now quite loud so let's hope this continues well to the East particularly into NewZealand in the DX weeks.

There is also increased activity on 6mx with many stations being heard using voice, whisper and FT8 with reports indicating propagation from VK6 and VK8 as well as the more usual VK4 and VK2 stations. Stations heard have been VK3KQT, VK3ZAZ, VK3TXR and VK3AXH and possibly others as well. Today Sunday 22nd November the 6mx band is wide open to Northern NSW and QLD up at far as Yagoon. Let's hope this is a good omen for the summer season. Good reports using both SSB and FT8 have been received

In addition to the above there has also been an increase in activity with satellite communications with many VK, ZL, and YB1 and E21 being heard and worked. E21EJC puts some of his qso's on youtube so if you go to youtube and type in his callsign you will hear some of his qso's with VK3ZAZ and VK3AXH via the Russian satellite RS44.

We are also getting ready for the upcoming VHF/UHF field day taking place on Saturday/Sunday 28/29 of November. At this stage the weather is looking ok for those that are planning to take part. We will be trying a new location at Mt Mercer approx 26km south of Buninyong at 460m ASL. The owner of the Mt Mercer property which also has a big wind farm has kindly given us permission to setup inside the entrance to his property using grid square QF12we.



We plan to be there for around 3 hours or so allowing us to check out our gear, exchange a few numbers and enjoy each other's company. Those indicating they will attend are VK3KG, VK3BNC, VK3AXH and VK3IDL. Equipment will be 2m, 23cm-3cm. If you would like to come along then you are most welcome to come and have a look.

We may get some QRM from the crew from the EMDRC namely VK3KQ and VK3LL who have been at Enfield for several years with a great setup in grid square QF12vg.

Till next time 73 de VK3AXH

BARG HF FIELD DAY SATURDAY 5th. DECEMBER 2020.

Building on previous year's events another fun day for BARG members is planned for Saturday 5th December. We hope that you will take the opportunity to operate portable at the place of your choice for as long as you want and even invite friends to join in.

The winner will have their call sign engraved on the club's perpetual "Field Day Trophy" which will be presented at the January BARG meeting.

The winning station will have to have participated as a "FIELD station" not deriving its power from the mains, and not his normal QTH. Field stations can score from any amateur station as they do not have to be BARG club stations. If operators can provide detail of setup and antenna used and perhaps a photo of the field station for inclusion in the BARG News this will certainly add to the spirit of the day.

Event. BARG HF Field Day.

Bands: 40m. 7000khz to 7300khz
80m 3500 – 3700khz.

The use of repeaters is not allowed for scoring purposes. **Mode:** Voice Modes only.

Time: 12.00pm – 4.00pm, Local Time

- Members may operate as long as they wish within the above time slot and may change Portable QTH as required but must be shown on Log sheet.
- Members exchange numbers as per standard contest procedure, eg 59001 as the first Contact including call sign worked, time and frequency.
 - Score 5 points per contact with each portable club member to encourage people to try.
 - Score 1 point per VK3 non club member.
 - Score 2 points per VK1/2/5/7 non club member.
 - Score 3 points per VK4/6 non club member.
 - Score 1 point per DX contact. That is a non VK call area
 - Score 6 points for contacting the club station VK3BML should it be activated. .

- Portable Field stations can claim two extra point per contact as per the scoring above. This is to encourage portable station operation in the field by our club members.

- For scoring purposes only **one contact per hour per station** is permitted.

- Record time of contact in your log.

- Transceiver power to be shown along with antenna details.

Log sheets are to be forwarded to Harry, VK3KGL, 29 Cromwell Street Sebastopol, 3356 showing your claimed score. Your log sheets can be submitted electronically, posted, or hand delivered.

All logs must be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 16th of December 2020.

The decision of the adjudicator will be FINAL and no correspondence will be entered into.

There will be a prize for the winning club station and will be presented at the January BARG meeting or as soon as restrictions allow.

Log Sheets are here: https://www.barg.org.au/?page_id=3324