



# BARG News

*Ballarat Amateur Radio Group*

*Inc. #6953T*

*November*

*Monthly Newsletter*

Next Meeting

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016 @ 7.30pm**

At the B.A.R.G. Club House, Ballarat Airport

All Welcome



## **Contacting us**

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

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We're on the web  
[www.barg.org.au](http://www.barg.org.au)

## A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the November newsletter. Daylight saving has kicked in seeing some longer days, though it's been very wet, limiting outdoor operations somewhat. The Hamvention is over again for another year.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August the administrators of the VK Logger forums decided that the effort required to keep the forum running was more than the volume of traffic justified, and locked down the site. All the existing messages are still available in read only mode. The last post did list out a number of related facebook sites that the admin thought were related.

Not everyone is a fan of the Facebook, so VK4ADC has started a new ozlogger forum as a replacement. It's still only new, so drop by and add to the conversation.

<http://www.vklogger.com/forum/index.php> <http://www.ozlogger.net/>

Until next month.

*Malcolm*

VK3MEL

## VHF and Above for November 2016

Hello all. Not much to report on this month for VHF enthusiasts. However there has been 3 occasions where contact has been made on 2 metres SSB into the Barossa Valley just North of Adelaide by Mick VK3GGG and Ian VK3AXH.

Only other news is that Mick VK3GGG and Robert VK3ARM are now operational on 70cm SSB and both are looking forward to the summer DX season.

Just a reminder that the Spring Field Day will be held on the last weekend in November 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 so if you are interested in this event then it's time to get your equipment in order for this activity. This is a great opportunity for the 3.4G panel owners to at least have a go on this band and other bands if you have the capability.

Hopefully there will be more to report on next month.

**73, VK3AXH**



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## QST Review October 2016.

- P4/5 In this issue. The Index.
- P9 US Congress looking at Amateur Radio Parity Act. What is it and what's it mean to Amateurs world wide? Is it a precedent. ?
- P24 Letters from Members.
- P30 The Reverse Beacon Network. A world wide network of receivers monitoring the amateur bands every day. Try these sites. [www.reversebeacon.net](http://www.reversebeacon.net) [wsprnet.org](http://wsprnet.org) [pskreporter.info](http://pskreporter.info) [ncdxf.org/beacon](http://ncdxf.org/beacon)
- P33 Near Fields of a Mobile 2 M Antenna.
- P36 Build the Infinite Looper with rewind & playback on air talk traffic.
- P38 The New Sunspot Numbers.
- P42 Wide Range Audio Oscillator. Also develop a -ve voltage supply from a 555.
- P44 Review: The SunSDR2Pro HF/VHF SDR Transceiver. 160-2Metres
- P49 Review SP-200 and SP-70 Mast head preamps.
- P51 Review: Alinco DR-735T VHF & UHF FM Transceiver.
- P54 The Doctor answers about Antennas and gives advice on using HF Linear amplifiers.
- P56 Microwavelengths discusses and display simple Omni direct Microwave antennas. 2.4GHz to 10 GHz.
- P58 Hands on Radio. Exp 165. Propagation Prediction.
- P60 Eclectic Tecnology. Battery Technologies and the beginning
- P61 Tech Correspondence: Safe mobiling, Diode V drops, Battery power demand.
- P63 Hints & Kinks. Improve the Ameritron and L-4B. Build a coax checker right. Also a novel Coax cable checker.
- P66 DX pedition to HC8 Galapagos.
- P69 Palmyra Atoll K5P activities.
- P73 TX4 IOTAexpedition to Mathew Island.
- P76 Heard Island VK0EK
- P81 T42US Joint Cuban and US expedition 2015.
- P83 National Parks on air October 2016.
- P87 Dayton Hamvention to move after 52 years at Hara Arena.
- P96 Hows DX?
- P98 world above 50 MHz's 4L/DL7ZM in the Republic of Georgia.
- P.103 Friedrichshafen 2016 attracts big crowd.
- P104 Classic Radio. Looks at Collins & Hallicrafters.
- P108 See index's from October 1991, 1968 and 1916 QST's



And that is the latest from ARRL.

73 Craig  
VK3KG.

## Hamvention

October 16<sup>th</sup> was the 2016 Hamvention, which was again a great success. There was a reduction in the number traders on previous years, but numbers through the door were up, making for a busy day.



Lots of gear moved through the course of the day, with a number commenting that the quality of the tables was as high as it's ever been.



Of course it was a great social occasion as well, with many catching up with those they've spoken to on air many times.

Set up and pack up was done efficiently with good numbers from the club turning out to help.



## Round the Web

This month I thought I'd have a look around and what references I could find to Amateur radio in film and TV. Lets start with perhaps the most well known movie.

### **Frequency** – Movie - Year of release, 2000

*A rare atmospheric phenomenon allows a New York City firefighter to communicate with his son 30 years in the future via HAM radio.*

Being able to communicate across the years enables to save the fathers life, but results in other untended consequences making things perhaps worse than they were. So the race is on to change things again.

If you do ever find yourself talking to a family member of 30 years ago, I'd suggest having a bit of a tarn about the economy, and passing a few share market and real estate tips in the QSO. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H\\_FK6JZr4lc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_FK6JZr4lc) <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0186151/plotsummary>



### **Frequency** – TV Series – Year of release, 2016

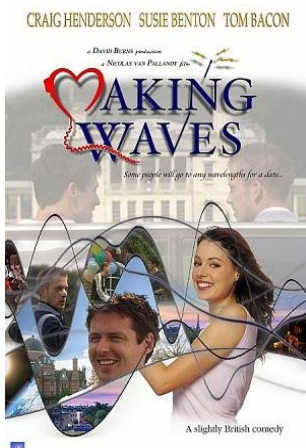
*In this reimagining of the film, a female police detective in 2016 discovers she is able to speak via a ham radio with her estranged father (also a detective) who died in 1996.*

Reworking the 2004 movie and extending into a series. It's being produced by 'The CW Television Network' and described on many sites as 'Frequency. The CW'. It took me a while to work out that the show didn't have some sort of Morse focus. I was wondering how you'd work that into a TV show meant as light entertainment.

It's only half way through the season in the US. Who knows, might be a feature on our screens in the near future. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQK-DChpn1M>

### **Making Waves** – Movie - Year of release, 2004

*Ham radio enthusiasts exaggerate who they are to the other listeners assuming they'll never meet but then have to try and live up to their fantasy personalities when they meet.*



This sounds like a reasonable plot line.

Knowing what the stereotypical HAM looks like, I was expecting a cover something like you'd find on "Grumpy Old Men". Instead the cover actually looks more like a version of "Bridget Jones Diary", so I guess it's not actually aimed at the typical HAM.

The cover does note that that it's a "slightly British comedy", which usually means it's more subtle than what the US might produce.

I wasn't able to find a trailer and I've no idea where you'd go to get a copy if you're keen to see it. Let me know if you work it out.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0418851/>

### **Making Waves** – Documentary - Year of release, 2004

*What do a public access TV personality, an electronics engineer, a Vietnam vet, a libertarian congressional candidate and a retired millionaire have in common? They're all operating unlicensed, 'pirate' radio stations..*

This is the same name and year of release as above, so I included it, even though it's not really HAM focused. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRp6cPZfTX>



There's a bunch of movies that include some references to HAM radio. Movies such as Contact, where the early scenes see the heroine and her dad using a radio together. And Phenomenon, with John Travolta. At one point the hero of the movie uses a Kenwood TS940 to copy some RTTY by ear!

AD7DB posted a list of movies that might have been about HAM's with some small changes o the plot lines up on QSL.net, <http://www.qsl.net/ad7db/movies.html>.

The list includes such of the classics as: "**Gone With the Wind**" - 1939. Drama. *The classic story of Brett and Charlotte as they try to save their 100 foot tower in the worst wind storm to hit Georgia since the Civil War.*

AC6V has assembled a more traditional listing of movies and TV shows with references to HAM radio. <http://www.ac6v.com/popculture.htm>

No listing would be compete with out mentioning **Hancock's Half Hour – The Radio Ham**. Originally aired by the BBC in 1960. These days you can watch the whole show on Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJ2EoM2t6Uw>

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At a computer expo sometime ago (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated,"If Ford had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, Ford issued a press release stating:

If Ford had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics (and I just love this part):

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash... twice a day.
- 2.. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
- 3... Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason.  
You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
- 4... Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
- 5..... Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run\* \*on only five percent of the roads.
- 6..... The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.
- 7..... The air bag system would ask, "Are you sure?" before deploying.
- 8..... Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
- 9..... Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
- 10..... You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

\*\* PS - I'd like to add that when all else fails, you could call "customer service" in some foreign country and be instructed in some foreign language how to fix your car yourself!

*SALGUOD*

## Skills Test

Here's another trick from the Doctor to test your skills . . . Can you meet this challenge?

We've seen this with the letters out of order, but this is the first time we've seen it with numbers.

Good example of a Brain Study: If you can read this OUT LOUD you have a strong mind. And better than that: Alzheimer's is a long long, way down the road before it ever gets anywhere near you!

7H15            M3554G3  
53RV35        7O    PR0V3  
H0W    0UR    M1ND5    C4N  
D0    4M4Z1NG    7H1NG5!  
1MPR3551V3        7H1NG5!

1N    7H3    B3G1NN1NG  
17    WA5    H4RD    BU7  
N0W,    0N    7H15    LIN3  
      Y0UR    M1ND    1S  
R34D1NG 17    4U70M471C4LLY  
      W17H0U7        3V3N  
      7H1NK1NG    4B0U7    17,

B3    PROUD!    0NLY  
C3R741N    P30PL3    C4N  
      R3AD        7H15!

PL3453    F0RW4RD    1F  
U    C4N    R34D    7H15.

To my 'selected' strange-minded friends: If you can read the following paragraph, forward it on to your friends with 'yes' in the subject line. Only great minds can read this. This is weird, but interesting!

If you can read this, you have a strange mind, too. Can you read this? Only 55 people out of 100 can.

I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in what oerdr the ltteres in a word are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is that the frsrit and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot spleling was ipmorantt! If you can raed this forwrad it.

## Truisms

- If I had a dollar for every girl who found me unattractive, they'd eventually find me attractive.
- I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom, until they're flashing behind you.
- Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool, so I gave him a glass of water.
- I changed my password to "incorrect" so whenever I forget it the computer will say, "Your password is incorrect."
- I'm great at multi-tasking--I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.
- Never tell your problems to anyone, because 20 percent don't care and the other 80 percent are glad you have them.
- Take my advice — I'm not using it.
- I hate it when people use big words just to make themselves sound perspicacious.
- Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were.
- Television may insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.
- I bought a vacuum cleaner six months ago and so far all it's been doing is gathering dust.
- Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes.
- If you keep your feet firmly on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your pants.
- A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.
- My wife got 8 out of 10 on her driver's test--the other two blokes managed to jump out of her way.
- There may be no excuse for laziness, but I'm still looking.
- Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men spend thinking.
- Give me ambiguity or give me something else.
- Is it wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly?
- Women sometimes make fools of men, but most guys are the do-it-yourself type.
- I was going to give him a nasty look, but he already had one.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- The grass may be greener on the other side but at least you don't have to mow it.
- I like long walks, especially when they're taken by people who annoy me.
- Since tomatoes are technically a fruit, is ketchup a smoothie?
- Money is the root of all wealth.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

*SALGUOD*