

B.A.R.G. NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. Inc. #6953T

ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 7 **SEPTEMBER 2005**

PRESIDENT: David Tilson VK3UR SECRETARY: John Kennedy VK3AIG TREASURER: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

At 7.30 pm

EDITOR'S COMMENT

BPL and amateur radio. The saga goes on, but it is nice to see other organisations putting in submissions to ACMA and giving amateur radio a mention. The "Australian National 4WD Radio Network inc." is one of these organisations and I would like to quote a couple of paragraphs from their submission, writing about emergencies. "Similarly if emergency communications are disrupted in the case of a bushfire, an earthquake, a cyclone or a tsunami resulting in loss of property how would this be treated in a Coroner's inquiry? How many times in recent history has HF been the only workable form of communications in a disaster" WICEN & Amateur radio. And again talking about their "travellers net during peak periods of around 450 calls a day. "A similar situation will probably apply with Amateur Radio Operators; again we believe that there are around 16000 such operators in Australia many of who are operating at the legal limit of 400 watts and a greater number operating commercial type 100 watt (pX) radios".

We hope that these submissions will finally convince the authorities of the importance of HF bands to national security and maintain our hobby.

A copy of the submission will be available for members to read at the Club Rooms.

ANNUAL SUBS.

At the AGM the subs for the year 2005/6 were fixed at the same level as last year namely \$30.00 for individual members and \$40 for families. Many members have paid in advance so they will be pleased that they do not have to pay any extra. Remember that all fees have to be paid by the end of October to retain your membership.

September General Meeting:

After unavoidably missing his last booking Mark Schmidt, from Neighborhood Cable, will be our guest speaker at our next General Meeting on 30th September.

CLUB OFFICERS THIS YEAR

2005 Club Committee:

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting the following Office Bearers were elected and positions appointed for the coming 12 months.

Office Bearers:

Position:	Name:	Callsign:	Telephone (AH):
President	David Tilson	VK3UR	5334-1888
Vice President	Craig Cook	VK3CMC	5342-2448
Secretary	John Kennedy	VK3AIG	5332-4454
Treasurer	Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC	0411-138-197
Member's Representative	Ian Lloyd	VK3IDL	5331-1480
Member's Representative	Bob Terrill	VK3BNC	5339-5317
Member's Representative	John Hazledine	VK3CFH	5339-1971
Member's Representative	Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL	5335-7563
Member's Representative	Bob Pitcher	VK3NBV	5336-0998
Member's Representative	Doug Raper	VK3VBA	5332-3565

Appointed Positions:

Position:	Name:	Callsign:	Telephone (AH):
Amenities Co-ordinator	Doug Raper	VK3VBA	5332-3565
Awards Officer	Ernie Turner	VK3DET	5367-0383
Education Officer	Craig Cook	VK3CMC	5342-2448
Examinations Co-ordinator	Craig Cook	VK3CMC	5342-2448
Hamvention Co-ordinator	Ian McDonald	VK3AXH	5341-3012
Net Controller	Clem Allan	VK3BVI	5348-7709
Newsletter Editor	Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL	5335-7563
Property Officer	Jeff Pigdon	VK3PAP	5332-7041
Publicity Officer	Vacant		
QSL Officer	Michael Lomas	N/C	5344-7464
Technical Officer	Ian McDonald	VK3AXH	5341-3012
Contests Co-ordinator	Ernie Turner	VK3DET	5342-0383
Librarian	Craig Cook	VK3CMC	5342-2448
IRLP Officer	Vacant		
Web Site Coordinator	Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL	5335-7563

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION

At the AGM a life membership was awarded to Norm D'Angri for his services to the Club Gordon VK3FGC giving the presentation mentioned Norm's work as Newsletter editor for a number of years and his continuing printing and posting of the "hard copy" to those members without e-mail. Norm also has produces the Club's logo and most of the art work used by the Club for such events as last year's Eureka Special event.

Norm's XYL, Val, brought him to the meeting under the pretext of taking him to Learmonth or somewhere and so the presentation came as a complete surprise to him. Congratulations Life Member Norm.

BARG 2005 / 2006 Calendar of Events

Month:	Construction Group:	Committee Meeting:	Dining Night:	General Meeting:	Notes:
October	Mon 10 th 7:30pm	Wed 19 th 7:30pm	Fri 21 st 6:30pm	Fri 28 th 7:30pm	Sat 29th Oct Ballarat Airport Open Day
November	Mon 14 th 7:30pm	Wed 16 th 7:30pm	Fri 18 th 6:30pm	Fri 25 th 7:30pm	Sun 6th Nov Hamvention @ Ballarat Showgrounds
December	Mon 12 th 7:30pm	Wed 21 st 7:30pm	Fri 23 rd 6:30pm XMAS BBQ	No General Meeting	
January	No Construction Night	Wed 18 th 7:30pm	Fri 21 st 6:30pm	Fri 27 th 7:30pm	
February	Mon 13 th 7:30pm	Wed 15 th 7:30pm	Fri 17 th 6:30pm	Fri 24 th 7:30pm	
March	Mon 6 th 7:30pm (13 th Labour Day)	Wed 15 th 7:30pm	Fri 17 th 6:30pm	Fri 31 st 7:30pm	18th - 19th Mar John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest
April	Mon 10 th 7:30pm	Wed 19 th 7:30pm	Fri 21 st 6:30pm	Fri 28 th 7:30pm	
May	Mon 8 th 7:30pm	Wed 17 th 7:30pm	Fri 19 th 6:30pm	Fri 26 th 7:30pm	Sun 28th May George Fowler Memorial Auction
June	Mon 5 th 7:30pm (12 th Queen's Birthday)	Wed 21 st 7:30pm	Fri 16 th 6:30pm	Fri 30 th 7:30pm	
July	Mon 10 th 7:30pm	Wed 19 th 7:30pm	Fri 21 st 6:30pm	Fri 28 th 7:30pm	
August	Mon 14 th 7:30pm	Wed 16 th 7:30pm	Fri 18 th 6:30pm	Fri 25 th 7:30pm AGM	(Near 15th Aug) Remembranc e Day Contest
September	Mon 11 th 7:30pm	Wed 20 th 7:30pm	Fri 15 th 6:30pm	Fri 29 th 7:30pm	

DATES

Club meetings the last Friday each month starting at 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE please note that meetings (3rd Wednesday in the month) will also start at 7.30.

Construction Nights. Construction nights are held on the second Monday each month at 7.30pm.

WICEN Net : Tuesday nights at 9.00 pm on 3.60 MHz + QRM etc. (Some times below 3.60) and after the net closes, a short check in on 40M at an agreed freq.

MOWING ROSTER – AGAIN

It is that time again when we publish the mowing roster for the Club rooms. The mower and fuel are at the rooms, but when the fuel is getting low please contact the committee to get a refill. Any new “mowers” will be fitted in.

Aug VK3NBV & VK3VBA

Sept. VK3CMC & VK3 IDL

Oct. VK3DMK & VK3FGC

Nov VK3AXH & VK3TJW

Dec. VK3NBV & VK3VBA

Jan VK3CMC & VK3IDL

Feb. VK3DMK & VK3FGC

Mar. VK3AXH & VK3TJW

FOR SALE

One Only: portable 12 V Briggs and Stratton 4 stroke petrol engine driving a 50A car alternator by V belt The unit has space to hold a 12V wet cell battery and includes the control relay and metering panel. The motor is a “pull” start and also has a storage space for a hydrometer. Original asking price was \$100.00 but now will accept offers.

Also available is a Chirnside 10/15M beam with single driven element and feed line output. Was a good performer but now surplus to needs.

Contact Craig VK3CMC at 03 5342 2448 or e-mail vk3cmc@pigpond.com.au

One for the XYL's

WANTED

Stephen VK3SE is looking for old unwanted men's ties for his daughter's school assignment. If you have any old ties and would like to donate (ie get rid of them) contact Stephen on 5331 5526 or bring them to the next club meeting.

HAMVENTION

THE 2005 BALLARAT HAMVENTION HOME BREW COMPETITION CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

OVERVIEW:

The aim of the 2005 Ballarat Hamvention Home Brew Competition is to encourage the design and construction of equipment that aids or assists with the enjoyment of radio communications. This typically includes, but is not limited to:

- Amplifiers
- Antenna Tuning Units
- Control Systems
- Power Supplies
- Radio Antennas
- Receivers
- Test Equipment
- Transmitters

The winners from last year's competition were:

- A Light Dependant Relay for Switching 240VAC Equipment – Jeff Arnold, SWL (Novice category)
- A 13.8V DC Regulated Power Supply by John, VK3TJW (Experienced category)
- A 40m SSB Transceiver by Noel, VK3FGN (Expert category)

This is an honesty system and entrants use the following criteria. There will be 3 sections of competition, comprising: Novice, Experienced, and Expert. It is permissible for an entrant to enter above, but not below, their section.

NOVICE:

1. Is a person who is NOT, or was NOT, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; AND
2. Has no amateur licence, or has held an amateur licence for less than two years; AND
3. Has built less than 5 projects (Kits or own design).

EXPERIENCED:

1. Is a person who is NOT, or was NOT, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; AND
2. Has held an amateur licence for more than two years and less than 10 years; OR
3. Has built more than 5 simple projects. (Kits or own design)

EXPERT:

1. Is a person who is, or was, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; OR
2. Has held a amateur licence for 10 years or more; OR
3. Anyone who doesn't fit any of the above.

REGISTRATION:

1. There is no cost to enter the Home Brew Competition and you may enter as many entries as you wish.
2. All entries must be accompanied by a separate Entry Form.
3. All entries, and Entry Forms, must be presented to the Home Brew Competition Co-ordinator by 09:30 on Sunday, 6th November, 2005. Entries received after this time, will be displayed but ineligible for the competition.
4. All entries must be collected on the day of the Hamvention.

JUDGING AND JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Workmanship which covers facets including mechanical construction, soldering, layout, good practice for the radio frequencies used, use of suitable materials, controls with knobs and labels, serviceability, safety and appearance.
2. Originality will be considered as will complexity of the project and the documentation.

3. Judging will occur on the morning of the Hamvention, with the prize winners being announced during the course of the day. The judges decision will be final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.
4. Pictures of entries and a summary of the judges remarks may be published on the BARG Web Site (www.barg.org.au) and BARG Newsletter after the Hamvention.
5. If the item is contained in a box, the box should be unscrewed and open to allow inspection of the item.

PRIZES:

A certificate and a \$50 cash prize will be made available to the winner of each section.

ENTRY FORM:

All entries must be accompanied with the following documentation.

2004 BALLARAT HAMVENTION HOME BREW COMPETITION:

Name:

Callsign:

Section: Novice Experienced Expert

Project Title:

Brief Description:

Estimated Construction Time:

Why Did You Build It?:

Propagation Report for September 2005

Well what a month it has been so far. Since my last report there has been a number of X class solar flares, Aurora propagation and some good VHF/UHF openings as well.

At this time of the year conditions can be quite variable and the past few weeks have been no exception.

HF Bands.

Generally most of the bands exhibited poor conditions within VK where there has been on several occasions when no signals at all could be heard particularly on the lower frequencies ie 40 and 80 metres. At times some good signals were to be had on 20 metres but were spasmodic.

However in the VHF/UHF bands many stations took advantage of the Auroral activity with good contacts being made between most of the Eastern States on both 6 and 2 metres

In the last week in August both the lads had good contacts on FM and SSB by tropo scatter and Aurora enabling communication with VK2/7/5/3 and VK1.

Apart from the above there have been several openings into VK2 with Leigh VK2KRR being very active and providing a target for those wishing to get that elusive DX contact.

Ian VK3AXH reports regular Aircraft Enhancement contact into VK1/2 on 2 and 70 SSB and has worked another 5 Stations in Europe on 2m and 70cm via EME.

Craig VK3CMC is up and running on 70cm SSB now which is great. Sorry Craig to hear about your catastrophe with the 160 metre vertical. I wonder how many others involved in the 160m antenna project have theirs operational? Let me know how your progress is coming along for inclusion in next month's report.

I urge all members to send me a report on what their activities are to let others within the club know what is happening in their shack.

Till next month 73...Ian VK3AXH

Construction Group

Construction Group:

A small group, comprising Ian, **VK3AXH**, Ian **VK3IDL**, Gordon, **VK3FGC** and David, **VK3UR**, met at Club Rooms for the September Construction Night and continued work on installing the computer cabling. All of the wall plates and connectors have now been mounted and there isn't too much work required to finish off the cabling in the Computer Room. Ian, **VK3AXH**, reports that the kits for the HF Antenna Analyser are due to be sent from South Australia in the next week.

Jeff, **VK3PAP**, has constructed a new work bench for the back room and it is now in position. So we are again looking for donations of tools to fit the area out. The group will be looking to fit shadow boards behind the bench to hold the tools.

President's Report:

Firstly this month, an apology, from me for not being able to attend the Annual General Meeting. As you may have heard my daughter, Juliette, was admitted to hospital on the day of the meeting and my highest priority was to be with her and Katie. Fortunately Juliette has recovered now and thanks to Gordon for stepping in at short notice to run the meeting.

Thank you to those members of the club who have volunteered (or were volunteered) to take on a role during the coming year, either as an elected Committee Member, or as an appointed Club Officer with a defined portfolio. A list of who is responsible for what can be found further in this newsletter, however it is disappointing to note that there are no new faces on the list this year, and that some members are having to fill multiple roles.

Congratulations to Norm D'angri, **VK3LBA**, who was made a Life Member of BARG at the 2005 AGM. Norm has worked tirelessly for the Club over a number of years and this award was well deserved.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, VK3UR

NEWS ITEMS

Tower Update:

Charlie, **VK3TCV**, has installed his new Nally Tower in Wendouree. By the time you read this he should have a HyGain TH6 sitting on the top of it.

BARG IRLP / Web System:

Following a very strong and damaging wind storm that occurred in Ballarat during the night of Monday, 29th August, the BARG IRLP / Web system was off air for a couple of weeks. The storm caused damage to the radio antennas at Neighborhood Cable, that provides the Internet link to the Club Rooms and this took a little while to fix. We also needed to restart the computer and wireless modem at the Club Rooms which took place during the September Construction Night.

WIA Accredited Assessors:

Craig, **VK3CMC**, was nominated by the Committee to become a WIA Accredited Assessor. The requirements to become an assessor under the new arrangements are gruelling and the paperwork alone is not for the faint hearted. The WIA organised a course to be conducted by Fred Swainston, however due to Craig's previous experience as a teacher were recognised and exempted him. Craig will give an overview of the process at the coming General Meetings in preparation for the new examination process being introduced. The current invigilators will still be able to conduct examinations for the current licence grades, however a WIA Accredited Assessor will be required to conduct the new Foundation grade of licence.

Telecommunications over the ages:

A group of Russian, American and Australian Telecommunications Engineers were sitting in a bar boasting of their respective countries expertise in telecommunications.

The Russian Engineer said that archaeologists had dug down 1000 metres and discovered a piece of copper. By finding this they concluded that 1000 years ago that the Russian people had telephone lines.

The American Engineer scoffed and said that was nothing. American archaeologists had dug down 2000 metres and discovered a piece of glass tubing. They concluded that this meant that 2000 years ago the American people used optical fibre communications.

The Australian Engineer finished his beer, looked at both the Russian and American Engineers in the eyes, and said that Australian archaeologists dug down 5000 metres and found absolutely nothing. This proved that 5000 years ago Aussies were using wireless telecommunications...

Ballarat Airport Open Day:

Following Council approval, of the Ballarat Airport Management Plan, BARG has been approached to participate in an Open Day at the Ballarat Airport. The proposed date is Saturday, 29th October, and the aim is for all clubs and businesses at the airport to be open to the public for the day. This is a good opportunity for the general public to visit the club and for our members to find out more about the clubs and businesses operating from the airport. We hope to have further information at the September General Meeting.

Jamboree Of The Air (JOTA):

Amateur Radio Victoria distributed a letter to all radio clubs on behalf of Scouts Australia inviting clubs to participate in this year's Jamboree Of The Air (JOTA) which will be held on the weekend of 15th/16th October. We do not know if there are any Scout / Guide groups, in the Ballarat area, that are interested in participating however we have registered our interest with the Scout Association for groups that would like to participate from our club rooms. We should have further information at the September General Meeting.

Ballarat Hamvention:

Ian, **VK3AXH**, our Hamvention Coordinator reports that plans for the Ballarat Hamvention are progressing well. The Showgrounds are confirmed for Sunday, 6th November, and advertising flyers should appear in the October edition of Amateur Radio magazine. We are hoping to have a number of raffle prizes this year to spark the interest of participants. Traders will be permitted to enter the area at 8:00am and the general admission will commence at 10:00am. **Trading prior to the 10:00am commencement time is strictly forbidden.** We will have more information in the next newsletter.

An informal dinner will be held at the Ballarat La Porchetta's Restaurant at 8:00pm on the Saturday evening, 5th November. If you would like to come please contact David, **VK3UR**, on 5334-1888 (AH).

October Dining Night:

The next Dining Night will be held on Friday, 21st October, commencing at 6:30pm. The venue for this month is the "Brothers In Arms" bistro at the Ballarat Miner Dome. If you would like to come contact David, **VK3UR**, on 5334-1888 (AH).

August 2005 BARG General Meeting

The meeting was opened by Vice President Craig VK3CMC

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated moved VK3HHK, VK3BEB

Business arising from minutes – error in meeting date

Correspondence: John Moyle Certificate (3rd) arrived from WIA

Treasurer: Gordon VK3FGC presented a report that \$457 had been paid prior to the meeting – no change is balance

\$129.45 paid to Doug VK3VBA for mugs and supper

moved VK3FGC, VK3IDL

Reports

Club Net:	Clem VK3BVI reported net going well
Western Zone	Ian VK3CIS also going well
Education	Craig VK3CMC will be attending an accreditation course In Melbourne for the changes in examinations
Technical	Ian VK3AXH reports the Ben Nevis repeater is complete and the construction of Antenna Analyzers will go ahead but the next night will concentrate on finishing off computer cables
Publicity	Doug VK3VBA publicity was provided for the AGM
Library	Craig VK3CMC QST arrived
Amenities	VK3NBV/VK3VBA mowing grass

General Business

- 1 Doug VK3VBA reported that 2 laser printers had been donated to the club
- 2 Some members noted that Novices in VK4 were using full privilege operation – seek WIA confirmation
- 3 Steve VK3SE said he had access to a disc to assist those having difficulty with their MFJ analyzers start up
- 4 Ian VK3IDL presented a number of members with Certificates of Appreciation for participation in the VI3BML Eureka event and others for support in other areas

Meeting closed at 8:45pm for supper

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475	Mt Hollowback
VK3RBU-1	(APRS)	144.900	Mt Hollowback

BEACON

VK3RMB	438.475	Mt Buninyong
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IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

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 Gordon VK3FGC

mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail wcornell@bigpond.net.au

B.A.R.G. Inc.

(Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. Inc #6953T)

ABN 44 247 200 143

Annual Subscription & Club Register Check

Date: _____

Receipt No _____

Name: _____ **Y/N** **Call Sign** _____ **Y/N**

Address: _____ **Y/N** **Phone Home** _____ **Y/N**

Town: _____ **Y/N** **Phone Work** _____ **Y/N**

Post Code _____ **Y/N** **E-mail** _____ **Y/N**

Subscription Paid \$ _____ **MOB** _____ **Y/N**

If the Club decides to publish a Club Directory, are you willing to have the above information included? Yes/No. If there is any information you want excluded; please circle Yes/No (Y/N) on each entry above.

Signature _____