

BARG News



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

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

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY October 26, 2007
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

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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Bob, VK3NBV

A few words from the President.....

G'Day All,

It's now getting to the important part of the year, that is the BARG Hamvention, on Sunday November 4 at the Woolshed Convention Centre.

We will be setting up on the Saturday.

Everyone's help is needed on the Sunday, stall holders will need a hand, a couple of hand trolleys would be handy, ticket sellers, organise food for stall holders that are busy. Club members need to jump in and help where ever you see a need.

Name Badges to be worn on the day.

Thanks to Doug VBA and John CFH who manned a radio site at the Wendouree Men's Health Expo on Sunday, good on you pushing the flag for amateur radio.

Attendees at two recent events, or lack of, I find disappointing, the new once a month Saturday morning Function attracted 5, but all good workers.

Sundays Multiclub BBQ at Laanecoorie attracted 10 including wives and a dog from Ballarat..

But Hey, we had a good time at a great location and tons of good food and interaction with the other clubs

Well that's it for now,

73's Bob Pitcher. VK3NBV..



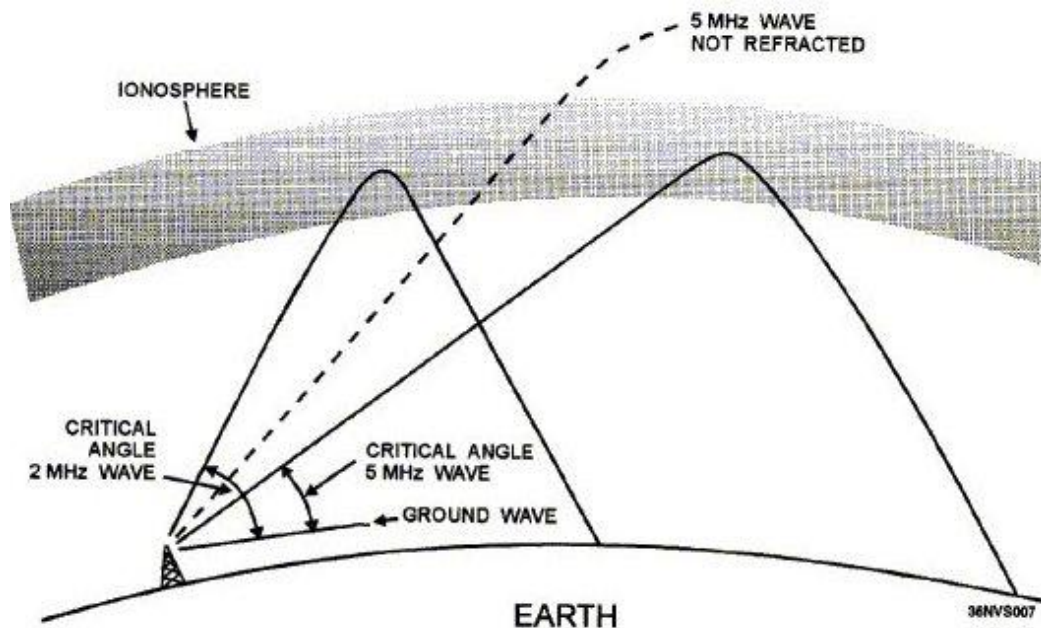
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(This is last month report which I stuffed up – Editor)

Propagation Report for September 2007

HF Bands

There has not been too much in the way of propagation over the past month. Some DX has been heard on the 40m band in the late afternoon with several VK's working into Europe and North America. John VK3AIG reports he has been active on 160m using CW with contacts to several States in VK.

VHF and Above

Limited openings have occurred over the past few weeks. Kevin Vk3WN reports having contacts with Joe VK7JG from Launceston and Peter VK5ZLX near the Barossa Valley. Kevin also reports hearing the Launceston 2m beacon on a number of occasions.

Activity on the 144.150MHz Wednesday net beginning at 8:30pm is constant however conditions have not been all that favourable. Ian VK3IDL reported working Robbie VK3EK the net controller from Bairnsdale on both 2m and 70cm last Wednesday evening. When the net has completed local stations shift up to 144.250 for a local chat. Around 8 stations are can be heard which include VK3KQB, VK3AIG, VK3GND, VK3CMC, VK3IDL, VK3AXH and a couple of extras from Colac VK3MCW and VK3AAK from the Mornington Peninsula. Often some of the group will have contacts on 70cm and 23cm.

The VHF/UHF Spring Field Day is planned for the weekend after the BARG hamvention so why not get out your portable stuff and join in the fun.

Construction Group

Thanks to Brian VK3KQB for his efforts with the Audio Amplifier kits. I believe most of them are now working and will be a useful device to have around the shack. The next limited project is being put together and is an RF milliwattmeter for use by those members interested in some of the microwave bands. The kits will be available for the 6 participants at the next construction night.

If you have any ideas please let us know and join in the fun on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Propagation Report for October 2007

HF Bands

Again not a great deal to report. This is mainly due to the low sunspot cycle having a significant effect on propagation. However I have received reports from VK3SE indicating some contacts on bands including 21 and 28Mhz. There has also been reported activity from VK3KQB and VK3AIG that signals from within VK and ZL can often be heard in the evenings.

VHF/UHF Bands

Well things have been relatively quiet on these bands again this month. VK3WN and VK3AXH have been active on SSB with contacts into VK1, VK3 and VK5 on 2m and some qso's with VK3YLV in Horsham and VK3LY at Nhill on 70cm.

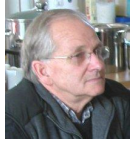
Steve VK3SE reported being involved in a qso using 2m SSB early in October with VK7OW, VK6AI, VK5MFW/mobile and VK2BLS around 4pm one afternoon.

EME QSO by VK3IDL...Congratulations to Ian VK3IDL for his first Eme qso with Japanese station JH0MHE. Ian was using his home brew two stacked yagis and around 100 watts of power which is a great effort.

Construction Group.

Most have completed the audio amp project supplied by Brian VK3KQB and now moved onto the RF milliwatt meter. Parts were distributed and several have now completed the RF head so it won't be long before some calibration is required. I've heard there's been plenty of #\$\$%\$#!!! uttered when that illusive SMD component went flying off into the air and never to be found again.

Till next time 73 de VK3AXH



VK3AXH

The Secretary's Page

Minutes of BARG General Meeting September 2007

Welcome: Meeting opened by President Bob VK3NBV at 7:38pm

Apologies: VK3CAZ, VK3HRZ, VK3BNC, VK3DCS, VK3FHUT, VK3ASH,
VK3FPOL, VK3FSDH, VK3PAP, VK3CFH, VK3ZRF

Minutes of the August General Meeting as per the Newsletter

Moved Vk3BVI/VK3FSTU Carried

Secretary Report:

Correspondence: Incoming – Subs VK3ZRF, WIA subs receipt, QST Magazine

Outgoing – Bereavement Cards to Tom VK3DMK and Phil Seddon
For the recent death of their fathers

Moved Vk3AXH/VK3IDL Carried

Treasurers Report: Finance Statement tabled – Balance \$6641.42

Moved VK3FGC/VK3KCA Carried

Reports:

Mast – No further progress due to Jeff VK3PAP being away

Beacons – Due to commitments no change to the 70cm and 1296MHz beacons until next month.

Repeaters – Ian VK3AXH reports no further progress with the Ben Nevis repeater due to other commitments. Same situation with VK3RBA.

Education – Craig VK3CMC reports another Foundation Course will be held in November. It was suggested some advertising be done in an attempt to attract potential candidates. There is also some interest in some members wishing to upgrade to the next level. This is to be done with use of mentors who are yet to be determined.

Radio Modernisation Project – David VK3UR reports that an upgrade in the clubs computer system is allowing the remote control of the clubs HF/VHF equipment to proceed to the next stage. David also kindly donated a FT4700 dual band VHF/UHF transceiver to BARG to replace existing old equipment.

Ammenities – Doug VK3VBA has organized a Trivia Night and supper after tonights meeting and Doug will also arrange for the Hamvention to be advertised via several TV community calendars and newspapers.

Doug also reminded members of the workingbee get together at the clubrooms on the 2nd Saturday after each General Meeting to attend to outstanding chores around the club rooms. This is scheduled for Saturday 6th October between 9am and 12noon.

BARG Annual Callender – President Bob VK3NBV has completed the update to the club’s Callender to reflect the activities that occur throughout the year. Bob reminded members of the BBQ at Laanecoorie on October 14.

Construction Group –Brian VK3KQB reported the audio project was progressing well with several members having completed their units. Ian VK3AXH reported that the parts for the RF Milliwattmeter will be available for those members undertaking this project at the next construction night. Ian reminded members to have a think about future projects that may be suitable for this activity.

Hamvention – At this point in time Ian VK3AXH reported that 33 table have been booked however many more are required to make the event a success. A meeting of the hamvention sub committee is to be held around the middle of the month to discuss various issues.

Club Insurance – Gordon VK3FGC looked into the cost of insuring club assets and found the cost to be prohibitive. It was suggested that part of the clubs investment funds could be set aside in the event of any losses.

General Business:

Bob VK3NBQ again reminded members of the combined BBQ to be held on Sunday 14th October and departure will be from the Maxi Car Park around 10 –10:30am. Bob will advise members via email prior to the event. Bob also mentioned JOTA which is scheduled for 20/21 October. John VK3CFH will require some assistance to setup some HF antenna’s – Doug VK3VBA maybe available to assist.

As a mark of David VK3UR’s generosity Bob VK3NBV moved a motion to officially thank David for the gift of a VHF/UHF transceiver FT4700 to BARG. which will be used as part of the Radio Modernisation Project.

Moved VK3NBV/VK3FGC Carried

David VK3UR questioned the ongoing need for a UHF repeater at Mt Hollowback as there are plans to install a WICEN UHF repeater at Mt Buninyong. Several members present indicated we should keep the existing installation until any maintenance issues arise.

Rotary Club Tickets. It was decided to get 25 books for distribution and sale by members as the proceeds generate worthwhile income for the club – Secretary to arrange.

Rotary Club Display of amateur radio will occur at the Netball Stadium on October 14 which maybe an opportunity to attract some new foundation members to the club John VK3VBA and John VK3CFH will setup some equipment but would appreciated some assistance from any other members on the day.

Meeting Closed 8:35pm



QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library



QST Review 2007-10 Oct

A quick skim through the pages of the latest magazine in the library

P29 Brief review of Kenwood APRS Radio by the man himself Bob Bruninga.

P30 Are you using the right size fuse.

P33 An all Band Attic antenna.

P38 A low cost Frequency Synthesizer.

P47 Waiting for the Sun. When, how and what to do until then?

P50 Americas wake up call when Russia launched the first satellite in Oct 57.

P52 The Doctor: Switching a vert broadside antenna, Ignition noise suppression, Jpole versus ground plane antenna.

P 55 Modify the VHF Motorola Micor Part 1.

P57 Roofing Filters in the receiver.

P59 WARNING Batteries explode in cars. Watch out for your face.

P60 Hands on Radio. Exp 57 Double Stubs.

P62 Hints & Kinks. Replace defective meter movements, Quick antenna earthing and make a J Pole antenna on glass sheet/window.

P65 Product Review. FT 2000D HF & 6meter transceiver.

P72 Technical Correspondence: Building own 600W HF amplifier, refers Back to QST June 2006 by K0GKD.

P84 Old Radio looks at Sputnik launch 4 Oct 1957 and the Hallicrafters SX25 receiver.

P91 Review: Automatic Screw driver controller for ICOM radios. Price and a web site for more details.

P103 Ham speak: Terms and items mentioned in this edition. Good to have a read up on this one.

P Adds, Adds, Adds.

Rest of magazine is filled with advertisements and ARRL club matters.

That's all for this months review.

73, Craig, vk3cmc

BEFORE STEREOPHONIC.

I find it hard to believe that sixty odd years has passed since we listened to mainly “78” mono records reproduced on valve type radiograms using mainly magnetic “pickups”. Tape recorders were few and far between and “45 and 33 1/3” were not yet available.

Some time in the early 1950’s, but exactly when I can not recall, the Ballarat Radio Society arranged a demonstration of a new system of recording for the reproduction of “Live Sound”.

The demonstration of “Binaural” took place at the Alexandria on Lydiard Street and was presented by Ibbott Sound Systems from Melbourne.

The “Binaural System” was amazing to all present and the audience included local amateurs and guests from the South Western Zone of the WIA.

Separate audio amplifiers were connected to two sets of Hi Fi loud speakers set a distance apart in the hall.

Separate heads, one for each amplifier, were mounted side by side upon a common arm fitted to a turntable. A disc with two recorded tracks, arranged apart so that the distance of separation could be matched by the separation between the two heads, reproduced the sound fed to the two amplifiers. The recording system producing the record used two microphones spaced a specific distance apart to make the two individual tracks and the distance was used to space the loud speaker systems apart.

During the demonstration Mr. Ibbott played recordings of footsteps passing by, vehicles and a train traveling past, Ping Pong Balls and other sounds made by movements and the affect was magical.

The final demonstration was of a recording of an orchestra performing a rendition of a symphonic piece with the various instruments taking their part as they were directed by the conductor so that the reproduced sounds appeared to leave the speakers and take their places as if they were in the room.

Every one was amazed except for an amateur called Tony Wilson, VK3ZAZ from Glenthompson who was perplexed and shook his head saying that something was wrong. Finally he decided that the fiddles were on the wrong side. Mr. Ibbott swapped over the cables to the heads and replayed the piece. The fiddles were in the right place and Tony was happy with the result!

The cartridges used in the turntable heads were Crystal types, using Rochelle Salts, I think, and I believe made by the Company.

Of course the head distance had to be exact to get the two sounds in sync. Not a simple task.

The reproduction from the system sounded superior to the present day Stereophonic reproduction but I guess we lay people would not know the difference and enjoy what we have today.

Brian, VK3ZQB

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2007