

BARG News



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

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 11 November 2011



President:	Craig Cook	VK3CMC
Secretary:	Doug Ellery	VK3FDRE
Treasurer:	Bill Wells	VK3PAL

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY November 25, 2011
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

Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL
Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Phil Seddon	
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RWA*	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	147.100 MHz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(2 m Packet Repeater)	144.750 MHz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(70 cm Voice Repeater)	438.475 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(70 cm Beacon)	432.535 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBU-1	(2 m APRS Repeater)	145.175 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RBT	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	146.650 MHz	Green Hill

* **IRLP** Node 6310 using VK3RWA

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

CLUB NET VK3BML 3.608+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

WIA Broadcast Sunday 11.00 am via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to Harry VK3KGL

Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail membermember member.vk3kgl@barg.org.au

Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater

Every Sunday at 11.00 am, WIA National News.

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat



QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

QST Review 2011-11 - Nov.



Here are the **Technical articles** in this months copy.

- P9 Editorial. Fifty Years in Space. OSCAR 1.
- P31 Build your own DSP Speaker.
- P35 Antenna for Restricted space Communities.
- P38 A Four Tone SSB Test Generator.
- P42 Break in keying for the ALS-600 Amplifier.
- P45 160 or 80Metre Downspout Vertical antenna.
- P49 Skype Phone Patch. No extra hardware required.
- P51 How High should your HF Vertical be?
- P52 Tech Correspondence,
- P55 Product Review. Yaesu FT450D HF & 6 M transceiver.
- P58 Review Elecraft XG3 RF Signal Source. 1-1400Mhz.
- P.61 The Doctor is In.
- P63 Short Takes. RIGblaster Advantage Interface.
- P64 Hands on Radio Exp 106 Effects of Gain –Bandwidth Product.
- P66 Hints & Kinks. Use SG230 on a TS200. Balanced line grounding. Simple super ground plane Idea. AF Osc for power testing. Cord for cordless tools. Ground clamps for batteries
Antenna support for military masts.
- P69 Android apps for the Amateur.Use on iPhones
- P71 Homeowners insurance for your radio gear.
- P74 Clubs. The future for Amateur Radio?
- P80 New Products: Remoteshack Base controller. Audible output monitor. Quadlock bracket.
Radio direction finder kit. See also pp98 and www.kn2c.us
- P81 Happenings. Providing Comms support during Hurricane Irene.
- P93 50Mhz and above. Tropo opening set by Hurricane Irene. Aurora. Perseids Meteor shower.
- P98 Eclectic Technology. Is the PC Dead?
- P99 Vintage radio. Early Coils and Kits.
- P101 Op-Ed. No nonsense radios. Looks at designs. IC02AT.
- P104 75, 50 and 25 years ago. Index's
- P156 QST Index to Advertisers.

Craig Cook

VK3CMC

Nov 2011



Craig - VK3CMC

Presidents Report

Well the end of year is nigh and we will soon be running about with thoughts of Christmas and family get togethers, food, merriment and what may be under that tree this year.

I hope you can give some thought beyond and into what you would like to see the club do in 2012 as far as activities, speakers and construction activities.

Last month's speaker was Drew Diamond and spoke about the new band at 2200Metres [135-137Khz] and showed the meeting some examples of gear that can be made quite easily. While this band is only available for transmitting narrow modes and to the holders of an Advance licence Drew has designed and published a construction for a simple receiving down convertor. This uses a small length of ferrite rod with wire turns around it at the top and is described in his fourth book of designs. Bob VK3BNC has already built a simple unit and by time this is published he should have already received signals. This is a project that all amateurs should consider building as Drew has a slow morse beacon transmitting every weekend. Most parts are readily available for this exercise so consider having a go at building a basic down convertor that can feed into another receiver around 3 or 4 MHz.

The clubs 40M Field day activity last week was a good success and the Wx did hold off for most participants. We should have an announcement at the Nov meeting as to who has gained the most amounts of points from the day.

It will be run again and possibly we will use 40M as its still good propagation during the day.

There has been a new filter fitted to the VK3RBT repeater so the cross mod interference should now be removed. Please try using it and give some reports back. Tuesday night at 8PM the clubs 2M net is running.

The Christmas break up will be Fri 16 Dec and it would be good to see some more there. Please advice a committee person if able to attend for catering purposes.

Cheers for now Craig, VK3CMC



BARG VHF NET

VK3RBT 146.650Mhz FM

TUESDAY NIGHT at 8 pm.

Control Station, JOHN, VK3AIG

BARG HF FIELD DAY



Our Ararat members
busy at work



BARG CHRISTMAS BBQ DINNER

DECEMBER 16, 2011

Held at our clubrooms

All meats and onions supplied

Ladies bring plate salads or sweets

This is our last function for the year

DON'T MIS IT!

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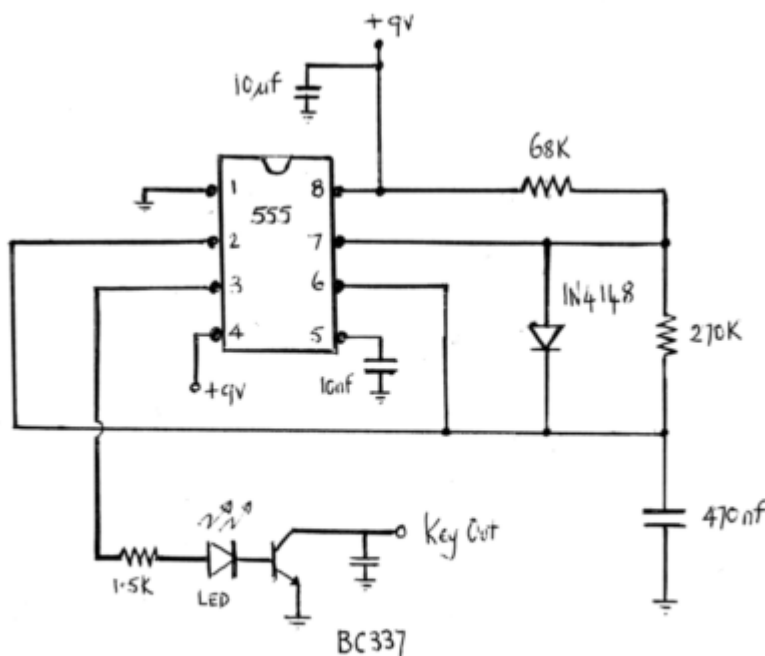
Construction Group Notes

Here is a worthwhile project for field day activities especially those operating on some of the higher frequencies. One of the difficult tasks is to point your antenna in the correct direction when operating from a portable location. When signals are often very weak it's useful to have a gadget that will assist the distant operator to firstly find your signal and secondly optimise the direction of their antenna for maximum signal strength. Below is a simple circuit that will do just that. When built and tested simply connect it to you CW jack, go to CW Mode and turn it on. The unit sends out a continuous stream of Pulses which will assist the distant station to optimise frequency setting and antenna.

Often there is a liaison frequency so you know when to change to voice for the contact. In addition to the above you may also wish to key your transmitter whilst checking your own Antenna performance. One thing to note is if your rig has a built in keyer make sure your connections are in accordance with what the manual says for a hand key i.e. some CW jacks have 2 terminations and some have 3 terminations.

The unit can be built on veroboard and housed in a small Jiffy Box and powered with a 9 volt battery.

Ian VK3AXH



QUESTIONNAIRE

Question 1: One of the frequencies allotted at Atlantic City in 1947 to Amateurs in Region 3 was 144 to 148 Mc. The portion 144 to 146 Mc. was allotted on a world-wide basis. It is now proposed by the Australian Administration to alter the band to 146 to 150 Mc. Do you agree with this change?

YES ☐ NO ☐ No Opinion ☐

Question 2: Do you consider the Australian Amateur would be handicapped by the loss of the Internationally-allotted portion (144-146 Mc.) of this band?

YES ☐ NO ☐ No Opinion ☐

Question 3: Do you consider International communication may become possible on the 144 to 150 Mc. portion of the spectrum?

YES ☐ NO ☐ No Opinion ☐

Question 4: If your answer to Question 3 is in the affirmative, give brief reasons for your answer.

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Question 5: Do you operate at present on the 144-148 Mc. band?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Question 6: If your answer to Question 5 is in the affirmative, is your operating time on this band approximately—

10-30% ☐ 30-50% ☐ 50-75% ☐ over 75% ☐

Question 7: How long have you operated on this band?

6-12 months ☐ 1-2 years ☐ over 2 years ☐ nil ☐

Question 8: If you operate on this band, what was your increase in distance worked and appropriate power used for the following years?

1948-1950	.....	miles	<input type="checkbox"/>	watts
1950-1952	.....	miles	<input type="checkbox"/>	watts
1952-1954	.....	miles	<input type="checkbox"/>	watts
1954-1956	.....	miles	<input type="checkbox"/>	watts

No data available ☐

Question 9: Have you any practical data showing the power required to give a 2 to 1 signal to noise ratio over a specified path for a period of time? Give details.

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Question 10: By which of the following methods do you consider you have contacted the majority of distant stations?

sporadic E	<input type="checkbox"/>	tropospheric ducting	<input type="checkbox"/>	line of sight	<input type="checkbox"/>
temp. inversion	<input type="checkbox"/>	meteor scatter	<input type="checkbox"/>	other methods	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUESTIONNAIRE

Question 11: Have you kept or can you compile any reliable propagation records of your operation on 144-148 Mc.?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Question 12: With your knowledge of this band, do you consider TV stations if operated on 144-146 Mc. would interfere with distant stations or vice versa?

YES ☐ NO ☐ No Opinion ☐

Question 13: Do you consider luna reflection or similar techniques are possibilities for future DX working on this band?

YES ☐ NO ☐ No Opinion ☐

Question 14: Is your receiver for this band one of the following?

xtal convtr. ☐ straight convtr. ☐ super type ☐ other type ☐

Question 15: Is your transmitter for this band one of the following?

xtal control ☐ VFO control ☐ MOPA ☐ other type ☐

Question 16: Will your receiver tune to frequencies outside the 144-148 Mc. band? If so, what stations (with identification and frequency if possible) have you heard on the following frequencies?

128-130 Mc. Nil
130-132 Mc. Nil
132-139 Mc. Nil
139-144 Mc. Nil

Question 17: If you are required to shift to the proposed band, 146 to 150 Mc., what would you estimate modifications to the following to cost?

Transmitter £
Receiver £
Antennae £ Not affected
Other Equipment £

Question 18: What would you estimate your total equipment for this band to be worth?

up to £5 ☐ £5-£50 ☐ £50-£100 ☐ £100-£200 ☐ over £200 ☐

Question 19: Are you licenced to operate as a—

Full A.O.C.P. ☐ Limited A.O.C.P. ☐

Question 20: Have you any specific points of interest to mention for or against the proposed change not covered by the above questions, or are there any special technical points in relation to operation on 144-148 Mc. band you wish to mention? State details fully.

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Question 21: Are you one of the following?

financial member WIA ☐ non-member ☐ member of local VHF Group ☐

CALL SIGN

ADDRESS

NAME WHEN LICENCED