

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 25, 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	VK3CFB
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 10.30 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

MOWING ROSTER



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.



GEORGE FOWLER MEMORIAL AUCTION

Don't forget our annual George Fowler Memorial Auction on Sunday May 27, 2007.

Soup and rolls will be supplies starting at midday.

The Auction will commence at 1 pm by our auctioneer Bob, vk3bnc.

For people wanting to clean out your radio shack, bring in the goods.....

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VISUAL BASIC COURSE

Presenter Roger, vk3ade

Dates for your diary.....

Course will commence on **Monday May 7, 2007 @ 1930hrs** followed by

Monday May 28
Monday June 4
Monday June 18
Monday July 16
Monday July 30

It is anticipated that the course will be completed by last date.

A LOOP SKYWIRE ANTENNA

In June this year it will be two years since I made my way from Terang to Ballarat to sit for my Novice Exam at the BARG clubroom. Having completed the excellent course offered by the Ron Bertram's Radio & Electronics School I must admit to feeling some anxiety about the exam, however after meeting Charlie VK3 DCS & Doug VK3 VBA I soon felt relaxed and worked my way through the paper and achieved a pass.

My special thanks to Charlie and Doug. ACMA allocated VK3HGA as my call.

Of course like all of us I was keen to get on the air and set up an Off Centre Fed Dipole antenna which with my Kenwood 2000 gave some good results. It wasn't long before I was talking to other amateurs about all the different types of antennas and how they would perform on the various frequencies which I was permitted to use under what was now a Standard licence.

Towers seemed to be the go, but after talking to Charlie at the Club's Christmas function about the wire antennas he had used I thought I should explore the dipoles further. Having talked with Alan VK3HGN about his German Quad it looked like a trip to Dadswell's Bridge was a must, with my son Ian VK3JAP we headed to Alan's QTH.

After a lot of discussion and looking at his antennas we were convinced that a large wire antenna was worth while looking into especially as we live on a small farm and have plenty of room. These thoughts were firmed up after many more discussions and emails with Andy VK5LA. Next we set about getting the poles needed (ex SEC) to enable the antenna to be constructed as a Loop Skywire from the ARRL plan.

The four poles are set out in a rectangle 160 ft apart with an orientation of NW to SE, these directions were suggested as being desirable considering our geographic location. The wire is a continuous length 559ft or 170.18 metres of copper running through china electric fence insulators at each pole. The insulators are attached to a Dacron rope halyard which in turn is fed through a stainless steel block and sheave which are fixed to the pole approximately 36ft above ground level. This arrangement enables the complete antenna to be lowered to the ground for maintenance or adjustment without the need for a cherry picker.

The feed point is about 8ft from one corner where it then runs to the fascia on our house and becomes a 600ohm open wire feed for 50 metres then into a 4 to1 balun and RG213 coax through the roof to the shack.

Andy VK5LA made the following comment which I must say got me going on the project as something for nothing always has great appeal to me "If I tune up the 160m wire on 80M I will get gain (something for nothing) the 160 m antenna becomes "2 half waves in-phase on 80M....tune up on 40M and Whoa...lots of gain."

Neither my son or I could believe how many stations we were hearing when we first changed over from the OCF dipole to the Loop Skywire, just amazing.

I have worked over 30 countries to date with many QSO's giving me a report of 5 X7 and often 5X9. 20,40 and 80 have all given encouraging results however to date 20M has been the best for DX

At 74, I am thrilled to have found a new hobby with such a great bunch of friendly and helpful people to ask for advice or just have a yarn with.

73's Alan Gilchrist, Terang

