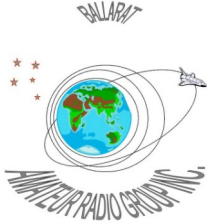


BARG News



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

