



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group
Inc. #6953T
February
Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting
Saturday 27th February @ 11:30am

Face to Face! Out at the clubhouse at the Ballarat airport

All Welcome



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 1218
Mail Centre
Bakery Hill Vic. 3354

Or E-Mail : vk3bml@barg.org.au

We're on the web
www.barg.org.au

Presidents November Report

Welcome to the February newsletter. Our first meeting was back face to face with a short presentation on microwave followed by a BBQ and general catch up. I'm sure everyone enjoyed getting back to the regular format.

Construction night was also a face to face meeting, with more work done on the LFA project. Ian, VK3AXH has done a sterling job coordinating all the work and a considerable amount of actual construction on some of the key parts. These are looking to be a great bit of kit for all those who've built one.

Peter, VK3PWG, has a group interested in the Z Match tuner project. The challenge is getting hold of appropriate variable tuning capacitors. If you have some excess to future need please let Peter know.

We're in the process of purchasing an updated rotator for the large log periodic at the club as the one currently in use is a bit underrated for the job. We'll need members to assist with the installation. The one that comes out can then be moved to the UHF yagi's, which will complete the exercise. At least for now.

I suggest that we should aim to get that done at the March meeting, also on a Saturday.

Having a Saturday meeting means we can have some more outdoor activity, which is supposedly less of a COVID risk.

The club has two generators which haven't been used, other than to test they still run, for the last ten years or more. So we have decided to consider selling them. They are up for offer by tender. You can look at them at the meeting on Saturday 27th. If you want to make an offer, please let me know by Monday 1st March. Highest or any offer not necessarily accepted. (We're not looking to give them away.)

That's enough for now. Look forward to seeing you on Saturday or Monday, or perhaps catching you on air.

Malcolm. VK3OAK.

VK3BML HF NET OPERATORS.				
DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	BACK UP	NAME
25-Feb-21	VK3QY	Chris	VK3ALM	Lachlan
4-Mar-21	VK3ALM	Lachlan	VK3DRE	Doug
11-Mar-21	VK3DRE	Doug	VK3MCL	Scott
18-Mar-21	VK3MCL	Scott	VK3AXH	Ian
25-Mar-21	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3KG	Craig
1-Apr-21	VK3KG	Craig	VK3TXR	Paul
8-Apr-21	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3QY	Chris
15-Apr-21	VK3QY	Chris	VK3ALM	Lachlan
22-Apr-21	VK3ALM	Lachlan	VK3DRE	Doug
29-Apr-21	VK3DRE	Doug	VK3MCL	Scott
6-May-21	VK3MCL	Scott	VK3AXH	Ian
13-May-21	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3KG	Craig
20-May-21	VK3KG	Craig	VK3TXR	Paul
27-May-21	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3QY	Chris

NEWS from the club front. Last night the 19Feb saw the BARG s regular monthly dining night recommence after the COVID shutdown. We had sixteen turn up at the RMH [known as the Royal Mail Hotel originally] and what a great night it turned out to be.

While the meals were great and conversation was brisk, wonder if those who were not present had burning ears? Weather was pleasant and so the group departed rather late from the establishment feeling quite pleased with them selves and looking forward to next months venue. Thanks to Bob VK3NBV for taking charge and setting it up for members to enjoy.

As we were leaving we spoke to Natasha who took our monies from us and she let us know that her father was originally a member of the club and his name is Stephen Dick VK3SE but has had some health issues in recent times and not heard on air. We wish him well for the future and maybe hear his call sign active again one day.

Craig, VK3KG

Review of non-assigned amateur and outpost regulatory arrangements consultation 01/2021

From the ACMA site:

The issue

As part of the ACMA's Five-year spectrum outlook 2020–24, we have reviewed the regulatory arrangements for operating non-assigned amateur and outpost stations.

Our aim was to find the best licensing mechanism to reduce regulatory burden and minimise costs for licensees, while also keeping the current benefits and uses.

We have identified a set of options. We could either:

keep the existing apparatus licensing arrangements and conditions

simplify the existing licensing arrangements and conditions

transition non-assigned stations to class licensing arrangements, while keeping apparatus licensing arrangements for assigned stations.

Our preferred approach is to authorise the operation of non-assigned amateur and outpost stations under a class licence. We have prepared for consultation a draft class licence for each type of station that would be part of our approach.

Have your say

We invite comments on the issues and options set out in the consultation papers and draft class licences by 2 April 2021.

<https://www.acma.gov.au/consultations/2021-01/review-non-assigned-amateur-and-outpost-regulatory-arrangements-consultation-012021>

WIA Survey Links:

<https://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2021/20210219-1/index.php>

This is a significant review, so check it out and have your say.

VHF and Above for February 2021

Normally during this time of the year there is lots to talk about regarding what individual amateurs have achieved in terms of propagation events on the various bands of interest.

So far this season I don't recall (possibly due to memory) such poor propagation on the bands that usually are prolific on 2m, 70cm and 23cm. As far as I'm aware there has been very little enhanced propagation between VK and ZL on these bands when usually it's a daily occurrence....but so far not this year.

The greatest activity seems to have been on 6m where plenty of activity has occurred but not lately. The use for FT8 is very obvious which in my opinion is a shame as there have been plenty of times to have SSB qso's on the lower part of the band but have been scarce to say the least.

In regard to 2mx I'm only aware of a couple of very limited openings from Steve VK3ZAZ when he has had contacts into Albany and near Perth on 2mx and 432.

Most propagation on 2, 70 and 23 has been within VK3 and VK3 to VK7 with some good openings. We live and hope that things may change before the summer season comes to an end.

The summer field day has come and gone and again the weather was not too kind to those that ventured into the field. However those that participated had great fun. VK3AXH managed 2nd place in the 24 hour home station section using bands from 6mx to 13cm which was a bit of a surprise to him.

There has been a bit of an upsurge in the microwave bands with at least 3 members getting involved in 2.4G. Craig VK3KG, VK3BNC and VK3QY are all at different stages but should be able to test shortly. Also some interest has been shown by Peter VK3PWG. If you have any old gridpack 2.4G antenna's lying around and not likely to be used please let Ian VK3AXH know.

Antenna Project

Despite some hiccups with COVID we have had one get together to discuss how we might progress this project. We are in the process of organising some tools to get things underway. Kits of parts have been distributed so most participants and we plan to drill the mounting holes in the booms at the next opportunity. Ian VK3AXH has assembled one of the UHF yagis and done some evaluation and so far performance seems to meet the specifications which is great news.

Remember if you have been doing something in your shack why not share with others by dropping a note to the editor or to VK3AXH for inclusion in the BARG magazine.

Till next time 73 de VK3AXH