

BARG NEWS



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

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2007



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

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 23, 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

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

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

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.

Articles of The Past

July 1955

Ballarat & District Radio Society

Aprox 25 members were in attendance at the June meeting which was held as usual at the YMCA. After the business section had been dealt with, those present engaged themselves in some active construction work on the club rig.

The proposed line up being v.f.o. or xtal control into a 807 p.a. and efficiency modulated.

The rx will be a converter into a b.c. set. The xtal freq. is 3640 Kc. And operation will be confined to 80 mx for the time being.

Relations and interest in the club have suddenly lapsed to negligble proportions amongst the active licensed Amateurs.

The reason being that a break through to Forbes in VK2 occurred on the meeting night and of the five v.h.f. operators, all were at the meeting and sadly missed out.

The Melbourne gang wasted quite a lot of r.f. trying to inform 3PO and company (just as well it wasn't ZL Don).

My apologies to the v.h.f. scribe for using his news, but a little salt shouldn't go astray.

Having said my piece, I must go and try to smooth out relations before it's time to write this again for next month.

Some old photos, possibly Western District Hamvention ??

And Radio Classes at Lake Bolac High School



Brian, VK3ZBS and Charlie, VK3??? (1975)



Brian, VK3ZBS and Peter VK3AQV teaching at the Lake Bolac Radio Classes



Bob, VK3NBV

A few words from the President.....

Hi All,

Well Christmas came and went. I hope you all got the nice toys you were desiring and they were of good value.

I was missing for most of January on a family trip to Geraldton WA.

Took 2 metres, had quite a bit of activity through South Australia, nothing much happens after that though. Even Geraldton which is a Warrnambool sized city is very quiet on the radio front, has a crackly repeater.....

They have the biggest windfarm I've seen, set back in the hills behind. Sixty seven turbines and with the wind they have over there they were making heaps of power.

Back to local things, I attended the Dining night last Friday at the North Star Hotel, a good night was had by the 26 who attended although the meals were a bit slow arriving.

The next Dining night will be at Midlands Golf Club at 630pm on Friday March 16.

Next Tuesday 20th is a Committee meeting at 7.30pm.

"Macca" and I will be attending an ACMA presentation on Wednesday at the Fine Art Gallery.

Next Friday is Club Meeting Night at the clubrooms at 7.30pm.

Coming up, March looks busy, construction night, committee meeting on the 20th, Dining 16th, John Moyle Field Day 17th and 18th. A club event at Linton.

Friday 30th is club meeting night.

Disposal of club radio equipment. Tenders have been called for the disposal of various bits of equipment, mentioned in the last newsletter.

If you want to be in it, put in you tender!!!

There is also a good prize to be won at this meeting, one of Doug's competitions, VBA that is, if you have the winning ticket.....

Also a new event coming up in April instead of the Midland Amateur Radio Club Hamfest is the Centre Victoria Radio Fest at Kyneton Racecourse on April 22.

A website about this can be found at www.radiofest.amateurradio.com.au

If interested we have some names down for a bus trip to EMDRC White Elephant Sale on Sunday March 25th.

Let's know at the meeting.

That's it from me this month, come along and hear the rest on Friday.

73's from Bob Pitcher.

VK3NBV....

For Sale

These items are from the estate of the late Arthur Solomon VK3ENT.

Yaesu Tx/Rx Model FT-980. All band including WARC. Bands. Built in A/C Power Supply. General coverage Receiver. All modes SSB, Am wide/narrow, Cw both wide and narrow, FSK and FM. Heaps of selectable features.

Comes with microphone and handbook. Also fitted with Yaesu's CAT computer control system.

Great Base station..... **\$ 350.00.**

Yaesu Antenna Tuner Model FC-901. This is a high power ATU fitted with SWR and Power meters and handles 500 watts. Covers 160m through to 10m.....**\$100.00**

Tet-Emtron tri-band beam antenna Model TE-33M. This was new and never used.

With the instruction manual.....**\$500.00**

Hustler vertical antenna. 5 Band 80-10m. Model 5-BTV.....**\$100.00**

DC Power Supply. Home brew. 13.8Volts at 6Amps.

With ammeter and voltmeter.....**\$ 30.00**

Digi Tech 10Mhz Oscilloscope with handbook and leads.....**\$ 50.00**

Tech. Grid Dip Meter. Model TE-15.....**\$ 25.00**

Drake Thru line Watt Meter Model W4 with calibration chart.....**\$ 40.00**

Ten-Tec 50 Ohm Dummy load. Rated 300Watts for 30 seconds.....**\$ 50.00**

Antenna rotator, light weight TV type with controller.....**\$100.00**

Noise Elimating Speaker Model NES10-2 by BHI. This uses Digital Signal

Processing (DSP).....**\$150.00**

Coax Switch, two way.....**\$ 10.00**

Offers for the above items can be made to Bob VK3BNC (0353 395317 or by e-mail rgterril@bigpond.net.au) The highest offer will be accepted . Thank you.

Solutions for connecting you...

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VK3AXH

The Secretary's Page

Minutes of BARG General Meeting January 2007

Meeting by VK3NBV 7:30pm

Apologies: VK3CAZ, VK3UR, VK3HRZ, VK3FGC
Moved VK3SE/VK3HHK Carried

Minutes of the previous General Meeting as circulated.

Business arising: Error with VK3HRC..should be VK3HRZ. Rotatable dipole
Will require a replacement rotator due to loading
Moved VK3DCS/VK3ADE Carried

Secretary : Only outstanding issue is to contact Woolshed re payment of
Deposit for 2007 hamvention

Correspondance: letters from ACMA to meet the Board. Elgas final notice
And Rotary re the raffle deadline
Moved VK3AXH/VK3ADE

Treasurer: In the absence of Gordon VK3FGC a financial statement was
Read by the Secretary. Clubs Balance: \$8225.64
Moved VK3AXH/VK3ASH Carried

Reports:

Wicen: Wicen: to assist at this years Southern 80 on the Murray

Education VK3CMC reported one enquiry re Foundation Licence. Craig is preparing a response to
the committee re need for sub group to look into dates etc for future.

Technical Vk3AXH reports that ARV suggest the 6 metre repeater be located at Mt William due to
EMR hassles at Ben Nevis. Peter Mill from ARV said they would purchase a new antenna
for Ben Nevis. Research into replacement gear for Ben Nevis although slow seems to be
pointing to some new modified mobiles for the job.

IRLP VK3TJW reports some changes to BARG's computers to get rid of spam.

Project Group

The first meeting for 2007 will be on Feb 12. some interest in construction antenna's and
antenna tuning units. Bring you bits
Along and join in the fun.

General Business

Peter Young to be approached re a talk on BPL – VK3AXH
Another possible guest speaker to be sought by VK3ADE reDigital broadcasting. Also a
suggest to contact the ADF re comms used in the military today.

Radio Modernation project: David to investigate a replacement for the present rotator which is not suitable for the additional antennas.

Reg VK3CAZ has given the club approval to sell a VHF signal generator he donated and monies be given to BARG.

VK3AXH to investigate repainting the clubs signage at the airport entry possibly using vinyl lettering etc

VK3AXH to arrange for changes to BARG QSL Manager details

VK3CMC raised the John Moyle field day weekend and suggests perhaps we should setup on the Friday night

Arrange for an invoice to be sent to VK3WL to membership subs

A motion was put by Bob VK3BNC/VK3KQQ and Carried that Merv VK3ADX be appointed as Membership Secretary to provide an updated list of BARG members and contact details

A working bee to be held Saturday 3rd Feb at 9am to mow grass and drop tower .

Equipment disposal will be conducted by a tender process and a list be compiled and advertised in Club newsletter. Tenders to be made to the Secretary Barg and details of process to be tabled at the March General Meeting.

Next dining night to be held at North Star Hotel in Lydiard St Nth on Feb 16th

Meeting closed 8:39pm



Sun Spot Activity !

I guess we all have an interest in this subject and particularly just now.

Well I was looking through the ABC website the other day for some un-related items and I came across this article which I feel could be of general interest.

John Paul Wild, led the world in studying the sun from a dairy farm in Dapto, NSW in the early 50's. He rose to be a chairman of the CSIRO and has one of our famous Radio Astronomy sites named after him.

Just a short read, I'm sure you will enjoy so turn your Browser to

http://www.abc.net.au/science/features/listen_sun/

Bob VK3BNC.

Disposal of BARG Equipment by tender.

The following items of equipment are being offered for sale by tender by the committee for BARG members. The highest tender will be accepted and goods are offered as is. They will be on display at the following two meetings and tenders will close with the secretary on **Friday 16TH 2007 at close of business.**

- ✓ Swan 700CX 80 ...10m. Non WARC Bands with power supply, speaker and operator's manual. \$100.00
- ✓ University RF signal Generator 175 Khz- 32Mhz. \$25.00
- ✓ Power and Signal source. Offers!
- ✓ Yaesu FT301D Transceiver, Non WARC with Power Supply, External VFO and CRO Monitor. \$300.00
- ✓ Two Yaesu FT101 Transceivers 80-10m Non WARC Bands. \$100.00

One is going apart from a faulty power transformer. It receives on 12 volts. The other has a good transformer but condition unknown. Both units are offered together for the amateur who wants to do some repairs.

Vale, Dr Arthur Solomon VK3ENT

Educator, Theologian, Preacher, Family man, Ham radio operator, Mentor but above all a friend to all. The callsign of VK3LJ was known in many parts of the world and more recently VK3ENT identified his friendly voice. Arthur's passion with ham radio waxed and waned as his interests took him into other hobbies of photography and computers to name a few.

Whilst his professional life took him in certain directions Arthur would invariably return to amateur radio. Always eager to help with a friendly word or exchange on a technical level. His interests and knowledge of computers were utilized when Arthur developed a program for new hams wishing to learn Morse code. He also wrote articles in our national radio magazine to assist others in the hobby.

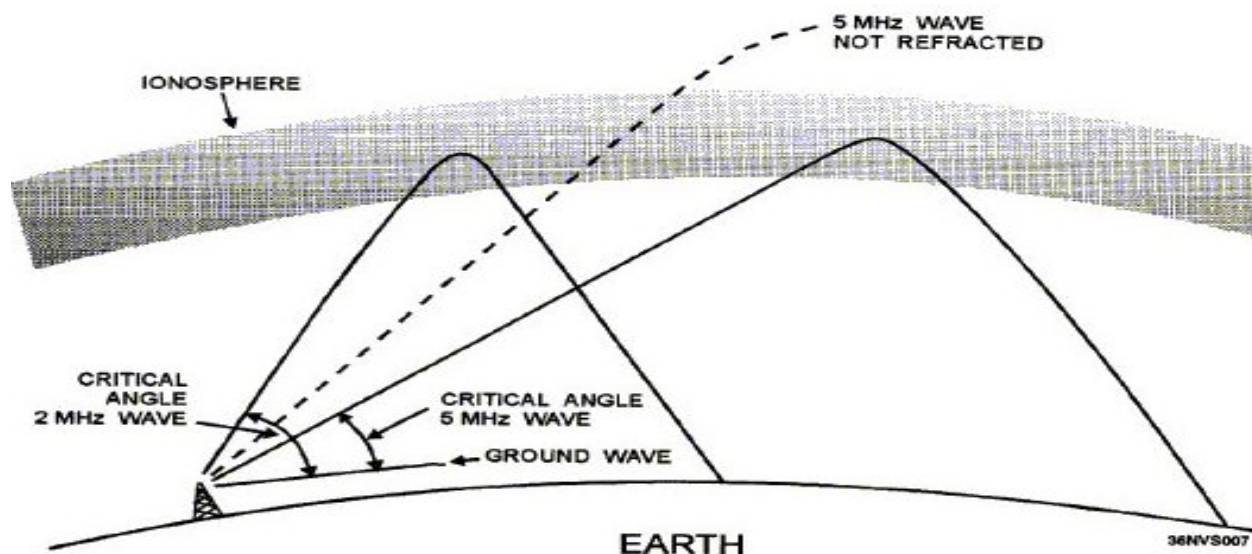
I recall the time when Arthur had recently taken up residence in a new parish and I was assisting him in erecting a rather large beam antenna in the back yard of the Manse "what reaction do you expect with this Arthur?" "Well he said they will get used to it and besides it's a great talking point"

Never intrusive with his beliefs but willing to talk about life's many twists, offer help or just give a knowing look. Whether in life or amateur radio Arthur had the ability to challenge you to do better, to seek the best solution.

Whilst the voice of Arthur has fallen silent over the airwaves his spirit will roll on as we remember him as one of nature's gentlemen and our lives being the better for having met.

Bob, VK3BNC.

Propagation Report for February 2007



HF Bands

Well little to report this month. Kevin VK3WN reports some activity on 10 metres with VK2/5/6 being heard

Six Metres

There have been some good opening within V_k and ZL with most states being worked as well as the FK8 beacon being heard on several occasions but as often happens no FK8 stations to be heard.

VHF and Above

Some excellent conditions have occurred since the start of the Callender year. Good openings to VK2/4/5/7 being the most common. Active stations around Ballarat include V_k3WN, V_k3CMC, VK3KQQ, VK3KQB, VK3BNC, VK3AIG, VK3IDL and VK3AXH.

Excellent contacts have been made on both 2 metres and 70 cm and a couple of contacts on 1296 MHz into Nth of the Barossa by VK3AXH.

VK3AXH also reports hearing a new beacon on 2.4GHz located in Burwood at 529 recently.

I received a call from Ian VK3IDL who told me we had come 2nd in the recent VHF/UHF Summer Field Day from Green Hill so if you're looking for a bit of fun then why not get out in the field. Other club members taking part were Bob V_k3BNC and Merv VK3ADX who were at Black Hill.

Construction

Neil VK3KQQ has been busy making antenna's for both 2 mx and 70cm and is now becoming a regular in the mornings on 2 mx SSB and the local hookup on 144.150 on Wednesday evenings. An email from Roger VK3ADE says he is listening also but at present using a vertical antenna.

Last Monday evening at the clubrooms some informal discussions as to what to do for our next project.. It seems there is plenty of interest in the Drew Diamond HF Dummy Load so at our next general meeting a definite show of hands is required to get this one underway. Reg VK3CAZ has also made available a circuit for a wide band noise generator up to 1.2GHZ which will be good for those undertaking home brew projects etc

QSL Cards

If you are not already aware there is a facility on the Internet to generate electronic QSL cards which may be sent off and received to confirm your contacts. Have a look at <http://www.eqsl.cc>. And see what you think...there may even be some cards there for you. I know I was surprised to see around 25 dating back to the mid 1990's.

Till next month 73 from VK3AXH



Some Windfarm pics at Geraldton (supplied by vk3nbv)