

# BARG News



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

**VOLUME 31 ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2008**



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

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY February 29, 2008**  
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](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au)



## BARG Inc. Life members

Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC
Jim Wright	SK
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](mailto: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 11.00 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

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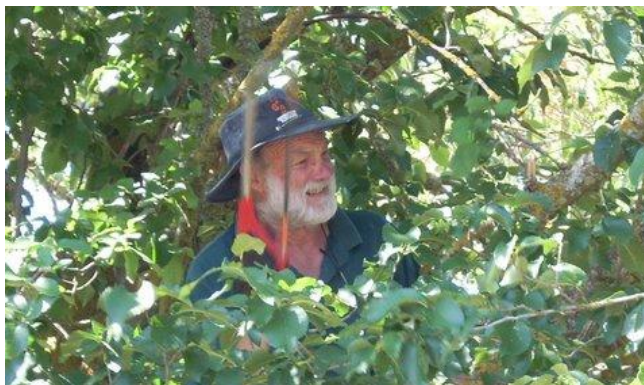
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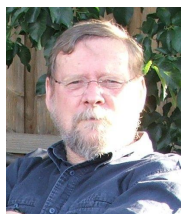
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## BARG Antenna works Saturday Feb. 2



Ahhh that's where he is hiding.....



VK3ADE

### News from our ROVING Reporter.....

Hi Folks

As some of may be aware Bob (VK3BNC) and myself traveled to the Ben Nevis repeater this morning to catch it during the WIA broadcast, there have been reports of fading during the broadcast and on IRLP connections. The fading is very obvious on the uplink from the club rooms, a couple of times it became very close to dropping out. This means we will have to review the uplink antenna type and location at the club rooms. President Bob has offered a 12 element ATN antenna which we most likely take up, there was also another offer of an 11 element from Kevin (VK3WN). The current antenna is too low and the new antenna needs to be mounted much further up the small tower to effectively clear the club room roof, this may be the subject of another working bee!

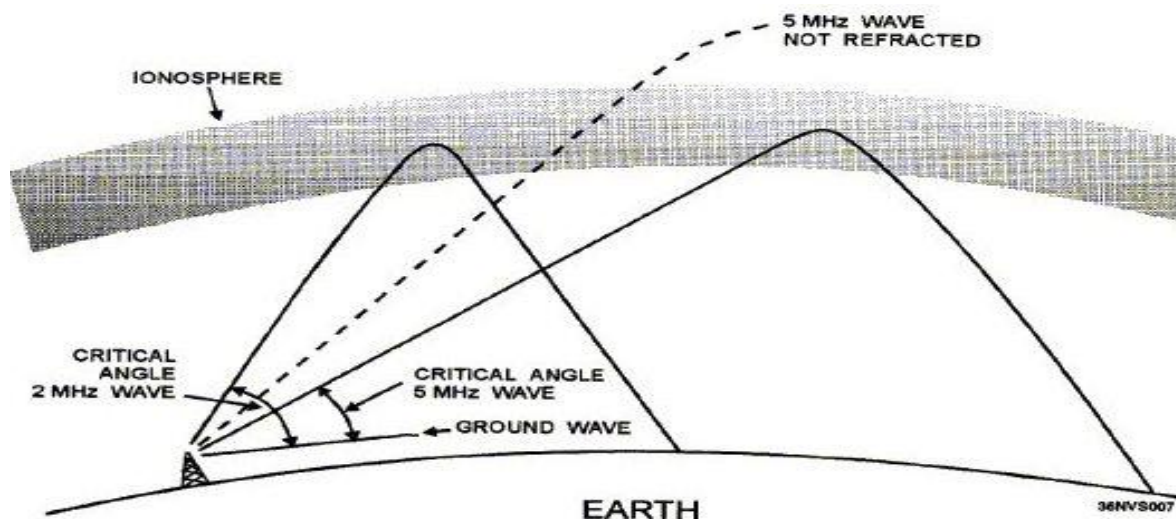
The repeater is getting 8 Watts to the antenna and around 14 Watts or so into the cavity filters. There is a reasonable amount of power being lost in the cavities, as a rule when this happens the receiver will be desensitized as well. Probably the best thing to do is to wait until the replacement repeater is built, shut the repeater down for a few weeks, bring the cavities down, tune everything up in Ballarat, run it here for week and then take it back up to Ben Nevis, by the time we are ready to do this, up the top of the hill will be no place to be working.

That's the current state of affairs.

Regards.

Roger VK3ADE

# Propagation Report for February 2008



## Propagation Report for February 2008

### HF Bands

Neil VK3GND has been busy over the past few weeks with his combined 160 metre and 80 metre antenna. Whilst there are some teething problems getting the SWR down to an acceptable level on 160 its performance on receive for both bands is very good. Neil will be the expert on using the VK5 Antenna Analyser to fine tune things and it may even lead to the purchase of a kit as he is very impressed with its performance. Keep up the good work Neil.

How many of you have a bit of space where you can put up a simple vertical for 10 metres? I know Kevin VK3WN has been keeping an eye on this band and had some good contacts as well within VK and also heard several good DX openings. Ian VK3AXH with his HF antenna's down at present was still able to work a VK5 mobile on this band so why not get a simple antenna going and join in the fun.

### VHF Bands

Well the good DX continues on these bands with some fairly regular openings on both 2m and 70cm. Kevin VK3WN and Ian VK3AXH worked 2mx into the Perth district on Jan 27<sup>th</sup> contacting 5 stations between them at signal levels up to 5x3. Most mornings there is quite a bit of activity into Adelaide on both 2 and 70cm and on one occasion a signal was heard from VK5AKK on 23cm.

Weak signal activity is very challenging and the number of members taking part in this activity on a regular basis include VK3IDL, VK3CMC, VK3AIG, VK3KQB, VK3GND, VK3WN and VK3AXH.

Maybe we will be hearing some signals from Roger VK3ADE as he's finally got his permit to install the One Man Tower at his new qth. Roger tells me he will get a machine to dig the hole for the mast footing which is around 4 cubic metres.

## Construction Group Activities

Our first meeting was held at the clubrooms earlier this month and those attending discussed a range of projects to be undertaken. At present there is interest from 8 members with the microwave low powered SWR bridge (coordinated by VK3AXH) and a very useful SWR bridge presented by Brian VK3KQB for HF use. The main feature of the HF SWR bridge is that once calibrated you can change from any band and instantly read the SWR without the need to do any adjustments. There is considerable interest in this project and it's proposed to make up a simple pcb. Only a handful of discrete components are required and we ask members to indicate at the next general meeting if they are interested in taking part in this worthwhile piece of equipment.

Craig VK3CMC suggested a kit made by "fox delta" for a RF Power Meter with LCD display with a range up to 500MHz. As with each of the projects outlined we need to know who is interested etc.

In addition to the above it was also suggested that we get away from test gear and perhaps have a look at ATV. There are a number of kits available from Mini Kits in S.A. that are worth looking at. The first is in the 70cm band using conventional analogue TV comprising of a vision transmitter and audio generator. If you have an old TV around the place it could be used as the receiver. If there is enough interest perhaps the club could make a repeater. The cost of the main pcb's, part etc is around \$120. For those who haven't operated much on 70cm it would be necessary to make a suitable yagi that could also form part of the project.

Those interested in even higher frequencies what about the 23cm FM ATV system which is more expensive particularly the receiver which is already built for \$170 and feeds AV into a normal analogue TV set. The transmitting side is cheaper than the 70cm arrangement costing around \$90. Another part of this project would be to make a 23cm yagi.

If you have any ideas of what you would like to do then speak up. The purpose of the project group is to stimulate construction activity amongst members so that skills are gained by not only making something but to improve technical skills which can be used to tackle some other aspect of the hobby.

Too many times we hear "I couldn't do that because it's too complicated or I don't understand what its all about. Well here's the opportunity to get amongst it.

If the above is not to your liking then don't just sit on your hands – come up with suggestions as to what we may undertake.

Remember its your hobby and you only get out of it what you put in. So if you want to improve you skills come and join us. Do you want to remain an appliance operator? or are you interested in developing radio skills to further enhance your ability to move forward and upwards in this great hobby of ours.

Till next time, 73 Ian vk3axh

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I just received this email from Bob Tait VK3UI who works at Robert Bosch and has extensive experience working on noise suppression problems in motor vehicles. He passed this site to me and I feel that its an excellent one and the club members should have a look for them selves. it covers a wide area of mounting equipment into vehicles and has some other links that are worth following up also.

<http://www.k0bg.com>

73 Craig, VK3CMC



## FOR SALE PAGE

### Radio Gear for Tender.

**TH3 Beam.**

**Phillips 828 Radios (many of).**

**Oscilloscope Model 509A**

**AWA Audio Frequency Oscillator**

**UHF Signal Generator 300 to 600Mhz**

**Marconi Signal Generator 10 to 310Mhz**

**Swan 700CX HF Transceiver and Swan Power Supply Model 230XC**

**Rank Arena Home Amplifier**

**Marconi RF Attenuator 0 to 100 DB**

**TV Satellite Receivers (3)**

**Tait T500 2Mtr Transceiver (not Going)**

**All this gear is for tender in “as is” condition. No refunds..**

**Everything is out for viewing at the next Meeting on Friday February 29.**

**Tenders due in to the Secretary by the March 19 Committee Meeting.**

**Club Address Secretary, BARG Inc,**

**Box 1261 Mail Centre**

**Ballarat 3354**

**[Vk3axh@barg.org.au](mailto:Vk3axh@barg.org.au)**

## For Sale!

**Tower suitable for VHF/UHF. 23 feet with a 7 foot x 2” top tube fitted with bearing and rotator cage. Wining Wench...OOps ( winding winch) as well. \$25.00**

**Transformer suitable for a linear. 240V Prim. Sec centre tapped at 900-950-1000V @ 500ma.  
Heater Transformer 240V prim. 5V centre tapped at 10 Amps.  
2000v insulation rating.**

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**Climbing Safety Belt. Free if you have a demonstrated need!**

**Contact Bob VK3BNC.**



## A few words from the President.....

Bob, VK3NBV

Hello All, and welcome to nearly the end of February, Already !!

Since the last meeting there have been more things going on around our headquarters at the airport. I see the new rotator has gone up the tower and is working and it seems some branches have disappeared off a tree, and its not even autumn yet. We are improving the look of the place, (at least from an amateur view point), get more Metal in the air.

As for the rest of the green stuff that grows on the ground, Doug VBA did a bartering deal and we now have some nice chemical to fix some of that!!

The next meeting is next Friday at 7.30pm and I hear we are having a visit from GRES members from Geelong

Coming up in March we have the usual Construction Night on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30. Labour Day Holiday. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Dining night at The Royal Oak in South Street at 6.30pm.

Saturday and Sunday 15/16 John Moyle Memorial Field Days. Our effort at Linton.

We want definite names at the meeting.

Committee Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

Then you can have Easter off.

March 28<sup>th</sup> General Meeting with visitors and the new D STAR Technology explained, by the Icom Men.

Saturday Morning March 8 at 9am another working Bee, which should include placing a replacement beam for the uplink to Ben Nevis Repeater.

Busy Month !!!

Other committee things happening, the packet repeater up and running again for the cost of \$17.76.

Thanks Ian...

Our Hamvention has been set 1 week earlier this year because of perceived conflicts with the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday Weekend etc.

The date is October 26<sup>th</sup> at "The Woolshed"

In another section of this newsletter you will find excess club items for tender. These will be on display at the February Meeting. Tenders to be in by March Committee Meeting.

That's it, hope to see you at one of these great functions.

73's Bob Pitcher.

VK3NBV..

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VK3AXH

## The Secretary's Page

### Minutes of BARG General Meeting January 2008

**Welcome:** Meeting opened by President Bob VK3NBV at 7:42pm

**Apologies:** VK3CAZ, VK3HRZ, VK3FSDH, VK3PAL, VK3ASH, VK3HHK, VK3KGL, VK3FIPE

Minutes of the October General Meeting as per the Newsletter.

Matters arising – Raised by VK3CHF that the meeting minutes be removed from the distribution list for destinations other than club members i.e. other Clubs etc

Moved VK3BNC/VK3FGLD Carried

Secretary Report:

Correspondence: Incoming – Letter from prospective Foundation candidate Ian Craven,  
Banksia investment certificate

Moved VK3CMC/VK3AXH Carried

#### Reports

Doug VK3VBA reports the Presidents Notice Board has been updated and reinstalled in its normal position. There will be a bus available for those members wanting to attend Kyneton Hamfest on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.

Doug suggested we send an account to VK3TCV for the outstanding Foundation Licence Book. A suggestion was put that one morning per month be set aside for a coffee group in central Ballarat allowing Members to get together for a chat.

Hamvention – The date of the 2008 BARG Hamvention to be decided as according to publicity, the Melbourne Cup is to be declared a public holiday for the entire State of Victoria. This would mean the date needs to be brought forward to the last Sunday in October as a number of traders indicated they won't be attending in 2008 on the Melbourne Cup weekend.

Newsletter - Harry VK3KGL reports all ok and the Life Member and Silent Key lists has been updated.

Beacons – Roger VK3ADE reports the 1296 beacon is complete and only some minor work is required for the 70cm beacon. The antenna made up by VK3AXH has suffered some burn marks with approx 20 watts being radiated from it.

Ian VK3AXH to contact manufacturer to see what can be done.  
A new antenna is to be made.

Dining Night – The next dining night is at Zygami's

Radio Modernisation Project – David VK3UR to be contacted to find out what the next steps are to finalise the project. The rotatable dipole, 160m vertical and possible rotator replacement are issues yet to be finalized.

Ben Nevis Repeater seems to have a technical problem. VK3AXH to look into the progress of its replacement.



## General Business

A working bee to be held at the club rooms on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to attend to any jobs that need to be done.

John Moyle Field Day Weekend at Flagstaff Hill on 15/16<sup>th</sup> March. Interested members – VK3CMC, VK3ADE, VK3VBA, VK3FHUT, VK3AIG VK3GND, VK3NBV, VK3FGC, VK3TJW, VK3FPOL, VK3AXH. VK3AIG to coordinate with assistance.

Peter VK3FPOL has kindly donated a couple of tents that can be used for club activities such as the John Moyle etc. Special thanks to Peter for making them available to the club.

Members indicated that possible projects for the construction group could include a microwave SWR bridge, blue tooth setup for control of mobile rigs, SWR bridge from Foxdelta and another SWR bridge for HF.

A motion was put that Roger VK3ADE investigate the purchase of a replacement rotator as part of the radio modernization project together with a control pcb to enable the remote operation of club equipment to be finalized. Moved VK3BNC/VK3FHUT Carried

Excess items of equipment to be put up for tender. Several items such as the old 3 el HF beam, signal generator to be placed in the newsletter and expressions of interest to be received. Further discussion to be undertaken at the next Construction Night.

Education – Craig VK3CMC is looking for a club member to become an examiner for exams. The person needs to hold the Advanced Licence. Interested members should contact Craig for details.

Visit to GRES is planned where a presentation on the new DSTAR mode of communications will be given. Bob VK3BNC, VK3ADE and VK3CMC indicated they would be attending.

Bob VK3NBV explained the coming events from the club calendar which included a working bee at the club rooms on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

Doug VK3VBA has provided a light supper.

Meeting closed 8:40pm