



# BARG News

*Ballarat Amateur Radio Group*

*Inc. #6953T*

*June*

*Monthly Newsletter*

Next Meeting

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 @ 7.30pm**

At the B.A.R.G. Club House, 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 1261  
Mail Centre  
Ballarat. Vic. 3354

Or E-Mail : [vk3bml@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au)

We're on the web  
[www.barg.org.au](http://www.barg.org.au)

## **A WORD FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Given the AGM will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup>, the Committee wishes to advertise this important event and would ask members to consider nominating themselves for one of the various positions which need to be filled.

Regards, Ian Mc - VK3AXH

### **Editorial**

Welcome to the June edition of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group newsletter. I have taken on the task of newsletter editor until the next AGM which will be held in August. I'd like to thank Julianne, VK3FJMD, for all the work that she put into the newsletter. As the club members would know, she has been particularly unwell, so she needs to be able to take the time to get herself well again. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We're a couple of months behind with the news, so this issue is a late June edition. I am planning to publish a July issue around July 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have any material that could be used please send through to me. With a couple of exceptions with items sent to me in the last week, everything sent through has been used. So if you've sent things in and haven't seen it used, I'm afraid it's been missed. Could you please resend it.

This month we've got a couple of pages of photo's from recent activities, something which I'd like to do more of in future issues. Pretty much all phones have the ability to take photos, so I'd encourage everyone to think about taking a few snaps and sending them through when at a club event. Or at an event with a few club members.

## **Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Hamvention**

### **Sunday the 25th of October**

Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club

Corner of Rubicon and Sutton Streets, Ballarat. 3350. (next to the Trotting Track)

- \* Doors open at 10:00 am.
- \* Entry is \$6.00 per person and cost of hiring a table \$10 each (1.8m)
- \* There will be Trade displays from the usual traders.
- \* The usual and popular pre-loved equipment displays and sales.  
(you never know what you may find!!.)
- \* Food and drinks will be available on the premises.

FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS CONTACT:

Hamvention Coordinator: Roger VK3ADE Email To: [hamvention2014@barg.org.au](mailto:hamvention2014@barg.org.au)



## VHF and Above for April – June 2015

With the weather now getting cooler you would think that activity on VHF and above would be in decline. The enthusiasts that use these parts of the spectrum are a bit surprised with the upsurge in activity particularly on the lower part of the 2mx band.

Beginning around 8am local time each day on 144.1MHz it's not uncommon to hear up to 10 stations swapping reports. Contacts from VK3 are being made into VK5, VK2 and VK1 using SSB with some stations relying on aircraft enhancement to lift the signals out of the noise with signal levels up to 5x5.

Several VK stations are in the Western part of the State and include VK3AIG, VK3VBI, VK3KG, VK3PMG, VK3MAT, VK3EJ and VK3AXH. Other stations from Melton area are VK3MEG and VK3BNJ. Interstate stations include VK5DK, VK5JR, VK5TN, VK5HOS, VK2KRR, VK1BG and VK1KW.

In addition to the above some testing was done by VK3AXH from Mt Buninyong to 4 stations in the Melbourne area on 1296MHz, 2.4G and 10G to VK3HY and VK3MQ near Mt Dandenong, VK3XPD and VK3XDK home stations at Camberwell and Brunswick.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April VK3AIG and VK3AXH went to the West side of Mt Buninyong and both set up their 3.4G equipment in the hope of contacting VK3QM near Hamilton. Although this was not successful we both managed to qso with Ken VK3AKK at Geelong with signals well over S9 both ways.

The Mt Gambier station VK5DK is keen to try for a contact on 10G so we are busy checking propagation charts and the weather to see if this can be achieved. The distance is around 175km which would be a first for Ballarat stations on this band.

Meteor Scatter is still happening on Saturday and Sunday mornings with mixed success to interstate stations in VK1, VK2 and VK4. John VK3AIG has had a go on 6m using this mode but so far no luck. I guess the chance of having that elusive contact is what keeps us going.

If you are interested in any of the above and would like to have a go or participate give us a call.

In addition to the above our club call VK3BML was used by 2 field stations and club members. Near the BARG clubrooms a HF station was set up by VK3FGC and VK3CFH and at Mt Hollowback a VHF and above station operating from 6mx through to 10GHz with VK3AIG, VK3AXH, VK3BNC and VK3PAP in attendance.

A log was submitted from BARG for the 6 hour section with multiple operators operating on all bands. It was very rewarding to receive a SECOND PLACE award for our efforts. The certificate is now on display at the Club rooms.

This aspect of our hobby can be very rewarding and shows that with a few operators and some portable equipment a lot of fun can be had and if you are lucky can produce awards as well so next time there is a field day join in the fun.

Till next time, 73 de VK3AXH

## April is the Month for New Products

(This article was written for the April issue of the News Letter, which was due out on April 1st)

Every year we see a rush of new product being announced at the start of April. I suspect that as our Northern neighbours start to thaw the desire to look at what new toys they might acquire for use in the coming warmer months must start to kick in. This year was no exception, with a couple of very promising items.

### Baofeng UV-7XD

Not everyone's a fan of the cheap Chinese radios, but the UV-7XD might really start to change that. Along with the usual features, the clever folk at Baofeng have added the 23cm band as well as some digital modes, including D Star. They must have put the hours in with Icom to get that deal.

But the most popular feature will surely be the addition of SSB, something that's always been lacking in cheap HT's.

Just a product announcement at this stage. It'll be interesting to see where they can get the price point to for this little beauty.

<http://distantradio.blogspot.com.au/2015/03/baofeng-uv-7xd.html>



### LMR-450g - Inverted High Frequency Loss Cable

This is one that'll have the microwave boys super excited I'm sure. This innovative cable has two really clever features. First, and foremost, the losses in the cable go down as the frequency increases!

Check out the specs in the announcement. You can see the real benefits of this aren't seen until your working in the higher bands. Whilst it's not mentioned in the announcement, there's speculation that the losses also decrease as the cable length increases. So this won't be any good for short jumpers, but it'll be great if there's been pressure at home to get that EME

dish moved from just outside the front window and down to the back of the block.

The second feature engineered into this cable is the revolutionary "Neo Glow". From the announcement: *The cable's most unique property is attributed to the outer jacket material Neo-glow, an RF sensitive composite plastic which will visibly indicate RF 'hot spots' in the cable. Adjusting the cable length to the antenna system for the 'perfect' impedance match is crucial at high frequency, thus the importance of a low SWR for peak performance.*

See the full announcement for details: <https://hamgear.wordpress.com/2015/04/01/inverted-high-frequency-loss-with-lmr-450g/>

### Echolink \$40 Fee for Conference Links

This isn't product related, but came out at the same time so I thought it was worth a mention. The Echolink team have been concerned for sometime about the quality of the various cross links in their systems, and decided to take some action to address it. Apparently they're about to announce a USD \$40 fee to host a conference channel. Given many of the more popular conferences are hosted by a small number of individuals, it's likely there will be a substantial drop in the overall usage of the system. Echolink are saying proceeds will go to the ARRL education fund. Already hams outside the US are pointing out that this will do little to benefit most users.

News of this first broke on the IRLP Yahoo group,

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/irlp/conversations/messages/70974> . We'll have to stay tuned to the Echolink team to see if they stay the course with this. Will it be like so many other early April announcements, with lots of noise one day, all but forgotten the next?

Mal. VK3MEL

## George Fowler Action



Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May was the George Fowler auction. Once again lots of high quality radio gear changed hands. Along with one or two pieces of lower grade material.



Soup and light refreshments were had before the start of proceedings, allowing time for a social catch up.

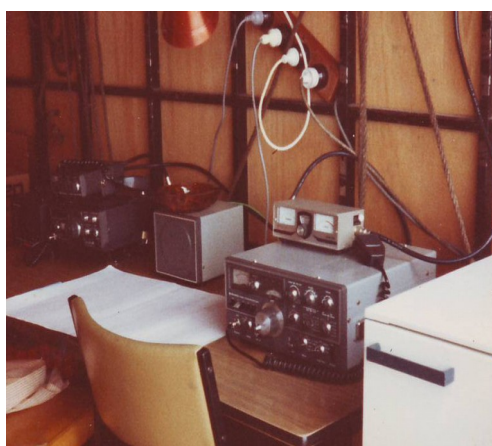


## A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Here are some pictures from past John Moyle Field Day. The 4 top pictures are from around the Pentland Hills ? And the bottom 5 pictures were taken at Flagstaff Hill Reserve near Linton. Feb.2, 1981



The 4 top pictures are from the Pentland Hills John Moyle. Geoff and Harry running the 10m, in the 24 hours section.



The bottom 5 pictures are taken in Linton Flag Staff Hill. Again Geoff and Harry running 10m section in delivery van A&H Appliance Service.

### 3/2015 MAR 2015 - QST Review

Our ANNUAL ANTENNA Issue.

- P4/5 Index.
- P9 Band planning. ARRL, the FCC and Region 2 ?
- P13 Volunteer Examiners. (VEC) Department Part 1.
- P24 Letters from members.
- P30 A Talking Frequency Counter. Designed to 30Mhz but higher with modern chips.
- P34 The DK6ED Double Look antenna. Receiving on the top band 160M.
- P38 W0IH has a Tunable 80M Dipole mechanically tuned..
- P41 Easy Two band Ground Plane for other Band combinations. 80 thru to 2M.
- P44 Off Centre Fed dipole for Portable ops on 40 to 6M.
- P47 Standing Wave Ratio- What does it really mean. ??
- P50 The Transistor – From QST March 1953.
- P54 Review the FORCE12XR6 beam. A 20 M -6M Yagi antenna.
- P57 Review. The MFJ-1896 6Meter Moxon Antenna.
- P58 Review Cubex Mosquito -6. Six element Quad antenna on 70cm.
- P59 Review Internal Hobby PCB Hardrock-50 Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner. 6 thru to 160M.
- P62 Review bhi Desktop Amplified DSP Noise cancelling Speaker.
- P64 The Doctor is In; Answers a range of questions on Antennas.
- P66 Eclectic Technology: PSK63 Rising? [www.digipan.net](http://www.digipan.net) [www.wa8lmf.net/APRS\\_PSK63/](http://www.wa8lmf.net/APRS_PSK63/)
- P67 Hands on Radio: Experiment 146. Notes on Bonding & Shielding. Beware earth loops.
- P69 More on Sag in Wire Antennas.
- P72 Hints & Kinks. Assorted ideas to do with Antennas.
- P78 Holiday in rare grid EL84.
- P79 The Maidenhead Locator system is now 30yrs old. Read why it was developed
- P 81 Teaching the Future of Amateur Radio,
- P83 ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology.
- P85 Nuts and Volts Magazine. [www.arrl.org/tech-portal](http://www.arrl.org/tech-portal)
- P87 Public Service: Power to the Operator.. What batteries are suitable.?
- P94 Hows DX?. Solar cycle 24. “400years of Sunspot Observations”
- P96 World above 50Mhz. The Little 432 Mhz EME station that Could.
- P100 Vintage Radio. Toy Telegraph Keys.
- P104 QST Index from Mar 1940, Mar 1965 and Mar 1990.
- P164 QSTs Index to Advertisers.

With many Antenna and accessories listed in the advertising.

73 Craig VK3KG

## 4/2015 APR 2015 - QST Review

- P4/5 Index.
- P9 Remote Operating Base Control. Looks at legalities for the DXCC.
- P13 ARRL Volunteer Examiners VEC Part2. Special Call Signs. Club/Event/Vanity calls.
- P24 Letters from members.
- P30 Untangling Digital Voice above 50 Mhz.
- P34 A simple Curve Tracer for the shack.
- P37 Measuring Frequencies at VE3GSO.
- P39 Voltage Reducer for Lithium-Ion Polymer Four cell Batteries.
- P42 Switch modification for the Ameritron ALS-600 Amplifier.
- P44 Book review: Titanic Calling. Wireless Comms during the Great disaster.  
[www.Press.uchicago.edu](http://www.Press.uchicago.edu)
- P45 History. QST April 1955 – Radical approach to SSB .
- P47 Review: Flex Radio 6300 System & FLEX 6700 Transceiver., with Smart SDR for Windows.
- P59 The Doctor looks at Vertical Monopole for Directivity.& whats the diff between 50& 75 ohms
- P61 Eclectic Tech looks at Prototyping.
- P62 Microwavelengths looks at Dynamic Range.
- P64 Hands on Radio: Exp 147. Capacitors at RF.
- P66 Hints & Kinks. WART reducer, Ameritron repair and Fishing Reel stake for throwers.
- P69 Draft HF Band plan seeks members comments.
- P72 W1AW/p The year in review.
- 77 The FCC's Paperless License Policy is in the Field.
- P81 Practical Operating Tips from the Field.
- P88 World Amateur Radio day. 18th April. [www.iaru.org/world-amateur-radio-day](http://www.iaru.org/world-amateur-radio-day)
- P89 Hows DX? Growing use of Remote stations.
- P91 World above 50Mhz. Chasing VUCC .
- P96 Vintage Radio: The DRAKE 4 Line Twins – 1960s Technology Leaders.
- P100 QST Index for Apr 1940, Apr 1965 and Apr 1990.
- P156 QST Index of advertisers.
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- 73 Craig VK3KG



- P5 Contents page.
- P6 Keylines looks at licences for toy radios, printing faults Archive discs available for PW.
- P7 News roundup. SOTA beams news, new ICOM D-51E HTT. DX logging, DXpeditions, International Marconi day at Sanford Mill museum.
- P10 Review ANAN-10EE range. A SDR radio transceiver.
- P14 Community Event radio. How to plan and execute for community events.
- P18 Signal Strength and S Meters, a Glorious Muddle.
- P14 Organising a Community event Radio Communication system.
- P23 A PCB for the Intermediate licence construction Project. Used in the UK system.
- P26 Triband PSK31 Receiver for 80/40/20.
- P30 Negative Resistance. Use it for an Oscillator circuit.?
- P32 In Focus: An amateur on line TV program since Feb 2014.
- P34 A Simple Frequency Counter. Ex “talking electronics by Colin Mitchell”  
[talking@tpg.com.au](mailto:talking@tpg.com.au)
- P36 Linking SDR and PC. Do it Virtually. <http://goo.gl/RDHvkh>
- P42 The West Wing. Military Museum of Radios. [www.militarywirelessmuseum.co.uk](http://www.militarywirelessmuseum.co.uk)
- P46 More from the Shop: FT290 fault, last crystals, frequency setting and RF Speech Clipping.
- P50 Operating Abroad Part 1. Holidays or DX peditions, looks at licences and associated matters.  
Read about the CEPT Recommendation . <http://tinyurl.com/knzcrog>
- P53 HF Highlights and News.
- P58 World of VHF: SSTV from the ISS, DMR and band reports.
- P61 Emerging Technology: Digital voice.
- P64 Letters:
- P68-69 Bargains / Classified adds.
- P70 A Traders Table.
- P76 Subscribe to Practical WIRELESS.
- P73 Radio Bookstores.

73 Craig. VK3KG