

# BARG NEWS



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

**VOLUME 29 ISSUE 12 December 2006**



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

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 26, January 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](mailto: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](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

Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail [vk3kgl@barg.org.au](mailto: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.



## Presidents report

Hello All,

Christmas is here, and holidays for some.

I suppose the main things happening involve the fires in Victoria. Both the Red Cross and Wicen volunteers have been activated into the fire areas. I wish everyone going to those areas safe travel and we all appreciate your dedication to the cause.

On the Wicen front Craig CMC and myself are heading up to the Murray to do communications for the Red Cross Canoe Marathon between Christmas and New Year.

Those of you new to the ranks WICEN stands for Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network.

The job entails message handling. Members who have gone to the fires at the moment will be operating DSE radios and also set up radios on Amateur Frequency's in case the DSE network goes down.

On the home front our Christmas BBQ will take place next Friday 15<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm at the clubrooms. Those that can please BYO a salad or sweet and drinks. Meat Supplied.

Please book in with me as we need some numbers so we can purchase the meats.

[Vk3nbv@barg.org.au](mailto:Vk3nbv@barg.org.au) or 53360998.

Januarys events start on Tuesday 16 with the committee meeting at 730. No construction night.

Dining night 19<sup>th</sup> at 6.30. Don't know where?

Friday 26 Australia Day . Club Meeting at 7.30pm.

That's it from me, look forward to seeing most of you on Friday night.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73's Bob Pitcher. VK3NBV..



16 Lauderdale Ave, Alfredton, Ballarat, Victoria

## Ballarat Club receives Club Grant (Source WIA)

On Sunday 5 November 2006 the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group conducted its popular Hamvention, this year at a new venue, The Great Southern Woolshed, on the Western Highway east of Ballarat.

Over 350 people visited the event, featuring very many interesting items of interest to amateurs on offer, raffles and door prizes.

WIA Treasurer Bruce Bathols VK3UV, Director Robert Broomhead VK3KRB and President Michael Owen VK3KI manned a WIA stand, enrolling 16 new members and selling many of the just released 2007 Callbooks, this year with the special CD featuring the ZL call listing as well other NZART information and many useful items of amateur software.

During the Hamvention Michael presented the WIA ♦s Club Grant Scheme cheque for \$900 to David Tilson VK3UR, BARG President.



David, vk3ur receiving cheque from Michael, vk3ki

The Ballarat Amateur Radio Group had submitted a proposal to up-grade its club station, allowing remote access. The Committee said that the project was the most innovative of all submitted to the 2006 Grant Scheme, and that the proposal was very well presented and showed high levels of skill in project design and management.



Some new WIA members being signed up



## Minutes of BARG General Meeting November 2006

Meeting by VK3NBV 7:35pm

Apologies: VK3SE, VK3DET, VK3HHK, VK3BVI, VK3BNC, VK3CFH, VK3HRC, VK3ZRF

Minutes of the previous General Meeting as circulated.

Moved VK3AXH/VK3DCS Carried

Correspondance: Subs renewal and email from VSSEC re low cost satellite

Moved VK3VBA/VK3NBV Carried

Treasurer; Hamvention was successful with good profit

Interest gained from Investment

General Account healthy Moved VK3FGC/VK3KGL Carried

Reports:

Ammenities: Doug VK3VBA has organized some Pizza's for tonight. Advertising space been given to Ballarat Joinery Supplies for the donation of MDF. A raffle has been organized with a value of \$200 for club members at \$2 per ticket and to be drawn at Feb 2007 meeting.

Hamvention: VK3AXH reported that this years event was successful and many of the suggested for improvement be adopted for 2007. It was also suggested a committee be formed as the task is too big for one person.

Technical: The Ben Nevis repeater is to be upgraded with funds previously allocated. VK3KQB has been working on the original antenna which is now ready to be reinstalled. A rigger has been contacted and agreed to do the work for the same cost of \$320  
VK3AXH to investigate the availability of suitable equipment.

Interference to VK3RBU to be investigated

Radio Modernisation Project

VK3UR reports the WARC dipole has been ordered and awaiting arrival

Education: VK3CMC reports there are now 2 starters for the Foundation Course to be conducted Dec 16/17. A decision to set fixed dates for courses and tests to be adopted in 2007. Three times per year was considered acceptable with special needs considered on an individual basis. The approval of another examiner is required.

General Business

Motion Moved by VK3CMC/VK3UR and Carried that we pay a deposit of \$330 dollars for the hire of the Hamvention venue for 2007 to be held on Nov 4 2007 allowing for extra 2 poles of space. A letter stating conditions to be sent to the Woolshed management.

The email received from the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC) to be forwarded to VK3BNC to seek further information and possible participation.

Equipment disposal will be conducted by a tender process and a list be compiled and advertised by February General Meeting 2007. The reserve price to be made known. A note to be placed in the Newsletter with details

A new QSL manger is required due to the resignation of Michael Lomas. VK3HHJ was nominated Moved VK3ADX/VK3IDL Carried. Contact addresses etc to be changed.

Hamvention committee comprising 4 members undertaken with VK3ADE, VK3AXH, VK3ADX and VK3CMC being elected

Club Callender: Discussion re Xmas barbecue now to be held on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 Comm. Meeting and a General Meeting to be held on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>.

A club net is held each Wednesday evening on 2 mx SSB at about 8:40pm 144.160 after the check in to VK3EK in Bairnsdale on 144.150 at 8:30pm

Discussion re speakers at club meetings. Vk3ADE to give an introduction to Visual Basic and former manager of ACMA to give an update on BPL.

Meeting Closed 8:55pm

## Articles from the past

### BALLARAT & DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY

During the month of May a trip was made to Ballan transmitting station, the officer in charge conducting the members through and explaining the working of the station and its associated equipment. Fortunately the weather was not at its worst, as the tour of inspection of the antennae is not meant to be undertaken during the rough weather without the aid of "waders".

The June meeting was very brief so as to enable Don 3PO to explain the workings of the teletype. This amazing piece of mechanism holds no secrets for Don and he had a very interested audience. The lateness of the hour forced him to terminate the lecture, after a lively question time.

The July meeting took the form of "Questions and Answers", ably presided over by Keith 3IV and assisted by Alf 3AL. Their knowledge being helpful with those sticky questions which always seem to find their way in.

#### **DON'T FORGET :**

**Our Christmas BBQ will take place next Friday 15<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm at the clubrooms. Those that can please BYO a salad or sweet and drinks. Meat Supplied.**

**Please book in with me as we need some numbers so we can purchase the meats.**

**[Vk3nbv@barg.org.au](mailto:Vk3nbv@barg.org.au) or 53360998.**

## Old QST Reviews Oct 1977.

In another attempt to get members reading the older magazines here is a quick review of QST for August 1977.

Measuring Antenna gains with Amateur methods. How you CAN perform tests on newly built VHF/UHF beams in the back yard using the recovered audio signal from a transmission. pp11.  
Optimizing Vertical Antenna performance pp15. Ground, radials and how to optimise the setting up procedures.

Designing Solid State RF Power circuits Part 3. Pp22 Strip lines and biasing networks.

Build a Utility Test Oscillator. Suitable for a construction project pp19.

Zany Zener –Facts about this special diode. Pp18.

Extending the Frequency range of the Collins 75S-1 by adding more crystals.

Printed Circuit boards the Easier way. Using home developing techniques. Pp 30

Top loading an HF beam and tower for 160M. pp33.

How to make your own QSL cards, Part 1. How to roll your own. Pp53.

How interesting to also find an article under International News on pp61 with a photo of Peter Williams VK3IZ [First Sec of the IARU Region 3 Association and Michael Owen VK3KI then the Region 3 Director. Michael is now of course the Federal President of the WIA.

The IARU [of which Aust and NZ were members] was setting up their stand for the upcoming WARC 79 Conference. This was where we gained allocations for the 10, 18 and 24 Mhz areas.

And of course there are still all those advertisements for rigs that now may be described as Boat Anchors or antique radios. Still I like to wander through the pages and remember.

73 Craig

VK3CMC

## Old QST Review Jan 2000

Well this may start some of you off to re read the magazines in your library. I find it interesting that not many people seem to want to look back and revisit the past. WHY? Are we not interested in the past? Can we get any useful info from old writings? What about seeing how things used to be back even just a few years ago? I do not think there will be enough time for me or anyone else for that matter to make a detailed time travel and review all the possible magazines and articles but I intend to do some of them and hope that the “post Review” will be of interest and may just pique [see the Maquarie Concise] your interest.

Who was the first amateur radio operator? Was it Marconi? Maxwell? Herzt ?

It may be that in study of the many others from whom we have taken their names to be applied to so many of those SI units in the radio arena.

This article by Jim W6CF looks at the first 100 years and contemplates where we are now and how we got there. An story coming up to the Space shuttle and modern digital area.

Amateur radio and space study. Read about Solar Eclipses and the effects on the Ionosphere? Maybe start an interesting study of your own from details in this article.

TS690S and TS450S modification to allow external transvertors for extra bands and VHF/UHF.

An MX614 Packet modem Very simple circuit.

Are you reading about Narrow modes or perhaps using them ? Have a look at The Henschreiber article by Murray ZL1BPU using a 1944 German machine. He does talk about using MS Windows 95/98/NT to keep those of you who want modern technology interested.

Want a simple compact two element vertical 2M beam? See the article on the modified Moxon one. Uses plastic pipe to hold the wire elements and it could be accepted by some XYL's !!?? sitting on a side table in the lounge so that you could listen to signals on a HT while watching TV. Well maybe that's a bit far fetched but the idea may still appeal to some.

And finally the advertisements that are there may help some of you find out about that older piece of gear you picked up at the last hamfest, Even old ads can give help these days.

73

Craig VK3CMC

## WANTED

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# Articles of The Past

JANUARY 1953

## South Western Zone Convention

November 8 and 9 was the time for the half yearly Convention for the South Western Zone. The location, Ballarat. The weather, far from good.

Things got under way with a dinner at Craig's Hotel at 6 pm, twenty seven persons being Present and an excellent meal was fitted in amongst a lot of rag chewing. Our thanks go to Bob 3GR who made all arrangements for the dinner and also for the use of a room for the night.

Two tx hunts were held in the evening. For those who are still disbelievers, two tx's were Used for the first hunt. 3ASV at the home station and 3AMH potable. We wonder if 3AGD has regained his hearing yet after pulling up outside Jack's place to take a bearing just as Jack switched on his tx; S9 plus was the report, I think. However, even with the trickery, all cars found 3AMH, the first car being 3AGD. The second hunt was located on Black Hill and this proved an ideal location as it was necessary to travel around the tx and approach from the rear. The boys from Warrnambool missed their change here by staying at the top of the lookout. First car in was 3AGD. Everyone then retired to the rendezvous for a good rag chew before bed.

Sunday morning the weather was worse, if possible, and eleven cars departed to find the tx, this time located in the forest behind the White Swan Reservoir. A very fine effort was made by 3AKE who arrived at the tx before your scribe who left just after the gong and knew where to go. Where was the expert, did you say? 3AGD tried to go up a dead end road. Though luck John, but that's why the tx was in that location. Eric Hall put up a good effort here by almost getting through this track, near enough to check in fourth.

At the end of this hunt everyone travelled to Calambeen Park, Creswick, where we met a large number of Melbourne visitors including the State President and Secretary. A picnic lunch was eaten here, in amongst a lot of rag chewing, and even more mud.

After lunch a further hunt was held on the way back. It is said that the Renault was bogged at this location, but is a baseless rumour that it was lifted out and set on dry ground. This hunt was won in fine style by 3AGD who approached the TX with the bow wave of a speed boat. Eric Hall managed to get bogged after this hunt and had to be towed out by 3AGD. A case of the biter bit.

We hope that the convention was enjoyed by all who were present and hope to see you all again at Warrnambool next April.

## Propagation Report for December 2006

### HF

John VK3AIG has been working a few stations on 160m both on CW and SSB. It seems that John maybe the only one actively using the verticals we made at the club construction nights. Where are the others? Brian VK3KQB has also had some success with his refurbished HF vertical. Brian reports hearing some good DX on both 20 and 40m but as yet hasn't heard signals on any of the higher. However the tuning looks good for all bands.

### 6 Metres

VK3WN, VK3IDL and VK3AIG all report contacts within VK and also hearing an opening to JA. There have been a few band indicators such as NZ TV from time to time.

### VHF/UHF

What a month it has been. With the onset of an early summer propagation has been very good. Plenty of DX activity from a number of club members including VK3CMC, VK3BNC, VK3AIG, VK3IDL, VK3KQB and VK3AXH all getting amongst some good contacts into VK5/6/7 and of course VK3 on both 2m and 70cm.

In addition to the above both Ian's had good contacts on 1296 with Vk7AC near Launceston on different days and VK6BE in Albany on 2m on the same day but many hours apart.

The VK6RST 2m and 70cm beacons on Mt Barker near Albany in WA were both good strength for 2 consecutive days with the 70cm beacon being much stronger most of the time.

The club net on 144.160 on a Wednesday evening seems to be growing in strength with around 7 members participating. Most stations are in the Ballarat area with the addition of Rod VK3KRC at Cobden and Neil VK3KQQ at Dereel.

John VK3AIG was also involved with a 24GHz contact with ex Ballaratian Bill VK3AMH at Warrnambool with VK3ZQB who set up a contact with Colin VK5DK at Mt Gambier. A few days later VK3ZQB broke the 24GHz distance record with Alan VK3XPD over approx 230K's

### Construction Night

Plans are under way for some interesting projects early in the new year. Why not come along and join in the fun. Keeping watching this space for news.

As this is the last segment for the year I wish to thank all members who contributed to this column and wish you and your families a Merry Xmas and happy and safe New Year in 2007.

73 VK3AXH

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## Review QST November 2006

Arriving at the Club rooms recently for a Construction night there on the Secretary's desk was QST for November. A quick glance down the contents list and there was one of my "GUNNA" jobs-the Horizontal Loop! I must read this article and when Craig arrived and stamped the magazine with the Club stamp I borrowed it with the proviso that a review was done. So, here we go.

1. Page 28 An Antenna Impedance meter. Another way to go but after The 1-500Mc Analyzer Club project I only skimmed this one.
2. " 37 Understanding SWR by example. Always an interesting Subject and following on from the Analyzer.
3. " 42 The above mentioned article on the Horizontal Loop. Three Pages of information with tables and diagrams and one of our Members Alan, VK3HGA has one up and running and reports Favourably.
4. " 61 The Doctor is In. There are always bits here of interest.
5. " 68 Hints & Kinks. An interesting article on a power source for Portable operations.
6. " 70 Antenna Analyzers.
7. " 75 M.F.J. 852. Powerline Noise Meter

The STEPPIR ANTENNAS ad. On page 18 caught my eye. Also, see the picture of the Club Station at the bottom of Page 21. They do it in a big way in the U.S.A.

All the ads. For gear go to make a good read.

73's Clem VK3BVI

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