



# BARG News

*Ballarat Amateur Radio Group*  
*Inc. #6953T*  
*January*  
*Monthly Newsletter*

Next Meeting  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018 @ 11.30am

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)

## Presidents Report

The last meeting of 2017 was the club Christmas event, organised by Doug, vk3vba. The evening was well attended and I'm sure nobody went home hungry. There was much discussion of the years events and was enjoyed by all who made it. Sadly a few members did have to pull out at the last minute.

The next meeting should fall on Australia day, so we're planning to have a Saturday meeting with a BBQ instead. 11:30 start at the club house. No to bring anything, but please let one of the committee know if you can come to assist with catering.

The committee is planning to put together a calendar of activities for 2018. If there are activities that you'd like to see the club run, or if there are things that you'd like to run for the club, please let us know. You get out what you put in.

*Mal vk3aak*



## A Word From The Editor

2018 is all but upon us, with it weather that's perfect for portable operations. Something is proving to be quite popular. The news letter is always interested in seeing a snippets about what members are up too. If you get out and about, be it SOTA, parks, or just coffee, take a phot and send in a few words.

There is a small number of members who don't have ready access to email and would like to have the news letter posted to them. Sadly I don't have the time to print out and post off each edition of the newsletter, I struggle to get time to write it as it is. If you don't have email but would like to see the newsletter, there's a few options. First, the newsletter can be emailed to any address, perhaps family or friends can receive it for you. Second, the newsletter is on the clubs website, usually a day or two after being emailed out. So it can be accessed at the club or a library, or anywhere with web access. Even your phone if it's a smart phone. Lastly, you could ask another member to print it out and bring it along to coffee or dinner meetings.

If there is a member that would be willing to print out and mail the newsletter please let me know. I think there's three members that would appreciate it.

*Malcolm - VK3OAK*





Looks like we need an updated roster.

BARG THURSDAY NIGHT NET CONTROLLERS LIST.						
For VK3BML club station of Ballarat Amateur Radio Group.						
DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	ALT	OPERATOR	NAME	COMMENTS.
THIS ROSTER DEvised		Jul-17				
23-Nov-17	VK3DRE	Doug	alt	VK3GGG	Mick	3KG not available.
30-Nov-17	VK3KQT	David	alt	VK3DRE	Doug	
7-Dec-17	VK3KG	Craig	alt	VK3KQT	David	
14-Dec-17	VK3GGG	Mick	alt	VK3AXH	Ian	
21-Dec-17	VK3DRE	Doug	alt	VK3KG	Craig	3KG not available
28-Dec-17	VK3KQT	David	alt	VK3GGG	Mick	
				New Roster for New Year.		
4-Jan-18			alt			3KG not available
11-Jan-18			alt			
18-Jan-18			alt		Net may	not run .See who attends.
25-Jan-18						
1-Feb-18						
8-Feb-18						
15-Feb-18						ALSO add Ian 3YFD to roster.
22-Feb-18						



## Silicon Chip 12 December 2017 review.

- P 14 Rail Guns and Electromagnetic launchers
- P34 Interfacing to the Raspberry Pi - for Beginners.
- P57 Review: Belt driven turn tables again.
- P78 El Cheapo Modules 11: Pressure/Temperature sensors.
- P24 Touchscreen Altimeter & Weather station.
- P42 The Arduino MegaBox from Altronics.
- P66 Build own Super 7 AM Radio Receiver Part 2.
- P84 Finnish off the new 6GHz + Digital Frequency meter.
- P60 The Serviceman's logbook.
- P90 Circuit Notebook.
- P94 Vintage Radio.
- P104 Notes & Errata. Always check here

Other bits and pieces



## 11 November QST 2017 Review.

- P9 Dunkirk on the Bayou. Hurricanes and disasters.
- P13 Spotlight on Glenn AC8PG.
- P24 Letters in.
- P30 Low cost Arduino UHF Morse Code Beacon.
- P32 A 75 Metre Dipole Stretcher. It covers 75/80 Metres now.
- P34 Work the World on WSJT-X, Part 2.  
Codes, Modes and Cooperative software development.
- P40 Build own Arduino Based Antenna Analyser.
- P46 What does King Harold and Bluetooth have in common?
- P47 Review: Icom IC-R8600 Comms Receiver. 10kHz to 3 GHz.
- P55 Review: Tytera MD-380 Analogue & DMR HTT. 400-480 MHz.
- P62 Review: RigExpert AA=55ZOOM Antenna Analyzer. 0.06 – 55MHz.
- 68 Review: Accessories for the Elecraft Transceivers. K Board and sideKar.
- P70 Review: MFJ-914 Auto Tuner Extender.
- P72 Review: Satellite Ham Radio{HamSat} App for iOS Devices.
- P73 Review: Borden One Tube {valve} AM Broadcast band radio kit.
- P75 The Doctor: Ways to get coax thru a wall.
- P77 Hands on Radio. Exp #178 Maxwell's Equations – Gad, Div, Curl.
- P79 Hints & Kinks. Headset Interface. Cutting PVC
- P82 On Line Contest Score board.
- P85 Use a DRONE for an Antenna Installation like they did at TI5W.
- P88 US Hams getting access to 630 and 2200 Metres.
- P91 Public Service: Look at best water and Hygiene practices for emergency responders.
- P97 How's DX?. KH1 Baker & Howland Is DXpedition set for 2018
- P99 Hawaii heard on 6M using JT65.
- P104 Classic Radio. The RCA ACT-150 Transmitter. An interesting read from 1937.
- P108 QST Index for 1942, 1967 and 1992
- P156 Index of Advertiser's in this months.



*Craig*  
VK3KG

## 10. October 2017 Review QST magazine

- P4/5 Index to issue.  
P13 Member spotlight . Mathew NJ4Y An electrical engineering student.  
P24 Letters  
P30 The World with WSJT-X Part 1. Operating Capabilities.  
P37 The ABCs of a Digital multimeter.  
P42 Hamclock. Will track the time with WIFI enabled devices.  
P45 Understanding Propagation with JT65, JT9 and FT8.  
P48 Troubleshooting 101. Where's the buzz?  
P50 Review: Yaesu FT-65R Dual Band HTT receiver. 6/2 bands.  
P54 Review; SharkRF open hotspot.  
P58 SDR Spectrum Radio Processor 2 Pro.  
P61 W4OP Magnetic loop Antenna.  
P63 Review of Pro Audio engineering Kx33 Power Supply.  
P65 EZ Hang Square Shot kit, Ideal for field day usage.  
P66 Eclectic Tech. Is any one still using dial up Internet?  
P67 The Doctor: Antennas & Radios are Usually compatible.  
P69 Microwaves without a bucket full of money  
P71 Hands on Radio Ex 177. Feed Line Comparison.  
P73 Hints & Kinks. Headphones/APRS Images repairs etc  
P76 Future challenges for Entry level reviewed by ARRL board.  
P79 Radio from Sri Lanka and Mauritius  
P82 T48K celebrates 15 yrs operating together.  
P84 First CW from space: SPUTNIC turns 60 years.  
P86 The ELMER project A new kind of Mentorship  
P91 Friedrichshafen Ham Radio Attendance Holds steady.  
P97 How's DX has an update on Baker island. KH1  
P99 World above 50MHz also looks at Evolution of JT65 to FT8.  
P104 Classic Radio. Hallicrafters HA-1 T.O. Keyer.  
P108 100, 50 and 25 years ago index.  
Remember we may have some of these in our library.



*Craig*  
VK3KG





## Around the Web

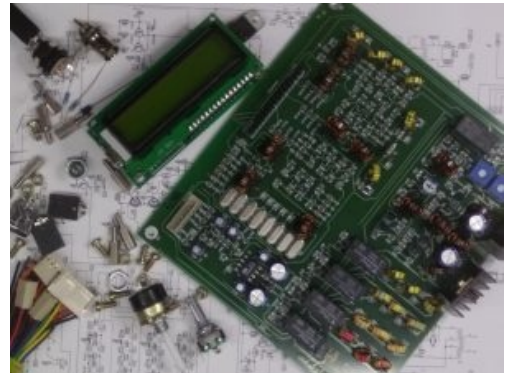
### Multi-band uBITX

Asharr Farhan, the designer of the BITX20 and BITX40 has released a new version of the BITX, this time it's a multi band radio. With 10 watts of output with an Arduino based DDS. From the website: *Build the  $\mu$ BITX transceiver in an evening. A general coverage, 10 watts HF SSB/CW transceiver kit with features you NEED for operating ease, convenience and versatility. It works from 3 MHz to 30 MHz, with up to 10 watts on SSB and CW, with a very sensitive receiver. It features digital tuning, dual VFOs, RIT, CW Keyer and more.*

It's available as an assembled board at the moment for US\$109, though It sounds like there's a bit of a wait.

<http://www.phonestack.com/farhan/ubitx/ubitx.html>

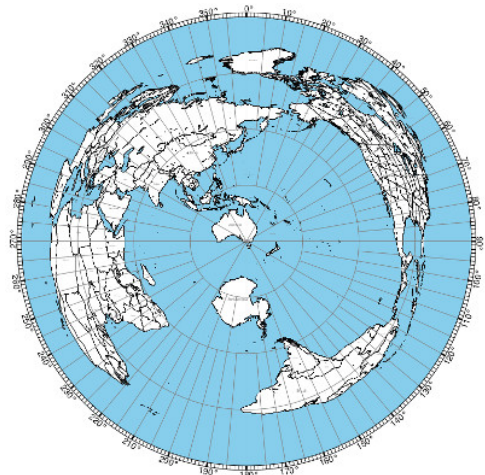
<http://www.hfsignals.com/>



### Azimuth Map Generator

Tom Epperly, NS6T, has a nifty Azimuth map generator up on his website. You just put in your maiden head reference for the centre point, select the paper size, and 30 seconds later you've got a PDF map. Perfect to work out where to point the beam.

<https://ns6t.net/azimuth/azimuth.html>



## VHF and Above for January 2018

With summer well and truly upon us there has been some improvement in propagation on both 6m and 2m.

Not all the luck has fallen our way at the time of writing this column but for others particularly in Adelaide and on the Spencer Gulf openings into New Zealand on 2m SSB has been fantastic.

Stations VK5BC, VK3AKK to name a few have been able to have great qso's into ZL at signal levels of S9 on several occasions so far and it's hoped this trend will continue for operators in the Ballarat area.

A general lift in propagation has also allowed good contacts for many of us on 2m, 70cm and 23cm particularly into Mount Gambier.

Those involved have been VK3GGG, VK3BNC, VK3KG and VK3AXH to name a few.

What has been noted is the activity on 6m with openings into most of the Australian States and New Zealand. Stations heard VK3KG, VK3GGG, VK3DET, VK3AXH and no doubt others as well. Although not yet heard in Ballarat is 3D2AG who has also been quite active on this band.

There has been a big spike in the use of FT-8 which is a fairly new digital mode that allows contacts to be made in a short period of time. Each transmitted message only takes 15 seconds which makes a quick contact possible when conditions can be quite marginal.

If you are interested in this mode and would like more information have a look at WSJT/FT-8 download it and give it a go. This mode is also being used on HF by many as well.

Let's hope propagation continues to improve throughout as the warmer weather.

Upcoming events are the WIA Summer Field Day to be held around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January. (Editor note: 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of January) If the weather is kind and you want to get involved contact the club for further details or look at the WIA event calendar.

If you have something to contribute to this part of the newsletter drop a line to our magazine editor or to VK3AXH.

73, *Ian*  
VK3AXH

