



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

April

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 23rd March 2018 @ 7:30pm

Meeting is a week early because of Easter

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

We're on the web
www.barg.org.au

Presidents Report

Summer's over without too much hot weather leaving conditions perfect for outdoor operations or long evenings in the shack.

The last Friday of March, which is when the next general meeting is due, is Good Friday, so we're going to have it the week earlier instead. Same time and place, Hope that works for everyone.

The John Moyle Field day is being held the weekend of 17th and 18th of March, which is when this newsletter is due out. The club be entered the 8 hour section, operating from the club house on Saturday the 17th. Not that we made it through the full 8 hours. A BBQ is was held feed the operators. Was all a bit if fun. More club members managed to get on air from home, Greenhill and Mount Buninyong.

Pictured here are Paul driving the BBQ, and Michael VK3VMM driving the electronic log

Thanks to Helen for getting us out there. About 10 members joined in over the course of the afternoon.



Thank you to all who sold Rotary tickets. This gave a nice boost to club funds, which helps take the pressure off annual fees. There is certainly more potential for minimal effort with this program. Something for next year.

Don't forget the meeting is this Friday! Roger will be giving talk about an electronic SWR and PWR meter that he's built.

Mal vk3eak

Round The Web

Yaesu FT-818

Yaesu have just announced the follow on from the ever popular FT-817ND. This radio, and base FT-817 before it, have been the go to radio for QRP ops of all types, particularly the portable operators like SOTA. There's been competition from Elecraft with the KX3 and more recently the KX2. But those models have less bands, are nowhere near as rugged, and certainly cost more. Which meant there's been speculation for some time as what Yaesu would come out with to counter.

Whilst the radio isn't publicly available yet, some marketing material is coming out. It's pretty obvious the radio is just a manufacturing update, likely due to component availability. Even though nobody has laid eyes on it, and certainly not used or heard it. Lots of Internet experts have firm opinion on what's changed and how well that'll be received by the market. Check out your favourite forum for more details.



Strictly HAM is listing the FT-818 for \$849 and the FT-817ND for \$749. (Might be a good time to grab a run out 817!) <http://www.strictlyham.com.au/yaesu-ft-818>

VHF and Above for April 2018

It's been a mixed bag this last month for the higher frequency enthusiasts with some very good propagation into Adelaide, Mt Gambier, Corny Point and Tasmania

Even though the summer propagation has fallen away there have been some really good signals on the 2m, 70cm and 23cm bands. There has been a surge of activity on 23cm with both John VK3AIG and Bob VK3BNC now operational on this interesting band. In addition to the Mt Gambier stations Steve VK3ZAZ in Hamilton is now operational and putting good signals our way as well.

Ian VK3AXH has continued his activity with EME with many contacts into EU during the past few weeks and is planning to get a little more interested in 23cm EME as well. Bob VK3BNC is also working towards getting his installation up and running and is hoping to here ON0EME's 23cm beacon on 1296.000 MHz in the near future.

The John Moyle Field Day has now come and gone and despite the terrible weather club members got involved which was great to see. Extremely blustery weather and a total fire ban day made it even more difficult for the VHF and above enthusiasts. Bob VK3BNC and John VK3AIG were not able to go to Mt Hollowback due to the fire ban so ended up at Mt Buninyong trying different locations to get some shelter from the wind. Bob and John had separate set-ups and between them were operational on 6m, 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 3.4G and Ian was operation on 2m, 70cm, 23cm, 2.4G and 3.4G from Green Hill. Craig VK3KG although at the BARG Club Rooms also setup 3.4G and managed to contact Ian at good signal strength being S8 using SSB which is a good result given the path obstruction.

Ian had his tripod and 3.4G dish blown over at least 8 times in the strong winds. Although the weather was a challenge it was good to see the activity from club members. Hopefully this will encourage others to get involved in the future.

A microwave test day is also planned for Victorian microwave enthusiasts on April 2 so we are hoping the weather will be kinder to us on that occasion.

Till next time 73 de **VK3AXH**

John Moyle Field Day Club Station Report

Here's the list, to the right, of the contacts made by club station, VK3BML. There's a couple of obvious call sign errors at the end there.

Key ideas gained from the experience:	VK2JNP	VK3IL/P
Check the equipment at least the day before. We had issues with the second radio, which to be fair, was working the day before.	VK3VLY	VK5LJ
Read the rules!!! We could have been a bit more familiar about how the contest worked. Not that it was a big issue.	VK2ND	VK5LJ
Play with the logging program beforehand. Most had not used electronic logging before. It's a great tool, but does change the work flow a little bit.	VK7LTD	VK3CNE/P
Think about the set up. There are some easy things we could do to enable two or three operator stations. All would need to be different bands. That would enable a lot more on air activity, and a lot more contacts.	VK5VC	VK3MHZ
	VK5TR	VK5GR
	VK2DNO	VK3PI/P
	VK5MK	VK2RR/P
	VK5DT	VK3IL/P
	VK2RR/P	CMZ/P
	VK2SF	VKXV
	VK7FOLK	VK3BL
	VK2AOJ	VK3JP/P
	VK3ZPF	VK2PX

Congratulations to Helen VK3RY for all her work. Also to Mal - (chef de mission), and all other attendees.

Michael, vk3vmm

3 Prac Wireless 2018 March review.

- P6 Keylines and Newsdeck news
- P9 See UK happenings & web sites for 5 MHz newsletter
- P10 Review: SOTA Beams WSPRlite Flexi Propagation & Antenna Tester.
- P14 Two Islands in the Indian Ocean. Sri Lanka and Mauritius & radio activity.
- P18 Emerging Technology. Quantum radio and chicken tracking, 5G and Internet of Things. [IOT]
- P23 HF Highlights. Bust March and the Island of Satang Besar in Sarawak. Includes band reports and whisper hearings.
- P26 The Yaesu FL-50B Transmitter & FV-50 External VFO. Historical and technical facts
- P28 V&V. From Regeneration to VHF FM. Major Edwin Armstrong and his demise.
- P34 World of VHF. A Word on DMR Codeplugs. What are codeplugs you ask.?
- P40 An ARDUINO MorseReader. ARD071. See last month for he sender unit.
- P44 The BITX -40 QRP 4ometre transceiver. Also a case is available.
<http://amateurradiokits.in> <http://tinyurl.com/yb2cyhyr>
www.hfsignals.com/index.php/2017/11/23/wiring-up-the-bitx40
- P47 Data Modes. More on the AIRSPY HF+. Also see Jan Mike G4WNC column.
- P50 Kits & Modules. 500MHz Power Meter.
<http://tinyurl.com/y76rr6ge> www.qsl.net/k6ls/rfsampler.html
- P52 Making Waves: The F Layer. Just part of the Atmosphere above us.
- P56 Doing it by Design. Efficient high quality AM Transceiver for the 60M band.
- P60 Feature article about Chuck Brady: DXpeditioner & Astronaut.
- P63 Letters
- P64 Interested in Data mode and looking for known band frequencies. Here it is then.



73 Craig VK3KG



Helen VK3RY and Jessica chasing contacts on 40m during John Moyle Field Day via the club station, VK3BML

FOR SALE – HI-GAIN TH-3JRS TRI BAND BEAM

Used in a rural location, more than 200kms from the sea, so no salt or other pollution here. It was purchased from Ross at Strictly Ham in mid-2013. Includes a home brew 1:1 Balun (ferrite rod) that easily handles legal limit. That's a significant saving over having to purchase a commercial one. Tunes across phone segments of each band (1.0:1 at 14.200, 1.0:1 at 21.300 and 1.0:1 at 28.700).



Currently mounted on home brew tilt over mast. Can be easily removed. A vehicle with roof racks is best as the elements then don't need to be pulled apart, just removed from the boom which then splits in half. Longest piece would be 4 metres. All elements are sealed with Plasticote 70 and amalgamating tape. It's never been affected by even the worst weather. Taken this way, assembling it would be a breeze. I've worked over 70 countries as well as many VKs using it on the three bands. Since having

bowel surgery last year, I can't manage maintaining VHF and UHF antennas with this beam in place.

My asking price is \$300 firm, which represents way less than half the cost of a new one from Strictly Ham. Pickup only. Can be viewed working in place.

Look for me on VK3RWZ Mount William 2 Metres or ring **0448 026 733**.



Robert VK3ARM
(Black Range near Stawell).



Craig VK3KG setting up to contact Ian VK3AXH on Greenhill out in front of the club house.

2 Silicon Chip 2018 February Review.

FEATURES AND REVIEWS.

- P14 Turning your Garbage into useful electricity
P30 We review : Navman's Drive duo - Satnav AND Dashcam.
P44 El Cheapo Modules 13: sensing motion and moisture.

CONSTRUCTIONAL ARTICLES.

- P20 A Watwer tank level meter with WIFI and More.
P36 6-Element VHF TV Yagi to kill UHF 4G Interference.
P64 Highly versatile& accurate dot/bar 10 LED Bargraph.
P83 Arduino Mega Box Music Player revisited.

YOUR FAVOURITE COLUMNS.

- P57 Servicemans Log.
P78 Circuit Notebook.
1. Vintage car logbook with Temp & clock display.
2. PICAXE roulette wheel & 7 segment display.
3. Active probe with switched capacitor charge pump.
4. OLED clock gets time from internet using NTP.
P87 Vintage radio. 1919/20 The Grebe Synchronphase.

EVERYTHING ELSE.

- P2 Editorial.
P4 Mailbag
P94 Ask Silicon Chip
P100 Shop Online
P103 Market Centre
P104 Notes and Errata
Happy Reading & constructing.

Craig VK3KG



Member Shack Shots

Robert, VK3ARM, submitted a shot of his shack. Based at the foot hills of the Grampians he's in an ideal location.

Looks like a range of ages in the gear.

Nice to see the oscilloscope on the bench too.

Thanks for sharing.



3 Silicon Chip March 2018 Review.

Features & Reviews.

- P22 Generation 4 Nuclear Power. Making their own Fuel.
P73 El Cheapo Modules 14: Logarithmic RF Detector.. Good to 8 GHz.

Construction Projects.

- P14 Arduino based Earthquake early Warning Alarm. Makes for an interesting project.
P34 Full Wave 10Amp. 230V Universal motor speed controller.
P64 An AM Transmitter to build. Very low power application. For use with older style radios
P80 Analog Audio Video Modulator for vintage TV sets.

Your Favourite Columns.

- P58 The Serviceman's Log.
P45 Circuit notebook. Inductance Balance metal detector.
Colour slide show with alarm clock.

Everything Else!

- P4 Editorial View
P6 Mailbag and feedback.
P57 Product showcase
P96 Online shop.
P98 Ask Silicon Chip.
P104 Notes and Errata.



And that's Silicon chip for this month. **VK3KG**

4 Practical Wireless April 2018.

- P6 Keylines.
P7 Newsdeck.
P10 Review: The ICOM IC-7610 HF/6M Software Defined Radio.
P18 Feature: The ZV4A Story from The Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus.
P23 Carry on the Practical way looks at the Shack Box. Arduino and other bits make a shack clock with GPS facility. You can have Lat & Long with Temp and pressure outputs.
P26 HF Highlights. The Bouvet Island expedition that failed. But another is planned.
P30 Morse Code 48 hour event and results
P32 Valve & Vintage looks at a number of rigs at the Internal Fire Museum of Power. And where some of the maritime radios now repose.
P42 Buying second Hand The TRIO TS-700
P45 World of VHF looks at FT8 on 2Metres.
P47 Data Modes Wireless Tuning Knob.
P50 The Antenna explained without Maths.
P54 What Next? Meteor Scatter.
P58 In the Shop. Specifications, Antennas and More.
P62 Letters.

And that's the lot for April.

73 Craig



RAOTC

If you have been licenced for 25 years or more or been qualified to hold a licence, i.e. with a Commercial licence or similar you can join as a member. If you have been qualified for only ten years then you could become an Associate member with all privileges except voting. The Old Timers Network is part of the world wide fraternity of amateurs who have been licensed over many years and worked through a wide range of communications and electronic environments. If you are interested in the OTN then make contact via raotc@raotc.org.au or Ian at 0466 286 003, Bill 0416 177 027

A application form is available at PO Box 107 Mentone 3194 Vic.

Look at the web site www.raotc.org.au and see.

The OTN Journal is published twice yearly and is full of interesting and historically information from the wide membership base. There is a radio broadcast on the first Monday of the month with news and relayed by different stations on a number of frequencies. A Melbourne based Luncheon is held twice a year with a guest speaker.

Here is a review of contents of the March 2018 Journal. No 61.

RAOTC General information	2	The first portable radio.	
From the President	3	Norfolk Is and john VK9JA	28
From the committee	3	RAOTC members list at 31 Jan	30
From the editor	4	New RAOTC members	32
QSO Party results 2017	4	RAOTC Silent Keys	33
From our members	5	Obit Darcy Handcock VK5RJ	33
Stewart Day Award & Melbourne		Obit Ron Fisher VK3OM	34
September Luncheon	6	Obit Ken Nisbit VK2KP	35
Don't argue Be Sprague	7	VicPol Wireless Early days	36
Maritime coastrad in aviation	10	Forced land at Murray bridge	42
Warnambool road race Pt3		Development of VHF Airband 43	
Wireless Pt 3 1947-1955	13	2M Fm in VK6 before repeaters	46
Wullenweber: circles world	17	The Radio Altimeter	48
Energy- nuclear & other sources	20	If I only had time	51
Morse code with an Aldis lamp	23	Telegraph station Beechworth 53	
Changes afoot	25	The night SPUTNIK flew	55
FNQ amateurs Nick VK4YT	26	Where did year go	57
Morse keys for Sets 108, 128, & A510		58	
Notice of March Luncheon		60	

Although the journal is published in black and white there is always a number of very high quality photographs used throughout

I would recommend trying to get access to some copies as there is a mountain of interesting material in every one. The members letters page is always full of responses to previous articles and members comments.

73 Craig VK3KG RAOTC member #931

2 QST February 2018 REVIEW.

- P24 Letters from members.
- P30 Fan controller for your Classic radio.
- P33 Live trees affect Antenna performance.
- P38 An Audio switching unit between speakers, headsets and controls for guests in the shack.
- P41 5 and 10 MHz WWV TRF Receivers for Frequency Counter Calibration.
- P45 Hedy Lamarr documentary Highlights radio Invention. Did you know she was an inventor in Frequency hopping back in 1942 after her acting career thru the 1930/40s.
- P46 Review Dualband Analog & DMR HTT The TYT MD-2017
- P50 Review: Heil PR 10 Home Station Microphone.
- P52 Review. Elenco DT-100 Diode/transistor tester Kit.
- P54 Review: Universal Keying Adaptor 3+Kit.
- P55 Review: Speaker Microphone for ElecraftKX2 & KX3.
- P57 Review: SOATBEAMS Click 2Tune Accessory for ICOM Transceivers.
- P58 The Half Wave Transformer may be just the Right Length.
- P60 Hints 7 Hacks.
- P63 Eclectic Technology. Antenna reporting with WSJT-X
- P64 The CIA, The Cold War & Amateur Radio. [CONFIDENTIAL]
- P69 The Future of AMSAT: A Discussion with Joe Spier K6WAO.
- P71 WW1usa; a SERIES OF TRULY Special events. Centennial Event station for WW1 commemorations.
- P75 Nominations sought for P.J.McGan Memorial Award.
- P76 Split Decisions. Do you work split VFO? Or know how to.
- P78 FCC seeks comments re Technological Recommendations.
- P82 Public Service. Use LED's to light up your field operations.
- P84 Classic Radio. The SHURE Iconic 55 Microphone. Three models with different impedance between 30-250 Ohm and a Hi Z for valve circuits. Using a balanced line originally for Broadcast and recording uses the amateur has also adopted the SHURE 55 to. Elvis Pressley used them as well Sinatra and Fitzgerald. They command good prices on Ebay still.
- P86 The FCC now requires all pending amateurs to answer a felony question when applying for a licence. www.arrl.org/fcc-qualification-question Will there be a flow on in other agencies.?
- P91 Hows DX? What are some of the pet peeves.
- P93 World above 50MHz. Exploring Sporadic E Propagation with FT8.
- P99 Coloured chart of the US Amateur Radio Bands.
- P100 75. 50 AND 25 YEARS Ago. Index's.
- P142 QST Index to Advertisers.

73 Craig VK3KG



You know you are Australian when:

- You believe stubbies can be either worn or drunk
 - You pronounce Melbourne as “Melbin”
 - You think Woolloomooloo is a perfectly reasonable name for a place
 - You’re secretly proud of our killer wildlife
 - You reckon the letter “l” in Australia is optional and it’s perfectly OK to call it “Straya”
 - You believe it makes sense to have a \$1 coin that is twice as big as a \$2 coin
 - You understand that “Wagga Wagga” can be abbreviated to “Wagga” but “Woy Woy” cannot be shortened to “Woy”
 - You enjoy going to Bunnings for the sausage sizzle
 - Having beetroot on your hamburger is normal
 - You understand that "chuck a u-ey" is actually a carefully executed driving manoeuvre
 - You're relieved to see that the daily fire danger warning is 'only' high
 - You think that the more you shorten someone’s name the more you like them
 - You understand that “Excuse me” can sound rude but “s’cuse me” is always polite
 - You know what it’s like to swallow a fly, sometimes via your nose
 - You can go on holidays to another country in less time than it takes to fly to the other side of your own
 - You understand “having a barbie” involves catching up with mates and not playing with a doll You know it’s not summer until the steering wheel gets too hot to hold and the seat belt buckle becomes a pretty good branding iron
 - In summer, hot water comes out of both taps.
 - You know how to abbreviate every word, all of which usually end in “o” – ambo, arvo, garbo, metho, milko, muso, speedo, righto
 - You know that there is a universal place called “Woop Woop” located in the “middle of nowhere” no matter where you currently are
- You can understand all the above.

SUBMITTED BY SALGUOD

HF Net Controller Roster - 2018

DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	ALT	OPERATOR	NAME
This Roster Devised 29 December 2017				New Roster for New Year.	
22-Mar-18	VK3KQT	David		VK3KG	Craig
29-Mar-18	VK3KG	Craig		VK3GGG	Mick
5-Apr-18	VK3GGG	Mick		VK3DRE	Doug
12-Apr-18	VK3DRE	Doug		VK3AXH	Ian
19-Apr	VK3AXH	Ian		VK3YFD	Ian
26-Apr-18	VK3YFD	Ian		VK3KQT	David
3-May-18	VK3KQT	David		VK3KG	Craig
10-May-18	VK3KG	Craig		VK3GGG	Mick
17-May-18	VK3GGG	Mick		VK3DRE	Doug
24-May-18	VK3DRE	Doug		VK3AXH	Ian
31-May-18	VK3AXH	Ian		VK3YFD	Ian
7-Jun-18	VK3YFD	ian		VK3KQT	David
14-Jun-18	VK3KQT	David		VK3KG	Craig
21-Jun-18	VK3KG	Craig		VK3GGG	Mick