



# BARG News

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

Next Meeting  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 @ 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.  
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Mail Centre  
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We're on the web  
[www.barg.org.au](http://www.barg.org.au)

## Presidents Report

Welcome to the June edition of the newsletter. I had really thought this wasn't due until next week, which is why it's so late. This coming weekend is the George Fowler Auction. A great opportunity to bring along and get rid of some little used kit from the shack and the shed. Plus a chance to catch up with a bunch of folk.

Later in the year we'll have the Hamfest. It'll be organised by a larger group than past years, so we'll have a special meeting in August to go through all the details of the day. If you would like to be involved then you're welcome to come along.

We need to set the fees for the Hamfest now though, and there has been some discussion about how much those fees should be. At the last general meeting someone asked the question as to why the Hamfest is held. A great question. We often talk about the event as our primary fund raiser for the year, which it is. And it costs a reasonable amount of money to run the club. More than \$1,000 / year just to keep the lights on, and the Internet and pay the rent. Whilst we have some money in the bank, the treasurer will likely report that we'll have less at the end of the current financial year than we had at the start. This is not because we are mismanaged. Rather we have spent money on equipment that is available for all the members.

Fund raising isn't the only reason for the event though. It's also a major publicity event for the club in the local and state based amateur community. It's a real social event with a chance to meet up with many who speak on air. And of course it allows the sale and purchase of all sorts of radio and related kit.

When setting the fees we want to make sure we get as many traders as we can, because it's a bit pointless if they don't come. And the traders will come if there are lots of customers. But if we set the fees too low we miss out.

Lastly, we need to be aware that we're not the only hamfest in the state. There's quite a few through the year. We're one of, if not the biggest. Setting the price correctly will help us stay that way.

After a fair amount of healthy discussion the committee decided to set the cost for traders at \$20 for one table, including the cost of entry for one person. Additional tables will be \$10 each. All other attendees will be \$7. This is an increase for both compared to last year. But it was thought to be consistent with other Hamfests, and will hopefully be a fair balance to the other factors. This can be ratified by the membership at the next meeting.

Having discussed Hamfest fees, the discussion moved the annual membership fees. There was a question as to when they were set at the current \$40 for members and \$50 for families. It was guess to be 10 years ago, and I've since done some digging through old news letters and believe that indeed it was 10 years ago, in 2008.

Clearly \$40 went a lot further in 2008 than today. Like the Hamvention fees, we all want them to be as low as possible, but also need to cover our costs. The committee felt that a motion at the AGM that fees be increased by \$5 this year and again next year would be a reasonable position that balanced both sides of the ledger.

Fees are set by a vote of all members at the AGM, so everyone has the option of putting forward a different position at that time.

The committee also discussed having a Saturday event to get the last of the antenna's up for the remote base, and get the bit of tidy up required to get the whole thing up and running fully. So look out for that soon.

I look forward to seeing everyone this Sunday, at the George Fowler Auction.

*Mal vk3caak*

## VHF and Above for June 2018

Well the weather has changed a little early this year however it hasn't been able to dampen the enthusiasm of the weak signal enthusiasts. There are still regular contacts being made on the bottom ends of 2m, 70cm and 23cm.

There has been some good openings on each of these bands during the past month particularly North of Adelaide where there has been good openings on 2m, 70cm and to some parts of VK3 on 23cm.

All that aside the local microwave group again ventured into the field to check out the performance of both 2.4G and 3.4G. Bob VK3BNC and John VK3AIG have been toiling away with these bands and the tests conducted have proved their efforts have been well worthwhile.

Arrangements were made to do more microwave tests a couple of weeks back. Bob VK3BNC at Mt Rowan, John VK3AIG and Ian VK3IDL at Clark's Hill, Craig VK3KG at a location between Rokewood and Dereel previously used by Maurie VK3XEX now SK and Ian VK3AXH at Green Hill. The weather was mostly ok but quite windy for some with an occasional shower of rain. Communications were good between all of us except for Craig. On further study there appeared to be a big bit of dirt back towards Ballarat. Craig tried another site which didn't improve things so we know not to use either of those again.

When we were nearing completion of the tests we thought we could hear a weak signal on 2.4G which was not one of us. After some twiddling of antenna directions we could hear Kevin VK3WN who had heard us liaising on VK3RBA 2m repeater and he thought he would throw some gear in his car and head out to Ross Creek. Kevin was being received at good signals strength except for Bob VK3BNC due to Kevin's location and some dirt in the path however Kevin was able to receive Bob ok.

Having spoken to Kevin since he was using a home built antenna of low gain and unknown output power but it worked !!!! As you can see it's all possible and just a matter of getting the enthusiasm to be involved so why not have a go.

Till next time 73 de *VK3AXH*

## HF Net Controller Roster - 2018

DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	ALT	OPERATOR	NAME
This Roster Devised 29 December 2017					
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

Looks like we need an updated roster

### 3 QST April 2018.

- P4/5 Contents page.
- P9 Second Century looks at Advacing Amateur Radio, together.
- P13 Member Spotlight: NancyYoshida KG0YL.
- P24 Correspondence on wide list of topics.
- P30 A Vertical Antenna for 160Meters. Uses your tower to load up.
- P33 Portable Two Element Yagi for 6 Meters.
- P36 An Ultra Simple 2 Meter Antenna. Uses two wire coat hangers.
- P38 Personal Space Weather Station. See a number of web sites listed.
- P42 Review: Apache HF & 6 M SDR Transceiver. ANAN-8000DLE.
- P49 Review. K1EL System paddle stick CW Keyer.
- P50 Review. MFJ-1886 HF Receive Loop Antenna.
- P52 Review. Elenco XP-720K Workbench Power supply
- P54 Keep your Transmitted Signal from Damaging your Receiver.
- P56 Eclectic Tech looks at New software for Kbd to Kbd contacts  
on 630 & 2200 Meters.
- P57 Microwaves.Look at Parabolic Dishes.
- P59 Hints & Kinks. Threading PL259 plugs.  
HTT Holder.  
MFJ 452 Keyer mods.  
Cocoa Tin enclosures.  
Radial Ring Claw[for vertical ground radiators.
- P62 The Inventory List. Well worth reading about how you will leave yourshack  
And gear for family when you are SK.
- P64 CRETE. Amateur radio in the Mediterranean Sea.
- P73 Handing out Kosovo. The latest DXCC entity.
- P79 Canadian Amateur finds Resurrected NASA Satellite. [IMAGE]  
Same page WIA seeks Amateurpower increases from ACMA.
- P80 Public Service: ARES training for Medical Helicopter Evacuations.
- P82 Classic Radio. The DRAKE 2-C Receiver from late 1960's.
- P92 Hows DX? 6060 a Two –Man Dxpediton to Somalia.
- P94 World Above 50 MHz. Tropo Propagation & Skew-T Log-P Diagrams.
- P100 75, 50, and 25 years ago. The index.
- P142 QST Index of Advertisers.

