



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group
Inc. #6953T
September
Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting
Friday 31st August 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.
Box 1218
Mail Centre
Bakery Hill Vic. 3354

Or E-Mail : vk3bml@barg.org.au

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

Presidents Report

Welcome to the September newsletter. Last month we held the AGM and ran elections, with basically the same board returned. Thank you all who contributed over the last 12 months. We also ran a planning session for the forthcoming Hamfest. This event is again shaping up to be a strong event. Table bookings are on par with last year and a few changes to the entry and money collection processes should make the day a bit easier to run. We do need all member help on the weekend. If everyone chips in the day is pretty easy for everyone.

The Remembrance Day contest was held through 11th and 12th of August. I decided to have a go as a home station, though my HF radio is only a little QRP ft-817. I setup my portable OCF cut for 40m across the backyard and got started about 2 hours into the contest. I had thought about working a couple of hours through the late night bonus points period, but I had a busy work week coming up so thought better of it about 9pm.

I did get back on air earlyish Sunday though. All up about 90 contacts across VK1 through 7 and one ZL station in the South Island. The OCF let me easily jump around various bands, with contacts made on 20, 40 80 and 160m, though the SWR wasn't that great on 160. More work needed for that. I also managed on contact, VK3LTL, on 2m FM, though not via the OCF.

Conditions on Saturday were pretty awful, with S8 noise floor on 40 and 80m on Saturday at my QTH. I heard AXH, and think there was a couple of other club members, but don't recall any club contacts.

All up it was a good weekend. Perhaps next year I might try and get setup portable somewhere and hopefully get a much lower noise floor. It's a bit chilly for camping though, unless you could go a fair way north. Something to consider.

Did anyone else have a go? How did you find it.

Till next time.

Mal uk3oak

Hi Members,

I have already spoken at a meeting about trying to relinquish some of the duties of a WIA examiner in this coming year. As a Nominated examiner I have to do all those things that all other examiners do like organizing and running exam assessments for all levels AND I also have to do reviews or audits of all other examiners when their auditor status is up for review each year. I also have to conduct assessment for special needs candidates like blind or those with dyslexic or other learning problems.

This extra load does usually require me to travel around the state to attend an area convenient to the candidate. I am also available to apply Recognition of Prior Learning [RPL] skills to a candidate who applies and submits loads of documentation for their claim. It would seem that apart from the WIA's own RTO I am the only Nom Assessor for the whole of western Victoria from Geelong up to Shepparton and the Murray river.

I believe its time to find another one or two Full call licensees to put their hand up and take the training offered by the WIA and become an assessor. Once they they will supplement BARGS other assessors Gordon and Bruce and learning facilitator Bob 3NBV who I also know would like to retire now himself. While I know how hard it is to get members to shuffle up to the firing line we really need to do something to guarantee a service to maintain the amateur hobby has qualified people on the air ways

Could we find one or two full calls to volunteer as accredited examiners.? They do not have to be ex teachers or have experience in that area. I am still happy to help them in this mission but am looking forward to step down at this time.

Thanks,
Craig, VK3KG

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Have just been reading the latest WIA, Amateur Radio magazine and in the QSL Bureau update page there is a comment from the QSL manager John VK3JLS that there has been an erroneous statement made in the International forum [and probably on air] to the effect that the WIA will not handle QSL cards for non WIA members. This is NOT TRUE and should be made known now and on the widest possible arena. The method of dealing with ALL cards sent to the bureau conforms to the IARU agreement. Cards are processed and held until the non member makes arrangement with WIA to collect them. The WIA has a right to expect cost recovery if mail out is involved.

Club members may remember that a few years back that cards for members in Ballarat were sent to the club along with non club members cards and we were required to hold these until alternative pickup could be organized with the club. We still hold those cards in the inwards QSL box for a number of non club members who nominated BARG to collect for them but they have not done so at this time. As the IARU rules state for member organization's like the WIA, the Bureau managers should decide how long these unclaimed cards should be retained but "generally not more than twelve months"

While BARGS usage of the QSL bureau may be very small I feel we should inform members including newer members of the procedure for depositing and collecting cards from the club. Perhaps some members know of uncollected cards and could take them to the non member to clear up our recovery rate.

73 Craig
VK3KG

5 Silicon Chip April 2018

FEATURES AND REVIEWS:

Rhode & Schwartz RTM3004 Oscilloscope.
New "FACETT" hearing aids from Blamey Saunders.
El Cheapo Modules 15: ESP8266 based WiFi modules.

CONSTRUCTIONAL PROJECTS.

230VAC Thermopile based heater controller.
Low cost, ARDUINO based 3 Axis Seismograph.
The Clayton's GPS time signal Generator.

YOUR FAVOURITE COLUMNS.

Servicemans Log.
Circuit notebook.

- Temp & Humidity display using a PIC16F88
- Guitar/violin preamp off a USB supply
- Recycling old hard disk spindle motors
- Simple valve radio battery eliminator

Vintage Radio The 1962 Astor M2 Crybaby radio & intercom in one.
EVERTHING ELSE.



And that's the month of April.
73 Craig VK3KG

8 Silicon Chip August 2018 Review.

FEATURES & REVIEWS.

Introduction to Electroencephalograph's.
Taking an Epic Voyage through your Alimentary canal!
Review: Altium Designer 18.

CONSTRUCTIONALPROJECTS.

Brainwave Monitor.
Minature high performance sound effects module.
Turn any PC into a media centre- with remote control.
Bedroom [or any room} no-connection door alarm

YOUR FAVOURITE COLUMNS.

Servicemans Log.
Circuit notebook.

- GPS or WiFi clock use a PIC and LCD screen.
- 36/48V charger controller for golf carts,e bikes etc.
- Measuring air pollution with ESP32 module.
- Dual High power sinewave generator.
- DIY magnetic connectors for batteries, magnetic locks and more.

Vintage Radio looks at the AWA B13 stereogram from1963.

EVERTHING ELSE.

And that's your blooming lot for now.
73 Craig VK3KG



HF Net Controller Roster - 2018

DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	ALTERNATIVE	NAME
26-Jul-18	VK3KQT	DAVID	VK3DRE	DOUG
2-Aug-18	VK3KG	CRAIG	VK3AXH	IAN
9-Aug-18	VK3GGG	MICK	VK3YFD	IAN
16-Aug-18	VK3DRE	DOUG	VK3KG	CRAIG
23-Aug-18	VK3AXH	IAN	VK3GGG	MICK
30-Aug-18	VK3YFD	IAN	VK3DRE	DOUG
6-Sep-18	VK3KQT	DAVID	VK3KG	CRAIG
13-Sep-18	VK3KG	CRAIG	VK3YFD	IAN
20-Sep-18	VK3GGG	MICK	VK3KQT	DAVID
27-Sep-18	VK3DRE	DOUG	VK3GGG	MICK
4-Oct-18	VK3AXH	IAN	VK3DRE	DOUG
11-Oct-18	VK3YFD	IAN	VK3AXH	IAN
18-Oct-18	VK3KQT	DAVID	VK3DRE	DOUG
25-Oct-18	VK3GGG	MICK	VK3KG	CRAIG
1-Nov-18	VK3KG	CRAIG	VK3GGG	MICK
8-Nov-18	VK3DRE	DOUG	VK3DRE	DOUG
15-Nov-18	VK3AXH	IAN	VK3AXH	IAN
22-Nov-18	VK3YFD	IAN	VK3YFD	IAN
29-Nov-18	VK3KQT	DAVID	VK3KG	CRAIG
6-Dec-18	VK3KG	CRAIG	VK3KQT	DAVID
13-Dec-18	VK3GGG	MICK	VK3DRE	DOUG
20-Dec-18	VK3DRE	DOUG	VK3GGG	MICK
27-Dec-18	VK3AXH	IAN	VK3YFD	IAN

7 July Silicon Chip 2018 review.

FEATURES & REVIEWS.

The Farm of the Future. Robotics and all that jazz.
Revolutionary; The Philips Compact cassette.
Review: The latest Raspberry Pi the Model 3B+
El Cheapo, 500MHz frequency counter and preamp.

CONSTRUCTIONAL & PROJECTS.

Super Clock now shows your Electricity tariff.
Raspberry Pi Tide Chart – and more.
Hows your memory? Build the Event reminder.
800W (+) Uninterruptible Power supply (UPS) Part 3.

YOUR FAVOURITE COLUMNS.

Servicemans log.
Circuit Notebook.

- Humidity controller for chees making.
- Multi pattern, multi speed LED chaser.
- LED logic display for circuit development
- Using two cheap ICs to generate +/- 15V DC from 5V DC.

EVERYTHING ELSESE.

And another month gone.

73 Craig
VK3KG



9 PRACTICAL WIRELESS SEPTEMBER 2018 Review by Craig VK3KG

- p6 Keylines
- p7 News and bits.
- P11 Subscriptions
- P12 HF Band Passive Noise Cancellation.
- P16 Tenth PW 70MHz Contest.
- P18 In Focus:- Amateur Radio in the Philippines
- P24 Experimental CFR Dipole. A 30 year return.
- P27 Radio Bookstore.
- P28 World of VHF.
- P34 HF Highlights.
- P40 Doing it by Design.
- P44 Carrying on the Practical Way.
- P48 Valve and vintage.
- P50 What Next.
- P54 Knots and Ropes for Amateur Radio. Very handy.
- P58 Making Waves. HF projections.
- P60 Data Modes.
- P64 Starting Over.
- P65 Book Reviews.
- P66 Kits & Modules. SMPS and metering.
- P68 Rallies.
- P69 Readers Letters.
- P72 Classifieds
- P73 Bargain basements.



And that's all from the Practical Wireless magazine until October 2018.

VHF and Above for September 2018

Being still in the midst of Winter there hasn't been a lot of any special news to report on this month. A glimmer occurred this morning when the Adelaide 2m beacon was being heard in Ballarat and Andrew VK3LTL at Gordon was able to trigger a range of repeaters including Tasmania.

The regulars have popping up on the bottom end of the 2m band each morning where contacts to the West and East are still happening. However over the past few days there have been some good 70cm contacts from some of the regulars to VK3VG Trevor in the Shepparton area where signals have been up to S7 which is good for this time of year. We have asked Trevor to have a listen for the Clubs 23cm beacon and if heard should be a positive for the upcoming Summer season.

I've heard that a number of amateurs have suffered antenna's being misaligned or damaged due to the strong winds throughout the region namely VK3KG and VK3AXH. It's yet to be determined if the vertical pole has moved in the rotators or some other reason. Hopefully things won't be too bad.

The 144.150MHz net still continues each Wednesday evening commencing at 8:30pm using SSB with a good mix of stations controlled by Rob VK3MQ on Mt Dandenong doing a great job.

The Graves radar that operates in France on 143.050 is still engaging many amateurs that frequent the 2m band by trying to detect the reflected signal off the moon when it's setting in the Western sky. As previously mentioned a small 2mx yagi and a program such as WSJT10 or Spectran is sufficient to see this signal so why not have a go. If you need any info please discuss with Ian VK3AXH.

Very recently Lachlie VK3ALM reported that some Chinese satellite's have been launched and one is in orbit around the moon. At this stage there have been several amateurs able to hear signals from it so keep an eye on this segment to see if any of the locals are able to hear it as well.

SSTV and other digital modes are still being used at times on the VHF band and a thought has come to mind that it maybe possible to use the Club's Green Hill 2mx repeater for this activity.....so if you are interested please let us know.

Till next time 73 Ian VK3AXH



The Great Dragon Raid of 1405

Legend has it that one balmy spring afternoon in 1405, during the Ming Dynasty, a flight of terrain following radar equipped dragons, cruising at a low altitude, swooped down and demolished all the radar stations posted along the Great Wall of China.

Thus the first SAM site (Saurian Attack Monitor) in history was pulverized at a stroke. But Emperor Ming, who had spared no expense at building his dragon-net, had the last laugh.

Trye not a single antenna remained standing. Every last one was eaten to the last savory shoot by the bamboo-loving dragons.

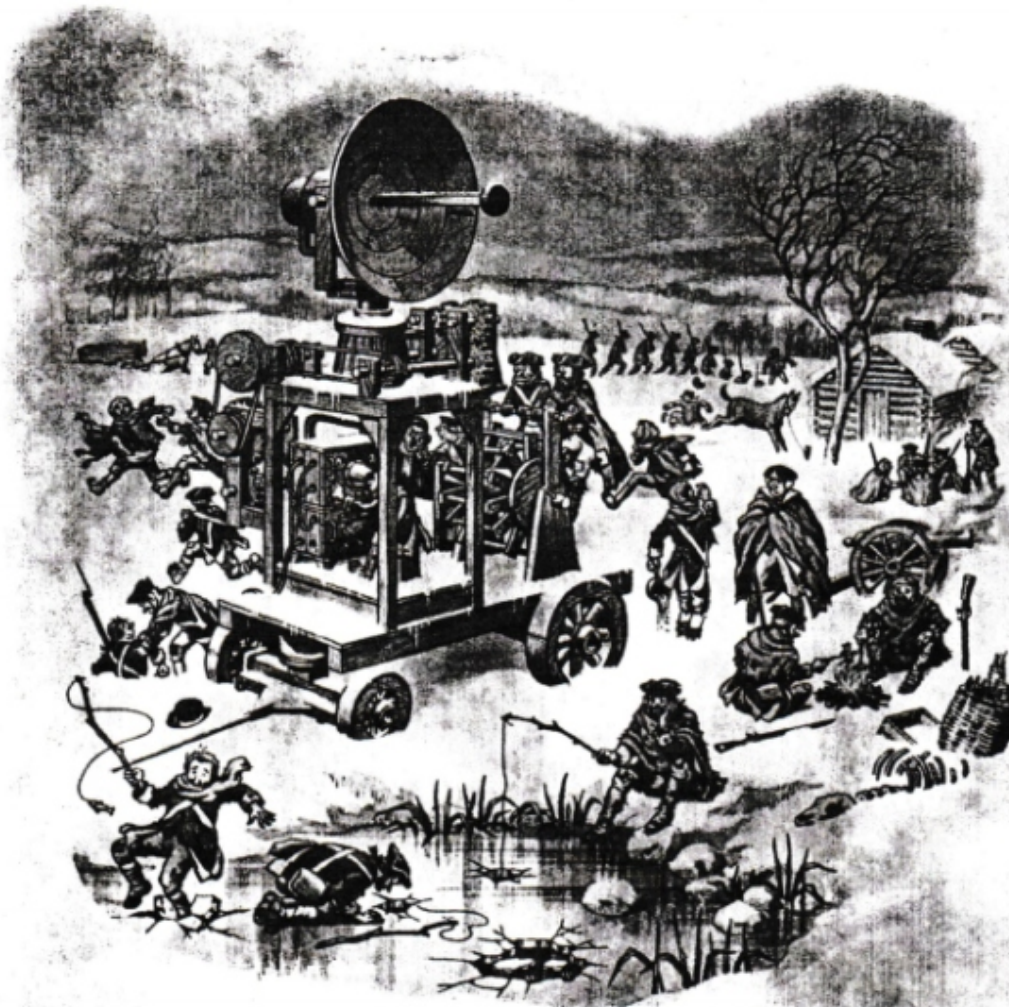
However, not a single dragon survived his meal. Every last savory bamboo shoot had been poisoned by the Emperor, who obviously didn't put all his trust in electronics ... as who would in 1405 B.V. (Before Varian)? *

Moral: There are more ways than one to bamboozle dragons.

varian

* 3370 makes the Great Wall. 2003. 6000 177 Aug. 1983. 1000
is an engineering solution products other side of the
Great Wall

Thanks to Reg, VK3CAZ for these.



george at the forge

The day the mobile radar was delivered to Washington at Valley Forge, it was so cold a man's shadow froze to the ground. Nevertheless, the Father of his Country managed to work up a good head of steam when he saw the unit.

"Idiot!" he stormed. "Why do they send me radar when we need food and shelter and clothing? What good is it? Does it have Varian Medium Power Kilostrons? "

"No sir," his orderly shivered, "It doesn't seem to have any tubes at all. But it might make a nice warm fire."

"I was thinking the same," Washington said. And without another word he went and got a little hatchet and chopped and chopped. The wind blew and the chips flew. Soon, the installation was reduced to kindling.

"That's more like it," the General said when he was done. "Now, if someone will hand me a match . . ."

But he never finished the sentence. The ice on which he was standing suddenly gave way, and he disappeared into the frigid water.

"General, general are you all right?" the orderly asked as he fished him out.

"I'm afraid so," Washington said. "But you'd better put a sign here to warn the others."

So that was why the famous sign was put up—the sign you can see today when you visit Valley Forge. You know the one.

It reads "George Washington slipped here."

varian 

* VARIAN HAS THE FINEST
MEASURING TUBES AND EQUIPMENT
EVERY CORNER OF VALLEY FORGE.

Tanks to Reg, VK3CAZ for these.