



BARG News

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

Next Meeting
Friday 28th September 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 October newsletter. Spring is upon us, we've tried to make use of the better weather by running a working bee on the 15th, only to have winter return. Planning for the working bee certainly indicated that we have many members who are keen to be active in the club and make the most of the clubs assets and facilities, which is great for all of us.

One of the well used facilities is the club library. Unfortunately we seem to be doing a very poor job of keeping track of the various magazines that we get. Most of the 2018 QST magazines are out and not recorded in the book. Silicon Chip isn't much better. VK3KG has put a lot of effort into setting up a great library. Please support him and the club by doing the right thing when using it.

There's a few updates to the HF roster this month. VK3KG has built the schedule and is working on 1st half of 2019, so let him know if you can help. There's been some good turn outs on both the HF and VHF nets over the last month or so, and some quite weeks too. Again, great to hear members up on air.

Last meeting VK3TIM presented on the UHF linked repeater system, of which VK3RBA is the hub for. Tim explained that the setup, with a single hub connecting to 4 other repeaters in a star arrangement, was a bit different, but proving to work very well. It has certainly driven fair amount of traffic. Tim went onto talk about DMR radio, including the DMR repeater coverage in Ballarat. That generated a lot of conversation both on the night and following the meeting. I think we'll have to ask Tim back soon to talk more about that.

I see the latest AR magazine has an article from GARC on another VHF Repeater linking project, they've called GARCnet, linking RGL, ROW and RWL with plans for others to connect also. Worth having a look. We're very fortunate to have such good local coverage.

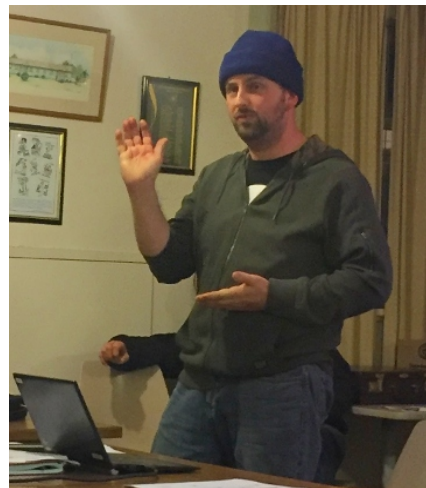
The Hamfest is only a few weeks away now. There's advertising in AR and announcements up on VK3RWA. Table bookings continue to come through too. It's looking like being a cracker of an event. We do need all the club members to assist running the weekend. As they say, many hands make light work.

Thanks to VK3HRA, Allen, for the report on the "W8TEE and K2ZIA Antenna Analyser". It might be something others are interested in building too.

Last newsletter I mentioned I had a go at the RD contest. I was a rather pleasantly surprised to find out that I came 1st overall in the SO QRP Phone section. I certainly wasn't expecting that.

Till next time.

VK3OAK, Malcolm.



VHF and Above for October 2018

This month hasn't seen too much change in activity on the bands. As we all know the weather has been cold and wet which dampens the enthusiasm of the most avid users of this part of the frequency spectrum.

However all that aside band conditions will improve as things get warmer which will hopefully see more activity on the weak signal part of the bands.

Some of the locals are now planning for the upcoming microwave events by checking out their equipment to make sure all is working ok. Some discussions have taken place on the 144.150 Wednesday night Net about having a microwave test day just to make sure all our gear is functioning correctly. Watch this space for details !!!

Following on from the presentation at the club about digital radio the clubs chatter group has been busy with many members having purchased or in the process of purchasing analogue and digital portable radio's to get into this side of the hobby. It will be an interesting time for us that don't know too much about the digital modes of operation.

Slow Scan TV both analogue and digital is another activity that's still going on. Signals can be heard on the VHF and above bands around the town and from Melbourne on a Monday and Thursday evening using EasyPal. These sessions run from 9:30pm on the Melbourne 2mx FM repeater.

As our club has a 2m repeater at Green Hill which is not over utilised the question has been asked why don't we use it at predetermined times for ATV as well. If you are interested email me via the chatter group for discussion.

Some of the home stations in the area have been doing some tests on 1296. Below is a picture received from local amateur VK3IDL as an example. This picture is using analogue mode and the setup was not quite correct which accounts for the noise displayed in the image. It's hoped a digital comparison can be shown in future articles.



Till next time 73 de VK3AXH

VK3BML club station of Ballarat Amateur Radio Group.

BARG THURSDAY NIGHT NET CONTROLLERS LIST.				
DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	ALTERNATIVE	NAME
20-Sep-18	VK3GGG	MICK	VK3KQT	DAVID
27-Sep-18	VK3DRE	DOUG	VK3GGG	MICK
4-Oct-18	VK3AXH	IAN	VK3DRE	DOUG
11-Oct-18	VK3TXR	PAUL	VK3AXH	IAN
18-Oct-18	VK3KQT	DAVID	VK3DRE	DOUG
25-Oct-18	VK3GGG	MICK	VK3EXE	CHRIS
1-Nov-18	VK3EXE	CHRIS	VK3GGG	MICK
8-Nov-18	VK3DRE	DOUG	VK3DRE	DOUG
15-Nov-18	VK3AXH	IAN	VK3AXH	IAN
22-Nov-18	VK3TXR	PAUL	VK3EXE	CHRIS
29-Nov-18	VK3KQT	DAVID	VK3TXR	PAUL
6-Dec-18	VK3EXE	CHRIS	VK3KQT	DAVID
13-Dec-18	VK3GGG	MICK	VK3DRE	DOUG
20-Dec-18	VK3DRE	DOUG	VK3GGG	MICK
27-Dec-18	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3TXR	PAUL

10 Practical Wireless. October 2018.

- P11 Review Anytone AT-D868UV DMR HTT radio for two bands.
- P14 Antenna Couplers. Transmatchers/ ATU's/Aerialcouplers or what ever. A good read.
- P18 Kit for RDF doing it a practical way.
- P24 Revise history: The Transistor revolution Pt 1. Bardeen, Brattan and Shockley revisited..
- P28 New DX records on 144MHz in Region 1.
- P34 HF Highlights with the Autumn onset.
- P40 Building notes for a Direct Conversion Receiver.
- P42 Kits and Modules looks at a PCB Oscilloscope and a PSU Module.
- P44 Build a Regenerative Receiver. A good project for hands on learning.
- P47 Valve & Vintage looks at the Pye Cambridge radios from the 1960's. Who had a Pye Reporter
- P50 VFO Jump and Wobbling. See Yaesu FT901, FT902, FT101ZDand several others hd same VFOs
- P52 A jump back in time has a safety warning concerning "bad" mains supply and wirings.
- P54 DX Information and Clusters.
- P58 Bad Morse, becoming Proficient and More.
- P60 Data Modes has a look at LimeSDR Mini and 3D printing.
- P64 Rebuilding Time. Look at the HOWES transceiver kits
- P66 Exploring new Fields. Coming back into the hobby of Amateur radio. A diary.
- P69 Letters on various subjects.

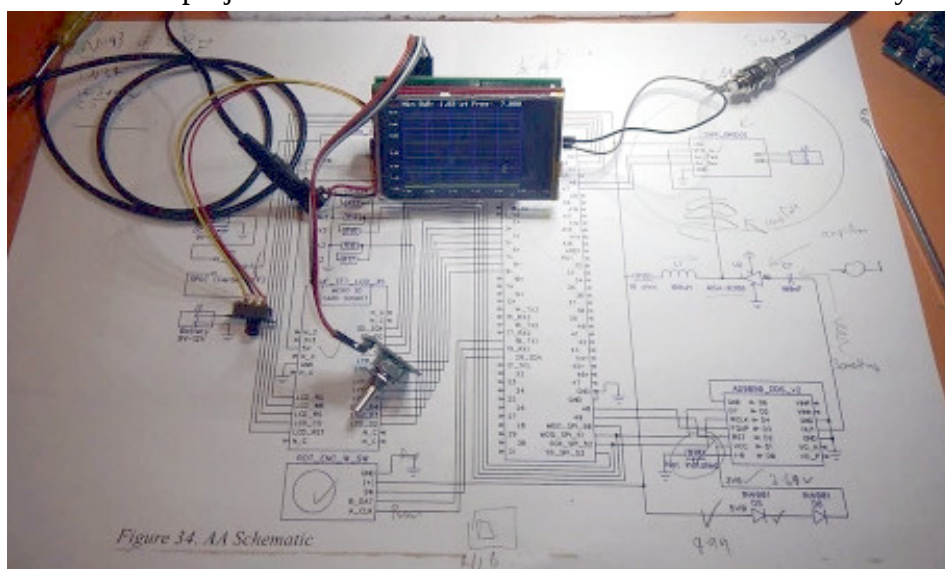


Also filled with coloured advertisements of new gear.

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named 'Amal.' The other goes to a family in Spain, they name him Juan'. Years later; Juan sends a picture of himself to his mum. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wished she also had a picture of Amal. Her husband responds, "But they are twins. If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."

W8TEE and K2ZIA Antenna Analyzer

Another Arduino based project. This time an W8TEE and K2ZIA Antenna Analyzer.



Purchased the PCB from <https://qrpguys.com/w8tee-k2zia-antenna-analyzer>

Not a kit so sourced the components. Easy to order from china off eBay. Took about 2 weeks for all the bits to come in.

Assembled and she started but the SWR for a 51ohm dummy load was off the scale.

The audrino and screen are ok. Checked and double checked solder joints so needed to verify the DDS and SWR bridge operations.

My old Dick Smith device is not cutting the mustard so borrowed an oscilloscope from Lucky VK3ALM. Traced the signal into the SWR bridge and nothing out. Checked the components and well my bad as the 51ohm resistors were in-fact 51K ohm. Bit of a difference. Replaced and off she went !

Downloaded the latest WA2FZW software from IOGroups

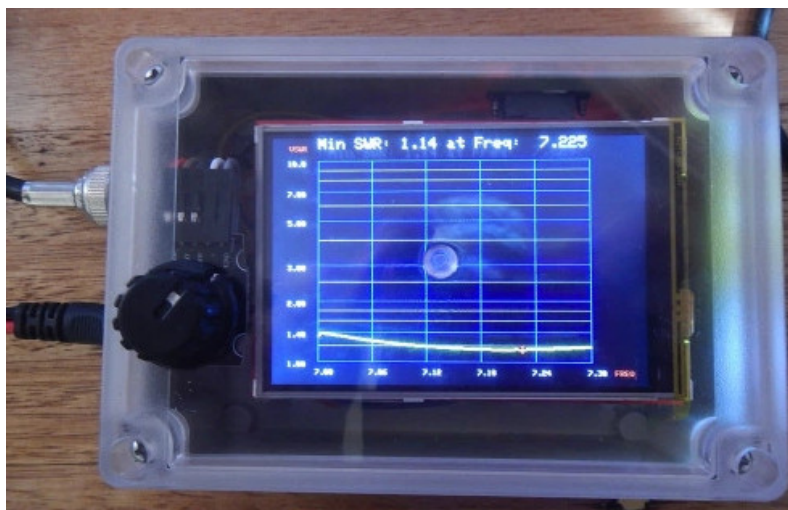
<https://groups.io/g/SoftwareControlledHamRadio>

The documentation and a debugging guide are available from this group, essential information.

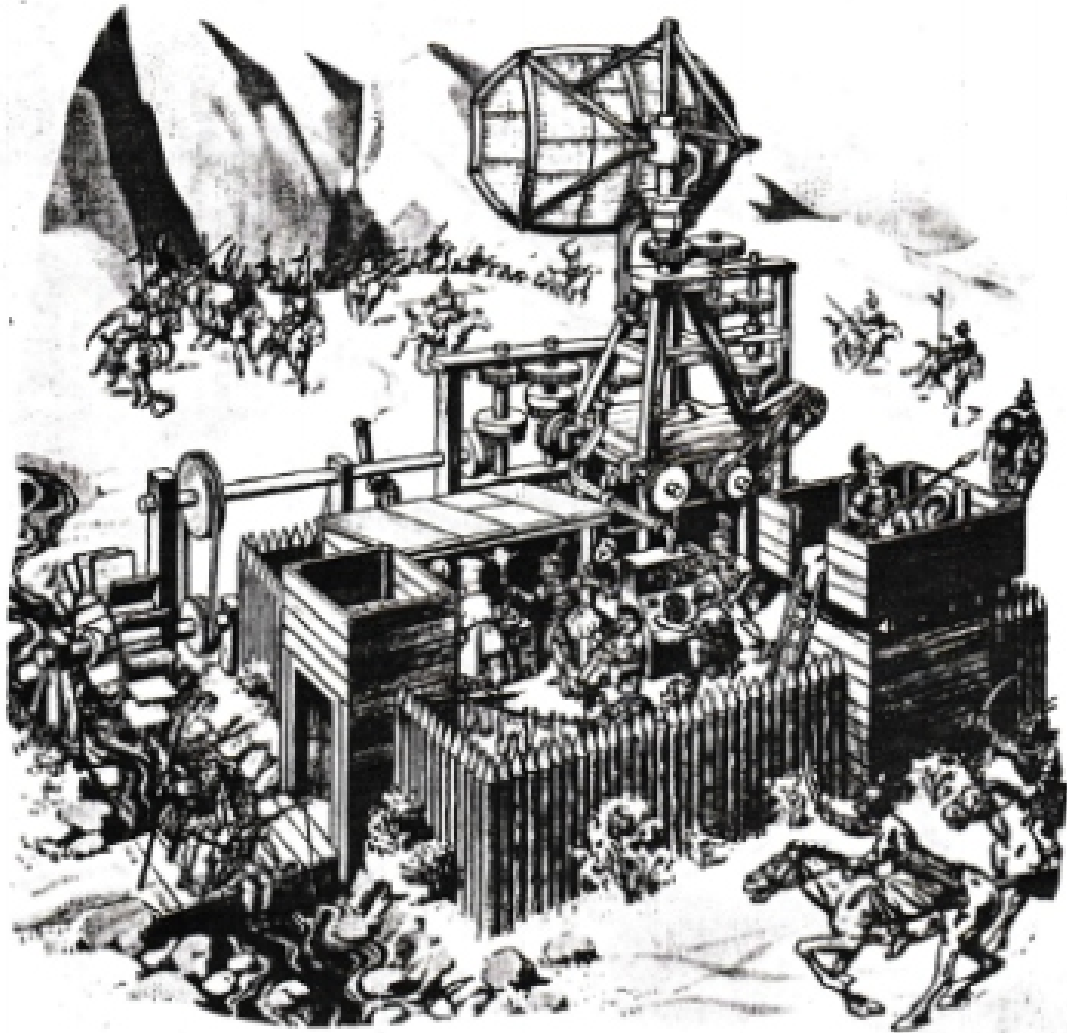
Used a case from radio parts (CB8808). Yes there is a pimple in the middle. No intention to remove as works fine.

So far have scanned all my antennas at home. I can recommend this device. Not a kit but the process to source and assemble was fun.

VK3HRA, Allen.



<https://vk3arh.net/2018/09/13/w8tee-and-k2zia-antenna-analyzer/>



Attila Attacks! In 452 AD, the Romans - attempting to stop the fearsome Attila's attack on northern Italy - developed one of the most remarkable military weapons of all time. They called it "nosar" ("nosar" spelled backwards).

"Nosar" was a radar-like device that took advantage of a characteristic peculiar to the Huns: the fact that these hordes of unwashed barbarians give off an aura so powerful it was capable of paralyzing a small dog at 300 feet. This "nosar" - which could detect and record on its "nostriloscope" the tell-tale scent of a single Hun at 10,000 yards - seemed the perfect defense weapon.

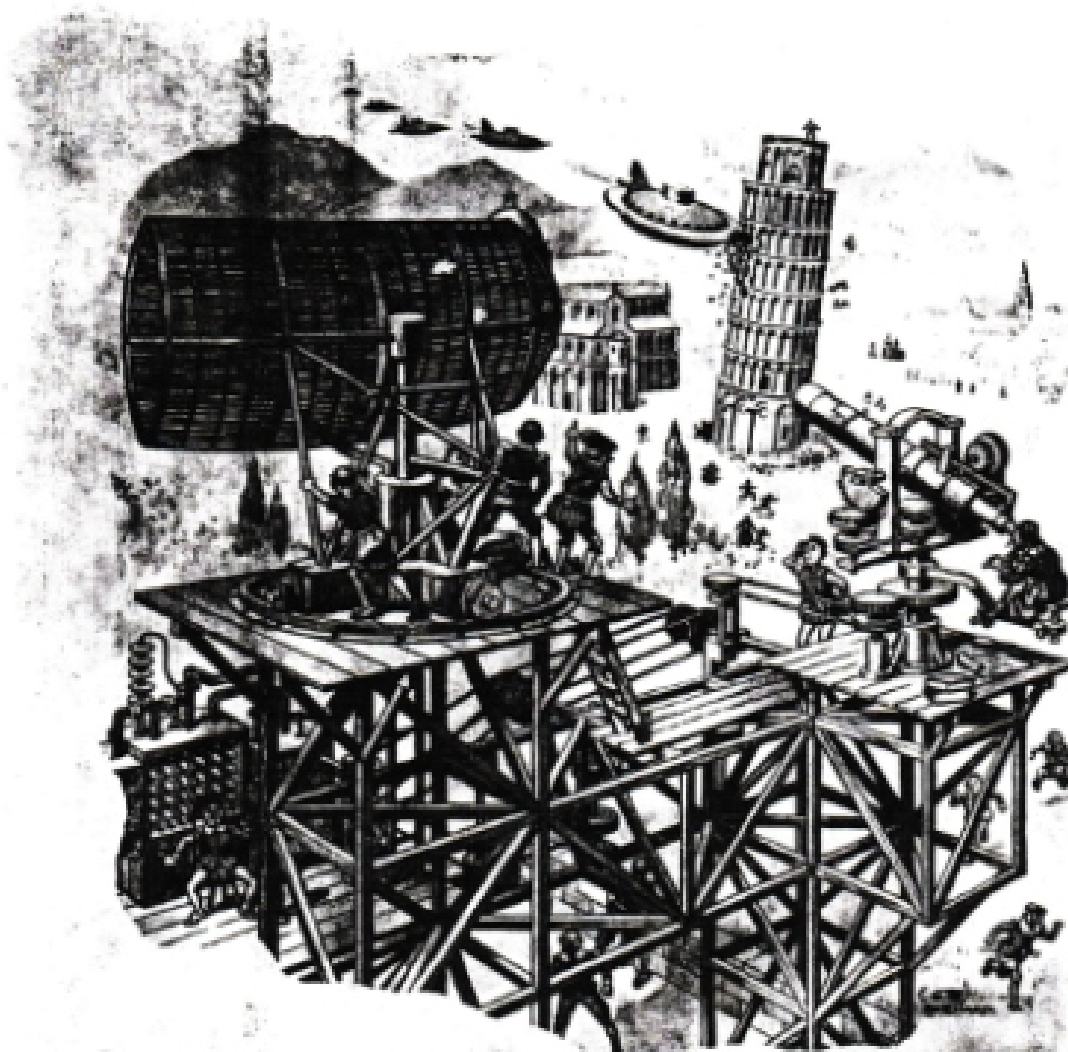
Yet, here comes Attila - virtually at the gate of the garrison - and nary a pip shows on the "nostriloscope"! The horrible Hun has played the dirtiest trick of all - he has ordered his troops to undergo a mass bathing! The garrison is doomed.

The Romans had some consolation, however - Attila and most of his troops fell victims to pneumonia long before they reached Rome. Sometimes, the bath is deadlier than the sword.

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Thanks to Reg, VK3CAZ for these.



Galileo meets the Martians

One memorable day in 633, 5 space ships suddenly materialized in the Lenny Station sky over Pisa and landed directly under the nose of Galileo's telescope. Three creatures stepped from the lead ship and made straight for Galileo.

"Good morning Super Galileo," they chorused in unison. "We are . . ."

"Don't tell me, let me guess," interrupted the scientist. "The Mars Brothers?"

"In the flesh, more or less," leered the green one in the middle, brandishing a cigar. "In Slozcho. Sorry about the accident. A/E seem to have knocked off a Pisa the Tower."

"Good for the tourist trade," Galileo smiled.

"Now for business," went on Slozcho. "The boys up/air are fascinated with your radar. They sent us down here to find out how you make it work without EIMAC switch tubes."

"I'm sorry to say it doesn't work at all," Galileo answered. "Or rather - it didn't until the instant your ship hit the tower."

Slozcho's cigar was aglow with excitement. "What happened then?" he asked.

"See for yourself," Galileo said pointing aony finger at the radar console. There, blinking crazily, like so many over-stimulated lightning bugs, the tubes were actually spelling out a single word.

The word was "TILT."

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