



*Ballarat Amateur Radio Group
Inc. #69537*

*October
Monthly Newsletter*

Box 1261, Mail Centre, Ballarat, Victoria, 3354, Australia

Next Meeting

31st October 2014 @ 19:30 hours
(7.30pm)



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Monthly Calender

General Meeting: 31st October 2014 @ 19:30 hours

Construction Night: 3rd November 2014 @ 19:30 hours

Committee Meeting: 19th November 2014 @ 19:30 hours

VHF Net: Every Tuesday night at 20:00 hours

HF Net: Every Thursday night at 20:00 hours

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Presidents report for the Hamvention 2014.

Welcome to all,

As you are all aware, we had our Hamvention 2014 on the 19th October, and what a successful event it was again. Whilst numbers were down a little on last year we still had around 320 patrons through the door.

I would like to thank Roger and the hamvention committee for a very well organised and successfully run event. As these guys put in a lot of time and hard work behind the scenes.

Also a big thank you goes out to all the members who attended at 5 am Sunday morning to get the venue set up, (and stayed there all day to help pack up at the end of the day), due to a minor hiccup on the Saturday that prevented us from setting up of tables, which is normally done on a Saturday.

And I would like to also thank all of the other members who attended during the day to help out where they could. Thanks goes out to the treasurer and tickets sellers for a wonderful job they done selling tickets and getting people through the door quickly.

Thanks also to the members of hackerspace for their display on the day.

During the day there were numerous comments made from the public, on how well the event was organised and run, and many people had said that they would be back again next year.

So in closing I would like to thank everyone for their help and participation in a very successful 2014 Hamvention. As it was an excellent effort put in by everyone who attended and a great day was had by all. Lets try for the same or better result next year.

Thank you,

The President,
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. (BARG)

Darren Lancaster VK3FAOE

TREASURERS REPORT

Greetings All.

I am pleased to provide a brief summary of the 2014 BARG Hamvention. I was overwhelmed by the support of our members, both young and 'not so young' all chipping in to ensure the success of this very important annual event for our club. The overall response from the traders was very positive. Comments like, "This is really well organised" and, "The most well organised Hamvention I've ever been to". I was very proud of what we had put together and of course, it wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of our members. Thank you to all those who dragged themselves out of bed for a 0500 start and those who assisted with the pack up.

I would like to highlight the following people who in my mind were instrumental in the success of this event; Roger de Valle, Jeff Pigdon, Julianne Dart, Kevin Hughes, Helen Sinnot, Dean Lamson and the entire BARG Committee. Also thanks goes out to Doug Raper for his Donation.

From a financial perspective, the day was a complete success. The figures were very similar to last year even though the table numbers were down.

Thank you and Best Regards,

Pete
VK3HEX

Hamvention 2014 - A Perspective by Roger de Valle.

A Hamvention starts not longer after one has finished, it requires the venue to be booked almost 12 months ahead as the Greyhound track is used very extensively for business meetings, exhibitions, weddings as well as for normal racing events. In the past we have never had to contend with Saturday meetings, only Monday and Wednesday meetings, the weekends were used for racing trials by the local club members and did not cause a problem.

BARG have been doing this for a long time now and collectively retain a huge knowledge of, and the experience of what is required to put on a successful event. We have accumulated around 70 tables and trestles as well as banners and signs, mundane things like cash tins, stamps for the entry patrons arms, layout maps for the venue and an ongoing excel spreadsheet of who has attended in the past along with their contact details.

This year a group of club members were on the organising subcommittee, Jeff Pigdon, David Martin, Tom Wood, Ian Mc Donald, Peter McMahon, Doug Raper, Darren Lancaster, Doug Ellery and I. We establish an event email address each year of the form hamvention2015@barg.org.au and this becomes the prime contact point for the organisers, any email sent to this address will be automatically forwarded to each and every member of the organising committee. One of the members is the minder of the bookings spreadsheet, and enters every request for tables into the spreadsheet. Any phone calls are logged, and the content of the call is on sent to the Hamvention email address, it makes it pretty hard to lose any bookings.

David Martin looked after the publicity this year and managed to get us into the WIA magazine in both August and September, he also arranged publicity via the VK Classifieds web site and this latter vehicle is probably the most important of all the media, with a huge number of local and overseas amateurs accessing it on an almost daily basis. Normally we would also use the WIA broadcast for publicity as well, but this year I got somewhat involved in other things and entirely missed this, fortunately it did not seem to impact much with much the same attendance as last year.

Traders start to book around August and the bookings peak in the first week of October, some traders have to be gently reminded about the venue and most respond positively. Most of the manufacturers and larger dealers seem to ignore the non metropolitan events these days and I suspect this is because of the penetration of the Internet into the area of radio and equipment sales. I can go on the internet at 11pm at night and look at equipment information, order it and have it delivered in a couple of days, it is not surprising we do not see them at the rural and provincial events. For these reasons, as a club we are encouraging a lot more individuals to use the event to sell their surplus and unused equipment. As a result of Lachlan MacDonald's efforts we have encouraged similarly minded groups, such as the Ballarat Hackerspace to come along and exhibit, this has been a great success and we hope we can expand on this in the future.

Back to the organising, in the last fortnight the spreadsheet is distributed to all the organising subcommittee, especially Jeff Pigdon who starts to match vendors to tables in the venue, he has to consider things such as who needs power, who needs to be near someone (or away from someone) as well any other special requests. Harry Hekkema borrows Theresa's sewing machine and starts to make the tickets, he usually makes around 500, I will not elaborate on the sewing machine, you can work it out but it is very ingenious.

Requests for physical assistance are made at the last general meeting and via email; tasks are allocated to individuals and confirmed. In the last week we usually purchase the door prizes to supplement any that may be donated by the vendors.

As we all know the weekend is very physical and demanding so we are always looking to have enough members helping to ensure the load is spread as much as possible.

We have to...

Pick up 70 trestle tables from the club rooms on 2 trailers as well as the banners, the high visibility jackets, the power leads and boards, the white board and so on.

At the venue we have to photograph their table layout before we clear and store all their tables and chairs.

The BARG tables have to be set up ready for the vendors, power leads run and the tables numbered. The banners have to be placed outside the venue and the ticket sales area prepared.

At 8am the gates are opened and two members check off the vehicles coming into the venue to ensure we only have traders and also to get a count of how many people enter this way.

Members assist the vendors to unload and Jeff Pigdon directs them to their tables.

At around 9:30am we start ticket sales both at the door and outside via roaming sellers.

At 10:00 am the doors open and the show starts, for most BARG members it is a bit of a rest time but a couple of members go around the vendors and collect table and entry money. We also continue to man the doors to allow for late comers.

Depending on how many door prizes we have there are regular prize draws and presentations during the day.

As the day ends the clean up begins and is typically the reverse of the first few steps above, it is probably the toughest time of the day, people are tired and weary but we always get it done and the venue looking like new.

As most well know, this year was almost a disaster, on the Tuesday before the Hamvention I received an 8am call informing us that we could not get Saturday access to set up and we would most likely have to do everything on the Sunday. I was informed I went a very grey colour when told. I thought about things for a while and figured if we got a lot of members along we could probably start at 5am and have everything set up at 8am like normal, we were able to pick up our tables on the Saturday and store them at the venue for Sunday morning and this proved to be the breakthrough.

I got on the phone and called those members without email and explained what had happened then I got on email and did the same thing. The response was nothing short of amazing, we had a more members willing to help than we have ever had before; in my view it was just brilliant. The rest is history, we turned up at 5am and pretty much had the venue setup at 6:30am, we even had time for toast and coffee.

It turned to be out a great day and a financial success, more importantly it was a superb team effort. Those that chipped in, you know who you are, our heartfelt thanks from the Club in general and particularly the organising subcommittee. On to the 2015 Hamvention

HAMVENTION

Well the day was a success, everything ran smoothly with the help of a fantastic team of members from the club. The early start was a little tough, but it worked smoothly! Thanks to the organisation of Roger, Jeff and everyone else that was there. A variety of people said to me as they were leaving the event, things like “was well organised”, and “will be back next year”. Even a few that did not have tables at the event this year, said they will book tables next year. Thanks everyone for a fantastic day. Julianne

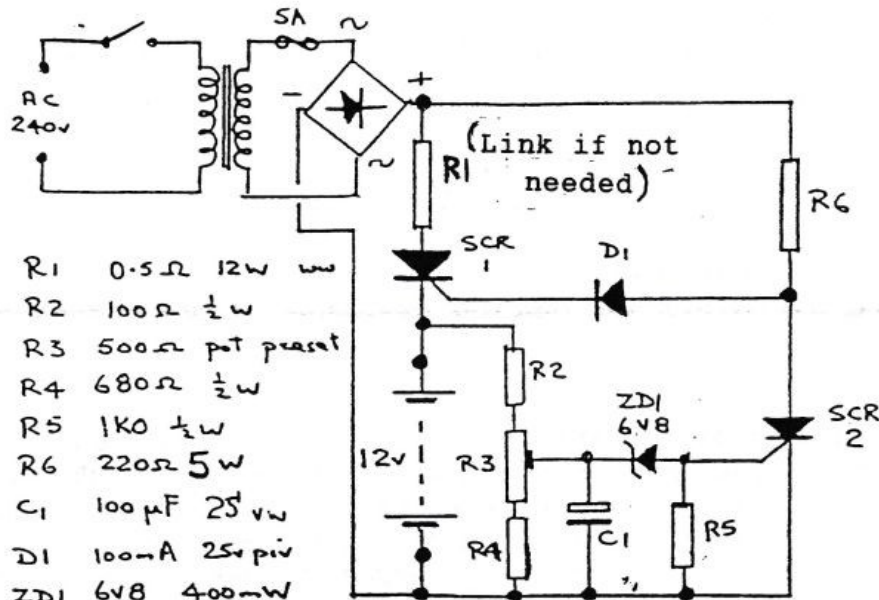




TECH TALK



AN OLDIE BUT A (PRETTY) GOODIE.



- R1 0.5Ω 12W ww
- R2 100Ω ½W
- R3 500Ω pot preset
- R4 680Ω ½W
- R5 1KΩ ½W
- R6 220Ω 5W
- C1 100µF 25V wv
- D1 100mA 25V piv
- ZD1 6V8 400mW
- SCR1 5A 50V piv
- SCR2 1A 50V piv

Several people have asked me for the copy of the circuit for a self-regulating battery charger that appeared in the September 1990 Newsletter of BARG, so here it is (on the assumption that Marion has decided it's worth reprinting).

I WOULD have said that it was well nigh indestructible but I must confess that whilst the first one I made in 1988 has performed without flaw since then, a second one did in fact fail (due to SCR 1 calling it quits) after a mere eleven years of service. But for all that, it is a good circuit and I am in the process of making up the artwork, if that is not too glamorous a word for a simple layout and can let you have a copy if you want it.

As a circuit there are few awkward things to worry about apart from fitting the SCRs to decent size heatsinks. Once built, the only adjustment is to set the variable resistor R3 so that charging current JUST ceases when the device is coupled to a fully charged battery. If you set the pot'r R3 so that the terminal voltage, when 'idling', is between 13.2 and 13.4 volts then the battery will not be gassing and so wasting water and the battery will be so close to fully charged that it won't matter. The resistor R1 is only necessary if the transformer is capable of delivering an excessively high current to the battery. Most smallish transformers have enough internal resistance to limit the current to a reasonable value and will obviate the need for R1.

73 de Reg VK3CAZ.

Page 6

This was found in a old newsletter, and I thought it would be worth putting into this one. I have found a few of these old documents, so will be putting some in at times. If someone finds them out of date, please let me know, and I will not put it back in at a later date. 73 Julianne

MICROWAVE CORNER

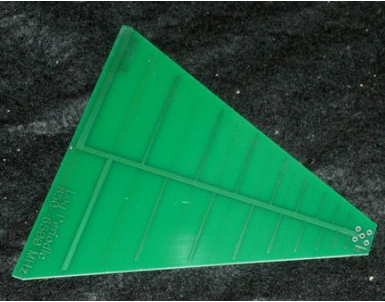
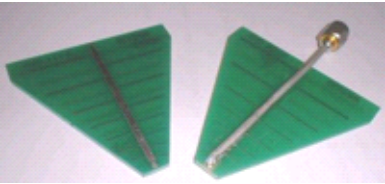
The clubs microwave group continues to experiment with transverters and antenna's conducting some more tests on 3.4G and 5.7G from Mt Buninyong on Sunday 5th October.

Arrangements were made with 2 stations - VK3KH at Arthurs Seat and VK3MQ at Mt Dandenong. After getting setup we attempted 5.7G first and found the path not so good to Arthurs Seat although signals were S3 both ways. Michael suggested he would point his antenna at the Melbourne CBD to get a reflected signal or scattered signal in our direction. To my surprise the signal level came up to S5 and over a much greater distance.

I then had contacts with Rob VK3MQ on both 3.4G and 5.7G and signals were S9 on both bands. Some antenna experiments were undertaken with a prime focus dish using a pcb constructed log periodic antenna covering 2-11GHz and put together by Ian VK3IDL who was on site as well. We were both very surprised with the exceptional performance of this antenna which means you could utilise just a single antenna for 2.4G, 3.4G, 5.7G and 10G which makes portable operation easier to setup.

Kent Britain is the designer of these antenna's and BARG already uses one of his omni-directional type for the clubs 1296MHz beacon. In addition Craig VK3KG, John VK3AIG and VK3AXH each have one of these and no doubt will be using them in the near future.

Below are just some examples of what Kent produces and they are quite cheap.

	<p>850 - 6500 MHz: This log periodic printed circuit board antenna gives great performance from 850 - 6500 MHz. This range includes old analog cellular telephones, and wireless networking at 2.4GHz. This can also be easily applied to other hobbyist applications in this range.</p>
	<p>2100 - 11000 MHz: (2.1 - 11 GHz) This log periodic printed circuit board antenna gives great performance from 2100 - 11000 MHz. This range includes wireless networking at 2.4GHz (802.11b/g) and 5.8GHz (802.11a). This wide range works well for frequency sweeps and other broadband applications. This can also be easily applied to other hobbyist applications in this range.</p> <p>Till next time 73 – VK3AXH</p>

Silicon Chip
October
Reviewed by
Julianne

FEATURES

- Pg 14 Review: Building The Velleman K8200 3D Printer
Pg 27 How to remove Rust by Electrolysis
Pg 76 Review: Signal hound USB-SA44B Spectrum Analyser
Pg 88 Review: Rohda & Schwarz HMO1002 2-Channel Scope

Found this review informative and well worth the read.

PROJECTS TO BUILD

- Pg 24 Currawong Stereo Valve Amplifier: A Preview
Pg 34 Courtesy LED Light Delay for Cars
Pg 58 Digital Effects Processor For Guitars/Musical Instruments
Pg 66 Passive Direct Injection (DI) box
Pg 82 Create Eerie Music With The Opto-Theremin, Pt-2

SPECIAL COLUMNS

- Pg 42 Serviceman's Log
Pg 72 Circuit Notebook
PICAXE-Based Bistro Paging System
Micromite-Based GPS Dual Clock With 7-Day Alarm
Pg 92 Vintage Radio

Found this very interesting, well worth reading.

DEPARTMENTS

- Pg 2 Publisher's Letter
Pg 4 Mailbag
Pg 57 Subscriptions
Pg 87 Online shop
Pg 98 Ask Silicon Chip
Pg 103 Market Centre
Pg 104 Advertising Index

QST
October
Reviewed by
Craig VK3KG

P9 ARRL Centennial Convention. By David Summer K1ZZ

P13 Inside HQ. Looks at new test gear in the Labs.

P24 Letters from members.

P30 DATV. New digital TV Transmitter.

P34 Extended Double Zepp Yagi Antenna. [Two element wire & ladder line.]

P36 CW adapter for the Collins KWM-2A Transceiver. {for the boat anchor club}

P40 Add 40 Meters to a 24 ft Boom.

P42 Eclectic Technology: Micro computer "BeagleBone" <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/BeagleBoneBlack-ALE/info>.

Also PORTABLE Fresnel Rings. To boost gain of Microwave antennas.

P43 Review: Alinco DX-SR9T HF Transceiver. [100W. 160M to 10 M

P48 Review: Elecraft KXPA100 Amplifier & KXAT100 Automatic Antenna Tuner.

P53 EbDXRemote Station System. www.remotehamradio.com

P55 The Doctor: Fence antennas, measuring a 50R termination across a 1 Meg CRO input.

P57 Hands on Radio. Ex141 Window Comparators & Null Detectors.

P59 Microwavelengths. The Decibel explained again.

P62 Hints & Kinks. LED RFI, Power pack adapter and a Vehicle Beam. Mounting bracket for KX3.

P66 Signals from Paradise. Story of radio in the Virgin Islands.

P66 DXing above the jungle canopy of Guatemala.

P71 Cuban contest station T48K makes top Ten.

P80 Some history of ARRL's role in Canada.

P89 Strays: 90yrs span the globe from 4AA New Zealand to 2SZ Mill Hill London.

P90 Hows DX? October is DX month. Nauru island and Lord Howe island.

P92 Above 50Mhz. Spectacular Propagation adds radio Fireworks to the 4th July.

P98 The FM Revolution. How ex commercial transceivers caused a massive change to Amateur radio.

P102 75, 50 and 25 years ago. Index to QST's.

P156 QST Index of Advertisers this edition.

Practical Wireless

October

Reviewed by

Craig VK3KG

- P5 Contents page.
 - P6 Keyline. A young persons perspective on today's hobby.
 - P7 GA14cg Special Event station celebrate the 2014 Commonwealth Games.
 - P8 Review. Alinco DR-135UK multimode 10M transceiver.
 - P12 Latest Products News.
 - P14 Review. CS700 & CS701 DMR Handhelds.
 - P21 An interview with the RSGB General Manager.
 - P24 Tony Nailer talks Tuned circuits and calculations.
 - P28 The ARRL Centennial year.
 - P30 Buying Second Hand gear. Chris Lorek looks at HF Linear amps.
 - P33 Data Modes. WINMOOR system cont.
 - P36 What next.
 - P42 HF Highlights news.
 - P45 In the Shop Harry Leeming talks about FT101 speech quality and dealing with deceased estate clear ups.
 - P50 The World of VHF.. Balloons, SDR software & Satelites with Jim G4VXE.
 - P54 Valve & Vintage Fraudulent DX operations.
 - P58 The Practical Way. Build own simple Grid Dip Oscillator.
 - P62 Rallies.
 - P64 Morse Code. High speed morse and an interesting story from Australia and the mystery key.
 - P66 Letters.
- Good reading this month.
- K K K .

Jokes and Bits and Pieces

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Comfurence. He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought i saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.

No matter how hard you push an envelope it'll still be stationery.

Two silk worms had a race it ended in a tie.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall..... the police are looking into it

I wondered why the base ball was getting bigger, then it hit me.

If you don't have a sense of humour you probably don't have any sense at all.

Seat belts are not as confining as a wheel chair.

I have reached the age when (happy hour) is a nap.

SALGUOD

B.A.R.G Items For Loan

Antenna Analyser MFJ249 HF/VHF
Antenna Analyser MFJ269 HF-VHF-UHF
Antenna Analyser VHF. Autek
Antenna Gin Pole.
Grid Dip Oscillator.
Oscilloscope BWD 509.
Receiver Drake SSR-1
Receiver FRG-7.
Transceiver TS-530.
UHF Antenna Analyser

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Notices from the Editor

The cut off date for articles to be submitted for the November newsletter, will be 24th November 2014 by 12:00 hours. This will allow me time to produce the newsletter, and send hard copies to the members by 18:00 hours mail.

Anything that is received after this time will be placed into the next newsletter unless it comes to me marked urgent then i will endeavour to put it into the current newsletter.

Items can be sent to me by email on news_editor@barg.org.au or by post to the address on the front of the newsletter. Thanks All.

Signed the newsletter editor.



*Disclaimer: I have attempted to produce a fair and accurate newsletter from the information provided to me. If I have failed by error or omission, I apologise.
The newsletter editor.*