



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

November

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Saturday @ 11:00am, 30th November

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 November newsletter. Since last newsletter we've held the 2019 Hamvention. It was another successful event with about the same number of trader tables and attendees through the door. Lots of a good stuff changed hands over the course of the day too. The process get get the site set up on Saturday, get the traders and then regular attendees through the door all worked smoothly. Helped with some reasonable weather. We've again booked the venue for the last Sunday in October in 2020.



Next meeting is this coming Saturday at 11am. It'll be a general meeting, followed by a small working bee to clean up around the club house, add some cabling for a new TV to be used for speaker presentations, and couple of other small jobs.

Of course we'll also have a BBQ lunch to keep everyone's energy levels up.

The next construction night will be Monday December 2nd at 7:30.

Don't forget the Christmas break up dinner. It'll be 6pm on Friday the 13th of December, again at the clubhouse. If you've not yet RSVP'ed, please do so by email Doug VK3VBA. Please do that by the end of this week.

While I haven't managed to get much radio done lately, I have stumbled across a couple of interesting projects that might be worth spending some time on down the track.

SatNOGS, an Open Source global network of satellite ground-stations. Runs on a Raspberry Pi with an SDR and an appropriate antenna, which should be easy enough to make up to at least give it a try. <https://satnogs.org/> The site has lots of info and documentation on how to get setup and running. I'd expect most people would be able to get going for minimal spend.

The other site I've found interesting, but is less radio focused is Ken Shirriff's blog at <http://www.righto.com/> Ken is a software engineer at Google. His blog tends to cover older computer equipment. For example there's blogs about the development of core storage. One about why certain screen sizes were used as screen were first introduced. (Spoiler, there doesn't seem to be any real technical reasons for specific sizes.) There some more recent stuff too, such as a tear down of some Apple USB power supplies.

If that's piqued your interest, but you'd like something closer to home, check out Dr Gough's site. <https://goughlui.com/>. Dr Gough is a biomedical engineer at Liverpool Hospital in Sydney, and has a great collection of very detailed tear down blogs. It must take him forever to write them up. Some are radio related too: <https://goughlui.com/category/radio/>

I'm already late getting this out, so no pictures to spruce this up. Remember that the news letter is only as good as the material that provided to include in it. If you've done something, seen something or would like to share something, then please pass it on.

Oh, I almost forgot. A couple of other clubs have reached out and asked the exchange news letters. So I'm in the process of adding them to our distribution list, and will forward on news letters as they come in to me. Happy to do the same with any other clubs that are interested.

73

Malcolm

VK3OAK

Damascus College Report

There were three up on Wednesday, myself along with Colin VK3NCC and Doug VK3DRE who came along as observers and to provide the interactive activities with students.

As always the college looked after our needs for morning and afternoon tea along with lunch. They have always shown us great hospitality and are very keen for the program to impart the amateur radio story to students as part of their own personal development activities.

Our morning group consisted of six students and the new afternoon group was only four although two didn't come in until the last two hours as they found another activity seemed to be greater interest. Anyway they soon made up for it by involving themselves with some questions that developed on the discussion of microwaves and the agitation of water molecules when heated in the microwave oven and considering that effect on the human brain when talking on a mobile phone.

Colin had prepared a morse key and tone oscillator and demonstrated CW and used an RSGB video from the internet that simulated the transmission from the TITANIC when it sank in 1912. Both groups were interested in that which was surprising as no one had any technical or real science involvement.

As we had some difficulty with two of our HTT and also the signal to/from K3RBA was rather flaky and we had three operators we used a simplex VHF link outside the room to demonstrate and let them operate and talk. Our day at the school was very successful although I do not think we will gain any candidate for assessment from this year.

I hope some other club members could see their way to assist Gordon in presenting the program again next time.

73 Craig

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	ALTERNATIVE OP.	
28-Nov-19	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3GGG	Mick
5-Dec-19	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3EXE	Chris
12-Dec-19	VK3GGG	Mick	VK3KQT	David
19-Dec-19	VK3EXE	Chris	VK3DRE	Doug
26-Dec-19	VK3KQT	David	VK3AXH	Ian
2-Jan-20	VK3DRE	Doug	VK3TXR	Paul
9-Jan	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3GGG	Mick
16-Jan-20	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3EXE	Chris
23-Jan-20	VK3GGG	Mick	VK3KQT	David
30-Jan-20	VK3EXE	Chris	VK3DRE	Doug
6-Feb-20	VK3KQT	David	VK3AXH	Ian

VHF and above for November 2019-11-13

This months report will be a bit light on in view of the limited activity from my shack and few reports for some of the other normally active stations.

With a very mixed bag of weather the propagation on our favourite bands has been lacking. Even the local repeater VK3RBA with poor performance possibly due to a faulty antenna is not helping the situation. It's hoped this will be rectified in the near future.

Readers are reminded there is a 2mx FM net using VK3RBA that occurs each Tuesday evening at 8pm local time and ably run by Lachie VK3ALM. This activation is certainly not limited to Ballarat members and we invite anyone to join in.

Some readers may be aware of recent changes to the VK3RWA Ben Nevis 2mx repeater which now utilises more modern equipment and will enable expansion to other features as well. The original equipment is now in club hands and will be reprogrammed for use at the local Green Hill site on 144.650 as VK3RBT.

However on the SSB part of the band activity has declined a bit in recent times with poor propagation resulting in much lower activity.

There are a few exceptions to this as earlier in the month there were a couple of days that resulted in good contacts within VK3 and into VK5 and VK7. Ian VK3AXH was fortunate to make contact with Phil VK5AKK from the Adelaide Hills area and then moved up to both 70cm and 23cm where successful contacts and reports were exchanged. It was good to see Phil at the Ballarat Hamvention as well.

The construction group has begun preparing for another round of making antenna's and so far around 8 participants have indicated to take part. Antenna's for 6m, 2m, 70cm including some dual band light weight yagi's for satellite use are among preferences.

I can report that some from the last antenna building exercise some antenna's are now operating on 6m and 2m. I'm aware that VK3TRW, VK3KQT and VK3AXH are some that have now got them in the air and working well.

Lets hope the propagation picks up soon and again we get the BUZZ from the dx that gives us much joy on these bands.

Till next time 73....VK3AXH