



BARG News

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

Next Meeting
Friday 26th June @ 7:30pm

Virtual Meeting via Webex

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 June newsletter. With another month of restrictions due to COVID the opportunities for club activities have been rather limited. Coffee mornings are still running via a 2m net, and the 2m, 80m and now 6m nets are proving to be popular too.

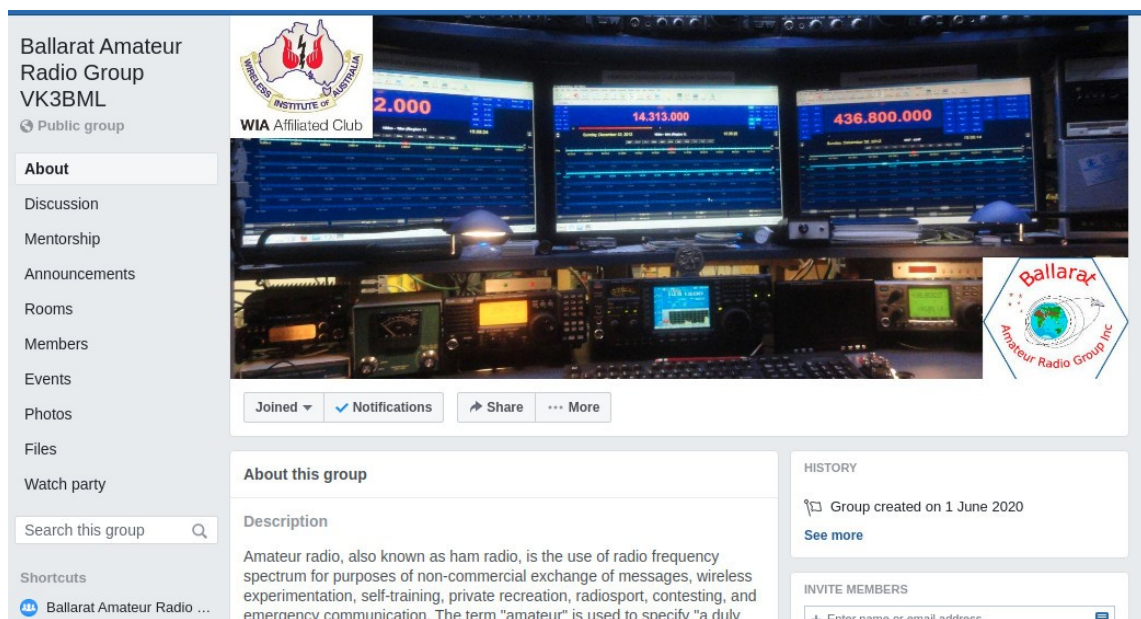
The Webex meetings for both the general meeting have been quite successful though. Webex should be a good option for remote attendees going forward. Webex have reduced what you get in a free account so we've bought a license that covers the next 12 months.

The next general meeting is the coming Friday. We were asking a couple of people to present, and they are okay to do that, but unfortunately not this month. So after the general meeting we'll ask attendees show something from the shack or workbench, much like we have with the construction night meetings.

If you have ideas or potential presenters for future meetings please let the committee know.

Following the last meeting there's been a BARG Facebook group set up. There's been some discussion about this, so I thought it worth recapping a few points on this. The intent of the page is to promote the club to an audience who might not otherwise be aware of the club.

There's 138 Amateur's in Ballarat and surrounding districts, where the club has about 50 members. There will be another group of people who might be interested but don't yet have a license. The question is always how we can enable those people to find the club.



I know a number of members have indicated that they don't use FB and have no desire too. That's fine. The club group isn't intended to replace anything that's already in place and certainly not intended to be a place for internal club comms.

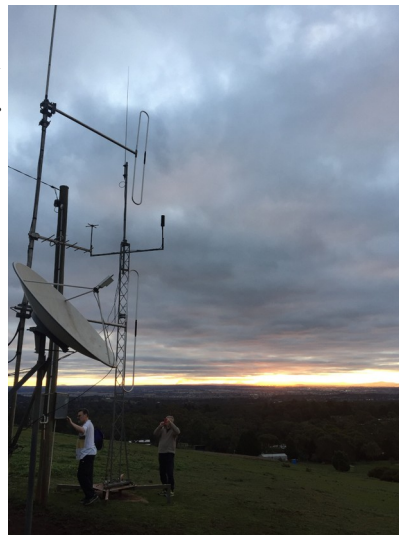
The page is set up so that you can only post to it if your a member. This allows any comments in the group to be easily moderated.

The group will be visible even without a FB account once it has 50+ members. At time of writing it has 45 members. The URL will be <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/>

Facebook is an interesting resource. There's lots (millions) of small groups which cover pretty much any topic you can think of. Thousands cover Amateur radio or small electronics topics. If you've not looked before, check it out, you might be surprised what you find.



At the same time, if you don't want to have an account for any reason, there's no need to sign up just to access the club's group. As a current member, your already aware of what the club's doing.



With restrictions lifted somewhat, there's a couple of members who've been doing some walks from Mt Helen up to VK3RBT and also Buninyong up to VK3RBA. Both during the week and on the weekend. If your interested in joining drop Lachlan an email. He seems to be clocking up the most distance.

80m Net Roster. Thursday @ 8 pm on 3.608 MHz

Date	Name	Call	Alt Name	Alt Call
4-Jun-20	Paul	VK3TXR	Scott	VK3MCL
11-Jun-20	Scott	VK3MCL	Craig	VK3KG
18-Jun-20	Craig	VK3KG	Doug	VK3DRE
25-Jun-20	Doug	VK3DRE	David	VK3KQT
2-Jul-20	David	VK3KQT	Ian	VK3AXH
9-Jul-20	Ian	VK3AXH	craig	VK3KG
16-Jul-20	Craig	VK3KG	Doug	VK3DRE
23-Jul-20	Doug	VK3DRE	Ian	VK3AXH
30-Jul-20	Ian	VK3AXH	scott	VK3MCL
6-Aug-20	Scott	VK3MCL	paul	VK3TXR
13-Aug-20	Paul	VK3TXR	Chris	VK3QY
20-Aug-20	Chris	VK3QY	David	VK3KQT
27-Aug-20	David	VK3KQT	Scott	VK3MCL
3-Sep-20	Scott	VK3MCL	Craig	VK3KG
10-Sep-20	Craig	VK3KG	Doug	VK3DRE
17-Sep-20	Doug	VK3DRE	Ian	VK3AXH
24-Sep-20	Ian	VK3AXH	Scott	VK3MCL
1-Oct-20	Scott	VK3MCL	Paul	VK3TXR
8-Oct-20	Paul	VK3TXR	Chris	VK3QY
15-Oct	Chris	VK3QY	David	VK3KQT
22-Oct	David	VK3KQT	Scott	VK3MCL
29-Oct	Scott	VK3MCL	Craig	VK3KG
5-Nov	Craig	VK3KG	Doug	VK3DRE
12-Nov	Doug	VK3DRE	Ian	VK3AXH
19-Nov	Ian	VK3AXH	Scott	VK3MCL
26-Nov	Scott	VK3MCL	Paul	VK3TXR
3-Dec	Paul	VK3TXR	Chris	VK3QY
10-Dec	Chris	VK3QY	David	VK3KQT
17-Dec	David	VK3KQT	Scott	VK3MCL
24-Dec	Scott	VK3MCL	Paul	VK3TXR
31-Dec	No official net tonight. NEW YEARS EVE.			
7-Jan-21	Paul	VK3TXR	Chris	VK3QY
14-Jan-21	Chris	VK3QY	David	VK3KQT
21-Jan-21	David	VK3KQT	Scott	VK3MCL
28-Jan-21	Scott	VK3MCL	Craig	VK3KG

VHF and above for June 2020

As we are well into the depths of Winter propagation on this part of the frequency spectrum contacts over long distances has certainly waned. There have been only a few occasions when distant beacons have been heard such as the VK5 and VK7 2mx at my QTH.

This gives us all the opportunity to take a look at what we can prepare for when the seasons change around such as looking at our antenna's, perhaps an increase in output power and the parts of the band that give us the satisfaction we look for.

As we know with so many modes available there is no shortage of things that can be done particularly with the increased activity with WSPR and FT8 and others modes that can achieve results that we normally wouldn't have know about.

This weekend 20/21st June the VHF Winter Field Day is taking place. Did you look at the WIA events calander to see what activities are on? It only takes a few moments to look at the WIA website to see if there's something that's of interest to any of us.

The usual group of stations can be heard most mornings on the bottom end of 2mx using SSB as well as club initiated activities such as the Tuesday night 2mx FM hookup, Thursday morning coffee group also on the local 2m VK3RBA repeater. On each occasion we are getting good numbers so keep up the good work that Lachlie VK3ALM and Peter VK3PWG are doing.

Magic Band 6 Metres

It's good to see the Chinwag group is back in operation under the capable hands of Scott VK3MCL on a Tuesday night immediately after our local VK3RBA 2mx net. There are lots of check in stations particularly from various parts of the Western Zone like Warrnambool, Hamilton, Ballarat area and of course Carramut !! so well done Scott.

There is also some very good DX to be had using digital modes. I've been told that recently Arie VK3ZL recently had a 6m contact into Scotland which is a great achievement. Steve VK3ZAZ advises that there are opportunities to get involved in these activities which can be found by looking at the various forums relative to what band you are interested in via the internet. Unfortunately many of these achievements go un-noticed to many of us.

Antenna Project

With all the parts now in hand we need to come up with a plan of how best we can get this activity underway. The booms are located at the club rooms and the rest is at my qth. One thing originally overlooked with the 70cm yagi was the mounting arrangement for the driven element. If you have looked carefully you will note the back part of the element is secured to the boom by a metal aluminum block not like all the other elements. I have been able to obtain some of these blocks which has caused the overall price to be increased by around \$10 but will be well worth it in the end. I'm still in the process of producing a spreadsheet of contractors and the relative costs for each antenna being undertaken.

Till next time Cheers de Ian VK3AXH