



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

August

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 29th July 2016 @ 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 1261
Mail Centre
Ballarat. Vic. 3354

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

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

Presidents Report

Well twelve months have gone and very quickly I might add, all positions are vacant eg President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee and all other positions are also to be filled my wish is that some of these positions be filled with new blood instead of recycling.

It has been a pleasure to fill the position of President but one must move on I would like to thank our Secretary Doug who is ultra reliable and nothing is a problem for him, also our Treasurer Jeff who takes things in his stride he is very good with a welding hand piece and has been proved that a he is very capable with a pen also.

Our committee worked as a team behind the scenes going quietly along with no fuss and getting results.

Also most worthy of mention are our Tech members, also members who run nets not forgetting our Examiners, members spending time at Damascus for that we are most grateful the list goes on, perhaps some members don't realise how they do little things that make our group function so well.

So please don't forget on Friday the 29th is our AGM looking forward to see a good roll on the night.

Many thanks Doug Raper vk3vba

Doug Raper - From the desk of President Doug vk3vba

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the August newsletter. It's all a bit rushed this month as I the demon work has got in the way, so this issue has mostly been written at the airport or hotel rooms.

I did note at the start of the month that the Grampians 2m repeater is back on air. VK3RWZ has excellent coverage of Western Victoria and often is busy with local chatter. Good to see it back.

Last month I mentioned I had planned to have a go at the SOTA FYBO day. After a bit of mucking around I decided to head to the closest mount and drove up Mt Buninyong. The Saturday that weekend was extremely cold, but no wind. I'd spent the day outside in jeans and jumper. Sunday, the day of the FYBO comp, was the same temperature, but the wind had picked right up. I headed out dressed more warmly, but still in jeans. As soon as I got out of the car I knew a tactical error had been made and I wasn't going to last.

Once set up I tried spotting myself, only find later that I'd been logged out of the app, so that didn't work. I tried calling on 40m, but the band wasn't doing much and despite the contest, nobody came back. So after an hour and only half a dozen contacts I packed up.

I have spent some time working on the IRLP node, specifically on the collection and broadcast of the news. The automation that pulls down the news hasn't been reliable, so I've added some new scripts to collect the news from a different location. In order to get that to work the operating system on the node had to be upgraded. Annoyingly a couple of bugs were encountered which resulted in a couple of missed news broadcasts. Hopefully all sorted now.

Next meeting is the annual general meeting. I know my xyl was particularly impressed to hear that I'd managed to arrange flights that got me back in the country just in time to make the meeting. If I'm not there then please nominate me for newsletter editor. I've not finished the website work that I started a while ago, so I guess I should be nominated for that too.

Until next month (depending on the AGM outcome.) *Malcolm* VK3MEL

Supplementary VHF and Above for August 2016

On the weekend of 16/17 August further tests were conducted with some 3.4Ghz panels with Bob VK3BNC at Mt Rowan, John VK3AIG near Clarkes Hill and Ian VK3AXH at Mt Buninyong.

The panels on test at the Mt Buninyong end were for Anthony VK3CAP which also included a spare for receive only and also a spare panel with TX/RX operation for VK3AXH. This panel may be loaned to anyone interested in having a go on this band but will require a tuneable I.F. radio capable of operation using SSB on the 70cm band at a power level of around 3 watts. Ideally a tripod is required to mount the panel for ease of operation.

Thanks to the participants for taking the time to check things out. It's hoped our next test day on this band will be with some stations in the Melbourne area from Mt Buninyong.

On Sunday morning 17th activity was very much alive starting on the bottom end of the 2m band. The Adelaide 2m beacon was nice and strong and it wasn't long before signals were being heard from both VK5PJ and VK5BC. Club member Mick VK3GGG at Stawell worked Peter VK5PJ and Ian VK3AXH also had contacts on 2m, 70cm and the best so far on 23cm with Peter at S9. Peter was hearing the VK3RMB beacon from Green Hill at full scale so the band was really open. Even though it's winter it always pays to keep a lookout at the Hepburn Tropo Charts as a guide to band conditions.

Talking with Kevin VK3WN on Friday who is an avid listener on most bands he predicted from the charts the possibility of this type of event so well done Kev !!

73, VK3AXH

"ALCOHOL AND CALCULUS DON'T MIX, SO DON'T DRINK AND DERIVE."

also can you add a piece about the Thursday night net at 2000hrs on 3608 KHz and see if we can hear MORE club members up. Some nights we have more NON members than members. It would also be good to develop news and activity reports as well. Andy VK3HMV is back on air and resumes the responsibility of coordinating the control for VK3BML and is looking any other club member who would like to be the Net Controller occasionally. Its better if they have an Advanced licence as they can use higher power BUT an Foundation licensee would also be most welcome to share the job . Currently we have a four week cycle so if anyone else offers then it reduces the load on the present four.



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Round The Web

Standards.

Do you enjoy nothing more than reading up on a well written set of standards. To while away a quiet Sunday afternoon with material such as “The following section applies in all cases, except those set out in 4.1.12 (a), or as set out in Appendix C, ‘Exceptions’.”

If this is your thing then this might be the site for you.

Now, like many of these sites, the really good stuff is behind a pay wall, but they have some draft documents that you can access for free. These are standards that are not quite locked down yet and still open for public comment. So if you really keen you can have a go at influencing the final standard, though contributors aren't noted in the document. There's little public glory to be had.

Up for review at the moment are standard such as:

DR AS/NZS 4268:2016

Radio equipment and systems - Short range devices - Limits and methods of measurement

DR AS/NZS 4280.1:2016

406 MHz satellite distress beacons - Marine emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRB) (IEC 61097-2, Ed. 3.0 (2008), MOD)

DR AS/NZS 4280.2:2016

406 MHz satellite distress beacons - Personal locator beacons (PLBs)

<http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/results2.aspx?searchType=subject&publisher=AS&doctype=Drafts&status=Current&LastPbDays=64&OrderBy=Reference Number>

Thanks to Rick Taylor, VK3FIVE, for alerting me to the site. (Rick was quick to point out that he hasn't actually read through these. Himself.)

I've spotted a few other things through the month to add here, but I've run out of time, so they'll have to wait till next time.

This month there are a number of topics in the Mailbag area.

- 73 Mains grid synchronisation
- 74 SMD soldering: a simple method.
- 75 Mobility scooter speed controlles are not simple.
- 76 What are “regulating” electrolytic capacitors.
- 77 Challenges of learning to program microcomputers.
- 78 Magneto cct in small portable engines.
- 79 Feedback on laptop repair article.
- 80 Air con standby power update.
- 81 Smartmeters not so smart for customers.
- 82 Origin of atmospheric electricity disputed ??
- 83 Building a replica HP35 calculator.
- 84 Repairing a flattened radio.
- 85 Reading from an SD card can cause data corruption.
- 86 distinguishing between AWA 517 model radios.
- 87 Vintage Signetics 2650 comp repair.
- 88 Wire glue can be most useful.
- 89 What makes a radio vintage ?

Now that’s a full magazine of reading even before we look at the Technical articles.

P16 Horizontal Drilling for Oil. Check these video’s down a well.

<http://https://youtu.be/ZzDrheWDhGw> and <https://youtu.be/5diKdBZ8EOI>

P26 Universal Temperature alarm. Monitor tropical fish tank or other uses.

P34 Brownout Protector for Induction motors up to 2300W.

P42 The Serviceman has a “Smart” TV, an Engel fridge a “groggy” pH meter and an air conditioner.

P58 Micromite Based Super Clock.

P68 Notebook Circuits:

- a. Increased life for daytime running lights.
- b. Speedometer driving circuits.
- c. Precision resistance matching bridge.
- d. Turntable mods to lift tonearm on power cut.

P76 100dB Stereo LED audio Level/VU Meter. Pt 2.

P84 Australian Researches achieve 34.5% PV efficiency.

P86 “How good are those 2.4GHz AV senders” ?

P92 Vintage Radio. The GREBE Synchrophase MU-1 5 Valve radio. C1920’s.

P98 Ask Silicon Chip:

- 2. Use Multi Spark CDI with twin output coil.
- 3. Precision Driver for Japanese turntable.
- 4. Re-purposing a solar battery charger.
- 5. Mounting Senator speakes off the floor.
- 6. No voltage from tracking power supply.
- 7. Thermister for Burp Charger.
- 8. Ultrasonic Parking Assistant Problem.
- 9. Alternative use for Blackoutlamp.
- 10. Railpower project still relevant.
- 11. Mosfets for Mini Solar Battery Charger.
- 12. Walk –around model railway controller.
- 13. Modifying the Flexitimer

14. Electric Fence controller questions.
15. 6 Digital clock for Orienteering.
16. Champion for a Guitar practice Amplifier.

And that's all there is folk's.
73 Craig VK3KG

"I love you, sweetheart."

A group of women were at a seminar on how to live in a loving relationship with their husbands. The women were asked, "How many of you love your husband?" All the women raised their hands.

Then they were asked, "When was the last time you told your husband you loved him?" Some women answered today, a few yesterday, and some couldn't remember. The women were then told to take out their cell phones and text their husband:

"I love you, sweetheart."

Next the women were instructed to exchange phones with another woman and read aloud the text message they received in response to their message.

Below are 12 hilarious replies. If you have been married for quite a while, you understand that these replies are a sign of true

love....who else would reply in such a succinct and honest way?

1. Who the hell is this?
2. Eh, mother of my children, are you sick or what?
3. Yeah, and I love you too. What's wrong?
4. What now? Did you wreck the car backing-up again?
5. I don't understand what you mean?
6. What the hell did you do now?
8. Don't beat about the bush, just tell me how much you need?
9. Am I dreaming?
10. If you don't tell me who this message is actually for, someone will die.
11. I thought we agreed you wouldn't drink during the day.
12. Your mother is coming to stay with us, isn't she?

SALGUOD.....

These fit so well they should be in a dictionary.

ADULT

A person who has stopped growing at both ends
And is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOUR

A place where women curl up and dye.

CHICKENS

The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST

Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST

Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF

Cold Storage.

INFLATION

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO

An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN

A grape with a sunburn.

SECRET

Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON

A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE

The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW

One of the greatest Labor saving devices of today.

YAWN

An honest opinion

WRINKLES

Something other people have,
Similar to my character lines.

SALGUOD.....

- P4/5 The Index
P13 Member Spotlight: Marsha Fleming N8FE. Read about her activities.
- P24 Letters. Active at 92 – Elmers-Solar power -
P34 The ZZRX-40 Direct Conversion 40Meter Receiver.
P38 Auditory Gimmicks & Testers for the Blind. Some eleven uses are listed.
- P42 Eclectec Tech: VOA Radiograms. Try Ham-radio Deluxe et al
P43 Review: ICOM IC-7851 HF & 6M Transceiver. www.icomamerica.com
P50 Review: SPE Expert 1.3K-FA solid state Linear. www.linear-amplifier.com
US distributor is www.expertlinears.com
- P53 The Doctor: Make COM ports communicate. 2M antenna for mobile.
P55 Hands on Radio: Exp #162 Oscilloscope Triggering & RF.
P57 Technical Correspondence: Wall Wart backup, Scope case and a battery flameout.
- P60 Microwavelengths; Impedance matching with stubs.at 10GHz. Wave guide tuning using a magnet and ball bearing.
- P62 Hints & Kinks. Flag flying use a guy, QSL replieswith a stamp.
P64 Kayak Portable using a Pelican case.
P67 National Parks Via the Moon.
P68 Low Power [QRP] EME Tips. Dimension4 and GJTracker are useful
www.thinkman.com/dimension4/ www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gl/
Look at www.dg7ybn.de for long yagi designs.
- P82 Public Service: Trained operators are much more valuable to leaders than spontaneous volunteer –operators who simply appear with no training or experience.
- P93 How's DX? VP8sti & VP8SGI on South Georgia Island.
P95 World above 50 MHz. 222MHz challenges VHF operators with propagation.
P101 Classic Radio: The Lysco Model 600. C1950 with 30W on 160 to 10 M.
P106 100, 50 and 25 Years Ago QST Index.
P156/7 Index to Advertisers.

Again lots of pages of colourful advertisements.

90 Craig VK3KG

This is what all of us 70+ years old, and our kids have to look forward to!!
This is something that happened in an assisted living center.

The people who lived there have small apartments but they all eat at a central cafeteria.

One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if **everything was OK.**

She could hear him through the door and he said that he **was running late and would be down shortly so she went back to the dining area.**

An hour later he still hadn't arrived so she went back up towards his room and she found him on the stairs.

He was coming down the stairs but was **having an awful time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right.**

She told him she was going to **call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast.**

So she helped him the rest of the way down **the stairs and he had his breakfast.**

When he tried to return to his room he was completely unable to get up even the first step so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing.

The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both his legs in **one leg of his boxer shorts.**

SALGUOD.....