



# BARG News

*Ballarat Amateur Radio Group*

*Inc. #6953T*

*March*

*Monthly Newsletter*

Next Meeting

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 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](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au)

We're on the web  
[www.barg.org.au](http://www.barg.org.au)

### **Presidents Report**

Its time to put pen to paper again, January was a hot month here we are in February as I type this it has certainly cooled off.

Our auction was a great success a great fun night had by all members (small George Fowler)

Speaking of auctions don't forget our annual auction in May look through the shack see the things that have been looking at you that you really don't want and would like to get rid of this is your big chance we are accepting items now.

The coffee mornings have proven to be a great success with good roll of members.

Congratulations on Ian vk3axh on his success with 432 Mhz EME and also 1296Mhz EME.

Our remote base is now very close to operational, its at the club rooms for every one to peruse, antennas are the next step to complete the project.

For this I must behalf of all members thank the members involved for the time devoted to brining it all together.

That's all from me for now Pres Doug

Keep safe travel .....keep well

*Doug Raper*

From the desk of President Doug vk3vba

### **A Word From The Editor**

Welcome to the March newsletter. The summer VHF/ UHF field day has just past with many of the club participating. It's great to see so many out in the field and get some photo's too.

Until next month.

**Malcolm VK3MEL**



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Brenda, a blonde city girl, marries a Dairy farmer. One morning, on his way out to check on the cows, farmer John says to Brenda 'The insemination man is coming over to impregnate one of our cows today. I drove a nail into the rail above the cow's stall in the barn. You show him where the cow is when he gets here, OK?' So then the farmer leaves for the fields.

After a while, the insemination man arrives and knocks on the front door. Brenda takes him down to the barn. They walk along the row of cows and when she sees the nail, she tells him 'This is the one...right here.' Terribly impressed by what he seemed to think just might be another ditzy blonde, the man asks 'Tell me lady, how did you know this is the cow to be bred?' 'That's simple; by the nail over its stall', Brenda explains very confidently.

Then the man asks, 'What's the nail for?' She turns and starts to walk away and with complete confidence, says over her shoulder ..... 'I assume it's to hang your trousers on.'

### 6 Metres and Above

Another month has passed and those elusive higher frequency contacts have not been happening as often as in past years. Some good openings have been had on 2m VHF SSB into Western Australia with Stations VK3VOX, VK6LD, VK6WG and possibly some others being worked at good signal levels. Known active stations from the club have been VK3AIG, VK3PMG, VK3KG, VK3AXH and VK3WN who is mainly just monitoring. If I've missed any others please let me know.

The Albany 2m beacon can often be heard but as there is a 3 hour time difference it can be difficult to get the VK6's up in the mornings for those qso's before they head off to work. Some activity can and does take place at night time as well.



This year the propagation seemed to have favoured our district better than in the past. In previous years the boys in Mt Gambier have often been favoured but overall it's been our area that's done very well.

Regular activity in the mornings around 144.1 take place and is quite active in Western Victoria and Adelaide with Gordon at Cobram also being a regular. Some aircraft enhanced propagation also takes place with Canberra on 144.2 SSB.

6 Metres has also been active with both John VK3AIG and Kevin VK3WN reporting some good propagation and contacts around VK and ZL. John has been active using WSPR with some success as well.

On some of the higher bands VK3AXH has had many qso's into Mt Gambier up to 1296MHz and 2 very good qso's with Colin VK5DK on 2.4G with signals over S9 on each occasion with distances of 274Km.



On Sunday 21st February club members VK3KG, VK3BNC, VK3KQT, VK3AXH and local VK3IDL took part in a 3.4GHz activity from Mt Buninyong between 10am to 12 Noon to see how many other like stations could be contacted using some modified WiFi panels kindly made available through the Geelong Amateur Radio Club. A



similar activity took place in NSW and QLD.

Over the period contacts were had with around 15 different stations located at various places around Geelong such as Mt Anakie, YouYangs, Port Arlington, Barrabool Hills, Lara as well as Mt Leura near Camperdown and Mt Dandenong a distance of around 135Km which is quite good given the power was less than 1 watt with 18dB patch antenna gain.

You can see one of the panels in the images below. At present we have around 7 local amateurs either completed or still working on their systems.

If anyone is interested in this project some panels are still available at \$25 each and a couple of small home brew pcb's are required with around \$20 of components to get them going. They are driven by a UHF transceiver requiring around 2.5Watts and can be used on either SSB or FM. Please contact VK3AXH for further information.



A few pictures of the setup is shown below for interest.

Till next time 73, *Ian*, VK3AXH

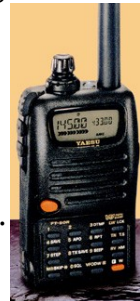
### Radios For Sale

Hi, we have two radios up for tender both are in working condition, we are looking for persons of interest to submit tenders on both or separate tender.

They can be inspected at our club rooms on meeting nights or at any other time convenient to myself or any committee member.

The highest bidder will be the successful tender.

The radios are as follows.....one only Yaesu hand held model FT-50R uhf...vhf.



One only Kenwood 830s HF.

Tenders close 25<sup>th</sup> of March at 8-30 pm.

Please contact myself, Doug Raper on 53323565 or [dougr@ncable.net.au](mailto:dougr@ncable.net.au).

Or any other committee member.

All the best.



### Errata – Correction to Power Supply Circuit in February News Letter

Doug, VK3FDRE, noticed the MJ2955 pass transistors in the power supply circuit were drawn as NPN devices and not the PNP as they should be for an MJ2955. The circuit is perfectly OK just the arrows on the emitter drawn the wrong way.

Well picked up Doug!

## Round The Web

### KickStarter Campaign : Shield: Signal Proof Headwear

Crowd sourcing site has some interesting campaigns. Often seeking funding for clever ideas to solve common problems. Here's one that's for a hat that shields your head from radio waves. Much trendier than making up one from foil before heading out to the shack!

*Somebody might say that it's a specially designed hat for bouncing electromagnetic waves and radiation. But is it really so? Yes, it reflects signals from cell phones, wi-fi routers, microwaves and it generally blocks waves transmitted from electric devices. It's not blocking for 100% percent, but better than nothing.*



They've reached their funding goal, so it'll definitely happen. You can pre-order from here:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/shieldapparel/shield-the-world-s-first-signal-proof-headwear/>

### State of Electronics – Video Series

A series of professional quality videos about the development of electronics in Australia, with interviews with well known names, such as Dick Smith and Leo Simpson. And some more recent high profile names, like Dave Jones from EEEBlog and Jonathan OXER from Freetronics.

*This is the story of the “State of Electronics”, a documentary about the art and science of electronics and how it coincided with the modern formation of our society. Electronics starts out as digital in telegraphy in what has been dubbed the “Victorian Internet”. It then changes state to analogue with advent of the valve and Lee De Forest’s “triode”, becoming Radio ... later Television. Transistors change it's form in the 50's and 60's into “solid state”. Integrated circuits herald another change with the miniaturisation of hardware and the “space race” in the late 60's and 70's. The advent of electronic calculators, computers and micro controllers bring about the true digital age, with computational and computer programming changing the “state of electronics” into both hardware and software. The internet is born, forever changing what electronics means to most.*



<http://www.stateofelectronics.com/>

### Russian Kit Supplier

Looking for a new challenge? How about using Google translate to get your kit instructions translated from Russian. If that's fine, these guys have some amplifier kits that might suit you.

<http://eb104.ru/> (Russian kit supplier)



Forget who hurt you yesterday, but don't forget those who love you everyday.  
Forget the past that that makes you cry and focus on the present that makes you smile.

**SALGUOD**

- P5 Contents page.
- P6 Keylines: . Overviewsthis months content and will bring discussion around to data modes by the Editor Don G3XTT.
- P7 News desk. Round up products, club news and recent activities and events.
- P10 Review Hytera PD785 handheld for DMR.
- P14 VK6VZ/G3ZZD looks at bring 1960's analogue into the 1990's
- P18 Review MFJ706 Emergency Communications System. No hole drilling required.
- P23 Carrying on the Practial way allows a receiver connected up as well as a Transceiver.
- P26 Doing it by Design makes multiple multimode receiver from previous years.
- P30 In Focus. The GMDX group in the North.
- P32 Making Waves. A new series on Radio Propagation
- P36 Data Modes FSQ Fast Simple QSO.
- P42 What Next. ? Using Satelite.
- P46 World of VHF.
- P50 HF Highlights
- P54 In the Shop looks at what Equipment specs really mean.
- P57 Valve & Vintage looks at the US /Canadian National Traffic System
- P61 Emerging Technology Operating practices and Technology
- P64 Rallies coming up.
- P65 Readers Letters.



As always full of great adverts and pictures of gear we are familiar with and some other unknown items.

73 Craig - VK3KG.

### **A Politician Dies And Has To Spend Just ONE Day In Hell.**

A politician dies and ends up standing in front of the pearly gates. Saint Peter looks at him for a second, flicks through his book, and finds his name. "So, you're a politician..." "Well, yes, is that a problem?" "Oh no, no problem. But we've recently adopted a new system for people in your line of work, and unfortunately you will have to spend a day in Hell. After that however, you're free to choose where you want to spend eternity!"

"Wait, I have to spend a day in Hell?!" says the politician. "Those are the rules," replies St Peter, clicks his fingers, and WOOMP, the guy disappears. He awakes, curled up with his hands over his eyes, knowing he's in Hell. Cautiously, he listens for the screams, sniffs the air for brimstone, and finds... Nothing. Just the smell of, is that fabric softener? And cut grass, this can't be right?

"Open your eyes!" says a voice. "C'mon, wakey wakey, we've only got 24 hours!" Nervously, he uncovers his eyes, looks around, and sees he's in a hotel room. A nice one too. Wait, this is a penthouse suite... And there's a smiling man in a suit, holding a martini. "Who are you??"

The politician asks. "Well, I'm Satan!" says the man, handing him the drink and helping him to his feet. "Welcome to Hell!" "Wait, this is Hell? But... Where's all the pain and suffering?" he asks.

Satan throws him a wink. "Oh, we've been a bit misrepresented over the years, it's a long story. Anyway, this is your room! The minibar is of course free, as is the room service, there's extra towels next to the hot-tub, and if you need anything, just call reception. But enough of this! It's a beautiful day, and if you'd care to look outside..."

Slightly stunned by the opulent surroundings, the man wanders over to the floor-to-ceiling windows through which the sun is glowing, looks far down, and sees a group of people cheering and waving at him from a golf course.

"It's one of 5 pro-level courses on site, and there's another 6 just a few minutes drive out past the beach and harbour!" says Satan, answering his unasked question.

So they head down in the lift, walk out through the glittering lobby where everyone waves and welcomes the man, as Satan signs autographs and cheerily talks shop with the laughing staff. And as he walks out, he sees the group on the golf course are made up of every one of his old friends, people he's admired for years but never met or worked with, and people whose work he's admired but died long before his career started. And out of the middle of this group walks his wife, with a massive smile and the body she had when she was 20, who throws her arms around him and plants a delicate kiss on his cheek. Everyone cheers and applauds, and as they slap him on the back and trade jokes, his worst enemy arrives, as a 2 foot tall goblin-esque caddy. He spends the day in the bright sunshine on the course, having the time of his life laughing at jokes and carrying important discussions, putting the world to rights with his friends while holding his delighted wife next to him as she gazes lovingly at him.

Later, they return to the hotel for dinner and have an enormous meal, perfectly cooked. As everyone is falling about laughing and flinging bread sticks at each other, his wife whispers in his ear... And they return to their penthouse suite, and spend the rest of the night making love like they did on their honeymoon. After hours of passion, the man falls deep into the 100% Egyptian cotton pillows, and falls into a deep and happy sleep... and is woken up by St Peter.

"So, that was Hell. Wasn't what you were expecting, I bet?" "No sir!" says the man. "So then," says St Peter. "You can make your choice. It's Hell, which you saw, or Heaven, which has choral singing, talking to God, white robes, and so on."

"Well... I know this sounds strange, but on balance, I think I'd prefer Hell," says the politician. "Not a problem, we totally understand! Enjoy!" says St Peter, and clicks his fingers again.

The man wakes up in total darkness, the stench of ammonia filling the air and distant screams the only noise. As he adjusts, he can see the only light is from belches of flame far away, illuminating the ragged remains of people being tortured or burning in a sulphurous ocean. A sudden bolt of lightning reveals Satan next to him, wearing the same suit as before and grinning, holding a soldering iron in one hand and a coil of razor-wire in the other. "What's this??" He cries. "Where's the hotel?? Where's my wife??? Where's the minibar, the golf-courses, the pool, the restaurant, the free drinks and the sunshine???"

"Ah", says Satan. "You see, yesterday, we were campaigning. But today, you voted."