



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

October

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 30th September 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.
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Mail Centre
Ballarat. Vic. 3354

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

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

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the October newsletter. Work commitments have stopped me from doing much at all on the radio front over the last month, but it's been a bit wet anyway, so perhaps I've not missed much in the way of opportunity to get out. There was a state wide power blackout in SA earlier this week. I saw quite a few Face Book posts where amateurs we're excited about the exceptional low noise floor, at least until the batteries ran out.

With the popularity of portable operation Ernie, VK3DET suggested re-publishing an earlier article he'd written about the FT-817. Great idea, thank Ernie.

Craig asked me to mention that he's planning a Foundation Course for the weekend of the 26th and 27th of November. If you know of anyone interested now is the time to get in contact.

There's two speakers planned for the meeting tonight, so I look forward to seeing you all there.

Don't forget that the Hamfest is coming up

Until next month.

Malcolm

VK3MEL

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Hamvention

Sunday the 16th of October

Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club

Corner of Rubicon and Sutton Streets, Ballarat. 3350. (next to the Trotting Track)

- * Doors open at 10:00 am.
- * Entry is \$6.00 per person and cost of hiring a table \$10 each (1.8m)
- * There will be Trade displays from the usual traders.
- * The usual and popular pre-loved equipment displays and sales.
(you never know what you may find!!.)
- * Food and drinks will be available on the premises.

FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS CONTACT:

Hamvention Coordinator: Roger VK3ADE Email To: hamvention2016@barg.org.au



<http://www.openstreetmap.org/?mlat=-37.5798&mlon=143.8298#map=14/-37.5798/143.8298&layers=N>

VHF and Above for September 2016

The highlight for the past month involved an activity day for 3.4G enthusiasts and was organised by Gavin VK3HY having recently completed his 3.4G panel and looking to test it's performance.

The word soon spread and it wasn't long before the test day date was organised conveniently on a Sunday morning which just happened to be Fathers Day hi hi.

Out setup location was Mt Buninyong with participating stations VK3BNC, VK3KG, VK3CAP, VK3FCPS, VK3AXH and VK3IDL all with operational gear.

Visitors included Ernie VK3DET and Graeme VK3NN and even a SOTA activator from Melbourne VK3OHM.

Other field stations were VK3PY Barrabool Hills, VK3ALB and friends Mt Anakie, VK3MQ Mt Dandenong with VK3HY, VK3LL and VK3KQ Mt Ridley north of Melbourne and a couple of other stations in Gippsland VK3WRE Mt Tassie and Alan VK3XPD operating from his home in Camberwell, Melbourne.

After some teething problems during setup I'm pleased to report all stations had success particularly with the East of Melbourne stations being a distance of around 125km which is not bad given that all our stations were running less than 1 watt of power.

Anthony VK3CAP and his father VK3FCPS had a good introduction to microwaves which was great to see.

The entire event was over by midday so we could still enjoy the remainder of fathers day.





Till next time, 73 de VK3AXH



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Recognition For Long Service

Our own Gordon Cornell was recently recognised with two additional bars to his National Medal for 25 and 35 years of service to the SES and the Army.

Gordon has given a huge amount of his time to emergency support organisations and truly earned this recognition.

“I’ve always been involved in emergency services,” says Mr Cornell. “I’m also involved in the amateur radio part of it and that takes a bit of time.



He’s a real asset to both our club and the community. Congratulations Gordon

<http://www.thecourier.com.au/story/4129998/recognition-for-long-service/>

PRACTICAL WIRELESS SEPTEMBER 2016.

- P5 Index
- P6 Keylines
- P7 Newsdeck
- P10 Review The PowAbeam 6M Yagi. 6elements.
- P14 Transistors. What you always wanted to know about them.
- P18 Making Waves. Auroral propagation and the Aurora Borealis.
- P18 Simple Antenna Matching Unit for VHF.
- P23 Low Budget 70cm EME. Yes you can!
- P28 Continuing Tony Nailor’s Multiband Receiver project. Taking Stock.
- P32 Feature: The Eighth Prac Wireless 70MHz Contest.
- P34 Feature: The Spotless Sun. Current status and the future for HF propagation.
- P42 Feature: Watching signals pass you by. Looking back at what we had and the present.
- P43 World of VHF. A busy month on V/UHF.
- P46 Collin’s Collection is about Satellite and also QSLing.
- P50 Emerging Technology looks at wireless controlled robotics..
- P53 Valve & Vintage looks at the IARU from post WW1 till today.
- P57 HF Highlights: qsl’s, Taiwan and other News.
- P62 WSPR how to set up, and use the software and reporting network.
- P66 Feature looks at some highlights of 2016.
- P67 Letters.70 Bargain basement sales.
- P71 Traders table.

And in this month there’s a Data card with HF Propagation Beacons [as part of the International Beacon Project] and the reverse of the card is the 136-30MHz Bandplan for the UK licensee's constructed by the RSGB. The card is laminated.

That’s all for this month also.

73 Craig
VK3KG

Info on Yaesu FT817/857/897 radios.



The FT817 has a fragile PA stage although the later ND model has a different and hopefully more robust design, with careful use (good VSWR) etc. not a problem.

The FT817 are a popular choice for Sota although only 5 w but with a well matched antenna do a great job.

It is not needed to feed more than 10V to radio to get the full 5 W output with the Power Conditioner kit it keeps volts to around 10V and provides protection against reverse and high voltage.

Any voltage higher than 10v excess is dissipated as heat within the radio a similar setup could easily be home brewed. <http://www.wulfden.org/TheShoppe/ft817/>

The radio has a pos voltage applied to final stage even when radio is turned off and with internal batteries installed a problem can occur over time.

With time the batteries self-discharge and in non ND early radio's a self-oscillation can happen and destroy the PA final stage with radio turned off-there is a Phase reversal mod to stop this.

The mod simply is to reverse the co-ax connection that feeds final board, the FT817 Yahoo group has this and other tips on the radio. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT817/>

With the FT817 as it doesn't have an on-board processor the TX audio can be sharpened by a long press on the Function key and going to menu 56 for LSD and 57 for Usb and change to 200 (max is 250).

Also the Rx audio can be changed via menu 54 for Lsb and 55 for Usb,step via dent and change via VFO,this changes the carrier point on the signal.

Another cure is to not leave batteries inside the radio and run off external battery.

All 3 radios have a HIDDEN MENU of unique alignment settings each radio is different and with a voltage surge/rf feedback/high vswr etc. the radios settings can be wiped and even with another radio's settings radio isn't setup correctly.

To access this hidden menu it is IMPORTANT while doing it and feed as close to 13.8Volts as possible to get correct settings.

Have ABC buttons pressed while powering on and a series of beeps will show the hidden menu this is a fiddly bit so have radio up against a bench so it doesn't move while pushing the buttons.

Now with plenty of time record each set and go thru in the 817's case 76 steps and 897 74 I don't have an 857 but would be a similar number as the 857 and 897 are identical except the case/body.

The stepping is done by the detent tuning knob and to change values use the VFO knob but changing make sure you know what you're doing.

The 817 doesn't have any way to lift the front up and I have the Peg-legs but people have made similar stands and also Yaesu have an optional protective case to avoid scratches.

<http://www.mtechnologies.com/palm/pegleg.htm>

Ernie VK3DET.

Review of Practical Wireless October 2016.

- P10 Build the Halse & Hatch HF transceiver. Pt 1. 5W unit suitable for Field days or the shack.
- P14 Review Ham Radio Deluxe software for rig and logging control.
- P17 Recent Trip through Asia in particular the Sprately Islands. Pt 1.
- P23 Starting with JT65 on Weak Signal uses.
- P26 World of VHF. News and a record.
- P30 More on WHSPR.
- P34 Morse Mode: Of Paddles and Oars.
- P37 HF Lives on. Recent poor band conditions.
- P42 Transistors Pt2. A new series
- P46 Buying Second Hand. The TRIO JR-310.
- P49 Simira software & RTL_SDR USB Dongle. Create your own Wide band Receiver for modest cost.
- P52 Alignment Aids for Constructor. Wavemeters, GDO, Crystal calibrators.
- P56 Review: C-140 Rotary dipole for 40Metres.
- P 60 Amateur Radio in the 1950's.
- P64 In the Shop: Harry Leeming looks at a range of anecdotes from his working life as a radio retailer.
- P67 Letters on wide range of Topics.

Next months review shows an article on the well known BC221 Frequency meter of days gone by. Will look forward to the reading.

73 Craig
VK3KG.

In days of old when hams were bold, and sideband not invented, words were passed by pounding brass, and all were quite contented.

With apologies to William Shakespeare.

I wonder if some smart poet may write a second stanza that complements FM or pulse modulation?

VK3KG, 73

Home milk deliveries still happen in some areas we have been told, but the 'older brigade' will no doubt recall both milk and bread had regular home deliveries. Enjoy, here is a collection of notes left in milk bottles....

** Dear milkman: I've just had a baby, please leave another one

** Please leave an extra pint of paralysed milk.

** Cancel one pint after the day after today.

** Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.

** Milkman, please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.

** Milkman, please could I have a loaf but not bread today.

** Please cancel milk. I have nothing coming into the house but two sons on the dole.

** Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.

** Sorry about yesterday's note, I didn't mean one egg and a dozen pints, but the other way round.

** When you leave my milk please knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want you to give me a hand to turn the mattress.

** Please knock. My TV's broken down and I missed last night's Coronation Street. If you saw it, will you tell me what happened over a cup of tea?

** My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do it before you deliver or do I have to shake the bottle?

** Please send me a form for cheap milk, for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.

** Please send me details about cheap milk as I am stagnant.

** Milk is needed for the baby. Father is unable to supply it.

** From now on please leave two pints every other day and one pint on the days in between, except Wednesdays and Saturdays when I don't want any milk.

** My back door is open. Please put milk in 'fridge, get money out of cup in drawer and leave change on kitchen table in pence, because we want to play bingo tonight.

** Please leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow, for I wrote this note yesterday..

** Milkman, please put the coal on the boiler, let dog out and put newspaper inside the screen door. PS: Don't leave any milk.

** No milk. Please do not leave milk at No. 14 either as he is dead until further notice.

Good aren't they! Forward them on and make someone else smile today.

SALGUOD