



BARG News

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

Next Meeting
Friday 30th June 2017 @ 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

End of June and at the half way mark with the George Fowler gone for another year, our next big event is the Ham Fest in November.

Another big event will be in July its our AGM all seats are vacant my wish is that we see some new blood on positions vacant it seems to be the same old few that put their hands up, (its called recycling) this year hopefully we might see some new faces.

My two terms as president has been rewarding for me with various things being attained.

I was not the best President that BARG has ever had and i admit to that but i did my best and thats all i could do.

Many thanks to Doug our Secretary who servers us well all in the background with no fuss and then we have Jeff who also works silently in the background as an astute Treasurer many thanks Jeff for making my term easy , then we have our loyal committee members who also work very carefully for the benefit of BARG.

We have seen our running costs for computers reduced with the addition of an updated system and something new is running Skype relaying our meeting to our fellow amateur friends in the Stawell area.

Our range of guest speakers have been well accepted.

Also thanks to Bob for his perseverance with our monthly raffle and his wonderful cooking skills.

Also not forgetting Roger and Lachei for work on computers and setting up of our Skype system.

Many thanks to our loyal members coming out on cold nights to meetings and participating in our club nets.

Nomination forms are available at our next meeting for all positions at BARG .

All the best see you on the night.....*Doug 3vba*

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the July newsletter. I started writing this up last weekend. In my mind I was sure the meeting was Friday 23rd, and wanted to get the newsletter out well ahead of the meeting. Thursday night came and I resigned myself to having to send out a half written newsletter out, when it occurred to me that the was one more Friday to go, so another week to the meeting. So that means I'm sending a completed newsletter on time, the weekend ahead of the meeting. I hope you enjoy reading it, and I lo=ok forward to seeing you next Friday!

2:24pm on Wednesday 21st of June was the winter solstice, meaning the days start getting longer again. At the moment I head to work and get home from work in the dark. At least the grass isn't growing that quickly.

The auction last month was a great success. There seemed to be about the same number of buyers and the quality of the gear was pretty fair too. I think a good day was had by all, most seemed to go home with something.

June 24th is the Winter VHF / UHF field day, hopefully we'll get some nice weather and a it'll be a chance to get out and about for a few hours. Perhaps I should get out and give it a go.

Hope to see you there too!

Malcolm - VK3OAK

VHF and Above for July 2017

With the colder weather comes a down turn in propagation on the higher bands however there have been a couple of exceptions with openings to both VK5 and VK7 over the past month. Bob VK3BNC, Mick VK3GGG and Ian VK3AXH have all been able to get amongst the DX which still gives us old blokes a buzz !!!

Those that get AR magazine will have seen that in the 2017 Summer VHF-UHF Field Day Results Summary that Mick VK3GGG was placed first in the 24 Hr Single Band Home Station Section operating on 2m and Ian VK3AXH was placed first in the All Bands Section operating in the 8 hour section from home.

As can be seen you don't have to leave the shack to get involved in this activity which for some of us is a lot of fun. Keep an eye on the contest calendar as there are all sorts of contests on throughout the year.

For a change of pace there is some interest by some members to make a transverter for the 472KHz band. If you are interested in this project let the club know as it's quite simple provided you have an 80m transceiver to use as the tuneable IF such as an FT817 or your normal rig with the power turned down.

Most of the parts are available locally except for perhaps the xtal and mixer but this shouldn't be a problem.

Till next time 73 de VK3AXH

Ray and Bob, two Government maintenance guys, were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up.

A woman walked by and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole", said Bob, "But we don't have a ladder."

The woman said, "Hand me that wrench out of your toolbox."

She loosened a few bolts, then laid the pole down.

She then took a tape measure from their toolbox, took a measurement and announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches" and walked away.

Ray shook his head and laughed. "Well, ain't that just like a 'Miss-know-it-all' woman?" he said. "We need the height and she gives us the length!"

Ray and Bob are still working for the Government.

Salgoud



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The Importance of Fishing

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife came for counselling.

When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the years they had been married.

On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured.

Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched - with a raised eyebrow. The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?"

"Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays,

.....But I fish on Fridays.

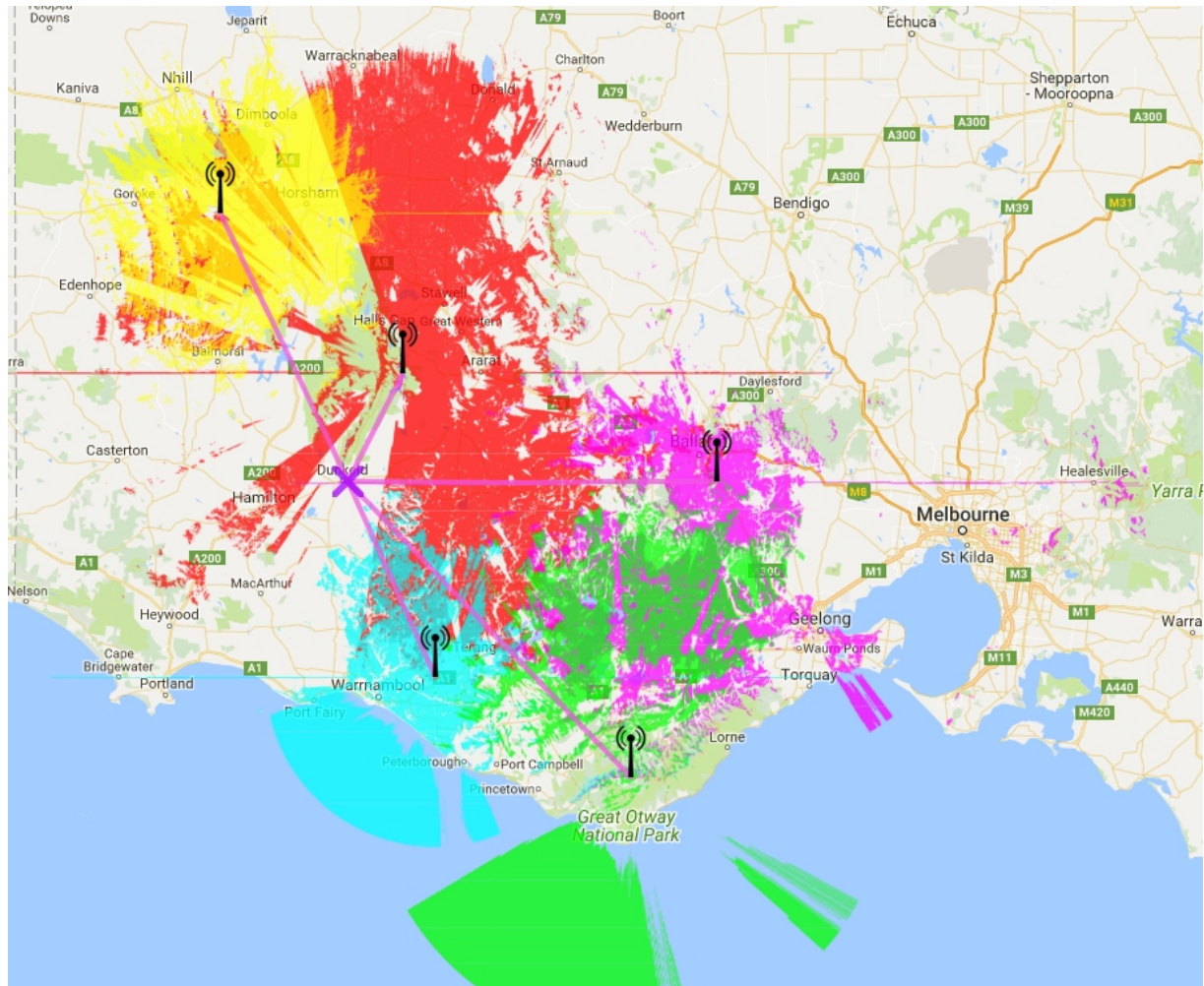
George Fowler Auction Photos



Round The Web

HeyWhatsThat

'Hey What's That' is a signal mapping site that enables checking of 'line of site' access between two locations. It also draws coverage maps for multiple transmission towers. It's actually pretty easy to use, once you've worked out how to do it. I thought it was interesting, so I've written up a short tutorial that should allow you to get going a lot faster than what it took me.



Mapping of LOS coverage of a few western Victoria repeaters.

1) Go to <http://wisp.heywhatsthat.com/>. In the left bottom is an address box, adding the address of the location your interested in seeing coverage of. I used "Buninyong, Victoria, Australia". It'll take house addresses to get it more accurate. An "X" will be placed at that location. You can drag and drop the X marker if you think it's not quite right, or if you want a location that doesn't have an actual address.

Customer location
buninyong,victoria, australia
Elevation above ground: 20 feet
<-- --> Streetview
Create tower at this location
Get from server ... ▾ Send
Profile freq:
 5.8 2.4 900



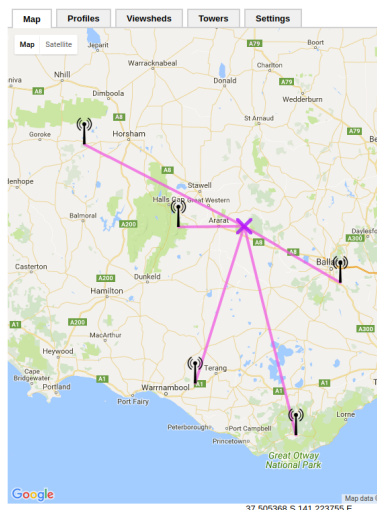
2) Next, go to the “Towers” tab. Delete the sample sites, and fill in the form for the sites of interest. I’ve loaded in a few Western Victoria repeaters. The ACMA license database has the lat & long grid references for every station, under the site details.

ACMA license searches are here: https://web.acma.gov.au/rrl/register_search.search_dispatcher

On the towers tab you can also set the colours for the coverage maps. Look at the examples and the ones I’ve used to get an idea on how that works.

I recommend that you do an export at this point. At least for me, the site kept resetting the tower data, and typing it back is a pain, but doing an import is easy.

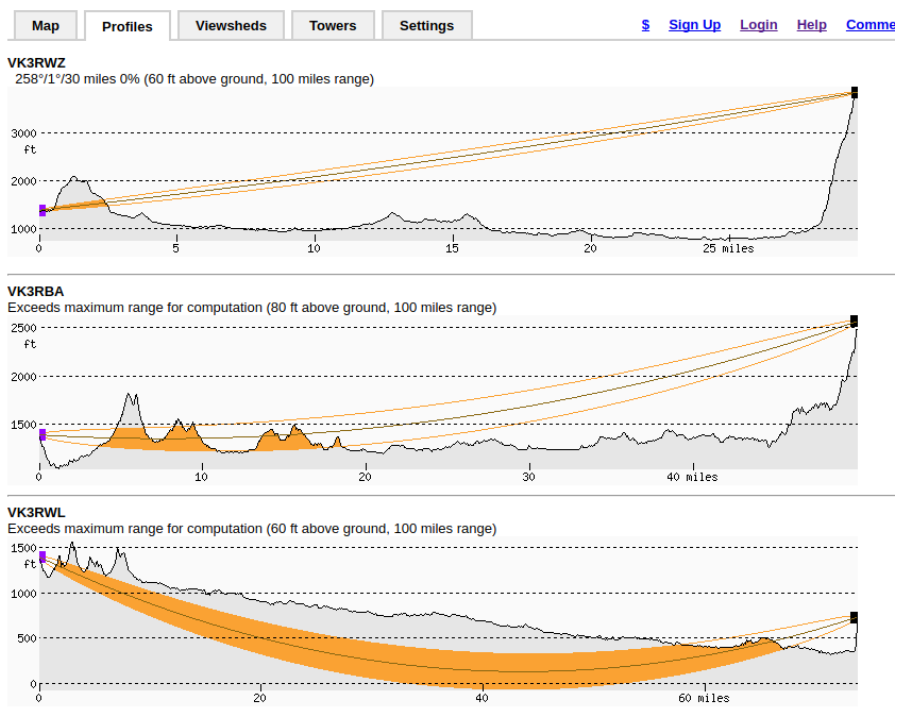
Name	Latitude	Longitude	Tower height (ft agl)	Range (miles)	Viewshed color (RGBA)	Delete
VK3RWZ	37.293081 S	142.601203 E	60	100	#000020	X
VK3ROW	38.633254 S	143.563896 E	60	100	00ff0020	X
VK3RWL	38.304936 S	142.737853 E	60	100	00ffff20	X
VK3RWM	36.752317 S	141.835941 E	60	100	ffff0020	X
VK3RBA	37.65293 S	143.926465 E	80	100	#00ff20	X
... enter new tower here ...						



3) Go to the Map tab, and tick the boxes for each tower that you interested in. Now’s the time to drag the ‘X’ around if needed.

4) Go to the “Profiles” tab. You should see a ground profile and line of site lines, account for curvature of the earth. (No the earth is not flat!)

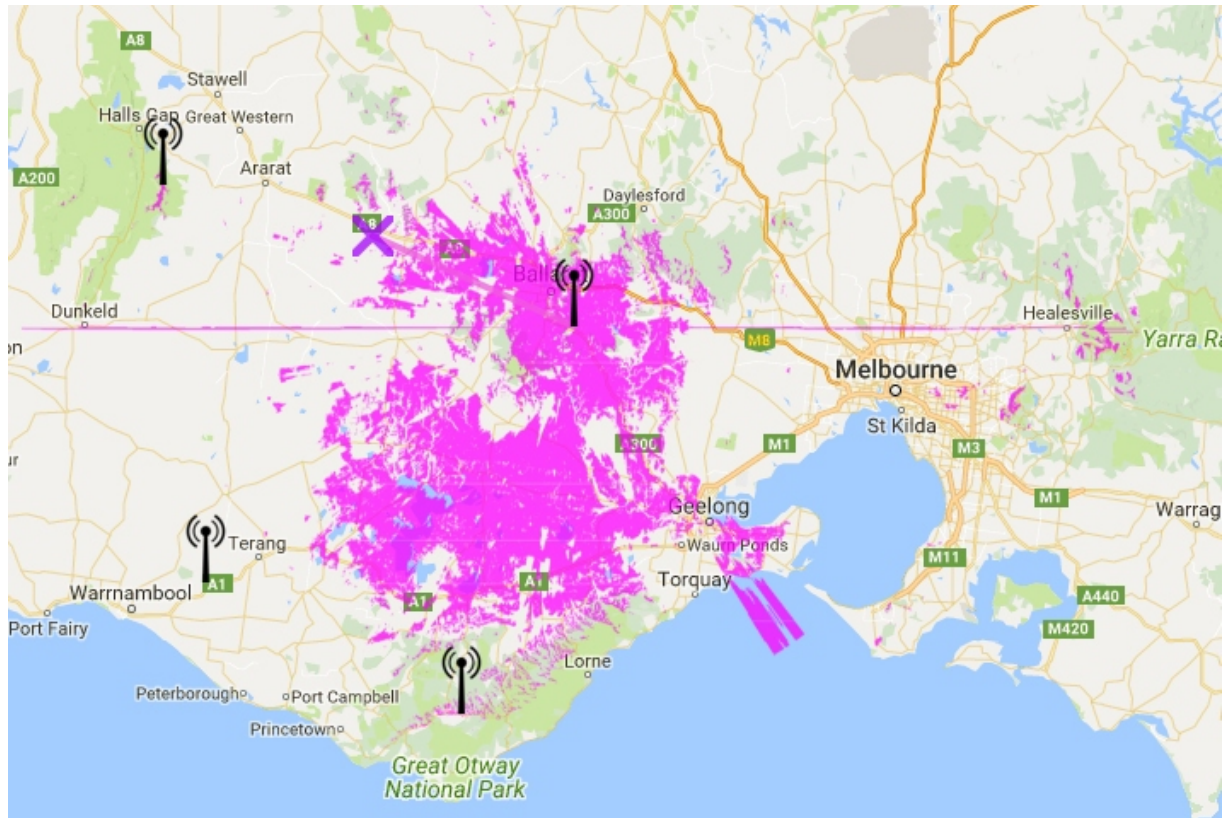
If you don’t, try pushing the LOS button. Calculation is not automatic if the server is busy apparently.



5) Go to the “Viewsheds” tab. You should see the map straight away, but it might take some time add the coverage colours for each tower. Especially if you have 5 towers, which is the max for the free demo. So be patient for at least a minute.

If the map doesn't display at all, or you can only see a small area, you'll probably need to start again. (Remember what I said about doing an export on the towers tab!)

Here's the output for VK3RBA. There's a few small direct line of site spots in the Grampians, and some patchy coverage even out on the Yarra Ranges.



There's more comprehensive tutorials on the help page, and lots of notes about what the tool can and cannot do. I found that the key was doing every step in order. i.e. Towers, Map, Profiles and lastly Viewsheds.

If you want to know a specific sites lat and long is, try <http://www.latlong.net/>

Check it, let me know what you think. <http://wisp.heywhatsthat.com/>

DIYODE

There's a new paper based electronics hobby magazine about to come out. Though the site says it's for electronics enthusiasts.

If they do as good a job on the mag as they've done on the pre-release publicity, then it'll be great.

<https://diyodemag.com/>

- P4/5 Index
- P9 Editorial. Fighting the Last war or the Next?
- P24 Letters from membes
- P30 Lightning protection for the Amateurs Home. Very worthwhile reading this article. !!
- P36 AREDN A High Speed Data Network. Using 3.4GHz and 2.2GHz as a backbone.
- P41 6 Meter Polar Es – An underutilised Propagation Mode.
- P43 The Rhombic Loop Twofer. Used on 80 – 6 meters.
- P47 Easy make Three Band Dipole for Field days. 20-15-10 M Home brewing at its best.
- P51 Review: Yaesu FT 891 HF & 6Meter thransceiver.
- P58 Review: Apache Labs PiPHPSDR controller for ANAN SDR's.
- P62 Review: Micronode International
- P65 Review: Efactor Dual Band 144/432 MHz Antenna. An interesting design.
- P66 Review: Xuron TK3500 Home Electronics tool kit.
- P68 The Doctor. Splicing coax with PL258 UHF Barrel Connectors. Compares to PL259, also what impact do trees have adjacent to LF/HF antennas near by.
- P70 What is the Outernet ? How is it associated with Inmarsat satellites and free 20MB text content awaiting users. <https://outernet.is>
- P71 Hands on Radio. Experiment#173. The PC Trace at RF.
- P73 Hints & Kinks. GPS Interface for ID 880H, A Dollar dummy load, and more on the Load Bank. See QST H&K Feb 2017.
- P76 Scouting on the Summit. www.k2bsa.net www.scouting.org/LocalCouncilLocator.aspx
- P77 The Science of Field day. Multiple Web references available Too many to list here. Topics can be displayed are Propagation, www.dxmaps.com whisper, use Spectrum lab, Radio Astronomy, SETI and others.
- P80 The Nerd Wagon. Uses a garden trolley to pack all gear for Field days into a van.
- P82 Happenings: Gains of two more bands, 472-479kHz(630M) and 135.7-137.9 kHz (2200M)
ARRL reiterates its case for new band at 5 MHz. (60M)
- P85 Review: ARRL Introduction to Communication Course.
- P87 Contests listing for June 2017. www.arrl.org/contests
- P95 How's DX. The Six VK9 Island Group. Interesting background for Australian sites.
- P97 World above 50MHz's. Temperate Zone Sporadic E Model.
- P101 Software Defined Radio by Andrew ZL3DW. Avail from Amazon and Ebooks.
- P102 Classic Radio. The Astatic D-104 Microphone. Long history from 1930's till 2001 however still popular to use and available on Ebay sites from time to time.
- P105 Illuminated Callsign for the shack. www.radiohausamerica.com/produto.php?prod=1671 powered from 12V DC. USD50.
- P106 QST Index from JUNE 1917, 1967 and 1992
- P156/7 Index to QST Advertisers.

That's all for this month.

73 Craig VK3KG



- P10 Getting Started on 5MHz (Part 2)
- P13 Review: The Acom 1500 Linear Amplifier.
- P16 Review: The SPE Expert 1.3K-FA solid state Linear Amp.
- P18 Prac Wireless 144MHzQRP Contest.
- P23 Valve & Vintage The old Army No 19 radio set.
- P28 An SDR Based Spectrum analyser
- P30 Data Modes An improved RF Power meter.
- P34 World of VHF.
- P40 Buying Second Hand. Rallies and Hamfests.
- P42 G3WIR The Burnham Beeches Radio Club.
- P44 What Next.? World Wide Flora & Fauna awards programme
- P48 Technical for Terrified. Coaxial Connectors.
- P52 HF HIGHLIGHTS. Dxcc Deletions.
- P55 In the Shop. Speech Quality on Radio Links.
- P60 MorseMode and news from down under in VK4.
- P62 Letters.

Well that's all for the June edition.

73 Craig

VK3KG



- P13 Spotlight on Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L.
 - P24 Letters
 - P30 Low Pass filter for HF Operations.
 - P35 Portable Full Duplex satellite station.
 - P39 Flying Saucer Resonators for the HF Bands.
 - P41 WSPR Weekends. 150mW and an Omnidirectional antenna.
 - P44 Ubuntu MATE.
 - P45 Review: Elecraft KX2 HF QRP Transceiver. 80 – 10M
 - P 51 Review: QRP CW Transceiver. The MTR-3B by LNR Precision.
 - P55 Review: Alpha Antenna 10-40Meter Magnetic Loop Antenna.
 - P57 Review: Mastrant Antenna Guy rope and Accessories.
 - P58 Review: Flex Radio's Smart SDR for iOS.
 - P60 The Doctor answers Q about Yagi elements to boom centre, ESR meters & RF band limits.
 - P62 Hands On. Ex 172. Wire Characteristics at RF.
 - P64 Tech Correspondence. RF exposure, Upper or Lower SB. Calc ant lengths, Cap Temp Coefficients.
 - P66 Hints. Generator pass thru cabling, Contest tuning adjustment, Coax seal substitutes.
 - P68 Enjoying the Outdoors & Amateur Radio.
 - P71 Gear for Portable Operations. Are you ready ?
 - P74 Increase your CW speed with Wordsworth. Fldigi from www.w1hkl.com/
 - P76 Urban activation from the Stoop. A go anywhere kit.
 - P79 WB8ELK Master of High Altitude balloon launchers.
 - P81 Mini scaffolding for Mobile Solar Power use.
 - P95 How's DX. Island of the Air now introducing Digital Confirmations.
 - P97 World above 50MHz. Looks at major Gulf Tropo back in Februarys.
 - P102 Classic Radio. The National NVX-5 Transceiver.
 - P106 QST Indexes for May 1917. May 1967 and May 1992.
- That's all this month.
- 73 Craig VK3KG



- P5 Index
- P6 Keylines Interesting action on QRZ.com and what you can do with your details. Also a timely warning and understanding about insurance and possible litigation when conducting activities outside your shack environment.
- p7 Newsdesk. 5 MHZ News and 14 new allocations [UK & Europe] NEVADAMAST display a new telescopic trailer mounted mast for field days or holiday trips. DAYTON has moved.! Now 20miles from Dayton at Xenia show grounds
- P10 Review: LDG have a Remote Auto ATU the RT/RC-100. (160-6M) and up to 100W.
- P14 VK6VZ discusses the Battle Creek inverted L Special Part 1.
- P17 Review: Frequency Counter & Crystal Tester Kit.
- P18 Making Waves. Fading & Multipath propagation.
- P23 Emerging Technology. Amateur transmissions may soon power other transmitters on a wirelessly connected world.
- P26 The Siren 6cm WBFM Station Part 1,
- P30 A Warning, A Calibrator and a Talking PI. (see last months copy p 32)
- P34 World of VHF. Satelite Activity from Algeria, low cost headsets for handhelds & software for MD-380 and Baofeng UV-5R HTT.
- P40 A Five Way Coaxial Switch. Very simple switcher for antennas.
- P42 Review RETEVIS RT22 UHF Handhelds
- P44 Valve & Vintage looks at Ships and Aircraft radios. Admiralty 5AH (1.5 – 13MHZ AM/CW 12 -20W. and the Aircraft set is the ARC-52 UHF 1750 channels between 225-399.9MHz with AM at 20W. The PA valve is a 4X150D really capable of 150W up to 500MHz. Certainly underated here.
- P47 60M in the Antilles [Netherlands]
- P50 Build a Modern discrete Crystal Calibrator. Interesting project for markers from divider the chain.
- P54 CNC Produced Printed Circuit boards. There are a number of You Tube files to watch.
- P60 RSGB has a Five year strategy for its future. Read interview with Steve G0FUW.

73. Craig VK3KG

