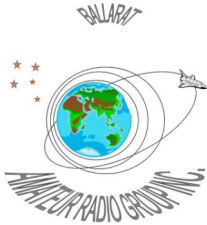


BARG News



Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. # 6953T
ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2012



President: John Kennedy VK3AIG
Secretary: Doug Ellery VK3FDRE
Treasurer: Roger de Valle VK3ADE

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY AUGUST 28, 2012
At 7.30 pm

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

BARG INC. LIFE MEMBERS

Maurie Batt *	
Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL
Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Phil Seddon	VK3AQM
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC
Stan Widgery *	
Jim Wright *	

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RWA*	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	147.100 MHz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(2 m Packet Repeater)	144.750 MHz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(70 cm Voice Repeater)	438.475 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(70 cm Beacon)	432.535 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBU-1	(2 m APRS Repeater)	145.175 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RBT	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	146.650 MHz	Green Hill

* IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

CLUB e-mail vk3bml@barg.org.au.

CLUB NET VK3BML 3.608+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

WIA Broadcast Sunday 11.00 am via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to Harry VK3KGL

Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail member.vk3kgl@barg.org.au

Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater

Every Sunday at 11.00 am, WIA National News.

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat



QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

QST Review 2012-August & Sept



QST Review 2012- 6 August

- P4/5 Index this month.
- P9 Restrictive Covenants.
- P20 Collins AN-ART13 and BC348 Command gear in B29 Superfortress . Nostalgic pics.
- P24 Letters from Members
- P30 The DSP-610 Transceiver. A Homebrew challenge..
- P33 Make your own Light Duty Pan Brake for the workshop bending projects.
- P36 Digital Interface for Fldigi. For Linux
- P39 Remote Radio control made easy..
- P.41 Rethinking Electrical Power Use of some Solar Panles.
- P44 Check you Coax cables quickly. Use an Analyser.
- P46 My Tuner Tuned my Antenna but Now it doesn't
- P47 REVIEW: Remote Automatic Antenna Tuners MFJ-994BRT & MFJ-998RT.
- P51 REVIEW: ICOM ID-31A 70cm Handhld with D STAR.
- P54 The Doctor, looks at questions about antennas & matching.
- P56 Eclectic Technology> 60Metres PSK31.
- P57 Hands on Radio: Exp 115. All about Tapers [resistive]
- P59 Short Takes: iDVM Wireless Multimeter.
- P60 Hints & Kinks. Repairing Wafer switches & potentiometers.
Mount elements to booms.
- P63 Big Haulage Hams,
- P65 Backpacking with Satelites.
- P68 100 Years of Amateur Licensing. The US Radio Act of 1912. The RMS
Titanic sinks in Apr 1912 and Amateurs from 1000Metres freq.
- P71 FCC Expands Medical devices into the 13cm Band. Amateurs are still the
Primary service though.
- P89 Op-Ed: Why are we Hams? Provoking reasons.
- P90 Dxing from VK/ZL. An Aussies view by Ernie VK3FM/VK3CEW.
- P92 World above 50Mhz. First Bermuda to Finland contact on 6M.
- P97 Vintage Radio. Making AM a bit better.
- P102 What was in QST for August 1937, 1962 and 1987?
- P156 Index to QST Advertisers.

73 Craig

- VK3KG



QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

QST Review 2012-August & Sept



QST Review 2012- 9 Sept

- P4/5 Index this month.
- P9 It Seems to Us: The CEO's page. Endurance includes SK for Dick Baldwin W1RU IARU President Emeritus. 21 June 2012.
- P24 Letters from members.
- P30 Uncooperative Tree antenna on 75M.
- P33 Tone Magic. Explains Tone Burst, CTCSS, DTMF, LITZ and DCS tones.
- P36 Using a garden cart to carry the station for Scouts or Field day operations.
- P40 What's in the July/August edition of the QEX magazine?
- P41 Radio in a Bag or your "go kit" in an Emergency.. See design for a small J Pole antenna with support base..
- P41 Calculate storage battery capacity for Public Service.
- P45 Review: TenTec R4040 Four Band CW QRP Transceiver.
- P49 Review: The Q52 Portable two element, five band HF beam.

- P52 Technical Correspondence looks at using the DELTA Loop antenna's.
- P54 The Doctor is in.

- P56 Short Take: The Comet CHV-5V HF Multiband Rotatable dipole.
- P57 Hands on RADIO. Ex 116. The Quarter Three Quarter Wave Balun.
- P59 Hints & Kinks: Mini GoBox, Tiny Trickle charger & Quick Whip Antenna.
- P61 SCOUTING AND Amateur radio, a great combination.
- P63 Your Antenna is on fire. An interesting story. Are you safe?
- P66 Mort Rogoff W2EE (SK) from Radio to RADAR, Spread Spectrum, Random Noise code, the GPS and shipping Electronic charts.

- P69 How much radio gear do you need? www.arrl.org/buying-your-first-radio
- P71 JOTA 55. How Big is your World. Oct 20/21.
- P 73 Happenings looks at the Disaster Comms in Colorado bush fires.
- P76 Public service. At ground zero. One hams story.
- P86 Hows DX 3D2 Conway Reef 24Sept to 5 Oct.
- P88 World above 50Mhz. Tribute to Gene Zimmerman W3ZZ.
- P92 Ham gathering on the Queen Mary 2 includes three from VK.
- P93 Historic Wireless Station MSC on Nantucket Is.
- P98 Op-Ed. Prepare you "Go box" now and not when some emergency calls.
- P102 75, 50 and 25 years ago index.
- P142 ARRL Photo competition. Worth a look.
- P156 Index of QST Advertisers.

73 Craig
• VK3KG

SOTA – How to be a Chaser.

Summits on The Air (SOTA) is now active in VK3. Whilst still in early stages it is steadily growing. SOTA needs chasers and activators. Activators will climb or walk their way to the top of prominent summits and chasers will make contact to complete the activation.

The easiest way to get involved is to chase.

A *chaser* is a ham radio operator or a short wave listener (SWL) who tries to find an *activator* transmitting from a summit. The ham chaser earns points by making contact with the activator; the SWL chaser earns points by hearing and logging contacts made with the activator. Chasing can be done anywhere, from the comfort of your shack or from any other location, portable or mobile. If a contact is made and the minimum required information is exchanged, *chasers* earn points. *Chasers* have an important role in the SOTA program because an *activator* needs at least four (4) valid contacts in order to earn activation points for a given summit.

You can chase without needing to do anything apart from operate your radio and contact the activator, but using the SOTA resources to log and spot QSOs does several things: It makes the contacts by the operator eligible for SOTA chasing awards and it gives SOTA activators greater encouragement to activate summits as they will know that there are people who will be attempting to chase these contacts. More SOTA activations then leads to giving other operators more interesting and varied QSO opportunities.

If you wish to claim your contacts then there is a little bit of work to do. There are no charges or obligation other than to enjoy the chase. So to get ready, go to the SOTA website <http://www.sota.org.uk/> and read through each of the tabbed sections from "Home" to the "About SOTA" in order to get the "big picture" of SOTA and the organizational structure of the program. Once across the details you will register your call sign to create an account.

You create an account with your email and call sign details. The association is "VK3 Victoria Australia" so go to – the SOTA website and create an account. <http://www.sotadata.org.uk/register.aspx> .

Once you have a SOTA account you will want to join the Yahoo Group called SOTA_Australia - http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/SOTA_Australia . Members of this group receive emails notifying of upcoming activations. Almost all Activators will post a preliminary notice to this group with details their plans. This group also has valuable resources for all SOTA activities and is not just for Activators.

Now you are ready for the chase. First you need to ensure the quarry will be around. An Activator typically creates an alert several days – or even weeks in advance to inform all chasers about the upcoming activation. They are posted to the SOTA site - <http://www.sotawatch.org/alerts.php> and to the Yahoo group.

Often an Activator's planned start time is only a guess. An Activator's start time or frequency can be wrong due to many legitimate reasons including inclement weather or unforeseen obstacles. Now this is where the chaser demonstrates advanced skills of stalking and patience. Understanding the activators pattern of activation will be an advantage. For example VK3WAM will try to spot to SOTA Watch once on site before setting up his station to give forward notice. Initial calls will be on SSB then switch to CW for the afternoon.

Once you have tracked the activator and made contact you need to gather information for a valid contact. This consists of TIME, CALLSIGN, FREQUENCY, and REPORT. Log your QSO date in UTC. All SOTA times are in UTC and the SOTA "activation day" is 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC. If the activation spans

the 0000 utc date change, a Chaser can make a second QSO for points, effectively a 2x number of points for the single Activation.

A Chaser who finds an Activator will generally spot the contact on SOTAWatch. Activator self-spotting is subject to phone network coverage. Whilst most summits have coverage this is not guaranteed. Most activators will be dependent of the chasers to spot for them. Some activators will use APRS to allow the tracking enroute to the Peak. You can use - <http://aprs.fi> to verify activation timings.

Add a spot on - <http://www.sotawatch.org/spots.php?action=new> as this will help other chasers and ensure the activator gains the contacts required for a valid activation. A spot includes the CALLSIGN, FREQUENCY, and SUMMIT.

SOTA is a Awards program. Both Activators and Chasers accumulate "points" which allow each group to be eligible for specific Awards. See <http://www.sota.org.uk/Awards> for specific information about Chaser Awards. You will need to report your SOTA contact to claim your point(s). You need the CALLSIGN, SUMMIT, TIME and the BAND you just used. To claim your points you need to log your contact in SOTAWatch - <http://www.sotadata.org.uk/logon.aspx?returnurl=addChaser.aspx>

Congratulations, you are now a part of a dynamic growing component of Amateur radio. Enjoy your participation and encourage your friends to participate.

Allen
VK3HRA

A word from our new president

Having not sat in the seat yet I feel a bit **reluctant** in putting pen to paper.

But as they say "The show must go on".

Having said that I must thank Ian , Roger, and Doug for sitting at the desk and Doing a great job.

I say a special thanks to Craig for a job well done. I cannot imagine the hours and distance travelled over the last two years.

It is very gratifying to hear the good ideas coming forward for the year to come.

We are no different to a lot of other groups who are struggling to keep afloat, and a group is only as good as the enthusiasm of its members, and that comes about by interest and input by all.

The Hamvention is just around the corner and will require all hands on deck.

Many thanks

John VK3AIG.

SILENT KEY.

Ray Naughton VK3ATN at Birchip on 15 Sept aged 83 years. Ray was a pioneer here in Australia of Moonbounce activities and was a very active amateur in the 1960's on VHF bands.

His business in supplying many things for the radio amateur is well known to many OT's. He will be missed.