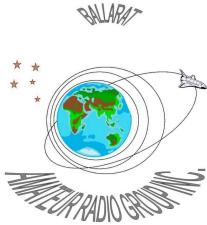


BARG News



Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. # 6953T

ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2009



President: Doug Raper VK3VBA
Secretary: Doug Ellery VK3FDRE
Treasurer: Peter Pollard VK3FPOL

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY October 23, 2009
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

Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL
Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Phil Seddon	
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS and BEACON

D—STAR

CALLSIGN:	MODE:	FREQUENCY:	TX OFFSET:	USER SETTINGS
VK3RBA A	Digital Data	1298.700 MHz	Nil (half duplex)	URCALL: VK3RBA RPT1: VK3RBA A RPT2: not in use
VK3RBA B	Digital Voice	439.9875 MHz	-5.0 MHz	URCALL: CQCQCQ RPT!: VK3RBA B RPT2: not in use

VK3RBA (UHF)	(70 cm Voice Repeater (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access))	439.275 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBA (VHF)	(2 m Voice Repeater)	146.750 MHz	Mt Buninyong
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

* **IRLP** Node 6310 using VK3RWA

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

CLUB NET VK3BML 3.610+/- 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

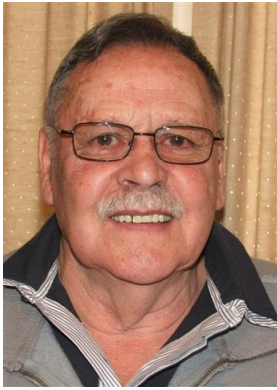
Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail vk3kgl@barg.org.au

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



Doug, VK3VBA

Presidents Report

PRESIDENTS REPORT

This is a busy month for BARG members, a lot of preparation work has already been done by our Hamvention committee at this stage things are looking good with table bookings increasing almost daily.

The new venue is looking good, we wont know ourselves having a venue with carpet throughout the building also approx one third of the building is completely new with the east wall with floor to ceiling glass consequently plenty of light, Red safety jackets have been ordered for our members wheeling exhibitors goods into the building, we are looking for members to bring along trolleys on the day to get exhibitors goods in quickly.

Thanks to Gordon 3fgc and John 3cfh for completing another two trestle tables our total is now 12 tables, I did help or was I a hindrance.

We are looking for help on the Thursday or Friday before the event to transport tables from a local church and then set them up at the venue help would be gratefully appreciated.

Other things happening is the tree that has given us grief re our internet connection has been pruned instead of it being 50 foot high it is now approx 3 inches high even the people in the building next door are very happy with the result.

For anybody who did not watch Deal or no Deal on the 6/10/09 the result for our treasurer was excellent he walked away with \$ 24-000-00, what worries me is that on the 8/10/09 he took off to Barcelona for two weeks, hope he comes back (I am sure he will) all jokes aside congrats Peter, our group at the moment have people coming and going BNC KGL and John AIG are back from Queensland but Peter FPOL off to Barcelona and Bob NBV off to WA 400 kms up from Perth.

Also this month we have our pilgrimage to Damascus College to give lessons to year 10 students on the virtue of Amateur Radio, six members are involved in this community effort.

Also JOTA is on also this month it would appear that it will be a very low key event for us.

Our guest speaker last month a Funeral Director was very interesting he certainly had a lot of questions asked of him.

We will not have a guest speaker this month because it was decided that we have too many loose ends to tie up re the hamvention.

That's all for now see you at the meeting
Doug, Vk3vba

BARG AWARDS

I presented this article in our news letter in 1999 with the assistance of Geoff 3adb (silent key) 1977 was our first award as a group (Begonia award) Reg Barker vk3ngy holds certificate No1 BNC was president.

Stations were also run at Lake Goldsmith with the assistance of a steam driven generator they were called Gold Rush Awards they were held in the 1980s .

DX widows award were produced by Henry vk3dxc as a fund raiser for our hamvention at the Marty Bush oval, next year we had stickers produced by Henry 3dxc he kindly gave BARG copyrigjht.

Interest dropped off then Cliff 3ccb now 3cb started running the net and awards become fashionable again.

If you qualified for two awards eg Western District award and the Gold Rush award you received free of charge our a DX widows award.

Our last attempt to run an award was the Eureka award in 1995 this was designed by Norm vk3lba.

To qualify for the Goldrush award dx need 5 contacts, locals need 10 contacts on any band any mode.

Western District award were on Mondays at 19-00hrs 3.585 + or - or 146-950 time.

Awards have fallen by the wayside I would love to see them re introduced, we have members who have probably not viewed any of these awards.

Perhaps we could sell our DX widow awards on our club table at this years H/vention ?

Doug vk3vba

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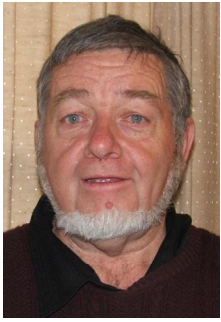
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QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

QST Review 2009 - 9 September



- P9** Editorial Discusses the Pecuniary Interests of employers in the Amateur radio bands. In the USA of course ?
- P30** A Gel cell battery charger for low power stations.
- P33** Integrated station control using junk box parts.
- P35** Need a simple RF transformer to measure your antenna current.
- P36** How do we measure Radio Frequencies, the old way.
- P40** HF Roundtable using SKYPE based VoIP bridge.
- P44** Product Review. Expert 1K-FA linear amplifier.
- P47** Antenna Accessories from ARRAY Solutions.
- P50** The Doctor, answers questions on Hor square loops, earthing stations and ATU on receivers.
- P52** Short Takes. Reviews NGenLog for Windows
- P54** Getting on the air. Your voice can be heard.
- P55** Hands on Radio #80 Battery capacity
- P57** Hints & Kinks Assembly of N connectors, RS232 Tx control.
- P59** Where is bike #59? APRS in action.
- P62** Keeping your tower safe.
- P63** Happenings. FCC continues to debate the BPL issues.
- P66** Emergency Communications in preparation.
- P72** Universal Texting message initiative.
- P76** New products
- P87** World above 50Mhz. The unfixables
- P91** Eclectic Technology. A D-star repeater up in space.
- P92** Vintage radio and displaying your old radios. Good looking console.
- P99** Reviews QST for Sept 1934, Sept 1938, Sept 1984.
- P101** Hamspeak. Words explained page by page in the massacre.

Another good months reading.

PLEASE NOTE !!!

This month meeting is brought forward one week.

Due to Hamvention being at the 25th of October.

October Meeting 23rd of October, 2009

What's Going On In Your Shack

This could be a new segment for the magazine where a roving reporter reports to BARG members each month what's going on in your shack.

To start things off a visit has been made to two shacks namely John VK3AIG and Ian VK3AXH to reveal progress regarding one of their current projects.

You will notice by the photo's below that each station is sporting a new dish. It's the intention of both members to have a go at 1296MHz EME using both digital and CW modes of operation and if lucky some SSB as well when contacting some of the bigger stations.

John's setup will be using a 2.6m dish and a 150 watt amplifier. Ian will be using a 3.7m dish and a 270 watt amplifier. Both amps have been sourced from Alan VK3XPD and modified accordingly to meet what each is planning to do.

It's also planned that some automated tracking be employed to make it easier to track the moon. In the first instance there will be some testing done to measure sun noise to see what sort of performance can be achieved.

Considerable setup and planning is required to develop such installations where the mechanical setup is quite critical together with low loss coaxial lines, low loss preamplifiers and all sorts of switching and calibration to ensure both stations operate at maximum efficiency.

Both John and Ian expect to be conducting tests during the warmer months and hopefully have some contacts as well. We'll keep all posted regarding progress.

Don't be surprised if you get a call from the roving reporter to take pictures of your shack and get stories from you about your activities.

73's Ian VK3AXH



JOHN, VK3AIG



IAN, VK3AXH

Construction Group

As the CTCSS project is coming to a close with only a few members to finish the pcb and connect it to their rigs we are looking for suggestions as to what we may undertake next.

There have been a couple of suggestions one being a beeper which is used during field days by VHF/UHF operators as a tuning aid for peaking antenna's. It comprises the use of a 555 timer and a few components mounted "dead bug" style and runs from its own 9 volt battery and connects to the CW jack of transceivers. If you have a use for this device or can suggest any other project please let Brian VK3KQB or Ian VK3AXH know.

Home Brew Competition for the BARG Hamvention

BARG members have been involved with many projects over the past few years making a range of items that are ideally suited to this competition. It's also a way to show the visitors what we do as a club. It doesn't matter if there is duplication as it shows what we can do as individuals. Some of the items made are listed below. If you have one of them please be part of this worthwhile event and enter the competition.

Details are available on the BARG website. If you have any questions please let any of the Hamvention Committee know and help will be provided. Remember we have been encouraged to support this activity so it's now time to do so.

List of Items from Construction Nights

1. HF antenna analyser with digital display
2. HF 100 watt dummy load
3. RF milliwatt meter
4. Stepped attenuator
5. Screwdriver antenna
6. VHF/UHF antenna analyser
7. Minikits transverters for 1296MHz and 2.4GHz
8. Audio Amplifier for portable scanners or handheld transceivers
9. CTCSS project
10. HF Balun

Join in and get satisfaction from displaying what you have done.

Further info from Ian VK3AXH