

BARG News



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

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President: Craig Cook VK3CMC
Secretary: Doug Ellery VK3FDRE
Treasurer: Bill Wells VK3PAL

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY October 28, 2011
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	VK3AQM
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC

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 membermember 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 2011- October



QST Review 2011 –10 Oct. .

What to find in this months edition.

- P4/5 Index this month.
- P9 Editorial. Power, and the importance of retaining it during an Emergency.
- P30 The mighty MOXON Mite. Use for the 70cm band. Makes for interest.
- P 34 Automating the Ameriton RCS-10 Remote Antenna Switch.
- P37 Receive Only Antenna Adapter.
- P40 Care and Feeding a 3-500ZG Amplifier.
- P42 The DK7PE Jumper beam.
- P44 A Remote Impedance Matching Network.
- P48 Folded Skeleton Sleeve on Other Bands. 80 thru 6Metres.
- P49 Product Review. ICOM IC7410 HF & 6M transceivers
- P 54 Review. Coaxial Dynamics Model 81041 USB Wattmeter.
- P56 The Doctor. Antenna size, Beads on coax feeder, dipoles and yagis.
- P59 Hands on Radio Exp 105. Gain-Bandwidth Product. What is it and how to applu it.
- P61 Hints & Kinks. Solder faults.In tower motor mount. Trapped Dipole Antenna.
- P64 DXPedition to CE9.
- P68 New 10Ghz record
- P71 Twitter and CW.
- P72 Amateur Radio down under. Australia that is.
- P76 Log Book of the World. What is it and how to learn more.
- P81 Happenings: Cosmonauts from ISS.
- P86 Eclectic Technology. Ubuntu operating system.
- P89 Hows DX.. Saba island 6 Meter Dxpedition.
- P91 World above 50Mhz. The 5PJ summer VHF Dxpedition.
- P96 Vintage Radio. The National NC-400 Receiver.
- P98 Microwavelengths. Circular Polarisation.
- P102 Whats in Indexs, Oct 1936, Oct 1961 and Oct 1986.

That's it for another month.

Hamspeak is no longer printed at the rear of the magazine but all technical terms used in articles are now included within each article. Still worth the time to read them.

73 Craig
VK3CMC
Oct 2011



That's how it was in our days

Here is something of interest from back in 1956 (Australia's Olympic year) and also the year when television started in Australia. Amateurs didn't always have the present 2M band (it was lower around 112Mhz I think) and we only received that allocation as result of the world conference in Atlantic City of 1947.

Back in 1956 there was no FM modes being used on amateur bands. I remember using Narrow Band FM on 2 M about 1963 as some others used it experimentally but it was still able to fit into the passband of an AM receiver. I had a small onboard valve slope detector built into an AR7 receiver which was switched in/out as needed. On 2M then the mode was AM although there were some using CW (morse) down the bottom edge of 144Mhz. Most activity was on crystal locked frequencies and within the first one Megahertz of band. There was always talk about losing the top two megs of the band due to inactivity until ex commercial carphones like the MR3A, MR6's and even the SCR522 were pressed into amateur service.

Channel 5A TV interference has only just been removed now that digital TV has gone into the UHF band and EME or Moonbounce is certainly very popular activity now especially on bands above 2M.

Back then if you had a Ch5A station or repeater within cooee of your station you found it very difficult to go on air because you would find problems from your neighbours near and far.!

Predecimal we had the Pound as basic value of money. (One pound was equivalent to two dollars) and there was no commercial gear available to buy unless it was military surplus and you then had to modify it to suit amateur needs. A station valued at 200 Pounds (read now \$400) would have been quite a station back then. You may buy a power supply today for that money but not a transmitter or receiver which were separate items.

Back then you built separate transmitters and receivers from scratch, or modified surplus.

Are you licensed to operate as a : Full AOCF or Limited AOCF.

The only difference then in the licence was CW. All amateurs sat for the same theory and Regulations papers (There were two separate ones) The pass mark was the same, set at 70% whether you were going to sit the CW or not. Feeling was strong back then that unless you copied CW at 14WPM you could not use the bands below 30Mhz. The limited licence allowed access to the 6M band and upwards with the same power and mode requirement as the AOCF but no access into the HF bands. Initially the Limited call signs used were the "Z calls" but as numbers increased they issued the block of Y and later the X until the new scheme of licensing came about with Novice and later the Foundation. I wonder how many can remember back to this time when the future of the 2M band was in doubt. This even preceded the loss of parts of the 70cm band because of the expansion with digital services and the State Mobile Radio system.