

B.A.R.G. News



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

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President: David Tilson VK3UR
Secretary: John Kennedy VK3AIG
Treasurer: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY November 25, 2005
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: vk3aig@barg.org.au



BARG Inc. Life members

Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC
Jim Wright	VK3CFB
Phil Seddon	
Stan Widgery	dec.

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475	
VK3RMB	(Beacon)	438.475	Mt Buninyong

IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RRWA

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 and Club Call Back. Sunday's 11.00 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



MOWING ROSTER

It is that time again when we publish the mowing roster for the Club rooms. The mower and fuel are at the rooms, but when the fuel is getting low please contact the committee to get a refill. Any new "mowers" will be fitted in.

Nov VK3AXH & VK3TJW

Dec. VK3NBV & VK3VBA

Jan VK3CMC & VK3IDL

President's Report:

It has been another busy and successful month at BARG. BARG opened up its club rooms as part of the Planes, Games and Automobiles display at the Ballarat Airport, which attracted a lot of interest. Our 2005 Hamvention was well attended and hailed a success and we have made progress on how we can introduce the new Foundation Licence to potential amateurs in the Ballarat region. Each of these topics will be covered in more depth throughout the newsletter, however please remember that it is you, our members, that make each of these initiatives possible.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, VK3UR

Ballarat Airport Open Day:

Saturday, 29th October, saw BARG opening its doors to the public as part of the Ballarat Airport – Planes, Games and Automobiles exhibition. Setup commenced after the General Meeting on the Friday night with members cleaning up the club rooms and rearranging them to best accommodate the visitors. Bob – **VK3BNC**, Harry – **VK3KGL** and John – **VK3TJW** set up 2 of the club's computers to display satellite tracking and some videos about amateur radio. Craig - **VK3CMC** setup an information stand about the Foundation Licence for potential amateurs and we also had a working HF, VHF and APRS station to demonstrate for visitors. The WIA kindly lent us some large posters and provided a number of handouts, including information flyers and copies of Amateur Radio magazine. Throughout the day we estimate that approximately 100 visitors had a look through the BARG club rooms and all spent quality time as members led them through the display explaining the hobby and answering questions. Two of the local Councillors from the Ballarat City Council also visited which adds to BARG's presence at the airport. The day also gave our members the opportunity to wander around and see the other displays and clubs that make up the airport precinct. Thanks to all of the members who assisted on the day to make the display a success.

Two photo's from the Ballarat Airport Open day.



Ballarat Hamvention:

Another great Hamvention took place on Sunday, 6th November. The weather could not have been better and although attendance numbers were down a little on last year we were very pleased with the final numbers. Approximately 365 people came through the doors looking for bargains, with many to be found, making it a successful day for the club.

A special thank you to the following companies and individuals who donated prizes for the raffle.

- Greg Andrews, Ballarat Auto Sound Specialists for the donation of a GME/Electrophone TM3200 UHF Transceiver and accessories.
- Alan Devlin, **VK3XPD**, RF Resale for the donation of a coaxial connector adaptor kit.
- Paul Karlstrand, **VK3KHZ**, PK's Antennas for the donation of an AM Broadcast Band Loop Antenna.
- Dave Wilson, TTS Systems for the donation of a \$50 Voucher.

Thanks to the ladies and the catering team for their assistance in ensuring that everyone was fed during the day.

Congratulations to John Watts, **VK3TJW**, who won the Home Brew Competition with his entry of an 80m SSB Transmitter.

November General Meeting:

The next General Meeting will be held on Friday, 26th November, commencing at the club rooms.

WIA Nominated Assessor:

Craig, **VK3CMC**, has accepted a role as a WIA Nominated Assessor. This is in addition to Craig's role as a WIA Accredited Assessor and assists with conducting examinations for remote candidates who may not be able to attend a regular examination. Well done Craig.

Repeater Update:

The new **VK3RWA** 2m repeater has been undergoing tests in the Ballarat area over the last few weeks. A few minor problems have been identified that need to be resolved prior to its move up to Mt Ben Nevis.

December Dining Night / Christmas Break Up:

The next Dining Night will be our Christmas Break Up and will be held on Friday, 16th December, commencing at 6:30pm at the club rooms. It will take the form of a BBQ. The club will provide meat and bread and could guests please bring salads and sweets. Note: The President is partial to chocolate sweets... For catering purposes could you please let Gordon know at the General Meeting so that we know how much to purchase.

Foundation Licence:

At the last General Meeting, a motion was passed for the Committee to investigate a possible new class of membership to attract new members as part of the Foundation Licence. The Committee discussed this in considerable detail and without requiring a change to the Constitution has agreed to create a Foundation Licence package comprising: 1 x set of Foundation Licence examinations, Foundation Licence Book, Foundation Licence Training Course and 1 year's membership to BARG. This package would normally cost \$100 and the Committee has agreed to reduce this to \$70. Details of the Training Course are yet to be developed and it is hoped that this can be offered to potential amateurs in the new year.

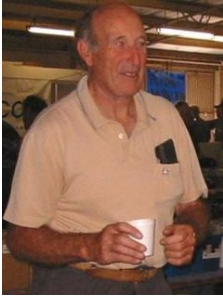
EDITORS NOTE:

As my internet connection has been disrupted for 8 days, I may have missed some other Newsletter articles. Trying to retrieve mail, I lost all for this week. If anybody send some articles this week, my apologies. Please could you resend articles for the next Newsletter.

Thank you.....

Harry de vk3kgf

October 2005 General Meeting Minutes



The meeting was opened by David VK3UR at 7:40pm

Apologies: VK3HRX, VK3BVI, VK3KQQ, VK3DET, VK3ASH, VK3CAZ, VK3AIG AND VK3BMY

The minutes of the September were circulated via the club newsletter with no business arising - moved VK3BEB, seconded VK3VBA, carried

Secretary Report – Stand in Secretary Ian VK3AXH - no correspondence

Treasurers Report – Gordon VK3FGC reported receipt of \$210 for the month

Expenses \$1349.58

Balance \$3314.91

Moved VK3FGC, seconded VK3CMC, carried

Reports

Committee Report – President VK3UR reported no response from local scout groups re JOTA, BARG to be involved in Airport Open Day on Saturday 29th October

Hamvention Report – Ian VK3AXH reported that 46 have been booked and that support was needed on the Saturday morning to setup and again on Sunday to manage traders and general admissions. Most other matters relating to food, prizes etc in hand. David VK3UR outlined the rules for the Home Brew competition

Dining Night – President David reported that 21 attended the Brothers in Arms at the Basket Ball Stadium – all had a great time...Next dinner to be held at the Pancake Kitchen as Buninyong Gold Club only have meals on Thursday evenings

Construction Night – Ian VK3AXH reports that good progress is being made by those involved and look forward to testing at the next get together.

Donation – Doug VK3VBA reported that through Reg VK3CAZ that a donation of bits and pieces to the club from a former member VK3FR had been made

Repeater Project – Ian VK3AXH reported the Ben Nevis repeater had been modified and was to be set up at VK3UR's QTH for further testing

Club Net – Craig VK3CMC reported all proceeding as normal with regular checkins each week from VK1/3/5

Newsletter – Harry VK3KGL reported a steep learning curve with his first newsletter and asked for more items to be published

Visits – Gordon VK3FGC and Ian VK3AXH spent Thursday 27th Nov at Damascus College to address two groups of students about the activities of amateur radio which was well received. Gordon also advised the Geelong Radio and Electronics Society were planning another visit to BARG around March 2006

General Business

Doug VK3VBA asked that a thank you be sent to Norm VK3LBA for his donation of surplus electronic components to BARG

Bob VK3NBV sought confirmation that Reg VK3CAZ membership fees had been received – all ok

John VK3CFH will be away for most of November (after the hamvention)

Craig VK3CMC advised the Foundation licence has now formally been introduced and will give a presentation at the end of the meeting. Craig also moved a motion that the committee investigate a special fee structure for foundation candidates becoming club members. Seconded VK3BNC – carried

Presentation

Craig VK3CMC gave an excellent power point presentation of the Foundation Licence requirements together with changes to the names etc of existing licensees.

Ballarat Airport Open Day

President David VK3UR outlined the plans for BARG's participation for the open day and sought assistance from members to achieve a successful presentation of the clubs amateur facilities for visitors.

REWARD OFFERED.

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of the desperate criminal Hop-A-Long Capacity.

This unrectified criminal escaped from a primary cell where he had been clamped in ions, awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Millihenry, who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a dc motor over a Wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band pass.

If encountered, he may offer resistance. The electro-motive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he went to ground. They had no success and believe he returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a megacycle with his friend Eddy Current, who was playing a harmonic.

Operational Report on the BARG Hamvention 2005

Well the 2005 hamvention has come and gone and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking all who helped with the lead up to the hamvention and each individual and group effort on the day.

I think BARG can be proud of conducting such an event given the number of increased traders (52) and the number of general admissions remaining consistent with previous years.

Whilst next years event is almost a year away we need to keep on top of the issues needing improvement to make the 2006 hamvention even more successful.

I pleased to advise I have received 2 calls from traders providing positive feedback particularly with collection of fees from traders as they entered the building and the arrangement for lunch orders. If you are aware of any adverse feedback then please let me know.

Pat yourselves on the back for a job well done.

73 lan vk3axh

Propagation Report for November 2005

Seems like Steve VK3SE has been busy again this month working DX on the HF bands. Bands worked include 40m, 15m, 20 and 10m with contacts as into the countries listed.

15m A35, H44, YC9, KJ6 and T88
40m KH5/7, JA, VK and ZL
20m A35, KH5/7, JA and VK
10m YA/IZ1CCK/p in Afghanistan and also T6X
ST2 in Sudan and heard 9K2GS Kuwait

Steve suggests now is a good time for those amateurs that have recently gained extra priveledges through the changes to licensing arrangements to get amongst the DX.

Ian VK3AXH reports that propagation in the VHF bands and above to relatively quiet this month. There has been some openings on 6m within VK and ZL but of duration.

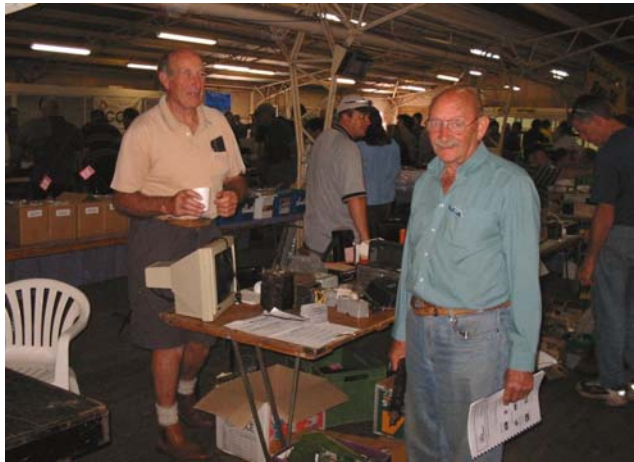
2m DX has been somewhat lacking with poor conditions generally throughout the past month.

Again I ask what's been happening in your shack. Have you recently got a new rig and if so what bands have you been listening/working on.

Till next month 73 lan vk3axh

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg, or a goose egg, depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Some photo's taken at the BARG Hamvention, November 6, 2005.



Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex



(also known as Tidbinbilla)

Opened on 19th March 1965, the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex forms part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Deep Space Network, that spans the globe.

If you ever visit the A.C.T., it's a must to see the complex.

Exploring the Solar System and beyond

Website: <http://www.cdsc.nasa.gov>

Deep Space Station 43 (DSS43) is the centre piece of the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex. At 70 meters in diameter and over 20 stories high, DSS43 is the largest steerable antenna in the Southern Hemisphere.

The original 64 meter antenna was opened in 1973. The antenna was enlarged in 1987 to 70 meters for the Voyager encounter with Neptune.



DSS—43

Interesting websites:

NASA: www.nasa.gov

Mt Stromlo & Siding Springs Observatories: msowww.anu.edu.au/

Hubble Space Telescope: (images from deep space)

hubble.stsci.edu/

Four giant radio antenna's dominate the complex. Each are referred to by a 'Deep Space Station' number.

Operating 24 hours a week, the DSS dishes provide two-way communication with unmanned spacecraft exploring the planets, and other moons, comets, asteroids, and other bodies throughout

Exploring the solar system and beyond

All website addresses begin with http://

No "www." required, if not indicated.

I visited the complex the 18th of November, 2005.

A very worthwhile visit.....vk3kgf

