

# BARG NEWS



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

**VOLUME 29 ISSUE 11 November 2006**



President: Bob Pitcher VK3NBV  
Secretary: Ian McDonald VK3AXH  
Treasurer: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 24, 2006**  
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](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au)



## BARG Inc. Life members

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Kevin Hughes    | VK3WN  |
| Ian McDonald    | VK3AXH |
| Charlie Stewart | VK3DCS |
| Bob Terrill     | VK3BNC |
| Jim Wright      | VK3CFB |
| Norm D'Angri    | VK3LBA |
| Phil Seddon     |        |
| Stan Widgery    | SK     |

## CLUB INFORMATION

### REPEATERS and BEACON

|        |          |             |               |
|--------|----------|-------------|---------------|
| VK3RBA | (Voice)  | 146.750 Mhz | Mt Buninyong  |
| VK3RWA | (Voice)  | 147.100 Mhz | Mt Ben Nevis  |
| VK3RPC | (Packet) | 144.750 Mhz | Mt Warrenheip |
| VK3RBU | (Voice)  | 438.475 Mhz | Mt Hollowback |
| VK3RMB | (Beacon) | 435.535 Mhz | Mt Buninyong  |

**IRLP** Node 6310 using VK3RRWA

**CLUB e-mail** [vk3bml@barg.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:vk3kgl@barg.org.au)

### Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater

Every Sunday at 10.30 am, WIA National News, followed by VICLINK

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat

Every Wednesday night at 9.30 pm, Spectrum Tasmania News

## 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.

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## Presidents Message.

Hi All,

I guess by now you've spent all your winnings from the Melbourne Cup on Christmas Presents. October 21/22 saw a successful weekend of JOTA at the PAX HILL scout camp. We were much appreciated by all and big thanks to John CFH who did all the organizing. I was in attendance there also and it was surprising how difficult it was to get out of there on radio.

Thanks to Doug VBA, Clem BVI and Merve ADX who lent helping hands on the other ends of radios at times. We used 40/80/2 metres and IRLP, that really needed a beam, I spent a lot of time putting various 2 metre antennas up trees, with Johns hammer on the end of a rope. No, the Landrover didn't lose its windows !!

John and I also went and picked up some pre-loved gear from George 3DS bound for the Hamvention. It all disappeared over a couple of days..

Another activity happening during the month was organized by The Doc CFH, Ian AXH, John AIG,. They were out pushing the wheelbarrow of Amateur Radio at Damascus College, so we might get a few new F calls coming from there. Well done Cobbers.

Our main function of the year has also been completed successfully, and that's the Hamvention.

This was put together ably by Ian AXH in our new location at the "Woolshed".

All went well, the traders came, the crowds came, and the goods went out the door, by the armfuls in some cases. Yes there were a couple of problems that will be discussed at committee and general meetings this week, which will improve for the next one. Congrats Ian, Great Job..

Looks like Craig CMC has another Training Session for the foundation License coming up for the weekend of December 16/17. Quite a lot of helpers are involved here too.

Publicity has been going on for club recently in newspapers, magazines, tv,radio. Thanks to Doug VBA, Ian AXH, and don't forget David UR who managed to be out of bed and on the ABC by 7.40am. Well done everybody.

There's a lot going on in this group and a lot are helping, from working bee's, construction nights, Dining nights, Meetings, where you get your say.

Buy the time you read this another dining night will have happened at Ballarat Lodge.

## VHF/UHF Field Day - VK3AXH



Some pics of our outing for the VHF/UHF field day this weekend. The two lads VK3IDL and VK3AXH operated from Green Hill on bands 6m, 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 13cm under callsign VK3IDL

Try this link for about 123 pages of circuit diagrams, manual, car manuals and all sorts of information.

[http://www.eserviceinfo.com/most\\_popular/list\\_0.html](http://www.eserviceinfo.com/most_popular/list_0.html)



John, vk3cfh running the Scouts Jamboree at Pax Hill



## HAMVENTION 2006



**Rick, vk3beb and David, vk3ur in charge of finance**



**Geoff, vk3adb and Cliff, vk3ccb talking old time**



**Ernie, vk3det and Len, vk3bmy selling their goods**



**Bob, vk3bnc and John, vk3cfh on the BARG table**



**Bill, vk3amh And "Woody", vk3agd**



**Old telly from the early fifties on offer**

## Radio Modernisation Project Update:

The Committee approved the purchase of a Diamond SX-100 VSWR meter which was obtained through **Strictly Ham**. The VSWR meter is functional from 1.6MHz – 60MHz.

Ross, **VK3SR**, from Melbourne has kindly donated a 13.8VDC @ 20A (continuous) rack mounted power supply to BARG for use with the project.




Merv, **VK3ADX**, and David **VK3UR**, installed the club's new TS-480sat, power supply and VSWR meter into the radio shack's console in time for the September General Meeting. The first contacts were made just prior to the General Meeting on 80m with club member Gavin, **VK3VTX**, who was on holiday in Mt Gambier and with Ballarat local David, **VK3KY**. Both gave excellent signal reports and the station has since been used several times, which is excellent to see.

The September General Meeting approved the purchase of a rotary dipole for the WARC-79 bands as well as an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) to protect the shack computer. A TZ-RD-3W Rotary Dipole has been ordered from **Rippletech Antennas** in Melbourne and is due to be delivered in early November. When installed this antenna will provide capabilities for the club to operate on 10, 18 and 24MHz. One of the next items to be sourced / purchased will be the UPS.

Vice President Roger, **VK3ADE**, generously donated a surplus computer towards the modernisation project and this is currently offsite being configured. The computer has the capability to support dual screens, which will enable a number of programs to be displayed simultaneously.

The **Wireless Institute of Australia** will be presenting the \$900 cheque to BARG as part of the WIA Clubs Grant Scheme at the BARG Hamvention in November. The WIA grant was allocated to purchase the new HF rotary dipole, obtain / install antennas for 160m and 6m and purchase computer controlled antenna switching equipment that will be ordered shortly.

We are still looking for a 50 ohm, 100W Dummy Load (1.8 – 30MHz minimum) for use as part of the project. If you can assist please contact David, **VK3UR**, on 5334-1888 (AH) or by email at [vk3ur@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3ur@barg.org.au).

|   |  |
|---|--|
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|---|--|



## The multi club BBQ in October.

Members from **CGARG**, **Midlands Amateur Radio Club** and **BARG** attended the BBQ in Laanecoorie.






## Chivalry is not dead!

One of our members was seen recently alighting from his car. The hatted gentleman carrying a white 2metre antenna was then approached by an attractive woman walking her dog “Can I assist you sir?” Oh actually I haven’t a sight impediment this is a radio antenna I’m carrying. With a grin and his thanks he no doubt walked off thinking well this is one way of attracting attention!

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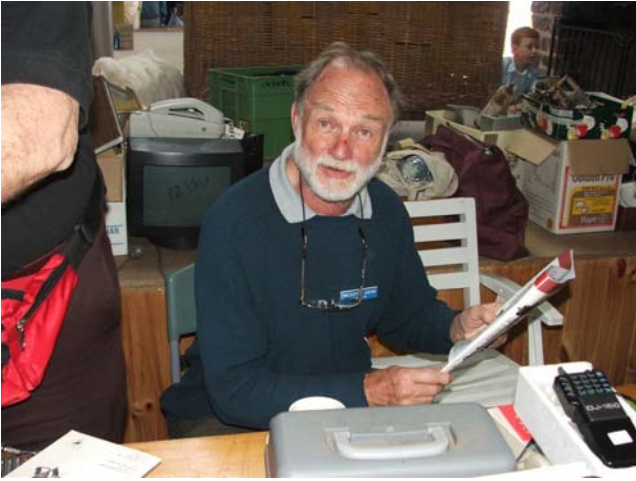
### Small article from the past.....

### Has anyone any information of this club?????

**75 Years Ago**  
★ The Ballarat Amateur Wireless Club is going ahead with remarkable rapidity, and expects a great accession of strength from the establishment of headquarters at the YMCA Hall where wireless fever has begun to develop.



# HAMVENTION 2006



**John, vk3cfh**



**Canteen busy with their food**



**John, vk3tjw lucky to get something to eat**



**Ballarat JAYCAR store stand**



**David receiving cheque from Michael Owen, vk3ki**



**Hopefully all happy shoppers**

## Propagation Report for September 2006

Well there has been some good openings on some of the HF band this past month. I have heard a few contests on and there were good DX contacts to be had on 80, 40 and 20 metres.

Roger VK3ADE reports that Doug VK3FDRE now has an excellent on 80 metres. I understand Doug has been working on his antenna setup so its great to see the improvement not only over the short distances but the ones further afield as well.

John Vk3AIG reports good signals to ZL on 160 metres with 599 reports in the early evening.....I might ask what's happening to all the 160 metre verticals we made?????

On VHF and above both Kevin VK3WN and Brian VK3KQB report some openings on 2 metres SSB to Tasmania and South Australia. David VK3YNB has also been active on a few of the bands.

### VK3AXH EME Activity since installation of a 4x5WL 144MHz Array

My 1<sup>st</sup> EME contact was with W5UN on 21/8/04 using a single 12el yagi with no elevation. A further 14 contacts were made using the single yagi until use of the new array began on 3/4/06. The array is by DJ9BV and optimized by Lionel VE7BQH with all 18 elements of each yagi insulated from the boom. Only horizontal polarization is employed.

Total contacts to the end of August 2006 on 144 are as follows:-

|                      |           |      |       |
|----------------------|-----------|------|-------|
| Grid Squares         | JT65B/84, | CW/2 | SSB/1 |
| Total No of Contacts | JT65B/112 | CW/2 | SSB/2 |
| DXCC                 | 24        | 2    | 1     |

Included in the above there are 2 CW and 2 SSB QSO's. Both SSB contacts were with RN6BN using his famous 1920 element array with Vertical and Horizontal Polarization. The initial SSB contact was tried after receiving signal levels of -6dB at both ends using JT65B on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Sam called me and I received him at 5X1 and he received me 4x4. We had 3x1 minute overs each. Sams log show this as the longest distance of 13,918Km in his list of 162 SSB contacts.

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August at around 0640 UTC Sam began calling CQ using JT65B alternating between Vertical and Horizontal Polarity. He was 8dB stronger on Vertical Pol to me. When I saw a level of -6dB I called him on SSB and was surprised to hear him come back with a 5x1 report. I gave him 4x1 and again we had 3x1 minute overs.

Its great fun and I look forward to many more EME contacts in the future on 2 metres and eventually some of the higher bands.

Ian, VK3AXH

BARG members : Please make an effort to sell one book of raffle tickets!!!! There are only 10 tickets in a book. If we can sell all the books, the club earns \$ 400. How easy money is that??

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## Propagation Report for October 2006

### HF News

#### Stations worked from the log of VK3SE and VK3DET.

4O3T and YU6AO Montenegro(New Entity) Qsl via QRZ.COM.  
T6EE Afghanistan.Qsl via KE6GFF.a new one for Steve very good.  
R1ANC Vostock Base Antarctica.Qsl via UA1PAC.  
JV800BV Mongolia.800 year anniversary of establishment of Mongolia by Ghengis Khan.Qsl via JT1BV.  
JW7QIA SVALBARD.Qsl via QRZ.COM.  
YX5IOTA Aves Island.Qsl via QRZ.COM.

#### Stations heard but not worked

.  
V63VE Micronesia Islands.Japanese operators QSL via instructions or QRZ.COM.  
JD1AMA Ogasawara Island.Qsl via QRZ.COM.  
XT2WC Burkina Faso.Qsl via F1IQH.  
ZA/DL2RMC & ZA/DL1RTL Albania.Qsl via home calls.

Upcoming Big operations from Libya 5A7A. An international group of operators plan to activate this long quiet entity(many years) from Nov15 to Nov 29 2006 it is expected to generate huge interest and probably bad on-air behavior worse luck. It will require patience and a lot of luck to work this one.

The stations heard and worked mostly on dipoles and 100watts power out, so its possible to work DX with a modest station. Also you must listen at the correct time of day for the particular band,at this stage in the 11year Sunspot cycle nothing heard on 10metres and mostly a little Asia and Pacific on 15 metres.

17 Metres has a little activity but 20 Metres proves the most productive especially in our late afternoon Long Path mostly to Europe and Middle East.

For a lot of good info and also to check in to the ANZA Net on 14.183mhz around 4pm local time (time changes from weekends to during the week.)

To see what's happening on the bands have a look at a site on the internet of DXWATCH <http://www.dxwatch.com/dx> an excellent resource for a snapshot of band activity.

A special thanks to Rick VK3BEB for forwarding DX Info.

73'S from Steve and Ernie VK3DET.

## **VHF/UHF (SSB)**

6 metres – Kevin VK3WN has been busy monitoring and working some stations on the Magic Band. Some spasmodic openings to VK4 in the North and also an opening to ZL where 3 stations were worked.

2 metres – The unusual contacts to VK1,2,3 and 5 seem to be quite common with reports varying variable from day to day.

70cm – One morning resulted in contacts into VK5. With signals not all that strong good qso's were still to be had.

## **VHF/UHF Spring Field Day**

Both VK3IDL and VK3AXH setup some antenna's at the trig point on Green Hill with a range of equipment covering 6m, 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 13cm. The main purpose of the exercise was to test out the 2.4G home brew equipment.

This proved to be a winner when contacts were made with a group in Geelong who were portable in the Barrabool Hills just west of the town (65K) where there signal was so strong the direction of the grid antenna being used was almost irrelevant. Given we were running only 50mw of power this was a great result. However better things lay ahead when a contact with David VK3HZ in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne was also worked (111K) with a S9+ signal from his 2 watts with a setup on the roof of his house.

## **Construction Group**

Well another year has come and almost gone with the construction group completing yet another useful lot of equipment. The last project being the Antenna Analyser where around 15 kits were made. The test night proved to be very interesting with different loads and bands being used. In all this was one of the most interesting project in recent times and can be added to the earlier HF Analyser built.

Brian VK3KQB gave us a demo of a project – Noise Generator/Signal Source which will be undertaken in the new year. We hope to be able to make a suitable printed circuit board for this one so if you are interested join in the fun.

## **Hamvention 2006**

Well another one has come and gone. The new venue is very good however there needs to be a good look at the suggestions and recommendations to make it better for next year and beyond. Several visitors have made a range of ideas to improve what was another successful event. I recommend a Hamvention committee be formed to look at the issues for coming events as it is beyond one persons ability to cover all aspects.

Again I would like to thank all the members who turned up bright and early to get things underway on the Sunday morning as without their support the event would not succeed. I wish the club well in its endeavours to run successful hamventions next year and in the future.

73 VK3AXH



## Minutes of General Meeting September 2006

Meeting opened by President Bob VK3NBV

**Apologies** VK3DET, VK3CMC, VK3DCS, VK3CAZ, VK3BVI, VK3HHK,  
VK3CIS, VK3HRZ, VK3KQQ, VK3AAI

**Visitors** Denis Sinnot and Helen VK3RY

Minutes of September meeting as circulated Moved VK3KGL/VK3ADE.  
Carried

Business Arising from minutes Nil

**Correspondance** In: N0RE and Phil Smith wishing to join BARG  
Cert of Appreciation from Jota  
ACMA Licence renewal VK3RMB/VK3BML  
AR Magazine Subs  
Metricon grant acknowledgement

Moved VK3AXH/VK3PAP  
Carried

**Finacial statement** Tabled by Gordon VK3FGC/VK3HHJ Carried

### **Reports:**

**Ammenities:** Doug VK3VBA reported the Hamvention has been advertised  
In the Ballarat News/Courier and Prime TV Community News  
A radio interview with ABC to be undertaken with David VK3UR  
as the nominated member. The Bunnings BBQ to be delayed  
Until Jan/Feb 2007. Doug also thanked those that turned for the  
Working bee.

**Club Nets:** Brian VK3KQB reported all is well with plenty in attendance on  
3610KHz.

**Dining Night** To be held at the Ballarat Lodge Main Rd on Friday

**Construction Night:** Antenna Analyser alignment and evaluation night

**Newsletter** Thanks to Harry VK3KGL

**Radio Modernisation Project:** David VK3UR reported the rotary dipole has  
been ordered. WIA to attend the hamvention to present the  
\$900 cheque as part of the grant scheme

JOTA: John VK3CFH reported the event went well and would like to thank those that assisted. Maybe a more concerted effort could take place next year

Hamvention Ian VK3AXH reported that approx 44 tables have been allocated For the hamvention. Arrangements are in place for setup, raffle tickets, door prizes and homebrew competition

### **General Business**

A letter to be send to Dick Smith Wendouree re advertising in the BARG magazine

Letters to be sent to the those that enquired about joining BARG

Education – Possible course for Foundation in November

Hutch VK3FHUT sought explanation re membership and newsletter distribution

Bob VK3NBV gave a report on the combined club BBQ at Laanecoorie.

Meeting closed 8:40pm