



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

December

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 27th November 2015 @ 7.30pm

At the B.A.R.G. Club House, Ballarat Airport

All Welcome



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

We're on the web
www.barg.org.au

Presidents Report

Hi to all members. Another month gone by and it has been a busy one, the help and support by members in October shows that we have a great team ,

Our annual Hamvention just does not happen a lot of work goes toward into it being a success, in the back ground we have members being responsible for Advertising- taking bookings- printing tickets- following up on bookings- contacting caterers.

Organising teams to remove tables and chairs from the venue and another team to pick up and transport our tables to the Greyhound track and work off a plan where all the exhibitors are located in the room.

Then on the day we open doors to exhibitors at 8-00 and assist with moving exhibitors in with goods for sale.

This day each year is our life line so its most important to make it a special day, one trader (commercial dealer) from S A told me he did not go the H/fest in Adelaide this year he is now selective as to where he goes but Ballarat is on his to go list.

We had a good roll up for our construction night, many thanks to the members running this project (antennas).

Craig reported that he had success with people updating and F call exams, many thanks to Craig and his helpers.

Anyone on sick parade hope you are on the mend.

Interesting article in last months n/letter about Charlie DCS on the home made submarine well done Charlie, our editor is always looking for articles so if any member would like to send in an article you are most welcome.

Christmas is knocking on our door again, at our last general meeting it was voted on that we will have our Christmas break up at the Miner Dome on December the 18th at 6-30 pm.

We are asking members to confirm numbers for the night, cut off date is Friday the the 11th of December .

Please could you contact myself on 5332 3565 or dougr@ncable.net.au or lachie on 0419 515 732 or lachmac@gmail.com

At our next meeting 27th of November Bob vk3bnc will enlighten us all with a topic close to our hearts weather.

Not the temperature tonight or tomorrow.

The topic will be receiving weather pictures from the Russian Meteor M2 Weather Satellite, I am sure this will be of interest to us all.

Hope to see a good attendance on the night.

Thats all for now hope to see you all on the 27th of November

Doug Raper

From the desk of President Doug vk3vba

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the December edition of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group newsletter. I want to thank all those who've put forward articles through the year. The news letter wouldn't work with your input. In particular I must make mention of Craig, KG, for all the magazine and technical articles. (Some of which I still haven't used!) Ian, AXH, for the VHF reports. Doug, VBA, for the jokes.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and safe New Year. **Malcolm VK3MEL**

Training Update

Congratulations to Gerry VK3MEK on his upgrade to VK3EMI and full licence privileges. Look forward to hearing him with a stronger signal now. We have two more members awaiting the actual issuing of new call signs and I will notify the club when that occurs.

Well done to all. **73 Craig**

VHF and Above for November 2015

The weather is getting warmer and propagation is starting to show some signs of improvement in regard to increased distances for contacts. Use can be made of the Hepburn Propagation Charts to help determine the likelihood of contacts between your location and others active stations. Daily updates for this information can be found on the local VK-Logger website which is easy to navigate once you have registered and logged in. WWW.vklogger.com/

This month it is pleasing to see some activity from Eugene VK3FEUG and Bob VK3NBV on the lower end of the 2 metre band and 70cm band. Eugene was active during the VHF/UHF Field Day weekend on 14/15th November and was heard exchanging numbers with numerous stations. With the increased propagation distances Bob was heard on 2m SSB contacting VK5JR in Mount Gambier. Both stations although using vertically polarised antenna's were still having good results.

Regular club members VK3PMG, VK3AIG, VK3KG and VK3AXH can be heard most mornings from 8am onwards on the lower end of 2m and if conditions are good enough then the higher bands are given a go. This month has seen good openings to VK5's Mt Gambier and Adelaide areas on 2m through to 1296MHz.

VK3BML's 1296MHz beacon is running again still with some issues to be resolved but has been heard in Mt Gambier at S8. It will remain in operation along with the 70cm beacon through the summer DX season.

John VK3AIG and Ian VK3AXH took part in the Spring VHF/UHF field day in the 8 hour portable section from Mt Hollowback on all bands from 6 metres to 10GHz. The weather was very windy but we managed to have several contacts on all bands. John although only running around 40mW on 3400 MHz was able to have contacts with VK3ER at McLaughlan's lookout in the Wombat Forest. VK3KQ at Enfield and VK3ALB at Mt Gellibrand near Colac....not bad for a low powered microwave setup.

Again members are encouraged to get involved in the challenge of the higher bands by making a simple yagi for 2m and 70cm and get amongst the fun. Mick VK3PMG at Stawell is using a 5 element yagi regularly having contacts into Mt Gambier, Cobram and to Adelaide.

Beacons play an important role as an indicator of propagation as well. Info can be found on the VKlogger website for locations and operating frequencies. As most beacons are GPS locked you can also use them to check the accuracy of you rig's frequency readout.

Till next time 73, Ian VK3AXH

Club Activities

Attached is a photo of those that attended the 10am morning coffee at Zagames on Thursday 19th November. For us a bonus.....as there was a bingo session underway our coffee's were all for free.....see what you can miss out on !!!!



Let's hope we more of you next time.

Ian – VK3AXH

Hamvention Update

Hamvention 2015 is all packed up, and again it was great year. With around 60 tables of sales and displays and 330 HAM's and friends through the door, it must be one of the biggest and best Hamventions in Australia. It's certainly the best in Ballarat.

Lots of good reports have come back, with all saying they'll be back next year.



The day only works because of the effort put in to organise, advertise, set-up and run the day by all the members of the club. Plus the efforts of those who set-up tables and displays.

Thank-you to all involved.

- P4/5 Index.
- P9 DX: Its whatever you think it is. What does that really mean?
- P13 Inside HQ. Ham Aid. Looks at amateur prep and help for disaster.
- P24 Letters in. Various subjects covered.
- P30 Introduction to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)
- P40 One Switch controls multiple devices.
- P42 The starting date of Packet Radio, C1964.
- P45 Review Apache Labs ANAN 100D SDR HF/6M transceiver.
- P52 Review MFJ 2910 80/160M Matching Network for 43 foot radials.
- P55 The Doctor looks at ways to shorten antennas.
- P57 DX at Microwaves AND Higher.
- P59 Rotating Antennas without moving Parts.
- P60 Hands on Radio. Exp 153. Learn by Fixing.
- P62 Hints & Kinks looks at Wireless Antenna switch, HW100 Dial repair, RFI. Test jig for measuring button cell batteries, Ignition noise for a mobile rig.?
- P65 DXCC Navassa and Desecheo Islands (K1N)
- P87 PublicService: Powerto the public service Operator Part 2. In March they looked at batteries and now looks at generators and their safe operation.
www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/HurricaneFacts/grounding_port_generator.pdf
- P92 Predicting Tropospheric Openings
- P95 How's DX? Chesterfield Islands. (The Coral Sea) TX3X. 1-12 Oct 2015.
- P100 Vintage radio looks at the 1960's Novice power, bands and equipments.
- P156/7 Index to Advertisers this edition.

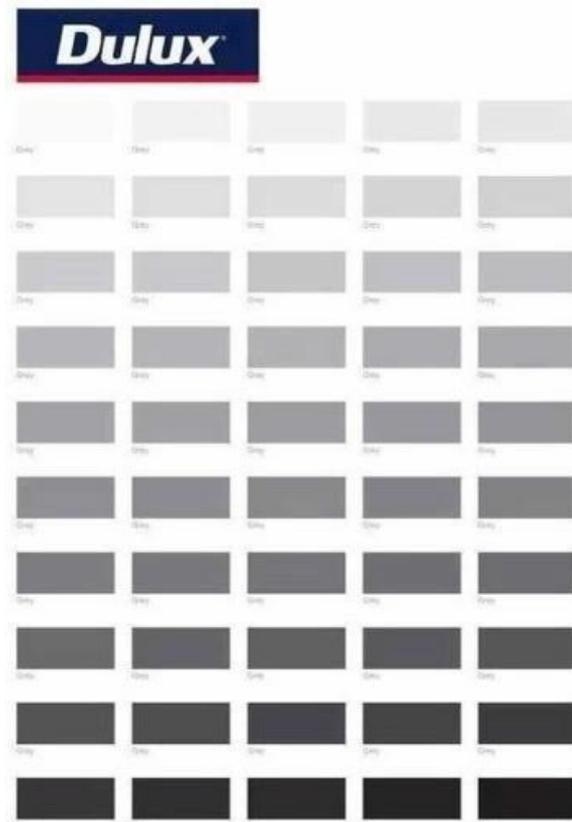


More next month.

73 Craig VK3KG.

50 Shades of Grey == >

(Mens Edition)



- P4/5 Index.
- P9 Clarity on Parity. Amateur Radio facing more restrictions through Congress bill.
- P13 Inside HQ. Product Reviews in QST. Are they good and effective guides for purchasing rigs.
- P24 Letters we have Letters.
- P30 Intro to the ARDUINO Microcontroller. Are you curious yet?
- P33 High speed Wireless Networking in UHF and Microwave bands.
- P38 The Digital Fist Recorder. Playing back morse generated by this Arduino recorder.
- P42 Antenna Gain Part 1. What do those Numbers really mean.?
- P45 Review: Yaesu FT991 HF /VHF/UHF Transceiver.
- P51 Review: Icom IC-2730A Dual Band FM transceiver.
- P54 Review: LNR Precision LD-5 QRP Transceiver.
- P58 Review: Elecraft KSYN3A Synthesizer upgrade for the K3HF/VHF transceiver.
- P60 Review: 1.25Kw Hi Power 6Meter Amplifier.
- P62 Review: SARK-110 Vector Impedance Analyzer covers 0.1 to 230MHz
- P66 Review: SCS Tracker/DSP TNC for Hf APRS.
- P69 The Doctor answers: Flat Earth calculation for antennas. And other ant problems. See also.
K6tu.net/?q=TerrainProfiles#terrainprofile
- P71 Eclectic Tech: The WristRig. Will control your rig from afar with the Apple Watch.
- P72 Hands on Radio. Experiment #154 Power Factor & Phase Angle.
- P74 ARRL Lab Handheld Testing
- P77 Hints and Kinks. Rejuvenate old Valves, Old Coax problems, Anti Tamper TOEX units.
- P79 A Packet Tracker in old Ammunition box.
- P82 Ross Hull, the Australian in the ARRL camp. Interesting to read his lead in electronics.
- P92 Frequency measuring tests. See the vintage Frequency meter from the 1978 A BC-221.
- P94 How's DX. Willis Island VK9WA active from 14-23 Nov 2015.
- P100 Vintage radio looks at the Cosmophone transceiver from the 1958 vintage.
- P104 75, 50 and 25 years ago index to the QST. Nov65 features a Helical beam design.

That's all for this months QST.

73 Craig VK3KG



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Round The Web

This month I've included a few links to sites or stories that I've found amusing. Lets start off with Ham Hijinks <http://hamhijinks.com/> A amateur radio satirical new letter. With articles such as the one about the xyl that's added a "pay as you go" device to the OM's radio, and paid for trip to Europe already.

Wendy Johansson, a self-described entrepreneur, has turned her husband's hobby into an income generator. She drives a new car, wears expensive furs and takes exotic vacations.

The source of the wealth? A coin-operated pay-as-you-go device that requires payment before allowing the radio to turn on.



Or the report from the town of Fish Bait, where all the club moved to cheapie Chinese HT's, and now no-one can hit or hear the repeater.



Fish Bait Amateur Radio Club President Jakob Rovingmeyer of Eastern Evergreen Parrish, says problems started last month after everyone in the club bought an inexpensive \$35 Chinese handie-talkie.

Poor receiver sensitivity and four watts output means conversations on the repeater are very rare now.

Youtube is worth a look.

Check out this video of a HAM who's bought a new radio, and his wife's not pleased.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7kirtdt11c>



Finally, this clip from Youtube again.

It's an actual video made by Rockwell in the 90's. It describes Rockwells "Retro Encabulator".

Have a look and see if you can keep up with the jargon.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_GM1UciGoQ

Old Cemetery Inscriptions

=====
Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York:
Born 1903--Died 1942.
*Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the
car was on the way down. It was.*
=====

In a Thurmont, Maryland, cemetery:
*Here lies an Atheist, all dressed up
and no place to go.*
=====

On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in
East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia:
*Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102.
Only the good die young.*
=====

In a London , England cemetery:
*Here lies Ann Mann, who lived an old maid
but died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767*
=====

In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery:
*Anna Wallace
The children of Israel wanted bread,
And the Lord sent them manna,
Clark Wallace wanted a wife,
And the Devil sent him Anna.*
=====

In a Ruidoso, New Mexico, cemetery:
*Here lies Johnny Yeast.
Pardon him for not rising.*
=====

In a Uniontown, Pennsylvania, cemetery:
*Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake,
Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.*
=====

In a Silver City, Nevada, cemetery:
*Here lays The Kid,
We planted him raw.
He was quick on the trigger,
But slow on the draw.*
=====

A lawyer's epitaph in England:
*Sir John Strange.
Here lies an honest lawyer,
and that is Strange.*
=====

John Penny's epitaph in the Wimborne,
England cemetery:
*Reader, if cash thou art in want of any,
Dig 6 feet deep and thou wilt find a Penny.*
=====

=====
In a cemetery in Hartscombe, England:
*On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle went out
of tune.*
=====

Anna Hopewell's grave in Enosburg Falls,
Vermont:
*Here lies the body of our Anna,
Done to death by a banana.
t wasn't the fruit that laid her low,
But the skin of the thing that made her go.*
=====

On a grave from the 1880s in Nantucket ,
Massachusetts:
*Under the sod and under the trees,
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.
He is not here, there's only the pod,
Pease shelled out and went to God.*
=====

THIS ONE IS EXTREMELY WELL
WRITTEN:-

In a cemetery in England:

*Remember man, as you walk by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so shall you be,
Remember this and follow me.
To which someone replied by writing on the
tombstone:
To follow you I'll not consent,
Until I know which way you went.*
=====

Salgoud