

BARG NEWS



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



VOLUME 30 ISSUE 3 March 2007



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

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 30, 2007
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

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
VK3RBU-1	(APRS)	145.175 Mhz	Mt Hollowback

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

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.



VK3AXH

The Secretary's Page

Minutes of BARG General Meeting February 2007

Meeting opened by VK3NBV 7:42

Visitors: Jim and Mark and welcome back Peter Diprose

Apologies: VK3CFH, VK3AIG, VK3FGC, VK3SE, VK3HRZ, VK3HHJ and VK3CAZ

Minutes of the previous General Meeting as circulated.

Moved VK3BVI/VK3BNC Carried

Business arising: Nil

Secretary : Reports that verbal confirmation has be received for this years Hamvention.

Correspondance: Letter received from Vk3AIQ advising change of address.

An email response from Craig re Foundation exams

Moved VK3CMC/VK3DCS Carried

Treasurer: In the absence of Gordon VK3FGC no financial report tabled

Reports:

Ammenities: Doug VK3VBA gave a report on his research into a method of gaining entry to the club rooms for those members not is possession of a key. It was suggested another month of thought be given to this facility.

Education: Craig VK3CMC reported that mid November would be a suitable date for the 3rd Foundation exam. There needs to be further planning to accommodate all aspects of Foundation and other levels of exams. The mentor approach seemed to be a good idea.

Technical: Vk3AXH reported on current position with replacement equipment for Ben Nevis. Quotes received from RFT for a new base around \$2650 +gst. This has been forwarded to ARV who will raise this matter at their next council meeting. Another alternative is to purchase 2 mobiles costing around \$1600 and modifying the heat sink to accommodate broadcasts etc. We await info from ARV before proceeding further. The keys to VK3RBU have been located. VK3UR to visit site to make sure they work.

IRLP VK3TJW reports further changes are required to BARG's computer system to get rid of spam as its still occurring. John will contact Ncable for some advice

Project Group

At the last group meeting it was decided to give the Drew Diamond dummy load project the go ahead with some 10 members wanting to participate. VK3AXH to get prices of parts and participants to commit \$'s before we proceed. An email to be sent to those advising details when known.

Radio Modernisation Project

VK3UR reports the rotatable dipole has been received and will be put together perhaps on one of the construction night meetings. Roger VK3ADE kindly donated a computer for use with this project.

General Business:

A motion was proposed by VK3ADX/VK3AXH and Carried to thank Roger VK3ADE for his generous donation of a computer for use with the radio modernization project – Well done Roger

Vk3NBV and VK3AXH attended a group meeting with the Board of the ACMA and some staff. Discussed with some members of the Board were – BPL, interference from LIPD's and Amateur licence fees. The last point was not well received??

VK3CMC reported deliberate interference to the WICEN net and asked club members to listen and try to identify the offender. Please listen on 3600K +/- qrm at 21:30 Tuesday evenings

Tenders for the equipment to be disposed need to be in the hands of the committee at their meeting 20th March as the decisions will be made known at the March General meeting.

Around 10 members are planning to attend this years John Moyle Field Day at Flagstaff Hill near Linton on March 17/18 so if you want some fun please come along. BYO food etc. Setup
Will be Saturday morning aiming to be at the site around 9am

Craig VK3CMC and Doug VK3VBA invited members to be part of a trip to Melbourne to attend the EMDRC Hamfest on March 25. About 10 members are required to make the bus hire worth while.

The next dining night will be at Midlands Golf Club so come along and join in the fun.

Meeting closed 8:52pm

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Articles of The Past

Victorian Division 1954

STATE CONVENTION

The Annual State convention of the Victorian Division Of the W.I.A. will be held at Ballarat on the weekend of 27th – 28th November, 1954. The Convention will be opened by the President of the Division, Mr. Gordon Dennis, at 8 pm. This year the South Western Zone are the hosts. Here is the programme:

Saturday:

Afternoon – Arrival at 3AMH's shack, Walker street, Ballarat North, where you will receive identification card and your hotel accommodation.

6 pm – The Annual Convention Dinner at Craig's Hotel. Cost approx. 7/6 per head.

7.45 pm – Opening of the Convention by the President. The ladies and children will go to the pictures.

11.15 pm – Supper accompanied by the ladies.

Sunday:

10 am – Meet at 3AMH's shack, Walker Street, Ballarat North.

10.30 am – Transmitter Hunton80 mx for those interested; finish 12 noon.

Visit to the new S.E.C. power house.

A tour of Ballarat and environs per parlour coach (cost 2/- per head) has been arranged for those interested.

12.45 pm – Dinner at Craig's Hotel.

2 pm - All Visitors adjourn to the Botanical Gardens. A Treasure Hunt for the children.

A Scramble (any band). Each competitor allowed 10 minutes, and only one tx on at one time.

Guessing the frequency of an oscillator (tuned circuit). Presentation of trophies, etc.

4 pm – Afternoon tea.

5 pm – Finish of Convention.

Those people who will be arriving on Sunday, are requested to send their QSL card to Bill Sadler, Walker Street, Ballarat North. Upon receipt he will send you a map of Ballarat and further details. If you wish accommodation for the Saturday night, let him know immediately, and enclose 10/- as deposit and indicate how many will be in your party. This is important.

During the business of the Convention, the Kinnear Trophy will be presented to the Zone which has won it for the year.

It is expected that there will be an attractive array of portable and mobile gear, both on the lower frequencies and v.h.f. bands. Let us make this 1954 Convention a bumper success.



Another group of handsome fellers.....(Lake Bolac)

QST Review 2007 February

Well another month and another magazine review has come around. There are a couple of interesting articles this month in addition to the normal regular columns.

Firstly an article by Rex Moncur VK7MO on his EME trek to the Cocos-Keeling Island and Christmas Island in Aug/Sep 2005. Although late in being published it does show how little equipment is really needed to be active in the EME activity. It also shows the ingenuity that some people can get up to when there's not a normal radio shop around the corner and all equipment needs to be taken in within a suitcase.

The other main article that caught my eye was a review of the new Windows Operating system called VISTA. As with most new upgrades its always wise to await the disclosure of the numerous bugs that seem to arrive when you have a new operating system. It also may mean that some of those old and tried programs may not work now with the upgrade. Due to the age of the programs we are used to, there may be no support either to upgrade or support it so the old Win 98/95/XP may be better to be kept in the computer. How much amateur software is being re written to suit the modern operating systems ? Should you upgrade? "Yes, eventually but not now."

Hands on Radio Experiment #49 talks about how to read drawing schematics How to relate the wire and copper tracks in your radio to a bit by bit diagram and then to simplify it down further to a block diagram.

How about an audio readout for the MFJ209 Antenna Analyser. Suitable for blind and sighted amateurs alike. May be adaptable to the later MFJ- 249/259.

Want to get onto 80/75M and feel the space available isn't good enough? Have a look at the Tunable Vertical for 75/80M. Uses a motor driven tuning inductor to achieve the desired effect. May be suitable for those in small areas where a long wire or dipole draws unwanted attention.

Interested in the Yaesu FT2000 ? HF to 6M. Then read the review by QST's Technical Editor.

BLUETOOTH. How about interfacing your radio with this device. Read about how you can use it on a range of transceivers.

Still battling with SWR and transmission lines ? then see the article on "Whats Happening at the Other End of my Feed Line?" There's an ARRL program available on CD also.

Do we need radios with two receivers in them? Read about the modern transceivers that are available with two and find out what advantages they may offer.

Well leave that for some more readings in March edition.

73 Craig

Foundation Licence

I will be conducting three exams this year for the Foundation licence.

The dates have been set as the following:

Sat 5th and Sub 6th MAY, Sat 4th and sun 5th AUG and Sat 24th and Sun 25th NOV.

As we have a limited number of vacancies I require an early confirmation by Email or telephone followed up by a deposit to ensure your position in the May course. On receipt of contact details I will then pass further relevant details directly by Email or telephone. I already have some bookings for the May course, so please be quick. Cost for the day will be \$50 which covers the exam and the training activity. Tea and coffee is available on the day but a cut lunch is required. On a successful pass being gained the candidate may also make an application to the ACMA via the WIA exam service for the issue of a Foundation licence and call sign by the additional payment of \$59 [This fee is currently being reviewed and may be higher] Payment can be made by a cheque or credit card.

I look forward to hearing from anyone who wishes to sit for the licence.

Craig Cook, VK3CMC
WIA Nom Assessor NA-010

03 5342 2448 VK3CMC@bigpondcom.au



Bob, VK3NBV

A few words from the President.....

HiAll,

Next general meeting is next Friday at 7.30pm, and we have a guest speaker, Peter Young who will be talking on B P L,.

Coming up in April we have the construction night on Monday 9th, Committee Meeting Tuesday 17th, Dining Night at Buninyong Golf Club on Friday 20th and General Meeting on Friday 27th.

We had a Fairly good afternoon with the John Moyle Field day which we ran from the Clubrooms. We made a decision not to go to Linton Because of a lack of confirmed attendees, but in the finish 13 turned up at least for a short period of time. We have learnt from this exercise we need some beams for the higher frequencies etc. Another thing we now know in how good these E logging programs are, Magic, ask any of the group that were there.

By the time you read this some of us should have had a good time at the EMDRC White Elephant Sale on Sunday

Catch you all soon,

Bob Pitcher VK3NBV..

APRS News:

The club's APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) Digipeater, VK3RBU-1, has been re-installed on Mt Hollowback after a period off air.

As part of the move the frequency has changed to the national APRS frequency of 145.175MHz. The optimal path for mobile users is

WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1 which is in line with the new Australian standard. The Otway's APRS Digipeater, VK3ROW-1, has also changed frequency to 145.175MHz. A coverage plot will be produced shortly, but based on initial testing between these 2 digipeaters there is reliable mobile APRS coverage between Creswick and the Otways.

Radio Modernisation Project:

The club has received its Rippletech Rotary Dipole for 10, 18 and 24MHz and it is waiting to be assembled by the Construction Group. Roger, VK3ADE, kindly donated a computer for use in the shack and this is in the process of being setup by John, VK3TJW, and David, VK3UR. The new computer is capable of supporting 2 monitors so that information can be spread across 2 screens. 2 x 17" CRT monitors, a keyboard, mouse and speakers have also been donated. John, VK3TJW, also kindly donated an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) which has been installed in the shack to provide protected power to the computer. The next few steps will be to construct a computer / radio audio interface unit and installation of the antennas.

Regards,

David Tilson, VK3UR

ESTATE OF VK3GN – GEOFF NEVILLE

EQUIPMENT	MAKE	MODEL	MANUAL	COST	REMARKS
RX – TX	Yaesu	FT-107M	Yes	TOTAL	Both instruct. & Serv.manuals
Ant tuner	Yaesu	FC-107	Yes		
Speaker	Yaesu	SP-107		All 3 \$400	All working
RX-TX-UHF	Dick Smith	Explorer II	Yes	\$100	
16 ch scanner	Uniden	Bearcat100xl	Yes	\$75	
CRO	Goodwill	GOS-955	Yes	\$50	Working
SWR-Power	Kenwood	SW-200B	Yes	\$50	
Ant. Base					Magnetic
Coax ant sw	Lodestar	CAS-31			3 way, OK
Coax ant sw	B & W	590G			5 way, OK
Rotator	Iwasaki	FU-400	Yes		App. New. Commander 400
Coax-Relay	TSU Elec	CX-120P	Yes		
Morse key	HI-Mount	HK-708			
RX Noisebrid	Palomar		Yes		

CB EQUIPMENT

23 ch RX TX	Royce	1-614	Yes		
18 ch RX TX	Cobra Pye	138XLR-A	Yes		Complete with mike
Mic	Realistic		Yes		For base station CB
Power-SWR		110			For CB radio station
Horn Speaker					
Panel meter	Minipa	MU-45			Range DC 50 uA FSD
Graph Equaliz.	Road Sound	RGB-8588			30 + 30 = 60 W
Transformer	Ferguson				PL/24 / 20VA
Transformer	Ferguson				PL/30 5/ VA
Transformer					PL/18 / 5 VA

For more info, please contact Merv, VK3ADX

Solutions for connecting you...

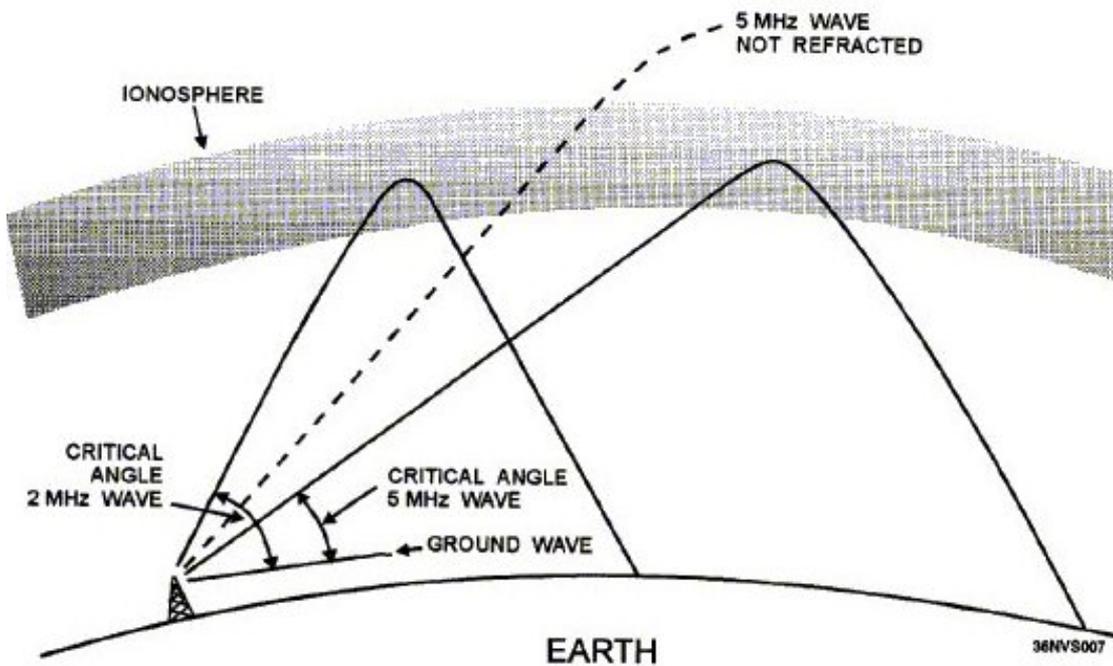
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Propagation Report for March 2007

HF Bands:

No reports received this month although I hear the Club VK3BML was activated for the John Moyle Contest with activity on 80 and 40 metres. Neil VK3GND and Brian VK3KQB have both made progress with their 160 metre antennas. We will watch with interest the progress.

VHF/UHF:

Apart from a few openings there hasn't been a lot happening. However there is a noticeable increase in the local net on 144.150 in the mornings and also on a Wednesday evening on the same frequency and then qsy up to 144.160. Some of the regulars include: vk3KQB, VK3GND, VK3CMC, VK3KRC, VK3AIG, VK3IDL, VK3AXH, VK3ADX and VK3BNC as time permits. This represents quite a few of our members getting involved in the bottom end of 2 metres.

There has been limited openings to VK5 and VK7 on bands up to and including 1296 MHz even though there hasn't been much activity.

Here is the list of participants for Dummy Load project. This is your last chance for anyone listed to take part.

VK3HHK, VK3ADE, VK3AXH, VK3NBV, VK3IDL, VK3KQB, VK3CMC, VK3BVI, VK3 PAP, VK3PLD and VK3KGL.

To each of the above mentioned calls I require you to pay \$25 each on or before the March General Meeting so I can place and order for the 2 watts resistors, 50uA meter and PCB.

9ill next month 73's ...Ian vk3axh

PLEASE NOTE !!

Hello All,

Also a reminder to those participating in the Dummy Load project you need to bring your \$25 to the next meeting or make arrangements to get the funds to treasurer Gordon vk3fgc or myself Ian vk3axh.

regards, Ian vk3axh

Big Dish:

Ian VK3AXH had a couple of EME contacts with 8N1EME a station setup in Japan by a group of amateurs looking for contacts on 2m, 70cm and 1296MHz. Ian was lucky enough to have to separate qso's during the period of activity. The dish below is 32 metres in diameter which is a bit big for the average back yard.



Some photo's taken during John Moyle Contest at BARG Club Rooms



**Wicen need a hand from any Amateur over Easter.
Contact direct to the phones numbers below.**

73''s Bob. VK3NBV.

Hello to Everybody,

I wish to thank those that have already said that they will come to Donald for Easter. But I still need more of you to come and assist WICEN and myself to run this event. Could I please have all those that are willing to come, let me know by replying to this email or else phone me on 5778 7518 or 0407 682 856 as soon as you can.
Below are the details again

Donald 650- Easter 2007- April 6th – 9th

Off Road Buggy Race around Lake Buloke, HF, VHF, UHF CB, and Packet.

We will be camping at the Donald Racecourse, Toilets, Showers?, and Power. (cnr Jeffcott and Racecourse Roads)

Net Control will be at the Showgrounds (recreation reserve) (Borung Highway)

There will some fuel allowance

I believe that there will be food available for purchase all weekend at the Showgrounds,

Or you can cater for yourself at the Racecourse. There are lots of eating places in Donald itself, and also places to stay if you wish, you may have to book early if staying in town.

It would probably be a good idea to take your own drinking water that your body is used to, rather than get an upset stomach. Donald has a very good website with plenty of information:

www.donald.org.au

Bring your family and spend Easter in Donald
Cheers, Carol.

Few more photo's from John Moyle Contest

