

BARG News



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

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

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2008
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	SK (VK3CFB)
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Phil Seddon	Formerly VK3AQM
Stan Widgery	SK (VK3SE)
Maurice Batt	SK (VK3XEX)
George Small	SK (VK3DKJ)

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 11.00 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

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VK3AXH

The Secretary's Page

Minutes of BARG General Meeting February 2008

Welcome: Meeting opened by President Bob VK3NBV at 7:37pm

Visitors: A number of members from the Geelong Radio and Electronics Society attended the meeting to enjoy BARG's hospitality and to hear a presentation later in the evening by David VK3UR about BARG's Radio Modernisation Project

Apologies: VK3HRZ, VK3HHK, VK3IDL, VK3HGA, VK3CFH

Minutes of the January 2008 General Meeting as per the Newsletter.

Matters arising – Clarification re the minutes financial details for distribution to
Non members from VK3BNC – matter resolved

Moved VK3DCS/VK3KQB Carried

Secretary Report:

Correspondence: Incoming – WIA re new website, Ian Craven re Foundation Course
Email re VK3HEX interest in the club activities
Outgoing – Cheque to Woolshed for Hamvention 26th Oct 2008

Moved VK3AXH/VK3CAZ Carried

Reports

VK3ADE – Roger reports the beacons are virtually complete with the antenna for 23cm being the only outstanding item to be completed. Ian VK3AXH looking into its construction.

VK3KGL – Harry reports all is ok however more articles are always welcome.

Dining Night – Bob VK3NBV reports the next dining night will be held on Friday night 14th March at the Royal Oak just a stagger from Charlies place.

Technical Equipment – Ian VK3AXH reports the Packet Repeater has been repaired and reinstalled at Mt Warrenheip. The main problems being a power supply rebuild and receive audio problem. The replacement

repeater for Mt Ben Nevis has been completed. A visit is required to collect the existing unit together with cavities which need a retune and after a soak test for a couple of weeks at the club rooms will be installed.

Construction Group – The list for the microwave SWR bridge is growing with approx 10 kits needed. The HF SWR bridge is also moving along with several members wanting to make the pcb's etc.

VK3VBA – Doug reports that a few extra chairs have been setup for the visitors from GRES

General Business

A working bee is to be held at the club rooms on 8th March to attend to any jobs that need to be done including a proper earth for the clubs radio console.

John Moyle Field Day Weekend at Flagstaff Hill on 15/16th March. Interested members – VK3CMC, VK3ADE, VK3VBA, VK3FHUT, VK3AIG VK3GND, VK3NBV, VK3FGC, VK3TJW, VK3FPOL, VK3AXH, VK3FNLY, VK3IDL. VK3AIG to coordinate with assistance.

Equipment for Tender: The list of equipment has been circulated with the exclusion of the Marconi Attenuator which was on loan from VK3CAZ. Decisions regarding bids will be decided at the next committee meeting.

Education – Craig VK3CMC has indicated there are 5 candidates for the foundation licence and the likely date is 12/13th April. Assistance to be provided by VK3AIG, VK3WN, VK3AXH, VK3BNC and VK3UR. An examiner from GRES has volunteered his services.

BARG donated an old piece of equipment namely a Wheatstone Bridge to the museum at GRES which was gratefully received by Keith VK3XKS who indicated a suitable plaque would be attached indicating the clubs donation

Doug VK3VBA has organized a light supper for members and visitors together with tea and coffee.

Meeting closed 8:50pm



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Bob, VK3NBV

A few words from the President.....

Hello All,

Welcome to the end of March racing towards us.

Last weekend was the John Moyle and we were at Linton in the heat, waving away the March Fly's Buggers they are. We had a reasonable turn-up and a good time was had by all. Don't how the scoring went yet.

We did have one very excited Peter 3FPOL with his DX abilities. 254KLM to Foster North in Gippsland on a 2 Metre FM handheld simplex. Good eh..

Coming up next is our March General meeting next Friday March 28 at 7.30pm.

We have guest speakers from Icom who will be telling us about the new D STAR Repeaters complete with demonstrations. Come along and enjoy

Monday April 14th at 7.30pm is the Construction night.

Wednesday 16th at 7.30pm Committee Meeting.

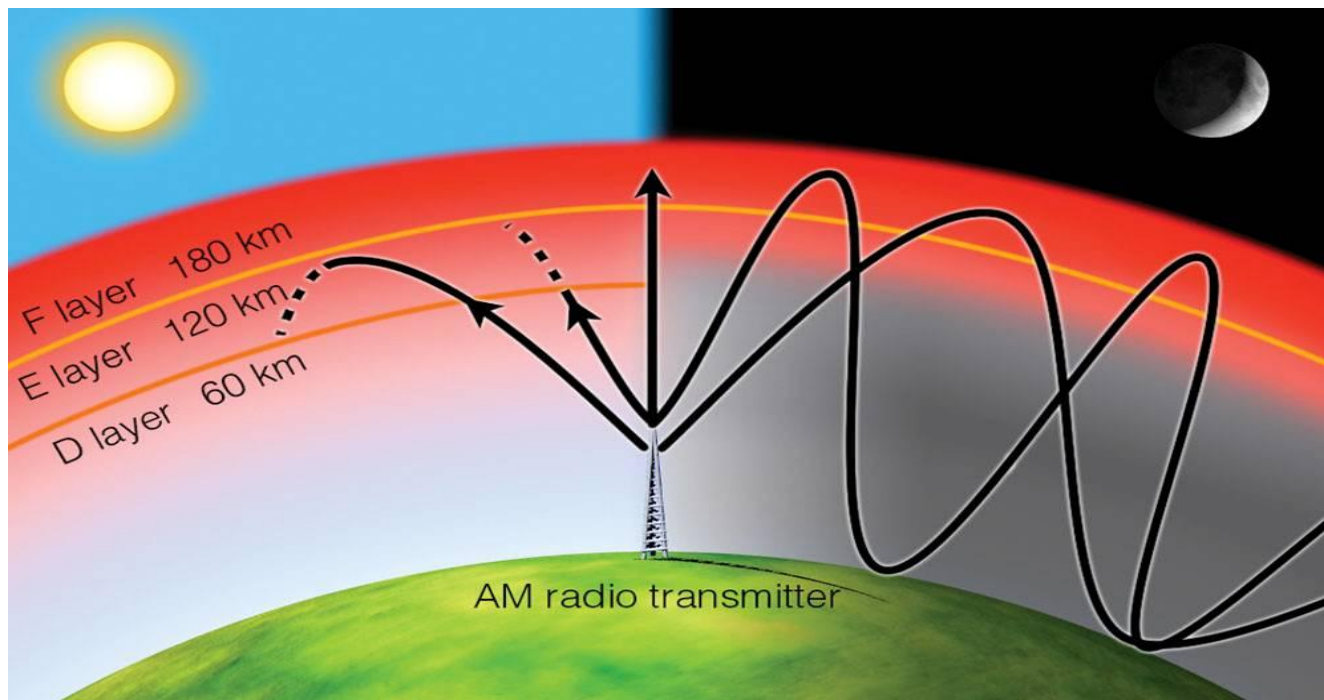
Friday 18th at 6.30pm is the Dining Night at the Atlantic Hotel in Redan.

The General Meeting is down for Friday 25th April at 7.30pm. Anzac Day...

By the time you read this Easter will be half over. I hope you will be enjoying your Easter Holidays. That's it from me, see you at one of our functions, 73's Bob Pitcher VK3NBV..

Some shots at the John Moyle Field day near Linton.





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Propagation Report March 2008

HF Bands

Not much news for this segment this month. I know that a certain gentleman who lives a little south of Ballarat hasn't made too much progress with his 160 metre setup due to the HOT weather. However the 80 metre part is working very well.....Keep up the good work Neil.

Brian VK3KQB is busy making up a new antenna for HF involving making traps etc. Let's know how it all works out Brian and perhaps a magazine article may eventuate.

VHF and Above

This month has seen quite a drop of in propagation with activity on 6 metres falling away. However given that the sunspot cycle has gone through its minima we can only hope that it will get even better in the coming years. Kevin VK3WN being the most active station in the area has managed to work plenty of stations throughout VK and some of the Pacific Islands.

2 metres and above has been quite variable with some good openings to VK7 and VK5. Although the weather has now cooled off a bit there has been some excellent openings into and beyond Adelaide on both 2m and 70cm with Ian VK3AXH working VK5NEX in Whyalla at signal report of 5x3 (SSB). Lets hope the trend continues. There is also a rise in the number of stations getting on 1296MHz. In our own area we now have around 6 active stations with others at Ararat, Horsham and Nhill.

Till next time good dx – VK3AXH

Construction Group

We are now underway with 2 new SWR projects – One for HF and the other for 1296MHz and 2.4GHz. Its expected that some parts of the project will be available at the next construction night.

Whilst construction is not for everyone you should think about what your pleasure is from the hobby. Are you just an operator? Do you have all the extra bits and pieces you require? If not make a list and see what else might be possible for this worthwhile activity. Remember its your activity and you only get out of it what is put in so if we don't get the input then this area of club activity will dwindle away.

John Moyle Field Day

What a fantastic weekend was had by those that participated. The food, company and location were all great and there are lots of stories to tell.

Setup began at the site sometime after 9am with antenna's, tents and the food preparation area all being undertaken. I would like to thank all that got stuck in to make this occasion another successful venture by the members of BARG.

Operation on HF included 80m, 40m and 20m whilst on the higher bands 6m, 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 2.4G were all operational. Roger VK3ADE was very busy on 20m and quickly had contacts to all States in VK plus ZL in a short time. It was great to see Shaun VK3FNLY one of the club's newer members enjoying himself operating on many of the HF band and 2m FM with some of his mates.

Peter VK3FPOL who ably assisted Bob VK3NBV in the meals department also had some great contacts from his 2m portable 5w radio with simplex contacts into Foster in Gippsland some 245km away. In addition the observation tower provided some excellent views in all directions.

Visitors on the day included VK3BNC, VK3KGL and VK3JEM. Kevin VK3WN was also there bright and early to help with setup and stayed into the afternoon to see how the contacts were going. Most notable for the higher frequency dudes was 1296 into Traralgon and 2.4G into Geelong and Mt Leura near Camperdown which were well over S9. Sunday morning a sked was setup with Bob VK3BNC to test 1296 from the Learmonth area. Signals were again S9+ as were signals from Ian VK3IDL however we were unable to make it on 2.4G. Contacts were also made with Ian and Bob on 70cm and at another time with Brian VK3KQB.

Congratulations to Bob and Peter for the fantastic food who kept us satisfied the entire time. Our Saturday evening meal with BBQ and salads and not to mention the sweets of dumplings, syrup and cream. During this There was the odd glass of wine, port, rumport and the brown stuff consumed by many. Sunday breakfast started with Juice, Cornflakes, and then bacon, eggs toast etc with plenty of tea and coffee

In all a great and satisfying weekend by all who attended. Special thanks to Gordon for the use of his trailer and ferrying all bits and pieces to and from the clubrooms and to those who ably assisted.

List of members – VK3ADE, VK3FNLY, VK3NBV, VK3FPOL, VK3IDL, VK3CMC, VK3AIG, VK3AXH, VK3WN, VK3BNC, VK3KGL, VK3JEM, VK3FGC. (Hope I got everyone)

73's Ian vk3axh



QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library



Review QST 2008-1 Jan.

Now the first for this year.

- P30 Modifying COLLINS KWM-2 for serious CW operation.
- P35 Building the Tinker box ie Homebrew a valve HF transmitter.
- P39 The Arch. A low profile mobile antenna.
- P42 Rugged VHF beam [8EI] that resists Ice buildup.
- P48 TM Handy wireless. Looks at a Japanese wartime radio.
- P 51 The joy of Contesting.
- P55 Doctor is in looks G5RV, Coax cable losses in Db, Balun or Egg insulator for centre fed multiple inv V antennas.
- P57 Short Takes looks at [Nec2Go](#) Antenna modelling software.
- P58 Update the DRAKE AC-4 HV power supply.
- P62 Hands on Radio Exp #60 Smith Chart Fun Pt2.
- P64 All those connectors! Looks at RF, power, audio, switching and computer control.
- P65 Getting on Air. Your first HF or 6M Antenna.
- P67 Hints & Kinks. Various ideas for the shack.
- P69 Review. ICOM IC-R9500 Comms Receiver.
- P74 Tech Correspondence. Calib of Homebrew Noise source, The Doctor & EMP, Remote ant switch, Calc Db without a Slide Rule ?
- P76 Happenings about the ARRL, new Directors elected.
- P77 500Khz Experiment enters second Season.
- P77 Silent Key. K4ZVZ Paul Tibbets[92], pilot of the Enola Gay which delivered the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Aug 1945.
- P 78 FCC News. Read how they treat erring amateurs.
- P80 Public Service. Read what America has for Emergency Management and its involvement with Amateur Radio.
- P82 World above 50Mhz. Stacking antennas.
- P87 Old Radio. Remember building a one valve crystal Tx.
- P89 Eclectic Technology. Linux {and PSKMail} inside Windows.
- P90 Microwavelengths. Amplifiers, travelling wave tubes, Transistors and MMIC's
- P103 Hamspeak. Compendium of terms found in this edition.

And Adds, Adds and more Adds.

Well that's all there is for this month, happy reading.

73 Craig VK3CMC



QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library



Review QST 2008-2 Feb

Now the years second QST review.

- P30 Double Cross- NOAA Statelite downlink antenna.
- P33 Accurate S Meter for Direct Conversion receivers.
- P37 The W6TC DX Loop. 30,40,60,80 & 160M.
- P40 Lightning- Understand or suffer the consequences.
- P45 Review Kenwood TM-D710A dual band FM mobile.
- P48 Review AvMap G5 Personal Navigator. Add to the D710.
- P49 Review VX-3R Minature Dual band handheld.
- P52 13.56Mhz as a Cancer Cure? It just might be.
- P56 Gearing up for teachers.
- P57 Evolution of the Parasitic Beam Antenna.
- P62 Whats in the Jan/Feb edition of QRX magazine.
- P63 To the Moon and Back - Via the Carribean.
- P65 First north American Blind ARDF Competition.
- P67 Happenings: Weather and Wildfires keep Amateurs busy.
- P68 FCC News. How they “enforde the rules”
- P70 The Doctor. Transformer line match to dipole, Lightning, power rating tubes, J Pole on glass antenna.
- P72 Review MFJ 868 HF Wattmeter.
- P73 Transform your Vibroflex Bug into a Keyer Paddle.
- P74 Hands on Radio Exp 61 Smith Chart Fun Pt 3.
- P76 External Full Break in T/R switch for HF Amps.
- P80 Hints & Kinks. Remove old coax sealant, use a MP3 player to learn CW, Two speed solder iron, Securing thin wire lines, Remoting a wireless speaker, The old Gimmickcapacitor. Use Antenna analyser to find characteristic Impedance of cable.
- P82 Eclectic Tecnology. Looks at TIME- NOTS.
- P83 This month in Contesting.
- P85-87 Looks at Contesting adventures.
- P88 Hows DX? Brunei 2007.
- P90 World Above 50Mhz. Sunspots, rock bottom or otherwise.
- P96 Old Radio. Electronic speed key. Circa 1964.
- P103 HAMSPEAK. List of all the key terms mentioned in this months QST. A Glossary.

And then Adds, Adds and more Adds.

Well that’s all there is for this month, happy reading.

73 Craig VK3CMC

Phonetic Alphabets

Most of us sail along with what is referred to as the "NATO" phonetic alphabet, the dear old Alpha Bravo etc.

Some among us although getting rather 'long in the tooth' will be able to remember Able Baker Charlie of the 1939 - 1954 era

But what about earlier ones ?

I found an Airministry Publication for the year 1937 which lists the approved phonetic alphabet for aeronautical use as shown below. Xanthippe by the way was the wife of the Greek philosopher Socrates and was known to be a 'shrew' although how many of us knew that or even cared ?

For the 'irreverent' among us, can you remember the third alphabet which has to be said aloud to make sense ?

Mind you the names are definitely 'historic' so if they don't 'ring a bell' ask your parents/grandparents who Kay Francis was

A	ABLE	AMSTERDAM	A fer ORSES
B	BAKER	BALTIMORE	B for Mutton
C	CHARLIE	CASABLANCA	C forth Highlanders
D	DOG	DANEMARK	Deef or Dumb
E	ECHO	EDISON	E fer Brick
F	FOX	FLORIDA	F fer vescence
G	GEORGE	GALLIPOLI	G fer Police
H	HOW	HAVANA	H fer dropping
I	ITEM	INDIA	I fer Novello
J	JIG	JERUSALEM	J fer Oranges
K	KING	KILOGRAMME	K fer Ansis
L	LOVE	LIVERPOOL	L fer Leather
M	MIKE	MADAGASCAR	M fer Sis
N	NAN	NEW YORK	N fer a Penny
O	OBOE	OSLO	O fer the wings of a dove
P	PETER	PARIS	P fer relief
Q	QUEENIE	QUEBEC	Q fer a bus
R	ROGER	ROMA	R fer Mo
S	SUGAR	SANTIAGO	S fer Williams
T	TARE	TRIPOLI	T fer Two
U	UNCLE	UPSALA	U fer ME
V	VICTOR	VALENCIA	V fer la France
W	WHISKY	WASHINGTON	W or Quits
X	X-RAY	XNTHIPPE	X fer Breakfast
Y	YOKE	YOKOHAMA	Y for Husband
Z	ZEBRA	ZURICH	Zephyr breezes