



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

November

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 30th October 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

Another month gone by and its a big month for BARG, yes its our annual Hamvention.

Its a time when we greet people that we have not seen since our last event, its a time when we do a stock take of our shacks and have a clean out, its a time that we can look for that item that has been hard to find.

This year we have more tables booked than last year so its shaping up to be a great day out, of course all we need are the people through the door by the time you read this results will be in but I'm sure it will be as successful as other years

Of course the results are only as good as what is put into it, we have a dedicated team in the background that make it happen eg moving tables from our club rooms to the venue and moving tables and chairs in the venue to allow our tables in ,we have the door people we have the people involved in taking bookings people allocating location for traders the list goes on, then just to top a long hard day off the reverse procedure of tables etc must be done.

So all I can say is it will be a great day everyone goes home happy that hard to get part has been found and the traders will go home with less goods than what they arrived with.



It was decided by committee to resurrect our morning tea meetings again, the idea is that we meet at the Beechworth bakery on the third Thursday of the month at 10-00 am. There is a room at the north end of the building where we can sit have a coffee cake and a natter. The first day will be on the 19th of November look forward to see a good roll up.

From President Doug vk3vba

Doug vk3vba

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the November edition of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group newsletter. This issue is being written straight after the Hamfest, so whilst it has a few photo's from what was a very successful day, it's also a tad rushed.

We have a great article from our own Charlie, VK3DCS, originally published in DIVE, the South Pacific Underwater Magazine, from 1967. Whilst it's not a radio article it's still an interesting read and I thank DCS for providing it.

If you haven't paid yet, a quick reminder that subs are now over due. They can be paid at a meeting night or paid direct deposit to our bank. Subs have remained at \$40 individuals and \$50 Family. Great value really.

The Bendigo Bank.

Acc title: BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP.

BBS 633-000.

ACC. No 142591247.

Please include name and call sign to be included when deposit made so we can track it down and reply with a receipt.

Thanks also to those who've put forward articles.

Malcolm VK3MEL

VHF and ABOVE for October 2015

With the warmer weather coming along there has already been a jump in the number of band openings in some parts of Australia which is what enthusiasts are hoping for during this period.

Amateurs along the northern NSW and southern QLD coasts have experienced several days when long distance contacts within VK and between VK and ZL have taken place on 3 bands ie 2m, 70cm and 1296Mhz with good signal strengths in both directions.

During the month the first reports of hearing the VK6RST beacon has occurred which is a bit earlier than normal.

For operators in the Ballarat area VK3AIG, VK3KG, VK3PMG (Stawell) and VK3AXH contacts have been made to Mt Gambier, Adelaide and surrounds as well as Tasmania. In addition some aircraft enhanced contacts have been made into Canberra and Tottenham in north central NSW over a distance of 665kms on 2m.

If you want to join in the fun all that's required is a rig with 2m SSB and a simple yagi of around 5 elements.

The club's construction group is presently building yagi antenna's for 2m and 70cm so if you would like to see how it's done come along on the first Monday of each month to the BARG club rooms.

It's also time to get ready for the Spring VHF/UHF Field which will take place in November on Saturday and Sunday 14/15th. Several members hope to be taking part and will be operating from 6m through to 10GHz at a location yet to be determined.

If you are interested in taking part or just looking at what takes place contact VK3AXH for further information.

Till next time 73, Ian VK3AXH

The following article was written by Charlie, VK3DCS, and originally published in DIVE in 1967. Thanks very much to Charlie for providing a copy for us to print here.

MINISUB.

by D. C. Stewart, Moorabbin, Victoria.

This quaint little craft was built simply as an experiment and constructed as cheaply as possible with parts obtained from any Auto Garage.

The hull is nine feet long; an air craft fuel tank. Into the nose and tail were built two ballast tanks of the free flooding type, controlled by a compressed air cylinder, mounted above the nose. This was the first mistake as free flooding ballasts are unstable and unsafe, as we found out. These are worked on the same system as the diving bell: the tanks have an open sea port at the bottom and are controlled by air pressure, either letting water in or forcing it out. Ascent or descent cannot be made without altering the pressure. For instance if you dive without altering pressure the air in the tank will compress and the craft will go into a crash dive.

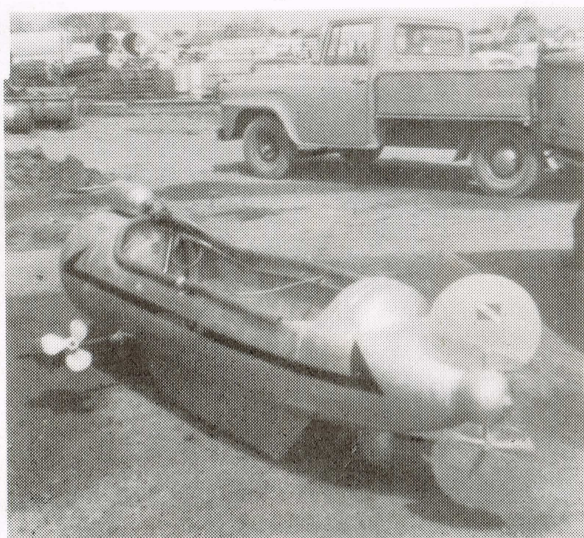
The sub was built as a shallow water vehicle and was never taken below thirty feet.

The craft seated two divers and was controlled by the front man in the same way as an air craft with a single stick control: side to side movement moved the rudder and forward and back movement elevated the two $1\frac{1}{2}$ H.P. motors which are mounted as outriggers. This gave the craft great manoeuvrability, but care had to be taken not to dive or climb too quickly as the air in the ballast would either expand or compress and the tanks would have to be trimmed.

The motors were converted six volt starter motors placed in canisters and sealed on the shaft, with the seals from Ford water pumps. The motors were to drive the propellers from ten H.P. Johnson outboards; under full load these spin at 2200 revs., and give the craft three knots maximum on a fully charged battery.

Power was supplied from three, six volt 100 amp. hour batteries, laid in the keel. Battery caps were sealed. Fully charged they gave a range of two and half hours.





PORTA SUBS

Before I decided to build this two-man wet sub I built two small Porta Subs as experiments and studied these at great length, and from these I gained the knowledge I needed for my third attempt at the bigger craft. Since this I have built another Porta Sub: "Sea Servant" and with this sub I attached a rev. counter and water speed indicator and studied the loss and gain of speed and power at depths to 100 feet.

SEA SERVANT

This tiny Porta Sub is only thirty inches long. Since it weighs 80 pounds it can be carried by one diver. It has a speed of four knots, the motor turning at 2000 revs and drives a six inch three blade prop. It is powered by one 12 volt 88 amp. hour battery and runs for approximately one hour.

This craft was built for positive buoyancy and performed quite well on the surface. It was found that it was difficult to submerge so fixed elevators were fitted and trimmed to give ease of handling. There is a valve at the side to let out the gas which is built up by the quick discharge of batteries.

I had my first Porta Sub explode when the gas built up and was ignited by a spark from the commutator.

When testing the "Sea Servant" I fitted the rev. counter, water speed indicator, and depth gauge, and have used the craft on twelve occasions, lasting from 30 to 50 minutes.

This craft performs very well and gives the diver a far greater range in distance, freedom and safety. There is a likeness to a motor car: once you get used to it you can't do without it.

I have now started work on the motors of my latest and most ambitious craft: a two-man Dry Sub, also only for shallow use.

I am keen to hear from any person interested in underwater engineering, as so many magazines boost up Spear fishing and Club diving, but few cover the scientific or engineering aspects of diving. My address: D. C. Stewart, Flat 3, 55 Wickham Road, MOORABBIN, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

Wiltronics

We're very luck in Ballarat to have major electronics component supplier, Wiltronics, based right here. It makes it easy to get all the bits a pieces for that home brew item, or a repair of professionally built equipment. Wiltronics have been a great supporter of BARG for many years too, again this year providing the door prizes for the Hamvention.



Wiltronics Research Pty. Ltd. ABN 26 052 173 154

Unit 4 Cnr Ring Rd & Sturt St, Ballarat Victoria, 3350

Postal Address: P.O Box 4043, Alfredton 3350

Ph: 03 5334 2513 | Fax: 03 5334 1845

Email: sales@wiltronics.com.au

www.wiltronics.com.au

Mildura “ Land of the Winter Sun... and Spring blossoms .”

Our recent exploits uncovered some interesting facets of this city aside from the range of coffee shops, sadly supermarkets and the touristy things. Radio amateurs are attracted to those



romantic days of "Flynn of the inland" and his "magics" man Alfred Traeger both of humble beginnings whom would fire a nation with great deeds and cover one of the world's largest continents with a mantle of safety. Young Traeger with a passion for science would inspire Hams with this new "Wireless" and produce lifesaving equipment and communications for this vast outback. Local businessman and amateur David Carson has displayed some of these bygone treasures in Pine Ave just near the Telstra communication tower a land mark of the city.

For years weather balloons have been launched from this site as part of our vast weather predicting service of BOM. However all that remains now are the tracking viewers reminding visitors of what used to happen. In their place a curious collection of antennas silently collecting data and sending it to the inner bowels of BOM to provide better weather forecasts for us all. Not quite on our 6m band but turned horizontally would make a big signal. They operate somewhere in the region of 30 to 60Mhz. I guess the other thought could be borrow it for the weekend, turn up the wick and work EME!



If you're interested "Google" ATRAD or "New Boundary layer Radar for Mildura". Whilst you're at the airport duck into the local RAAF Museum but you may find it will take longer than you expected. The flying history of these service people has been followed up with how their lives impacted Mildura after hostilities ceased. It provides very human stories and I'm sure makes all of us stand a little taller. I must pay tribute to the local amateurs who made me feel welcome. Their 2m repeater usually has someone there ready for a chat, thanks guys.

I guess you guys will need some "brownie points" after taking the xyl to "those "places so take some time at the weekend to attend the Red Cliffs market. The first thing is it's big and for a small town it's great. Lots of things to look at, pick your way through a collection of dogs and owners like you have never seen and a cuppa along the tracks, it's a great way to show that you really care!





A pleasant drive down thru NSW to Robin Vale, a cuppa at Swan Hill and “Roger who”, never heard of him, then on to Lake Boga! Now don’t just drive through, stop at the “Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum”. Situated on the banks of beautiful Lake Boga this wartime secret Flying boat base holds some interesting history for you. The size of the place and its setting says this was a lot of hard work for the locals. With lots to see and set in a location to kill for it will be a long remembered excursion. Guess what guys there is a great display of radio

gear including the “AR-8 and AT-5” combination along with their Antenna Tuning unit. There was one piece of gear there that I didn’t know so you might be able to help me out with that. It’s a Reception set number 4! The radio room is located in a bunker way below the Museum and setup with its own generator and sleeping quarters. Just how you would sleep with that running in your ear somehow escapes me. Local amateurs have helped with this venture and do operate from the bunker



on special occasions. For this to happen an above ground antenna system has been erected and coax fed down to the equipment below. Those who have owned or used one of the famous AR7’s will acknowledge this fine old work horse. So there we leave our journey and a little wiser to boot. An afterthought, as “Hams “we should take more ownership of Alfred Traeger, truly a great “Ham”. See “Traeger The Pedal Radio Man” by Fred McKay.



Bob VK3BNC.



Ten Things That Will Disappear In Our Lifetime

1. The Post Office

Get ready to imagine a world without the post office. They are so deeply in financial trouble that there is probably no way to sustain it long term. Email, Fed Ex, and UPS have just about wiped out the minimum revenue needed to keep the post office alive. Most of your mail every day is junk mail and bills.

2. The Cheque

Britain is already laying the groundwork to do away with cheque by 2018. It costs the financial system billions of dollars a year to process checks. Plastic cards and online transactions will lead to the eventual demise of the check. This plays right into the death of the post office. If you never paid your bills by mail and never received them by mail, the post office would absolutely go out of business.

3. The Newspaper

The younger generation simply doesn't read the newspaper. They certainly don't subscribe to a daily delivered print edition. That may go the way of the milkman and the laundry man. As for reading the paper online, get ready to pay for it. The rise in mobile Internet devices and e-readers has caused all the newspaper and magazine publishers to form an alliance. They have met with Apple, Amazon, and the major cell phone companies to develop a model for paid subscription services.

4. The Book

You say you will never give up the physical book that you hold in your hand and turn the literal pages. I said the same thing about downloading music from iTunes. I wanted my hard copy CD. But I quickly changed my mind when I discovered that I could get albums for half the price without ever leaving home to get the latest music. The same thing will happen with books. You can browse a bookstore online and even read a preview chapter before you buy. And the price is less than half that of a real book. And think of the convenience! Once you start flicking your fingers on the screen instead of the book, you find that you are lost in the story, can't wait to see what happens next, and you forget that you're holding a gadget instead of a book.

5. The Land Line Telephone

Unless you have a large family and make a lot of local calls, you don't need it anymore. Most people keep it simply because they've always had it. But you are paying double charges for that extra service. All the cell phone companies will let you call customers using the same cell provider for no charge against your minutes.

6. Music

This is one of the saddest parts of the change story. The music industry is dying a slow death. Not just because of illegal downloading. It's the lack of innovative new music being given a chance to get to the people who would like to hear it. Greed and corruption is the problem. The record labels and the radio conglomerates are simply self-destructing. Over 40% of the music purchased today is "catalogue items," meaning traditional music that the public is familiar with. Older established artists. This is also true on the live concert circuit. To explore this fascinating and disturbing topic further, check out the book, "Appetite for Self-Destruction" by Steve Knopper, and the video documentary, "Before the Music Dies."

7. Television Revenues

To the networks are down dramatically. Not just because of the economy. People are watching TV and movies streamed from their computers. And they're playing games and doing lots of other things that take up the time that used to be spent watching TV. Prime time shows have degenerated down to lower than the lowest common denominator. Cable rates are skyrocketing and commercials run about every 4 minutes and 30 seconds. I say good riddance to most of it. It's time for the cable companies to be put out of our misery. Let the people choose what they want to watch online and through Netflix.

8. The "Things" That You Own

Many of the very possessions that we used to own are still in our lives, but we may not actually own them in the future. They may simply reside in "the cloud." Today your computer has a hard drive and you store your pictures, music, movies, and documents. Your software is on a CD or DVD, and you can always re-install it if need be. But all of that is changing. Apple, Microsoft, and Google are all finishing up their latest "cloud services." That means that when you turn on a computer, the Internet will be built into the operating system. So, Windows, Google, and the Mac OS will be tied straight into the Internet. If you click an icon, it will open something in the Internet cloud. If you save something, it will be saved to the cloud. And you may pay a monthly subscription fee to the cloud provider. In this virtual world, you can access your music or your books, or your whatever from any laptop or handheld device. That's the good news. But, will you actually own any of this "stuff" or will it all be able to disappear at any moment in a big "Poof?" Will most of the things in our lives be disposable and whimsical? It makes you want to run to the closet and pull out that photo album, grab a book from the shelf, or open up a CD case and pull out the insert.

9. Joined Handwriting (Cursive Writing)

Already gone in some schools who no longer teach "joined handwriting" because nearly everything is done now on computers or keyboards of some type (pun not intended).

10. Privacy

If there ever was a concept that we can look back on nostalgically, it would be privacy. That's gone. It's been gone for a long time anyway.. There are cameras on the street, in most of the buildings, and even built into your computer and cell phone. But you can be sure that 24/7, "They" know who you are and where you are, right down to the GPS coordinates, and the Google Street View. If you buy something, your habit is put into a zillion profiles, and your ads will change to reflect those habits.. "They" will try to get you to buy something else. Again and again and again.

All we will have left that which can't be changed
.....are our "Memories".
Logic is dead.
Excellence is punished.
Mediocrity is rewarded.
And dependency is to be revered.
This is present day America or Australia.
When people rob banks they go to prison.
When they rob the taxpayer they get re-elected!

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73 Craig. VK3KG



PHENOMENAL 2 LETTER WORD

*I'm sure you will enjoy this. I never knew one word in English language that can be a noun, verb, adj, adv, prep. **UP**

Read until the end ... You'll laugh.

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is _UP_. It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand _UP_, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake _UP_?

At a meeting, why does a topic come _UP_? Why do we speak _UP_, and why are the officers _UP_ for election (if there is a tie, it is a toss UP) and why is it _UP_ to the secretary to write _UP_ a report? We call _UP_ our friends, brighten _UP_ a room, polish _UP_ the silver, warm _UP_ the leftovers and clean _UP_ the kitchen. We lock _UP_ the house and fix _UP_ the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir _UP_ trouble, line _UP_ for tickets, work _UP_ an appetite, and think _UP_ excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed _UP_ is special.

And this _UP_ is confusing: A drain must be opened _UP_ because it is blocked _UP_..

We open _UP_ a store in the morning but we close it _UP_ at night. We seem to be pretty mixed _UP_ about _UP_!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of _UP_, look _UP_ the word _UP_ in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes _UP_ almost 1/4 of the page and can add _UP_ to about thirty definitions.

If you are _UP_ to it, you might try building _UP_ a list of the many ways _UP_ is used. It will take _UP_ a lot of your time, but if you don't give _UP_, you may wind _UP_ with (UPto) a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding _UP_.

When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing _UP_. When it rains, it soaks _UP_ the earth. When it does not rain for a while, things dry _UP_. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it _UP_, for now . . . My time is _UP_!

Oh. . . One more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

_U__P_!

Did that one crack you _UP_?

Don't screw _UP_.. Send this on to everyone you look _UP_ in your address book . . . Or not . . . it's _UP_ to you.

Now I'll shut _UP_!

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