

B.A.R.G. News



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

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 6 June 2006



President: David Tilson VK3UR
Secretary: John Kennedy VK3AIG
Treasurer: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 30, 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: vk3aig@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.

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

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.

There is NO roster.....

Grassgrowing has been cancelled.

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc

Minutes of General Meeting May 26 2006

Apologies Vk3hrz Vk3caz Vk3kqb Vk3kqq Vk3adx. Vk3btx,

Welcome to visitors Peter Vk3qi. Jack Vk3www. Max Vk3wt. Keith Vk3ft.

Minutes of previous meeting as circulated be accepted Moved Vk3vba/Vk3dcs. Carried
Business Arising from Minutes.

Ian Vk3axh to pick up test gear from Reg Vk3caz.

Nonmembers and Visitors to be given opportunity to fill any vacant seats on Club trips

Correspondence. In Mallee Rally starters. Electronics Inventor requires help. QST.

Treasurers Report. Current statement tabled. Moved Vk3fgc/Vk3axh. Carried.

Reports. Dining night at Zagames a success. Next at Royal Oak 16 June.

Moorabbin Hamfest. Doug Vk3vba organized bus and nine members attended. Small cash surplus donated to Uniting Care .Committee agreed to invite non members or family to fill vacant seats. Insurance cover under public liability and TAC.

Committee Reports. Committee passed motion to sell BARG mugs to members. These mugs to be of different color to Guest Mugs, Black with silver square. Priced at \$15.00.

George Fowler Auction Day, To be held 28 May Commencing with soup lunch at 1200 hrs . Auction to commence at 1300 hrs . Bob Vk3bnc to have the hammer.

WICEN Caravan , Committee agreed to request from WICEN to store Caravan and Mast in rear yard at Club premises.

General Business. Hamvention. Ian Vk3axh reported on receiving a request from Woolshed to set date for Hamvention. Agreed that 5 November be the set date, Ian stressed the need for helpers to set up layout on same day . A 0700 hrs start at the latest. Ian to arrange map and directions layout. Allow for 50 tables.

Radio Modernization Project. David Vk3ur reported on Committee decision to upgrade the equipment to operate in the range of 1.8m Hz to 50 m Hz as the first stage and the Vhf and Uhf to follow at a later date. The approximate cost for first stage around \$3500.including antennas.

David further reported he has made a submission to the City of Ballarat Grants for a grant of \$2000 to cover new Tx/Rx. The shortfall will hopefully be covered from Grant WIA Vic and Federal. David to complete these requests in the near future, and the Club to raise approx \$700 from activities and members.

David presented a very detailed power point presentation of the future Club Station with emphasis on the fact that the station can be remotely accessed, and stressed the need to retain some of our present equipment. Members pleased with proposal.

Silent Keys . Bob Vk3bnc has produced list of Silent Keys and requested members to add any further information.

Arthur Solomon looking for help to assemble HF antenna. Vk3bvi/ Vk3det. Vk3fgc to help.

Computer Project, John Vk3tjw reported progress. Intergration Packet and IRLP.

Education , Craig Vk3cmc and Bruce Vk3wl to arrange publicity in the Ballan newspaper on the activities of Amateur Radio.

Amateur Radio Victoria. David Vk3ur gave a detailed and lengthy report on a motion to wind up ARV and donate the proceeds of at least \$500,000. To WIA.

Jim Linton Vk3pc advised AGM that after seeking legal advise That these motions were not in conformance with Corporations Law and the Chairman should not accept them nor should they be put to the meeting.

Gordon Vk3fgc reported on attending meeting re Airport development, Industries to be developed around Aviation, No changes around Club Building.

Gordon Vk3fgc attended Civic Reception City of Ballarat on behalf of WICEN.

A number of Club Members involved in the Annual Damascus College radio talk.

Steve Vk3se reported on a special events station in USA celebrating 150 years of their town Eureka

Meeting Closed 2030 hrs.

Guest Speakers welcomed and gave a very interesting talk and display on their DX expedition to St Peters Island South of Ceduna off South Australia.

Bob's BIG DISH



Bob told Bet, this is to get the World Cup Soccer direct from Germany

President's Report:

We were treated to an excellent presentation by Jack **VK3WWW**, Peter **VK3QI** and Max **VK3WT** at our May General Meeting on their April 2005 IOTA (Islands On The Air) DX-pedition to St Peter Island, off Ceduna. This presentation had the works including details on planning, logistics, the science of propagation as well as managing and mitigating potential interference issues. The Construction Group were very interested in the bandpass filters that were described to support the operation of multiple radios in close proximity. If you couldn't make it along there is a copy of the presentation in our Library.

Our annual George Fowler Memorial Auction was another successful event with lots of equipment trading hands and we raised approximately \$260. Thanks to the ladies for coordination of soup and bread and to all involved who assisted or donated items for the club.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, VK3UR

Foundation Licence Training:

We have received interest from 5 people, to date, who are interested in undertaking training / assessment for the Foundation Licence. The next training course will be conducted on Wednesday nights over 4 weeks (1 night per week) commencing 2nd August, followed by the practical assessment taking place on a weekend. Each of the weeknight training sessions will comprise both a theory and practical component as well as setting of homework for the following week. Copies of the Foundation Licence manual are available for purchase through either the WIA Bookshop or at BARG. If you would like further information, or to register for the training course, please contact Craig **VK3CMC**, by email at yk3cmc@bigpond.com or phone (03) 5342-2448.

International Lighthouse Weekend:

The international lighthouse weekend will take place on the 3rd weekend in August. Due to unavailability of the regular attendees BARG has been offered access to the Cape Otway Lighthouse. The subject will be discussed at the June General Meeting but we will need firm commitment of members who would be interested as well as appointment of someone to coordinate the activity.

Radio Modernisation Project:

David **VK3UR** gave an overview of the radio modernisation project at the May General Meeting. When completed the project will deliver the following benefits:

- A modern radio station that members want to use supporting operation on all amateur bands 160m – 6m and all modes of operation;
- A modern 2m and 70cm radio station;
- A station that is simple to use and doesn't require an engineering degree to operate;
- Access to facilities / modes / bands that members might not have at home while visiting the club rooms;
- Remote access capabilities, for HF bands, that allow members to utilise the radio system from home, work, or where ever there is a suitable internet connection; and
- Remote access capabilities, for HF bands, to support the community during times of emergency.

The project is to be broken into 2 stages with the first stage focussing on 160m – 6m and the

second stage on 2m and 70cm. David explained that each stage of the project had been broken up into several phases each with specific deliverables and costing and each phase could be undertaken independently when funding and resources becomes available.

David explained that as part of the modernisation project that it was planned to keep at least one of our existing valve radios so that members and visitors for historical purposes and so that put into perspective the change in technology over time. This was met with approval and support at the meeting.

A summary of Stage 1 can be seen below as well as the current status.

Phase 1 - Procurement of a Kenwood TS480sat 160m – 6m radio and installation at the club rooms. Status: A funding submission has been presented to the Ballarat City Council for their consideration.

Phase 2 – Upgrade of computer facilities within the radio shack and interfacing with the new radio equipment to allow remote access via the internet to the radio station. Status: Yet to be commenced.

Phase 3 – The addition of antennas for 160m, 30m, 17m and 12m to the radio station. Status: A funding submission has been prepared for submission to the WIA as part of the Club Grants Scheme.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Ian **VK3AXH** for being awarded 1st place in the 6 Hour Portable Operation – Multiple Operator category of the 2006 John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest.

Congratulations to Bob **VK3BNC** for being awarded 2nd place in the 6 Hour Home Station category of the 2006 John Moyle Memorial Field Day Contest.

Congratulations to **Betty Terrill** for enduring 50 years of wedded bliss(???) to Bob **VK3BNC**. Bob and Betty chose to celebrate their 50th anniversary at our June Dining Night. When Bob was asked if it only felt like 60 years, he replied that it seemed closer to 100 years... We can only assume he meant that they had fitted so much into their brief time together.

BARG Mugs:

Following endorsement at the May General Meeting, Doug **VK3VBA** has ordered 15 BARG mugs that will be available for sale at the June General Meeting. The mugs will be black with the BARG logo superimposed over a silver square. Cost for each mug will be \$15 and available on a first come, first serve basis.

July General Meeting:

We will be joined at our July General Meeting by members of the Central Goldfields Amateur Radio Group. As some of you may be aware the CGARC, as a club, became a member of BARG as a number of their club members use our IRLP facilities at VK3RWA. Doug **VK3VBA** is organising food and part of the evening will be used to highlight different activities that each of the clubs are involved in.

Dining Night:

The next Dining Night will be held at 6:30pm at the Rokewood Hotel on 21 July. We have had an excellent attendance by members and their partners at recent gatherings and we look forward to another great night.



Propagation Report for June 2006

With winter well and truly upon us does this mean more time in the shack to make those illusive contacts? I trust there will be some additional input over the cold spell.

Again many thanks to Steve VK3SE for his continued support in this segment.

HF

20 metres

Countries/Stations heard/worked include – Bulgaria, VK/ZL Porta Rico, France, Slovak Republic, Kurwait and Special Event Station VI9NI on Norfolk Island.

15 metres

Indonesia, VK/ZL and JA's and VI9NI

17 metres VI9NI

Special Event Stations

K7A – Anniversary of the "Great Amadillo Run of 1998" June 24-25

VI9NI - Norfolk Island on all bands until June 21

W4P – Anniversary of Packet Radio – USA

DQ2006 – World Cup Soccer – all bands

8N4OK1 – OK1 Islands celebrating the opening of OK1 airport until July 31

VHF and Above

The usual contacts continue on both FM and SSB on 2 metres. There has been some limited activity on the higher bands withing VK3 and sometimes to VK1/2/5.

Congratulations to Bob VK3BNC for his 2nd place in the John Moyle competition. Bob entered the Home Station 6 Hours section and had 87 contact for 139 points.

John VK3AIG, Ian VK3IDL and Ian VK3AXH entered the Multi Operator Portable section of the John Moyle and were pleasantly surprised to get 1st place with 74 contact using 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm totalling 1400 points

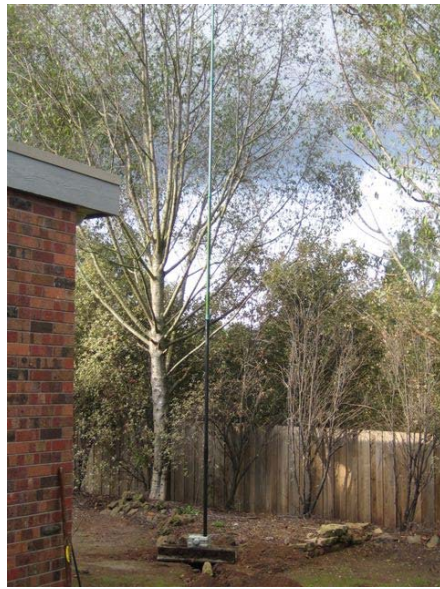
Projects

There has been some success with the switchmode power supplies with some of the group completing the task. There were limited numbers at the last group meeting possibly due to the change in date and the cold weather. It turned into a bit of a show and tell session. John VK3AIG and Ian VK3IDL continue to work on the "Light Transmission" project whilst Craig VK3CMC, Ian VK3IDL, Ian VK3AXH did some note swapping and testing of sections of the 23cm project. Some of the group members had undertaken the next step up in frequency by ordering kits for 13cm.

Till next time 73, Ian VK3AXH

Roger's adventures.....

how not to install an antenna



I am putting in a vertical and did a trench for the coax and control cables, hit a storm water pipe that was not on any plans. To add insult to injury, it was blocked and secondly it connected into the sewerage.

By the time the plumbers are finished we may have to sell the house to pay for all of this.

The second shot is the actual antenna temporarily supported prior to some concrete in the base.

Regards Roger VK3ADE

(Roger is new to Ballarat and submitted a membership application at the last General Meeting— Editor)

Review QST June 2006

I grabbed this QST as soon as I saw the 160 meter receiving loop article as I have an interest in this area. Craig saw the microphone article and the photos brought back faded memories to both of us. The three microphones across page 51 were daily work horses back in our days of "We remember". It would be interesting to know how many of these microphones were manufactured by RCA for world distribution.

The Kill-A-Watt Electric Usage Monitor on page 61 would be a useful unit to show anyone how little our hobby costs to run - we won't go into set up costs and time consumed but running costs could easily be demonstrated.

Anyway, a quick run down of the articles in the June magazine.

1. Page 32 A low cost active audio filter for CW reception
2. " 35 An effective 160 meter Receiving loop
3. " 39 Homebrew solid-state 600 W HF Amplifier
4. " 44 No Fueling: A field day with Hydrogen
5. " 50 The Microphone. A Short Illustrated History
6. " 55 The Doctor is In. A question answered on comparisons between Bare copper and insulated copper wire for dipoles
7. " 61 Kill-A-Watt Electric Usage Monitor
8. " 64 Hints & Kinks. Notes on lightning protection for open-wire Feedlines using automobile spark plugs
9. " 71 Heil PRO set quiet phone noise canceling headset
10. " 73 Technical Correspondence - Stacking 2 Meter Yagis
11. " 75 Happenings - More on BPL in USA
12. " 133 to 147 Eight full pages of MFJ Products

Golden Anniversary

Bob and Bet Terrill



Congratulations

FOR SALE

VK-Powermaster v/a meter 14Acont.25A interm.	\$150
Yaesu 221-2m TRX. Ssb/am/cw.up/lo sb 240/12v	\$85
Philips FM900 remote head	\$120
Kenwood SW 200 swr/Power meter	
1.8 – 50mhz with vhf directional coupler	\$120
MFJ 1278 Packet Modem HF/VHF	\$150
TNC2 multi 1200/9600b new \$300. German made	\$150
Icom HT ICW2A VHF/UHF needs new battery	\$150
NB-50 – 2M RF amp. 50W out. Input 2.5 – 10W	\$90
GST-1 2m/70cm Vertical base antenna	\$90
2m 5/8 Mobile w/magnetic base	\$60
8 Element 2m beam	\$50
Daiwa coax Switches(2) \$25 each, for 2	\$50
Balun 1.8 – 30mhz. 1:1 (2) \$25 each for 2	\$45
J-Pole 2m	\$10
ARRL Handbook 1990	\$20
The Amateur Handbook 1963	\$15
Katsumi Electronic Keyer	\$70

Length of Coax and various Connectors.

All items in working order and with Specification and books.

Bruno, ex VK3MAQ

Phone 87905147

FOR SALE: TH5DX tri band beam for 20/15/10Metres. The boom is about 6metres long. The asking price is \$150 but may be "discussed" with the owner. A good deal for someone.

All contacts to **Ray Magilton VK3DRC on 5333 1895**

May Guest Speakers:

Jack **VK3WWW**, Peter **VK3QI**, Keith **VK3FT** and Max **VK3WT** were guest speakers at our General Meeting held on Friday, 26th May. These 4 gentlemen have been busy activating various IOTA (Island On The Air) stations over the last few years and creating dogpiles where-ever they go. The expedition they presented was **VI5PN St. Peter Island** which was last activated during Easter 2005, which follows on from other expeditions including **VI3JPI Lady Julia Percy Island**, **VI5WCP Waldegrave Island** and **VI5BR Baudin Rocks**.



George Fowler Memorial Auction 2006

Here are some of the happy bidders of the afternoon, enjoying a cup of soup and a chat





B.A.R.G. Inc. NOMINATION FORM
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group—Inc # 6953T
25th August 2006

DATE: _____

I wish to Nominate _____ CALL: _____

For the position of _____ of BARG Inc.

Nominated by: _____ and _____

Nomination accepted by: (Nominee) _____



B.A.R.G. Inc. NOMINATION FORM
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group—Inc # 6953T
25th August 2006

DATE: _____

I wish to Nominate _____ CALL: _____

For the position of _____ of BARG Inc.

Nominated by: _____ and _____

Nomination accepted by: (Nominee) _____