

# BARG News



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

**VOLUME 30 ISSUE 7 JULY 2007**



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

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 27, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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# The Secretary's Page

## Minutes of BARG General Meeting June 2007

Meeting opened by VK3NBV 7:35pm  
Visitors: Ivan Greenbank, Norm Johns

Apologies: VK3AIG, VK3CAZ, VK3HHK, VK3GND, VK3CIS, VK3HRZ, VK3FSDH, VK3DCS

Minutes of the previous General Meeting as circulated.  
Business Arising – Nil

Moved VK3BVI/Vk3FSTU Carried

**Secretary:** .

Correspondance: QST, Cards/Plaques etc from Norm VK3LBA, Nomination forms for the AGM,  
letter of thanks to be sent to Norm for his ongoing efforts with Silent Key matters.  
Moved VK3ADE/VK3CMC Carried

**Treasurer:** Current balance is \$7311.12

Moved VK3FGC/VK3BNC Carried

### Reports

Jeff Vk3PAP reports that damaged components on the mast have been repaired and fitted to the tower. It has been decided to replace the cable on the winches due to age. Ian VK3AXH to enquire re some welding to be done.

**Beacons:** Roger Vk3ADE reports the 432/1296 beacon controller working and parts for the 1296 beacon have been ordered from MiniKits.

**Ben Nevis:** John VK3TJW reports good progress with the new repeater now operating on the correct frequencies with some tuning to be done at the next construction night. The repeater controller still has some interface issues to be resolved.

**Education:** Craig Vk3CMC reported the next Foundation Course will be held on August 4/5 with upgraded cost per package now being \$25.

**Newsletter:** Harry VK3KGL reports all going well and will continue to be published by Harry whilst on holiday in the VK4.

**Wicen:** Gordon Vk3FGC presented Bob VK3NBV and Craig VK3CMC with some goodies for their efforts in the Mars Challenge. Thanks to Stewart VK3ASH and Bob Vk3BNC for their efforts with the WICEN caravan.

**Ammenities:** Doug VK3VBA has done a general clean up around the club rooms and is providing supper after the meeting. Possibility there will be enough numbers for a bus trip to the Cranbourne Hamfest on 21<sup>st</sup> of July. At present 7 members have shown interest.

**Construction group:**

Ian Vk3AXH reports that most of the dummy loads are completed or nearing completion and looking for ideas for new projects. Some suggestions include – 2 metre preamp, wx receiver and audio amp. Email will be sent to members to get numbers.

**Presidents Overview from Committee Meeting**

Bob VK3NBV reports the AGM will be held prior to the general meeting in August and that members should consider nominating for positions. Nominations need to be received at least 1 week prior to the meeting. Bob indicated most of the items have already been covered in reports

**General Business:**

Stewart Vk3ASH reports he has access to a self supporting mast similar to the one in the clubs backyard which is free. Arrangements are to be made to inspect and look at possible removal.

Gordon Vk3FGC advised Brian Kennan has a range of equipment available due to his relocation. Equipment includes a 1296 repeater and other good stuff.

Merv Vk3ADX reported problems with the clubs 2 metre repeater VK3RBA – Ian VK3AXH to look into the problem.

Quotes for a new sink hot water heater has been referred to the committee. The outcome to be tabled at the next general meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

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**EP** Engineered Products Group  
**KOHLER** engines

## SOLUTION TO PUZZLE.

Here are the possible readings to solve the puzzle from last month:-

### Reading No 1.

Split the circuit into 3 sections containing 7, 7 and 6 resistors as Figure 1. Measure across one of the 7 sections in series with the 6 section :- 3 possible readings result viz

- (a)  $1/6$  ohms indicating that the short is in the 7 section.
- (b)  $1/7$  ohms indicating that the short is in the 6 section.
- (c)  $13/42$  ohms indicating that the short is in the unmeasured 7 section.

### Reading No 2.

If the 6 section contains the short make it up to 7 with a resistor from the others otherwise proceed as follows. Split the 7 resistors into 3 parts containing 3, 2 and 2 as Figure 2. Measure across the 3 section in series with one of the 2 sections:- 3 possible readings result viz

- (a)  $1/2$  ohms indicating that the short is in the 3 section.
- (b)  $1/3$  ohms indicating that the short is in the 2 section.
- (c)  $5/6$  ohms indicating that the short is in unmeasured 2 section.

### Reading No 3.

If the short is in one of the 2 sections of reading No 2 make it up to 3 with a known 1 ohm resistor from the others and proceed as in Figure 3. Measure across the 1 in series with (1 plus known in parallel)

Two possible readings result viz

- (a) 1 ohm indicating that the resistor in the (1 plus known) is shorted.
- (b)  $1/2$  ohms indicating that the other resistor is shorted.

If the short is in the 3 section [(a) of Reading No 2] set aside one of the 3 resistors and add a known resistor across one of the remainder as in Figure 4. A further possible reading results viz

- (c)  $1 + 1/2$  ohms indicating that the resistor set aside is shorted.

Q. E. D.

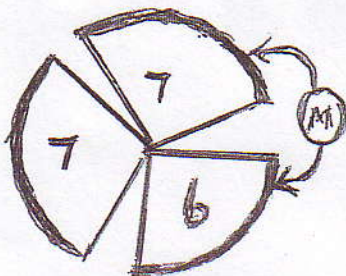


FIG 1

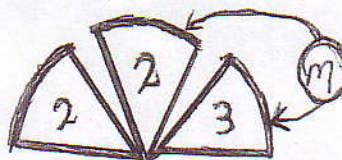


FIG 2



FIG 3



FIG 4



## QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library



### QST Review 2007 July

A quick skim through the pages of the latest magazine in the library

P28 Getting onto 24GHz

P31 Ballon Lifted Full Wave Loop antennas. Try this next Field day.!

P35 Smart Keyboard For CW types.

P41 A QRP Trek in Ireland. What scenes there are too.

P43 Dayton Hamvention. An overview. Look at what new gear has been released on the market now.

P50 THE DOCTOR IS IN. Trees and effects on horizontal antennas. Ladder line versus coax.

P49 SHORT TAKES.. Build the DC-40 QRP Transceiver for 40m. Other bands are available for US \$39.

P50 Simple headset for the IC706 series. Using inexpensive computer head sets with the rig.

P 52 Subaudible tones.

P 53 HANDS ON RADIO. Exp # 54 Precision Rectifiers

P55 Simple RF detector to see if the rig has signal going out.

P56 HINTS & KINKS.. Low profile antenna is a Flag pole. Raising antennas in the bush. Lithium battery replacements.

P 58 PRODUCT REVIEW. Ten-Tec Omni 7. HF/6M Transceiver.

P 78 Beacons and what you can use them for.

P81 OLD RADIO. Reports the passing of an OT Bruce W2ICE [sk]

P83 Getting started in Microwaves. 10GHz. Lists some web sites also.

P85 ECLECTIC TECHNOLOGY. JT65A on the HF bands.

P88 Looking back at QST from 75, 50 and 25 years with articles listing the contents of the July 1932, 1957 and 1982 editions.

P104 STRAYS. Interesting little experiment to test high volage and current distribution in the magnetic loop antenna.

P 105 HAMSPEAK, Lists some of the technical words used by Amateurs

In this months edition. Great for newcomers to use as a word list to the hobby.

Again the balance of the magazine has ARRL specific news and those pages of advertisements that stop you in your tracks.

That's the end of this months review of QST magazine.

73 Craig

**VK3CMC**

### The KQB Puzzle Page

This month puzzle involves a Motel sign which should show either "VACANCY" or "NO VACANCY". When the building was complete and operating the owner found that only a single pair cable had been run under the concrete pavement between the office and the vacancy sign at the front entrance to the property, a distance of 30 metres.

The puzzle is to design a switching system using the single pair cable and the least possible number of components to select either sign from the office as required?

The answer will be given in the next issue.

# Young Hams Net

This is now each Wednesday at 8pm on 3.590MHz minus QRM. Look for the net control VK3SAA and join in, everyone welcome.

## "F Troup Net"

The F-Troup net can be heard at about 11.40am straight after the Sunday morning broadcast callbacks, and using the wide area coverage Mt Macedon 2-metre repeater VK3RMM 147.250 MHz.

**Please don't just listen, join in and make it a useful and worthwhile exercise.**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The Annual General Meeting of B.A.R.G. Inc will be held on  
Friday 31 st August 2007 commencing at 1930 hrs  
At the Club Rooms Ballarat Aerodrome**

### **Agenda**

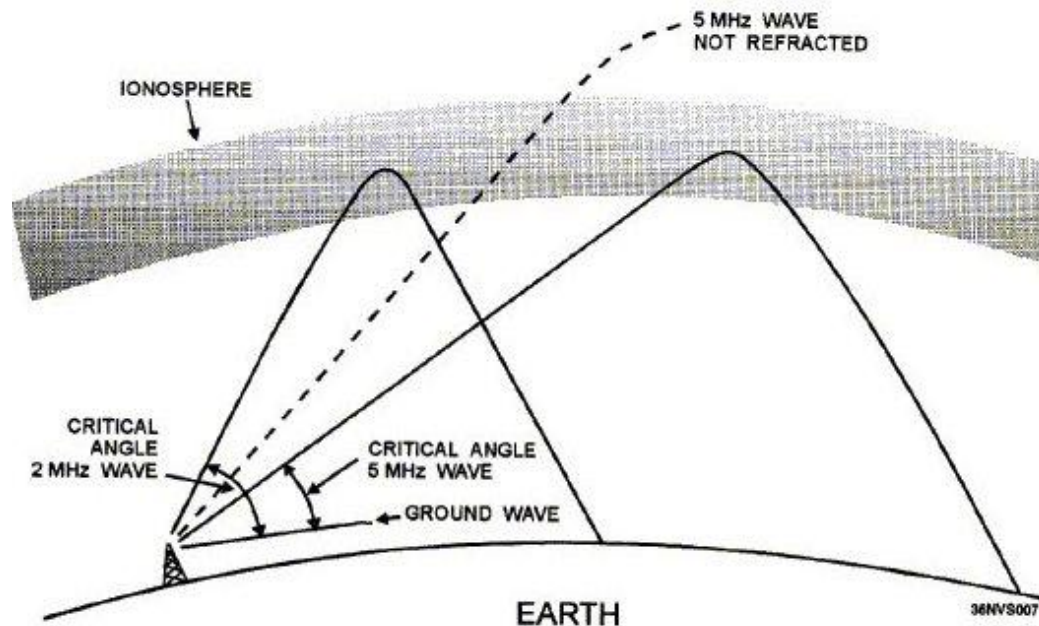
- 1 Minutes of 2006 AGM**
- 2 To Receive and adopt Annual Report and Financial Statement**
- 3 To elect Office Bearers for 2007/2008**
- 4 To elect Honorary Auditor**
- 5 To elect Honorary Solicitor**

### **NOTES**

- 1 All financial members are entitled to cast a vote on the above matters.**
- 2 Nomination forms are available from Secretary, or your last newsletter.**
- 3 Nominations for Office Bearers close with Secretary at 1300 hrs on Friday 24th August.**
- 4 Postal address for all correspondence is as below.**

**Ian Mc Donald  
Hon Secretary.**

**BOX 1261  
MAIL CENTRE  
BALLARAT 3354**



## Propagation Report for July 2007

**HF bands** Little to report this month. My observations indicate not much happening except on the 160 metre band where Brian VK3KQB had several contacts in both VK and ZL during a contest.

**VHF/UHF** I think the weather has had a bearing on the activity for most of us this month and propagation has not been too kind as well. There has been limited opportunity for any long distance QSO's with only a couple of openings into VK5 from our area.

The loss of the Adelaide beacons has been a blow to those that use them as indicators and its hope it won't be too long before they find a new home.

Also during the last month the Gippsland Technical Conference took place resulting in a high proportion of enthusiasts on these bands being unavailable. However we can only hope things will improve over the next few months.

### Construction Group

Brian VK3KQB is well on the way to producing some audio kits and hopes to have them available at our next get together. John VK3TJW has made advances with the Ben Nevis repeater as the receiver is now tuned and looking forward to tackling the transmitter at our next meeting. It is hoped that all will be ready to install when the weather improves.

Roger VK3ADE reports the beacons are well underway with the controller being completed and waiting for some pcb's to arrive to make further progress with both the 70cm and 23cm equipment.

**Till next time 73 VK3AXH**





Bob, VK3NBV

## A few words from the President.....

G'day All,

We are living up to Ballarat's reputation of being cold and wet. Been colder and some real snow the other day. Hope you blokes with the big beams didn't have them bending under the weight of it ???  
Your Club Requires YOU.

Yes that's right, become active at the club, the annual general meeting is happening on August 31.

All positions are open for nomination.

Fill in a nomination form found at the rear of the newsletter.

Nomination forms need to be in 1 week prior to the August AGM..

Coming up on August 11 and 12 is the annual Remembrance Day Contest, this is a contest that is very good training for the new amateurs to get involved in. Rules and regs can be found in the AR Magazine.

Next meeting on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> has a guest speaker and Hot Tucker to follow.

That's it for this month, we have several members heading north on their annual warm-up, I wish them safe Travel.

To the rest of us, 73's and Keep Warm.

**Bob Pitcher VK3NBV.....**

### WANTED

**RF Thermocouple meter of 1 Amp**

**Single gang variable capacitor of 200 pF**

**Contact Neil, vk3gnd**

**Email: [neildavo1@bigpond.com](mailto:neildavo1@bigpond.com)**

**Ph: 53461053**

### PLEASE NOTE !!!

**All articles for August Newsletter must be in no later than Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of August.  
And for September no later than September 22.**

**Downloadable Internet is not available over weekends in Yeppoon.**



**B.A.R.G. Inc. NOMINATION FORM**  
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group—Inc # 6953T  
31th August 2007

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to Nominate \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

For the position of \_\_\_\_\_ of BARG Inc.

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination accepted by: (Nominee) \_\_\_\_\_



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