



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group
Inc. #6953T
April
Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting
Friday 30th April @ 7:30pm

Face to Face! Out at the clubhouse at the 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 1218
Mail Centre
Bakery Hill Vic. 3354

Or E-Mail : vk3bml@barg.org.au

We're on the web
www.barg.org.au

Presidents April Report

Welcome to the April newsletter. There's been a fair bit of activity since the last newsletter. Ian, VK3YFD, progressed the remote base by placing an order for a new, heavy duty rotator for the log periodic. Once it arrived, Andrew, VK3TOT, took the lead to get the old rotator out and the new in. All done efficiently and most importantly, done safely.

In the process the beam was realigned with the direction indicator. It had slipped by about 90 degrees. It seems that it had simply slipped on the post. Hopefully it's tighter and we won't see that issue again.

A number of members participated in the John Moyle field day. This was run in the grounds out at the club. 20M and 40 radios were set up and running. Lots of contacts 40m and hardly any on 20m. I guess it just goes that way sometimes. While we weren't competitive, a good time was had by all who attended.

Next activity will be the George Fowler Auction. This is being planned for Sunday the 30th of May. Times will be confirmed at the meeting on Friday. So nows the time to pull out all that stuff that is too good to throw away and really excess to likely future needs, and see it get moved along to new home. Details to be fleshed out Friday.

We've also discussed the Hamvention. Should we run it this year? There's been a couple run in Melbourne and they've been successful.

If it is to run we need a committee to lead it. Many of the people who've run various aspects in the past have indicated they won't be in a position to assist this year.

Peter, VK3PWG, had proposed a social function, attending the evening show at Sovereign Hill. We don't have a big enough group to have a dedicated BARG night. And due to current popularity of the show Peter can't reserve any tickets, therefore it will be money up front to get in for a special discounted concession price of **\$32.40**.

This will mean we need to get **bookings and the cash in by no later than May 13th** and I will then place our group booking on Friday May 14. Any late comers will be in the lap of the gods and will need to book direct with Sovereign Hill and will not get the discounted price and if it's fully booked then they will not be with our group. The night that we decided is **Saturday June 16th** and it is a 6:45pm start, best to be there half hour early, so arrive 6:15pm.

Peter, VK3PWG, has also been able to register for use of the VK100AF Call Sign. At Friday's meeting he'll explain where this is going to be activated and how you can get involved if you'd like too. Peter will make brief mention about the connection of No. 1 WAGS as that is the very reason for using the special call.

Next construction night is Monday, 7:30pm at the club. There's some antenna project finalisation. You can show off the progress on your zMatch, or just drop in a see what everyone's up to. 7:30pm at the club.

Malcolm. VK3OAK.

VK3BML HF NET OPERATORS.				
DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	BACK UP	NAME
29-Apr-21	VK3DRE	Doug	VK3MCL	Scott
6-May-21	VK3MCL	Scott	VK3AXH	Ian
13-May-21	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3KG	Craig
20-May-21	VK3KG	Craig	VK3TXR	Paul
27-May-21	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3QY	Chris

VHF and Above for April 2021

Due to my lack of activity over this past month I'm not so sure there is a lot to report.

Most mornings there are the usual group of enthusiasts to be heard on the bottom end of the 2mx band. I'm hearing that Andy VK3HMV is around which adds to the numbers from the Ballarat region. This is good news as most mornings the majority of activity comes from the local and surrounding districts. The list of locals that have the capability are, VK3BNC, VK3KG, VK3BEB, VK3FITW, VK3PWG, VK3ALM, VK3KQT, VK3TXR, VK3DAE, VK3AXH and probably others I have missed. We are also hearing Gary VK3NN from Shelford whilst not in a very favourable location for a path into Ballarat but does reasonably well given the location. Gary is also a regular at the BARG coffee sessions. Other operators from Colac, Cobden, Camperdown, Carramat, Hamilton, Coronet Bay (near Philip Isle) Warrnambool, Portland and of course the VK5's from Mount Gambier. We do get a lift in propagation occasionally from the Adelaide direction as well as North West Tasmania who have a 2mx net on 144.120 Thursday evenings after the BARG 80mx net so why not have a listen.

A good indicator is the Devonport Beacon on 2mx 144.474 to why not have a listen from time to time to check the path.

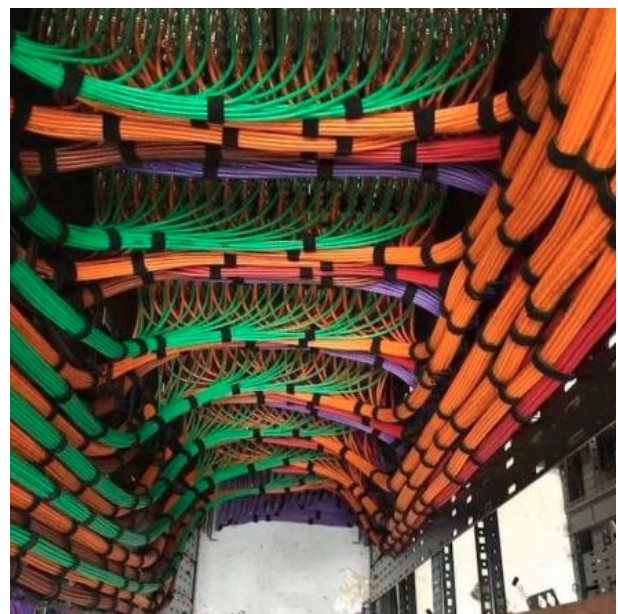
It's hoped that when the antenna project is complete and antenna's are in the air activity will be even greater.

I will incorporate in this column the progress being made with the antenna project which is moving along quite well. Most of the participants have drilled the holes in their booms and have the element supports in place. Some arrangements have been made to transport the finished antennas to the various qth's of those participating.

Preliminary tests show the 432MHz antenna to be performing as per the specifications. A decision needs to be made re the 432MHz antenna as to the best method of feeding them.

Options being looked at are a multi turn loop which will act as a choke to prevent feeder cable issues, use of ferrite chokes to achieve the same outcome but perhaps the most appropriate method being a ¼ wave pawsey stub where a parallel wire ¼ wave in length is connected to the inner connection of the coax at the feed point and runs parallel with the coax for it's length and then soldered to the main coax braid and suitably sealed. This action is required to prevent any skewing of the radiation pattern or mismatch of the termination.

Till next time, cheers de Ian VK3AXH



Be honest, which shot reminds you most of your shack?