





BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T February Monthly Newsletter Next Meeting 7:30pm EDT, Friday 25th February 2022 Located at the BARG Club Rooms, Ballarat Airport Guest Speaker 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 <u>www.barg.org.au</u> https://twitter.com/vk3_barg

https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/





As we come into February it looks like we might actually be seeing some Covid restrictions relief coming. That means that we should finally be able to get back to more consistent face to face meetings and activities.

Next meeting will be Friday the 25th at 7:30. We have Victor Jayakody present to us on the radio service, Voice of Australia. It should be a good technical talk, so make sure you have the date free and come along.

Not long after, on Sunday March 6th (confirm the date) we have the George Fowler auction. We didn't get to run this event in 2021, so there should be lot of accumulated stuff to be moved on. If you have stuff to add the tables, please bring it along on Friday or drop it off at the club before the day. Of course, you can bring it on the day too. Anything that's not sold will need to be taken home again as the club doesn't have any way of otherwise disposing of unwanted goods.

The John Moyle Field Day will be held on the weekend of 19th-20th March and the club is intending to again participate. There's been discussion about where to operate from, with the idea of somewhere more remote that the airport being floated. That'll be an agenda item in the meeting on the 25th. The John Moyle is a great chance for newer members to get on air and for older members who may not have participated in contests for a while.

Last meeting was a little bit impromptu. As a last minute Webex, due to Omicron, we asked a couple of members to give a short report on recent activities, expecting we'd be able to fill 30 or 40 minutes. Rather than a short meeting we had a solid two hours of reporting covering recent VHF/UHF field day activity, various microwave activities, 6m, WSPR and meteor scatter activity, antenna installation activity and other topics from nearly a dozen members. I think everyone got something out of the evening and really highlighted the amount of activity happening around the club.

Lastly, we have a club fund raising BBQ at Bunnings Delacombe on Saturday April 9th. We'll need members to assist with the day. Split into two or three shifts it'll only be a few hours per shift. Each shift requires four staff to be cooking and selling. It's not hard and should be a good fund raiser, so please assist where you can.

We're always on the lookout for guest speakers or activities for our general meetings, which can either be a Friday or Saturday as best fits in with what's happening. The club is only as good as the members who make it up, so get involved and let us know what you'd like to be doing.

See you all Friday.

73 Mal VK3OAK

Club Nets: VHF NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm on 146.750 MHz - VK3RBA HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML 6m NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8:30 pm on 53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX - FM with a 91.5 tone -VK3RWU REPEATERS: VK3RWA - 147.100, VK3RBU - 438.475, VK3RPC - 144.750, VK3RBT - 146.650 VK3RBA, Mount Buninyong - 146.750 & 439.275 & 1273.925 VK3RBA and VK3RWU on Mt William, VK3RCU on Mt Moliagul, VK3RBH in Geelong and VK3RAD in Mitcham are linked. All on 70cm. VK2RWB, Mt Gwynne added to the linked system. The system can be accessed via IRLP node 9503



VHF and Above for February 2020



Another month has flown by with some good DX results being reported from within VK and beyond our shores.

However, it's always the same ie; you can only work them if you are around at the time.

In recent times I've been comparing propagation notes with Steve VK3ZAZ on what each of us is hearing and it seems to me that at my location in Ballarat I'm not hearing as much as Steve is on both 2m and 70cm particularly in the Adelaide direction.

However, all that aside there are still plenty of opportunities to get amongst it when it happens. There have been a couple of good openings on 6m from VK to JA on 6m where on a couple of occasions contacts into JA were very good using FT8.

On each occasion 15 and 13 contacts were had in approximately the same number of minutes so if you want to have some fun get involved in this activity. Many stations are using very simple antenna's such as wire dipoles and verticals obtaining good results.

Maintenance continues on our beacons for 1296 and 432 MHz. We now have an offer of an amplifier for 1296 so it's hoped this will be back on air very soon. Our 432 beacon is running but needs to be amplified to a suitable level utilising a low powered P.A. from Steve VK3ZAZ. I hope it won't be too long before it is also going again.

Thanks to Lachie VK3ALM for alerting us to the visible ISS passes. I can report that I was able to hear plenty of activity using my GD77 handheld as the station passed almost directly overhead early in the week. Even my XYL was impressed hi hi.

That's all for this month so cheers de VK3AXH

REWARD FOR THE APPREHENSION OF WELL KNOWN CRIMINAL



A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for the information leading to the arrest of hop-a-long capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a Western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

he SHERIFF

He is charged with the induction of an 18-turn coil named milli henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving dc motor over a Wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.



If encountered, he may offer series of resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend eddy current who was playing a harmonic.





THE LATE JOHN MOYLE, VK2JU

John Moyle Memorial Field Day 2022 19th-20th March 2022

The next Field Day will be held over the weekend of the 19th-20th March 2022 and will run from UTC 0100 on the Saturday to 0059 on the Sunday.

The contest is run each year in memory of the late John Moyle who was a long-term editor of the Wireless Weekly, (later Radio & Hobbies - later Radio Television & Hobbies) from 1947 until his untimely death in 1960.

He served in the RAAF with distinction and was responsible for several

innovative solutions to keeping radio and radar equipment working under difficult wartime and working conditions.

The WIA decided that a suitable long-term memorial to John Moyle would be a Field Day with a focus on portable or field operation. The contest has been conducted annually ever since.

The rules of the contest have gradually changed over time and are still revised regularly.

The contest is still for portable or field operators, though Home stations can of course take part using a different scoring system.

Though Multiple Operators and club stations are actively encouraged to take part in the contest they are not competing against the single operator stations and in effect there are two separate contests run at the same time. Hence single operator stations take part in their own contest against other single operators.

For the latest rules and updates for the 2022 John Moyle use this link.

https://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle/

Pictures from a ZL Field Day, Circa 1930



ZL_3_Back Field day for the 4th district on Jaieri Plains You & miles from Armedin 1920 will mame all the n om mont what they are when a work ani

Latest VK3RBA Repairs and Maintenance

Contributor; Tim VK3TIM

VK3RBA 2M has been reconfigured and is as follows: TX Side:

- Single Circulator 146.750
- Bandpass x1 146.750 IL ~1.2dB
- VariNotch x3 146.150 ~ @ 20dB each
- T Pass & Bandpass 145.200 and 2 x VariNotch 146.150 -.750 (WICEN Packet data/ APRS)
- TX antenna

RX Side:

- Bandpass x1 -146.150 IL ~1.2bB
- 3x VariNotch RX 146.750 ~ @ 20 dB each
- RX antenna
- Before this it had a "Y" harness connecting the TX and RX together.





146.750 Bandpass & Varinoth 146.150



146.150 Bandpass & Varinotch 146.750

VK3RBA Cavities look similar to this;



28-37-02A

A Cavity from CERN looks like this;



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VK4SN's 2022 VK and Popular Contests Calendar



Contributor VK3PTW, Rob

Tickets are on sale now for the upcoming **QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo** on March 12-13, 2022. It's an amazing experience for anybody that wants to improve their amateur radio knowledge and get exposed to new ideas, cutting edge ham radio technology, and practical operating and building techniques. And there is no need to travel - anyone can participate from their home or office! Information and tickets can be found at https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com.

Here are some Expo highlights that we want to share with you:

Watch the Keynote Presentation. We are excited to announce that <u>Courtney Duncan</u>, <u>N5BF</u>, <u>will be our keynote</u>. Courtney will talk about the importance of amateur radio and technical hobbies to advance global technology and mankind's "big projects". Courtney just retired from JPL, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he supported numerous missions with digital and radio frequency hardware and software, most recently as telecommunications lead for the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter.

Listen and engage with 60 ham radio luminaries on some 20 different topic areas - there is something for everyone. Here are a few of the presentations, from general to expert levels:

<u>3Y0J: The Bouvet DXpedition</u> <u>APRS Picoballoon Flight by a Rank Amateur</u> <u>Core HF Communication Concepts: Fundamentals of Shortwave Propagation</u> <u>Deep dive of an FPGA implementation of DVB-S2</u>

A complete list of speakers can be found at <u>https://www.gsotodayhamexpo.com/speakers1.html</u>

Watch as many presentations as you want! A big limitation of in-person events is that you can't watch many of the presentations (you can only be in one room at a time). At the Expo, return anytime within 30 days to view any presentations you missed as well as explore exhibitor offerings. Our presentation videos with Q&A from previous Expos are still enjoyed by amateurs on our <u>Vimeo channel</u>.

<u>ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio[®]</u> in the United States, is a QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Partner. <u>FlexRadio</u> is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor, <u>Elecraft</u> is our Gold Expo.

Early Bird Tickets are just \$10 (through March 6) and then \$13.50 to the end of the ondemand period. Tickets include entry for the Live 2 day period and the 30 day on-demand period. Save on gas, lodging, and travel to attend the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo on March 12-13. For more information, go to <u>https://www.gsotodayhamexpo.com</u>.

73, The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Team

LIGHT TRAVELS FASTER THAN SOUND. THIS IS WHY SOME PEOPLE APPEAR BRIGHT UNTIL YOU HEAR THEM SPEAK.



Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an award scheme for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for everyone – this is not just for mountaineers!

There are awards for **Activators** (those who ascend to the summits) and **Chasers** (who can remain in the comfort of their radio shacks!).

How to start participating

All the information you need is on the SOTA web site. The rules contain a list of qualifying summits, together with their locations.

Each summit earns the activators and chasers a score related to the height of the summit. Certificates are available for various scores, leading to the prestigious **"Mountain Goat"**

and "Shack Sloth" trophies.

An honour roll for Activators and Chasers is maintained on the SOTA database (sotadata.org.uk) Internet access is a requirement for SOTA logging. What equipment do you need?

Activators will need a radio station that is portable. All bands and modes can be used from a 2m HT to small HF equipment (often QRP) all is possible.

Chasers simply need their normal home station.

Currently most activity in Australia is on 40m SSB and 2m FM simplex although other HF bands are often tried on activations. Some CW is used but in contrast to Europe phone makes up by far most contacts.

For more details;

Visit the SOTA website: <u>www.sota.org.uk</u> or <u>https://www.vk5pas.com/summits-on-the-air-sota.html</u> or Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/37631909313/</u>

Some of the extremes that SOTA operators will got to; (Images from SOTA facebook media files)





February 2022

<u>Mt Buninyong Summits on the Air</u> Contributors VK3DMK (Tom), VK3YAR (Ray)

On Saturday 5th February 2022, I was out for a drive and encountered Ray VK3YAR on Mt Buninyong.

He was activating Mt Buninyong, VK3/VC-108 Summits on the Air



VK3BHR has designed & built a 3 band HF TX)

Ray was trying for his 4th contact for the visit from the mount to make his log entry complete.

"I started in 2013 when Wayne Merry VK3WAM "the Vic SOTA Manager" visited the then Midland Amateur Radio Club to give a talk on SOTA.

He gave the talk on the understanding that the club would arrange that the next day "Saturday" be a SOTA day for members who were interested and join him in activating surrounding summits.

I only had a handheld TX at the time but managed a few FM contacts. I then purchased an MST400 kit, 5W 40Mt SSB, from a NSW amateur and used this for the next few years with an EndFed antenna. Made a few activations, but was mainly a chaser. (I liked the fact that I used a rig that I built, a friend Phil

Gave it away for a couple of years but just started again using an FT817 5W HF rig, multi band. I now use an OCFed dipole which has been tuned to 80, 40 & 20Mt bands, just the one antenna.

Why I like the SOTA activity is that it gets you out and about and you meet a lot of other amateurs and learn a lot about QRP."





George Fowler Auction will be Sunday the 6^{th of} March 2022. Located at the BARG Club Rooms, Ballarat Airport.

Goods for auction are donated by members and friends of the club. BBQ will be provided on the day. With the Auction following. Lots can be sold on commission also.

FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-7 with microphone, a Transwest Regulated Power Supply, and a Daiwa CNW218 Antenna Tuner rated at 200w pep.

From a deceased estate.

I've test them all and are in good working order.

They also present well and would make an excellent first station for a licenced amateur. The asking price is \$250.00 all up. Bob VK3BNC





FOR THE BARG ARCHIVES

Would old and new members please

take a photo of yourself.



Please print name call sign and year on back of photograph as these will be used for history of BARG.

Please contact Doug vk3vba

dougr@ncable.net.au 53323565



Junior Operator Tate... Interests: Mr Blippy. Cars.Trucks. Exercising mums vocal cords. Playing 911 with one of grandad's microphones. Junior Operator Leo.. Interests: Primary School. Cars. Trucks. Soldiers. Motorcycles (not motorbikes). Mr Blippy. Emergency Vehicles. Playing 911 with grandad's microphones. Both have already joined in Monday Night Webex.





AMATEUR RADIO CROSSWORD Contributor VK3NCC (Colin)



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<u>Across;</u>

- 2. An important practical consideration
- 5. MicroMicro
- 6. A monitor
- 8. Abbreviation for method of transmission
- 11. Have one ready to record details
- 13. Get assistance to aerials
- 15. Fix that Power Supply
- 18. The inventor of the volcanic cell
- 19. Usual name for a Radio Amateur
- 20. I can communicate
- 21. Keep this part of the soldering iron clean
- 22. Slang for telegraph key
- 24. Whisker
- 25. Every meeting needs one
- 28. Internal resistance of a valve
- 30. Term used for a valve shield
- 32. Sleep well
- 33. Knock, Knock anyone?
- 36. CW greeting before midday
- 37. Crystal
- Helps to read a graduated scale more accurately
- 40. A non conducting material

Down;

- 1. Two is better then one
- 2. Distress
- 3. Find BARG here
- 4. Green Stamp
- 7. Get out Power! and be balanced about it
- 9. Point that antenna

- 10. Canada
- 12. In the middle of the Mediterrranean
- 14. Keeping in touch
- 16. Unit of conductance
- 17. Despite COVID we meet
- 23. Found inside voltage regulator tubes
- 24. I want to chat
- 26. Needs to be highly strung to operate efficiently.
- 27. Happy Birthday Auntie!
- 29. The attractive part of a valve
- 31. Brown, insulating and shiny
- 34. An atom that has gained or lost an electron
- 35. Boo Boo says it's not an average antenna
- 38. Shortened antenna

Solution will be posted 7 days after edition posted on BARG chatter..

Since I bought this toy for my dog... no more salesmen, break-ins, or friends popping in unannonced.

Just peace & quiet.



A Note of Warning about ACMA PDF Proof of License

This is a letter from Robert VK3ARM to the ACMA;

Hello. I am VK3ARM (Client No. 152544).

It concerns me that anyone, after looking up my licence details on the database can then print a lovely PDF copy of MY ACMA LICENCE and then use it to confirm bona fides to any unsuspecting person.

If you check my QRZ.Com page, you will see why I'm concerned about this. Last year an unsuspecting Amateur Radio Operator from New South Wales purportedly paid me for two Yaesu HF radios, using PayPal to complete the transaction. Only thing was that I was not offering any radios for sale. A scammer from the Philippines, pretending to be me, took his money then disappeared. He'd printed my licence authority to confirm who he was pretending to be. The VK2 Amateur actually managed to trace the transaction to the scammer however there was no way of bringing the fellow to justice under Philippine Law or recovering his money.

You used to print a professional looking Apparatus Licence and post it to me. I still have my 2015/16 Licence displayed in my study as it's the last decent looking ACMA Licence that I received. I don't like the current (print it myself) version, both for appearance and also for the absolute lack of security that enables anyone to print my licence and then pretend to be me.

You've created a situation that potentially (and in this case) actually promotes dishonesty.

I really think that you should do away with the 'Print It Yourself' version and revert to something that looks like a professional ACMA issued Licence.

If this was a cost saving measure, it's not a very good one under any circumstances.

Cheers... Robert Wright VK3ARM

Reply from ACMA

The Register of Radiocommunications Licences (RRL) is published by the ACMA in order to meet its obligations under the Section 151 of the Radiocommunications Act (the Act). This section states:

151 Inspection of the Register

(1) Subject to section 152, the ACMA must ensure that the Register is available for inspection by any person during the hours that the ACMA is open for business.

(2) If the Register is kept wholly or partly by use of a computer, subsection (1) is taken to be complied with, so far as the Register is so kept, by giving members of the public access to a computer terminal that they can use to inspect the Register, either on a screen or in the form of a computer print-out.

The capability to download an electronic copy, and by extension a printable version, of a licence was introduced when the ACMA upgraded its radiocommunications licensing system. This capability had long been requested by many licensees. The content contained in the electronic copy is identical to the content viewable on the record in the RRL and is simply an organised summary of that information.

I am sorry to hear that someone has fallen victim to a scam where a copy of a radiocommunications licence was offered as proof of identity. However, an ACMA

radiocommunications licence is not and has never been considered an appropriate document to prove identity. It is also the case that 'the licence' is actually the electronic record held in the ACMA licensing database and any printed or electronic copies are only materialised views of this record and not the official licence.

The ACMA is not aware of any other occurrences where an ACMA radiocommunications licence has been offered or accepted as proof of identity in any transaction, whether it be a genuine legal transaction or a scam. Therefore, we do not agree that the public availability of these documents demonstrates a lack of security or promotes dishonesty. Rather, the public availability of licensing information performs a valuable function in facilitating the coordination of radiocommunications services and identifying the persons lawfully permitted to operate radiocommunications transmitters..

VK80LAN

Celebrating 80 years of the Avro Lancaster

VK80LAN was issued by the Australian ACMA at the request of the West Australian VHF Group, and sponsored by the Wireless Institute of Australia, to celebrate the 80 year anniversary of one of the few Avro Lancaster aircraft surviving from service in World War II.

This event is ably supported in Western Australia by <u>Reginald Bagshaw</u>, <u>VK6BQQ</u>, and his "Flying Pig Net". One exemplar of the plane is in the RAAFA Aviation Heritage Museum in Bull Creek, Perth, Western Australia which is also supporting this event. Another is the Lancaster nicknamed "G for George" located at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, ACT.

This commemorative event for Lancaster aircraft is being simulateously partnered in the UK by callsign GB80LAN; and, in Canada by callsign VE80LAN organised by Hamilton Amateur Radio Club (VE3DC), and Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

VK80LAN Calendar

If you would like to host VK80LAN during its operation in March 2022, look for an available space <u>in the schedule</u>, then contact <u>the coordinators for the event</u> to request the time/band/mode you would like to host.



Amateur Radio

Celebrates the ABC's 90th Anniversary







The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and amateur radio have a lot in common; both utilise the magic of radio. For the last 90 years this magic has informed, entertained, saved lives and brought people together. Our world is a smaller place thanks to the magic of radio.

During 2022, amateur radio operators across Australia will be using the **special event callsign VK90ABC*** to make contact with other amateur radio operators across Australia and around the world.

We will be talking about the national broadcaster, its history and helping 'aunty' celebrate this magnificent milestone.

This link will get you to all the booking and scheduling information. <u>https://vk90abc.net/</u>



From.



Amateur Radio - A Life-Long Technical Hobby

The **South Dublin Radio Club** invites you to their upcoming webinar, taking place on the 10th of March 2022.

Hosted by the Electronic and Computing division of Engineers Ireland and in collaboration with the South Dublin Radio Club, this webinar with **Adrian Connor EI9HAB** and **Jeffrey Roe EI7IRB**, will discuss **`Amateur Radio - A Life-Long Technical Hobby**'.

Amateur Radio is a rich and diverse hobby and an exciting mix of science, communications, engineering and fun. It can be enjoyed by all ages and a wide range of abilities.

This presentation aims to showcase the hobby and how to get started. All radio amateurs, SWLs, and hobbyists are welcome to attend. This webinar will be an ideal way to introduce someone new to our great hobby and will give good information on how to get started - so spread the word.

The presentation will be via Zoom and details on how to attend can be found on the Engineers Ireland website <u>www.engineersireland.ie/Events</u> or via South Dublin Radio Club's social media: Twitter /at/ SDRadioClub, South Dublin Radio Club's Facebook page or the South Dublin Radio Club website.

(Thanks Lachlan, VK3ALM)