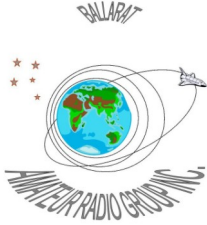


# BARG News



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

**VOLUME 34 ISSUE 1 January 2011**



President: Craig Cook      VK3CMC  
Secretary: Doug Ellery      VK3FDRE  
Treasurer: Bill Wells      VK3PAL

**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY January 28, 2011**  
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

Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL
Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Phil Seddon	
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC

## CLUB INFORMATION

### REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RWA*	(2 m Voice Repeater) ( Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	147.100 MHz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(2 m Packet Repeater)	144.750 MHz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(70 cm Voice Repeater)	438.475 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(70 cm Beacon)	432.535 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBU-1	(2 m APRS Repeater)	145.175 MHz	Mt Hollowback
	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Temp. Repeater)	146.925 MHz	Green Hill

\* IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

**CLUB e-mail** [vk3bml@barg.org.au](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au).

**CLUB NET** VK3BML 3.608+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

**WIA Broadcast** Sunday 11.00 am via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

**NEWS ITEMS** Send to Harry VK3KGL

Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail membermember [member.vk3kgl@barg.org.au](mailto:member.vk3kgl@barg.org.au)

#### **Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater**

Every Sunday at 11.00 am, WIA National News.

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat

## **FOR SALE**



### **ICOM IC – V8 Handheld 2m FM transceiver.**

In durable aluminium case

Output 5.5 Watts

Transmitter covers 144 – 148 MHz

Receiver covers 136 – 174 MHz

Include 2 battery cases, and will hold six AA batteries or rechargeables.

BNC connector, allows use of 'rubber ducky', alternative whips or ext. antenna.

Belt clip included.

1 owner – limited use – and in EC condition.

Costs \$325. Sell for \$185.00

**Contact Len, VK3BMY**

**Ph. 03 97407761**

## **Club Project??**

70cm Transverter PCB's for free.

A few surface mount bits required around \$30 plus a suitable oscillator to suit your rig for e.g. 28MHz.

This would provide a low level output and would require a linear amp kit such as those offered by Mini-Kits to give 20 watts output.

20 PCB's are available.

If you are interested contact

Ian - Vk3AXH

## Solutions for connecting you...

- Ballarat's fastest broadband<sup>1</sup>
- Affordable Chatphone VoIP phone service
- Great value cable television



For commercial subscriptions call Heather James on 0427 007 893, For residential subscriptions call our Customer Service Centre on 1300 366 248.

### Terms and Conditions

Standard Neighbourhood Cable Terms and Conditions apply.<sup>1</sup> Speeds vary depending on a number of circumstances including network traffic, customer hardware, equipment and operating systems, download site traffic, download site bandwidth and size of file being downloaded.

## HEWITT & WHITTY Pty. Ltd.

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Ballarat VIC 3350

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Fax: (03) 5336 1027

**Damien Hennessy**

Sales / Spares

Mobile: 0417 313 811

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**KOHLER engines**

## FOR SALE

**1 x 24GHz Power Amplifier (NEW).**

**Produces 1 Watt out and has waveguide input and output.**

**Spec sheets and data available. Never been used since purchase**

**\$130.00**

**1 x MULTI 7 2m FM transceiver.**

**10W/1W output.**

**23 channel switch and has crystals for two Simplex and five repeater channels.**

**Owners manual both English & Japanese.**

**\$60.00**

**Contact Craig, VK3CMC**

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## Free to a good home!

Two good quality PC CRT type monitors, 100% guaranteed no junk!

Also a 137Mhz "Quadrifilar Helix Antenna" (QHA).

I have two and not requiring the second.

Will work on 2m for tracking the Space Station.

Bob VK3BNC

## Construction notes.

### Suggestions for possible activities for the New Year.

1. Antenna Resonance Meter. A simple unit that permits the checking of the resonant frequency of an antenna. Can be PCB construction or vero board etc. Silicon Chip. Nov. 2010.
  2. Code talker from Low Key 107. This is a very simple cw transmitter with a twist that you actually use your voice to send CW. Can be fun and could be the basis for a club competition to see how far you can go with limited power.
  3. A 20Amp power Supply from the pen of Jim Tregellas VK5JST. We have built two of his antenna bridges and which you were all very pleased with. It starts with a re-built microwave transformer and very simple construction to deliver some really out standing results. AR November 2002.
  4. A "Sleep Auto Turn of switch. This is a very simple device but if you have a bad memory ( your over 50 ) then this could be one of those things you are looking for. I'm going to build one for my soldering Iron! It simply turns off the item you want time controlled with a pre determined time limit. From MarcSpace, Midland RC March 2009.
  5. It doesn't have to be all work and no talk! A program of talks on radio related "stuff" for our PC's. Suggestions; Using Digipan for digital modes. This also looks at the sound card and how to set it up and traps that you can get into.  
Other items; using the Hepburn charts.  
How to set up Echo link, linking it into our IRLP, well your paying for IRLP so why not!  
Using test programs like Spectran and Spectrogram.  
How to adjust the frequency of your "CTCSS" oscillator using "Stectran" and not touching it again!  
Using WSJT for HF coms.  
There are lots of programs out there and people that know how they work so why not learn how to drive them.
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## Victorian Floods

B.A.R.G. member VK3KCA Cedric, was inundated with the Carisbrook floods with approximately a metre of water through his house, shed and radio shack on the 14/1/2011.

Members of the Central Goldfields Club have assisted Cedric with the cleanup, shifting everything out of the house and pressure cleaned the entire house to remove the mud and slush.

Much of his equipment has been damaged beyond repair.

VK3CC is attempting to recover some of the equipment. The high voltage transformers are a problem from being soaked.

Cedric helped the S.E.S. for the first 2 days and was a bit bewildered at the damage to his own home and didn't know where to start until C.G.A.R. club members, relatives and a couple from Wheatsheaf unknown to Cedric who just arrived to help and worked tirelessly all day.

C.G.A.R. Club members have assisted Cedric for three days and Cedric has improved emotionally.

Cedric is living in his Coaster, being fed by the Lion's Club and showering at VK3CC's.

It appears that Cedric has lost nearly everything. Hopefully his insurance will come through for him.

Marilyn, VK3CC's wife, managed to recover personal papers and photos which was a big plus.

Hopefully time and friendship will have Cedric back on track as soon as possible.

### **Central Goldfields Amateur Radio Club.**

## Mathematical Logic

This comes from 2 math teachers with a combined total of 70 yrs. experience

Here is a little something someone sent me that is indisputable mathematical logic. It also made me Laugh Out Loud.

This is a strictly mathematical viewpoint....it goes like this:

What Makes 100%?

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?

We have all been to those meetings where someone wants you to give over 100%.

How about achieving 103%?

**What makes up 100% in life?**

**Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:**

If:

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

is represented as:

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26.**

Then:

**H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K**

**8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98%**

and

**K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E**

**11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96%**

But,

**A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E**

**1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100%**

And,

**B-U-L-L-S-H-I-T**

**2+21+12+12+19+8+9+20 = 103%**

**AND, look how far ass kissing will take you.**

**A-S-S-K-I-S-S-I-N-G**

**1+19+19+11+9+19+19+9+14+7 = 118%**

**So, one can conclude with mathematical certainty, that while Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and having Attitude will get you there, it's the Bullshit and Ass Kissing that will put you over the top.**

**'REMEMBER SOME PEOPLE ARE ALIVE SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS ILLEGAL TO SHOOT THEM'**

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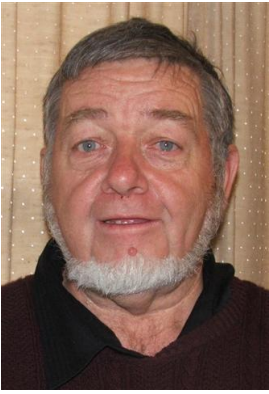
### **VK3ROW repeater is back on air.**

The Otway repeater, VK3ROW is now back on air and putting out a great signal. They are now using a MTR2000 with 40W out put power.

VK3ROW is on 147.725 Mhz and uses a 91.5Hz decode and encode CTCSS frequency. There is a cw ID but if you use a Tone squelch then the CW ID will not be heard.

You will also be able to see Repeater coverage maps on the Geelong Amateur Radio Club's web site shortly.

Have a listen for the repeater and the GARC would be pleased to receive coverage reports.



**Craig - VK3CMC**

# *Presidents Report*

Jan 2011

Well the new year has arrived and we start to look forward to what it will bring. Already we have seen severe destruction of homes, property and loss of lives in Queensland. Here in Victoria and not far away from us, we have also been affected by flood and storm although nothing like the destruction up north. My local brigade has been in the field removing fallen trees and had a couple of fire calls as well. Hopefully the flood waters will recede quickly and people can get on with the tremendous clean up program that waits ahead. No doubt some of our amateur fraternity have been affected and may require assistance to return to the airwaves and we may be able to assist in some way.

On the home front the BARG committee has met and planned out some activities for the following months. Look at the calendar on the clubs web page and take some dates down for your new 2011 diary. Also please note that we are reverting to a Monday evening [1930hrs] for the construction group but the dates are still correct. Our first construction night will be the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb and we are looking at a number of possible projects. Mention will be found in the following pages and will be raised next Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Jan at the General meeting.

Depending on future projects and needs we have the option to conduct the activity during daylight hours if it's felt necessary.

Last Friday night some fourteen members and partners enjoyed a meal out as part of the socialisation activities and next months will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. Bob VK3NBV will be organising the activity so let him know if you would like to attend.

Don't forget coffee at the Beechworth bakery this Thursday[27<sup>th</sup>] at 1030

Currently we are looking at two daytime visits. One to the Army Signals museum at Watsonia and also to the old Geelong Gaol where the Geelong Electronics Society has a large display of old radios for viewing. Details to follow shortly.

The club is still awaiting news from the WIA for confirmation on the new repeater licence and the installation is just about ready to be brought into service. All appropriate documentation and fees were sent down well before the Christmas closure.

Finally I would like to encourage members to consider the John Moyle memorial field day activity on the 12/13 March. Its been a few years now since the club went into the field and operated and there are club members who have never had the opportunity to see and feel how the activities are conducted.

73 Craig VK3CMC



**INTERESTED IN THE 10 GHz  
BAND.**

**Craig, VK3CMC**



Many interested in this band will be aware how difficult it is to generate high power signals as most of the existing designs bring a signal out around 10 to 20mW and then rely on high gain in the antenna system. Usually small dishes are used and they can produce a healthy RF signal out. The latest edition of VHF Communication [Vol 42, Autumn No 3/2010.] describes a "Simple 10GHz power amplifier for beginners" that will take a 10mW input and give out a 1.0W signal. Although designed for the band 7.1 to 8.5GHz it can easily be used at our amateur band frequency.

At its out of band optimised frequencies it still can produce +30dBm up to 10.4 Ghz although the gain drops to 20/25dB. This corresponds to an input of 5/10mW or +7/+10dBm. This is more than adequate for use with most 10GHz transverters.

The author has built eight separate prototypes to get an even distribution and confirms the repeatability of the results. The device is manufactured by Excelics and called the RFMA7185-S1. Device is mounted on a lugged heatsink type BGA [ultraminature] and has eight flat wire leads for soldering to a PCB.

The device requires power of +6.5V and a bias voltage of -5V which is developed from a +12V supply and uses a ICL7660 for the negative voltage.

The author Franco Rota 12FHW has a small board designed and more details available at [www.rfmicrowave.it](http://www.rfmicrowave.it) Look at the surplus page code SU-02.

The board measures 54.5 x 39.5 mm.

Price and availability of the device is unknown.

**73 Craig  
VK3CMC**