



*Ballarat Amateur Radio Club
Inc. #69537*

*January
Monthly Newsletter*

Box 1261, Mail Centre, Ballarat, Victoria, 3354, Australia

Next Meeting

30th January 2015 @ 19:30 hours
(7.30pm)



Office Bearers And Contacts

President: Darren Lancaster VK3FAOE
Vice President: Bill Wells VK3PAL
Secretary: Doug Ellery VK3FDRE
Treasurer: Peter McMahon VK3HEX

Email: barg@barg.org.au

Website: www.barg.org.au

Newsletter: news_editor@barg.org.au

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Monthly Calender

- General Meeting:** 30th January 2015 @ 19:30 hours
- Construction Night:** 2nd February 2015 @ 1930 hours
- Committee Meeting:** 18th February 2015 @ 1930 hours
- VHF Net:** Every Tuesday night at 20:00 hours
- HF Net:** Every Thursday night at 20:00 hours

Training Courses

- Upgrade:** 31st January 2015
- Foundation Prac Day:** 7th March 2015
- Foundation Course:** 28/29th March 2015

General News

Courses

There is a upgrade course being held on the 31st January 2015. If anyone is interested in this course can you please contact Craig VK3KG at the following email: vk3cmc@bigpond.com.

Also there is a foundation course, including a practical day to be held. The Practical Day is set for the 7th March 2015. And the full Foundation course is set for 28th/29th March 2015. If you are interested in this course please contact Craig VK3KG at the following email: vk3cmc@bigpond.com. There is a couple of members doing their upgrade, so do not be surprised if you hear a familiar voice with a new call sign.

Get Well Wishes

All the best to the people from our club that are not well. This includes Clem VK3B-VI, who is unwell at the moment. Also to all the others out there, that have medical issues.

Bits and Pieces

Also noted by his absence has been Nic VK3COW/VK7BEE who is over in Tasmania setting up his bee breeding business. The net has been running with other members each Thursday Night. I operated VK3BML last week and Bob VK3NBV did it this week. I can not give a report on the 2M net VK3RBA this week as I wasn't available, but Andy VK3FCOE has been consistently there in the past few weeks when I come up. What about a few more members come up at 8pm each Tuesday Night even for 20 minutes. The clubs own repeater VK3RBT was switched back on last week and is operating although its through audio response is not very good at the moment.

Breaking news is that the clubs two beacons on 70cm and 23cm are about to open up on the hill. Ian VK3AXH has already mounted the antennas and the mounting arm on to the tower and the coax been run into the shack. He is setting the gear up into the rack and should be able to hear the signals very soon.

73

Craig VK3KG

Death of Past Member

Just a brief note to let our members know about the passing of a old member of BARG. For those of you who remember Ian Noble VK3PUI we have received the news of his passing. Thoughts are with his family at this time.

Julianne VK3FJMD

Missing from the Library

There seems to be a number of AMATEUR RADIO magazines from the WIA missing and not listed in the Loan book.

If you have borrowed them please return asap and next time remember to list in the Loan register.

The missing copies are May 2014. Aug 2014 Sep 2014 Oct 2014 Nov 2014 and Dec 2014.

VHF and Microwave Corner

With the summer season on us the chance of those elusive long distance VHF and UHF contacts are in the minds of enthusiasts.

However unlike the past few years this has been a disappointing season so far. There has only been a few days when stations in VK3 have been able to work distances of around 2000km on 144MHz.

Local stations that had some success were Kevin VK3WN, John VK3AIG and Ian VK3AXH all managing to work VK6LD who operates a remote VHF/UHF station at Albany from Perth. Some stations were able to also contact Rob on 70cm as well. The Albany 2m beacon was heard over several days and contacts were also had over several days but since then not much at all.

In addition the Sporadic E propagation towards VK4 just hasn't happened in our area. Lets hope it picks up over the coming weeks.

The VHF/UHF field day was held on Jan 10/11 and although there were no local stations in the field several took part from their home qth. Stations heard were VK3AIG, VK3KG and VK3AXH operating on a variety of bands from 6m to 2.4GHz.

Another interesting event happened when VK3AXH was listening on 1296MHz EME and heard PI9CAM calling CQ on SSB at 5x5. I called him and was surprised to get an immediate response and report of 5x5 as well. This was a great contact. A few days later I managed to contact DL6SH on 1296MHz and qso'd with him on 3 modes ie digital, CW at 559 and SSB at 5x4.

I subsequently looked up PI9CAM found they were using a 25 metre dish which was part of a radio telescope used for detecting mutual hydrogen lines and built in the early 1950's .

The original installation comprised of a number of these dishes for the purpose outlined above. A group of enthusiasts are in the process of re-establishing one of the dishes which will be used for both Astronomy and Amateur Radio with the latter hopefully operating from 1296 MHz through to 24GHz but will be on a secondary basis.

If you have had any interesting contacts or wish to contribute to this segment please send me your details or simply send your observations to the magazine.

73 till next time de VK3AXH



The Dwingeloo 25 meter Radio Telescope PI9CAM

More than 30 volunteers are involved in a project at the Dwingeloo 25 meter Radio Telescope to bring this important historical dish in operation again. More than 400 people are supporting financially.

Of course, EME will be one of the activities.

During World War II astronomers presumed that it might be possible to receive the 1420 MHz signal from neutral Hydrogen in the universe. After the war, the world famous Dutch astronomer professor Oort worked hard to realize an instrument that could receive the Hydrogen line. In 1956 his dream came true: the Dwingeloo 25 meter Radio Telescope was built. At that time it was the first radio astronomy instrument of this size in the world. The radio telescope was a huge success, but the radio astronomers wanted more...In 1970 the Westerbork Array was completed. It consists of 14 telescopes, each 25 m in diameter on a baseline of 2.8 kilometers. 14 telescopes see much more than one telescope, so the Dwingeloo dish became more and more obsolete. In 1997 the Dwingeloo dish did its last observations...No maintenance was done since then and people started to worry what would happen with the historic dish. There even have been thoughts about scrapping the telescope...Fortunately the right people met each other at the right moment and during 2005 a foundation was formed to save the dish. Professor Oort realized his dream in 1956, 52 years later we realize our dream! This paper will discuss the restoration of the Dwingeloo dish and the EME results so far.

Silicon Chip
Reviewed
By
Julianne
VK3FJMD

Vol:28, No:1 January 2015

Features

- P 12 Interfacing To The Brain
- P 20 The Micromite Mk.2
- P84 Review: Tecsun Tektronix RSA306 Real Time Spectrum Analyser

Projects To Build

- P 26 Isolating High-Voltage Probe For Oscilloscopes
- P 38 High-Energy Multi-Spark CDI For Performance Cars, Pt. 2
- P 64 Currawong 2 x 10W Stereo Valve Amplifier, Pt. 3)
- P 76 Beginner's Project: The PicoMiniCube

Special Columns

- P 44 Circuit Notebook
- P58 Serviceman's Log
- P94 Vintage Radio

Departments

- P 2 Publisher's Letter
- P 4 Mailbag
- P29 Subscriptions
- P 50 Online Shop
- P 57 Product Showcase
- P 83 Subscriptions
- P 89 Online Shop
- P 99 Ask Silicon Chip
- P103 Market Centre
- P104 Advertising Index

Practical Wireless
Reviewed
By
Craig
VK3KG

Review 2015 Practical Wireless 1 Jan.
Vol 91. Number 1. Issue 1292.

P5 Contents page.

P6 Keylines looks at READING RATTLE for sight impaired amateurs now 35 yrs on.

P7 News. Roundup of UK & International news along with new products and events.

P12 Build a QRP cw rig. 200mW on 7Mhz. An interesting project by Rev George Dobbs G3RJV.

P15 Sixth practical Wireless 70Mhz contest results. Is the band as good as 6Me-
tres.?

P21 EP2SL: The last Amateur in Tehran (part 1) C1979 when the Shah of Iran is
overthjrown.

P25 Classic receiver Redevelopment Part 3. Construction project suitability.

P30 Emerging Technology Wioll the shortwave bands have a future.?

P32 How a Retired Editor fills in his radio time.

P34 How the International Beacon Project is working. <http://tinyurl.com/7tyoprhy>

P36 Digital Voice Pt 2. How it works.

P42 Valve & Vintage. A rare Eddystone EC-958 Receiver. The German FuG7 radio
and a

VHF aircraft TR-2002 Rx Tx unit. www.militarywirelessmuseum.co.uk

P44 In the Shop reviews Parasitic Oscillation occurrence & cure, also pitfalls of using
WD40

Without care. Finally a problem with AGC in an FT 290 radio. It can reappear.

P48 Club Log. Usefull DXing toolkit. www.clublog.org

P54 DX peditions & HF News.

P58 World of VHF. UK 146-147Mhz Bandplan & more. <http://tinyurl.com/pl8jxop>

B.A.R.G Items For Loan

Antenna Analyser MFJ249 HF/VHF
Antenna Analyser MFJ269 HF-VHF-UHF
Antenna Analyser VHF. Autek
Antenna Gin Pole.
Grid Dip Oscillator.
Oscilloscope BWD 509.
Receiver Drake SSR-1
Receiver FRG-7.
Safety Belt.
Transceiver TS-530.
UHF Antenna Analyser



Notices from the Editor

The cut off date for articles to be submitted for the February newsletter, will be 23rd February 2015 by 12:00 hours. This will allow me time to produce the newsletter, and send hard copies to the members by 18:00 hours mail.

Anything that is received after this time will be placed into the next newsletter unless it comes to me marked urgent then i will endeavour to put it into the current newsletter.

Items can be sent to me by email on news_editor@barg.org.au or by post to the address on the front of the newsletter. Thanks All.

Signed the newsletter editor.



*Disclaimer: I have attempted to produce a fair and accurate newsletter from the information provided to me. If I have failed by error or omission, I apologise.
The newsletter editor.*