



BARG News

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

Next Meeting
Friday 25th August 2017 @ 7.30pm

At the B.A.R.G. Club House, 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 1261
Mail Centre
Ballarat. Vic. 3354

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

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

Presidents Report

I'd like to open my first report as President by firstly thanking Doug, vk3vba, for holding the position for the last two years. Thanks too to all the past committee as well as all the folk who've held the various roles that are vital to keeping the club running. Lastly, thanks to all the members who've participated in the various club activities over the last 12 months. The club is only as good as the activities that the members get involved in. And like any activity, the more you participate and get involved, the more you get out of it.

Mal vk3oak

A Word From The Editor

Last weekend I had a go at the Remembrance Day on the 12th and 13th of August. I was a simple QRP station from home. Conditions were average, though I seemed to be able make contact with most stations that I was able to hear. Sometimes the other station had to work a bit harder to complete the exchange. It seemed that the closer the station the harder the contact. I managed VK1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 contacts. No ZL contacts made it into the log. All were on 40m.

Like every news letter, it's only as good as the content that members provide. A few words and photo about a project or trip is always welcomed. You might be surprised with the positive feedback that you get.

Malcolm - VK3OAK

8 Silicon Chip August 2017

- P2 Publishers letter. "Energy and Incompetence"
- P4 Mailbag.
- P12 Radio Telescopes and Interferometry.
- P22 REVIEW: Rhode & Schwartz RTB2004 Mixed Signal Oscilloscope.
- P74 LTspice Part 2: Simulating & Testing Circuits.
- P88 Lithium – ion cells What you need to Know.
- P26 An Arduino Data Logger with GPS.
- P34 Mains power supply for Battery Valve Radio Sets.
- P44 El Cheapo Modules: Li-ion & LiPo chargers.
- P62 Deluxe Touchscreen eFuse Part 2.
- P82 Building and Calibrating the Rapid Brake.
- P40 Circuit notebook-
 - Raspberry Pi Elevator Display & Anunciator..
 - Distributed temp sensing using an ATmega8 and DS18B20 sensors.
- P57 Servicemans Log.
- P94 Vintage Radio.
- P69 Online shop.
- P99 Ask Silicon Chip.
- P104 Notes & Errata.



Scrapings Around

A little bird reports that there has been a long wire erected at the residence of Brian VK3ZUS out at Pigoreet and he has heard the clubs Thursday night net on 3608 [and all stations] at very good signals. All we need now is to hear his RF signal on air and see how the antenna loads up. Keep an ear out for him.

Just up the road in Scarsdale is newly arrived Colin [VK3NCC] and he has a squid pole up and is looking to erect an end fed L wire shortly. We expect him to make himself heard there also.

There has been one new Foundation licence passed within the club and another has upgraded to a Standard and joined the club. Will listen out for their new call signs shortly

Craig VK3KG still has a high noise level and is about to change his antenna system and include a new 80/40M trapped dipole system.

Mick VK3GGG has been in the Base hospital for some knee surgery [both of them] He was seen walking about the hospital without the use of his crutches. He should be back on air by time this newsletter hits the shacks.

Also heard that another club member has ordered his BITX40 transceiver kit and that should make at least five or six who will soon have these small Arduino based rigs on air. Looks like they are gearing up for the BARG 's Bi annual field day activity where the club operates for about six hours on 40M from any convenient site while competing for that marvelous Field day trophy sitting in the club rooms. What haven't you noticed it there yet?

I hear also that the BARG HF operators list has been enlarged by two volunteers. See if you know their voices.

Bye for now. *BIG EARS.*

2 DIYODE 2017 The second edition.

Well the new magazine got off to a good start, direct subscriptions or ask at your favourite newsagent. A highly glossy magazine with 99 pages devoted to microcontrollers and their applications along with some basic introductory theory and code writing.

This months edition has a 124 pages but don't expect that to continue. Now scan the 2nd issue for August 2017

FEATURES:

- Toy piano turned Digital switch.
- Improving cheap Laser Cutter.
- NeoPixel are dancing LEDs.
- Have an interactive Light installation.
- See the steps from Prototype to production for a Micro.
- Robot on Wheels, No creepy crawlies.
- Three designed projects and only 17.
- Build a 3 Phase generator.
- GPS sigs from Satellites.

EDUCATION:

- FUNDAMENTALS.** - Soldering. SECRET CODE Intro to variables & Logic.
- THE CLASSROOM.** Ac/DC how it rates. MICRO EXPLORERS. Intro to the ESP 8266.

PROJECTS:

- Arduino Tweeter feed. Build a Van De Graff generator.
- Arduino alarm Part 1.
- Raspberry Pi GUI.
- Automatic Modem restarter with a ESP 8266.



What will next month bring?

BARG THURSDAY NIGHT NET CONTROLLERS LIST.						
For VK3BML club station of Ballarat Amateur Radio Group.						
DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	ALT	OPERATOR	NAME	COMMENTS.
THIS ROSTER DEvised		Jul-17				
3-Aug-17	VK3KG	Craig	alt	VK3AXH	Ian	
10-Aug-17	VK3GGG	Mick	alt	VK3KG	Craig	
17-Aug-17	VK3DRE	Doug	alt	VK3GGG	Mick	
24-Aug-17	VK3KQT	David	alt	VK3DRE	Doug	
31-Aug-17	VK3KG	Craig	alt	VK3KQT	David	
7-Sep-17	VK3GGG	Mick	alt	VK3KG	Craig	
14-Sep-17	VK3DRE	Doug	alt	VK3GGG	Mick	
21-Sep-17	VK3KQT	David	alt	VK3DRE	Doug	3KG not available.
28-Sep-17	VK3AXH	Ian	alt	VK3KQT	David	
5-Oct-17	VK3KG	Craig	alt	VK3AXH	Ian	
12-Oct-17	VK3GGG	Mick	alt	VK3KG	Craig	
19-Oct-17	VK3DRE	Doug	alt	VK3GGG	Mick	
26-Oct-17	VK3KQT	David	alt	VK3DRE	Doug	3KG not available.
2-Nov-17	VK3KG	Craig	alt	VK3KQT	David	
9-Nov-17	VK3AXH	Ian	alt	VK3KG	Craig	
16-Nov-17	VK3GGG	Mick	alt	VK3AXH	Ian	
23-Nov-17	VK3DRE	Doug	alt	VK3GGG	Mick	3KG not available.
30-Nov-17	VK3KQT	David	alt	VK3DRE	Doug	
7-Dec-17	VK3KG	Craig	alt	VK3KQT	David	
14-Dec-17	VK3GGG	Mick	alt	VK3AXH	Ian	
21-Dec-17	VK3DRE	Doug	alt	VK3KG	Craig	3KG not available
28-Dec-17	VK3KQT	David	alt	VK3GGG	Mick	
New Roster for New Year.						
4-Jan-18			alt			3KG not available
11-Jan-18			alt			
18-Jan-18			alt		Net may	not run .See who attends.
25-Jan-18						
1-Feb-18						
8-Feb-18						
15-Feb-18						ALSO add Ian 3YFD to roster.
22-Feb-18						

By jove its very lucky I was to be listening around lately as I heard that a club member was asking questions about radio astronomy recently. Wonder if there will be a resurgence of tracking dishes springing up in back yards soon.?

Maybe the club could visit the Ballarat observatory and check out their JOVE radio set up again.

I also heard that a club member was taking up MORSE code again. Wonder who will be talking dits and dahs nexts??

Till next time when my ears start to twitch again

88s & 73s

BIG EARS.



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VHF and Above for September 2017

This month has not seen any activity of any special interest mainly due to the cold weather not providing much in the way of propagation.

The usual group of regulars can be heard most mornings on the bottom end of the 2 metre band with some venturing up to 70cm for a contact.

For those higher frequency enthusiasts it's sad to hear about Gordon McDonald VK3EJ from Cobram who is now a Silent Key. Gordon spent some time in Ballarat in the Air Force and also worked at John Lewis Retravision for a while with Brian Stares VK3KQB before moving on.

Gordon set some impressive bench marks from his qth in Berowra Heights in NSW under the callsign of VK2ZAB where I managed to have a 2m SSB qso with him in 1998. Gordon was also the 1st VK amateur to complete 100 qso's using SSB on the 2 metre band between VK and ZL which is an outstanding achievement.

Gordon will be missed by the many stations that had regular qso's with him on the bottom end of 2m. Some of our own members were among those stations namely VK3GGG, VK3KG, VK3BNC, VK3AIG and VK3AXH..

Graves Radar

The French Radar transmissions from this setup on 143.050 continue with many more VK stations reporting on their observations. If you have a horizontally polarised yagi for 2 metres why not see if you can receive it and send your results to our editor or to VK3AXH for inclusion in the next newsletter report.

Till next time 73, Ian VK3AXH

Other Projects

Previously mentioned in this newsletter is an activity involving the building of a single band HF transceiver know as the BITX40 available in kit form at low dollar cost ie less than \$100. Although it has limited power it's gained significant popularity around the world and members VK3KG, VK3YFD, VK3ADE and VK3AXH toiling away. Roger is making some very nice modifications to the kit giving it a lot more flexibility and features not included in the original design so watch this space for updates.

In addition to the above several members are also building a transverter for 472KHz. Members VK3BNC, VK3KG, VK3AIG, VK3KQT and VK3AXH are all making good progress. If you are interested have a look on the web to details.

73, Ian VK3AXH

Did I read that sign right?

In an office:

TOILET OUT OF ORDER..... PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW

In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD

Outside a second-hand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Notice in health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK).

Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread the stupidity and send this to someone you want to bring a smile to (maybe even a chuckle). We all need a good laugh, keep on smiling.

SALGUOD

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation toward the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather.. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

If I had a dollar for every girl that found me unattractive, they would eventually find me attractive.

I find it ironic that the colours red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90 % of their body... men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight, live longer than the men who mention it.

Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

You know that tingly feeling you get when your attracted to someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

I think my neighbour is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

Strong people don't put others down. They lift them up and slam them on the ground for maximum damage.

Money talks... but all mine ever says is good-bye.

You're not fat, you're just... easier to see.

If you think nobody cares whether you're dead or alive, try missing a couple of payments.

SALGUOD