



BARG News

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

Next Meeting
Friday @ 7:30pm, 31st January

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 1218
Mail Centre
Bakery Hill Vic. 3354

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

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

Presidents Report

Welcome to the December newsletter, the final one for 2019. Last meeting was Christmas break up, which I've added a few pictures for below. Thanks to Craig, VK3KG, for some of them. Next meeting will be Friday 31st, after Australia day. Gordon will be presenting on WICEN and the support they provide.

At the last committee meeting it was agreed that there is some club equipment that is probably excess to our requirements in one way or another, so we are seeking expressions of interest. If you'd be interested in some of it, or all of it, please the committee know. The value of this stuff will vary.

1. Trestle Tables. These are the shorter ones that are kept out in the shed outside. They have wooden trestles as legs. All these are excess now.
2. Long Trestle Tables. These have the metal poles for legs. Not all are excess. But we probably have more than we need.
3. 2kva generator. This is the larger of the two in the workshop. Would need a fair price for this. (One member has already expressed interest, I'll send them a separate email.)
4. The small generator. I'm not sure of the capacity. Again, would need a fair price.
5. Set of chairs. Metal frame and cloth seat. These are out in the shed also. Free to good home, or they'll be off to the dump.
6. Old BBQ. Not the one we have been using during Saturday meetings. I have no idea of the state of this. But recall seeing it at the back of the shed.

If your interested in any of this, let us know.

It's been proposed to reissue a member list. The list will show name, call sign, email and phone number. If you do not want to be included in the list, please let the committee know.

73

Malcolm - VK3OAK



VHF and Above for December 2019

This past month to date has seen a significant improvement in propagation for those that have waited for what seems to be an eternity. There have been many opportunities for those enthusiasts interested in weak signal propagation on 2m and above. One person who provides a wealth of information to those interested is Steve VK3ZAZ from Hamilton who is a member of BARG. Most days Steve's reports can be viewed on the VKspotter where he indicates what he can hear from his QTH and ranges from beacons, repeaters, WSPR and APRS observations and contacts as well on 2m, 70cm and 23cm.

During the past weeks there have been some good openings utilising both voice and digital modes from VK3 to VK7, VK2, VK4, VK5 and VK6 with a notable event occurring on 14th December when both Steve and Ian VK3AXH had FT8 contacts with VK6GG at Albany on 2m over a distance of almost 2800km. However the highlight of the season so far occurred on Thursday 19th December when both VK3ZAZ and VK3AXH had a qso with Ron VK6VOX in the wheat belt in Western Australia. Sigs were 5x5 and steady for at least 1 hour. Then later in the early evening the propagation shifted to allow 2m SSB contacts into New Zealand. I'm aware that Steve VK3ZAZ and Ian VK3AXH had contact with 2 NZ stations in the ZL1 area which is the Northern tip of NZ. During this event Andrew VK3LTL at Gordon also had success contacting 3 ZL stations as well. At the time Andrew's height ASL may have been a contributing factor ie around 600 metres. Later the same evening both VK3LTL and VK3AXH contacted a couple of stations in NW Tasmania on 2m SSB.

In addition the Geminids satellite shower got a few of us up in the early hours of the weekend 14/15 December to see if signals could be heard via meteor scatter from VK4. I'm aware that Paul VK3TXR and Ian VK3AXH did just that and although I'm not aware of any voice contact from the Ballarat area plenty of good burns produced very loud MSHV signals during this period. On Sunday morning Ian decoded signals from VK2 and VK4 using this program. I'm aware that Gavin VK3HY in Melbourne did have a brief SSB qso with VK4OX on the 2m band.

If you are interested in this activity why not listen from 7am onwards on 144.230 and see what you can hear. Antennas need to be pointed to the Brisbane area from Ballarat with Az being around 30 degrees east of north. You don't require big antennas for this activity with perhaps a 5 element yagi being the minimum requirement. Transmissions from the north are during the odd half minute with VK2, VK3, VK5 and VK7 on the even half minute. If you want to hear what these signals sound like talk to Ian VK3AXH who can arrange a demonstration



Magic Band 6 Metres

Just like the above report shows there has been good activity on this band as well with contacts using digital mode FT8 and SSB into most VK States and NZ. In addition some have made it to New Caledonia, Suva and New Zealand. Stations known to be active are VK3ZAZ, VK3KQT, VK3AXH, VK3AQM and possibly others as well. Both David VK3KQT and Ian VK3AXH are using home brewed LFA design yagis with 6 and 5 elements respectively. Just when things go a bit quiet up comes another opening on this interesting band. Sunday 22nd December the band opening in all directions from within VK and other places such as New Zealand, New Caledonia, Japan and South America. I'm aware that several VK stations including Steve VK3ZAZ/VK3OT had success in contacting some of these stations using voice, digital FT8 and JT65. VK3AXH had SSB contacts into New Caledonia and 4 x FT8 contacts into Japan as well as digital and voice contacts within VK. Propagation trends can be observed by looking at the Hepburn and other charts that show the chance that some good propagation may occur

Antenna Building Project

At this stage there are approximately 6 interested in building the 18 element LFA yagi for 70cm. In addition there are others wanting to participate in the construction of 2mx and 6mx yagi's as well. It's hoped this project will get going early in the new year.

Construction of satellite antenna's has not been undertaken due to the wide range of types requested ie separate 2mx and 70cm. Single boom 2mx and 70cm both in line and crossed. As you can see this would be quite difficult to organise. What has been suggested is that members decide what they want and every assistance will be given to enable particular antenna configurations to be made.

Reminder

This column can only provide information that is forwarded to me which most of the time doesn't happen. It relies on observation during on air contacts to put something together each month. If you have something to contribute then drop me a note so others can share your experiences as well.

Till next time 73....VK3AXH

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

DATE	OPERATOR	NAME	ALTERNATIVE OP.	
26-Dec-19	VK3KQT	David	VK3AXH	Ian
2-Jan-20	VK3DRE	Doug	VK3TXR	Paul
9-Jan	VK3AXH	Ian	VK3GGG	Mick
16-Jan-20	VK3TXR	Paul	VK3EXE	Chris
23-Jan-20	VK3GGG	Mick	VK3KQT	David
30-Jan-20	VK3EXE	Chris	VK3DRE	Doug
6-Feb-20	VK3KQT	David	VK3AXH	Ian

Christmas Dinner - 2019

