



# BARG News

*Ballarat Amateur Radio Group*

*Inc. #6953T*

*January*

*Monthly Newsletter*

Next Meeting

**Friday @ 7:30pm, 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au)

We're on the web  
[www.barg.org.au](http://www.barg.org.au)

## Presidents Report

Welcome to the January 2020 Newsletter. Hopefully you've made the most of the good weather over that last few weeks. I do t=know that the fires in eastern Victoria have limited the amount of SOTA and POTA activity. I'm expecting that as the fire areas open up and crowds go back to school and work that the activity there will pick back up.

The first meeting of the year is the coming Friday. Gordon has a very timely talk about WICEN and their support when other comms channels are either down or overwhelmed.

Over the next month we'll be working on the calendar for the remainder of 2020. What are the activities that you would like the club to participate in? There are some activities that we run every year, such as Hamvention, George Fowler. We've already started planning a club field day in April.

So if you have an idea for a talk or activity, or if you know of someone who'd be good to present, please let us know.

Next Monday is construction night. There'll be focus on agreeing how to progress round two of the antenna project. If your interested in participating, please let Ian, AXH know.

Last news letter there were a number of excess club items presented seeking expressions of interest. There's be no interest in any of that stuff so far, perhaps unsurprisingly.

The 2m net on Tuesday continues to attract a good number of members and friends.

Unfortunately VK3RBA repeater is performing quite poorly. Should we move to VK3RWA or even VK3RBT?

I plan to get the activity page of the website updated over the next few weeks. Let me know if there's anything extra to add, or if there's any mistakes.

Unfortunately I can't be at the meeting Friday, but I am planning to make it along on Monday night.

Lastly, if you still have raffle tickets, can you please bring those and the money along Friday, or get them back to Doug.

Malcolm - VK3OAK

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

DATE		NAME	CALL		NAME	CALL
30-Jan-19		Chris	VK3QY	or	Doug	VK3DRE
6-Feb-20		David	VK3KQT	or	Ian	VK3AXH
13-Feb-20		Paul	VK3TXR	or	Scott	VK3MCL
20-Feb-20		Scott	VK3MCL	or	Craig	VK3KG
27-Feb-20		Craig	VK3KG	or	Doug	VK3DRE
5-Mar-20		Doug	VK3DRE	or	David	VK3KQT
12-Mar-20		David	VK3KQT		IAN	VK3AXH
19-Mar-20		Ian	VK3AXH		MICK	VK3GGG
26-Mar-20		Mick	VK3GGG		CHRIS	VK3QY
2-Apr-20		Chris	VK3QY		PAUL	VK3TXR
9-Apr-20		Paul	VK3TXR		SCOTT	VK3MCL
16-Apr-20		Scott	VK3MCL		CRAIG	VK3KG
23-Apr-20		Craig	VK3KG		DOUG	VK3DRE
30-Apr-20		Doug	VK3DRE		DAVID	VK3KQT
7-May-20		David	VK3KQT		IAN	VK3AXH
14-May-20		Ian	VK3AXH		MICK	VK3GGG
21-May-20		Mick	VK3GGG		CHRIS	VK3QY
28-May-20		Chris	VK3QY		Paul	VK3TXR
4-Jun-20		Paul	VK3TXR		SCOTT	VK3MCL
11-Jun-20		Scott	VK3MCL		Craig	VK3KG
18-Jun-20		Craig	VK3KG		Doug	VK3DRE
25-Jun-20		Doug	VK3DRE		David	VK3KQT
2-Jul-20		David	VK3KQT		Ian	VK3AXH

## VHF and Above for January 2020

The start of the new year has seen a mixed bag of results with propagation changes occurring widely almost on a daily basis. As previously mentioned there is a core group of operators on the bottom end of 2mx most days from around 8am with quite a few members taking part. Some of the members are VK3ALM, VK3FITW, VK3AIG, VK3KG, VK3BNC, VK3GGG, VK3LTL, VK3DAI, VK3DET, VK3ZAZ, VK3AXH and possibly some others as well. Steve VK3HSJ from Burrumbeet is also in the process of getting a yagi going and has done some preliminary tests using a wire antenna and being heard around the area as well. These numbers represent the majority of stations that take part in this session. Other stations from Western Victoria, South Australia, Melbourne area and Gippsland also participate.

When propagation is good this activity goes up to 70cm and 23cm as well with some good results. Openings into VK5 and VK7 have been quite good with an occasional station from VK1 and VK2 being heard as well.

Andrew VK3LTL was well pleased when he had his first 2mx contact with VK4FNQ via sporadic E followed by VK3AXH. VK4FNQ is located south of Charters Towers.

VK3AXH has been busy on 2mx EME and so far this month had 12 contacts mainly into Europe and also VK6KCC who was running around 300 watts to a pair of 13el yagis. Contacts within VK are fairly rare as there are not too many stations active.

The Summer VHF/UHF Filed Day was held on 18/19 January with club members VK3LTL and VK3AXH operating from home and VK3DAI/p at Mt Doran. Conditions were quite good on most of the bands with plenty of activity.

### MAGIC BAND 6mx

This season has seen a lot of activity within VK, ZL, 3D2, JA and South America. Stations heard/seen operating using SSB, JT65 and FT8 include VK3ZAZ, VK3KQT, VK3BNC and VK3AXH all having good success. The great thing about this band is you can use a simple vertical antenna to have contacts into these areas due to the enhanced signal levels that occur via tropo and sporadic E propagation.

### Club Weekly 2mx Net

Due to ongoing interference problems with the Mt Buninyong 2m repeater tests were conducted with VK3RBT and VK3RWA as a suitable alternative. We have a T800 Tait Base station which was replaced at VK3RWA in club hands which will be reprogrammed and used to replace the Green Hill VK3RBT repeater. This will give us a good alternative for use by members and others that can access this site.

*Till next time 73 Ian VK3AXH*

## **12. Dec 2016 QST Review.**

- P13 Member Spotlight: Dr Kim Andrew Elliot KD9XB.
- P24 Letters In.
- P30 A Simple APRS Tracker. Great for Foxhunting.
- P33 Weatherizing Outdoor Inductors & Traps.
- P35 Inverted Wedding Cake Fan Dipole. [40 thru 10M]
- P37 A Longwave Up convertor.
- P39 Safety First Part 2. Grounding.
- P42 Review of the Yaesu FTM-3200DR Digital/Analogue 2 Meter Transceiver.
- P46 DV4mini Multimode Digital Hotspot.
- P49 Review Arlan Communications Radiosport RS60CF Headset.
- P50 Pacific Antenna 40Meter Easy Receiver Kit.
- P52 QRP AM Broadcast Interference Filter Kit.
- P53 The Doctor Use a 40M dipole on 15M.
- P55 Hands On Exp 167 Clean Audio makes for Comfortable Listening.
- P57 Hints & Kinks,
- P102 Classic Radio. The HeathkitAT-1 Novice Heath's first amateur kit.
- P106 Index for December 1916, 1966 and 1991.

And the end of another year.

73 Craig VK3KG

## **OST 1. REVIEW. JANUARY 2020.**

Starting a new year and also a new decade for 2020. Here are the major contents for this month.

- P9 The Second Century editorial. Dare to Imagine. By the ARRL CEO.
  - P30 Constructing Metal Enclosures. For the DIY types.
  - P34 Untangling the Decibel Dilemma. Further explanation of a mathematical process. P39 Comparing Mobile/Portable antennas on 20 Metres.
  - P42 Product review. ICOM IC9700 Multimode tcvr V/UHF. V8 vert dipole for 80-10Metres. mAT-125E auto Antenna tuner. P66 Nashua area Radio Society Outreach to new hams.
  - P70 ARISS.s Next Generation Radio system Progress to a Launch.
  - P73 The ARRL Radio Insurance plan for equipment. P82 Winter School clubs roundup.
  - P82 Hiram Percy Maxin 150th birthday celebration results.
  - P93 A Look back to March 1970. A Kilowatt Amp on 220 MHz. Coaxial Sw with all Unused contacts shorted to Ground. COLUMNS: P100 Classic Radio From the 1950's The Mighty Midget 80/40M Receiver
  - P56 The Doctor. Looks at readers questions and answers them here.
  - P58 Microwavelengths. Waveguides Pt 2. P60 ARRL Lab testing of many Hand Held transceivers. Well worth reading article.
  - P63 Eclectic Technology looks at "Seismology & Piezoelectricity".
  - P64 Hints & Kinks- Gravity fuse for Wire Ant's and a Mini Ground Plane and more.
  - P86 Hows DX. Cyprus ZC4, Cocos Is TI9 and Antarctica CE9.
  - P88 World Above 50MHz. History of the 222MHz - The Forgotten VHF Band. There are many other Departments that may promote your interest to read. Still many pages of commercial advertisements.
- 73 Craig VK3KG.