



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

August

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting

Friday 26th August 2016 @ 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

Well here we go again it disappoints me that I am sitting at the computer doing a report that I hoped someone else would be doing this job, as I stated in the last letter that it would be nice to see some new blood on the committee and other positions.

The AGM now behind us its time to look at the coming year and beyond, we are looking for a group to bring guest speakers to BARG it does not have to be electronic orientated give it some thought we will have it on the agenda for Friday night.

On the sick parade it looks like everyone is back on course which is great news we now have Hutch living town his address will be given out on Friday night.

We are starting to see some bookings for our Hamvention

That is our next event hopefully we get the support of members as we normally do on the build up to it and of course on the day.

All positions are now been filled for committee as of five minutes ago except the President hope we can fix that on Friday.

Keep safe- keep warm Doug vk3vba

Doug Raper - From the desk of President Doug vk3vba

A Word From The Editor

Welcome to the September newsletter. We're through the worst depths of winter now I think, and with the days getting longer and hopefully warmer it'll be a good chance to get out of the shack and into the real world. Last weekend was the International Lighthouse Weekend, with Australia well represented. I managed to contact around ½ dozen lights, including King and Kangaroo Island. I also contacted the Geelong club at Queenscliff and the Warrnambool group, boosted by a few Ballarat locals, down at Flagstaff Hill.

On the repeater front many of you would have noticed that VK3RWZ on Mt William in the Grampians is back up and running. This repeater has great coverage over Western Victoria and must be one of the best used repeaters in the country. It's on 146.950 with a tone of 91.5 to access.

With AGM just gone most of the folk in elected roles were kind enough to continue on, which means I don't need to update the website. Much appreciated. Though somehow I've become the Vice President. A role I've agreed to on the grounds that we keep a President who's fit and well. :-)

In all seriousness, a big thank you to all those who had roles last year and those who are taking on roles this year, be it again or for the first time. And just for the record, I'm happy to take on Vice President.

Sadly I can't make the meeting this week, but I do hope to be at the construction night on Monday 5th September. Hope to see you there.

Until next month.

Malcolm

VK3MEL

Round The Web

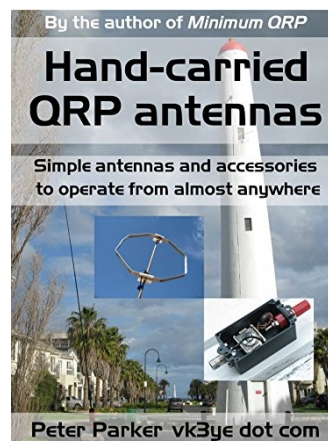
Hand-carried QRP antennas

VK3YE has just released his second book, this time focused on, you guessed it, hand carried QRP antennas.

Many of the club will recall that Peter came as guest speaker and presented on his Beach 40 double side band transceiver sometime ago. Peter is know for his easy to understand style and well thought out presentations. He's put a large number of video's up on [youtube](https://www.youtube.com).

Both Peter's books are e-books, for Kindle. Available online for ~\$6Au

<http://home.alphalink.com.au/~parkerp/handqrp.htm>



VHF FM Kit

You can never have enough un-built kit's on the shelf. Here's a VHF FM transceiver which isn't something that you see too often in a kit.

All you need is to assemble it and it works!

You will need some basic skills to assemble THT components, there is one SMD component on the PCB (DRA818 module).

Perhaps one minor point to consider though:

Menus in Dutch language including Netherlands repeaters. Available User manual in Dutch.



<http://www.svet-el.si/english/index.php/shop/product/76-kit-weekend-projectnlvhf-radio-station-all-components>

mcHF kit

If the previous kit is a bit too basic, then perhaps have a go at this micro controlled HF TX kit.

Standalone and compact embedded transceiver

- *Continues RX coverage 2-30 Mhz*
- *5W output power*
- *CW, SSB, AM and FM – transmit and receive*
- *300/500 Hz CW and 1.8/2.3 kHz SSB filters with adjustable passband centering*
- *3.6 kHz “wide” filter plus 5, 6, 7.5 or 10 kHz “extra wide” filters for SSB/AM reception*
- *SSB/AM Transmit Speech processor*
- *DSP noise reduction*
- *DSP automatic notch filter*
- *Spectrum scope*
- *Waterfall Display*
- *Highly configurable with a wide variety of menu items*



It does say that advanced soldering skills are required. And I think debugging it could be a trick. But if your looking for something more advanced, it might be just the ticket.

<http://www.m0nka.co.uk/>

Round The Web

Radio Receiver for Android

Google has a nice app called Radio Receiver that runs in the Chrome web browser. It connects directly to a usb dongle used in SDR radio programs. It is normally only a receiver for commercial FM stations, but it can also run in free tuning mode. It allows coverage of amateur bands and lots of other frequencies.



A very simple set up, yet very useful. Click the ? on the top of the receiver, and it opens a comprehensive help page that shows how to use this excellent app.



Thanks Lach for sending through.

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/radio-receiver/mieomcelenidlleokajkghmifldohpo?hl=en>

Blackbird

This isn't a radio link, but I thought it was interesting, so I'll share the link and you can check it out yourself. You'll never look at another car advert on TV the same way again.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnBC5bwV5y0>

Chinese Power Amplifiers

The Chinese have been pumping out a huge range of small FM transceivers for some years now, but very little in the way of HF gear. Amptec might be looking to change that with a range of Power Amps. Though with the smallest unit running at 1kW, I guess there's not going to be much demand from VK operators.

Made in China is the latest manual tuning shortwave power amplifier. With the Military FU250F vacuum tube adopted, it can easily output 1200W.

Besides, I can offer quite good after sales service and a reasonable price.



Prices aren't listed, and ordering detail isn't that clear, so I wonder how competitive they are with the US and Europe manufacturers.

<http://amptec.cn/>

SILICON CHIP REVIEW AUGUST 2016.

This month there are a number of topics in the Mailbag area.

- P1 Publishers Letter talks about all the RF Hash generated by switchmode supplies, garage door openers, CFL lights, etc. What will/can the ACMA do about this problem.?
- P4 Mailbag. Micromites, CFLs, renew energy, CDI, switchmodes and Bass link electricity link failure.
- P16 Personal Flight vehicles. From Icarus, Hot air ballons and VTOL vehicles. Turbo fans to rocket thrust and heavy lift Drones.
- P28 Touchscreen Appliance Energy Meter using a Micromite device..
- P38 An 8 Digit Frequency Meter. Reads up to 50Mhz. Also there is a Prescaler to allow use to 2.8GHz. Very compact base unit.
- P57 The Serviceman's Log always has interesting stories and helpful ideas. But this time he runs foul with his ISP and their HELP desk. !
- P62 Micromite Plus & the Explore 64.
- P80 Add a 7" Touchscreen to a Rasberry Pi.
- P84 Circuit Notebook. Arduino Anal/Dig LCDclock, Li-on Cell charger, Autoranger 10A Current meter.
- P88 Review: Tecsun's S-2000 Multiband radio. 100kHz-30MHz and 118-137 and 87-108MHz. with AM,SSB and FM Priced at \$425.
- P94 Vintage radio looks at the early ASTOR Aladdin FG Dual band radio. C1937 and a 6V DC vibrator set.
- P 99 Ask Silicon Chip. Sort out construction or article amendments.



And that's all there is folk's.

73 Craig VK3KG

REWARD OFFERED.

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of the desperate criminal Hop-A-Long Capacity.

This unrectified criminal escaped from a primary cell where he had been clamped in ions, awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Millihenry, who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a dc motor over a Wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band pass.

If encountered, he may offer resistance. The electro-motive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he went to ground. They had no success and believe he returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a megacycle with his friend Eddy Current, who was playing a harmonic.

August 2016 QST Review

- P4/5 The Index
- P13 Member Spotlight: Magda Moses KM4EGE.
- P24 Letters from Members.
- P30 Air Conditioners and RFI.
- P32 Antenna Analyzers: - The Basics. What they do and why you may want one.
- P35 Convert an Aviation Headset for Amateur radio use.
- P37 Build a stealthy Quad vertical antenna.
- P41 Review: Icom IC-7300 HF & 6M transceiver.
- P47 Review: Capacitance Meter DIY kit.
- P49 Review: OCF Dipole for 40,20,15 & 10M. <http://myantennas.com/wp/>
- P51 The Doctor. Dynamic range, Starting a net, About ALC.
- P53 Eclectic Technology. Looks at PSK.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyXQQc-4vNU
www.1hkj.com Fldigi
http://f6cte.free.fr/index_anglais.htm MultiPSK
- P54 Hands on Radio.. Ex 163 E and H Field Probes.
www.pasternack.com www.airspry.com www.interferencetechnology.com
- P56 Hints and Kinks. Mobile mount hook, fit ferrites to coax & silver tape for constructing large inductors for ATU's.
- P61 Kickstart your group with club contesting.
- P64 Wind Profiling radars. Our near band neighbours.
- P67 National Parks on the Air. www.arrl.org/NPOTA
- P68 HamSCI: Where amateurs investigate and report. Launch and track a Balloon.
Reverse Beacon activity. www.reversebeacon.net
See www.hamsci.org
Whisper net www.wspnet.org www.pskreporter.info
Radio JOVE radiojove.gsfc.nasa.gov and
ARIS www.cubesat.org with www.amsat.org
- P90 RTTY Roundup. Still a well used medium
- P93 2016 ARRL International EME Competition. Sept 24-25th.
www.arrl.org/eme-contest
- P95 Hows DX?. Equatorial Guinea. Turmoil of setting up a rare call area.
- P97 Above 50MHz. Worst Sporadic E Season ever ?
- P102 Classic Radio. A History of the Curtis Keyers.
- P106 Index for QST's from August 1916, 1966 and 1991.
- P116 Interesting advert for Antenna launcher called the Airboss it uses compressed air to launch a sinker and line upto 60metres with 40psi. Refer to boss@kr4loairboss.com
- P156 QST Index to advertisers.



73 for this month de *Craig VK3KG*

VHF and Above for September 2016

The 2016 Winter VHF-UHF field day has now come and gone. It was held on the weekend of June 18/19. Whilst there were not too many stations in the field there was quite a lot of activity on 2m and up. Ian VK3AXH had some contacts on both Saturday and Sunday on 4 bands ie 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 13cm from his home QTH.

Congratulations to Mick VK3GGG formerly VK3PMG for his effort in the Summer VHF-UHF Field day 2016. As can be seen Mick entered 2 sections operating from his home QTH in Stawell and recently received First Place Certificates in both categories. Well Done Mick and congratulations for your outstanding achievement.



Ian VK3AXH also received a rather late certificate from the WIA indicating a win in 2015 Spring Field Day Home Station 8 hour Section which was a surprise.

If you have anything of interest or simply want to tell us what you have been doing in the VHF-UHF bands please let us know so it can be passed on to other members.

As can be seen from the results you don't have to go into the field to take part in these contests and given the wide choice of sections a lot of fun can be had so why not think about participating in these events as they arise throughout the year.

This year the weather for the Winter Field Day was terrible. Ian VK3AXH had around 30 contacts from his home qth on bands 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 13cm during the event and activity although lower was still a lot of fun with some prepared to brave the conditions to participate in these events.

Given that we have quite good membership numbers why not tag along with other members and join in the fun either as a portable or home station or even by activating the club station initially. This should be easier to undertake once our new antenna's are up and running.

73 till next time, *VK3AXH*

GippsTech 2016

This event was held at the Federation University Churchill over the weekend of July 9th and 10th has now come and gone. Each year there are around 100+ amateurs that attend to hear very interesting presentations from some real experimenters. This year was no exception with topics such as making antenna rotators using small DC motors for satellite tracking to a range of Arduino projects including how to modify the recently acquired 3.4G panels more simply and a speech synthesiser for the FT817.

A presentation of satellite tracking involved displays and showing participation of boys and girls around 11 years of age not only talking via satellites but also designing, programming and using Arduino related projects which was a real eye opener. It seemed to us that this is the way we need to go as many other presentations involved these devices as a cheap and easy way to perform many tasks associated with amateur radio.

This approach may result in the amateur population continuing well into the future as these kids were really keen on not only speaking to amateurs but the hands on was what they were really excited about. It was also demonstrated from ACMA records that the amateur population is not in decline as we may have suspected but in fact the numbers have increased. The presenters feel that targeting the younger generation is possibly the way ahead to ensure this great hobby continues into the foreseeable future.

There is plenty of time to catch up with other amateurs at the Friday night Morewell Hotel meal and on the Saturday catering is provided for lunch and the evening meal is held at the Morewell Club and many stayed after the end of the event on Sunday for Pizza before heading off home. This year several amateurs took their 3.4G panels to have contacts at a variety of locations on their homeward journey.

Plenty of hardware and component give aways and amateurs selling kits/components/books etc are also available during breaks which is an additional bonus for those attending.

This year amateurs from VK1/2/3/4/5/6/7 and from the USA attended.

Two of BARG's members VK3KG and VK3AXH attended this very worthwhile event and already look forward attending again next year.

Till next time, 73 de *VK3AXH*



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PRACTICAL WIRELESS AUGUST 2016.

- P11 Reviews the Icom IC-7300 transceiver. Very nice.!
- P14 Reviews: Yaesu FTM-400DE/XDE C4FM and Yaesu FTM-100DE C4FM.
- P18 Simple Masts for All Seasons.
- P23 Setting up Outdoors and Exhibition stations.
- P26 Coaxial cable Testing
- P30 Art & Craft of Coil Construction.
- P34 Buying Second Hand: Scanning Receivers.
- P36 HF Highlights, The IOTA Contest & Reader news.
- P42 Ten top Reasons to take Amateur radio Portable.
- P46 Morse Mode and setting up your key.
- P48 World of VHF. Transatlantic ISS Bounce.
- P51 Data Modes: More on Red Pitaya.
- P54 In the Shop looks at some FT101ZD, FT-707, FT757, FT200 ,FT290 and a FRG8800 receiver problem.
- P57 Valve & Vintage has collected a AN/ARC-3 aircraft radio as well as a R-308 Receiver and an R1100 receiver. Further addition is a Hallicrafters S-27C Rx and the military WS-128 manpack. 2-4.5MHz.
- Look at www.rafsignalsmuseum.org.uk and <http://vk2bv.org/archive/museum> and www.militarywirelessmuseum.co.uk
- P64 Letters



That's all for this month also.

73 Craig VK3KG

Financial Planning explained by an Irishman.

Paddy bought a donkey from a farmer for £100.
The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.
In the morning he drove up and said,
'Sorry son, but I have some bad news. The donkey's died.'
Paddy replied, 'Well just give me my money back then.'
The farmer said, 'Can't do that. I've already spent it..'
Paddy said, 'OK then, just bring me the dead donkey'
The farmer asked, 'What are you going to do with him?'
Paddy said, 'I'm going to raffle him off.'
The farmer said, 'You can't raffle a dead donkey!'
Paddy said, 'Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead.'
A month later, the farmer met up with Paddy and asked,
'What happened with that dead donkey?'
Paddy said, 'I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at £2 each and made a profit of £898'
The farmer said, 'Didn't anyone complain?'
Paddy said, 'Just the guy who won. So I gave him his £2 back.'

SALGUOD.....????