

B.A.R.G. NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. Inc. #6953T

ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 5 **MAY 2005**

PRESIDENT: David Tilson VK3UR SECRETARY: John Kennedy VK3AIG TREASURER: Bob Terrill VK3BNC
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NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 27 May 2005

At 7.30 pm

EDITOR'S COMMENT

On holidays...what again and he only works two days a week!

DATES

Club meetings the last Friday each month starting at 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE please note that meetings (3rd Wednesday in the month) will also start at 7.30.

Construction Nights. Construction nights are held on the second Monday each month at 7.30 .Please note that June's meeting night is a week earlier Monday 6th June.

WICEN Net : Tuesday nights at 9.00 pm on 3.60 MHz + QRM etc. (Some times below 3.60) and after the net closes, a short check in on 40M at an agreed freq.

MONTHLY DINNING .

This months "Yum Yum" night is at the Bunch of Grapes Hotel Pleasant Street, Friday 20th at 6.30pm and we look forward to seeing you there. Bookings, Bob VK3BNC. 53395317.

VK3RWA Repeater Update:

We have acquired the receiver and transmitter which will allow us to rebuild the VK3RWA repeater for Mt Ben Nevis. As part of the acquisition we have also obtained spare receivers and transmitters to support the Mt Buninyong 2m repeater, VK3RBA.

From the President's Shack:

Welcome to another edition of the BARG newsletter. Our Newsletter Editor, Gordon, **VK3FGC**, is taking a well earned break (though some may debate that) this month, so Treasurer Bob, **VK3BNC**, has kindly taken the reigns as "Illustrious Guest Editor" to produce this month's edition. Thanks Bob.

Our members were captivated at last month's General Meeting, with Drew Diamond, **VK3XU**, imparting some of his knowledge and recent experiences in the design, construction and testing of a number of projects. These included some background behind the 160m vertical that a number of our members are currently constructing, winding different types of coils, constructing projects on Paddy boards and making a bending tool to assist in the construction of box work.

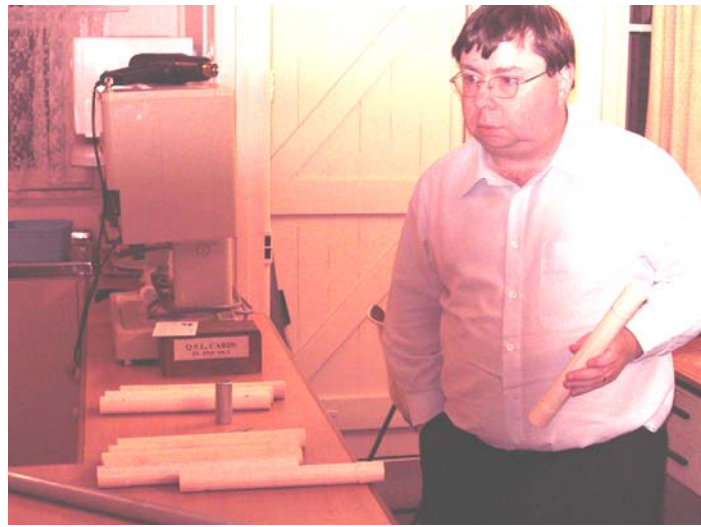
Neil Blanchard, from Rural Ambulance Victoria, will be talking at our May General Meeting on the new Emergency Alerting System (EAS) that will be used by the CFA, SES and RAV.

Following an absence of our IRLP node over the last few months it is pleasing to see that it is up and running again. The equipment and internet connection are now located at the club rooms. Special thanks to Doug, **VK3VBA**, for coordinating the relocation.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, **VK3UR**

BARG President



What the Hell do I do with it now?

BARG MINUTES;

Ballarat Amateur Radio Club Inc

Minutes of General Meeting April 29 2005

Meeting opened by President David @ 1934 hrs

Apologies. Vk3hrz. Vk3det. Vk3cfh. Vk3kqq.

Welcome to Guests Drew Vk3xu Merv Vk3adx. Robert Vk3zrf

Minutes of March meeting as circulated. Moved Vk3vba/ Vk3kgl. Carried.

Business arising from minutes. I.R.L.P. Report. President David reported that a decision was made at last Committee meeting that the I.R.L.P. be set up at the residence of Doug Raper . Further to meeting Doug Vk3nbv reported that discussions with Neighbour Hood cable revealed that a Broadband connection has been established at Airport via a radio link, N.C. assured Doug that the connection could be made between N.C. and B.A.R.G. Clubrooms using radio connection from the existing tower. The overall cost would be \$900.00 dollars of which the Government subsidy would be \$710.00 leaving a shortfall of \$190.00 to be paid by Club. Further negotiations by Doug reduced the amount to \$100.00. President David assured members that the needs of the Club for I.R.L.P. and internet could be attained through this connection..

Moved by Bill Vk3pal and seconded by Bob Vk3nbv that B.A.R.G. accept this proposal as outlined by Doug Vk3vba. Carried.

Trip to Geelong Electronics Society a good night Thanks to Doug Vk3vba for driving .

Tower Protection, Craig Vk3cmc awaiting lighter material. To proceed.

Fox Hunting to be discussed at next Committee Meeting.

Fence Repairs at Club Rooms . Still no action. President to follow up.

Financial statement and a/cs for payment. Moved Vk3cmc/Vk3nbv. Carried.

Correspondence.In Ballarat City Council. W.I.A. re news. Moved Vk3cis/bvi Carried.

Committee Report, Welcome to new member Gavin Vk3vtx.

Doug Vk3vba appointed as I.R.L.P. Officer.

John Moyle Field Day. Ian Vk3axh reported on successful day and improvements always come for next year. Thanks to Harry Vk3kgl for his help.

Vk3rwa upgrade. Bob Vk3bnc reported all cabinet work now complete and original

Antenna back in service. Thanks to Wia for new cabinet.

Reports General. Exams Charlie Vk3dcs Two candidates successful.

Congratulations to Ted for good result and pass.

Newsletter Gordon Vk3fgc asked for assistance in newsletter publication, no starters.

Food Handlers Course . No information available, Secretary to follow up.

General Business. From Doug Vk3vba . Damascus College approach for speaker on Amateur Radio at College on May 12. 2005. Bob Vk3bnc to arrange and attend.

Meeting closed at 2020 hrs. President David welcomed Drew Vk3xu as Guest Speaker.

"It's the common man who keeps the wheels turning, but let's not forget that it was the uncommon man who invented the wheel" Anon

Its really Him!



On Friday 29Apr a large attendance of members were in attendance to hear Drew Diamond VK3XU talk about the ease and ways of making home constructed projects for the radio amateurs shack. Not one for black boxes Drew believes in making his own, and is firmly in the belief that there are still amateurs out there who still do "roll their own"

As some thirteen club members are currently building their own copy of Drews recently described 160Metre vertical he spoke about this particular project at first and while a simple project the main construction part is the loading coil of some 65 turns on a 280mm long former made of 90mm UPVC white pipe. From this loading coil Drew mentioned his special "jig" he has built to allow him to make his own air spaced coils as used in other projects. This jig allows a coil to be wound on a suitable sized former [may be a suitable sized bottle] and allowed to spring back to an extra 15% size which is then placed in a special but quite simple hardwood jig with a perspex rod which has cut outs that accept the helix shaped wire form. Epoxy glue is then applied to rigidly hold the coil together. These coils may be used in ATU/Transmatches or for tank coils in transmitters as well as loading coils in trapped dipoles etc. As a result of this demonstration I intend making a jig to make a coil for a 160M ATU that I am building. A commercial product like this coil is not available in a viable price package.

The next thing that Drew talked about was his very easy way of constructing a working circuit board with all components as needed in any of his building projects. This is called Paddy boarding and is not new to many readers of AR where many of his home brew construction projects have been shown. The ease with which a constructor can make their own Printed Circuit Board has to be seen to be believed and Drew explained and showed the members how this can be achieved. Unlike the photographic process, if a track or component is left out, paddy board construction allows easy corrections to be made to add in the missing components.

Paddy board construction can also be used in circuitry up to the VHF and UHF region as we also saw a 432Mhz converter made using fibre glass copper clad board and the tuning lines along with the component tie points using copper
Drew showed an example of a completed project which is only one of his many projects that has been already described in Amateur Radio magazine as well as his three volumes of construction projects for the radio amateur. Although a prolific constructor Drew also manages to put in a lot of time on air especially on the 160M band where he is one of many that operate on the daily Coffee club net [11 AM on 1.843 Mhz] that has been going now for more than 30 years. He is also enjoys using CW on air for contacts.

A well deserved round of applause was given by members at the conclusion of Drew's presentation and a vote of thanks given by John VK3TJW who is also a keen constructor. Hopefully this talk may activate a number of new home brew projects apart from the ones being done on our Monday construction night activities.

Craig, VK3CMC.

This & That!

Examination Results:

Congratulations to Ted Morley, who has recently passed his regulations examination. Ted now proudly holds the callsign of VK3HHK. Well done Ted and we look forward to hearing you on air.

New Members:

Welcome to 2 new faces who joined us at the April General Meeting. Robert, **VK3ZRF**, has recently moved up from Geelong to live and work in Ballarat. Merv, **VK3ADX**, has rejoined the club after a number of years away from the hobby. Please make sure you introduce yourselves and say G'day.

IRLP Update:

Thanks to a lot of work by Doug, **VK3VBA**, and assistance from Bob, **VK3NBV**, John VK3TJW and Ian, **VK3IDL**, the IRLP system is back up and running from its new location, our club rooms. Neighbourhood Cable have installed a wireless internet link from their facilities to our Club Rooms at the Ballarat Airport, which currently supports our IRLP operation, BARG Web Site and the WIA News and VicLink news services. At the time of writing the IRLP system is back on air, but the Web Site and news broadcasts are being worked on. As discussed at the April General Meeting, this will enable the club to consider supporting other services (funds permitting) into the future that could utilise the same internet link, for example DX Spotting Cluster, local web access, etc.

George Fowler Memorial Auction:

Don't forget the George Fowler Memorial Auction, which is to be held on Sunday, 29th May, at the club rooms. As per previous years we will start with a light lunch of soup and bread rolls at 12:00pm, with the auction commencing at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome and bring some soup to share. Make sure you bring a boot load of goodies to sell and a wallet full of money so that you can take home a boot full of bargains.

Ballarat Gold Fields Surface Mine Tour:

Steve, **VK3SE**, has organised a surface mine tour of the Ballarat Gold Fields. This will take place on Saturday, 4th June and meet at 1:45pm for a 2:00pm tour. The tour will last approximately 2 hours and solid walking shoes are required. The operators of the Gold Fields will be preparing hand out packs for those attending so please indicate to Steve at the May General Meeting if you are interested in coming along.

Towers....What will the Greenies say?



Ian, **VK3IDL**, has completed works on a new 2m horizontal yagi and a 23cm yagi, dubbed "Golden Boy". He is particularly proud of Golden Boy and to make sure it is difficult for some light fingered person to borrow, he has stuck it as high up his tower as possible.

David, **VK3UR**, has successfully integrated his internet remote base and computer system to his new rotator and 8 coaxial relays to allow for fully automated switching of his antennas. Now all he needs to do is to get those speaker wires in the roof before Juliette starts crawling...

Craig, **VK3CMC**, has progressed to having his 2 Nally towers mounted on their support poles. Craig intends having a mixture of HF, VHF and UHF antennas sitting on top of the towers and is devising a method of being able to switch them to be used both inside his house and outside in the shed, when he is in trouble

John, **VK3AIG**, whose tower was the first to be installed in this flurry of new activity is still bare... However, John continues to sit in his back yard, while sipping a cup of coffee admiring its beauty, every morning.

As you read this Charlie, **VK3TCV**, has a new slab mounted Nally tower that is currently being installed in Wendouree. At this rate he should have his antennas installed and functional a few months before John

Construction Group



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The 2nd part of the 160m vertical antenna construction project went well, at our May construction night, with most members winding their loading coils. Progress is going well and as per normal there was a lot of banter amongst the members. Even if you're not constructing a project, come along and join in the fun. Note: The next Construction Night is being held on 6th June, one week earlier than normal, due to the Queen's Birthday holiday.

What June already !

	<u>Construction Night</u>	<u>Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Dining Night</u>	<u>General Meeting</u>	<u>SPECIAL EVENTS</u>
<u>May</u>			Fri 20 th 6:30 pm (Bunch of Grapes)	Fri 27 th 7:30 pm (Neil EAS Project)	Sun 29th May BARG George Fowler Memorial Auction 12:00 pm
<u>June</u>	Mon 6 th 7:30 pm (13 th Queen's B'day)	Wed 15 th 7:30 pm	Fri 17 th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 24 th 7:30 pm (Mark VK3PI – MMR Project)	Sat 4th June (1:45 pm) Ballarat Gold Fields Surface Mine Tour – Steve, VK3SE Sat/Sun 11/12 June SERG Hamfest (Mt Gambier) New location. Sun 19th June BARG Family Day at Cobden – Ian, VK3IDL
<u>July</u>	Mon 11th 7:30 pm	Wed 20th 7:30 pm	Fri 15th 6:30 pm (Venue TBA)	Fri 29th 7:30 pm (Speaker – TBA)	

JUNE PROPAGATION REPORT FROM MACCA.....BUT IT'S NOT SUNDAY MORNING!!!!

Propagation Report for May 2005

As winter gets closer and some of us hopefully get more time in the shack I hope there will be an increase in contributions to this segment.

Steve VK3SE reports his activity on the HF bands.

- 10 metres AI4JD, and VK4HFO on Russell Island with a big signal
- 15 metres V73VE – Marshall Islands plus W5, W8, KN4, JA's, ZK2, and VK9NS
- 30 metres A lot of CW activity on 10.120MHz
- 40 metres Plenty of activity on this band with both home stations and mobiles. Several ZL's can also be heard

Ian VK3AXH reports there has not been any real good openings on either VHF or UHF. Regular contacts within VK3 and some openings to VK's 1, 2, 5 and 7 on both SSB and FM are there when conditions permit.

One special event occurred this month on 10GHz when Alan VK3XPD successfully had contacts into Europe using both CW and SSB. Alan's station for 10G is a 3 metre dish and around 70 watts of power into the antenna. He uses a unique method to ensure he is pointing at the moon – a cheap video camera mounted on the dish. Elevation and Azimuth control is by satellite actuators which are controlled manually from his shack.

I am aware some members are working on antenna's for the VHF/UHF bands and look forward to some increased activity as a result.

Till next month 73 de VK3AXH

June General Meeting:

Mark Stephenson, **VK3PI**, from Victoria Police will be presenting at our June General Meeting on the new Metropolitan Mobile Radio (MMR) network that is currently being built and commissioned in Melbourne for a number of emergency services in time for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. MMR is a new secure digital radio network that will be the first major change to voice communications for emergency services in a number of years.

AGM:

Yes its getting around to BARG's Annual General Meeting time again. If you enjoy your hobby and got lots of good ideas for BARG then get involved think about helping on the committee or even nominate for one of the executive positions as they will all be vacant!

Nomination forms are attached to the rear of the newsletter so be in it.

Round the traps!

This is an idea picked up at the last General Meeting during Drew Diamond's presentation. Drew talked about the difficulty in designing and optimising a big antenna, such as the 1.8MHz (160m) vertical. To test his theories, Drew made a 1/16 scale model of the antenna, which corresponded to 29MHz. He was then able to construct this much more manageable antenna size, and optimise the design, before embarking on the large scale version.

Well one of our members took this to heart and has produced his proto-type “Golden Boy” and will now set about making the “real one”!



If this is “Golden Boy” we look forward to seeing the “Golden Man”.

For Sale!

A super duper Kenwood TS 520V. All going with mike and it tunes 160m for anyone without that band. The price is right so check with Arthur on 53398492.

Thanks!

For those who supplied reports, articles and pictures I'd like to thank the following; VK's AXH, NBV, FGC, UR, SE, CMC, and KGL. Bob VK3BNC.

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475	Mt Hollowback.

BEACON

VK3RMB		438.475	Mt Buninyong
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IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA Yes its going again!

CLUB e-mail vk3bml@barg.org.au.

CLUB NET VK3BML 3.610+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

WIA Broadcast and Club Call Back. Sunday's 11.30 via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to Gordon VK3FGC (e-mail the club) mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354.

Weekly BARG HF Net: Thursday's 8:00pm on 3.610MHz +/- QRM

GEORGE FOWLER MEMORIAL AUCTION

The George Fowler Auction takes place this year on Sunday 29 May at the club rooms starting with a soup lunch from 12 midday with the auction due to start at 1300.

It is a fun day where you can dispose of your unwanted bits and pieces which are of value to other amateurs. So start putting together your "lots", mark the day in your diary and come and have a fun day. Remember that it is open to all comers to bring and buy or sell !!! Visitors are very welcome. George was one of our most respected life members and acted as auctioneer for many years.

This event is a fund raising effort for our club with its ongoing expenses and the club has leveled a charge of ten percent on all items sold. Please make sure your items are clearly marked with your call sign otherwise BARG will assume it's a donation and proceeds going to the club.

Cobden Family day:

This promises to be a great day out, bring along the kids and grandkids. Train rides, static displays of all sorts of machinery, relaxing day for the XYL's whilst Dad takes the littlies for rides on the steam trains. Well there may even be steam radio...who knows?

If we can arrive about midday in time for lunch, Undercover BBQ's are free and its bring your own whatever so it should be a fun day so come along and enjoy.

Details again: Sunday June 19th In the Park in Greyland Street Cobden.

Ian Lloyd will provide a map and any further details at the May meeting and he will want to know who is going so PLEASE discuss with the better half!

Picture Gallery:

Here is an idea that you may like to get involved with. Bob NBV has agreed to be BARG's Gallery Curator and the idea is that any digital topical pictures you take for the month pass them on to Bob and he will exhibit these on the wall at Barg. There is an area set aside for this and as time passes these will be archived to be preserved as BARG's history or part thereof. Many of our members have passed on and we have little to show for their activities. So lets have your pics!

Club Raffle:

Well here is your chance. Your committee has decided to conduct a raffle of an Azden Model PCS-4000 2 Metre FM 25 watt second hand radio, in full working condition. Tickets go on sale now and are 3 for \$2.00 or \$1.00 each. See Secretary John or Treasurer Bob. The winning ticket will be drawn at our June meeting. No limits on the tickets!



Just think yours for a \$1.00 !

This is the club raffle prize. An Azden PCS-4000 2M 25 watt FM Transceiver. Complete with operator's manual and microphone ready to go.

Tickets 3 for \$2-00 or one for \$1-00 Drawn at the June meeting and proceeds to your club!

For tickets see John VK3AIG, Bob VK3BNC or David VK3UR.!

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B.A.R.G. Inc. NOMINATION FORM
 Ballarat Amateur Radio Group – Inc # 6953T
27th August 2005

DATE: _____

I wish to Nominate _____ CALL: _____

For the position of _____ of BARG Inc.

Nominated by: _____ and _____

Nomination accepted by: (Nominee) _____