

B.A.R.G. News



Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. # 6953T
ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 3 March 2006



President: David Tilson VK3UR
Secretary: John Kennedy VK3AIG
Treasurer: Gordon Cornell VK3FGC

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 31, 2006
At 7.30 pm

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: vk3aig@barg.org.au

BARG Inc. Life members

Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC
Jim Wright	VK3CFB
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Phil Seddon	
Stan Widgery	dec.

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS and BEACON

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750 Mhz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100 Mhz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750 Mhz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475 Mhz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(Beacon)	435.535 Mhz	Mt Buninyong

IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RRWA

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 11.00 via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to Harry VK3KGL

Or mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354 or e-mail vk3kgl@barg.org.au

Broadcast Times and Dates on VK3RWA Repeater

Every Sunday at 10.30 am, WIA National News, followed by VICLINK

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat

Every Wednesday night at 9.30 pm, Spectrum Tasmania News

MOWING ROSTER



It is that time again when we publish the mowing roster for the Club rooms. The mower and fuel are at the rooms, but when the fuel is getting low please contact the committee to get a refill. Any new "mowers" will be fitted in.

March VK3AXH & VK3TJW

President's Report:

Our 4 latest members have recently received their amateur radio Foundation licences. If you hear them on air please give them a call and introduce yourself. Ben is VK3FBEN, Darren is VK3FDCS, Doug is VK3FDRE and Carlo is VK3FCRV.

The Construction Group is in the midst of building their switched mode power supplies, which is progressing well. These units will produce between 15 – 25 amps at 13.8VDC, which should cover most shack requirements. Some additional tools and a drill press have also been purchased for use by members.

The proposal for refurbishing the club's radio shack with modern equipment is still being developed. Unfortunately it is a few weeks behind schedule due to illness. As soon as it is ready it will be available for review and comment by members.

Chris Long will be our guest speaker at the next General Meeting, to be held on 31st March, commencing at 7:30pm. Chris will give an updated talk on the subject of Voice Communications Across Light Waves, which received great interest at the GippsTech Conference last year. Members of the Geelong Radio and Electronic Society and the Ballarat Astronomical Society have also been invited to attend. Club business will be kept to a minimum on the night so that we can maximise the time with our visitors and guest speaker.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, VK3UR

John Moyle Memorial Field Day:

Due to the recent fires around the Ballarat Area, the Committee agreed to cancelling the club's participation in this year's John Moyle Memorial Field Day. The Club's chosen site, Flagstaff Hill, is relatively close to where the fires were and the mopping up operation continues and the Committee felt that it would be disrespectful to those effected and involved in the fire fighting and relief efforts.

Jamboree Of The Air:

The club has been approached by the District Scout Leader for Ballarat seeking the Club's assistance in this year's JOTA at the Pax Hill Scout Camp in October. The Committee has agreed to assist and a plan will be developed over the next few months.

Overhead Projector:

Uniting Care in Ballarat has generously donated BARG with an overhead projector. This will assist with presentations and training materials for future courses.

Ballarat Amateur Radio Club Inc

Minutes of General Meeting 24 February 2006

Apologies Vk3hrz, Vk3det, Vk3caz,

Welcome to new members Doug Ellery, Ben Fulbrook;

Minutes of January Meeting as circulated. Moved Vkcmc/Vk3se, Carried,
Business arising. Committee to investigate modern radio for shack, Discussion .
Investigate guest speaker for March meeting,
Brian Vk3kqb to report re amp Mat Mattson. Project in hand.

Correspondence. In License approval Vk3rmb. Bank statements, City Council.
Out email Central Goldfields Radio Club re library,

Financial Statement presented and A/Cs passed . Moved Vk3fgc/cmc, Passed.

Committee Report, Surplus Antennas for sale, Expressions to Secretary.
Foundation License, Craig reported four successful candidates.
Over weekend instruction, theory and practical examination. Instructors Vk3ur,
Vk3aig, Vk3bnc, Vk3axh, Examiners Vk3cmc, Vk3bnc.

John Moyle field day, John Vk3cfh reported arrangements well in hand for 18/19 March,
0800 hrs start from Ballarat Club to supply Sat evening meal.

Radio Modernization. David Vk3ur reported on proposal to update Club station, Plan to
provide fully costed multi use station, with remote access facilities,

March General Meeting, Chris Long to attend, Give address on Light Transmission,
Geelong R and E Society to be guests together with Ballarat Astronomical Society.
Supper to be arranged Doug Vk3vba to attend.

General Business. J.O.T.A. email from Michelle Prior inviting BARG to assist.
Newsletter. Thanks to Harry Vk3kgl for well presented newsletter.
Club Nets. Clem Vk3bvi, Small number on BARG net
Dining night, Good attendance at Midlands Golf. Next gathering Black Hill Hotel.
Library. Craig Vk3cmc, Thanks to Bob for Scanner donation.
Construction, Ian Vk3axh, List of project proposals in circulation. Parallel
construction, Switch mode power supply and Light transmission most popular.
Repeater Vk3rwa seems to be ok.
Workshop, Bob Vk3bnc purchased a variety of tools for workshop and be mounted on
shadow board.
Packet Radio. John Vk3twj reported on investigation of present Packet Radio and
suggested IRLP and Packet be integrated into one computer. Will submit a proposal.
WICEN. Gordon Vk3fgc. Mars challenge on 23 rd April
Meeting closed 2025.



Review QST September 2005

The cover photo is written up on page 36 and has a comprehensive set of instructions over seven pages.

The articles of interest to me were:

1. Page 20 A 20 and 40 meter vertical on “Auto pilot”
2. “ 31 Building the W8JK Beam. A 1937 design originally. Also mentioned in OTN magazine March 2006.
3. “ 36 A simple Direction Finding Receiver for 80 Meters.
4. “ 58 The Doctor is IN – Spacing rotary inductor from chassis.
5. “ 64 A Satellite Tracker Interface.
6. “ 70 Product Review New Generation of Antenna Rotators.
7. “ 89 Old Radio – The first Ham in Philadelphia.

Plus the usual QST interesting filler articles and ads. For equipment.

Review QST October 2005

There is always someone who does something on a grand scale and the County Expedition – California Style was the attention getter for me this time and the write up on page 44 did it!

The articles of interest were:

1. Page 28 Build an Automatic Antenna switch controller.
2. “ 36 A low cost Automatic Impedance Bridge.
3. “ 44 County Expedition.
4. “ 51 Rejuvenating your club.
5. “ 53 The Doctor is IN-Spray painting aerials and other questions.
6. “ 55 Short takes WTP-1 Wireless touch paddle.
7. “ 56 A fast TR switch – How to build.
8. “ 62 Hands-on Radio The Transformer.
9. “ 73 Technical Correspondence – Baluns.
10. “ 102 A photo of Bob Heil of microphone fame at the Wurlitzer Organ he played.

Plus the engrossing ads. throughout the magazine

73's Clem VK3BVI.



VK3AXH

My newly erected 2 metre array and propagation report



This is a picture of my newly erected 2 metre array which I hope to use for EME. Both azimuth and elevation control is available. It may be ok to put in the newsletter for interest if you like.

Details of it are:

4 yagis x 5 wavelengths (each boom is 10 metres long) with 18 elements (all insulated) in each

Propagation Report for March 2006

HF Bands

There has been lots of activity across the amateur bands over the past month. HF has been alive and well with some of the locals involved in the some good contacts. Both Steve VK3SE and Ernie VK3DET have been busy on 80/40/20 and 15m with contacts as shown. Steve provided the following :-

80m - OCI36 (Ernie VK3DET)

40m – V73DE 9 Marshall Is, 9A7BA Croatia, GA7BA, Plenty of VK/ZL including the Commonwealth Games station AX3MCG, OCI36 (VK3DET)

Plenty of Foundation stations heard.

20m – F6KHM, G6PZ, AX3GAMES, AX3MCG, JA8BMK, OCI36 (VK3DET)

Also heard very weakly with a big dogpile was Guantanamo Bay station KG4RN

15m – YJ0ADX Vanuatu, V8A3V Bruni,

160m – John Vk3AIG work into the USA on CW using his club project vertical

VHF/UHF

Lots of contacts made due to the extended high pressure regions across the East/West path.

Plenty of 2m/70cm and 23cm contacts within VK3 and VK5. Ian VK3AXH reports a contact with VK6WG Wally (95 years young) at Albany on both 2m and 70cm at S7 and S9+ respectively. In addition beacons from the Albany have been quite good particularly the 70cm beacon.

EME – Ian reports only one contact with DF2ZC on 2m

Club Projects

Great turn up at the club rooms with plenty of members getting involved with the switch mode power supplies. Thanks to Bob VK3BNC for his presentation and help in getting everyone started. It will be interesting to see the progress at the next groups get together.

73's Ian VK3AXH



**Some of our members enjoying our monthly dinner.
This month was at the Brown Hill Hotel.**



Some shots from our first Foundation exam day.

TWO METRE BOOMER

Do you want extended range for your handheld on Two Metres? Many of us have found that the rubber duckie antenna doesn't do a very good job at any distance from the repeater. Here's an inexpensive antenna that will boost your operating range many times over that of the duck.

As far as I know, this antenna was designed by Woody KA4OFE. I received the instructions from him and immediately tried it out on some distance repeaters. Wow! It opened up a whole new world of HT communications.

This simple antenna is shown in Fig.1. It is simple a vertical dipole with the lower half made of a section of 450 ohm TV ladder line.

The top section of the dipole is made from the centre conductor of the coaxial line, with the white dielectric material left in place. A hanging loop is formed at the top and the distance from the top of the loop to the braid is 19 inches (483 mm).

Enough braid is left over to form a pigtail, which is soldered to a crossover wire between the two wires of the ladder line. The 50 ohm coax should be woven in and out of the lattices of the ladder line, keeping it centred as much as possible. The coax should then be tied in position along the ladder line by monofilament fishing line if you desire.

The two wires of the line are separated at the bottom end and joined at the top end, at which point the coax braid is attached. The ladder line seems to work well as a decoupling stub and when the antenna is mounted in the clear (hung from a tree branch, for example) it is a great improvement over a conventional HT antenna – even a full size one.

SWR on the line is low and so far I have encountered no loading problems with any equipment.

My version of the KA4OFE antenna comes complete with a 25 foot (7.62 metre) lead-in and matching plug to fit the HT on the free end of the line. The antenna can be coiled up into a small bundle and erected in a few minutes. It's a lot of antenna for very little money.

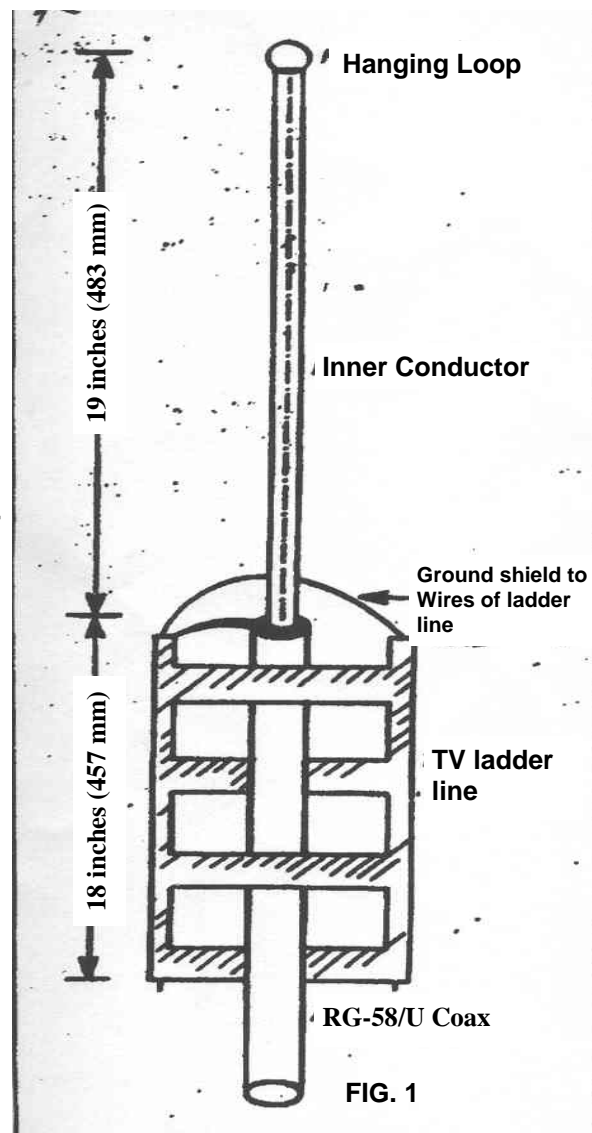


Fig. 1—The KA4OFE answer to the 2-metre rubber duckie antenna. Costing just cents, this simple dipole runs rings around an HT antenna. It can be rolled up and stuffed in your pocket (depending upon the length of the feed line). It's a great antenna for an emergency when you need the punch to break into a distant repeater!

FOR SALE

For sale a 7 meter tower, with very heavy duty rotator and controller plus 33 meters of control cable works well, see it working, \$350 or near offer.

Charlie. VK3DCS

Phone 53317425 or. Email charleys@vic.chariot.net.au