

BARG News



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

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2009



President: Doug Raper VK3VBA
Secretary: Doug Ellery VK3FDRE
Treasurer: Peter Pollard VK3FPOL

NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY November 27, 2009
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: vk3bml@barg.org.au

BARG INC. LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Cornell	VK3FGC
Norm D'Angri	VK3LBA
Harry Hekkema	VK3KGL
Kevin Hughes	VK3WN
Ian McDonald	VK3AXH
Phil Seddon	
Charlie Stewart	VK3DCS
Bob Terrill	VK3BNC

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS and BEACON

D—STAR

CALLSIGN:	MODE:	FREQUENCY:	TX OFFSET:	USER SETTINGS
VK3RBA A	Digital Data	1298.700 MHz	Nil (half duplex)	URCALL: VK3RBA RPT1: VK3RBA A RPT2: not in use
VK3RBA B	Digital Voice	439.9875 MHz	-5.0 MHz	URCALL: CQCQCQ RPT!: VK3RBA B RPT2: not in use

VK3RBA (UHF)	(70 cm Voice Repeater (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access))	439.275 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBA (VHF)	(2 m Voice Repeater)	146.750 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA*	(2 m Voice Repeater) (Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access)	147.100 MHz	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(2 m Packet Repeater)	144.750 MHz	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(70 cm Voice Repeater)	438.475 MHz	Mt Hollowback
VK3RMB	(70 cm Beacon)	432.535 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RBU-1	(2 m APRS Repeater)	145.175 MHz	Mt Hollowback

* **IRLP** Node 6310 using VK3RWA

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 Sunday 11.00 am 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 11.00 am, WIA National News.

Every Monday night at 9.30 pm, ARRL News

Every Tuesday night at 9.30 pm, WIA National News Repeat

What's Going On In Your Shack

The roving reporter has made a surprise visit to the Shack of Charlie VK3DCS with the view of presenting some information to members about his radio activities and interests.

Charlie got interested in Amateur Radio in 1970's whilst living in the high country of Victoria however it wasn't until 1985 that he became licensed as VK3TCH. In 1988 Charlie and Shirley moved to Ballarat and setup at his current qth and soon upgraded his licence to VK3KAY for only a short time with a further upgrade to his current callsign VK3DCS.

Initially Charlie was active on 6 metres with many contacts made including some of our locals VK3AIG and VK3XEX (dec). Eventually antenna's were setup of for both the HF and VHF bands where a lot of listening and some operating still goes on. Charlie is also using the new digital radio system and actively pursues IRLP with regular contacts being made to friends in New Zealand, Canada and other parts of the world.

Over the years Charlie has been a keen home brew amateur. He's made countless antenna's and other gadgets to enhance his station. Some of these include a home brew rotator with direction control indicators made from an aircraft compass and selsens that is still operational today.

Thanks a lot Charlie for allowing the roving reporter to visit your shack and pass this summary of your activities over the past 20+ years.

Till next time, 73's





QST Report with Craig, VK3CMC

Content review of current QST in library

QST Review 2009 - OCTOBER



P9 Editorial Discusses the Global Community and the advancement of new licences around the world. The WIA is mentioned along with the “new” Foundation licence and the Australian centenary celebrations for 2010.

P4/5 The index.

- P30 Quadrifilar Helix as a 2M base station Antenna. QFH.
- P33 Simple mobile Transceiver protection. Automatic turn off circuit for mobile operation.
- P35 Inexpensive 12V dc power distribution box.
- P36 Squeeze the next band down from your HF Loop.
- P39 A no holes Mobile Installation. Even includes the Lap top.
- P42 Polycarbonate: Ideal plastic for Amateur projects.
- P45 Product Review: FLEX-3000 SDR transceiver. HF/50Mhz.
- P52 Technical Correspondence. Daiwa CN-801 Wattmeter, Best height for HF Beam,
- P55 Doctor is In. Spy radios, Verticle monopole antennas, SWR between rig & ATU, LP filters and digital TV.
- P57 Short Takes. Rigblaster duo. Station management control for two radio
- P58 Hands on Radio Exp #81 Synchronous Transformers. [Transmission lines]
- P60 Hints & Kinks. Mobile ant transport tube & insulators, single paddle iambic keyer, quick release bracket for FT857D. Receive indicator for emergency radios
- P67 Happy Marriage of Transceivers & Computers.
- P68 Reviews the 2010 ARRL Handbook. Also discusses the first handbook from 1926.
- P70 Happenings. Looks at Mobile radio NOT being a driving distraction.
- P76 Eclectic Technology. Audio Archiving using AUDACITY from the Web.
- P 80 Feature. Past, Present and Future of VHF Contesting.
- P84 Feature. Multihop contest station. Texas style.
- P86 QEX contents for Sept/Oct 2009.
- P88 Hows DX.
- P90 World above 50Mhz
- P95 Vintage Radio. Memoirs of Old Timers.
- P97 Microwavelengths. Homebrew Transverters
- P101 QST contents from Oct 1934, Oct 1959 and Oct 1984
- P103 Hamspeak Glossary of terms in this edition.

Another good months reading.

Craig, vk3cmc

ACCURATE COMMUNICATION IS EVERYTHING!

John, vk3cfh

NATURE CALLS

Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, the 2009 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate and founder of a grassroots sanitation movement in India, recounts the days before his country's independence in 1947 when toilets were a rare sight in remote villages and towns under British rule.

"An English woman, who was planning a trip to colonial India, wrote a letter to the owner of a small guest house who was also doubling as the town's schoolmaster.

She was concerned as to whether the guest house contained a WC. The school master, not fluent in the nuances of English acronyms, asked the local priest if he knew the meaning of WC. Together they pondered possible meanings of the letters and concluded that the lady wanted to know if there was a Wayside Chapel near the guest house.

That the letters WC (water closet) could mean a bathroom, never entered their minds." Said Dr. Pathak.

"So the schoolmaster wrote back:

Dear Madam,

I take great pleasure in informing you that the WC is located nine miles from the house. It is located in the middle of a grove of pine trees, surrounded by lovely grounds. As there are many people expected in the summer month, I suggest you arrive early.

There is, however, plenty of standing room. This is an unfortunate situation especially if you are in the habit of going regular. I would recommend that your ladyship plan to go on a Thursday, as there is an organ accompaniment. The acoustics are excellent and even the most delicate sounds can be heard everywhere.

The newest addition is a bell which rings every time a person enters. I look forward to escorting you there myself, and seating you in a place where you can be seen by all.

With deepest regards,
The Schoolmaster."

"No wonder," said Dr. Pathak, amidst howls of laughter, "the British woman never visited India."

Free Free Free Free

One only 2.6 metre satellite dish. Fibre glass construction. It's free to anyone just come and take it away. It's available from VK3AXH. Please contact for if you are interested. It would be a shame to see it cut up and dumped.

Regards, Ian Mc

Solutions for connecting you...

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Engineered Products Group
KOHLER engines

There are two copies of Amateur Radio magazine missing from the library and they haven't been written into the loan book.

Please DO sign in book provided when borrowing books!

Not a problem to borrow but when need to check where they are the loan book helps.

Missing at the moment are AR for June 2009 and AR for Oct 2009.

Thanks Craig, vk3cmc

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Anything FOR SALE or WANTED???

Why not send it to the Editor to be included in the next Newsletter.

Send to: Newsletter, BOX 1261, Mail Centre, Ballarat, 3354.

or

vk3kgl@barg.org.au

Next DEADLINE for articles is the 24th of January!!!

Construction Group Notes

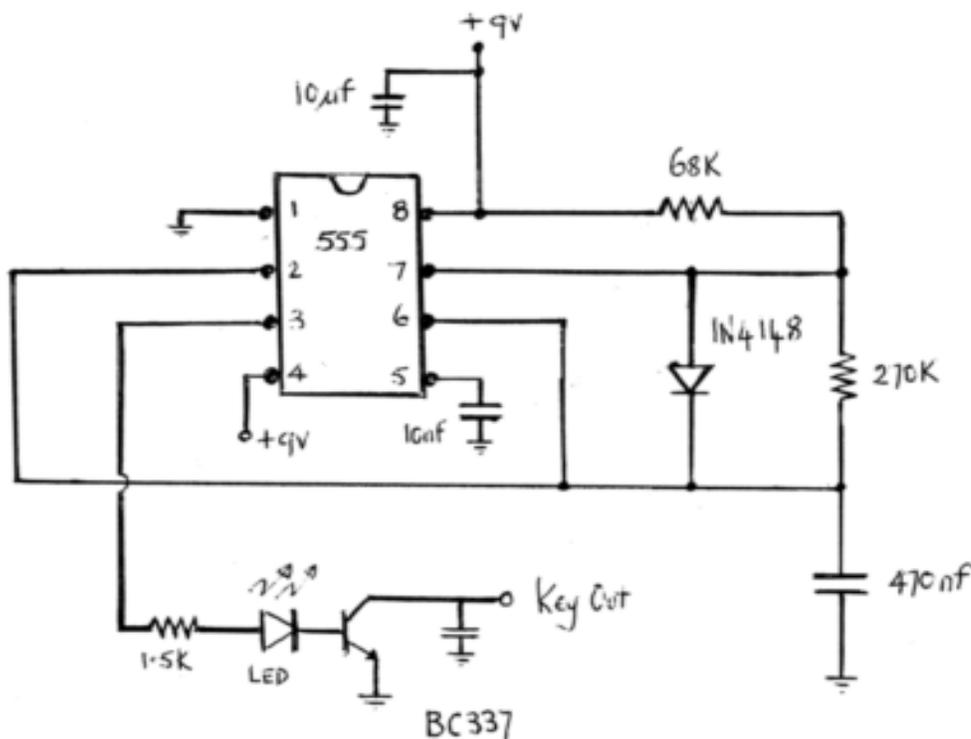
Here is a worthwhile project for field day activities especially those operating on some of the higher frequencies. One of the difficult tasks is to point your antenna in the correct direction when operating from a portable location. When signals are often very weak it's useful to have a gadget that will assist the distant operator to firstly find your signal and secondly optimise the direction of their antenna for maximum signal strength.

Below is a simple circuit that will do just that. When built and tested simply connect it to you CW jack, go to CW Mode and turn it on. The unit sends out a continuous stream of Pulses which will assist the distant station to optimise frequency setting and antenna.

Often there is a liaison frequency so you know when to change to voice for the contact. In addition to the above you may also wish to key your transmitter whilst checking your own Antenna performance. One thing to note is if your rig has a built in keyer make sure your connections are in accordance with what the manual says for a hand key ie some CW jacks have 2 terminations and some have 3 terminations.

The unit can be built on veroboard and housed in a small Jiffy Box and powered with a 9 volt battery.

Enquiries to Ian VK3AXH



70 cm Homebrew Antenna

Brian VK3KQB gave a talk on how to make a folded dipole antenna for 70cm. Brian gave a demonstration of its performance and also provided details on how to phase a series of dipoles to give greater gain. Construction diagrams were distributed amongst the group and it was evident that a number of members will undertake this project. If required the antenna can be scaled up for 2 metres as well. Further copies of the details can be obtained from Brian at club meetings.



Doug, VK3FRDE

The Secretary's Page

Minutes of the BARG General Meeting – 23rd October 2009

Doug VK3VBA opened the meeting at 1935.

Apologies

VK3CAZ, VK3HHK, VK3BVI, VK3FSTU, VK3DCS, VK3GND, VK3NBV, VK3HRZ, VK3BA, VK3DAE.

Attendance

Doug VBA, Doug FDRE, Peter FPOL and approximately 14 other members.

Minutes of the Previous

(September) general meeting had been distributed previously, they were passed as being correct.

Moved Brian KQB / Warren FWJW - carried.

Secretary's Report

Correspondence In:

AR magazine.

Correspondence Out:

Nil, but there was a suggestion that as Peter Andjelkovic VK3KP had been married the previous weekend that a belated card could be sent on behalf of our group to he and his new bride.

Moved Craig CMC / Bob BNC that all correspondence be accepted - Carried.

Reports

Education – Craig CMC At present there are already two interested in the next foundation licence course, it was moved by Roger ADE and seconded by Bob BNC that a deposit of \$40.00 be secured when applicants book for the course, this would be applied towards the examination costs of attendees, and forfeited if they didn't show up unless there were extraordinary circumstances, after some discussion this was passed by the meeting.

Construction – Brian KQB showed the prototype of a 2 metre antenna which he has been working on, this would be a likely project for construction night.

At this stage the raffle was drawn by KQB - prize of a chook, and a selection of goodies from the table of items donated by George VK3DS was won by CMC

General Business

Gordon FGC would talk to the people at Damascus College to see if there were any issues regarding “Working with Children” certification before our members attended the activities day.

Remainder of the meeting was devoted to organising the impending hamvention.

Bob BNC suggested that whether they intend to enter the homebrew competition or not, members should bring some of their projects along to show what they and the construction group generally achieved.

Preliminary setup would be on Saturday at 9.30, we would need to bring extra power leads and power boards, and divide the long trestles in half with electrical tape.

Members were allocated to the various tasks required to be performed on Hamvention Sunday, starting time was to be 7.30 AM.

Hamvention eve dinner was organised, although there would not be a large attendance.

Caterers had been contacted and all was in readiness.

There being no more business meeting closed around 2115

Next meeting 27/11/2009 at 2130.

Usual Disclaimer: While I have endeavoured to make these minutes an accurate record of the meeting, I may not necessarily have succeeded. If I have upset anyone by error or omission I apologise.

Doug Ellery

VK3FDRE

Secretary BARG



Doug, VK3VBA

Presidents Report

November and we have the Ham Vention behind us and looking at Christmas.

Our big event (H/vention) in my observations was a roaring success, I emailed all traders and asked for their opinions on how well the event was organized I received 12 replies most of them returned with glowing admiration on an excellent event.

One thing that stood out was the thank you to all members on trolley duty they all agreed that it made loading and unloading so much quicker and easier, one trader claimed that it is the best H/Vention in the state I would like to think that myself.

The venue received excellent feed back re lighting and the carpet and very good reports on the catering.

To all members who turned up on Saturday and assisted with the setting up of tables and also members who arrived early on the Sunday morning and of course all who helped with the closing of the building in the afternoon.

Well enough of that our Christmas break up is our next big event on the 18th of December, all meat rolls etc will be supplied but I take this opportunity to ask if our ladies can supply salads and sweets a show of hands at our next meeting will hopefully give indications of what members will bring on the night but members not at the meeting are requested to please inform me or Bob bnc so we don't double up on one or the other.

At our club rooms we now have a T V for the entertainment of members, also our construction nights are still attracting good numbers.

We are hoping to attract more members at our working bees, the rooms and surroundings require attention to keep them in working condition both inside and out its not a big ask approx 2 hours a month is sufficient to maintain this level.

Unfortunately we will not have a guest speaker this month and for this I apologies I had one and lost him we will make it up with a big supper.

That's all from me from now, see you on Friday the 23rd at our general meeting failing that at our break up (please give indication of attendance for catering)

For members that I don't see have a safe and happy Christmas.

Bye for now

Doug Raper vk3vba

PS how are the raffle books going all sold I hope