



NERG NEWS

Incorporated 1985 in Victoria
Reg No A0006776V - <http://nerg.asn.au>

SEPTEMBER 2005

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
Greensborough
Victoria 3088

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

This month we have not one but TWO meetings! The NERG now has a standing booking for two nights each month at our new hall. The regular meeting remains on the second Thursday of each month, with occasional events and coffee shop sessions on the Fourth Thursday.

First off, after a quick change of plans, Bob Tait VK3UI swaps nights with the VI5PN team (who will be here in October).

This week Bob will talk about **Modern Vehicle Electronics** and their implications for the mobile amateur. Bob works on automotive electronic at Bosch. Vehicle systems are now using devices running from DC right up to 17 GHz, so fitting a radio to a car is not as simple as it used to be. Also he will explain why wires don't necessarily carry 12 volts anymore - it could be a variety of voltages and also carry vital data signals. Tapping into a vehicle's wiring system at the wrong point can produce some very unexpected results!

In two weeks time, on Thursday 22nd Sept we will be getting organised for the **2006 John Moyle field day**.

Ernie VK3FM has taken on organisation of next year's event and has some great ideas. A bit early you may think, but we'd like to stream-line a few things for the next trip to the mountain (the site is already booked!) and get a few problems (like QRM from 6m) fixed up well ahead of time :-)

See you at both meetings, 73, Mark, VK3BYY

The September meetings are to be held Thursday, 8th and Thursday 22nd at 7:45pm, at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

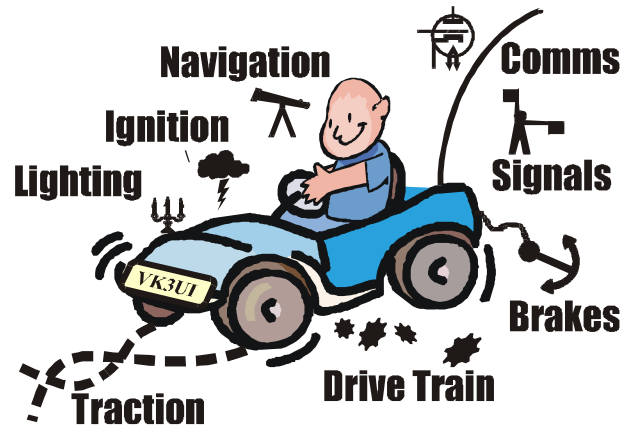
- Thursdays Sept 8:** NERG Meeting - Advanced Automotive Electronics and the Amateur by Bob, VK3UI
- Thursday Sept 22:** 2006 John Moyle Field Day planning meeting
- Thursday Sept 22:** NERG Committee meeting (after the JMFD meeting) - all members welcome.
- Tuesday Sept 27:** NERG Morning tea meeting at VK3EWM
- Thursday October 13:** Guest speakers Peter VK3QI and his team speaking about their latest trip to St. Peter Island located in Nuyts Archipelago, near Ceduna off the South Australian coast where they operated DX especially for IOTA operators.
- Sunday October 16:** 1:00PM-4:30PM) Official opening of the NERG's new home and open day. SEE NEXT COLUMN ->>
- Tuesday October 25:** Morning Tea Group - TBA.
- Thursday October 27:** This is a special night as Don has twisted John Kolm's arm to do another talk on one of several topics - all of which sound very interesting. John, as busy as ever dashing around the planet and writing the odd book along the way couldn't make it to our regular meetings but has kindly offered this special night. Anyone that has heard John speak will know it's not an event to be missed!

NEXT MEETINGS:

at the NEW NERG meeting place:

Briar Hill COMMUNITY HALL
126 Mountain View Road, Briar Hill
7.45 pm, Thursday
8th September 2005

Advanced Automotive Electronics and the Amateur - Bob Tait VK3UI



Also: 7.45 pm, Thursday 22nd Sept.
Special Meeting to organise the 2006
John Moyle Field Day trip

GRAND OPENING! 16th OCTOBER

The North East Radio Group (the NERG) invites the public to the opening of its new home at the Briar Hill Community Hall (126 Mountain View Road Briar Hill) between 1.00pm and 4.30pm Sunday Oct 16. There will be displays of what the hobby is all about, including demonstrations of HF radio, Amateur Television, WICEN emergence services, Transmitter hunting, and a sausage sizzle. The Wireless Institute, Amateur Radio Victoria, and the 4WD VKS737 will be there too.

The hall will be official opened by Banyule Deputy Mayor Jenny Mulholland at 2.00pm.

The aim behind this event is to publicise the hobby of Amateur Radio and the presence of the NERG within the local community, focusing on all ages from school age to those well into retirement. We are hoping to get some good local media coverage prior to and at the event.

- MEMBERS please assist wherever possible.

For more information please visit www.nerg.asn.au or phone NERG Secretary, John Weir, on 9431 0667

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

A truly great day was had by those present at the last meeting. The function was held at the QTH of VK3FM and XYL Jan. The non-stop talk feast was broken only the eating of delicious food. Jan was trying to beef us up because just when I thought it was finished, another course would arrive. Thank you Jan - the food was great and very much appreciated the conversation among Ernie, VK3FM, Ian VK3BGE, Dave VK3JMB, Gerhard VK3EWM and Jim, VK3KE.

The next function is on Tuesday 27th September around 10 am at the QTH of Gerhard VK3EWM to have a post-mortem on the football and cricket, HiHi!73 Jim, VK3KE

Listen out on the NERG chat channel on 146.575 MHz during the day for directions and DX updates.

WEB & EMAIL TROUBLES

No prizes for finding typo's in this months news - Our NERG Internet server, hosted in the USA, has kept me too busy to proof read! The server experienced several disasters over the past 6 weeks, making the NERG web pages inaccessible and bouncing emails sent to anyone at nerg.asn.au back to their sender. The trouble started when they "upgraded" the server, managing to loose all the settings required to make our email work. A week later they crashed a disk drive (and hadn't backed up the system since the upgrade!). On Friday, just as NERG NEWS was to be sent out, the server crashed again! Everything has now been moved to yet another new server, and with any luck everything, including a new backup system, will work!

5KM AND 26 YEARS LATER...



In a rare event Gerhard VK3EWM exchanged QSL cards with Ernie VK3FM at the recent NERG AGM. Although the path length was only 5km, the cards have taken 26 years to make the distance and confirm the AM contact!

NEWS FROM THE AUGUST AGM

Well, big trouble at this year's AGM! Dave VK3JMB noted that the acting chairman, Jim VK3KE, had let the proceedings go on two minutes longer than last year's election. Serious debate followed, until it was finally decided that in fact a new record may have been set, and that the election had in fact taken 2 minutes less than last year. In any event it was all over and done with in usual NERG style - minimal formalities so that we could get on with the fun stuff.

All elected positions remained the same, consisting of President Greg VK3GG/3VT, Secretary John VK3ZRV, Treasurer Marg VK3VOJ, with committee members Betsy VK3HBK, Peter VK3DU, Mark VK3BYY, David VK3THY, and Don VK3KDT. Ernie VK3FM joins the committee as an assistant member, primarily to organise the John Moyle Field Day, but I'm sure we'll keep him busy with more things!

Following a historic exchange of QSL cards between members VK3EWM and VK3FM (more about this later...), the NERG celebrated its 22nd Birthday with traditional Chocolate Cake, Margarita's Pizzas and more than enough goodies for supper.

FIELD DAY MEETING, THUR 22ND SEPT

Everyone interested in coming on the 2006 John Moyle Field Day should come to an organisational meeting at the NERG hall on Thursday 22nd September at 8pm.

Last year's event was a lot of fun and very successful in gaining 1st place in the 24 hour multi-operator portable category. However there are several things we can do better next year - some involving projects that need to start now - hence the meeting! The list includes:

- Band pass filters for HF to minimise QRM
- Sharing of masts, Independent Rotators for UHF & VHF
- Communications between tents
- Compatibility between equipment, connectors, cables, etc.
- Getting set up and running by Midday Saturday

Feel free to come along even if you can't make it to the event - it's a learning experience for all of us!

COMMITTEE MEETING 22ND SEPT.

The NERG Committee will meet on Thursday 22nd September at the hall immediately after the field day meeting. Members are welcome to grab a cuppa and sit in on the committee meeting - participation is what it's all about!

RD CONTEST A GOOD ONE!

This years RD seemed far better than previous years. The new rules for rework time and bonus points after 1AM kept many operators working till the small hours of the morning. Conditions on 80m were kind to us, working VK6's well past midnight. Unfortunately not too many ZL's heard here in VK3. If this is any indication of future RD contests then it will be well worth cleaning up the shack for next year's event and getting a few more club stations on air.

Don't forget to get your RD contest log in before Friday 16th September. Remember every log counts towards the state competition regardless of your score. Send logs to:

Contest Manager, VK4AA,
PO Box 123,
Eagle Heights,
QLD, 4271

MEMBERSHIPS DUE

Don't forget to renew your membership - subscriptions at the AGM meeting were good however we would love to here from some of our more widely spread members.

Membership is \$30, Family \$40, Concession \$20. Please send to:
NERG Treasurer, PO box 270, Greensborough, Vic., 3088

FOUNDATION CERTIFICATION

The new, simpler, foundation class amateur license is set to start in the next few months, once final tweaks and signing of the legislation by the minister is completed. The WIA is currently organising training of people in each state to become Approved WIA Assessors. John VK3ZRV will represent the NERG. Assessors will be able to assess candidates for Foundation, Standard, and Advanced licenses.

With luck the whole system will be up and running before Christmas and issuing licenses new licenses to those waiting patiently.

NERGS IN SPACE

Well, not quite - but soon we could be helping local schools talk directly to astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Collaboration between NASA and radio amateurs called ARISS runs a world wide education program where kids get to ask the astronauts questions via amateur radio links. Our application joins a long list of groups around the world wait for an ARISS QSO. Our former meeting hosts, Briar Hill Primary, are first on our list of schools to help out. Stay tuned as we wait for a green light - it could be a couple of years before it happens but at least we are in the queue!

SPACE SHUTTLE SUCCESS

While on the subject of space, it's great to see the space shuttle landed successfully last August. The VK3ROU repeater carried audio from NASA TV at key times during the mission via its IRLP link. It

was interesting to hear the NASA press conferences in their entirety each day, each with far more detailed discussions of the problems and solutions being faced than could be found on any of our local media. The final hours of the mission were also relayed on NERG's VK3RMH IRLP repeater, including the countdown to firing the retro rockets that started the shuttles descent back to Earth. The 'burn' was amazingly short considering the huge rockets required to get it into orbit in the first place! There was an anxious but expected period when superheated air around the craft literally short circuited the antenna during re-entry, blocking all communications for many minutes.

Curiously the audio we heard via IRLP was about 8 seconds ahead of the pictures and audio broadcast on our local TV (what little they showed!).

COMPONENT SUPPLIERS ON THE INTERNET

Electronic parts are getting hard to buy over the counter these days, partly because there is such a huge variety of components for the shops to stock. Jaycar and Dick Smith Electronics are the only well known retailers left, with Radio Parts and Rockby less well known. A few places specialise in TV spare parts that can be useful to amateurs as well.

For a wide variety of semiconductors you probably can't beat Farnell and RS, especially for small quantities delivered overnight. Failing them, it's often necessary to set up a business account and make a "Minimum Order Quantity" of a container load or two from some of the local and international component specialists.

Below are a few links to the more amateur friendly electronic component suppliers serving our area. Let us know if you have some other favourites.

Radio Parts Group <http://www.radioparts.com.au/>
562 Spencer Street, West Melbourne, 9321-8300
1097 Dandenong Rd East Malvern, 9571-8122

Farnell InOne <http://au.farnell.com>
Tel: 1300 361 005
Fax: 1300 361 225
Email: ausales@farnellinone.com
Email: autechnical@farnellinone.com
Mail: Farnell InOne
PMB 6
Chester Hill NSW 2162

RS Components <http://www.rsaustralia.com>
RS Web Helpline: 1300 136 932
Orderlines: 1300 656 636
PO Box 6864, Wetherill Park. NSW. 1851

Dick Smith Electronics <http://www.dse.com.au>
Mail Order Phone: 1300 366 644
Email: directsales@dse.com.au

Jaycar <http://www.jaycar.com.au>
General Enquiries: techstore@jaycar.com.au
Jaycar Electronics (H.O.)
100 Silverwater Road
Silverwater NSW 2129
Toll free phone (AU) 1800 022 888

And for lovers of Valves, take a look at this interesting (but untested) supplier of good stuff from the last century:

Antique Electronic Supply
<http://www.tubesandmore.com/>
6221 S Maple Ave
Tempe, AZ 85283 USA
phone: 480.820.5411
General Information: info@tubesandmore.com
Sales Information: intsales@tubesandmore.com

A BIG DAY FOR THE WEIR FAMILY!

The Big Day arrived on the 20th of August for Georgiana Battle and Andrew Weir (VK3HFT) who were married at St Francis Xavier in Montmorency. This was a big event for the well known Weir family, active members of the NERG and WICEN.



Andrew, Georgie, Ashley, and Andrew's brother Paul. (Photo by John Weir, VK3ZRV)

ACMA AMATEUR PAGES

Last month I had a call from someone interested in taking up amateur radio as a hobby, but was having trouble finding information from the Internet. In particular the ACA's Amateur Radio section is now much harder to locate since they changed name to ACMA and revamped their entire web site. So where can you find it now? Go to www.acma.gov.au and click on the top and side menu boxes in this order:

Home>
Consumer >
Radio Operators >
About Amateur Radio

Normally I'd give you the web address; however all the new links are not exactly user friendly! They now look like this: http://www.acma.gov.au/ACMAINTER.2883838:STANDAR:485497503:pc=PC_1256

You may also be able to click on the links below:

- [Amateur Examinations](#)
- [Amateur Licence Information Paper](#)
- [Amateur Operating Procedures](#)
- [Amateur Operator's Certificates of Proficiency](#)
- [Amateurs Visiting Australia](#)

...with a few others for interest's sake:

- [Citizen Band Radio and Your Audio Equipment](#)
- [Emission Characteristics of Radio Transmissions](#)
- [Morse Code Signals](#)

NEW GENERATOR

NERG is now all set for portable operations with the recent acquisition of a brand new generator. The new genie has been commissioned and deemed to be far quieter than all previous generators taken on the John Moyle field day. This will come as welcome news to NERGs trying to get some sleep during the contest. The only thing we'll miss is the backfiring of "Big Yella", warning that it was about to run out of fuel. (which happened frequently!).

SNOW'PEDITION

Stephen VK3SN, Gerard VK3JPA and Mat VK3HFI headed back to the snow in the Victorian High Plains in August for their annual cross country ski and QRP portable trip. This year there were nine in the group including three of Steve's brothers (what - there's more Warrillows ?), their dad and several friends.



Stephen VK3SN operating the QRP HF rig



Part of the team braving the elements (apparently this was before the whiteout!)



A frozen longwire antenna runs back to the hut

With portable solar cells and gel-cells they were able to operate a tiny HF transceiver into simple wire antennas, making QRP contacts on 80, 40 & 20 metres. UHF/VHF handhelds were also used to keep the group in touch with each other during the ski-pedition. Attempts were made to build an Igloo though the hut was far warmer! Steve and the gang have offered to show more of the fabulous photos at a forthcoming NERG meeting so stay tuned for more great shots.

NET SECURITY TESTER

Everyone seems to be using the Internet these days. Unfortunately there are some that would like to stop you using it (or worse - steal your files). You can check to see how vulnerable your computer is to various net nasties by downloading a program called 'leaktest' and running it. It runs a program at grc.com which probes your computer cross the internet and produces a detailed report of any weaknesses it finds on your computer. It's not the whole answer to PC security and won't stop you sending your entire bank balance to Nigeria, but it's a start (and it's free!). Download the program from: <http://grc.com/files/leaktest.exe>

IRLP - A LOT GOING ON

Hunter Zh hao, BG7KLG is now active from Shenzhen, China. Node 3374. Shenzhen, a city of 10.5 million people. Hunter has moved the node from Michaels office W7RAT - to Hunter's own QTH. The long term plan is to build a dedicated repeater in Shenzhen for IRLP. With over 300 active hams in the area, activity should build up quickly.

Nodes are also being built in Zhuhai, a nearby city in Guangdong Province, and Tianjin, a large city in North China, about a 2 hour drive from Beijing. Frank, operator of the Tianjin node speaks English, including colloquial English very well. Frank lives on the 16th floor of a 16 floor apartment building so his simplex node will do a good job of covering Tianjin.

Operators are looking forward to having IRLP at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and already envisage having a Chinese language reflector so that Chinese cities can link there.

Sources: Via Bass Amateur Radio IRLP Group, (IRLP NODE 6391)

WORLD HAM POPULATION RATIOS

The ratio of hams to the number of people in France is 2,495 people for every ham radio operator. In the USA, that ratio is a lot better at 434:1. What a huge difference! But the USA number is nowhere near that of Japan at 94:1. That's 127,333,000 people to 1,350,120 hams.

Germany has a ratio of 1,044:1, while the UK is 954:1. Spain is at 662:1 while Italy is almost three times this at 1,889:1. Brazil is 5,744:1 while Argentina is 1,140:1. Canada has a ratio of 696:1, while Australia is at 825:1 (not bad for a small population!).

Two big numbers really stood out in digging these numbers up. Russia is at 3783:1 and India is at 70,000:1, with about 15,000 ham operators with a population of 1,080,264,000.

Source: Radio Bulgaria/ www.southgatearc.org , via Bass Amateur Radio IRLP Group, (IRLP NODE 6391)

FIRST 50 MHZ LICENSES IN HUNGARY.

Three experimental radio licenses were issued to three amateur radio organizations permitting restricted amateur radio usage of the 50 MHz band for the first time in Hungary. 65 stations will participate.

The aim of the experiment is to study whether amateur radio usage of the 50 MHz band on a secondary basis causes interference in the reception of broadcasting stations. The frequency range permitted for the experiment is 50.0500 - 50.5000 MHz, and the licenses is valid for all operating modes, including FM and digital modes. Maximum effective radiated power is limited to 5 watts. Source: www.southgatearc.org via Bass Amateur Radio IRLP Group

WADDA CUP

The Central Highlands Amateur Radio Club of Tasmania is running the annual 80 meter phone dash for the Wadda Cup contest on Saturday 24th, September 2005 between 8:30-9:30pm EST. Only 1 hour in duration, this contest promotes contacts with VK7's, encouragement to first timers and SWL's, and a chance to accumulate contacts to various VK7 awards. It continues to evolve with more changes this year, including a move to September to avoid previous confusion over interstate daylight savings time standards. Participants should listen on 3.585MHz at 8:15pm for a time check and short address. A callback takes place immediately after the event. Full rules published in Amateur Radio July 2005, page 45.

Contest manager is [vk7vh @ hotmail.com](mailto:vk7vh@hotmail.com)

di riccardos

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81 Main Road, Lower Plenty Ph: 9434 5793

- ★ **Wood Fired Pizza Oven**
- ★ **Gourmet Pasta**
- ★ **Meat and Seafood dishes**
- ★ **Relaxed and Friendly atmosphere**
- ★ **Comprehensive wine list and BYO**

Proud sponsors of the NERG - making our meetings even more enjoyable!

Check out the entertainment and special events such as Italian cooking classes at Di Riccardos web site:

www.margheritas.com.au

SHEPPARTON HAMFEST 11TH SEPT.

The Shepparton & District Amateur Radio Club holds its annual hamfest on Sunday 11th September, starting 10am.

Held at St Augustine's Hall in Orr Street Shepparton, (between Nixon and Knight streets), there will be new and used gear including radios, antennas, ex-military equipment, test gear, and accessories.

Talk-in on VK3RGV 2m repeater on 146.650 MHz.

If you'd rather dispose of some goodies, tables can be hired at \$15 each (contact Secretary, SADARC Inc, PO box 692, Shepparton3632)

ARDF EVENTS

World ARDF Champs, Japan 19-24 September.

For further information on ARDF events, please email [brucep \(at\) netpace.net.au](mailto:brucep(at)netpace.net.au)

Sept 19 th -24 th	ARDF	2 & 80m	Japan	Region 3 Champs
Oct Sun 23 rd	Fox-or	80m	Latrobe University	Final: Series Cup

From Vic ARDF Group newsgroup

2005 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

- Sept 11 Shepparton Hamfest 10 am. (see news item).
- Sept 24 Wadda Cup Contest – 80m dash, SSB only, 1030-1130 UTC (8:30-9:30pm EST). Rules appear in Amateur Radio magazine, July 2005
- Oct 15-16 48th Annual Scout's Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
- Oct 16 Official opening of the NERG home and Radio display, 1:00pm-4:30pm, Briar Hill Community Hall.

The NERG Inc. RegNo A0006776V <http://nerg.asn.au>

The North Eastern Radio Group, Inc. is an amateur radio club devoted to encouraging members and others to enjoy the hobby of amateur radio. It tries not to hang on ceremony and endless reporting but rather participate in the fun aspects of this fascinating hobby.

Membership Fees (due each August):

Full: \$30 Family: \$40 Concession: \$20

Send to: NERG Treasurer, PO box 270, Greensborough, Vic., 3088

Committee

President	Greg Williams	VK3VT	9432 0563
Secretary	John Weir	VK3ZRV	9431 0667
Treasurer	Marg Baxter	VK3VOJ	9467 1253
Committee	Betsy King	VK3HBK	
	David Aston	VK3THY	
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
Repeaters	Mark Harrison	VK3BYY	9435 3043

Meetings

2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45 PM (excepting Dec. & Jan.)
Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Road, Briar Hill (Near the Sherbourne Road intersection) Melway map ref 21-C3

Classes

NERG occasionally runs classes and exams for Amateur licenses

Callsigns and Repeaters (25km North East of Melbourne)

Club call - VK3CNE <http://www.qsl.net/vk3cne>

6m rpt VK3RMH FM 52.550 MHz in 53.550 MHz out

70cm rpt VK3RMH FM 433.325 MHz in 438.325 MHz out

IRLP node 6350, EchoLink node 140587

6m beacon VK3RMH CW 10 Watts 50.295 MHz -Off air

10m bec'n VK3RMH CW20Watts 28.2565 MHz

Packet Radio VK3CNE 2m 144.700 MHz, 1200 bps

VK3CNE-1 for mail etc; VK3CNE-7 for the DX Cluster.

Occasionally home to the Scout Radio & Electronics Group repeater:

2m rpt VK3RSR FM 146.375 MHz in 146.975 MHz out

NETS

NERG NETS run on 146.575 MHz FM Simplex (8.30 – 9.30 pm Thursdays). Please join the discussions. NERGs often monitor this frequency and the 70cm VK3RMH repeater.

WEB Sites: <http://nerg.asn.au> and <http://www.qsl.net/vk3rmh>

NERG NEWS submissions and comments invited:

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NERG

North-East Radio Group VK3CNE

NERG Incorporated 1985
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

STAMP

NEXT MEETING:

7:45 PM Thursday 8th September 2005

Advanced Automotive Electronics and the Amateur - Bob Tait VK3UI

2005 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Sept 8 | NERG Meeting - Advanced Automotive Electronics and the Amateur by Bob, VK3UI |
| Sept 22 | Planning meeting for the 2006 John Moyle Field Day station |
| Sept 22 | NERG Committee meeting (after the JMFD meeting) - all members welcome. |
| Sept 27 | NERG Morning tea meeting at QTH of VK3EWM |
| Oct 13 | NERG Meeting - VI5PN DXpedition to St Peter Island in the Nuyts Archipelago - with Peter VK3QI and his team. |
| Oct 15-16 | Jamboree On The Air - Scouts and Guides communicating via amateur radio around the world. |
| Oct 16 | Official Opening of the new NERG home with public information displays and amateur radio demonstrations - 1:00pm-4:30pm Briar Hill Community Hall, Briar Hill |
| Oct 25 | Morning Tea Group - TBA |
| Oct 27 | Guest speaker - John Kolm - Subject? Cartooning, Mentoring, Pot-holing, Code breaking.. - who knows where this will go but we can be sure it will be entertaining! |