

NERG NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2006

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
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news@nerg.asn.au

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

February 9, 2006 Meeting: NERG member Stephen Warrillow VK3SN will present a slide show from his ski trip across the High Plains last year. He may also throw in something on emergency medicine as practiced in a large hospital.

If the high plains are not close enough to the stars for you then perhaps listening out for Suit Sat will be. It's active right now, although it's rather weak. More on that later...

Early next month, NERG will host a contact between the astronauts aboard the International Space Station and the students of Briar Hill Primary School. This is part of our move to get amateur radio better known in the community and should be a good night.

See you then! Mark, VK3BYY

The next regular monthly meeting is on Thursday 9th February at 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3.

DÉJÀ VU

NERG President, Greg VK3VT, again opened up his QTH and put on a wonderful end of year BBQ for the NERGs in place of the December meeting.

Attendance, Food, Weather and Discussions were all good. We also noticed some tidying up going on in Greg's shack – it looks like he may be returning to the airwave soon!

NERG hasn't been idle during the December - January break either. Work is progressing on the back room at the hall, with cupboards moved to the main hall, freeing up some space, and light fittings have been repaired. The next stage is a general tidy up and painting of the room.

Plans have also been drawn up for an extension to the building that would give the NERG an additional large room. This would give us space for a radio room and a general activities/work room. Fund raising will be the next step for this project to go ahead!

FORTHCOMING NERG MEETINGS

March 9, 2006: No set theme for the March meeting since it falls in the same week as the ARISS contact and there is a possibility that the NERG meeting may need to be cancelled. If both go ahead on separate nights, there is likely to be some last minute preparations discussed at the meeting for the upcoming John Moyle Field Day contest (18/19 March). It's only a few weeks away now! NERG will operate a station from its usual position atop Mount Macedon's camel's hump hill.

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday 9th February 2006
7:45 PM
Stephen VK3SN
Cross country trips
through the high country
(with radios of course!)



**What's left when you go
skinny dipping in space?**

SuitSat!

EARLY APRIL MEETING

The April NERG meeting will be bough forward to Thursday 6rd April to avoid Easter and the school holidays.

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

The NERG Morning Tea / Gainfully Unemployed Group will have its first meeting in 2006 on Tuesday 28th February at the home of Ernie and Jan Walls, VK3FM starting around 10am. Hope to see you here, please let Ernie know if you are attending.

Cheers and good DX, hi hi,
Jim VK3KE

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

FOUNDATION LICENCE WEEKEND

STOP PRESS: The second NERG Foundation Licence training and assessment weekend ran on the weekend 4/5th of February. Not much noise was made prior to this one as it was booked out early.

Congratulations to all ten candidates that attended the weekend and passed their assessments - welcome to Amateur Radio and we hope to hear you on air very soon!

Of special note, 7-year old Michelle Ampt qualified for her Foundation Licence and is possibly Australia's youngest radio amateur. Michelle follows her 9-year old sister Janice who gained her licence, VK3FIRE, at NERG's first weekend. The pair follow in the footsteps of their father Mick VK3CH and grandfather Ian VK3IV. Joining at least two six-year olds overseas, Michelle is one of the youngest to qualify for a ham ticket in the world.

Four grandchildren of John & Brenda Edmonds (VK3AFU & VK3KT) also qualified at this weekend, making another family with three generations of amateurs (and perhaps setting a record for the most amateurs in one family - they may well need to declare an EMR danger zone the next time they all gather together!).

The NERG training and assessment weekends have been made possible with the kind assistance of NERG members who share the training tasks, and with the help of some borrowed assessors from other clubs who greatly speeding up the proceedings. It's great to see the assessors working together to ease the task and spread the load.

If you are interested in training, assessments, or helping out, please contact us via email at contact@nerg.asn.au, or call John Weir on 9431 0667

1ST FOUNDATION WEEKEND A SUCCESS

Success of the NERG's first Foundation Weekend held last December is best described by the following reports from Greg and John:

This is just to let you know that the training and assessment day (10/11th December) was a great success - there were two candidates that did not quite make the theory the first time but I am told their scores were very close!! (they both sat the theory exam a week later and passed with flying colours - Ed).

Congratulations to John (VK3ZRV) and the team that he assembled; he is to be congratulated on the terrific job he did and the results achieved. We owe you one John!

Cheers, Greg, VK3VT, NERG President

And from John, NERG Secretary and Foundation Assessor:

Hi all,

The North East Radio Group Inc conducted a Foundation Licence course over the weekend 10-11 Dec 05 for 12 students. Of these one left after the first day to return another day and the remaining 11 continued on and passed.

The theory instruction was carried out by Fred Swainston with the use of his PowerPoint presentation which was greatly accepted by all present, e.g. students, assessors, and observers. Fred managed to maintain the interest of all by alternating between theory and practical training periods. The practical training by assessors and observers worked very well. All aspects of the practical examination were covered in these sessions.

Greg VK3VT acted as chef and invigilator on the day and provided a very good variety of food for the lunches and this was appreciated by all. My thanks go to him for this effort. My thanks to the following assessors and observers for their participation in this event which made the days the successes they were. Thanks firstly to Fred for his presentation, and to the observers Michael Owen (President WIA), Jim Linton (President AR Vic), Jonas VK3VF, Cliff VK3CSL, David VK3THY, and to assessors Craig VK3CMC, Mick VK3CH, Tonga VK3SJ, Peter VK3AUE, John VK3TKH, Alan VK3VD, and Steven VK3TSR.

Your assistance gentlemen, was greatly appreciated by all.

John Weir VK3ZRV,
NERG Course Coordinator, WIA assessor 3-014

NERG TO CONTACT SPACE WITH BRIAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



NERG is to host a two way contact between students of the Briar Hill Primary School and the Astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The contact date has been narrowed down to an evening during the first full week of March, most likely Wednesday 8th March, for an 8.07pm (local) contact.

NERG members will be notified closer to the day of any last minute changes.

The actual contact will last for approximately 10 minutes in which time between 14 and 20 pupils will be given the chance to each ask a question of the Astronauts. In the weeks preceding this night the pupils will have an opportunity to learn more about space, space travel and various projects. This culminating contact night will be a great occasion for all pupils, parents, teachers and friends attending.

Orbit paths and other time constraints prevent us from contacting ISS directly. Instead we will use a "telebridge" telephone link to a suitably placed ARISS amateur ground station, which then uses amateur radio to complete the link to the space station.

The ARISS project (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) sets up and coordinates the amateur radio activities aboard ISS and runs educational programs for schools around the world. Our event is being co-ordinated by Don VK3KDT at the NERG end with Tony VK5ZAL, the Australian ARISS Co-ordinator, organising things with ARISS and the ISS crew. Tony is located in Kingston, South Australia and operates an impressive earth station for ARISS (for more photos see <http://www.electric-web.org>). This is one of the nine amateur earth stations regularly used around the world to maintain contact with ISS. Our event will most likely use the stations of WH6PN in Honolulu or ZS6BTD in South Africa depending on the location of ISS at the time of contact.

HEALESVILLE WHITE ELEPHANTS-26 FEB

Healesville Amateur Radio Group Annual White Elephant Sale is on Sunday 26th Feb, 10am-2pm at the Healesville Memorial Hall, Maroonah Highway, Healesville.

All the usual new and second hand treasures for sale or exchange. Light refreshments available.

\$5 entry. Call-in 146.725 MHz repeater.

Trestle booking and further info: Gavin VK3TLN 5968 8482 or Steve VK3TSR 0418 103 487.

Also note HAG has a new web site at: www.harg.org.au

ST JOHNS NEEDS RADIO AMATEURS

St John Ambulance Victoria is looking for volunteer radio communications operators to boost its participation in the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The volunteers will be involved in staffing the new State Communications Centre at Waverley in Melbourne's east and operating radio networks for St John First Aiders. Experience is welcome but not necessary, as training will be provided.

If you're interested and would like to know more, call St John Ambulance State Communications Centre on 8588 8367 or arv@amateurradio.com.au (from Amateur Radio Victoria)

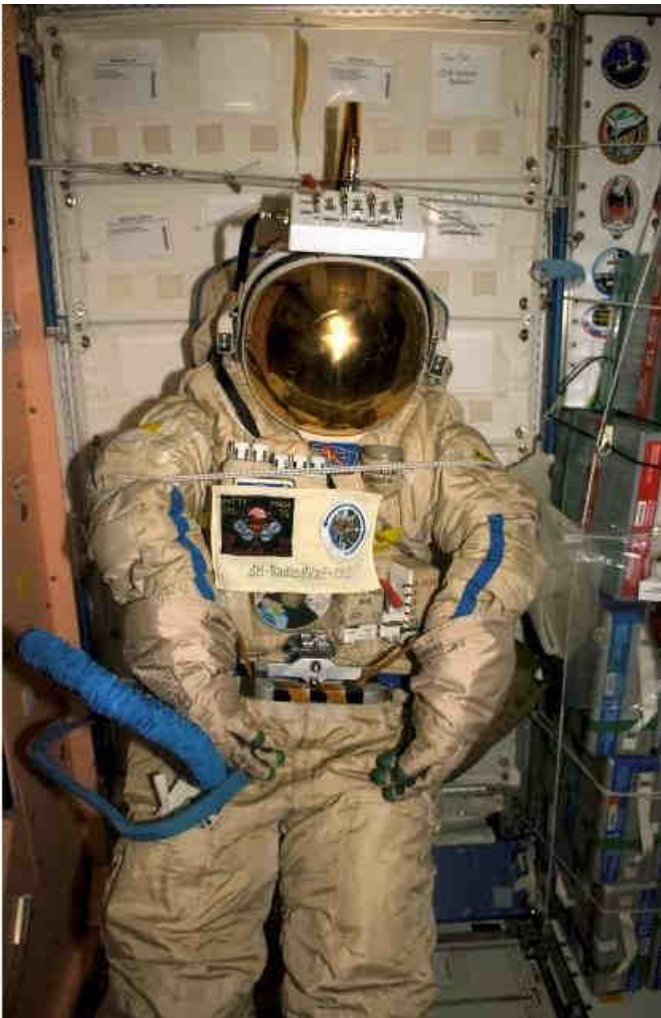
SUITSAT OVERBOARD!

Suit Sat 1 – the empty spacesuit fitted with an amateur radio beacon, was discarded from the International Space Station on Saturday and has lead an interesting journey so far. Initial success turned to disappointment when signals were lost after only two orbits and it was pronounced dead. But in the words of Mark Twain “..the demise of SuitSat-1 is highly exaggerated!!” Or as AMSAT put it:

‘It is now nearly 24 hours since the successful deployment of the SuitSat-1 experiment. These past 24 hours have been a wild ride of emotions...tremendous highs...deep lows when people reported no signals and said SuitSat-1 was dead and now.....some optimism.

It is absolutely clear that SuitSat-1 is alive. It was successfully turned on by the ISS crew prior to deploy and the timing, micro-controller functions and audio appear to be operating nominally. The prime issue appears to be an extremely weak signal.

Radio amateurs around the world continue to monitor 145.990 MHz with high gain antennas for snippets of signal that may help unravel the mysteriously low signal level. The ISS crew is attempting to configure their on-board cross-band FM voice repeater so that SuitSat can be heard via ISS on 437.800 MHz.



SuitSat-1 stowed on ISS ready for “launch”. Photo by NASA

SuitSat was assembled in only 3 weeks, consisting of a Kenwood handheld transceiver with external batteries and a custom microprocessor control unit. Temperature sensors are fitted inside the suit so that curious NASA engineers could

discover what happens to a suit floating in space without any cooling systems.

This most unusual Amateur Radio satellite was successfully deployed on February 3 when Russian Cosmonaut Tokarev activated SuitSat's helmet-mounted control panel and jettisoned the Orlan space suit as planned during a space walk.

FM transmissions on 145.990MHz carry a mix of voice announcements in various languages, status information, and previously stored slow scan images.

SuitSat, a joint project between AMSAT, ARISS, NASA and the International Space Station was originally expected to operate for about two weeks. However its operation may last much longer if the fault has caused the transmitter to consume less power. It could still be operational until it burns up on re-entry in about 6 week's time.

It was disappointing that it died before its first pass over Melbourne, but there is always a chance it will come back to full strength.

If you want to listen out for SuitSat-1, use the orbit predictions for ISS as a guide. They will be very close for the first few days of operation, after which SuitSat will arrive a few minutes earlier than ISS each day. Listen early if unsure!

Passes are best found with satellite prediction software or the online tools at AMSAT and NASA (J-Sat). Beware of times listed – if they are in UTC, add 11 hours to calculate our local daylight savings time. See:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/index.php>
<http://science.nasa.gov/realtime/jtrack/Amateur.html>

Heavens Above web site provides visible pass times for ISS but misses all daylight and non-visible passes:
see: www.heavens-above.com.

All these programs require an observer location. NERGs located around Briar Hill can use QF22 as the grid locator and latitude -37.717, longitude 145.117 degrees should be close.

SuitSat carries the callsign RS0RS.

Other operations aboard ISS can be heard on these frequencies:

Downlink	Uplink	Mode
145.800	144.490	FM VOICE (Asia/Australia/NZ)
145.800	437.800	FM VOICE Repeater (Worldwide)
145.800	145.990	1200Baud AFSK Packet (Worldwide)

More on SuitSat: www.suitsat.org, and www.amsat.org

WYONG FIELD DAY

The Biggest Field Day and Hamfest in the Southern Hemisphere is set for Sunday 19th February 2006 (8:30am - 3:00pm). More than two thousand people attended last year's Central Coast Field Day and even more are expected to converge on Wyong this year (just 1 hour north of Sydney)

Features:

- * Truckloads of preloved gear in the flea market area.
- * See all major radio and electronic equipment suppliers.
- * Interesting technical lectures, seminars and workshops.
- * Vintage and historical radio exhibits.
- * Radio fox hunts.
- * Amateur television transmission demonstrations
- * Free off-street parking
- * Hot and cold food and drink for sale.

Entrance fee still only \$10.00; Children under 12 free.

For more, see:

<http://www.ccarc.org.au/fieldday/index.htm>

FRIDAY NIGHT HUNT

Mark VK3JMD and team are the fox for the next Friday Night radio Foxhunt on 17th February. The start location will be the same as the January hunt, being the SE corner of Brandon Park shopping centre. Supper will be in Dingley.

For more news see: <http://www.melbfox.com/>
or join the news list: <http://lists.id.oz.au/wws/info/melb-fox>

NEW WEB SITE FOR ARDF

The Victoria ARDF Group web site has had a huge facelift, thanks to Marta Salek. The site has news, information and a calendar of Amateur Radio Direction Finding and RadiO (Radio Orienteering) events. Related Friday night fox hunts, orienteering and rogaining events are also included.

There are also plans for the VK3YNG sniffers and the VK3VT beam. You'll also find links to related direction finding groups and hamfests where foxhunts are held.

Check out the new site at www.ardf.org.au

ARDF AT WYONG

Members of the Victorian ARDF Group will be at the Wyong Central Coast Field Day on Sunday 19th February 2006 for several hunts:

Time	Foxhunt
10:00	Pedestrian 2 metre, 3 Tx'ers, Freq 145.300Mhz
11:00	Pedestrian 2 metre, 3 Tx'ers, Freq 145.300Mhz
13:00	Pedestrian 80 metre, 3 Tx'ers, Freq 3.580Mhz
14:00	Pedestrian 80 metre, 3 Tx'ers, Freq 3.580Mhz
14:45	Presentations

AX3 CALLES FOR THE 'GAMES

Amateur Radio Victoria has been issued with special event callsigns AX3GAMES and AX3MCG for use from March 1st to 31st at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games. For special cards, QSL via VK3WI.

MORE POWER FOR FOUNDATION OPS

Foundation licences to be allowed transmitter power of 10 watts for all permitted modes (soon!).

As the new amateur licence structure, including the Foundation licence, came into effect on 19 October 2005, WIA President Michael Owen, VK3KI, said that "Our only regret is that we believe that the power limit of 3 watts for AM, FM and CW for the Foundation licence, while perfectly logical, is unrealistic given the output power of commercially available equipment, particularly older equipment, and that the power limit should be 10 watts."

Michael had already advised ACMA that the WIA believed that a power output limit of 10 watts would not result in any difficulties but would enable the use of many older transmitters, particularly VHF sets, which would be attractive to the Foundation licensees.

The WIA was advised by ACMA today that "Following reconsideration of the issues involved, it is agreed, under the Foundation licence, to permit a transmitter output power of 10 Watts pX on all permitted emission modes instead of the present 10 Watts pX for J3E emissions and 3 Watts pY for all other permitted emissions."

The change will formally come into effect, with other amendments to the Amateur LCD, in some months time.

The WIA President said that the WIA welcomed ACMA's decision, which should assist many Foundation licensees, and was grateful that the regulator was prepared to make an early announcement.

From Wireless Institute of Australia - <http://www.wia.org.au>

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAMS - STOP

It's the End of an Era for the 150 year old telegram service run by the Western Union company in the USA. Telegraph services ceased last month with the following brief message on their web site:

"Effective January 27, 2006, Western Union will discontinue all Telegram and Commercial Messaging services. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you, and we thank you for your loyal patronage."

Demand for telegrams had dwindled to a novelty service in recent years and of course telegraph keys hadn't been used for a very long time. Teletype machines were used until the 80's when Fax machines started taking over, and more recently email has seen the death of the hand delivered "telegram".

This doesn't mean the end of Western Union – they remain the largest company in the world for electronic funds transfer.

Along the way they introduced other firsts such as: the first stock ticker; wired money transfers; the first consumer charge card; a transcontinental microwave link to replace land lines; and Launched Westar I - the first U.S. dedicated communications satellite in 1974.

They are also responsibly for the "singing telegram".

ANOTHER GENERATOR WARNING

One Amateur recently damaged his new Power Supply (the 40Amp Switch Mode Supplies that many of us have) when plugging it into a cheap petrol Generator even though the power supply was turned off.

The problem arises were the Input Mains Filter Network and a MOV are located before the Mains Switch. The MOV (Metal Oxide Varistor) is supposed to protect the power supply from brief voltage spikes that appear on the mains input. This one starts conducting at around 275V RMS AC. Unfortunately some cheap generators have rather poor regulation and may run at 300V at start-up with no load!! Please check your units if you have one.

In this case the MOV blew and shorted out. Luckily the generator did not have enough grunt to do more damage!

A replacement MOV restored the Power Supply to its former glory but is not the kind of thing you find out in the field when most needed!

In future running a permanently connected load, like a 60 Watt light globe, should provide the generator with enough load to keep the output at a respectable voltage, regardless of whether the power supply is switched on or off.

A cautionary tail relayed via David, VK3THY

WICEN ACTIVATED FOR KING LAKE FIRES

Bushfires in the King Lake region began on 22 January. With extremely dangerous weather predicted for Australia Day and state-wide fire bans in place, WICEN was asked to set up a communications link between the King Lake area and the region's Police Headquarters in Rosanna. Their concern was that the fire might spread and disrupt key communications facilities in the area.

Fortunately on this occasion WICEN able to remain on standby, keeping links open throughout the day, until rain and cooler weather finally gave the CFA and DSE fire fighters the upper hand. Even so, it took several more days before the fires were declared under control.

Please consider volunteering for WICEN – not everyone need to be able to go portable – in this case at least one ham was able to conduct his end of the link in a fully air-conditioned police station well away from the main event ☺

VK3VT ON 96.5 INNER FM

NERG President, Greg Williams, VK3VT, was interviewed on Inner FM by Bob Craven early in December. This could be the first of many such interviews helping to spread the word about the great hobby of amateur radio to a wider public audience!

The photo shows Bob Craven (centre) with Greg Williams (right) and NERG Secretary, John Weir (left) standing in the entrance to our NERG display at the recent Manna Gum Festival.



The festival was a great success and we now look forward to participating in a bigger and better way next year.

SINGLE LETTER CALLS?

The WIA is seeking comment on making single letter calls available.

The board has received requests for single letter calls (e.g. VK1E) due to their uniqueness and desirability for contesting, where every second exchanging a callsign counts.

Single letter calls are currently available in 44 countries, but are currently only used for scientific licenses in Australia.

The downside of single letter calls is that very few can be issued. Some claim it is also elitist and give unfair advantage to those stations – and certainly not in the spirit of amateur radio!

Perhaps they should be reserved for special activities? ARDF transmitters could use VK3E, VK3I, VK3S and so on for identification (they already send a full callsign followed by a number of 'dits' indicating the number of the transmitter, hence the reason for using all 'dit' letters as the last character in the callsign). Extremely weak signal modes can take minutes just to send a callsign and would no doubt appreciate a shorter callsign too.

NOMINATIONS FOR AR VICS

Nominations for the Amateur Radio Victoria 2006-2009 council close on Thurs 23 Feb. Contact the Secretary for a nomination form.

Several positions will become vacant with the retirement of several key positions this year. The AGM is set for Wednesday 24 May.

MORE POWER !

WIA is requesting that the ACMA change power limits for Standard and Advanced licensees, as recommended in the ACA's review paper last year. The changes would see all modes of transmission limited to a common power level. For Standard licensees, that would be 100 Watts for all modes, and for Advanced licensees, 400 Watts. While not affecting SSB, continuous carrier modes such as CW, FM, and RTTY would receive a welcome boost.

The change would also bring Australia into line with the UK and New Zealand.

The ACMA is still considering any implications in human exposure to electromagnetic radiation. A decision is yet to be reached on this issue; Meanwhile it is more likely that the Foundation power limit will be raised relatively soon and will apply to all allowable modes.

2006 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

FEBRUARY

26th Healesville A.R. Group Annual White Elephant Sale
Healesville Memorial Hall, 10am-2pm. further info:
Gavin VK3TLN 5968 8482 or Steve VK3TSR 0418
103 487.

MARCH

1-31st Special event callsigns AX3GAMES & AX3MCG for
Melbourne Commonwealth Games. QSL via VK3WI.
18/19th John Moyle Memorial Field Day, noon Sat to noon
Sun.

APRIL

All Special event station SP0TPAX celebrating the first
contact with a ham station outside Poland in 1925.
9th Eastern & Mountain District Radio Club White
Elephant
18th World Amateur Radio Day - Held on the founding day
of the IARU in 1925. This year's theme: "Amateur
Radio: A gateway to information and communications
technologies for today's youth".
22nd International Marconi Day

MAY

TBA Moorabbin District Radio Club Hamfest
13th VK/Trans-Tasman Contest 80m Phone, Further
information - vktasman@hotmail.com
27th VK/Trans-Tasman Contest 80m CW - 27th (as above)

JUNE

10/11th ANARTS W/W RTTY Contest

JULY

6/7th Marconi Centenary of first wireless transmission
Geelong Amateur Radio Club setting up a station at
Queenscliff and North West Tasmania Amateur Radio
Interest Group setup Western Devonport Maritime
Museum.
8th VK/Trans-Tasman Contest 160m Phone
8/9th GippsTech 2006 - A premier technical conference for
radio amateurs with a focus on VHF, UHF and
Microwave topics.
www.qsl.net/vk3bez
22nd VK/Trans-Tasman Contest 160m CW

AUGUST

7-11th 13th IARU Region 3 Conference, Bangalore, India
12/13th Remembrance Day Contest
19/20th International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
(illw.net)

OCTOBER

21/22nd JOTA and JOTI

NOVEMBER

5th Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Hamfest
Ian McDonald VK3AXH vk3axh@barg.org.au
Confirm details closer to the posted date – some will change.
Gathered from AR Vic, WIA, ARRL and various clubs.

*We don't want to be the best in the world.....
We just want to be the best for our local community*



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more enjoyable!**



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www.margheritas.com.au

ARDF CALENDAR 2006

Events come from the ARDF web site – please check for updates and further details at www.ardf.org.au

FoxHunt = Friday night or weekend daylight mobile hunt.

RadiO = a simplified direction finding competition usually held at an orienteering event.

Inter means International event.

Type	Date	Event
FoxHunt	Fri, 17 Feb.	Foxhunt
RadiO	Sat, 18 Feb.	Creswick Season Opener & RadiO
FoxHunt	Sun, 19 Feb.	Central Coast Field Day
FoxHunt	Fri, 17 March	Foxhunt
Other	Sat, 18 March	John Moyle Memorial Field Day
Inter	Fri, 7 April	2006 US ARDF Championships
Other	Sun, 9 April	EMDRC White Elephant
RadiO	Sun, 14 May	RadiO & Mothers Day Special, St Helena
FoxHunt	Sat, 15 April	Urunga Convention and Foxhunts
FoxHunt	Sun, 16 April	Urunga Convention and Foxhunts
FoxHunt	Fri, 21 April	Foxhunt
FoxHunt	Sat, 6 May	Foxhunting Victorian Championships

FoxHunt	Fri, 19 May	Foxhunt
FoxHunt	Sat, 10 June	Mt Gambier Convention
FoxHunt	Fri, 16 June	Foxhunt
RadiO	Sun, 25 June	RadiO & Tooroorong Sunday Special
Other	Sat, 8 July	Gippstech
RadiO	Sun, 16 July	Birrarung Park Special & RadiO
FoxHunt	Fri, 21 July	Foxhunt
RadiO	Sun, 6 August	Eureka Club & RadiO
FoxHunt	Fri, 18 August	Foxhunt
RadiO	Sun, 3 Sept.	Eureka Club & RadiO
		- an optional low-key training event.
Inter	Tue, 12 Sept.	ARDF World Championships in Primorsko, Bulgaria till 17 Sept.
FoxHunt	Fri, 15 Sept.	Foxhunt
RadiO	Sun, 1 Oct.	Albert Park Sunday Special & RadiO
RadiO	Sun, 15 Oct.	Emerald Sunday Special & RadiO
FoxHunt	Fri, 20 Oct.	Foxhunt
Other	Sat, 21 Oct.	JOTA
Other	Fri, 17 Nov.	Foxhunt
RadiO	Sun, 19 Nov.	Macedon, BK, OV Presentations, with special teams event.
FoxHunt	Fri, 15 Dec.	Foxhunt

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 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 CW 20Watts 28.2565 MHz

Packet Radio VK3CNE2m 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 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:

7:45pm Thursday 9th FEBRUARY 2006

Stephen VK3SN – QRP Ski trips through the high country

2006 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

Feb 9 NERG Meeting – 7:45pm – Guest speaker Stephen Warrillow, QRP in the snow.

Feb 18 RadiO direction finding, at Creswick

Feb 26 Healesville White Elephant Sale – 10am-2pm, Healesville Memorial Hall

Feb 28 NERG Tuesday morning tea group at Ernie VK3FM – 10am start.

Mar 8 ARISS – Space Station contact with Briar Hill Primary (details inside)

Mar 9 NERG Meeting – 7:45pm – Topics TBD

Mar 18/19 John Moyle Memorial Field Day – NERGs at Mount Macedon Camels Hump hill.

Apr 6 NERG Meeting – NOTE: one week earlier than usual !!!

Apr 9 EMDRC White Elephant Sale