



**JULY 2006**

**NERG Inc.**  
**PO Box 270**  
**Greensborough**  
**Victoria 3088**  
[news@nerg.asn.au](mailto:news@nerg.asn.au)

### WHAT'S ON IN JULY

#### Meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2006:

This month we have Jack, vk3www, giving a presentation about Video Editing. Jack comes well qualified, not only having produced several videos on amateur radio DX'peditions but he also teaches video courses at his local community centre. Jack's DVD of the NERG contact with the International Space Station has even been adopted for educational use by NASA and ARISS.

Video editing has come a long way since the days of cutting and slicing tape, and expensive multiple video recorder setups. Now it's all done on a home computer with the aid of some nifty software – come along and see what is possible.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting. Visitors welcome!

73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

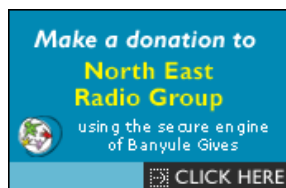
**NERG meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except Jan) at 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3**

### DÉJÀ VU – RECENT MEETINGS

Last month we had Richard VK3JFK & Peter VK3TBN at the meeting to talk about the latest advances in Packet radio and in particular the APRS system and its applications. It turns out that APRS is not just a mobile position tracking system, but incorporates a host of text messaging, visual information systems such as weather tracking, and other clever ideas.

Richard and Peter demonstrated the Kenwood D700 mobile and D7 handheld radios that come with packet radio built in and are able to display a lot of information on their LCD displays. You can also use a regular radio with a computer or PDA running UI-View software to operate an APRS station. For more information, visit the Victorian APRS group on the WEB at: <http://vk3.aprs.net.au/>

The frequency to use around most of Victoria is 144.900 MHz, with 145.175 MHz being the National frequency.



**The NERG fund raising appeal** to aid in the establishment of an Amateur Radio Communications and Training centre is now registered with **Banyule Gives**.

The centre aims to provide courses for all people in the

community that are interested in Amateur Radio and Electronics. Age is no barrier; we train prospective Amateurs from school age to folks in their 80's. Radio has a special attraction to retirees seeking involvement in a community based hobby, and is an introduction to technical careers for young people.

**Banyule Gives** is a donation acceptance service that manages donations to community groups on behalf of the Banyule

# NERG NEWS

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

## NEXT MEETING: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2006

### Video Production and Editing by Jack VK3WWW



Council and passes 100% of donations on to the groups.

See : [www.ourcommunity.com.au/banyulegives/nerg](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/banyulegives/nerg)

### THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP



The June meeting of the group had a wonderful feast of Asian & Vietnamese food at the home of Greg, VK3VT. Those attending were Dave VK3JMB, Gerhard VK3EWM, Ernie VK3FM, George VK3KMM, John VK3ZRV and Jim VK3KE. Many thanks to Denise and Greg for their hospitality. It was a very pleasant and relaxed environment sitting around the kitchen table with good friends and great food.

We finished up about 2:40pm - what a great day!

The next meeting is to be at the QTH of Ernie VK3FM and Jan on Tuesday the 25th July at 10am in Bundoora.

NERG's that appreciate fine food and like wide ranging discussions are more than welcome to join in.

Warm regards,  
Jim, VK3KE

Listen out on the NERG chat channel on 146.575 MHz during the day for directions, as well as the latest DX spots.

## WEB SERVER TROUBLE

The "affordablehosts" server hosting the NERG web and email system had it's annual seizure recently loosing two weeks of email. Please resend requests if you haven't received a reply from anyone at the NERG. Apologies to all that have been inconvenienced by the melt down – we hope to rectify the problem by switching service providers shortly!

## NERG SUCCESS AT JM FIELD-DAY



It's official! The John Moyle results have been published in Amateur Radio and the NERG wins both the highest overall score, and the highest score in the portable 24 hour, all-band, all-mode, multi-operator category.

Congratulations to the team consisting of Greg VK3VT, John VK3ZRV, Ernie VK3FM, Kimberly VK3FHQT, Ewen VK3OW; Mark VK3BYY; Mark

VK3XB, Don VK3KDT; Peter VK3DU, Stephen VK3SN (with sub-harmonics), Mat VK3HFI, Nick and visitors.

One of our newest amateurs, Kimberly VK3FHQT, was responsible for about 99% of the 2 meter contacts which was a large percentage of the overall score.

Well done team!

## CHRISTMAS IN ~~July~~ AUGUST!

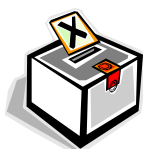


Look out for the NERG Christmas in July Dinner in August. We haven't had a social dinner for some time so we thought this would be a good way to bring NERGs and the families together for a great evening.

The Dinner will be held at the NERG hall (Briar Hill Community Hall), and will be along the lines of a traditional Christmas roast dinner.

Our chef is very busy preparing for the RD contest, so the dinner will most likely be held mid-August (after the RD!). Look out for the date in the next newsletter or email.

## NERG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Yep, it's time for another AGM, scheduled for 8pm Thursday 10th August, 2006.

A short AGM is expected where the business of presenting annual reports and electing office bearers will be conducted as rapidly as possible.

Then we can get on with the serious business of enjoying the annual birthday party after a talk by NERG Mark Beecham about some interesting IT systems and computer simulations used by the Boeing aircraft manufacturer.

**Nominations** for office and committee positions are open to all currently financial member and must be (a) made in writing and signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate; and (b) posted to the NERG Secretary (P.O. box 270, Greensborough, 3088) postmarked no later than the close of business on the 3rd of August 2006. A candidate may only be nominated for one office, or as an ordinary member of the committee, prior to the annual general meeting.

## AMATEUR LICENCE FEE REDUCTION

**\$** Some good news from the Australian Government: As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 GST will no longer apply to Apparatus Licences issued by the ACMA.

Therefore the Amateur licence fee falls to \$57.00, a reduction of \$2.00. If you have already paid the additional GST your licence period will be extended to suit. – news from WIA

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY RAFFLE



## RAFFLE

**1st prize - 5 bottles each of fine Red and White wines.**

**2nd prize - 1 bottle each of fine Red and White wines.**

Tickets only 2\$ each, or 3 tickets for \$5, and 6 tickets for \$10.

These fine red and white wines have been donated from the limited private bottling of the "Gentle Annie" Estate, by Tony VK3TQC.

Don't miss out - get your tickets early!

Tickets go on sale at our next Club Meeting, and will be available through to the "Christmas in July" dinner, where the winning tickets will be drawn.

## TICKLE YOUR CAT'S WHISKERS! - MARCONI CENTENARY SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

A re-enactment of the first wireless transmissions across southern hemisphere waters in 1906 will occur on Wednesday, 12 July and involved special event stations either side of Bass Strait. VI3MC at Queenscliff (Geelong Amateur Radio Club) and VI7MC at Devonport (North-west Tasmanian Amateur Radio Interest Group) will be on air for four days. The re-enactment will initially use CW on 7100 kHz, and then switch to voice.

The Governors of Victoria and Tasmania will exchange greetings, and will then be followed by other dignitaries.

After the re-enactment the stations will separate in frequency by about 5 kHz with nominated frequencies being plus/minus 14.170 MHz, 7.100 MHz and 3.570 MHz.

VI7MC will also be on IRLP Node 6616 and Echolink 152375 VK7AX-R.

A contact between VI7MC and the International Space Station involving students of the Devonport High School and Reece High School is hoped to occur on Thursday 13 July, depending upon the space mission operational requirements.

- via Amateur Radio Victoria.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

NERG memberships are due next month. Beat the rush and get in early by paying before the AUGUST meeting!

Membership fees are as for last year:

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

Post to: NERG Treasurer, PO box 270, Greensborough, Victoria, 3088

Foundation students need not worry as most have already paid their membership in the course fees, and will not be due again until August 2007.

## NEW ANTENNA MAST FOR NERG HALL



*What good is a radio shack without antennas? Until now, that has been the situation at the NERG hall, where radio waves have trouble escaping the corrugated iron walls. Don recently rectified the problem by donating a mast and organising its modification and installation. It's now ready for action! Don's report follows:*

Our antenna mast is now in place outside the NERG club rooms after being rebuilt by Ross Dodd's at our local Light Engineering company.

I asked Ross if he could help us out with some welding to extending the pole and making brackets. He not only said yes but had the job done in 24hrs!

If you have need of excellent engineering work then speak to **Ross at R.C.D. Engineering** on 9436 1388 or mobile on 0418 333 321. Thanks Ross! Cheers, Don VK3KDT

## MORE FOUNDATION RESULTS!

On the 24/25 June the NERG ran another foundation licence course which resulted in four people assessed as competent. Three more sat for the Standard/Advanced regulations exam of which two were assessed competent. One of these also sat for the Foundation Practical and was assessed as competent. The next course is in the planning stages but no dates have been finalised as yet.

Assessments were carried out with the assistance of WIA registered assessors Greg Williams VK3VT, Cliff Ladiges VK3CSL, Mick Ampt VK3CH, and John Weir VK3ZRV (NERG Course Coordinator).

From verbal reports all students were very satisfied with the results and the way the course was conducted. My thanks go to those that assisted with the course and to Greg VK3VT and his team who provided lunch and other assistance over the weekend.

John Weir VK3ZRV, Course coordinator, WIA assessor 3-014

## RECOGNISING BPL INTERFERENCE

The WIA now has a BPL Interference Advisory Service on the webpage at [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au) - click on BPL and you will see a link to the menu.

Within the menu you will find up to date information about BPL, sound files so you can hear what it sounds like, and an Interference Reporting facility.

The following points will help identify BPL interference:

- BPL does not usually appear as noise on one spot frequency. It is more likely to cover whole bands and beyond simultaneously.
- DS2 G1 Technology produces unmistakable carriers 1.1 kHz apart, across a wide spectrum.
- G2 200Mb/s Technology is more noise like, but still very broadband.

Advice if interference detected:

1. Listen and tune across the whole band.
2. Check the webpage and confirm that it is BPL
3. Report via the WIA webpage.

- news from WIA

## GGREC HAMFEST, 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY

The Gippsland Gates Hamfest will be held 22<sup>nd</sup> July at the Cranbourne Public Hall, cnr Clarendon St & High St. Melway 133 K4). Doors open to buyers at 10.00 AM with \$5.00 entry.

## JAYCAR ELECTRONICS SUPPORTS NERG



The NERG is indebted to **JAYCAR ELECTRONICS** and in particular their Marketing Director, Ms Toni Martin. Jaycar has been most generous in supplying the NERG with a range of their products to support of our ongoing radio and electronics training, community involvement, and normal club activities. Jaycar's generosity will certainly see us better equipped to continue and expand on all activities.

Some of the items supplied include a switch mode bench power supply that can provide up to 40A, a full-blown SMD soldering station, a Cathode Ray Oscilloscope, and several valuable items that will assist building projects and safety exercises.

The latest Jaycar catalogue is brimming full of goodies and will be kept on hand at the club rooms for all to browse. Of course you can always visit one of the seven stores located around Melbourne and Geelong and pick up your own copy, or visit their web site at [www.jaycar.com.au](http://www.jaycar.com.au) .

The web site has a library of datasheets and guides that are most useful.

Orders can be placed direct, or if like me, you prefer to browse, call in to the store closest to the NERG at 266 Sydney Road Brunswick - it's open 7 days a week.

Thanks Toni for your kindness, Don VK3KDT.

## 91.5 HZ CTCSS TONE FOR THE RT85

This sub-tone is now required for some repeaters and IRLP/Echolink nodes around town. However amateurs wanting to program their AWA RT-85, RT-85A, and Exicom RT-85C radios for the 91.5 Hz tone may run into trouble.

Fortunately the following two steps work for the RT85A, and should work for other RT85 versions (still to be extensively tested):

(1) Most programmers do not support the group-C set of tones that include 91.5 Hz. Some manual editing of the EPROM data is required to get around this problem. Using the edit function of your EPROM programmer, locate the second byte in the Transmit data for the channel concerned and add \$6E (hex) to it's value (it's usually \$01 making the new value \$6F). Don't forget to enable CTCSS in the personality bits!

(2) The "D" link must be opened on the CTCSS encoder board (usually a VX-30 or VX-31, containing a CED-03 chip). The link is normally bridged by a PCB track which must be cut. (Note: ignore this step for the RT85C).

More on this next month!

Mark VK3BY, [www.qsl.net/vk3by](http://www.qsl.net/vk3by)

## DELAY IN ISSUING NEW LICENCES

The issuing of certificates of proficiency and apparatus licences by the ACMA in Canberra is currently experiencing a delay.

This is due to the relocation of the ACMA section involved in that activity, and a temporary shortage of staff.

It appears that no new licence for VK3 has been issued since 16 June. The processing of certificates and licences will hopefully be back on track very soon and any backlog cleared quickly.

- news from WIA

## MT. GAMBIER

Various NERG members headed west on the Queens birthday long weekend to partake on the annual SERG convention at Mount Gambier. Activities included the exchange of new and pre-loved items. Seventeen teams participated in a wide assortment of hidden transmitter hunts (foxhunts). A feature of the Mt Gambier hunts is the night time multi-leg hunt which was apparently enjoyed by most.

Overall winners were:

1<sup>st</sup>: VK3YDF team

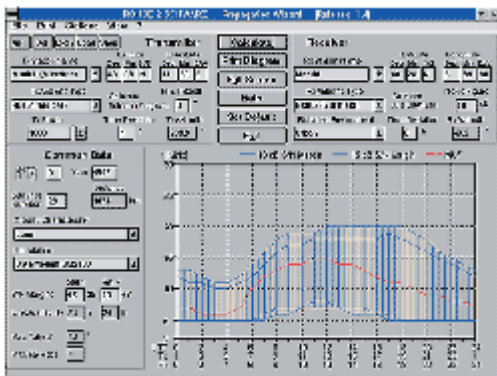
2<sup>nd</sup>: VK3BLN team

3<sup>rd</sup>: VK3JMD team



The VK3YDF team with the prized foxhunting trophy  
(photo John VK3ZRV)

## WEB OF THE MONTH



[www.rohde-schwarz.com](http://www.rohde-schwarz.com)

PropWiz – a free Propagation Prediction package from RF instrument manufacturer Rohde & Schwartz.

PropWiz is a program which allows the quality of a shortwave link between any two points in the world to be predicted in an easy way. PropWiz calculates the reliability of a link, ie the available time for a desired S/N ratio and the appropriate frequency range. Results are given in a graphical form for a quick overview with all the necessary details. The calculations can be quickly repeated as often as desired.

PropWiz is designed for PC's running all versions of Windows from 3.1 to Windows XP.

Rohde & Schwarz no longer support the PropWiz software and make it available for download free of charge.

For further information visit the following site and enter PropWiz in the Search box:

[www.rohde-schwarz.com](http://www.rohde-schwarz.com)

Download the software from:

[http://www.rohde-schwarz.com/www/download\\_files.nsf/file/PW\\_170.EXE/\\$file/PW\\_170.EXE](http://www.rohde-schwarz.com/www/download_files.nsf/file/PW_170.EXE/$file/PW_170.EXE)



[www.hobbyprojects.com/index.html](http://www.hobbyprojects.com/index.html)

**Hobby Projects – Electronic Circuits & Tutorials** has 1000's of links to circuits on various web sites in a well organised manner. There are also many tutorials for beginners through to advanced subjects.

This is a useful reference when looking for circuits or information on how things work.

*WARNING: don't go here if you are pressed for time – it's easy to get side tracked!*



Wenzel  
Associates, Inc.

Technical Library

[www.wenzel.com/documents/library.html](http://www.wenzel.com/documents/library.html)

**Wenzel and Associates - RF applications library**

A nice collection of notes and various RF circuits, such as frequency doublers and multipliers, amplifiers, oscillators, etc. Some innovative circuits can be found here that don't appear in the regular literature.

Charles Wenzel also runs a web site called TECHLIB.COM - A technical library for the hobbyist and amateur scientist at

<http://www.techlib.com/>

Charles is currently interested in very low frequency (LVF) receivers down in the 24 kHz region. Many of the circuits are very simple, some consisting of a handful of components and making use of a computer sound card or a portable MP3 player/recorder. Many designs are constructed using the traditional "dead bug" method, so no great workshop requirements needed here!

## ARDF 16 JULY

Next Sunday (16th July) there will be a Fox-or event held in Conjunction with the orienteering at Birrarung Park in Templestowe Lower. (Melway 32 H3)

A beginner 3 transmitter RadiO and a more difficult 7 transmitter ARDF course will run on 2 meters.

Start times are between 10am and 12 noon.

Cost: Same as orienteering unless doing both Orienteering then Fox-or in which case \$2 for Fox-or if using original map.

Sniffer hire is \$3 unless you are a member of the Vic ARDF Group (to cover costs).

Regards,

Mark Diggins,

VK3JMD, Vic ARDF Group

## FRIDAY NIGHT HUNTS

The next Friday night mobile fox hunt is on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July. For more news see:

<http://www.melbfox.com/>, and:

<http://lists.id.oz.au/wws/info/melb-fox>

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

[www.margheritas.com.au](http://www.margheritas.com.au)

**2006 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS**

**JULY**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> VK/Trans-Tasman Contest 160m CW
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Hamfest, Cranbourne Public Hall, Cranbourne, Melway map 133 K4

**AUGUST**

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

**OCTOBER**

- 21-22<sup>nd</sup> JOTA and JOTI
- 29<sup>th</sup> Daylight savings starts in Vic/NSW/SA/Tas  
Local time = UTC+11 hours.

**NOVEMBER**

- 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**2006 ARDF CALENDAR**

Events come from the ARDF web site – please check for updates and further details at [www.ardf.org.au](http://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
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
	Don Haslam	VK3KDT	0409 024 597
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**

See the NERG website or call John Weir (above) for details

**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 VK3CNE 1200 bps 144.700 MHz**

**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**

The NERG NET run on 146.575 MHz FM Simplex (8.30 – 9.30 pm Thursdays). Visitors welcome. 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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email: [news@nerg.asn.au](mailto:news@nerg.asn.au)



**NERG**

North-East Radio Group VK3CNE

NERG Incorporated 1985  
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

STAMP

**NEXT MEETING:  
7:45pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2006  
Video Production & Editing by Jack VK3WWW**

**2006 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>July 13</b> | <b>NERG Meeting – as above.</b>   |
| July 16        | Birrarung Park Special orienteering & combined RadiO ARDF event                             |
| July 21        | Friday night Foxhunt  |
| July 22        | VK/Trans-Tasman Contest 160m CW   |
| July 22        | Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Hamfest, Cranbourne Public Hall, Cranbourne, 133 K4 |
| July 25        | NERG Tuesday morning group meeting at Ernie VK3FM's QTH                                     |
| Aug 6          | Eureka Club orienteering & combined RadiO ARDF event  |
| <b>Aug 10</b>  | <b>NERG Meeting – Annual General Meeting + Mark VK3XB on Boeing Aircraft Simulations</b>    |
| Aug 12-13      | Remembrance Day Contest   |
| Aug 19-20      | International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (illw.net)                                   |
| <b>Aug TBD</b> | <b>NERG DINNER – Christmas in July – details to be announced soon</b>                       |
| <b>Oct 12</b>  | <b>NERG Meeting – TBA</b>   |
| Oct 21-22      | Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) and on the Internet (JOTI)                                       |