



MARCH 2008

NERG Inc.
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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

This month's meeting will be different in that we don't have a guest speaker. Instead we will be running a new video on CPR. It's quite brief, but could save your life (make sure all your friends and family see it too :-). If you are thinking you've seen it all before then remember techniques change constantly and this new video shows many important changes.

A quick slide show and brief talk about NERG's repeaters will also be presented.

JOHN MOYLE STATION

Several factors have led to NERG abandoning it's usual weekend on Mount Macedon for the John Moyle Field Day contest on 15/16 March 2008. Instead we'll activate a station from the club rooms in Briar Hill. We won't be competitive as there is no category for multi-operator "home" stations but we'll do our best to support all those out in fields. **We also wish to give our newer members a chance to experience HF operations along with a gentle introduction to contesting. We are looking for operators and all NERGs are invited to join in.** Feel free to drop into the Briar Hill hall this Saturday afternoon/evening.

Further plans will be discussed at the March meeting and posted on the NERG web site before the weekend.

73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

NEXT MEETING: The following regular meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 10th April 2008**, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

Last month Rob VK3POP gave a very interesting account of his experiences with alternative fuels for passenger vehicles. Rob experimented for a while converting waste cooking oil into "Bio-Diesel". This fuel can be run in conventional diesel engines without any modifications to the vehicle. On the negative side, the conversion of cooking oil to bio-diesel oil involves cooking it with some rather volatile and caustic chemicals. Doing a degree in petro-chemical engineering would certainly be recommended before embarking in mass production of bio-diesel in your own garage! Some have said the process is about as safe and stable as running a meth-lab :-). Rob has since changed to using "Straight" Veggie Oil, which is reclaimed cooking oil that has been filtered and dried. The result is a liquid that looks just like new cooking oil and is far safer than petrol or diesel fuel, and far safer to make than bio-diesel! The problem with SVO is that it will, depending on the type of oil, "jell" and eventually solidify at low temperatures. This isn't too much of a problem in temperate countries for,

NERG NEWS

Incorporated 1985 in Victoria, Australia
Reg No A0006776V - <http://nerg.asn.au>
Affiliated with the Wireless Institute of Australia

Meeting:
7:45pm 13th March 2008
MIXED BAG NIGHT:

Updated CPR techniques
- a short video that could
save your life!

+

Join us at the NERG JMFD
station this Saturday



+

A look at NERGs Repeaters

The next Coffee Shop night:
Thursday 27th March 2008

say, sunflower oil which freezes at -17°C. Coconut oil on the other hand has a higher freezing point and can only be used above 17°C. Cold oil quickly leads to clogged pumps and filters. The solution is to fit heaters to fuel lines and fuel tanks, and this is what Rob has done. There are other problems too, such as needing to replace fuel filters quite often and cleaning out engine parts more frequently, but the savings in fuel costs is considerable and easily pays for the added maintenance.

In all it was a very good talk - thanks Rob!

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

The next Gainfully Unemployed Group meeting is on Tuesday, 25 March, 2008, at 10am, at a QTH to be announced. Listen out on the NERG chat channel of 146.575 MHz during the day for directions and for the latest rare DX spots.

JOIN THE JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY ACTION WITHOUT GOING OUT TO THE FIELD!

Field day contests are a great way to practice portable emergency operations while having a lot of fun. Some amateurs go in them for the competition while others use contests to test portable gear or to set a new distance records.

However you don't need to go portable or even leave home to participate! You will find that operating a home station is very much appreciated by the portable stations – in fact it would be a very dull event without home stations as they far outnumber the field stations. While it's not necessary to submit a log of contacts you make, it is in the spirit of the contest and you'll get your callsign published in Amateur Radio magazine!

The rules are simple for home and single operator stations. Find rules at www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle

You should know your maidenhead grid (QF) location (or Latitude/Longitude) as this helps field day stations calculate their distance based scores. Maidenhead location is easy to look up online at f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator - just enter QF22 as a starting point and zoom in on your location. The NERG's Briar Hill hall is QF22NH!

It is important to keep track of the sequential QSL numbers given out as issuing duplicate numbers makes both QSO's void. Perhaps you don't have the equipment or experience to try out contesting by yourself? **The simple solution is to join the NERG station running this year at the Briar Hill hall on Saturday afternoon/evening.** We can always use a few extra operators, and we'll help you as you go.



Last year's NERG station, VK3CNE at Mt Macedon

FOUNDATION OPERATORS INVITED TO GET ON THE AIRWAVES - BRIAR HILL COMMUNITY HALL SATURDAY 15TH

As mentioned earlier, NERG won't be on top of Mount Macedon for the John Moyle Field Day contest this weekend 15/16 March 2008.

Instead we'll activate a station from the club rooms in Briar Hill. It will be a great chance for Foundation operators and other new licensees to play with the HF and VHF/UHF radios. There will be quite a few Australian and NZ stations on the air on all bands for the John Moyle contest. With warm conditions

being forecast there may even be some DX around on the VHF bands, with a chance of working Adelaide, Mount Gambier, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Queensland.

We won't be competitive as there is no category in this contest for multi-operator "home" stations. We'll simply do our best to support all those out in the field and have some fun. Without the competitive pressure it will be a great way to learn about contests.

We are looking for operators and all NERGs are invited to join in. Feel free to drop into the Briar Hill hall this Saturday afternoon/evening. Further details will be worked out at the Thursday night NERG meeting and posted on the NERG web page at www.nerg.asn.au, or contact us at the numbers published on the back page of the newsletter.



Not all field stations need to be elaborate - Gerhard VK3EWM is seen here operating from his Combi van with little more than a HF transceiver, a dipole strung between trees, and a spare car battery for power.

VKCL LOGGING SOFTWARE UPDATED

Mike Subocz VK3AVV is offering his latest free VK Contest Log (VKCL) program for download from <http://web.aanet.com.au/mnds>

This is an excellent program to keep track of your John Moyle Field Day contacts (and many other contests). The program is suitable for both single and multiple operator stations.

The latest version 2.11 has improvements for the John Moyle Memorial contest, and while there have been no rule changes for this contest for the 2008 season, the operation of VKCL has been improved so it is worthwhile updating.

RECOMMENDED FREQUENCIES FOR SIMPLEX ECHOLINK AND IRLP

Updated amateur band-plans on the new WIA web site show the following frequencies as being recommended for amateurs wishing to set up their own simplex interconnected gateways using the Echolink and IRLP schemes. The recommended frequencies are:

2 meters FM: 145.325, 145.350, 145.375, 145.400 MHz
70cm FM: 439.150, 439.175 MHz

Please keep internet nodes clear of designated simplex call and repeater frequencies. Although you may not be able to hear any distant repeater activity from your location, it is possible that users of your system may be in locations where they can inadvertently cause interference on those frequencies. Also, because users are listening to a simplex node they will not be aware of the interference caused to repeaters because they won't be listening with repeater offsets enabled.

WEB OF THE MONTH



<http://www.twiar.org>

This Week in Amateur Radio podcasts

TWiAR (This Week in Amateur Radio) is a weekly amateur radio show from North America. It starts out sounding rather dry, a bit like the WIA news broadcast, but once they've worked through the initial news segments it takes on a style all of its own. The program is an informative and entertaining mix of history, music, propagation and technology reports, and lots of sound bites and sound effects.

A lot of news comes from the ARRL and FCC, concerning things like repeater interference issues, ITU changes, and current legal proceedings against errant US amateurs. Often there is also news from international sources including our own WIA and Amateur Radio Victoria newsreaders.

TWiAR is produced by volunteers and is widely distributed over more than 200 US repeaters. It's also carried by various FM stations, satellite networks, and short wave broadcasters (see WBCQ below!). It comes in a subdued version for repeaters and a more entertaining "International" version that includes music and entertaining sound grabs from radio broadcasts made in a much earlier era. The "amateur archives" recalls how things used to be in amateur radio, while "random access thoughts" covers many new aspects of the hobby, often told as an entertaining radio play, full of sound effects. Some segments are narrated by Marilyn, the synthetic voice, and are interspersed by many sound effects. The producers obviously have a lot of fun making these programs. Recently a whole segment was sent in Morse code, just to be different!

If propagation was in your favour then you could listen to TWiAR broadcasts from WBCQ's 50kW transmitter on 7.415 MHz shortwave at 4pm on Sundays (US East coast time).

A far easier method is to listen online or download the podcast from the TWiAR web site at <http://www.twiar.org>

And yes, the QSL cards do have asteroids!



WBCQ "The Planet" - Monticello, USA

Worldwide International Shortwave Broadcaster

<http://www.wbcq.com>

If you don't find TWiAR all that entertaining, take a look at their short wave broadcaster! WBCQ is small farm-based shortwave broadcast station located in the far North East of USA, not far from Woodstock.

WBCQ is a living museum - the web site photo gallery is full of marvellous old 'tube transmitters. One was even built in 1932

and is reported to be the oldest operating AM broadcast transmitter in the US!

WBCQ promotes free speech and carries a wide variety of programs from small budget groups like TWiAR. Unlike other broadcasters WBCQ is not owned by a big commercial owner. Funds come solely from the people that provide the programs.

The WBCQ web site has other interesting gems. If you look up 'Broadcaster Resources' and then 'Signal Coverage', you'll find animated signal strength maps for the various broadcast frequencies. It's very interesting to see how the reception areas changes during the course of a day and at times may even break up into multiple hops.

**NERG does not claim to have checked all information on third party web sites. Use the usual due care and diligence when perusing the featured web site and check all files downloaded for viruses*

VK5ZAI RECEIVES NASA AWARD FOR ARISS SERVICE

Many NERGs remember the excitement helping the students of Briar Hill Primary make contact with astronauts aboard the International Space Station. The event wouldn't have been possible without the great assistance of Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI so it's great to hear the following news from Jim Linton:



Known around the world for his involvement in facilitating amateur radio communications with orbiting space stations is Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI, who has just received a well deserved achievement award.

Tony is the Australian coordinator of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) project

is now the proud but humble recipient of a Group Achievement Award from NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Centre in Houston Texas.

The citation on the award certificate is 'For providing sustained outstanding engineering support which has resulted in a record number of successful ISS amateur radio contacts', and signed by the Johnson Space Centre Director, Michael Coats.

Tony VK5ZAI has for more than 15 years given many schools and groups the opportunity to talk with space station crew. A notable occasion was the Australian Scout Jamboree in January 2007 as part of the world scouting movement's centenary.

His involvement began in 1993 by assisted South Australia's Loxton High School students talk with Cosmonaut Alex Serabrov on the MIR space station.

In 1998 Tony handled most of the communications between Australian-born Astronaut Andy Thomas VK5MIR and his family during his flight on MIR. Soon after he was invited to be one of nine-approved ARISS telebridge stations and began handling most of the private family contacts for the first three crews on the International Space Station, along with school contacts.

Tony has been involved in linking with school in many countries, and the development of IRLP and Echolink for ARISS contacts, plus the design of interface units used for ARISS telebridge contacts in Australia and Europe.

Tony's enthusiasm and dedication, motivated by a personal desire to put something back into amateur radio, is well deserving of accolade from NASA.

Jim Linton - Amateur Radio Victoria.

2008 ARDF/FOXHUNT CALENDAR

Check the calendar below or the ARDF web site for updates and further details. See: www.ardf.org.au and www.melbfox.com.au

2008 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

H = Hamfest,
A = ARDF/RadiO/Foxhunt,
C = Contest,
M = Meeting,
S = Special event,
G = General,
W = WICEN

FoxHunt = Friday night or weekend daylight mobile hunt.
RadiO = a simplified direction finding competition usually held at an orienteering event.
BushO = Bush orienteering event.

March 2008

- A Mar 2 RadiO - ARDF & FoxOr'ing event, Bostock Reservoir.
- H Mar 9 EMDRC White Elephant Sale - Great Ryrie Primary School, Great Ryrie Road, Heathmont, doors open 10.30am.
- G Mar 10 Labour Day holiday
- M Mar 13 NERG meeting
- C Mar 15-16 John Moyle Memorial Field Day contest - 0100 UTC Sat - 0059 UTC Sun. Portable/Home, Single/Multi, Phone/CW/Open, HF/VHF+/Open, 6hr/24hr. www.wia.org.au/members/contests/johnmoyle
NERG station at Briar Hill Community Hall, Saturday afternoon/evening
- A Mar 21 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- S Mar 21-24 Easter Holidays
- S Mar 21-Apr 6 Victorian School Holidays (Not TAFE)
- HA Mar 22-23 Urunga Radio Convention "60th Convention", URUNGA NSW, North Coast, Easter users.tpg.com.au/goldy2/index.htm
- C Mar 29-30 CQWW WPX / SSB contest - www.cq-amateur-radio.com

April 2008

- W Apr 6 MAD Bike Ride, Woodend
WICEN providing communications.
- A Apr 6 RadiO - Metro/Micro, FoxOr & possible ARDF event, Woodlands, 10-12am.
- G Apr 6 Daylight savings ends, End of School Holidays
- M Apr 10 NERG meeting
- W Apr 11-13 Oxfam Trailwalker - Jells Park to Wesburn, WICEN providing communications.
- A Apr 18 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- G Apr 25 ANZAC day (Friday)
- C Apr 25 Harry Angel Sprint contest, 80m CW/SSB/Mixed (date yet to be confirmed)
- S Apr 26 International Marconi Day - www.gb4imd.org.uk

May 2008

- A May 11 Tri-O - FoxOr-Ride-Run. Starts with a FoxOr map, then a bike leg, then a short run to finish. Location to be determined.
- G May 11 Mothers Day
- C May 10 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 80m Phone www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transtasman
- A May 16 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- M May 21 Amateur Radio Victoria Annual General Meeting St Michael's Hall, cnr Victory Boulevard and High Street, Ashburton, commencing 8pm.
- M May 24-25 WIA AGM, held in Broken Hill
- A May 24 Tri-O - FoxOr-Ride-Run. See May 11 details.
- C May 24 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 80m CW

June 2008

- G Jun 9 Queens Birthday Holiday
- A Jun 15 RadiO ARDF/FoxOr event, Braeside Park
- A Jun 20 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- G Jun 28 - Jul 13 School Holidays
- A Jun 29 RadiO FoxOr event, Birrurung Park

July 2008

- C Jul -- Jack Files Contest, Phone & CW
Actual date to be announce.
www.wia.org.au/members/contests/jackfiles
- C Jul 5 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 160m Phone www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transtasman
- A Jul 18 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- H Jul 19 Gippsland Gates Annual Hamfest 08, 10am-3pm, Cranbourne Public Hall
- C Jul 19 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 160m CW
- A Jul 20 Victorian ARDF Champs at Kurucaruc Creek, in conjunction with Ballarat series Orienteering

August 2008

- C Aug 1 QRP Day contest, CW/SSB/FM, HF/VHF
- M Aug 16-17 International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, illw.net
- C Aug 16-17 Remembrance Day Contest, HF/VHF+, Phone/CW/Open/ReceiveOnly
0800 UTC Sat to 0759 UTC Sun.
www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest

September 2008

- A Sep 1-7 14th World ARDF Championships, Korea
- G Sep 20 - Oct 5 Victorian School Holidays

October 2008

- G Oct 5 Daylight Savings starts (subject to change)
- C Oct -- Oceania DX contest (formerly VK/ZL contest) 24hr, Single/Multi/ReceiveOnly, Phone & CW weekend dates to be announced. WIA/NZART www.oceaniadxcontest.com
- M Oct 18-19 51st Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)
- W Oct 18-19 Rally of Melbourne car rally, Yarra Glen to Marysville, WICEN providing communications.

November 2008

- G Nov 4 Melbourne Cup holiday (metro only)
- A Nov 15 Night ARDF event at Smiths Reef with Bush-O
- C Nov 15-16 Spring VHF-UHF Field Day, 24 hr (WIA)
0100 UTC Sat to 0100 UTC Sun.
6hr/24hr, Single/Multi/Home
www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf
- G Nov 22 Banyule's Manna Gum Festival,
Greensborough

December 2008

- G Dec 20 Summer School Holidays start
- C Dec 26 Ross Hull Memorial VHF-UHF contest starts
(runs for 3 weeks).
www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rosshull/

January 2009

- C Jan -- Summer VHF-UHF Field Day, (WIA), 0100
UTC Sat to 0100 UTC Sun. on either second or
third weekend, yet to be announced.
www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf

NOTE: please confirm details closer to the posted dates!
UTC dates may be used for International events.
Dates gathered from WIA, AR Vic, ARRL, various clubs, VK Contest
Club www.vkcc.com, and Banyule City calendars.

NERG COFFEE SHOP NIGHT

The next coffee shop night will be held at the NERG hall at
8pm on Thursday March 27th 2008.

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY CONTEST
 Midday Saturday 15th - Midday 16th March.
 Open to all amateurs, home or portable.
 Join NERG at the Briar Hill Hall on Saturday afternoon &
 evening.
 Listen out for VK3CNE and give us a call on HF SSB, 2m
 FM/SSB or 70cm FM/SSB

*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

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 in 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
	Ernie Walls	VK3FM	
Repeaters	Mark Harrison	VK3BYY	9435 3043

Meetings

Main Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45 PM (ex Dec & Jan)
Coffee Shop nights: 4th Tuesday each month.
Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Road, Briar Hill
(Near Sherbourne Road intersection) Melway map ref 21-C3

Classes & Exams

NERG occasionally runs classes and exams for Amateur licences

Callsigns and Repeaters (25km North East of Melbourne)

Club call - VK3CNE <http://www.nerg.asn.au/vk3cne>

6m repeater VK3RMH FM 52.550 MHz in 53.550 MHz out
70cm rpt. VK3RMH FM 433.325 MHz in 438.325 MHz out
with 70cm IRLP node 6350, EchoLink node 140587

6m beacon VK3RMH CW 10 Watts H 50.2950 MHz

10m beacon VK3RMH CW 20 Watts V 28.2565 MHz

Packet Radio VK3CNE 2m 144.700 MHz, 1200 bps

VK3CNE-1 for mail,BBS; 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. Also used as a general Net frequency.

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 13th March 2008

MIXED BAG MEETING: A CPR VIDEO; FIELD DAY STATION; NERG REPEATERS

2008 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

March 13	March NERG Meeting
Mar 15-16	John Moyle Field Day contest, +++ This year at Briar Hill Hall +++
Mar 20	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Mar 25	Gainfully Unemployed Group, 10 am at the QTH TBA
Mar 27	NERG coffee shop night
April 3	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Apr 10	April NERG Meeting
Apr 17	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Apr 22	Gainfully Unemployed Group, 10 am at the QTH TBA
Apr 24	NERG coffee shop night
May 1	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
May 8	NERG Meeting
May 15	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM