



JULY 2007

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
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Victoria 3088
news@nerg.asn.au

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

Richard Hoskins VK3JFK and Peter Willmot VK3TQ will demonstrate D-Star at our July meeting (7.45pm 10 July).

D-Star is a digital voice and data communications system developed by the Japanese Amateur Relay League (the JARL) and stands for Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio.

As well as having some D-Star radios to demonstrate, Peter and Richard will also bring along a DSTAR repeater, so we'll be able to play with a working system at the meeting!

Peter, amateur products manager for ICOM Australia, and Richard are members of the team installing several D-Star repeaters around Melbourne. Last year ICOM donated a complete 23cm/70cm/2m D-Star repeater system (pictured opposite) to the WIA. It's now located at Olinda in the Dandenong ranges as VK3RWN to serve the greater Melbourne area. They have also assisted with other D-Star repeaters near Ballarat (VK3RBA) and Mt Macedon (VK3RMM).

Read more about D-Star projects at d-star.icom-australia.com

Next month we hope to have Steve Reining VK3JSR along to talk about the VK3RHF repeater system. This unique four way repeater system operates simultaneously on 10m, 6m, 70cm and 23cm. The 10 and 6m inputs attract frequent DX during the summer, which can be worked from through the 70 or 23cm ports while mobile around town. The system consists of 10 transmitters and 16 receivers on two mountain top sites. This is all held together with a complex control system, making a good subject for the talk.

73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

NEXT MEETING: The following monthly meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 14th August 2008**, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3.

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP TUESDAY 22ND JULY

The NERG Gainfully Unemployed Group met at the home of Jan and Ernie VK3FM/VK3CEW last month. There was a very good role up and we noted Gerhard's trip to Germany.

The conversion roamed as usual with some in-depth discussion as well as some light hearted chatter. Jan provided her high quality coffees and food. Lunch was prepared by Jan and Ernie's daughter, Kelly, with lasagne and a salad in the more modern style and was most delightful, thankyou Kelly.

Those present were Dave VK3JMB, Steve VK3JSE, John VK3XD, Greg VK3VT, George VK3MKK, Ian VK3XIJ and myself VK3KE. Our thanks go Jan for her catering, serving and use of the home. To Ernie we say thank you for being a great guy and DXer, and for making the day so enjoyable.

The next get together will on Tuesday 22nd July around 10am start at the QTH of Jim VK3KE and Marg VK3VOJ, 1 Pamela Court Bundoora, 03 9467 1253.

NERG NEWS

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

NERG Meeting:
7:45pm 10th July 2008
D-Star
Digital Voice and Data Radios
for amateurs



The next Coffee Shop night:
Thursday 24th July 2008

Please advise if you plan on attending the next meeting.
Cheers, Jim, VK3KE

Listen out on the NERG chat channel of 146.575 MHz for the gainfully unemployed during the day and for the latest rare DX spots.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

At our June meeting Greg Williams VK3VT/3GG gave an entertaining report on the foxhunting activities held at Mount Gambier on the previous long weekend. Greg talked us through some of the hunts with the help of animated maps showing GPS tracks of their movements while trying to locate the fox transmitter. As often happens in foxhunts, various technical and tactical problems were encountered along the way to make the event even more challenging.

Later in the month Christmas came early to the NERG with the Christmas in June winter social dinner – more on this later.

YET ANOTHER FANTASTIC NERG DINNER!

Christmas came early to the NERG this year, with the now annual 'Christmas in June' social dinner being held at the Briar Hill Hall.

Over thirty members and friends met on the Saturday night for a traditional Christmas Dinner.



The Christmas Tree and Train Set are a big hit with the kids.

Marg VK3VOJ and her team of helpers had converted the hall into a fantastic picture of Christmas. There were Christmas lights, and decorations all over the place along with a fully decorated Christmas tree and Christmas train running around the tree base. There were five tables beautifully set up with all the trappings of Christmas including lollies, nuts and chocolates.



Doug (left) getting down to business with Chef Greg (right) overseeing proceedings

A full Christmas dinner with turkey, lamb, ham, roast spuds and pumpkin as well as beans, peas, cauliflower cheese was enjoyed by all. This was followed by a traditional Christmas pudding, brandy sauce, ice cream and fruit salad.



As can be seen from the photos much conversation was had and everyone agreed it was a great time.

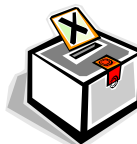
Greg and Marg would like to thank the willing team of helpers who assisted in the cooking, preparing the hall and in tidying up. They include John 3ZRV and his XYL Henny, Marg's OM Jim 3KE, Greg's XYL Denise, family members, and many others.

The club passes our thanks and congratulations to Marg 3VOJ and Greg 3VT for organising yet another successful dinner that was fun to attend and raised some funds for the NERG.

NERG NETS FROM THE CLUB ROOM

A radio is now set up on 146.575MHz at the Briar Hill Hall during the NERG Coffee Shop meeting nights. This will allow us to run an informal NERG Net on the fourth Thursday night, making the main meeting night the only Thursday when the weekly net will not be on. Give us a call on 146.575MHz FM simplex.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14TH AUGUST 2008



The Annual General Meeting of the North East Radio Group inc. and elections of NERG executive and committee positions are scheduled for 8pm Thursday 14th August, 2008. Nominations for office and committee positions will be accepted from financial

members but 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 or delivered to the NERG Secretary (P.O. box 270, Greensborough, 3088) postmarked no later than the close of business on the 7th August 2008. A candidate may only be nominated for one office or as an ordinary member of the committee prior to the annual general meeting. Nominations will be taken at the AGM to fill any positions not having prior nominees.

GGREC ANNUAL HAMFEST 08

The Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club annual Hamfest will be held on Saturday 19th of July, 10am-3pm, at the usual venue; the Cranbourne Public Hall, near cnr Clarendon St & High St (South Gippsland Highway) Cranbourne 133 K4. As in the past, the Club intends to turn on its usual charm and organisational skill to produce one of the "must attend" Hamfests of the year.

New & Used Electrical, Electronic, and Amateur Radio Equipment.

\$6 entry. Free Tea+Coffee, hot&cold food, Door Prizes.

MARG BAXTER AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Marg Baxter VK3VOJ has been awarded life membership to NERG in recognition for her work as long standing treasurer and committee member. The award was presented at the NERG winter dinner by President Greg Williams.

Marg gained her license after attending the first ever NERG novice course. Although she rarely has time to talk on air she still finds time to keep up the book work and attend committee meetings. Marg's cooking talents are often appreciated by the "Gainfully Unemployed Group" members and by the NERG committee. Congratulations Marg!



MARGHERITA PIZZA

Our Pizza sponsor, Margherita Pizza in Lower Plenty, has launched a new corporate profile! You may have noticed their new logo and advertisement in last month's newsletter.

Margheritas also have a new look web site at www.margherita.com.au

(a subtly different address to their previous one).

We can report that the pizzas are as delicious as ever and the great service and support of local community groups continues. Margherita Pizza & Pasta prides itself on providing the highest Quality Pizza & Pasta with customer service second to none. They ensure all their staff are committed to the task at hand and rewards them accordingly. Margheritas is a proud supporter of our local community organisations, sporting clubs and schools. They have contributed over \$500,000 to the local community to date.

The range of Pizza's is extensive - from the traditional Aussie through to Gourmet Tandoori Chicken and specials like the Vegemite, Outback Banger, and Spaghetti pizzas. A range Pastas, Ribs, Potato Wedges, and Salads are also available in convenient takeaway sizes.

Margheritas offers all these and more in a range of catering services for occasions, small to large. They also look after fund raising events for schools, sports and social clubs. Check out the web site for all the services available.

VK3VT JOINS WIA CALLBOOK TEAM

The WIA welcomes to the Publications Committee Greg Williams VK3VT, who not only offered to assist this year, but is willing to take on the role of Callbook Editor next year, with Brenda VK3KT having announced earlier this year that the next Callbook would be her last! So, a big thank you to Greg - I trust that we shall all be able to make his job not too difficult.

Peter VK3KAI, Editor of Amateur Radio magazine, WIA

NERG COFFEE SHOP NIGHT

The next coffee shop night will be held at the NERG hall at 8pm July 26th 2008 (the fourth Thursday).

Bring along you handhelds for testing.

We'll set up a power meter and spectrum analyser to see if your transmitter is working to specification! It will be interesting to compare ICOMs, Kenwoods and Yaesus against some of the Chinese brands!

Drop in and see what we are up to. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while joining the wide ranging discussions, or perhaps get some advice on your current projects.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH



Australian D-STAR Information

www.dstar.org.au

This web site specialises in up to date news and information for Australian D-Star operators. The site contains all you need to know about D-Star and how to set up your radios. Information includes recommended simplex frequencies, repeater details, and digital radio configuration guides. ICOM ICF files can be found on this site to help configure radios for all the Australian repeaters, saving a fair amount of manual data entry.

Information on each D-Star repeater in Australia is listed, often including links to a live repeater status page showing most recent callsigns heard and a Google Map showing the repeater location. Repeater coverage maps are also shown for some repeaters.

REPEATERS HEARD AT NERG CLUB ROOM

The following is a list of 2 metre repeaters that are accessible from the NERG club rooms (without the use of CTCSS tones). The list should give amateurs in the local area an idea of what they should be able to reach given a reasonably high location. Channel numbers shown are for the standard NERG EPROM for the Philips FM900 transceiver. A couple of other repeaters should also be accessible from this location once a new CTCSS module is fitted to the club's radio.

Channel	Callsign	Location
12	VK3RSP	Mt. Martha
13	VK3RML	Mt. Dandenong
14	VK3RYV	Healesville
15	VK3RBA	Ballarat
17	VK3RLV	Latrobe Valley
24	VK3RSR	Wattle Glen
25	VK3RGL	Geelong
28	VK3RCR	Mt. Dandenong
29	VK3RSG	South Gippsland
32	VK3REC	Olinda
34	VK3RWG	Mt. Baw Baw
35	VKRMM	Mt. Macedon

VICTORIAN ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Victorian ARDF Championship will be held **Sunday, 20 July, at Kurucaruc Creek (EU)**, Melways/VicRoads: 627 B4 / 76 E6 VR

Courses: ARDF 5 Transmitters. Course Setter: Jack VK3WWW

Start Times: 10am - 12pm

Cost: \$6 Senior, \$3 Junior or \$15 family

Directions: From Ballarat, head south through Sebastopol, then veer right onto the road to Colac. The township of Enfield is 24 km south of Ballarat on this road. The event start will be at the tennis courts on the left in the middle of town.

http://www.vicorientering.asn.au/voadb/event_disp.asp?id=545

FOXHUNT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Victorian fox hunting championships

These are held in the period before the Mount Gambier Australian Championships around the April to May period each year. The winner of the previous year runs this year's event and a complete day of hunting is undertaken with events on a number of bands. Following dinner there is usually a multi-leg multi-band night hunt.

The 2008 championship was held on May 10th and run by the VK3HRL/MZ/TVB/VR team. The winner was the VK3YDF team. Other competing teams were VK3YQN, VK3OW, VK3BLN/VK3TXO and VK3VT.

Regular hunts are held around Melbourne on the two metre amateur band - these are held on the third Friday of the month - including January. The December hunt is usually held on the second Friday.

Note that there is a web site devoted to Melbourne foxhunting - www.melbfox.com.au This site has the progressive scores, fox calculator and hunt reports.

An e-mail list operates for fox hunters in Melbourne giving details of next event, results and other interesting items. To subscribe go to the list's website <http://lists.id.oz.au/www/info/melb-fox> and click on "Subscribe".

ON-AIR BEHAVIOUR - WIA AND ACMA GETTING TOUGH

Self-regulation of amateur radio over recent decades has seen increasing problems with poor operating procedures and on-air behaviour around the world. This situation is now being addressed by the WIA and ACMA in Australia.

Michael Owen VK3KI, WIA President and Peter Young VK3MV, WIA Director met with Allan Major, ACMA Executive Manager Regulation and Compliance Branch, Dominic Byrne, ACMA Manager Compliance & Investigations Section and, by phone hook-up, Gary Ryan, ACMA Acting Manager, Interference Management Section, Brisbane, on 18 June 2008.

The meeting, originally suggested by Allan Major at the RadCom08 meetings, discussed compliance issues that concerned many amateurs in Australia. The ACMA representatives said that there had been an increased level of complaints about on air behaviour, some of which appeared to be breaches of the Amateur LCD and the Radio-communications Act.

The range of regulatory tools available to ACMA, from criminal prosecution to administrative action, including warnings leading to the suspension of licences, perhaps even leading to the cancellation of licences, were discussed.

The WIA representatives pointed out that, to a very large extent, the amateur service was self-regulating, from the voluntary acceptance of band plans to the guidance of new amateurs. However, certain on air behaviour is unacceptable to the majority of amateurs, particularly as amateur radio sought to attract younger people. It was stressed that the WIA was not a law enforcement agency and that ACMA was the national regulator. The WIA Board believed that ACMA should not only act, but be seen to act, either criminally or administratively, against particular amateurs in such circumstances.

The WIA is grateful that ACMA intends to place more information on regulatory and compliance matters on the ACMA website.

From Peter Young, VK3MV, WIA News 28/06/2008

ERRATA

The Gainfully Unemployed Group meets on Tuesday 22 July, not the 28th as listed on the back page last month.

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. Check the ARDF web site for updates and further details at: www.ardf.org.au

July 2008

G Jun 28 - Jul 13 School Holidays

M Jul 10 NERG monthly meeting

C Jul 14 Jack Files Contest, Phone & CW
0800 – 1400 UTC, 80 metres, open to all VK amateurs, all modes, single and multi-op, www.wia.org.au/members/contests/jackfiles

C Jul 5 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 160m Phone
www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transasman

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

C Jul 26-27 Islands On The Air (IOTA) contest,
www.contesting.co.uk/hfcc/iota.shtml

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 or VHF+,
Phone,CW,Open or Receive Only,
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 7 Fathers Day (request more radios!)

H Sep 14 Shepparton Hamfest. St Augustines Hall, Orr
Street, Shepparton. www.sadarc.org

G Sep 20 - Oct 5 Victorian School Holidays

C Sep 26-27 CQWW RTTY DX contest (international)
www.cq-amateur-radio.com

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.

H Oct 26 BARG Hamvention at the Ballarat Exhibition
Centre at The Great Southern Woolshed, on the
Western Freeway Ballarat, Doors open 10am.
Further information: vk3bml@barg.org.au

C Oct 25-26 CQ-World-Wide DX / SSB (international)
www.cq-amateur-radio.com



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November 2008

- G Nov 4 Melbourne Cup holiday (metro only)
- A Nov 15 Night ARDF event at Smiths Reef + 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
- C Nov 24-25 CQWW DX / CW contest (international)
www.cq-amateur-radio.com

December 2008

- G Dec 20 Summer School Holidays start

- C Dec 26 Ross Hull Memorial VHF-UHF contest starts
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.

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	
	John Kent	VK3BIZ	
	David Aston	VK3THY	0411-877-051
	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 10th July 2008
All about D-Star digital radio for amateurs

2008 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

July 3	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
July 10	July NERG Meeting
July 17	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
July 18	Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
July 19	GGREC Hamfest, Cranbourne Public Hall, 10am-3pm Saturday
July 20	Victorian ARDF Championships at Kurucaruc Creek (Ballarat region).
July 22	Gainfully Unemployed Group, 10am at the VK3KE QTH
July 24	NERG coffee shop night
July 31	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Aug 7	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Aug 14	August NERG Meeting – Annual General Meeting and talk on VK3RHF
Aug 15	Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
Aug 16-17	International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, illw.net
Aug 16-17	Remembrance Day Contest, HF or VHF+ 0800 UTC Sat to 0759 UTC Sun.
Aug 21	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Aug 26	Gainfully Unemployed Group, 10am, RSVP.
Aug 28	NERG coffee shop night