



AUGUST 2008

NERG Inc.
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Victoria 3088
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WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

This month we Steve Reining VK3JSR talking 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 located at several mountain top sites. This is all held together with a complex control system, making an excellent subject for a talk.

It's also the NERG Annual General Meeting and election of the office bearers. This is usually a speedy affair and will take place before Steve's talk. Afterwards it's traditional to celebrate another year of the NERG with a birthday party supper.

73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

NEXT MEETING: The following monthly meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 11th September 2008**, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14th AUGUST



The Annual General Meeting of the North East Radio Group inc. and elections of NERG executive and committee positions is scheduled for the August meeting. Where necessary nominations will be taken at the meeting to any positions that have not

received nominations.

MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE !

NERG memberships are now due and can be paid in person at meetings or sent it via post. Unlike the price of everything else, membership fees remain unchanged from last year:

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

A membership form can be found on the NERG web site for members that would like to update their details.

Membership renewals can be paid at the meeting or posted to: NERG Treasurer, PO box 270, Greensborough, Victoria, 3088

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

The July meeting was well attended with a few faces we haven't seen for a while, as well as a few new faces.

The subject was D-Star, with Peter Willmot VK3TQ from ICOM and Richard Hoskins VK3JFK, D-Star technical guru.

ICOM has obviously invested a lot in developing this new technology and is doing everything possible to make it a success. I'm sure they want to eventually return a profit on all their work, but in the mean time ICOM is assisting many amateur radio groups to set up D-Star networks around the world. This is perhaps the fastest deployment of a new technology that amateur radio has seen for some time with more than 200 D-Star repeaters having been installed around the world within a couple of years. Australia hasn't been left out - in fact there will shortly be a D-Star repeater in every

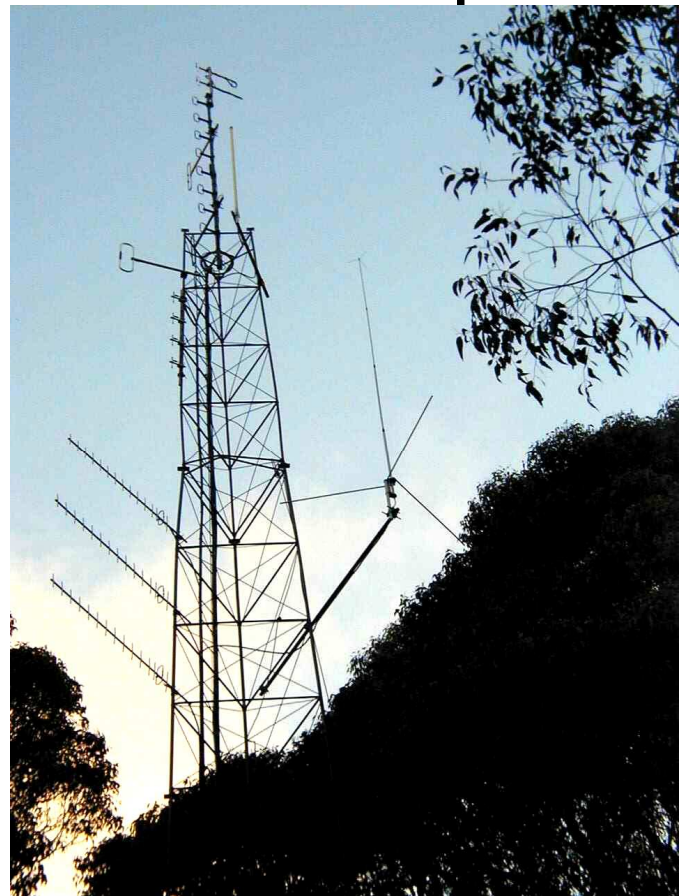
NERG NEWS

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

NERG Meeting: 7:45pm 14th August 2008 Annual General Meeting

Followed shortly after by:
Steve VK3JSR

The VK3RHF repeater



Next Coffee Shop Night: Thursday 28th August 2008

capital city (some having several!). The WIA is supporting the Australia wide D-Star network, hosting Internet links and sorting out regulatory issues. On the local scene, Amateur Radio Victoria has D-Star repeater projects on Mt. Dandenong and Mt. Macedon.

Several ICOM handheld and mobile D-Star radios were demonstrated and shown to provide not only voice communications but also various messaging services (similar to sending a SMS message on the mobile phone). D-Star can also send position reports when coupled to a GPS although it's not quite as sophisticated as packet radio's APRS services. On the other hand D-Star can transfer files and data much faster than is generally possible with packet radio.

All in all, a very informative evening. Many thanks to Peter and Richard.

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP TUESDAY 22ND JULY

Last month the group met at the home of Jim VK3KE and Marg VK3VOJ. The day had a bit of an Italian theme as George VK3MKK had asked if anyone had any QSL cards from Trieste, in Italia, as that was where he came from at the age of 28, I hope I recalled it correctly. Both Dave and myself were able to show and give George QSL cards from his home town. Further to the Italian theme I had recorded a one hour program from SBS on two Italian amateur radio operators who were brothers and developed a comprehensive involvement in listening to radio transmissions from outer space from 1957 onwards. They managed to record transmissions from both Russians and Americans space adventures. One recording in Russian was of female describing how she was burning up and about to crash.

The video was run before lunch and then finished after lunch. I must thank Marg for the food which was very good and plentiful. Those present were Ernie, VK3FM, Dave VK3JMB, John VK3XD, Ian VK3XIJ, George VK3MKK and Greg VK3VT.

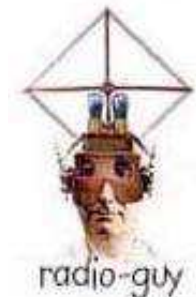
The next meeting will be at the QTH of Dave, VK3JMB, and Carol on Tuesday the 26th of August starting from 10am.

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.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

Radio-Guy <http://www.radio-guy.net>



Here's an odd but interesting site. Steve Erenberg has collected and photographed all sorts of historic and oddball items. Things like early receivers, valves, light globes, and tools are easily identified. Others, like the industrial helmets, or the shock therapy mask are truly scary! The photographs are beautifully done and arranged in categories. Each page is actually a large image which may take a while to load. Click on the items to see

views from other angles, with occasional descriptions.

I'm off now to find a Micro-Sazh Baldness Cure machine!

2008 RD CONTEST AUG 16-17

The Remembrance Day Contest is on August 16-17, 0800 UTC Saturday to 0759 UTC Sunday, CW/voice/HF/VHF/UHF+. This contest commemorates the Amateurs who died during World War II and is designed to encourage friendly participation and help improve the operating skills of participants. It is held on the weekend closest to the 15th August, the date on which hostilities ceased in the southwest Pacific area.

It is preceded by a short opening address by a Guest Speaker transmitted on various WIA frequencies during the 15 minutes prior to the contest. During this ceremony, a roll call of amateurs who paid the supreme sacrifice during WWII is read.

A perpetual trophy is awarded annually to the Australian state or territory with the best performance. The name of the winning State or Territory is inscribed on the trophy, and that State or Territory then holds the trophy for 12 months. The winning State or Territory is also given a certificate, as are leading entrants.

Amateurs in each VK call area will endeavour to contact amateurs in other VK call areas, ZL and P2 on all bands except WARC bands. On 1.8, 28, and 50 MHz and above, entrants may also contact other amateurs in their own call area. For rules, see AR mag or the web:

www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest

91.5HZ TO ACCESS GEELONG REPEATER

The VK3RGL "Geelong" 2m repeater located on Mt Anakie now requires a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone. The sub-audible tone squelch reduces interference from other services located nearby. It will also reduce occasional interference from VK7 amateurs working their VK7RAD Mt Barrow repeater which uses the same frequencies (in some ways this is unfortunate, as in the past VK3RGL provided an early warning that propagation was opening across Bass Straight during summer months when you'd often hear VK7's chatting to each other).

VK3RGL can be worked from many parts of Melbourne. It is one of VK3's oldest repeaters, and for a long time was Melbourne's only alternative repeater to VK3RML. It's on 147.000MHz with -600kHz offset.

Users are advised to avoid over-deviating their transmissions as it can lead to drop outs in their signal.

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) event runs from 10:01am Saturday 16th August to 9:01am on the following Monday morning (AEST – our local time).



This is NOT a contest – rather a friendly weekend where amateurs are encouraged to set up stations in or near lighthouses and lightships. Contacts between lights, and between lights and regular amateur stations are encouraged.

In 10 years participation has grown to over 380 lighthouses in some 51 countries around the world.

The ILLW is an annual event where amateur operators work from light houses and light stations in commemoration of the role light house keepers and radio played in providing valuable marine safety services. The objective of the event is to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration, to promote amateur radio and to foster International goodwill.

Operations are normally held on the 5 'classic' amateur bands, 80, 40, 20, 15 & 10 metres with CW and SSB however all other bands and modes are possible.

Participating CW stations add 'LT' (for lighthouse) or 'LS' (for lightship) to their callsigns. Voice stations adding 'LIGHT', 'LGT', 'LIGHTHOUSE' or 'LIGHTSHIP' to their callsigns. Special event stations sometimes obtain a callsign with the letter L in the suffix to assist in identification during the event.

So far 45 stations have registered around Australia with the following stations located around Victoria's coastline:

VK3ANR	Split Point	AU0032	Buro or PO Box 501, Belmont. 3216
VK3ARK	Cape Liptrap Lighthouse	AU0037	VK3ARK direct or buro
VK3ATL	Point Lonsdale	AU0028	PO Box 520, Geelong 3220 or via Buro.
VK3EG	Point Hicks Lighthouse	AU0027	Via QRZ.com
VK3EMF	Cape Schanck Lighthouse	AU0012	Direct or buro
VK3GER	Eastern Light, McRae	AU0017	Buro or PO Box 65 Patterson Lakes, Vic 3197
VK3ILH/7	Currie Lighthouse King Island	AU0016	Buro via VK3CAM
VK3WI	Williamstown Timeball Tower	AU0036	VK3WI QTHR or via buro
VK3YME	Cape Otway Light Station	AU0011	Via WIA buro

For info and QSL addresses see: <http://illw.net>

WANSARC ON THE MOVE

The Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club is moving back to its old meeting rooms in Reservoir.

The group now meets at the Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion in Seaver Grove, Reservoir, on the western shore of Edwards park Lake.

For many years WANSARC met at the NMIT TAFE college in Preston.

NERG COFFEE SHOP NIGHT

The next coffee shop night will be held at the NERG hall at 8pm August 28th 2008 (the fourth Thursday).

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.

WICEN EVENTS ON HOLD

The future of WICEN Victoria's two big annual emergency communications exercises looks uncertain.

The 2008 Rally of Melbourne has been cancelled due to insufficient sponsorship. The rally may be back in 2009 although the format is not certain.

The 2008 Murray River Canoe Marathon to be held in December this year may be the last under the Red Cross banner. This event will mark the marathon's 40th anniversary, however Red Cross has been unable to attract sufficient volunteers and finances to run the next event in 2009. Councils and tourism groups along the Murray are trying to save the event, so perhaps it will continue under another banner.



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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:

editor: Mark Harrison VK3BYY

ph: 9435-3043 hm

post: 266 Nell Street West, Watsonia, 3087

email: news@nerg.asn.au



NERG

North-East Radio Group VK3CNE

NERG Incorporated 1985
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

STAMP

Next Meeting: 7.45 pm Thursday 14th August 2008
NERG AGM & Talk by Steve VK3JSR on the VK3RHF repeater

2008 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

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
Sept 4	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Sept 11	September NERG Meeting –
Sept 14	Shepparton Hamfest. St Augustines Hall, Orr Street, Shepparton. www.sadarc.org
Sept 18	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Sept 25	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM