



**OCTOBER 2008**

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

### WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Stephen VK3SN has kindly offered to talk about operating QRP from snow caves and igloos (dealing with frozen dipoles, cold batteries, disappearing solar panels and trouble shooting broken antenna tuners). Stephen recently returned from an annual mini-ski trek across the Victorian high country together with family and friends. He has heaps of interesting photos to share and will also show the non-radio associated gear used – things like GPS, special 'back-country' skis, gortex booties, space blankets, fuel stoves, advanced first aid kit, EPIRB, etc.

Jamboree On The Air and Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA and JOTI) takes place later this month. NERG will run it's clubroom station for this event – details will be emailed closer to the event.

73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

**NEXT MEETING:** The following monthly meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008**, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3.

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Paul McMahan, VK3DIP, demonstrated his YAGICAD antenna design software at the September meeting and showed a simple method for constructing Yagi antennas. You may have seen Paul's article in last month's AR magazine on the same subject.

The antenna was assembled in no time from aluminium tube, copper pipe, plastic conduit, a broom handle, pop rivets, and hot melt glue, all items being readily available from your local hardware store.

YAGICAD combines several techniques to calculate the element lengths and spacings for beam antennas and can optimise these further by using a genetic algorithm. This Windows program can also plot directional patterns and help design matching networks for the designed antenna.

Significant interest was expressed by the audience in running a NERG antenna construction night in the near future.

YAGICAD is downloadable from the software section on the NERG web site at: **www.nerg.asn.au** - Look under "Software"

### THE NEXT MEETING

Don't miss the 13<sup>th</sup> November meeting!

### NERG COFFEE SHOP NIGHT

There are plans to run a Yagi construction night on one of the coffee shop nights later this year – stay tuned for more details.

Drop in on the coffee shop night and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while joining the wide ranging discussions, or perhaps get some advice on your current projects, or play with the radios.

The next coffee shop night will be held at the NERG hall at **8pm October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 (the fourth Thursday)**.

### THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

The President out did himself on the culinary front last month. The range and quality of the food was worthy of a fine dining club outing. The guys were all very impressed and fully loaded with the food. The soup, potatoes with their fillings and homemade sauce were stand outs. So loaded down were the members that the group set a new NERG world record for a finish time of 3:40pm. A wonderful time was had by all with

# 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**  
**9<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

## Stephen VK3SN - Working QRP from an igloo



*Not Your Average Shack!*

-  
**Next Coffee Shop Night:**  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

the discussions roaming all sorts of topics. Kevin 07, George W, and Bomber Thompson would all have found solutions to their pressing issues. Sadly we survived without them!

Those present were Dave VK3JMB, Gerhard VK3EWM, John VK3XD/VK3ZRV, Ernie VK3FM, George VK3MKK, Ian VK3QL/VK3XIJ (note the new two letter call, welcome to the club). I must thank very much Denise and Greg for the use of their home for what was truly a very good day.

The next meeting of the group on Tuesday 28 October will be at the QTH of Ian VK3QL/VK3XIJ for NERG members

### **Please advise Ian of your attendance**

It is suggested attendees look at car pooling.

Please advise if can attend the next meeting.

Cheers, Jim, VK3KE

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

### SUCCESSFUL FOUNDATION WEEKEND

A Foundation training weekend was held on 27/28<sup>th</sup> September and we congratulate our four successful students, Ian, Laughlin, Bruce and Ron. Once again John VK3XD and Greg VK3GG did an outstanding job of delivering the course and organising everything.

A successful practical operating assessment was also held for a Standard operator who's license had expire. Under the new rules you must pass the new practical operating assessment before any new license will be issued. This includes not only people coming back to the hobby after their license lapsed, but also people upgrading to Advanced level and anyone acquiring a second callsign. It's a simple test on hooking up a typical transceiver and making a two way contact, but the rule applies to everyone regardless of how long you may have held an amateur operators certificate of proficiency.

Since current license holders aren't required to sit the assessment, you can avoid the time and expense by keeping your license payments up to date.

Everyone should also be aware lapsed callsigns are now recycled quickly and that getting you call back again is a lot more difficult, so keep your licence paid up at all times!

### FRANK TALBOT VK3DTC - SILENT KEY

It is with much sadness that the NERG farewelled Frank Talbot, VK3DTC. Frank has been a long time member of the NERG, and his passing is a very sad occasion for all those who knew him.

Frank regularly attended NERG meetings with close friends Steve and Betsy and took a great interest in all the activities. In recent years Frank managed to make good use of the NERG's UHF repeater and IRLP for his amateur radio activities despite the restrictions of living in a retirement home. He was also very active in the Probus Club of Nillumbik, being awarded Life Membership in 2002.

Frank passed away in hospital from a heart attack after a period of ill health.

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS CHAOS

While daylight savings is a good idea for many people, it can play havoc with computer systems and International communications. For instance the IT department where I work spent most of Monday 6 October sorting out problems related to our earlier than usual changeover to daylight saving's. Despite an aggressive organisation wide update system some computers didn't advance their clocks. They were waiting for 26<sup>th</sup> Oct when many other countries change their clocks.

While the wrong time is a minor annoyance on a home PC, at work it throws meeting schedules and reminders into chaos. You might turn up an hour early for a meeting. Worse still, you may schedule a future meeting for a date after 26 Oct and when the date arrives you find you an hour late!

Interesting things happen to modern corporate servers farms too. We discovered that the one hour difference between some servers causes them to detect a "time slip" and thinking it is some kind of security intrusion, they all stop talking to one another. In our case that blocked all incoming email, did strange things to the file servers, and stopped some people from logging into the system!

Another common problem with daylight savings is planning ahead for International conference calls or perhaps a radio schedule. Radio amateurs have the right idea, doing everything by UTC (GMT). If you can't use universal time then you may have to keep track of some thirty one separate dates when various counties move their clocks forwards or backwards! Fortunately help is at hand. The web site [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com) has a handy calculator to determine the time in any country for a given local time and date, taking into account the latest DST offsets.

While a lot of noise was made about year 2000 bugs, I'm now inclined to think daylight savings causes a lot more trouble and occurs a lot more frequently!

Mark VK3BYY

### NEW CALLS ON THE AIR

A few NERGs have either upgraded their callsigns or have been lucky enough to acquire a two letter call following the recent WIA callsign ballot.

Among the new calls are:

David VK3THY changed to VK3UQ.

Ian VK3XIJ now also holds VK3QL.

Gerard VK3JPA changed to VK3GT.

John VK3ZRV gains VK3XD.

Chris VK3FLMI upgraded to VK3LMI.

Well done everyone!

Please send changes of callsign details to the news editor

### JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

This year the Jamboree runs from Saturday Oct 18<sup>th</sup> through to Monday Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. JOTA-JOTI is an annual event where around 500,000 Scouts and Guides from around the world make contact with each other by means of amateur radio and Internet. It is the largest Scout event in the world.

NERG will be running a station at the NERG Hall (Briar Hill Community Hall) for the local venturers to make contact with other groups via VHF and HF. Please contact NERG secretary John Weir if you are interested in assisting with the running of the station (most likely Saturday afternoon/early evening)

### BALLARAT HAMFEST 26<sup>TH</sup> OCT.

The very popular Ballarat Amateur Radio Group annual HAMVENTION, will held at the Great Southern Woolshed, approx 3kms on the Melbourne side of Ballarat CBD, on the Western Highway.

Doors open for exhibitors at 8-00am, General public admitted at 10-00am. Door prizes, raffles and good fellowship.

For information contact Doug Raper VK3VBA  
[dougr@ncable.net.au](mailto:dougr@ncable.net.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. Check the ARDF web site for updates and further details at: [www.ardf.org.au](http://www.ardf.org.au)

#### October 2008

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| G Oct 5     | Daylight Savings  |
| C Oct 4     | Oceania DX Phone contest (formerly VK/ZL contest), 8:00UTC 24hr, Single/Multi/ReceiveOnly, WIA/NZART<br><a href="http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com">www.oceaniadxcontest.com</a>                                      |
| C Oct 11    | Oceania DX CW contest (details same as Phone contest above)   |
| M Oct 18-19 | 51st Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)   |
| W Oct 18-19 | Was to be Rally of Melbourne car rally but has been cancelled.  |
| 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: <a href="mailto:vk3bml@barg.org.au">vk3bml@barg.org.au</a> |
| G Oct 26    | The day most other people change to or from daylight savings around the world. We can expect many computer systems to automatically add another hour even though we already did that 3 weeks ago in Victoria!       |
| C Oct 25-26 | CQ-World-Wide DX / SSB (international)<br><a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>  |

**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](http://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf)
- G Nov 15 Banyule's Manna Gum Festival, 3pm-8.30pm  
Poulter Reserve, Poulter Avenue,  
Greensborough
- C Nov 24-25 CQWW DX / CW contest (international)  
[www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.vkcc.com), and Banyule City calendars.



  
**Margherita Pizza**  
*'At the heart of your community'*



 **9434 4980**  
 Home Delivery



**Margherita proudly sponsors the delicious pizzas enjoyed at the NERG meeting nights**

**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	VK3XD	9431 0667
Treasurer	Marg Baxter	VK3VOJ	9467 1253
Assistant	Jim Baxter	VK3KE	
Committee	Betsy King	VK3HBK	
	David Aston	VK3THY	0411-877-051
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
	Don Haslam	VK3KDT	0409 024 597
News/Repeaters	Mark Harrison	VK3BYY	9435 3043

**Meetings**

Main Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45 PM (ex Dec & Jan)  
Coffee Shop nights: 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008**  
**Stephen VK3SN talking about Working QRP from an Igloo**

---

**2008 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)**

Oct 2	<b>NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM</b>
Oct 9	<b>October NERG Meeting – Amateur Radio in the Snow with Steve VK3SN</b>
Oct 16	<b>NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM</b>
Oct 18-19	51st Jamboree On The Air 2008 (JOTA)
Oct 23	<b>NERG Coffee Shop night – also with net at 8:30pm on 146.575 MHz FM from the hall</b>
Oct 28	<b>Gainfully Unemployed Group, 10am, please RSVP</b>
Oct 30	<b>NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM</b>
Nov 6	<b>NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM</b>
Nov 13	<b>November NERG Meeting</b>
Nov 20	<b>NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM</b>
Nov 25	<b>Gainfully Unemployed Group, 10am, please RSVP</b>
Nov 27	<b>NERG Coffee Shop night – also with net at 8:30pm on 146.575 MHz FM from the hall</b>
Dec 4	<b>NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM</b>
Dec 11	<b>NERG End of Year BBQ</b>