



MARCH 2009

NERG Inc.
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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

This month's newsletter is fairly brief due to the editor's commitments in other areas.

Two big events take place in March. Find more about the John Moyle Field Day and NERGs plans for this event later in the newsletter. I hope everyone that has access to an amateur radio can turn it on sometime during the weekend and add to the level of activity – the field stations really appreciate a call from all home and mobile stations.

The other big event is the EMDRC hamfest - always a good one!

73, Mark Harrison,
VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

The Gainfully Unemployed Group had its first meeting for 2009 at the home of Jan and Ernie VK3FM/VK3CEW. It was great to catch up again with the guys. The conversation was broad and varied, with no one dominating. Those present were Dave VK3JMB, Greg VK3VT, Gerhard VK3EWM, VK3OW Ewan, Ian VK3XIJ George VK3MKK and myself VK3KE Jim.

Lunch was chicken and sweet corn soup followed by club sandwiches. The pre lunch eats were numerous with three varieties cheeses as the stand out (I had forgotten just how good fine cheese is!). Jan provided a constant supply of tea and wonderful supply of coffee.

Thank you Jan and Ernie for having us, and we look forward to a return visit.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 24th March** around 10am at the QTH of Ewen VK3OW and Janelle in Greensborough.

Cheers, Jim, VK3KE

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

EMDRC WHITE ELEPHANT – 22 MARCH

The EMDRC Annual White Elephant Sale opens its doors from 10:30am-4pm Sunday 22 March at the Great Ryrie School, Great Ryrie Street, Heathmont. MELWAY map 49 K11 between Ringwood and Heathmont railway stations.

\$6 entry, free tea & coffee, BBQ food on sale.

Talk in VK3ER 147.175MHz repeater.

Hundreds of components, pre-loved radios, test gear, computers, software, and commercial displays.

More info: http://www.emdrc.com.au/wes_2009.htm

NEXT MONTHS MEETING

NERG will hold next month's regular meeting on **Thursday 9th April 2009**, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, MELWAY 21 C3.

NERG NEWS

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

NERG Meeting:
12th March 2009
from 7.45 PM
Field Days

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY 14-15 MARCH 2009

National Parks permission has been granted and plans are well under way for the NERG field day station for the National John Moyle contest. Provided there are no total fire ban days, around a dozen NERGs are set to run the VK3CNE station from Mt. Macedon. We should be able to operate all bands from 160 metres to 23 centimetres on SSB and FM, and possibly even some digital modes like CW.

Visitors and additional participants are welcome; you'll find us at the end of Lions Head Road, operating between midday Saturday 14 to midday Sunday 15th March.

Working us during the contest (Common Call Frequencies)

All contacts for the contest are simplex, so listen out for VK3CNE on the VHF/UHF local and national call frequencies as recommended in the WIA band plan (in Callbook or at WIA web site). You may need to tune around - we occasionally tune up or down to avoid QRM from other stations using the call frequencies. Also, please be patient - we may be operating on SSB while you're listening for us on FM and visa versa. Also if we don't respond immediately, it may be because we can't hear (nearly) everyone in Victoria calling CQ at once and may be letting other stations finish their QSO before we take over the frequency ☺!

The most common call frequencies are:

6m FM 52.525 MHz (prim.), 53.500 MHz

6m SSB 50.150 MHz, 50.200 MHz

(no contest operation allowed below 50.150 MHz)

2m SSB 144.100 MHz (prim), 144.200 MHz (secondary), 144.300 MHz (chat).

2m FM 146.500 MHz, 146.450 MHz, 146.550 MHz (+/- 25kHz channels), and occasionally on the NERG net 146.575 MHz

70cm SSB 432.100 MHz (prim), 432.200 MHz (sec), 432.300 MHz (chart)

70cm FM 439.000 MHz (prim) and +/-25kHz channels

23cm SSB 1296.100 MHz (prim), 1296.200 MHz (sec)

23cm FM 1294.000 MHz (prim)

Activity is spread across each of the HF bands without any specific call frequencies.

For more on NERG's JMFD station: see:

<http://www.nerg.asn.au/JMFD2009planning.htm>

YARRA VALLEY HAMFEST

After two attempts the Healesville Hamfest has been deferred indefinitely due to high levels of bushfire activity in the region. It is most likely to be run mid-year. The YVARG and local businesses will be very pleased to see as many people as possible at the event. Further information can be found on the YVARG web site where there is also an update on the many members affected by the fires:

<http://www.yarravalley.ar.org.au/>

AMATEURS PROVIDE BUSHFIRE COMMUNICATIONS

Both the Red Cross communications arm RECOM, run by radio amateurs, and the WICEN group were kept very busy during the widespread bushfires in Victoria during February and early March.

WICEN provided operators to work 12 hour shifts on CFA and DSE radios at various command centres, as well as setting up and running communications links into places like Narbethong, where landlines had been burnt out and other radio infrastructure damaged.

Many amateurs living in bushfire affected areas were kept busy fighting fires and working for the huge relief effort that has carried on for weeks since. Unfortunately some of these amateurs lost property, including one of our NERG members.

VK3ROU METAMORPHISES INTO VK3RML

The Mt Dandenong VK3ROU 70cm repeater has been upgraded and operates under the VK3RML site licence with that callsign with IRLP node 6360. A CTCSS access tone of 91.5Hz is required.

The VK3RML 2m repeater is also set for a substantial upgrading during autumn. *News from Amateur Radio Victoria*

WIA EXAM CHARGES TO INCREASE FROM 2 FEBRUARY 2009

Michael Owen - VK3KI, 11/12/2008

From 2 February 2009, the price of WIA examinations will increase to \$67.00 (inc. GST).

However, the WIA Board is very pleased to announce that the price increases will not apply to candidates under the age of 18 on the day of assessment. The charge for these candidates will remain \$35 (inc. GST), with the exception of practical assessments taken alone, which will increase from \$25 to \$35.

The price increases are the result of a number of factors.

The date of the increases (2 February 2009) is the anticipated date that the WIA will commence conducting examinations in accordance with proposed new contractual arrangements with ACMA. From that date, the WIA will be obliged to comply with the Commonwealth's Cost Recovery guidelines, with its charges requiring Commonwealth approval. These guidelines require the WIA to charge a price consistent with the full cost of providing the service. The WIA will subsidise the lower charge for candidates under 18.

The work necessary to establish and obtain approval of WIA assessment charges has demonstrated that the WIA is currently undercharging for examination services. A number of new costs have also been incurred. Inflation has added to existing costs. The WIA has taken out a new insurance policy covering the WIA and each individual Assessor against claims arising from alleged improper assessments. There are also additional costs arising from the provision of additional services under the proposed contractual arrangements (for example, the WIA will issue amateur certificates of proficiency to successful examination candidates under the proposed arrangements).

WIA costs and corresponding charges have been verified by the WIA's auditors and ACMA.

The WIA is a not-for-profit organisation established to promote amateur radio. The price increases are due entirely to increased costs, the adoption of full cost recovery and the provision of additional services. The larger part of the work associated with the conduct of assessments is still provided on a voluntary basis by people who believe that amateur radio is worth promoting and encouraging.

2009 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

March 2009

C Mar 7-8 ARRL International DX contest – Phone ##

- M Feb 12 NERG meeting
C Mar 14-15 John Moyle Field Day, 0100UTC to 0059UTC
NERG field station VK3CNE at Mt Macedon.
C Mar 14-15 RSGB 71st Commonwealth Contest – CW.
Promoting contacts between Commonwealth and mandated territories. 10-10UTC, 80/40/20/15/10m
H Mar 22 EMDRC White Elephant Sale, 10am-4pm, Great Ryrie School, Great Ryrie Street, Heathmont.
C Mar 23 – Apr 3 VK9LA DXpedition Lord Howe Island
Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group activate Lord Howe Island with a multi-national team of 16 operators with seven stations on two separate sites on all bands 160m–6m on SSB, CW and RTTY including the CQ WPX SSB.
<http://www.odxg.org/vk9la.htm>
C Mar 28-29 WPX SSB contest (Worked All Prefixes)
www.cqwp.com

April 2009

M Apr 9 NERG Meeting

May 2009

- C May 9 VK/trans-Tasman Contest – 80m Phone, 0800-1400UTC
<http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman>
M May 8 NERG meeting
S May 17 World Telecommunications Day. Callsign prefix AX may be used in lieu of VK.
C May 30-31 WPX CW contest (Worked All Prefixes)
www.cqwp.com

June 2009

- C June Winter VHF-UHF Field Day, actual date to be announced. www.wia.org.au
C June 6-7 Worked All VK Shires, 0600-0600UTC SSB/CW 80/40/20/15/10m
C June 13 VK/trans-Tasman Contest – 160m Phone 0800-1400UTC
<http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman>

July 2009

- C July Jack Files Contest - 80 Metre CW/SSB actual date to be announced. www.wia.org.au
S July 11-12 GippsTech 2009 - Eastern Zone ARC Inc Annual GippsTech technical conference - VHF, UHF & microwave focus. See www.vk3bez.org
C July 11-12 ARRL HF World Championships ##
C July 25-26 IOTA (Islands On The Air), 1200-1200UTC, CW/SSB, 80/40/20/15/10m
<http://www.vhfcc.org/hfcc/iota.shtml>

August 2009

- C Aug 15-16 Remembrance Day Contest, 0800 UTC 15 Aug to 0759 UTC 16th August 2009
S Aug 15-16 International Lighthouse/ Lightship Weekend, See details and entry forms at <http://illw.net>
C Aug 29-30 29th ALARA contest

September 2009

- C Sep 26-27 CQWW RTTY DX contest
October 2009

S Oct 17-18 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

November 2009

- C November Spring VHF-UHF Field Day, actual date to be announced. www.wia.org.au
C Nov 7-8 ARRL Sweepstakes – CW ##
C Nov 21-22 ARRL Sweepstakes - Phone ##

for ARRL contest details <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>

NOTE: always 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.



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ARDF & FOXHUNTING EVENTS

The Victorian Amateur Radio Direction Finding Group has the following events listed in their calendar. Many RadiO (a simplified form of orienteering involving radio direction finding) and ARDF events are held together with conventional orienteering events.

Friday night mobile transmitter hunts normally run on the 3rd Friday night of each month.

Event	Date		Map
RadiO	Sun, 15 March	Plenty River Melbourne Series	10 G4
FoxHunt	Fri, 20 March	Fox hunt	
RadiO	Sun, 29 March	Woodlands Melbourne Series	178 B6
FoxHunt	Fri, 17 April	Fox hunt	

FoxHunt	Sat, 2 May	Victorian Foxhunting Champs - Tentative Date	
RadiO	Sat, 9 May	Newstead/Maldon Night ARDF event	
FoxHunt	Fri, 15 May	Fox hunt	
RadiO	Sun, 24 May	Dale Creek Melbourne Series	909 E12
FoxHunt & MTBO	Sat, 6 June	Australian Foxhunting Championships & Aust. MTBO Championships	Mt Gambier
FoxHunt	Fri, 19 June	Fox hunt	
RadiO	Sun, 21 June	Maribyrnong Valley Melbourne Series	28 B10
RadiO	Sun, 28 June	Irishtown Hageby	

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	VK3UQ	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: 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

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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 12th March 2009

2009 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

Mar 12	NERG meeting
Mar 14-15	John Moyle Field Day, 0100UTC to 0059UTC.
Mar 15	ARDF RadiO event - Plenty River Melbourne Series (MELWAY 10-G4)
Mar 19	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
Mar 20	Friday night Fox Hunt
Mar 22	EMDRC Annual White Elephant Sale, 10am-4pm, Great Ryrie School, Great Ryrie Street, Heathmont.
March 24	NERG Tuesday group at the QTH of Ewen VK3OW and Janelle. Please RSVP.
Mar 26	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
Mar 29	ARDF RadiO event - Woodlands Melbourne Series (MELWAY 178 B6)
April 9	NERG meeting – first for 2009!
April 23	NERG coffee night meeting
April 28	NERG Tuesday group