



MAY 2009

NERG Inc.
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WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Everyone knows that mobile phone networks bite the dust whenever there is a disaster. Fixed line phones and most two-way radio systems also go into overload. Unfortunately it's just too expensive or technically impossible for everyone to call at once.

Fixed line telephone exchanges for instance only provide about 100 outgoing lines for every group of 1000 subscribers. If more than 100 people pick up the phone at once, you'll get busy tone. Providing enough switching equipment and trunk lines to guarantee that every call gets through during a once in 100 year disaster is just too impractical. For mobile phones, there just isn't enough radio spectrum to allocate every handset its own dedicated frequency and time slice.

Fortunately there are methods that can improve the reliability of mobile phones for those that really need them during emergencies. **David Underhill** will be talking about this subject at the May NERG meeting. Come and hear what he has to say and enjoy a cuppa afterwards.

All visitors welcome. Thursday night 14 May 2009.

Congratulations **NERGs on winning the John Moyle Field Day** again! Quite a surprise given the bad weather and relatively low scores. Fortunately our competitors entered other divisions this year, leaving VK3CNE slightly ahead of VK4WIS in the Multi-op, All Band, Phone Only section. Congratulations also to VK3ER winning the presidents cup on highest overall points, nearly doubled our score!

73, Mark Harrison,

VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

NEXT MONTHS NERG MEETING

Any offers to give a presentation of your favourite subject? Next month is your chance!

NERG will hold next month's regular meeting on **Thursday 11th June 2009**, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, MELWAY 21 C3.

NERG COFFEE SHOP NIGHT - 28 MAY

A quick reminder that the coffee shop night is held every fourth Thursday night at the club rooms (enter by kitchen door).

There is usually something to discuss or demonstrate informally over a cup of tea or coffee, or perhaps get some advice on your current projects, or play with the club radios.

60 CHANNELS FOR UHF CB

The ACMA is proposing changes for the UHF CB band as part of its ongoing 400MHz band spectrum review. It could see up to 60 channels being squeezed into the old 40 channel Citizens Band Radio Service (the CBRs).

Under the proposal the following changes would occur:

- Extension of the CB band by 6.25 kHz at the top edge.
- Reduction to 12.5 kHz channels for CBRs simplex channels.
- Retention of 25 kHz channels for the eight existing repeater channel pairs, the emergency channels (ch5 & 35), and the two

NERG NEWS

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

NERG Meeting:
14th May 2009
from 7.45 PM

Guest Speaker:
David Underhill
on
**Public Safety over
Cellular Networks**



COFFEE SHOP NIGHT 28th May

existing telemetry/telecommand channels (ch22 & 23).

- Review the coordination and assignment rules for repeaters.

New CB transceivers will be required to make use of the new narrower channels. These radios will need to switch between 12.5 kHz and 25 kHz bandwidths when working the wider band repeaters, emergency and telemetry channels. The ACMA accepts that old CB radios will initially interfere with the new channels but expects most of these to be replaced within a 5 year period (Good luck ACMA - lots of CBers and Amateurs hang on to their radios a lot longer than that - more than 25 years in many cases!).

For the full ACMA story see:

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_311684

JOHN MOYLE RESULTS

Results are out for the 2009 John Moyle Field Day and, most surprisingly, NERG's VK3CNE station won their division! Congratulations to all the team members and thanks to all the stations that exchanged numbers with us during the weekend. Scores for the first three placegetters in each division are listed below. See the WIA web site for all scores and in depth analysis by contest manager Denis Johnstone.

24 Hour Portable Operation – Multiple Operator

CallSign	Operators	Mode	Band	Score	QSL	Place
VK3CNE	Multi	Phone	All	2364	387	1/*
VK4WIS	Multi	Phone	All	2256	506	2/*
VK2HZ	Multi	Phone	All	1771	460	3/*
VK3FRC	Multi	Phone	VHF	3004	225	1/*
VK3UHF	Multi	Phone	VHF	2587	262	2/*
VK3JTM	Multi	Phone	VHF	2469	147	3/*
VK3ER	Multi	All	All	4573	589	1/**/*
VK2SRC	Multi	All	All	3291	654	2/*
VK2MA	Multi	All	All	1982	427	3/*
VK2AWA	Multi	All	HF	3774	1465	1/*
VK4IZ	Multi	All	HF	2758	1200	2/*
VK2BTW	Multi	All	HF	402	203	3/*
VK2AWX	Multi	Phone	HF	1162	581	1/*
VK2AOJ	Multi	Phone	HF	1096	548	2/*
VK1LW	Multi	Phone	HF	1000	500	3/*

24 Hour Portable Operation – Single Operator

CallSign	Operators	Mode	Band	Score	QSL	Place
VK4OE	Single	Phone	All	2057	174	1/*
VK2DLR	Single	Phone	All	206	44	2/*
VK3DAG	Single	Phone	VHF	1510	77	1/*
VK1DA	Single	Phone	VHF	1201	102	2/*
VK4HAM	Single	Phone	HF	854	427	1/*
VK5MFW	Single	Phone	HF	836	418	2/*
VK6ZN	Single	Phone	HF	394	197	3/*
VK1WJ	Single	Digital	HF	30	17	1/*

Six Hour Portable Operation – Single Operator

CallSign	Operators	Mode	Band	Score	QSL	Place
VK5ZT	Single	Phone	VHF	252	38	1/*
VK2FKAM	Single	Phone	VHF	210	23	2/*
VK1PE	Single	Phone	VHF	14	7	3/*
VK4ADC	Single	Phone	All	581	152	1/*
VK5AGZ	Single	Phone	All	550	94	2/*
VK2FDMB	Single	Phone	All	168	58	3/*
VK3HJA	Single	Phone	HF	290	145	1/*
VK4EV	Single	Phone	HF	202	101	2/*
VK2IO	Single	Phone	HF	154	77	3/*

Home Station – 6 Hour

CallSign	Operators	Mode	Band	Score	QSL	Place
VK2KDP	Home	0	0	255	169	1/*
VK2DAG	Home	0	0	196	128	2/*
VK3XXS	Home	0	0	158	102	3/*

Home Station – 24 Hour

CallSign	Operators	Mode	Band	Score	QSL	Place
VK4VDX	Home	0	0	633	437	1/*
VK5HRT	Home	0	0	582	376	2/*
VK2HBG	Home	0	0	544	362	3/*

Short Wave Listener – 24 Hour

CallSign	Operators	Mode	Band	Score	QSL	Place
ZL2AYZ	Portable	0	0	230	115	1/*

** President's Cup; * Certificate Awarded

SERG HAMFEST, MT. GAMBIER

The 2009 SERG Convention will be held on 6-7 June of the Queen's Birthday Weekend at the Scout Hall in Margaret Street, Mount Gambier. Contact details, accommodation, maps, program, rules available on web site at: <http://serg.mountgambier.org>

Fox hunting, stalls, home brew competition, Saturday night 4WD GPS/Radio expo, great company and post convention BBQ.

2009 WINTER VHF-UHF FIELD DAY

The VHF-UHF Field Day on 20-21 June provides operators with the opportunity to "head for the hills" and see how far they can work.

The Field Days have separate sections for single and multiple operator stations. The Field Day runs for 24 hours, but there are also 8 hour sections. Most club stations prefer to operate for the full 24

hours. The Field Days also generate plenty of activity from home stations, so there is also a separate Home Station section.

The scoring is based on grid locator squares. Each new square worked gives quite a boost to the score, and this encourages the entrants to operate from locations in grid squares that normally don't have a great amount of amateur activity.

There are no mode restrictions, except that all contacts must be simplex - contacts through repeaters or satellites are not allowed. There is plenty of FM activity, but one feature of the Field Days is a high level of SSB activity.

It is possible to do very well with only modest antennas if you pick a good hilltop. Another option, if your station is easily transportable, is to operate from more than one grid square during the contest.

The overriding aim of the contest is to get away for the weekend and have fun! After that, the aims are:

- To encourage more activity on VHF and microwave bands;
- To encourage people to work greater distances than usual by operating portable, and
- To provide opportunities for people to activate or work into new grid squares.

Rules are available on the WIA web site and AR magazine.

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

May 2009

- C May 9 VK/trans-Tasman Contest – 80m Phone, 0800-1400UTC, home.iprimus.com.au/vktsman
- M May 14 NERG meeting
- A May 16 Victorian Foxhunting Championships (VK3FOX)
- 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 6-7 Worked All VK Shires, 24hr starts 06:00UTC SSB/CW 80/40/20/15/10m
- H June 6-7 South East Radio Group Convention, Mt Gambier VK5. serg.mountgambier.org
- C June 13 VK/trans-Tasman Contest – 160m Phone 0800-1400UTC, home.iprimus.com.au/vktsman
- C June 20-21 Winter VHF-UHF Field Day, Full details www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuwh

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^{###}
- H July 18 Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club HAMFEST 09
- 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
FoxHunt	Fri, 15 May	CANCELLED!!!!!!	
FoxHunt	Sat, 16 May	Vic Championships	VK3FOX

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:

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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 14th May 2009

2009 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

May 9	2009 Moorabbin and District Radio Club Hamfest, Saturday, doors open at 10AM.
May 14	NERG meeting – Guest Speaker David Underhill on "Public Safety over Cellular Networks"
May 15	***NO Friday foxhunt – cancelled due to Vic Champs on Saturday
May 16	Victorian Foxhunting Championships, run by VK3FOX
May 21	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
May 26	NERG Tuesday Lunch Group
May 28	NERG coffee night meeting
June 4	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
June 6-7	SERG convention and Aust. Foxhunt Championships, Scout Hall Margaret St., Mount Gambier. Stalls, home brew comp. Saturday night 4WD GPS/Radio expo, great company!
June 11	NERG meeting – Guest to be announced
June 18	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
June 19	Friday night Fox Hunt
June 23	NERG Tuesday Lunch Group
June 25	NERG coffee night meeting