



SEPTEMBER 2009

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

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

At this late stage I haven't organised a guest speaker for the September meeting – what we desperately need is a meeting co-ordinator!

As a fill-in I will give a short talk about my other favourite pastime – Archery. It's not exactly related to amateur radio, but has many similarities as a high technology hobby for all ages. While bows are useful for launching antenna guys into trees, I'll explain why I don't use my bow in the suburbs! Apart from being a good indoor and outdoor sport for all ages, it provides an endless supply of short (although often bent) pieces of aluminium for building UHF Yagi antennas ☺

I know some NERGs have offered to talk on various subjects, but I often lose track of these, especially when the task of writing the NERG NEWS sidetracks me. Please feel free to remind me and set a date for your next presentation!

73, Mark Harrison

VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

LAST MONTHS MEETING REPORT

The August meeting of the NERGs saw the re-instatement of the NERG committee in the usual quick and no-nonsense manner. Marg presented the financial report which was duly accepted by all present. The NERG finances appear to be in good condition, and many members renewed their annual fees on the night, helping to maintain a good working bank balance for projects in the coming year. **If you haven't renewed your membership, please find details on doing so inside this issue.**

The annual birthday supper followed the AGM. In addition to the delicious pizzas from our sponsor Margherita Pizzas, there was also a birthday cake and other goodies to enjoy. A great deal of discussion followed between all that attended.

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP – MEETS NEXT ON TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

The group travelled across the Merri Creek once again to the home of Rosemary and Ian VK3QL for the August get together. On arriving most of us were very surprised to see Mark VK3PI, already well entrenched. The others present were Dave VK3JMB, Ernie VK3FM, Jim VK3KE, Gerhard VK3EWM, Ewen VK3OW, Greg VK3VT, and Mike VK3KMJ.

Many thanks to Rosemary for preparing a wonderful lunch of soup, beef casserole and a delicious dessert with cream, along with the usual pre lunch cheeses, dips and nibbles. Thanks Ian for the coffee and tea. Having Mark with us broaden the field of discussion and as he is a great yarn teller, generally added to the day, which was a full on talk fest that finished around 3pm. Thank you Rosemary and Ian for having us at your home.

NERG NEWS

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

NERG Meeting:
10th SEPTEMBER 2009
from 7.45 PM
Archery for Radio
Amateurs
Mark VK3BYY



Next COFFEE SHOP NIGHT
24th September

The next meeting will be at the home of Janelle and Ewen VK3OW on Tuesday 22nd September around 10am onwards. Please RSVP !!!!!

Cheers, Jim VK3KE

NEXT MONTHS NERG MEETING

NERG will hold next month's regular meeting on **Thursday 8th October 2009**, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, MELWAY 21 C3.

SPOTLESS SUN FOR 52 DAYS

During the period July-August 2009 we had 52 sun-spotless days, setting a new record that moves straight into 4th place in the longest spot-less periods recorded since 1849. Even the spots that broke the drought are now disappearing from view and all looks quiet again on the Sun. It appears that we are still bumping along the bottom of the Sun spot cycle with no change in sight. Check out current solar activity at: <http://www.solarmonitor.org/>

NERG membership fees now due

Full membership: \$30

Family membership: \$40

Concession (Pension or Full time student): \$20

Memberships may be paid at NERG meetings or by mailing a cheque to:

NERG, PO box 270, Greensborough, Vic., 3088.

Please also advise us of any changes in your Address, Callsign, Email, or Contact details.

Memberships fees are due in August each year (special exemptions for recent Foundation class students) (Sorry – no credit or electronic funds transfer available at this time)

NERG COFFEE SHOP NIGHT - 24 SEPT

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

SHEPPARTON HAMFEST

The Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club holds its 2009 HAMFEST on Sunday 11 October.

New and Used amateur radio gear and accessories. Indoors, all under cover.

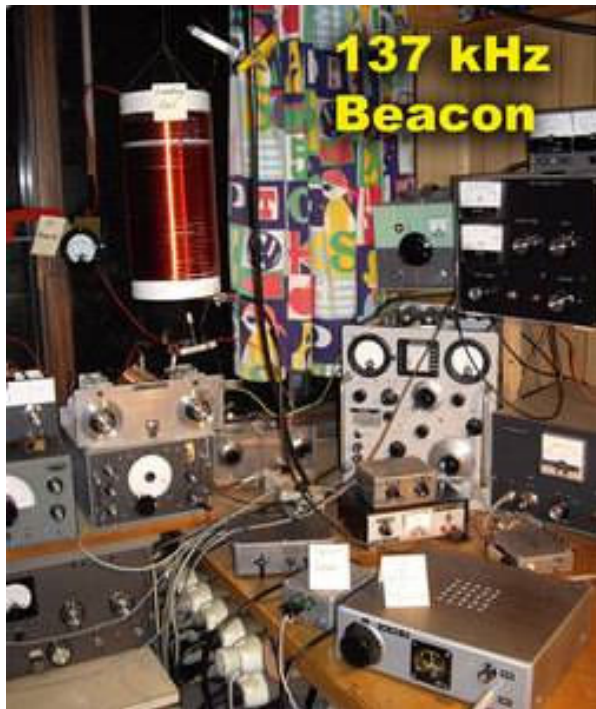
Entry \$5, doors open 10am.

Tables available \$10 (call Les VK3TEX & Tony VK3PNF)

Venue: St. Augustine's Hall, Orr Street, Shepparton.

(Vic Roads Map 273-M8, Orr Street is parallel and two streets to the East of the main Goulburn Valley Highway, between Nixon St and Balaclava Rd.)

137 KHZ BEACON ON THE AIR



Author: Peter Young - VK3MV via WIA News. 27/08/2009

Well known Amateur Radio Magazine author and experimenter, Drew Diamond, VK3XU, is operating a CW beacon on 137.4 kHz every Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evening. Drew has activated a 50 Watt transmitter (pictured right) into an inverted wire antenna from his Wonga Park QTH. Drew would like to receive signal reports, which can be sent to his email address: vk3xu@wia.org.au providing date, time, signal strength and grid locator (eg QF22ML). Due to the very low antenna efficiencies at this frequency, Drew estimates his effective radiated power is 6

milliwatts [this is after all the 2,000 meter band, where antennas are rather small compared to the wavelength! Ed.] Drew's signal has been heard in Melbourne, Sale and Sydney.

With the recent amendments to the Australian Radio Frequency Spectrum Plan, Advance Amateur Licensees can apply to the ACMA for an amendment to their existing station licence that authorises the use of the band on a secondary basis between 135.7 – 137.8 kHz.

Amateur operation in that band is subject to a maximum radiated power of 1 Watt (EIRP).

Application for a variation of licence to allow use on the new LF band should be made on ACMA form R057 (see the ACMA website) to the Licensing, Allocations and Information Section, National Licensing and Allocation Branch, PO Box 78, Belconnen, ACT 2616 accompanied by the ACMA fee of \$41.

ACMA amended the Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan in January to allow amateur operation on this LF band, allocated to the amateur service at the ITU's WRC in 2007, but has not yet amended the Amateur LCD or the Visiting Amateurs Class Licence to allow operation due, it says, to a lack of resources, and does not see itself being able to further progress the matter before the end of the current year.

THE RD CONTEST AT THE NERG

The RD contest was again a fairly quiet event this year with the NERG station VK3CNE only clocking up 75 contacts.

Greg VK3VT, John VK3XD, Bryce VK3FBGE, Wal VK3WZ, Mark VK3BYY and other NERG visitors manned the station for six hours on Saturday night. With only a dual band 2m/70cm vertical and a 20/15/10m beam we decided to restrict activity to the VHF/Phone/Multi-operator category. As it turned out nothing of interest was heard on the upper HF bands when we did the occasional band scan. This wasn't surprising given the rather poor weather conditions and marathon run of a sun-spotless month.

Working another club station was rare, perhaps because many had moved down the coast for the Lighthouse Weekend event and working only the HF bands.

Plans are afoot to improve our antenna situation and put in a better effort next year, particularly on 80 and 40 metres.

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

September 2009

C Sep 26-27 CQWW RTTY DX contest

October 2009

H Oct 11 Shepparton Hamfest, Orr Street, Shep. 10am.

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 ##

February 2010

H Feb 14 Centre Victorian Radiofest #3, Kyneton Racecourse, www.AmateurRadio.com.au

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

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.

Updates and further details from www.ardf.org.au

Type	Date	Event	Map
RadiO	Sat, 5 Sept	Glenfern Run	73 J4
FoxHunt	Fri, 18 Sept	Fox hunt	

RadiO	Wed, 30 Sept	Australian Championships Special RadiO Event. Browns Reef, near Bendigo	
Bush	Sat, 10 Oct	WMOC, NSW	NSW
FoxHunt	Fri, 16 Oct	Fox hunt	
RadiO	Sun, 25 Oct	Braeside Park	88 E8
Inter	Thu, 29 Oct	Region 3 ARDF Championships, Thailand	
FoxHunt	Fri, 20 Nov	Fox hunt	
FoxHunt	Fri, 11 Dec	Fox hunt	

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, 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

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 10th September 2009
Archery for Radio Amateurs

2009 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

Sept 3	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
Sept 10	NERG meeting
Sept 17	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
Sept 18	Friday Night Hidden Transmitter foxhunt
Sept 22	NERG Tuesday Lunch Group at the 3OW QTH (please RSVP)
Sept 24	NERG coffee night meeting
October 1	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
Oct 8	NERG Meeting.
Oct 11	Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, St. Augustine's Hall, Orr St, Shepparton
Oct 15	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
Oct 16	Friday Night Hidden Transmitter foxhunt
Oct 22	NERG coffee night meeting
Oct 27	NERG Tuesday Lunch Group
Oct 29	NERG Net – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm