



July 2010

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

WHAT'S ON AT NERG IN JULY

Each winter around twenty people get to experience the rugged terrain, amazing wildlife and extreme weather on Macquarie Island, entirely reliant on expeditioners' skills to keep the station running. In 2004-05 David, VK3KR had the privilege of serving as SCTO and operated as VK0MT - interesting things happened and best of all...

David WAS the DX!

Following the meeting there will be time for friendly chatter and delicious Margherita pizzas for supper!

73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

For those who journeyed to the West of the Merri Creek, the rewards were great, with the June meeting being held at the QTH of Ian VK3QL and Rosemary. The nibbles were excellent, especially the cheeses. Rosemary feed us in true Dona Hay style with pumpkin soup, lasagne with salad and lemon tart. The only issue was we could not consume it all!

Cheers, Jim, VK3KE

NEXT MONTH'S NERG MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **NERG Annual General Meeting** and election of office bearers will be held on the night of the August meeting, **8pm, Thursday 12 August 2010.**

Members are encouraged to nominate for office positions and help contribute to the running and development of the NERG. Some vacant positions will need to be filled. Experience is not necessary and new people with new ideas are encouraged to join the committee.

This year the Presidents position will become vacant as Greg is stepping down after many, many years in this position. Greg's diverse knowledge of all things amateur radio has been a great benefit to the NERG. All is not lost though as Greg, VK3VT, will still be around to provide advice where needed and is looking forward to the next field day contest.

Nominations for office positions and agenda items must be received by the NERG secretary one week before the meeting. Nominations will be called for on the night if no prior nominations have been received, and votes will be taken only if more than one nominee exists for a position.

The AGM will be held at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, MELWAY 21 C3.

NERG MEMBERSHIPS NOW DUE

Membership fees become due in August – these can be paid in person at NERG meetings. The treasurer will be at the AGM in August to accept memberships.

Alternatively please fill out a membership form (from the NERG web site) with your up to date info and post to the NERG mail box (see back page for address and fees).

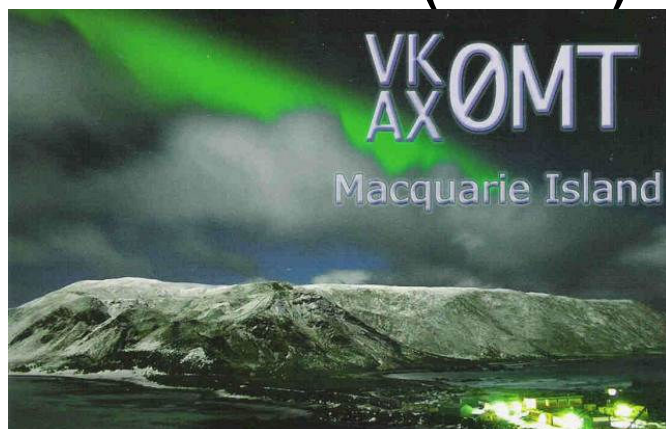
NERG NEWS

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

NEXT MEETING:

8th JULY 2010

Amateur Radio Adventures on Macquarie Island - David VK3KR (VK0MT)



Next Coffee Night: Thursday 22nd July

JOIN THE NERG!

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. The club holds regular formal and informal meetings for discussion of radio subjects. We also run classes and examinations for people of all ages wanting to become licensed amateur operators. Other activities include radio contesting from the club rooms and portable field days.

Full membership is only \$30 per year, and if you join now, you'll get a full year on membership!

Visit our web site at www.nerg.asn.au or email contact@nerg.asn.au for more details, or better still, come along to a meeting!

GGREC HAMFEST 17 JULY

The Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics is conducting a Hamfest Sale at the Cranbourne Community Hall on the corner of Clarendon and High streets, Cranbourne on STAURDAY 17 July 2010. (High Street is part of the South Gippsland Highway, Melways 133 K4).

Forty tables of goods will be presented at this large venue.

Doors open at 8:30am for stall holders and at 10:00am for buyers. Admittance fee is \$6, and goes towards the upgrading of facilities at the Club Shack & meeting room. Take away food, cold drinks, tea and coffee will be available.

Entry includes a ticket in the Door Prizes, drawn at 1:00pm. Great prizes including products from Yaesu (FT270R) and Jaycar. Additional tickets can be purchased on the day. For further details please visit www.ggrec.org.au/hamfest

NUMBER STATIONS

Have you ever tuned across the shortwave bands and heard strange voices reading out endless groups of numbers? These strange transmissions are referred to as “Number stations” and operate from unknown locations for unknown purposes.



There is much speculation about why numbers stations exist. Some say they are nothing more than weather data transmissions, while others say they are coded message to international spies. They could also be stations set up to jam broadcast stations (or conversely, that some broadcast stations are set up to jam the number stations!). Evidence indicates that some transmissions are coming from military installations, whilst others may be run by smugglers.

Originally number stations broadcast in Morse code, but these days they often use computer generated voices. Although called Numbers stations, they may also transmit groups of spoken letters or short musical tunes. Number groups may be repeated for several minutes before the next group is sent, presumably so that a message isn't lost in a noise burst. Some stations repeat the same group or short musical tune sequence for hours. They could be a simple mission status message - or it could just be an idle broadcast station staking a claim on a frequency in-between programmes.

Number stations vary in power from small mobile stations to powerful stations capable of being received in any agent's basement in the world. Big spy agencies could use undetectable digital transmission these days, however discovering an undercover agent with a sophisticated digital receiver for such transmissions would be a dead giveaway. On the other hand, owning a SW receiver is fairly normal although it restricts reception modes to AM. As a result, AM number stations are still going strong and are even increasing in activity! There is some speculation that AM stations also carry digital data messages in hidden FM subcarriers.

Collecting numbers stations is a popular pastime with many groups of short wave listeners logging as many stations as they can. Unfortunately number stations don't send QSL cards, so instead they record transmissions and compare what they heard via enthusiast's web sites. There are also quite a few recordings and documentaries on Internet video sites such as YouTube. A four CD sound library is even available commercially.

Transmissions have been used for artistic purposes too. A numbers station can be clearly heard amongst the music of a pop song being played backward on YouTube. Perhaps the 'Number Nine' in the famous Beatles song was not a subtle lyric after all but really interference from the local numbers station during the recording session?

I'll leave it to you to do the undercover work to find out more! Here are a couple of places to start:

<http://www.southgatearc.org/enigma2000/introduction.htm>

<http://www.archive.org/details/ird059> (The Conet project)

MT GAMBIER CONVENTION RESULTS

The SERG convention held over the Queens Birthday holiday in July saw a combination of hamfest (with commercial and used dealers), foxhunting and homebrew competitions.

Numbers were up on previous years with 140 registrations, and many partners and harmonics in tow.

The VK100WIA callsign was used during the convention with over 400 contacts being made to celebrate the 100 years of the WIA. The club operated from the SERG emergency trailer, generating some excellent publicity.

This year was also the 40th year that Bevin VK5TV competed in foxhunts. SERG proudly presented Bevin with a certificate of achievement and appreciation for all his years of competing in the Championship.

The annual Australian Fox Hunting Championships ran in diverse terrain in and around Mount Gambier. The usual friendly rivalry and loaning of equipment between teams was present even though competition was very competitive. The competitor's only complaint was that some events weren't challenging enough!

The individual sniffer hunt had 17 competitors, with Bryan VK3YNG drawing equal points with Adam but winning on an earlier finish time. VK3FAST won the teams competition for this event, with VK3BLN and VK3BLI teams not far behind. The second Individual sniffer hunt saw the lead change with Adam beating Bryan by only a few points. The teams also swapped places with VK3BLN first and VK3FAST second.

In the mobile hunts VK3FAST, VK3BLN & VK3YQN struggled for the lead. VK3BLN won the Infamous Night "Multi-Leg" Fox Hunt, followed by VK3BQN and VK5ZBR. VK5ZBR put in a good effort winning two hunts on Sunday but in the end couldn't beat the Victorians for the trophy. Overall Team results for the weekend were: VK3BLN 48 VK3FAST 43, VK3BLI 38, VK3YQN 35, VK5ZBR 33 VK5ZT 23, VK5TV 19, VK5KB 10.

Winners of the homebrew competition were Bob VK3ZL' with a professional looking 160m amplifier, with Brian VK3YNG second for his control unit for fox hunting.

Further prizes went to Alan VK3XPD for his 1296MHz high power amplifier, Chris VK5MC for his Softrock 9.0 kit build, John VK5JA renovated one valve transceiver from a WW11 fighter. John VK5DJ entered an adapter system to show that projects can also be simple ones. There were 7 entries in total. Go to serg.mountgambier.org for more results and photos.

ASTEROID CATCHER

The Japanese Hayabusa asteroid sampling satellite successfully touched down near Woomera as planned on June 13. The 510 kilogram space probe re-entered the Earth's atmosphere similar to an asteroid. The heat-shielded capsule parachuted to a safe landing in the South Australian outback while the spacecraft was incinerated in a large fireball. International scientists observed the 12.2 km/s entry of the capsule from NASA's DC-8 airborne laboratory, using a wide array of imaging and spectrographic cameras to measure the physical conditions during entry.

The return capsule was predicted to land in a 20 km by 200 km area in the Woomera Prohibited Area, South Australia. Four ground teams surrounded this area and located the re-entry capsule by optical observation and a radio beacon. The capsule was successfully retrieved along with two parts of the heat shield, which were jettisoned during the descent.

Minute particles were confirmed in the sample container of the HAYABUSA when carefully unpacked in Japan. Scientists are currently checking if captured particles are from the ITOKAWA asteroid and not contamination from the Earth. Updates and videos: hayabusa.jaxa.jp/e/index.html

2010 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

C Jul 11 WRTC-2010 IARU HF Championship Contest,
<http://www.wrtc2010.ru/>

H Jul 17 10am-2pm HAMFEST Gippsland Gates.

August 2010

C Aug 14-15 WIA Remembrance Day Contest – HF/VHF/UHF

S Aug 21-22 Internat Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend, illw.net

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

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

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 8th July 2010

Amateur Radio Adventures on Macquarie Island with VK3KR (VK0MT)

2010 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

July 8	NERG July Meeting, 7-45pm, Briar Hill Community Hall.
July 15	NERG NET – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
July 16	Friday Night Transmitter Hunt
July 17	GGREC hamfest (10am, SATURDAY, \$6 entry), Cranbourne Public Hall, Sth Gippsland Highway
July 22	NERG coffee shop
July 27	NERG Morning tea/lunch group 10am-2pm
July 29	NERG NET – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
Aug 5	NERG NET
Aug 12	NERG August Meeting and AGM
Aug 14-15	WIA Remembrance Day Contest – HF/VHF/UHF
Aug 19	NERG NET
Aug 21	International Lighthouse Weekend
Aug 24	NERG Morning tea/lunch group 10am-2pm
Aug 26	NERG coffee shop