



December 2003

NERG Inc.  
PO Box 270  
Greensborough  
Victoria 3088

### WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH - THE NERG END-OF-YEAR BBQ

There will NOT be a meeting at the Briar Hill Primary School this month.

This month the Williams have invited NERGs and their families to their home for the NERG Christmas BBQ. This is a friendly evening of talking while enjoying good food. Past NERG members are very welcome at the BBQ so please pass on the invitation.

**6:30pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**1 Noorabil Court Greensborough**  
**\$7 per person for BBQ and salads.**  
**BYO seat and drinks.**

Please RSVP to Greg so he can get the catering just right.  
Phone 9432-0563 or email to vk3vt@nerg.asn.au

### WHAT HAPPENED LAST MONTH?

Jim Baxter, VK3DBQ, gave an interesting and informative talk about propagation indexes and electronic QSL "cards". With some practice the propagation indexes can be used to predict how good your chances are at picking up some DX on the HF bands. These three simple numbers can mean the difference between a working dog piles or working a lawnmower!

You can use eQSL and the Log Book of the World (LBTW) to verify contacts electronically these days. Jim recommends a logging program called DX4WIN. The logs from this program can be automatically submitted to the electronic QSL bureau, saving hours of writing out cards and worrying if your green stamps (\$'s) will be lost in the mail.

### NO MEETING JANUARY

As usual, there will not be a meeting in January. The next meeting will be Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 2004. The topic is yet to be determined. As always, suggestions and offers are always welcome.

### TUESDAY MORNING TEA GROUP

The Gainfully Unemployed last met on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> November at the home of Gerhard, VK3EWM, with usual high standard of catering and enjoyment.

There will not be a December meeting as it falls just before Christmas. However there will be a January meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2004 at a venue to be determined. (Listen out for Jim VK3DBQ on the NERG net 146.575 MHz in the new year for further details or call him on 9467 1253).

# NERG NEWS

Incorporated 1985 in Victoria  
Reg No A0006776V - <http://nerg.asn.au>

7.45 pm, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

December 2003

1 Noorabil Court, Greensborough



Merry Christmas and  
a safe New Year  
to all from the NERG!

### DONATION GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED



The NERG greatly appreciates the financial assistance received from local company PWB Anchor to be used to maintain and upgrade the NERG tower, repeaters, and beacons.

These facilities are available to amateurs around the world, providing an important social and emergency communications network.

PWB Anchor is a local manufacture of chain and lifting equipment with many of its quality products proudly made in Bundoora using Australian steel. Products include winches (for radio towers!).

Help support the NERG and Australian industry by selecting PWB products next time you are in the market for chain and lifting gear.

### MURRAY MARATHON

The Red Cross Murray Canoe Marathon runs 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec every year to raise money for the Red Cross. WICEN Victoria still requires volunteers to operate radios along the route. As well as providing a safety network that can be relied upon where public communications often fails, it is also a lot of fun!

Please contact Carol Tremellen on 5962 6098 if you can assist, even if it's only for a couple of days.

## EDITORS RAVINGS

Well it's been a busy year again, culminating in the big IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships 2003 (even the name is big!). It is a great relief to me that all the screen-printing, programme guides and posters were finished in time for the event! (And as a bonus we made it onto WinTV !!!). Now that it is over there will be several NERGs appreciating 5 or even 6 hours of sleep each night...

ARDF has certainly dominated my involvement in amateur radio this year and has probably dominated NERG NEWS content. However there have been brief dabblings in repeater and beacon maintenance. Although I'm disappointed in not to get the 6 meter and 23 cm beacons running, there may yet be a 3rd peak in the solar cycle to make it worthwhile before summer's end.

Fortunately there have been many contributions from other NERGs on more wide ranging activities. For instance, the John Moyle Field Day contest is still a popular event - and twice a many NERGs attended this year's Jamboree On The Air.

Other NERGs were kept busy providing communications for various rallies, ski races, runs, walks, and the gruelling trail-walker events through WICEN. And we can't forget the great job WICEN operators did during the bushfires earlier this year (let's hope they won't be required in 2004!)

Some great talks balanced the NERG outdoor activities with several being given by our members. Many of these talks were given at our new home at the Briar Hill Primary School - a location Don VK3KDT found after months of searching and negotiating.

Activities such as the Gainfully Unemployed morning teas, the slow Morse group (running 3 years now!), and the Thursday Night Net have been quietly taking place throughout the year.

Also on the sidelines we've had David VK3THY getting the packet radio system up and running (with help from Warren VK3XSW and Rod VK3XRW).

Mark VK3XXX continues to donate valuable Internet connections that keep the IRLP and Echolink connections to our repeater going.

Our DX team, Jim VK3DBQ and Dave VK3JMB, continue to keep me informed of all the latest rare countries and the fact that HF is still very much alive and kicking!

A new association between NERG and WANSARC formed this year through the efforts of Don VK3KDT and Mark VK3PI, is likely to see further combined activities between the two clubs in 2004.

Finally, our keen bunch of Novice students are sitting for their licenses this week and should be on the air in the New Year.

All in all it's been a good year for the NERG and we look forward to making it even better in 2004. Amateur TV is likely to be one of those activities. It may also be time to increase our membership numbers - especially with the opening up of HF to all amateurs. It would also allow us to diversify our interests even further without burning out some key NERGs :-)

Best wishes for the New Year,  
Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG Editor.

## BRIMBANK PARK ARDF

The most recent local ARDF competition was held at Brimbank Park in Keilor on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Weather was warm and occasionally sunny - good practice as it turned out for the International championships in Ballarat.

This was a combined event, being held together with the TK Metro 9 orienteers. The park is located on the bend of a river in a fairly deep ravine, meaning most of the transmitters were uphill from the start.

Both 2m and 80m transmitters were used and were located at different points. Many of these were located at the top of steep cliffs along the river, which meant that signals were good throughout the park.

Many thanks to Greg VK3VT and Adam VK3YDF for setting the 80m & 2m courses respectively.

## 2003-2004 EVENTS

- Dec 11th** NERG Christmas BBQ
- Dec 26-Jan 18** Ross Hull Memorial VHF/UHF Contest  
See [www.wiavic.org.au](http://www.wiavic.org.au) for rules
- Dec 26th to 31<sup>st</sup>** The Red Cross Murray Marathon  
WICEN Victoria still requires volunteers. Contact: Carol Tremellen 5962 6098.
- Jan 1<sup>st</sup>** WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party - To celebrate the end of the Morse code test requirement for operation below 30MHz. See [www.wiavic.org.au](http://www.wiavic.org.au)
- Jan 5<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** 20th Australian Jamboree AJ2004 - 20th Australian Jamboree AJ2004, Woodhouse, Adelaide, South Australia. Special event station VI5JAM.
- Jan 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>** Summer VHF - UHF Field Day
- Jan 24-25<sup>th</sup>** CQ 160m contest (CW)
- Jan 25<sup>th</sup>** NERG Tuesday Morning Group
- Feb 12th** NERG MEETING - topic to be announced.
- Feb 29<sup>th</sup>** Healesville Amateur Radio Group annual Hamfest
- March 20<sup>th</sup>** EMDRC White Elephant Sale
- April 25<sup>th</sup>** Harry Angel Memorial Sprint  
In memory of Harry Angel VK4HA (sk 1998) who became the world's oldest radio amateur aged 106.

Collected from AR magazine, WIA Vic, Vic ARDF Group

## PACKET REPORT

The NERG Packet System (VK3CNE) is nearly ready!

It consists of a PC running Linux for the BBS and CLX for the DX Cluster. The radio side for 2 meters consists of an MFJ-1270B TNC into a Philips FM-828 144.700 MHz (1200 baud). On 70 cm another MFJ-1270B TNC runs into an Icom IC-207H (freq to be determined)

The system will be housed at VK3VT's QTH. The antenna system will be a dual band Diamond X series 2/70 combination using a diplexer and will live atop VK3VT's tower. Hopefully the coverage will be OK for most people.

The stumbling block to date has been getting reliable software to run the DX Cluster. There are many versions out there, with most having issues compiling, but we finally have a good one.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people for their valued support in putting this project together:

Rod Taylor VK3XSW for many hours slaving over the computer loading software and finding reliable DX software.

Warren Stirling VK3XSW for the Philips FM-828, checking the TNC and Radio combinations, cabling and final QA.

Mark Beacham VK3XXX for the Computer hardware, Icom IC-207H, Antenna, Power Supply.

Don Haslam VK3KDT for the loan of his MFJ-1270B

Greg Williams VK3VT for the Packet Home and Tower.

The logo for Hy-Q International features the text 'Hy-Q' in a large, stylized, green font with a white outline, and 'International' in a smaller, black, serif font below it.

And finally a special thankyou to Mr. Robert Cooper of Hy-Q International for donating crystals for the FM-828.

If you require crystals, lookup [www.hy-q.com.au](http://www.hy-q.com.au)

We hope to be on air before Christmas.

**If anyone has any questions, you can contact me by e-mail at [davida@broadcastrentals.com.au](mailto:davida@broadcastrentals.com.au)**

David Aston  
VK3THY

## ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS A GREAT SUCCESS



Our Australian ARDF Team - well done!



**PHOTOS** (clockwise from top):  
Koala spotting outside registration desk;  
The WICEN antenna; JA8ATG operating the DX station; Jim VK3DBQ  
presents Ozzie Women's team medals;  
Korean competitor takes Didgeridoo lessons; The famous Kazakhstan Team;  
Kazakhstan team member taking Boomerang classes

By all accounts the IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships were a resounding success.

The whole event went off successfully with everyone enjoying the event and all societies taking home medals in several categories each. Countries represented were Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Kazakhstan and USA. Unfortunately the Mongolian and Ukrainian teams were unable to attend due to visa and travel problems. Fortunately two Ukrainians have been staying Australia for some time and world champion Liliya Gluschenko was allowed to compete in the Australian team with the blessing of the IARU committee.

The team from Kazakhstan blitzed the field when it came to fastest times in all categories they entered. The Australians representing WIA did extremely well against the other region 3 countries, especially when you consider that many in the team had only ever competed in a couple of local ARDF events! Japan, China, and Korea also did very well, especially in the senior categories. Sole USA competitor Bob Cooley won both the Super Vets events.

The facilities at the University of Ballarat were excellent, with ample catering and accommodation. The only trouble encountered was their rather secure Internet connections, which prevented us uploading results to our web sites during the events.

Help from the Victorian Orienteering Association, Ballarat Amateur Radio Club, WICEN, and the many Victorian amateurs that pitched in was greatly appreciated. Geoff VK3VR, Greg VK3VT, Bruce VK3TJN and others that stayed up most of the night to get the start list in order should be congratulated for their mammoth efforts. For the uninitiated, the start list sets the order that competitors are sent out onto the field and follows an incredibly complicated set of rules. Even custom-made software has difficult with this task and resulted in Geoff (back in Melbourne) working until 4 am on several nights. Thank goodness for the Internet and mobile phones or we'd still be figuring it out!

In addition to the ARDF competitions, an orienteering Street-O event run by Bayside Kangaroos proved popular with our visitors.

Some of the Australian team highlights were:

### 2m/VHF event

Junior M19:	Gold	Rob Fell (NE)
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Nathan Wyss (AR)
	5 <sup>th</sup>	David Hudson (NE)
	Teams Result: Silver	
Open M21:	Gold	Adam Scammell (AR, BK)
	Silver	Bruce Paterson (AR, BK, NE)
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Tony Langdon (AR)
	Teams Result: Gold	
Senior M40:	5 <sup>th</sup>	Neil Barr (BE)
Veteran M50:	5 <sup>th</sup>	Ian Stirling (AR, NE)
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Haustorfer (AR)
	Teams Result: Silver	
Super Vets M60:	Bronze	Micheal Hubbert (AR, BK)
Senior W35:	Silver	Liliya Gluschenko
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Diggins (AR)
	Teams Result: Gold	

### 80m/HF event

Open M21:	Gold	Adam Scammell (AR, BK)
	Silver	Mark Diggins (AR)
	Bronze	Tony Langdon (AR)
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Doug Canning (AR)
	Teams Result: Gold	
Senior M40:	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bryan Ackerly (AR, BK)
Veteran M50:	5 <sup>th</sup>	Ian Stirling (AR, NE)
Super Vets M60:	Bronze	Micheal Hubbert (AR, BK)
Senior W35:	Silver	Liliya Gluschenko (only 18secs off gold)
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Diggins (AR)
	Teams Result: Gold	

**For full results, splits, and more photos, see  
<http://www.ardf.org.au>**

**The NERG Inc.** Reg No 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 each 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	Mark Beacham	VK3XXX	0417-597399
Treasurer	Marg Baxter	VK3VOJ	9467 1253
Committee	Betsy King	VK3HBK	
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
	John Weir	VK3ZRV	
Social Sec.	Don Haslam	VK3KDT	0409 024597
Repeaters	Mark Harrison	VK3BYY	9435 3043

**Meetings**

2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45 PM (excepting Dec. & Jan.)  
Briar Hill Primary School, Gladstone Rd, Briar Hill (off Sherbourne)  
(Melway map ref 21-B1)

**Classes**

NERG occasionally runs classes and exams for Amateur license candidates.

**Callsigns and Repeaters (25km North East of Melbourne)**

Club call - VK3CNE <http://www.qsl.net/vk3cne>

6m rpt VK3RMH FM 52.550 MHz in 53.550 MHz out

70cm rpt VK3RMH FM 433.325 MHz in 438.325 MHz out

IRLP node 6350, EchoLink node 140587

6m beacon VK3RMH CW 10 Watts 50.295 MHz – Intermittent

10m bec'n VK3RMH CW 20Watts 28.2565 MHz

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. NERGs often monitor this frequency and the 70cm VK3RMH repeater.

**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 (between 7.30-9.30 p.m. please)

*post:* 266 Nell Street West, Watsonia, 3087

*email:* [vk3byy@nerg.asn.au](mailto:vk3byy@nerg.asn.au)



**NERG**

North–East Radio Group VK3CNE  
Incorporated 1985  
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

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## NERG BBQ - at Greg's QTH !

**7:30 PM Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2003**

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**2003/2004 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD)**

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