



February 2004

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
Greensborough
Victoria 3088

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH -

This month it's a get back together and discuss activities over the holiday break. Also some discussions on this year's John Moyle Field Day (20-21st March).

Also there will be a viewing of the ARDF championships highlight (the DVD of the event is now available for purchase - see the link from www.ardf.org.au)

As usual, visitors a very welcome and hot drinks and bickies will be supplied for a small gold coin donation.

See you on the 12th!

WHAT HAPPENED LAST MONTH?

NERGs enjoyed a very pleasant night at the VK3VT QTH to celebrate the end of the year. As usual, our hosts Greg and Denise made us all feel welcome and fed us all very well. It was great to see a few new faces and many of the 2003 Novice class (who we hope are now enjoying the air-waves!).

Many thanks from all the NERGs.

NEXT MONTH

Although the main theme for the March meeting is still being developed, there will undoubtedly include some last minute preparations for the John Moyle Field Day expedition to Mt Macedon. As always, suggestions and offers are always welcome!

TUESDAY MORNING TEA GROUP

The next NERG morning tea will be on Tuesday 24th Feb 2004 at the home of Alan VK3JPK at 10.00am. (Listen out for Alan or Jim VK3DBQ on the NERG net 146.575 MHz FM for further details or call Jim on 9467 1253).

MURRAY MARATHON

NERGs John VK3ZRV, Andrew VK3HFT & Georgia, and Gerhard VK3EWM were among a team of 30 that helped WICEN provide communications for the Red Cross Murray Marathon this summer. Amateur radio is still essential as mobile phones still can't hack the hard going in this terrain, especially with the huge influx of mobile users passing through the area at this time.

This year's event was far from uneventful. Eight WICEN members and their spouses had to admit being defeated by various illnesses, including one case of Chicken Pox, another hospitalised by dehydration, and an eye injury while putting up an antenna. Fortunately all recovered. Another had car troubles (they aren't made to go along roads on their roof!) but still battled on. Fortunately the large WICEN team of about 30 was able to carry on and reach the New Years eve celebrations at Swan Hill.

This year the second section of the river, between Tocumwal and Picnic Point was not used due to heavy rain making access extremely

NERG NEWS

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

7.45 pm, Thursday 11th

February 2004

Briar Hill Primary

General Get-together and welcome
back for 2004

difficult. Instead the paddlers had to repeat the Yarrowonga section twice!.

The race started off with plenty of fast flowing water, but after a week of hot weather it slowed towards the end, although this was still better than recent drought years.

NERG - JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY 2004

The NERGs are starting to get serious about the JMFD contest again. We aim to set up a really professional station with rostered operators and a degree of coordination never seen before. Every 1x1 signal will be scratched out of the noise so as to our score (while still having fun!) **Can it be done?**

The NERG is also inviting anyone interested, licensed or not, to join in, or just come and visit our Mount Macedon field station and join in the team effort.

Anyone interested in joining the team should contact our secretary (see back cover). As usual the station will be at the very end of Lion's Head Road, on the North/East peak of Mount Macedon.

MISC

- Mark VK3LI has moved from suburbia to the country - now located in the Western end of VK3 he is classed as a DX contact ! All the best with the new lifestyle Mark!

- Andrew VK3HFT and Georgia Battle are engaged to be married. All the best for the future! Andrew's next challenge is to persuade Georgia to complete the NERG Novice classes!

ARDF EVENTS FOR 2004

The Victorian ARDF Group has a busy year planned for 2004, starting off by organising some "Street-O" events for the Victorian Orienteering calendar. This is part of the ARDF group's affiliation with the Victorian Orienteering Association. It's also a chance for the ARDF'ers to return the huge favour many orienteers provided at the Region 3 ARDF championships last December.

ARDF events and combined events with the orienteers are planned for the rest of the year at the rate of one per month.

2004 ARDF/Fox-OR Events (Feb-May) :

Feb Sunday 22: ARDF in conjunction with bush-O opener, Daylesford, run by Jack Bramham VK3WWW.

April Sun 11th: Fox-or as part of Easter 4 day street/park carnival. (Training Event) Jells Park 1:10000 colour map, Ian Stirling.

April Sat 24: Vic Foxhunt champs (TBD)

May Sun 9th: ARDF Combined with Metro at Christmas Hills Greg Williams

June Sat 12th: Mt Gambier ARDF (Training Event) TBD.

Street-O: These are not ARDF events just orienteering events run by the club:

March 8th: DAREBIN PARK AR Ford Park, Davidson St
HEIDELBERG WEST (run by Tony Langdon VK3JED)

PACKET REPORT

Unfortunately time ran out before Christmas on the NERG Packet System, VK3CNE, but it's nearly ready!

All the main players, VK3THY, VK3XSW, and VK3XRW get heavily involved in the broadcasting side of some major sports events at this time of year so we will have to wait for the return of more sensible TV programming before they get time for more important radio activities :-)

300 OHM FEEDER ANYONE?

Stephen, VK3JNH, went to build another G5RV antenna and found that the 300 ohm slotted (ladder-like) TV ribbon is nearly impossible to buy. Apparently the slotted ribbon has a much lower loss and is highly recommended for the matching section of the G5RV.

Fortunately Stephen has found a supplier in Brunswick that will make him slotted ribbon by actually cutting the slots into standard solid ribbon manually! Apparently there isn't much call for it these days and they offered to sell him the slotting machine at a bargain price!

Stephen has kindly offered to take add interested NERGs to his order in this possibly final purchase of ribbon cable. Price is around \$0.72 per metre including GST.

Please contact Stephen as soon as possible at:

swarrillow@hotmail.com

NEW 70CM BEACON AT GEELONG

The new VK3RGL 432 MHz beacon is now up and running. David VK3XLD and Chas, VK3BRZ installed it this afternoon.

Here are the technical details:

- Nominal carrier Frequency: 432.530 MHz.
- Modulation: FSK Morse. Key down shifts the carrier approximately +700 Hz.
- RF Power: 20 watts at the feedpoint of each of two yagis.
- Antennas: Two 5-element yagis each of nominally 8.5 dB gain and half-power beamwidth of about 45 degrees. The "west" antenna is aimed at a bearing of 293 degrees, the "north east" antenna at 38 degrees.

The beacon switches its transmission between two directions at 15-second intervals. When transmitting "west" it sends "de VK3RGL W" followed by an unkeyed carrier. When transmitting to the north-east it sends "de VK3RGL NE" followed by an unkeyed carrier.

Reception reports and comments are most welcome, either directly to me or via the vk-vhf forum. I am especially seeking reports of this beacon's frequency accuracy and both short and long term frequency stability from stations who are confident of their ability to measure these parameters.

I am also mindful that to "local" stations this beacon is a whacking great signal. If anyone feels their 432 MHz weak-signal operation is compromised by this beacon, please discuss this with me.

Many thanks to David VK3XLD for his assistance with this project, and to Lee VK3PK who wrote the ident. controller program.

Chas, VK3BRZ via the vk-vhf newsgroup on

www.yahogroups.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR HAMS!

Amateurs are making the most of the new privileges that became available in 1st January 2004. The big changes are the dropping of Morse Code for HF operations, and the expansion of the 80m "DX" window.

The 80m "DX" window allows VK amateurs to work other countries that don't have bands overlapping our primary 80m segment. The window has been expanded, with Unrestricted, Intermediate and Limited Licensees now having access to 3.776 - 3.800 MHz. This increases the narrow band from 6 kHz to 24 kHz, allowing four times as many Sideband QSOs to take place simultaneously!

WIA Victoria member Peter Forbes VK3QI, with assistance from Barry Wilton VK3XV and the WIA/ACA Liaison Committee have been working on this one since 1995. They had to contact 200 private licensees that held some 1,500 fixed and mobile service licences in the band 3776-3800 kHz. They found that the band was either not used, or was only used during daytime. This supported the WIA's application to the ACA to expand at amateur allocation.

Well done to all involved!

via WiaVic

CONFUSION OVER HF BAND PRIVILEGES

VK no-code licensees are finally here!

However, there appears to be a little confusion about the regulations that come into effect on 1 January, 2004.

WIA Victoria has issued the following simple guide.

Access to HF bands:

The amateur regulations have changed to allow Novice-Limiteds and Limiteds to operate on the following HF bands. Novice-Limiteds will have access to the Novice HF frequencies on the 80, 15 and 10 metre bands. Limited licensees receive extended privileges giving access to all HF amateur bands with identical operating privileges to the Intermediate and Unrestricted licensees.

Band plan observance:

Novice-Limiteds and Limiteds planning to operate on HF are urged to obtain a copy of the WIA band plans so they can see where to operate, and on what mode of transmission. The band plans can be found in the Australian Radio Amateur Callbook or downloaded from the web site at www.wiavic.org.au

CW transmissions:

The bandplans include sections for CW (Morse code) operation only. Novice-Limiteds and Limiteds may use CW on their HF bands if they wish - they do not have to pass a code tests to use this mode.

Callsign blocks and licensing:

Until the ACA completes its review of the Amateur Service over the next 12 months or so, all five types of amateur licence Novice-Limited, Novice, Limited, Intermediate and Unrestricted will continue to exist. All existing licences, certificates, and callsign blocks remain unchanged. This means, for example, that holders of a Limited callsign (three letter suffix Txx, Uxx, Xxx, Yxx or Zxx) cannot, without passing the required code tests, change it for a callsign in either the Intermediate or Unrestricted blocks of callsigns. Novice-Limiteds with an Hxx suffix callsign also need to pass the 5 wpm code tests to obtain a Novice callsign.

from WIA Vic News

ARDF R3 Championship DVD Now Shipping

The Wait is over!

After many days and nights slaving over the edit suite keyboard, the Region 3 ARDF Championship DVD momento is now available for purchase for just \$29.95 plus postage and handling.

You'll get a 45 minute video featuring the highlights from the 2m and 80m event, as well as snippets of the Street-O event, Boomerang throwing, Sovereign Hill and BBQ.

There's also an interview with Geoff Hudson explaining the intricacies of the timing system and how it worked! Foreign language interviews and the full and complete scores in html format!

To get your copy, download our order form from <http://www.e-comm.com.au/ardf/>

and fill it out, then fax it to us on (03) 9888 7805 or simply ORDER ONLINE with our secure online order page.

Postage within Australia is \$5.50. Outside Australia \$3.50 plus postage stamp value. All prices are in Australian Dollars.

JOHN MOYLE FIELD DAY CONTEST 2004

from Eric VK4NEF

Well, once again those who enjoy a weekend in the bush should be planning for this year's John Moyle Field Day.

The contest takes place on the 3rd full weekend in March each year, and runs from 0100 UTC Saturday to 0059 UTC Sunday.

This year it is held 21-22 March 2004.

If anyone wishes to contact me to discuss rules etc, my home phone number is 07 3390 5664, and my address is as shown in the Log Submission section below. I wish all entrants good luck, and look forward to hearing you on air during the contest!

Please note new Email address: jmfd2004@wia.org.au

Also, check out latest info at: <http://www.wia.org.au/contests/>

The aim is to encourage and provide familiarisation with portable operation, and provide training for emergency situations. The rules are therefore designed to encourage field operation.

The contest takes place on the 3rd full weekend in March each year, and runs from 0100 UTC Saturday to 0059 UTC Sunday, 21-22 March 2004.

The contest is open to all VK, ZL and P2 stations. Other stations are welcome to participate, but can only claim points for contacts with VK, ZL and P2 stations.

No rule changes this year. Single and Multi-operator portable station

can choose to enter the 24 or 6 hour categories as Phone, CW, or All mode, and as HF only, VHF/UHF only, or All Bands.

Home and SWL single operator entries may be either 24 hour or 6 hours, All mode, All band.

Stations score the following points per QSO based on distance:

Distance	HF	6m	2m & above
0-49 km	2	2	2
50-99 km	2	10	10
100-149 km	2	20	20
150-199 km	2	30	30
200-499 km	2	50	30
500 km and greater	2	2	30

2003 JMFD RESULTS:

Results are out for the 2003 John Moyle Field!

The NERG station, VK3CNE with 4732 points, did well in the Multi-operator, all-band, all-mode, 24-hour portable section. Our local rivals, VK3ER from the EMDRC did rather better though, gaining at least twice the points for every contact back into Melbourne. Being able to work a large number of home based EMDRC members also helps! Fortunately VK3ER entered a different category, letting us take 3rd place for the all mode multi-operator 24 hr section :-)

Results for the John Moyle Field Day 2003

SITE	TIME	OPS	BANDS	MODE	SCORES							
					VK4WIS 6576 *	VK2SRC 5062 *	VK3CNE 4732 *	VK3ER 8370 *	VK4BAR 2858 *	VK5BP 2410 *	VK3ANR 2268	VK4CO 754
Portable	24 Hour	Multi-op	All-bands	All-mode	VK3AEF 4580 *							
				Phone	VK3ATL 3398 *							
			VHF/UHF	All-mode	VK5BAR 520 *	VK4WIT 330 *	VK3EG C 130 *					
				Phone	VK4OE 2594 *	VK3KG 2234 *	VK5MX 272 *	VK5UE 154				
		Single-op	All-bands	Phone	VK5NJ 296 **	VK3JS 156 *						
				CW	VK3VTX 1408 *							
			VHF/UHF	Phone	VK4EV 110 *	VK4BAF 104 *						
				HF	VK5SR 1906 *	VK4WID 308 *	VK3APC 158 *					
	6 hour	Multi-op	All-bands	All-mode	VK3FRC 264 *							
				Phone	VK1AI 118 *							
			HF	All-mode	VK2KUR 66 *							
		Single-op	All-bands	Phone	VK5AVQ 644 *	VK5ACE 280 *	VK3VP 50 *					
			VHF/UHF	Phone	VK5VH 18 *							
				Phone	VK2UQ 42 *							
HOME	24 hour	Single-op	All-bands	All-mode	VK2CZ 315 *	VK3DB Q 294 *	VK4IRW 175 *	VK2ASU 77	VK2EA 41	VK2IGS 33	VK5ATQ 57	VK4WIL 255 #
	6 hour	Single-op	All-bands	All-mode	VK3KTO 111 *	VK4RF 108 *	VK2GR 72 *	VK2AKB 64	VK3VD 18			
SWL	24 hour	Single-op	All-bands	All-mode	Roy Ford 109 *							

= Encouragement Award

** = Presidents Cup Winner VK5NJ

DIGITAL AUDIO BROADCASTS HIT TOWN!

The Australian Broadcasting Authority and the ABC quietly began Digital Audio Broadcasts test transmissions in Melbourne late last year.

Digital Audio Broadcasts (DAB) are likely to produce higher fidelity sound than current FM radio broadcasts and may also carry information data. There is also an opportunity to provide many more lower quality channels in a given bandwidth compared to FM.

Currently there is a broadcast signal that is 1.6 MHz wide signal centred on 206.4 MHz (in the channel 9A TV band). By it's spectrum it appears to be some kind of OFDM type modulation (very square power spectra) but we have been unable to determine just which DAB system is currently being tested.

Digital Audio transmissions are being trialled in many parts of the world in the VHF/UHF bands while many commercial satellite broadcast services already transmit digital audio in Europe.

The ABA is encouraging interested parties to trial DAB systems such as Eureka 147, Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM), In-Band On Channel (IBOC), ISDB-TSB and any other existing or emerging system that makes use of the broadcasting services bands.

So far the ABA has endorsed trials in Sydney and Melbourne by Commercial Radio Australia (CRA) and Broadcast Australia (BA) respectively, for a period of up to eighteen months. Trials are not limited to technical purposes and may be designed to test market or other aspects of digital radio.

Ultimately the results of the trials will be taken into consideration when the government chooses a DAB system for Australia.

I wonder if we will see any home made receivers being built during the trials (with the same enthusiasm that home built TV sets and FM tuners appear some 40 or so years ago)?

For more on Eureka 147: www.worlddab.org/eureka.aspx

For more from the ABA, see: www.aba.gov.au/abanews/news_releases/2003/73nr03.htm

CONCRETE FLATTENS BATTERIES?

Well it will if you drop a large enough piece onto a battery! But has anyone ever told you not to store lead-acid batteries a cement floor or they'll go flat?

This article may put that theory to rest - or maybe not....

It should interest all of us busily charging our batteries for the next field day - after all, the top of Mt. Macedon IS made of concrete!!!

Reprinted from the Battery Answer Man, Interstate Batteries, USA by Technical Services Manager, Gale Kimbrough:

Well, I'm writing an article about an age old question ... "Will a battery be damaged or mysteriously discharged by allowing it to sit on concrete?" At least once a month, someone calls and asks this question or asks for clarification on the subject.

Fact or Fiction

Well, is it true? Will a battery be damaged or discharged by letting it sit on concrete? NO!

Why then do so many people believe that concrete is a battery enemy? Years ago, batteries could have been electrically discharged by sitting on a concrete floor. My dad, for instance, owned an automotive shop for many years. In fact, I grew up on a creeper. My dad reminded me time after time, "Set that battery on wood! I know batteries discharge on concrete because I've witnessed it!" And he was right at that time.

Historical Basis

You see, the myth that concrete drains batteries does have some historical basis. Many, many years ago, wooden battery cases encased a glass jar with the battery inside. Any moisture on the floor could cause the wood to swell and possibly fracture the glass, causing it to

leak. Later came the introduction of the hard rubber cases, which were somewhat porous and had a high-carbon content. An electrical current could be conducted through this container if the moist concrete floor permitted the current to find an electrical ground. The wise advice of the old days to "keep batteries off concrete" has been passed down to us today, but it no longer applies because of the advanced technology of today's batteries.

Today's Technology

For more than a decade, automotive and commercial battery containers have been made of polypropylene, which is a highly insulative material. In fact, the Interstate Batteries poly material is at least five times more insulative than the old hard rubber. Also, tremendous technological improvements have been made in the seals around the posts and the vent systems, which have virtually eliminated electrolyte seepage and migration.

Battery Discharging

The fact is, all batteries self-discharge whether they're sitting on the shelf or on concrete. This is why we regularly rotate your inventory. As the temperature increases, a battery's self-discharge level also increases. Some lead acid batteries discharge 4% - 8% per month at a temperature of 80°F. The level of self-discharge is also contingent upon the type of lead plate alloy plus the age and cleanliness of the battery.

If the battery has a surface layer of acid or grime, which is electrically conductive, it self-discharges more rapidly. This surface layer may actually allow you to measure the DC voltage across the battery's poly case (using a 10 meg-ohm digital voltmeter). For that reason, we recommend that you always keep batteries clean, whether they're in storage or in a vehicle.

Grandfather Clause

You may now be thinking that you know more than your grandfather, who tells you that batteries stored on concrete will be damaged. Next time your grandfather says that, I recommend that you just say "Okay" and continue about your business. I'm a grandfather now, and I know that we like to have our way and we like to be right. If my grandson, for instance, tries to tell me that concrete won't damage a battery, you know what I'll say? I'll say if you drop a battery on concrete, it will be damaged.

Interstate Batteries, c/o Battery Answer Man

12770 Merit Drive, Suite 400, Dallas, Texas 75251

http://www.interstatebatteries.com/www_2001/content/about_us/curren/current.asp#

NERG Editor's Notes: Although this article indicates there is no harm in leaving batteries on cement floors, others have argued that temperature gradients inside the battery could increase self discharge rate. They argue that concrete floors are cold, leading to cold electrolyte in the cells and creating differences in electrochemical potentials between the top and bottom of the battery. I'm not keen on this idea as concrete is actually a pretty good thermal insulator and the electrolyte can easily convect to equalise the temperature anyway. I guess it's another one of experiments to do one rainy day.... and I'm sure the arguments will continue for a long time to come anyway!

How NOT to store a battery:::



2004 EVENTS

Feb 12th NERG MEETING - topic to be announced.

February 22-23rd CQ World-Wide 160M Contest SSB
Info <http://cq-amateur-radio.com> (160 Rules)

Feb 29th Healesville Amateur Radio Group annual Hamfest

February 29th Central Coast Amateur Radio Club Field Day - Wyong, Wyong Racecourse, NSW.
Info: www.terrigal.net.au/~vk2ydh/ccarc/fieldday

Feb 28-29 New Zealand Jock White Memorial Field Day

March 11th NERG Meeting

March 20-21st John Moyle Field Day - NERG at Mt Macedon

March 21th EMDRC White Elephant Sale

April 8th NERG Meeting

April 17 Australian Post Code Contest

April 25th Harry Angel Memorial Sprint - CW/SSB
In memory of Harry Angel VK4HA (sk 1998) who became the world's oldest radio amateur aged 106.

May 13th NERG Meeting

May 15th QRP Day (Revised rules) - CW/SSB

May 22nd VK/trans-Tasman Contest - SSB
See Bruce Renn, VK3JWZ, Info: home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman

June 5th VK/trans-Tasman Contest - CW

June 10th NERG Meeting

July 3-4th GippsTech 2004, Churchhill
The technical conference of the WIA Eastern Zone Amateur Radio Club. Informal dinner Friday evening July 2. Conference dinner Saturday July 3.

July 3rd ZL Memorial Contest - 80 Metres

July 17th Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Hamfest
Cranbourne Public Hall, cnr. High & Clarendon Streets, Cranbourne

July 17th VK/ZL Trans-Tasman 160 Metres Contest (Revised rules)

August 14-15 Remembrance Day Contest

October 2-3 Oceania DX Contest - SSB

October 9-10 Oceania DX Contest - CW

October 8-11 World Wide YL Meet
hosted by the Korea Ladies' Amateur Radio Club in Seoul, Korea. Info: Chae Do Sook HL2KDW
hl2kdw@hotmail.com

November 13th VHF/UHF Spring Field Day

December 26th Ross Hull Memorial VHF Contest
(runs until January 10, 2005)

But that's not all! Here are just a few of the events in the ARRL calendar - Full details at www.arrl.org/contests

Feb 7 - FYBO (Freeze Your Butt Off) Winter QRP Field Day (USA) CW, 1500Z - 2300Z, Scoring includes a temperature multiplier!
www.extremezone.com/~nk7m

Feb 7 Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO Party, 0001Z Feb 7-2359 Feb 8, 10 m only

Feb 7-8 XE International RTTY Contest, 1800Z Feb 7 to 2400Z Feb 8, www.fmre.org.mx

Feb 14-15 CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, 0000Z Feb 14 to 2400Z Feb 15, Info: www.cq-amateur-radio.com

Feb 14-15 RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest - CW, 2100Z Feb 14 to 0100Z Feb 15, www.rsgbhfcc.org

Feb 14 Asia-Pacific Sprint - CW, 1100Z-1300Z Feb 14. Info: jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

Feb 14-15 Dutch PACC Contest - CW/SSB, 1200Z Feb 14-1200Z Feb 15, www.dutchpacc.com

Feb 21-22 ARRL International DX Contest - CW, 0000Z Feb 21--2400Z Feb 22, <http://www.qsl.net/yl-issb>

Feb 28-29 CQ WW 160-meter SSB Contest, 0000Z Feb 28-2400Z Feb 29 (see Jan QST, p 98)

Mar 2 DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona" - RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover, 1100Z-1700Z Mar 2 www.darc.de/referate/dx

March 6-7 ARRL International DX Contest -Phone, 0000Z Mar 6-2400Z Mar 7 (see Dec 2003 QST, p 96)

March 7 EU EME Contest - any mode, 0000Z Mar 6-2400Z Mar 7, Info: info@dubus.de

March 13-14 RSGB Commonwealth Contest - CW, 1000Z Mar 13-1000Z Mar 14, British Commonwealth stations only. Info:<http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>

Mar 13-14 YL International SSB System QSO Party -Phone, 0000Z Mar 13-2400Z Mar 14, www.qsl.net/yl-issb

March 21 Russian DX Contest - CW/SSB, 1200Z Mar 20-1200Z Mar 21, Info: www.rdxo.org

March 28 CQ WW SSB WPX Contest - SSB, 0000Z Mar 27- 2400Z Mar 28 (CW is May 29-30), Info: www.cqwpw.com

Dates should be independently confirmed, but should be correct.

Collected from AR magazine, WIA Vic, VKham website, Vic ARDF Group, NERG. For more info:
<http://www.vkham.com/contest> , & <http://www.wiavic.org.au>

SOME IMPORTANT STATISTIC!

Did you know?

- 31 Australians have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.
- 19 Australians have died in the last 3 years by eating Christmas decorations they believed were chocolate.
- Hospitals reported 4 broken arms last year after cracker pulling incidents.
- 101 Australians since 1997 have had to have broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet.
- 18 Australians had serious burns in 1998 trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth.
- A massive 543 Australians were admitted to casualty in the last two years after opening bottles of beer with their teeth or eye socket.
- 5 Australians were injured last year in accidents involving out of control scalextric cars.
- 3 Australians die each year testing if a 9V battery works on their tongue.
- 142 Australians were injured in 1998 by not removing all the pins from new shirts.
- 58 Australians are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.

and finally:

- 8 Australians cracked their skull in 1997 after falling asleep (passing out) while throwing up into the toilet.

YEP! its great to be Australian!

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 becn 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



NERG

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

MEETING this Thursday!

7:30 PM Thursday 12th February 2004

2004 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD)

Feb 12th	NERG MEETING - topic to be announced.
Feb 22 nd	ARDF in conjunction with bush-O opener, Sunday, Daylesford, run by Jack Bramham VK3WWW see www.ardf.org.au
Feb 29 TH	Healesville Amateur Radio Group White Elephant Sale - 10am-2pm, Sunday, Healesville Memorial Hall, Maroondah Highway. Contact Gavin VK3TLN ph 5968-8482.
Feb 29 th	Central Coast Field Day - Wyong, N.S.W.
March 11th	NERG MEETING - topic to be announced.
March 20-21st	John Moyle Field Day - NERG station on Mt. Macedon, Lions Head Rd.
March 20 th	EMDRC White Elephant Sale - Great Ryrie Primary School, Heathmont, 49-k11
April 11 th	Fox-Or as part of Easter 4 day Orienteering street/park carnival, Jells Park
April 8th	NERG MEETING - topic to be announced.