



June 2004

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
Greensborough
Victoria 3088

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH -

Ever dreamed of working 7,700 QSO's over a long weekend? Our speakers this month did and averaged 1.2 QSOs/minute!

Peter VK3QI and Jack VK3WWW will be showing us how it was done during their DX'pedition last Easter, along with Keith VK3FT and Tony VK3TZ, to Baudin Rocks (aka Godfrey Island), a small island 8 kms off the port of Robe, South Australia.

There special event station, VI5BR, commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the death of Captain Nicolas Baudin, the French explorer, who died in late 1803 on the island of Mauritius during his return to Europe after exploring the Australian coastline. Captain Matthew Flinders named the rocks after his famous encounter with Baudin in 1802 off the South Australian coast.

Baudin Rocks is a closely protected Conservation Park and a special permit had to be obtained for 4 operators to land and operate for a limited period. Operating dates were very dependant on weather conditions, which can be very unpredictable at any time of the year.

The VI5BR team will repeat its presentation at the EMDRC AGM on 2nd July.

As usual, NERG welcomes visitors. Hot drinks and bickies will be available for a gold coin donation.

SUMMARY OF THE MAY MEETING

Another month has gone by already and yes, another night filled with all sorts of interesting items to watch and listen to. At very short notice David VK3THY and Mark VK3BYY prepared and gave us a first class exhibition on what we can expect from Packet Radio (Including the occasional glitch).

David provided an excellent talk, starting with the history of Packet Radio down to the use it receives today, complimenting many points with on screen displays. Then after a little fun and fiddling David and Mark established two Packet Radio stations that they then used to "talk" to each other, with David projecting his display onto a screen for us all to see.

When the Packet Radio discussion finished David gave us a quick tour of many other magical amateur radio things you can play with on a PC. He has very kindly made a listing of these and their download sites (see page 6).

Our thanks to David and Mark.

The NERG offer an invitation to any person interested in Amateur Radio to visit us on any club night.

Don, VK3KDT

NERG NEWS

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

**7.45 pm, Thursday
10th June 2004
Briar Hill Primary
Peter VK3QI & Jack VK3WWW
Island DX'peditioning**



Finding new islands to activate can be tough!
Fortunately Baudin Rocks is a fraction than
this one operated by BS7H...

TUESDAY MORNING TEA GROUP

Dave, VK3JMB and the fairy princess Carol admirably handled the NERG morning tea last month. The food just kept coming and soup was most appreciated on a cold winter's day. The fellowship was wonderful with Ian VK3BGE, Gerhard VK3EWM, Ernie VK3CEW, Steve VK3JSE, Greg VK3VT and Jim VK3DBQ. A number of important issues, of a technical and political nature, were discussed in-depth with great intellect, hi hi.

The next NERG morning tea will be on Tuesday 22nd June around 10 am at the QTH of Gerhard, VK3EWM.

No doubt Jim VK3DBQ, recently elevated in status to Grandfather, will have photos of new grandson James Tomas to show off. Grandmother Margie and parents Rochelle and Andrew are apparently pretty please as well! Best wishes from all at the NERG.

(This event is held every 4th Tuesday on the month - listen out for Jim VK3DBQ on the NERG net 146.575 MHz for the location or call him on 9467 1253).

NEXT MONTH

All suggestions and offers will be gratefully accepted!

AMATEUR FOUNDATIONS THOROUGHLY SHAKEN UP

Huge changes are taking place in Australian amateur radio.

Ten years ago these changes seemed fanciful, however this month we see the ACA releasing it's new plans for amateur licensing, and at the same time the WIA state and federal divisions are merging into ONE national WIA organisation!

The ACA's new Amateur License Conditions have been shaped by their recent review that included meetings with amateurs all over Australia, and a huge input from the WIA.

By now licensed amateurs should have received a copy of the report in the mail so I won't repeat it here. However the brief summary below may encourage the non-amateurs amongst us to join the amateur ranks - no excuses now!!!

Perhaps the most important change is the reduction of five license classes into two levels, with the addition of a new "foundation" entry-level license. It's aimed at getting people into amateur radio with a minimum of fuss while leaving a few sufficient differences that make striving for an upgrade worthwhile.

The changes are, in summary:

Interference protection for other services

No big changes here - however guidelines on resolving interference issues will be included in the Act. This will help clarify each parties responsibilities in resolving difficult interference issues.

Three-tiered license levels including new Foundation Licence.

See below...

Morse Code on all bands:

Morse code will be removed from the syllabus for all levels. All amateurs will be allowed to use CW without examination.

Increased power levels:

Power levels were not increased to 1.5kW as some requested. However the limit is now expressed in Peak Envelope Power (PEP), so modes such as FM, FSK, and CW will get a 6 dB boost. Foundation level may use up to 10 Watts PEP, Standard level to 100 W, and Advanced to 400 W.

Callsign Administration.

4 letter callsigns will be available. There may be some rearrangement of callsign blocks to match new licence levels.

Outsourcing and Issuing of licenses:

Callsign and certificate management will be outsourced. No change to license examinations and issuing for now.

Encoding of particular transmissions:

Encoding of information will be allowed for emergency communications, and for command and control signals for repeaters and remote stations. Encoding is still not allowed on international transmissions.

Third Party Communications:

Third party traffic will be allowed between Australian stations and those in other countries with similar agreements in place.

Connections to the Public Telecommunications Network:

Amateur stations will be allowed to connect to the public networks provided the operator has measures in place to minimise the possibility of non-amateurs gaining access to the amateur bands.

Other changes place the onus on originating operators to make sure their transmissions through repeaters do not come out on bands for which they are unauthorised.

Internet Linking

The Fact Sheet issued in 2002 will be clarified and updated with the changes to 3rd party traffic and public telecom connections.

Minimum competence level:

The ACA will continue to verify operational and technical qualifications for amateur operators.

Operating parameters - purity, stability:

ACA continues to impose limits in accordance with the ITU requirements.

Callsigns during emergency service operations:

Callsigns may be used less frequently during emergencies.

Amateur communications during disasters.

Previous regulations that only applied to Natural Disasters now apply to all types of disasters.

Reciprocal Licensing:

CEPT (European countries) may soon allow reciprocal operations without obtaining temporary license when visited.

Satellite Service:

No change

A brief summary of the new license levels:

A new "Foundation" level for new amateurs, will provide easier access to the amateur service.

Foundation (entry) level allows 10 Watts PEP Voice and Morse Code modes (without CW exams) on 80m, 40m, 15m, 10m, 2m and part of 70cm, with an unmodified commercially produced transmitter. No data or wideband modes are allowed.

Requires reduced level of regulations and theory exam. Practical training/assessment of operating procedures and operating equipment.

Novice & Novice-limited's become "Standard" level, with 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m and all bands from 10m to 5.8GHz (ie everything except the WARC and 160m bands). No more "Novice" segments within bands. The new power limit is 100 Watts PEP in any mode (FM and CW operators rejoice!). Existing Novice modes.

Limited, Intermediate and Unrestricted's become "Advanced" level. Nothing much new for unrestricted. All may apply for 2 letter calls when they are available. 400W PEP for all modes.

Changes affecting all levels include:

Power limits are now specified only in Watts PEP, so while SSB and AM remain unchanged, constant amplitude carrier modes like FM, FSK, CW can run four times the previous power level.

Radios can now be connected to the public telecom networks, provided only appropriately licensed operators can access the radio. While this was already allowed for with IRLP and Echolink, it is now open to more experimentation with remote radios, etc. (No phone patches to home though - unless they are licensed!).

Regulations will be simplified. For instance the table of allowable modulation modes and their complex Emission codes will be reduced to a maximum bandwidth allowed on each band and descriptive words for the modulation type.

ONE WIA

It sounds like the name for a political campaign, but what it really means is that virtually overnight the Federal WIA and all the State divisions have merged into one national body!

I never thought I'd see the day, especially since the WIA (the worlds oldest radio club) has traditionally slowed everything to a glacial pace, but here it is!

And the fall out of all this? There should be more efficient administration of things like memberships. States will still have their own services when it makes sense, such as local QSL bureaus, legal advice of towers and interference, and the running of repeaters and broadcasts. WICEN also retains its current structure.

For the time being, WIA Victoria, Inc. remains a company and will require all it's members to vote before it could be dissolved (later this year).

Questions about current affiliations with clubs such as the NERG remain - in particular what happens to public liability insurance?

The First Board of the National WIA is to be:

President	Michael Owen VK3KI
Vice President	Ernest Hocking VK1LK
Director	Glen Dunstan VK4DU
Director	Ewen Mcleod VK4ERM
Director	Trevor Quick VK5ATQ
Director	Phillip Wait VK2DKN
Director	Edward Thrift VK2ARA

VK3CNE NERG PACKET NOW ON AIR !!!

The NERG packet node, VK3CNE, is now on air! After a period of troubleshooting, the NERG packet and bulletin board is now operational on 144.700 MHz. A second portal will appear in the 70cm band shortly.

DX cluster information is being broadcast and the local email is working. Mail forwarding is still to come but once working will mean you can send email via packet to nodes all around the globe.

Log into VK3CNE-1 for normal mail and BBS.

Log into VK3CNE-7 for the DX Cluster.

Ironically, the Australian Packet Group was recently disbanded through lack of interest after several decades of promoting and coordinating packet.

Most amateurs have all they need in the shack already - so give it a go. Minimum requirements are a radio and a PC with sound card. You've got nothing to loose!

VK-TRANS-TASMAN CW CONTEST

The 80m CW version of the VK/TransTasman contest runs this Saturday night - June 5th, from 0800-1400 UTC (6 pm-midnight local time). The contest is designed to encourage activity between all Australian and New Zealand stations. This is an ideal little contest for the occasional or beginner tester, as it doesn't need a big commitment in time or effort. Rules and scoring are too complex to list here, but contest manager, Bruce Renn, VK3JWZ, has a web page with them all at:

home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman

Don't forget the 160m Phone/CW contest on Sat 17th July.

WICEN EXERCISES

WICEN is always looking for new members to join their dedicated team and so holds regular exercises to train and maintain their radio skills. Often these are fun events with several exciting ones coming up in the next few months.

The biggest and most spectacular event this year will be the **World Hot Air Balloon Championships**, to be held in Australia for the first time with over 140 balloons from 38 countries. WICEN will provide communications support at the event to be held at Mildura in late June. Details of this event as well as car and bike rallies are listed below:



June 26th - July 3rd - World Hot Air Championships, Mildura.

Event coordinator: Peter VK3JUG ph: 5022-2278

email: pnorris@ncable.com.au

3 checkpoints and net control, 2 sessions of 2-3hrs each day.

Info: <http://www.2004worldsballoons.com>

November 27/28th - Kona 24hr Mountain Bike Race, Redesdale

Event coordinator: Gordon VK3FGC ph:5339 2427

Email: Gordon.cornell@bigpond.com

3 checkpoints & net control for duration of event.

Info: www.fullgaspromotions.com.au/24hour.html

June 6th - Kenda Navigation Rally, Mount Disappointment

A motorbike rally on bush roads in the Mt Disappointment area, just north of Kinglake.

Event coordinator: Peter VK3YZP ph: 5772 1292

June 12-14th - Mallee Rally, Sealake, North/East Victoria

Event coordinator: Carol 5778 7518

2-3rd October - Rally of Melbourne, Toolangi/Yarra Valley

Event coordinator: Mark VK3XMU ph: 9849 0501

New members are always needed to join the dedicated team of WICEN (Vic) operators. You will experience a sense of achievement and satisfaction, and further enhance this wonderful hobby of amateur radio. For further details on activities and membership please contact Bruce Bathols VK3UV, ph 9580 6424, or email vk3uv@wia.org.au
State Coordinator: John Kerr, VK3BAF
Secretary: Mark, VK3XMU secretary@vic.wicen.org.au
WEB: <http://www.wicen.vic.au>

Event details from John VK3ZRV, federal WICEN guru.

40TH SOUTH EAST RADIO GROUP CONVENTION 2004 - MT GAMBIER

It's on again this Queen's Birthday weekend, June 12-13 !
The SERG Amateur Radio Convention also hosts the
Australian Fox Hunting Championship.

Venue: A&H Halls, Pick Avenue Showgrounds, Mt Gambier,
South Australia.

More info: Wayne VK5ZX on (08) 87254335 or 0407 718908
or email: vk5zx@internode.on.net

Call-in: 2m Repeater 146.900 and 70cm Repeater 438.325

All events except event 2 (and possibly events 3 & 5) will start
from the Show Hall

SATURDAY 12th JUNE 2004

09:00 Hall opens for setting up 'trade displays only'.

10:00 - 11:00 Practice fox hunts (from the hall). This is a free
trial hunt to test the gear. Foxes on 146.550 and 439.025.

13:00 - 16:30 Registration & entry to the hall.
Admission of \$8.00 covers both days.

1200 - 1400 Event 1: Distance Based Fox Hunt (by AREG)
This year's event will have 4 transmitters going
simultaneously on 146.525, 146.550, 439.000 & 439.025.
Three of the four transmitters need to be found.

1430 - 1630 Event 2: ARDF Event by Dennis VK3BQZ.
Starting location will be announced on the day.

1700 - 1725 Event 3: Sniffer hunt on 2 metres - with up to 10
transmitters. This will make the sniffer hunts much more
fun. Below are the frequencies that we may use, but may run
10 at a time. Somewhere nearby. The frequencies are
144.000, 144.250, 144.500, 144.750, 145.000, 145.250,
145.300, 145.500, 145.700, 145.750

Event 4: 1930 The Infamous Night Multi-Leg Fox Hunt
- legs: 2m, 70cm., 10m, & 6m.
Each leg will be hunted in the above order, with the event
finishing around 11.30 p.m. SA time. It is imperative that
teams are contactable on ch.6 repeater (146.900) at all
times. Any team that withdraws from this event and doesn't
advise SERG will be disqualified from Sunday's Events.
Frq: 146.525 FM, 439.025 FM, 28.450 USB, 52.100 FM

SUNDAY 13th JUNE 2004

08:30 - Registration & entry to the hall
Admission fee of \$8.00 covers both days

0930 - 0950 Event 5: 2m Sniffer Hunt (as for event 3)

1000 - 1145 Event 6: Two Metre Hidden Transmitter Hunt.
1st. Leg 146.525 MHz. 2nd. Leg 439.000 MHz.
3rd. Leg Hidden Tx. 146.000 MHz.

1300-1330 Event 7: Judging of the Home Brew
(3 sections catering from Novice to Expert). A very kind
anonymous donor has again provided some really useful
trophies. Please enter your projects in support of home
brewing.

13:00 - 13:50 Event 8: 6m Fox Hunt on 52.100 MHz FM.

13:55 - 14:35 Event 9: 80m. Fox Hunt. 3.585 MHz LSB.

14:40 - 15:20 Event 10: 2m. Fox Hunt. 146.525 MHz.

15:25 - 16:05 Event 11: 1.2 GHz Fox Hunt on 1296.000 MHz

17:00 - 17:30 - Trophy Presentation

Some New Conditions for 2004

- (1) Events 1, 2 & 7 do not count towards the overall
Championship.
- (2) Scoring for events will be changed to allow every team to
score points instead of just the first few. For example we
may start with 20 points for first, 19 for second etc. thereby
creating more interest for all concerned. Actual scoring for
each event may vary slightly, but the above principle will
apply. Full details on scoring for each event will be
available on registration.

DRIVE SAFELY AT ALL TIMES

Catering will be by the widely renowned connoisseur of the
culinary art - Kevin VK5KJ and his partner Judith, both
brought at great expense from distant Worrolong.

CHRISTMAS HILLS ARDF RESULTS

An 80 metre ARDF event was held in conjunction with the
Christmas Hills Orienteering event on Sunday 9th May 2004
(Mother's Day).

A total of seven competitors took part covering the reasonably
long and hilly course set by Greg VK3VT with assistance from
Doug VK3JDO. Transmitters 2,3 and 5 were located on or near
the top of hills while 1 and 4 were in valleys. With the start and
finish located at the Christmas Hills primary school (bottom of
the map) the course had transmitters 2 and 5 located in the
southern area; 1 & 4 were located in the central zone and 3 was
on the top of One Tree Hill near the top of the map. Greg's
comment was - "you pay for all the map - you might as well use
all of it!". As usual the School community provided an
excellent range of snacks including kransky sausages; a range of
soups, cakes, sweets and tea and coffee - very welcome and
tasty.

After looking at the report of the last event held on this map I
was very impressed with the performance of the competitors.
Last time no one found all 5 transmitters within the 120
minutes allowed. However like the previous event, there were a
number of slips and falls, luckily no one knocked themselves
out as Mark Diggins (VK3JMD) did last time.

<u>Competitor</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>TX's</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Placing</u>
Bruce Patterson	VK3TJN	5	1:18:36	1st
Adam Scammell	VK3YDF	5	1:22:46	2nd
Bryan Ackerly	VK3YNG	5	1:58:22	3rd
Tony Langdon	VK3JED	5	1:58:32	4th
Ewen Templeton	VK3OW	3	1:55:00	5th
Ian Holland	VK3YQN	2	Overtime	
David Beard	VK3XAJ	3	Overtime	
Peter Maloney	VK3CPM	1	Overtime	

Bryan's effort was all the more amazing as he had lost his watch
during the event and still made it back in time, just in front of
Tony - well done Bryan! It was great to see Ian Holland at the
event - we were beginning to think he had disappeared and his
call sign was being used by the foxhunt team just to keep it
alive! Peter Maloney came along for his first taste of ARDF and
I am sure he will return and give some us a shock as his
orienteering skills and fitness could show us up!

A number of those orienteering showed great interest in ARDF
and indicated they would like to give it a try at a future event.
Thanks to Doug for assisting, Ian Stirling VK3MZ for the use
of his transmitters (performed perfectly), Bryan Ackerly
VK3YNG for building and bringing the loan sniffers, Yarra
Ranges Orienteering Club for letting us run the event with

theirs and for the all the competitors who came along to have a go!

Cheers, Greg Williams VK3VT

All scores can be found at:

<http://www.nerg.asn.au/ardfmay92004.htm>

Subscribe to the foxhunt newsgroup and receive all the latest news from the Melbourne ARDF group by sending an email to majordomo@mars.planet.net.au, with the text: subscribe melb-ardf

ARDF EVENTS FOR 2004

The next big event on the Foxhunt/ARDF calendar is the **Mount Gambier Convention** held at Mt Gambier (where else?) on the **June 12th long weekend**.

The Fourth USA ARDF Championships are coming up in California, June 2004.

Friendship Games in Russia:

Khabarovsk, in the Russian Far East, will host the 8th Friendship radio games August 14 to 18. These games include a HF operating contest, Morse sending and receiving, and a 2m direction-finding contest. There will be time to tour sites in Khabarovsk and visit with host amateur stations.

ARDF in China:

Suzhou, about an hour by train inland from Shanghai in eastern China, will host a Chinese national Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) contest in October 2004. There will be an 80 and 2 metre hunt on separate days.

ARDF links:

<http://www.ardf.org.au>

<http://users.mackay.net.au/~ron/>

<http://www.homingin.com>

All Enquiries: Victorian ARDF Group, Bruce 9888 7509

ARDF SIMULATOR

Too cold and wet to get outside for ARDF?

How about trying the Radio Orienteering Simulator (RASOR 1.1), available online at:

<http://hem.passagen.se/rpo/media/pejla144mhz.swf>

Your task is to find the transmitters by rotating the receiver antenna and listening to the signal strength. Draw your bearings and finally compare with the actual positions of the foxes.

Features:

- 144 MHz race
- Select from 1 to 5 transmitters
- Select transmission period from 10 s to 1 minute
- English or Swedish text
- Extra help: Unlimited no. of bearing lines, show fox no., show signal strength, show distance

Missing so far are:

- Electric fences to cross over,
- Batteries that go flat (unless your laptop has them!)
- Power line reflections,
- A "woopy" mode

Otherwise a very good attempt! The simulator requires Macromedia Flash Player 6.0 or later.

MOBILE PHONE WATCHES DIABETES

Developers of mobile phones never cease to amaze!

The latest development from LG is a mobile phone that monitors insulin levels for diabetics. The phone contains a blood sugar calorie meter built in the battery pack. Similar to existing test sets, the user feeds a standard blood test strip into the device, which measures their blood sugar level. The difference here is that the phone then automatically sends the results to a health service where they keep a database of recent

test results. The service analyses the results and sends back customised advice including changes in exercise, diet and medication necessary to pull the sugar levels back into line.

Of course the handset also incorporates the now standard camera and colour LCD graphics display, and even a phone J

WiFi GETS STOMPED ON!

Proponents of modern "WiFi" wireless networks claim infallible security and perfect reliability. But at every amateur knows radio signals are easy to jam. This has only just dawned on manufacturers of the popular IEEE 802.11 wireless network, which has its roots in packet radio. One of the basic rules of Packet Radio is to never transmit on a busy channel, and this rule applies equally to 802.11 wireless links. So, if you want to knock out a data link, simply transmit something on the same frequency and all the other nodes in the same area will sit there forever waiting for a break in transmission! A simple program running in a WiFi equipped pocket computer is all that's required to cause a "Denial of Service" to network devices in the immediate vicinity.

Researchers at Queensland University have only recently discovered this WiFi flaw and together with industry standards bodies, are investigating workarounds to the problem.

GGREC HAMFEST - JULY 17TH

Gippsland Gates Radio & Electronics Club is running its hamfest on **Saturday 17th July 2004**. Their LARGE venue is the Cranbourne Public Hall, corner of Clarendon St and High St, Melways 133 K4 (beside the South Gippsland highway in Cranbourne).

40 tables of new and used Electrical, Electronic and Amateur Radio equipment

- Everything is under cover
- Free Tea & Coffee all day.
- A selection of food will also be available.
- A 12 channel Hand Held GPS is the Door Prize
- Doors open to sellers at 8.30 am & buyers at 10.00 am
- Buyers can gain entry for \$5.00
- Tables: \$20.00, includes entry for two.
- All proceeds go towards the GGREC Club Shack project.

Reserve tables with Dianne Jackson VK3JDI 03 5625 2545

SAD END TO ESR MAGAZINE

Bob Harper, VK4KNH, editor of ESR magazine regrets to report that ESR has failed to turn a profit after three issues. Bob says that while he was tempted to give it one more try, he could not place his family in further debt.

Bob thanks to all those who helped, but sadly, in the end ESR was not viable.

Subscribers will have received a refund early in May.

Those that supported us in advertising deserve your support; please look at who advertised in ESR when you are looking at new radio equipment.

DAVE'S FAVOURITE RADIO SOFTWARE

Here are details on the software that David, VK3THY demonstrated during Packet Radio talk at the May meeting.

1: Packet Radio, Peak Systems:

From the home of G4IDE's WinPack packet radio software:
<http://www.peaksys.co.uk>

2: APRS, (Automatic Position Reporting System)

UI-View is Windows program for displaying the location of amateurs sending GPS coordinates through the APRS packet radio network. It differs from most APRS software in that not only works with TNCs in terminal mode, but also supports KISS, AGWPE host mode and BPQ host mode. The 32 bit version also supports WA8DED/TF host mode, and the variant of it used in the SCS PTC-II and PTC-IIe. This means that UI-View can be used with an extremely wide range of packet radio hardware and allows up to 16 RF ports to be used.

UI-View features include:

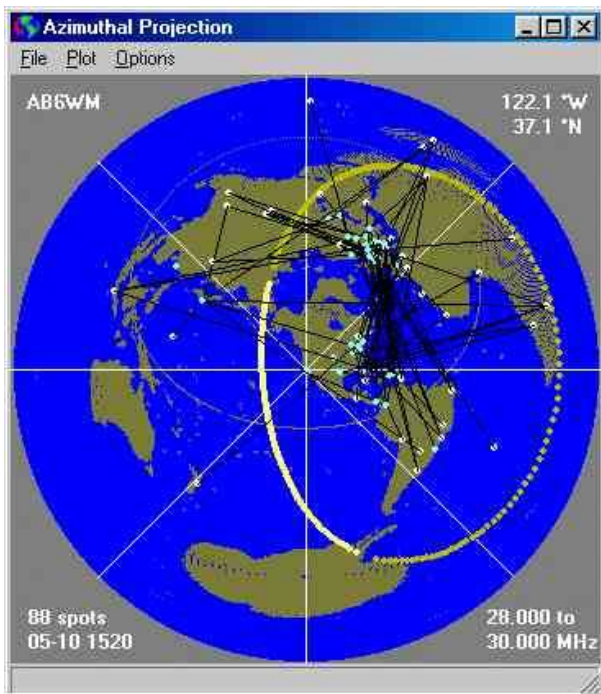
- A full-featured internal intelligent digipeater.
- Connections to APRS servers on the Internet.
- Bitmap images as maps. The 32-bit version has full support for a CD atlas, zooming to street level anywhere.
- An open architecture allowing software programmers to easily extend functionality.

<http://www.ui-view.com/index.shtml>

APRS Maps of Melbourne:

<http://vk3.aprs.net.au/maps.shtml>

(Remember UI-View needs a map to display an APRS station)



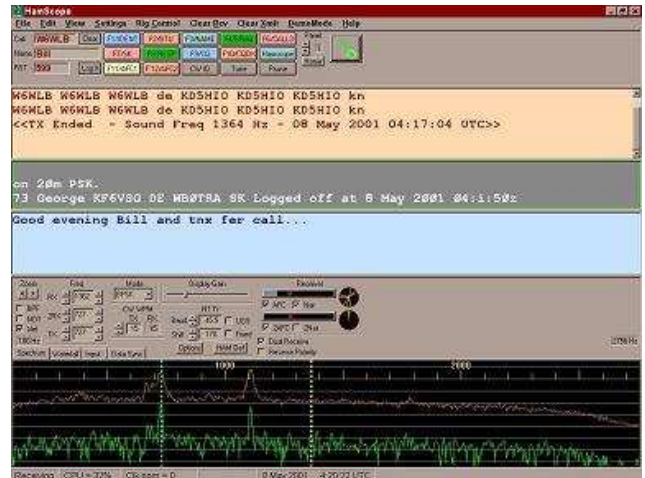
3: DX Monitor by VE3SUN

Monitor several DX Cluster sites simultaneously for rare DX stations while you announce new "spots" or call CQ! Station locations are displayed on a World Map like the one above. Simply click on a station to lookup CD-ROM or QRZ online call books, and plot beam headings on the map. Can monitor QRP, Satellite and other special lists.

Plots DX stations, spotters, and paths on Great Circle Map automatically. Great Circle Map can show NCDXF/IARU beacon activity in real time.

Download from (shareware):

<http://www.benlo.com/dxmon.html>



4: HamScope,

HamScope is a multi-mode CW and digital modes communications program for amateur radio. It supports: CW, PSK31 (BPSK and QPSK), RTTY, ASCII (7 and 8 bit) MFSK16, PACKET (using AGWPE)

Hamscope offers an advanced user interface with a multitude of features to provide optimal control and convenience during operation, including:

- Wide multifunction panoramic display
- Radio control interface for many ICOM, TenTec, Kenwood, and Yaesu transceivers
- Version 1.54 has added data links to several logging and radio control programs: Dxbase, LOGic 6, RYLogit, TRX-Manager, YPLOG
- DDE server for advanced users

<http://www.qsl.net/hamscope/HamScope.html>

5: WXtrack - Satellite tracking

WXtrack predicts satellite orbits and calculates in-range times with beam headings for visual sightings and radio contact. It's used by Universities and satellite enthusiasts across the world, and is also used within the industry.

WXtrack has a host of features for automatically driving popular antenna steering systems and to control radios.

Clicking on the World Map a Satellite Summary with MA display, nearest city, azimuth, elevation, range, etc.

Connect to a GPS for location and time setting.

Extended Radar view functionality, especially for GPS Solar outage times for geostationary satellites.

Satellite priority setting and automatic switch to next available satellite.

HRPT channel selection is possible with the Götz Romahn/Bob Barnes CX6DD tracker variant.

www.david-taylor.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/software/wxtrack.htm

INCENTIVES URGENTLY NEEDED TO REDUCE HIGH-TECH TRASH

A United Nations University report estimates that around 1.8 tonnes of raw materials are used to build a personal computer and monitor. That's roughly the weight of a rhinoceros. The environmental impact of the information technology revolution needs to be taken more seriously, say the report's authors.

Eric Williams and Ruediger Kuehr, co-editors of the report say "It is hard to imagine life without one of these indispensable 21st century tools, but it is exactly because they have become so ubiquitous that we must be aware of the negative impacts of the PC boom."

The rapid turnover in computing equipment is contributing to resource depletion, environmental pollution and climate change, argue Williams and Kuehr. Each desktop computer and monitor requires at least 240 kg of fossil fuel, 22 kg of chemicals and 1500 kg of water - at least 10 times their own weight in fossil fuels and chemicals.

Recent initiative to outlaw Lead based solder and a shift to LCD screens is reducing the amount of lead used in computer production but mandatory product take-back and recycling schemes are still missing many computers thrown into tips and incinerators.

"Consumers are often not aware of the things they can do to reduce the environmental impacts of their computers," said Williams. "There's a real need for awareness building," he said.

The report recommends more people should upgrade their computers and sell on components rather than throwing away their old machines. "Every computer user has a role to play," said Williams.

(based on an article in BioMedNet News by Henry Nicholls)

COLD ENOUGH TO FREEZE THE BALLS....

You know the expression but do you know where it comes from?

This is an idiom with its origins in the military but is firmly based on physics. 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey' is an expression for extremely cold weather. It came about because in previous centuries cannon balls were stacked on brass trays (called monkeys) aboard warships. Since brass and iron have different coefficients of thermal expansion, the intensely cold weather made the brass trays contract by as much as double that of the iron cannon balls, causing the stack to topple over.

OLYMPIC PREFIXES NOW ACTIVE

The Greek Communications Authority has announced that Greek radio amateurs may use the SX2004 or SY2004 call sign prefix from 1 June 2004 until 15 September 2004 to commemorate the Athens Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Foreign radio amateurs visiting Greece from countries with reciprocity (CEPT, U.S., Canada, Cyprus, Switzerland and Australia) can use the special prefix J42004 from 1 Aug 2004 until 15 September 2004 without any license from Greek Authorities.

Details can be found at www.qsl.net/sv2ael/foreigner.htm

2004 EVENTS

Updated June:

- June 5** VK/trans-Tasman 80m CW Contest - rules: home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman
- June 10** NERG Meeting
- June 12** SERG convention, incl. Australian Foxhunt Championships, Mt. Gambier, Sth. Aust.
- June 12-13** ANARTS RTTY CONTEST 2004
- June 19-20** International Museums Weekend Event
- June 26-27** ARRL Field Day (AMERICAS REGION 2)
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- July 3-4** GippsTech 2004, Churchill, S/E Vic.
The WIA Eastern Zone Amateur Radio Club technical conference.
Informal dinner Friday evening July 2.
Conference dinner Saturday July 3.
- July 3** ZL Memorial Contest - 80 Metres
- July 3** Jack Files Contest VK
- July 17** Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Hamfest, Cranbourne Public Hall, cnr. High & Clarendon Streets, Cranbourne
- July 17** VK/ZL Trans-Tasman 160 Metre Phone/CW Contest, rules: home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman
- July 17** Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Hamfest - Cranbourne Public Hall, cnr. High & Clarendon Streets, Cranbourne
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- August 6** QRP Day (CW/FM/SSB)
- Aug 14-15** Remembrance Day Contest
- Aug 21-22** Lighthouse Activation Weekend.
- Aug 28-29** ALARA
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- Oct 2-3** Oceania DX Contest - SSB
- Oct 9-10** Oceania DX Contest - CW
- Oct 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
- Nov 13** VHF/UHF Spring Field Day
- Dec 26** Ross Hull Memorial VHF Contest
(runs until January 10, 2005)

For more international contests see: www.arrl.org/contests

Dates should be independently confirmed.

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>

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	John Weir	VK3ZRV	9431 0667
Treasurer	Marg Baxter	VK3VOJ	9467 1253
Committee	Betsy King	VK3HBK	
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
	Mark Beacham	VK3XXX	0417-597399
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



NERG

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

NEXT MEETING:

7:30 PM Thursday 10th June 2004 - Island DX'peditioning with VK3QI & VK3WWW

2004 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD)

June 5	VK/trans-Tasman Contest - 80m CW (details - see above)
June 10	NERG MEETING - The VI5BR DX-pedition with Jack VK3WWW & Peter VK3QI
June 12-13	ARDF/Foxhunt at SERG Convention, Mt. Gambier, S.A.
June 19-20	International Museums Weekend Event
June 26 - July 3	WICEN exercise at the World Hot Air Championships, Mildura
July 3-4	GippsTech 2004, Churchill (S/E Vic) WIA Eastern Zone ARC technical conference
July 3	ZL Memorial Contest - 80 Metres
July 3	Jack Files Contest VK
July 8	NERG MEETING - Briar Hill Primary School 8pm
July 17	Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club Hamfest - Cranbourne Public Hall
July 17	VK/ZL Trans-Tasman 160 Metre Phone/CW