



NERG NEWS

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

NOVEMBER 2004

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
Greensborough
Victoria 3088

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

Bogong High Plains Winter QRP trip

In late July 2004, VK3JPA, VK3HFI and VK3JNH headed up to the hills in search of snow and DX- they weren't disappointed! Hear about their trip, the conditions and gear they took along. Accompanying the presentation will be plenty of fantastic images (stills and video) of this uniquely Australian Alpine environment. As well as the radio gear, some of the other equipment used will be on show, including X-country ski gear. Much was learned during the trip and it is hoped that the next backcountry ski expedition will be even better.

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

THE OCTOBER MEETING

An enjoyable and informative evening was had by NERGs that came to hear Dr. Lindsay Martin talk about the function of ARPANSA and some of the projects he has been involved with, particularly on evaluating the cleanup of the Maralinga atomic bomb test site. He also explained how ARPANSA and the ACA arrived at the levels of acceptable radio emissions for radio technicians and the public.

It was good to hear some inform views on the relative dangers of radioactive materials and electromagnetic radiation as compared to the alarmist stuff we get from the popular press!

The ARPANSA web site is worth a visit if you have not been there already: <http://www.arpansa.gov.au>



John Weir, NERG secretary, presenting Lindsay Martin with a certificate of appreciation following his great talk.

"Education will never become as expensive as ignorance." - Unknown

7.45 pm, Thursday
11th November 2004
Briar Hill Primary School
Steven Warrillow VK3JNH
A Bogong High Plains
Winter QRP Trip



TUESDAY MORNING TEA GROUP

The group meet at the QTH of VK3VOJ and VK3DBQ last month and a very enjoyable time was had by all. The food was of the usual NERG high standard. Those present were VK3CEW Ernie, VK3EMW Gerhard, VK3VT Greg, VK3JMB Dave, VK3BGE Ian. The last meeting for 2004 will be VK3EWM's QTH on Tuesday the 23rd November at 10.00am All welcome – give a call on 146.575 MHz or phone on 9432 0565 and let us know you will be coming. 73, Jim, VK3DBQ

VK3 CLUBS FORUM

Recently NERG President Greg Williams and Secretary John Weir attended the Victorian Clubs Forum organised by the WIA, and were duely impressed with the comorardory. Representatives of 15 Victorian radio clubs attended along with WIA National President Michael Owen VK3KI.

The forum was a good opertunity to learn more about new National WIA, and how they can benefit each other. Being in a period of evolution, the WIA is seeking feedback from radio clubs on a range of matters.

A spirited discussion ensued on possible criteria for club affiliation with the WIA. Trying to find affiliation requirements that would meet all types of clubs across Australia is not easy.

The club delegates indicated that requiring a minimum percentage of club members who are WIA members may not be appropriate for some clubs.

A series of promotional posters produced by the EMDRC created interest among the club delegates.

All clubs were keenly interested in learning about the Foundation Licence that is due to be introduced next year. The WIA has produced a draft syllabus, and is now determining how best to conduct the practical assessment element. This may require examiners undergoing an accreditation course.

Michael Owen VK3KI conceded that the issue of insurance for clubs is very complex. The WIA is talking to insurance providers about the types of cover possible.

The proposed Hamexpo Victoria 2006 gained in-principle support from the club delegates. The idea is for a public expo to promote amateur radio and be combined with WIA National annual general meeting.

(From WIA news and local content)

CERTIFICATES EVERYWHERE

Several certificates were presented by Secretary John Weir the October meeting. Greg Williams, VK3VT, and Mark (Harry) Harrison, VK3BYY, both received Life Membership awards. Though Greg has been a driving force in NERG since it's beginning, and was awarded "Life" many years ago, his official certificate has been elusive until now. Well done Greg!



Our guest speaker Lindsay Martin was also presented with a well earned certificate of appreciation.

Later that week, a certificate was presented to the manager of PWB Anchor - a major sponsor of the NERG, having contributed to the running of the NERG repeaters and beacons for several years.



General manager of PWB Anchor, Andrew McDowell, accepting certificate of appreciation from NERG Secretary John VK3ZRV. Please consider Australian Made PWB-Anchor products next time you need chain and heavy lifting equipment!

2005 CALLBOOK - ORDERS NOW!

The WIA 2005 call book is due in soon. The format has been revamped to include a lot more useful information for amateurs and prospective radio enthusiasts, as well as the usual callsign and QTH listings.

Amateur Radio Victoria will be selling the new callbook from its Ashburton office. To avoid disappointment however you can pre-order the callbook via several means:

* Purchased over the counter at the 40G Victory Boulevard, Ashburton office, on Tuesdays between 10.00am and 2.30pm only.

* Mail orders can be made now to Amateur Radio Victoria, 40g Victory Boulevard, Ashburton 3147, via telephone 9885 9261 (on Tuesdays, 10-2:30), or email to wivac@wivac.org.au

Payment for personal pick-up or snail-mail (Australia Post) orders can be made by cheque, money order, Visa, Mastercard or Bankcard. Credit card payment can be made for mail orders via email and cash will be also accepted at the office on Tuesdays.

CallBook prices:

Members of WIA	\$22.00	(Mailed \$25.00)
Non Members	\$30.00	(Mailed \$33.00)

A notice will be sent via email immediately the callbooks arrive.

Amateur Radio Victoria (WIA Victoria)

40G Victory Boulevard, ASHBURTON 3147

Website: amateurradio.com.au

WIA broadcast each Sunday 11am and 8pm

80m - 3615kHz, 40m - 7085kHz, 10.130 USB

VK3RML Mt Dandenong 146.700, VK3RMM Mt Macedon 147.250

VK3RWG Mt Baw Baw 147.225, VK3RMU Mt St Leonard 438.075

NERG - 21 YEARS AGO!

Paul, VK3DIP, though one of our most recent new members, also happens to be one of the original founding members of the NERG. When Paul recently re-joined the NERG, the discussions inevitably got around to the early days of the NERG and wondering just how long ago that was. Here is what Paul discovered...

I happened to be having a look back through my old Nerg News after the meeting last month, and by my calculation Nerg News is 21 years old this month. I note that you only have in the archive on the web page Nerg News going back to 2000, and in a moment of madness I decided to try and scan in volume one, number one of Nerg News to put up on the web site. Suffice to say just scanning it produced a visually good though quite large file of approx 4 Mb.

I had access to a gee wiz automatic OCR / document recognition software so I decided to give it a try which produced (after a bit of manual intervention) the much smaller approx 170Kb PDF file. It isn't exactly the same but it is close (you would recall we used to reduce it on the photocopier from A4 to A5 size). So here it is, with the original spelling mistakes to give the authentic effect, as well as the spaced all over the page look, and I think the end result does give a good feeling for what the original was like.

Anyway after the AGE had a replica of their 150 year old first edition included lately, I thought you might be interested to attach this to a Nerg News as a 21st Birthday present.

Paul VK3DIP.

Editors notes:

It's interesting to see that many of the names in that first edition are still around, though many have since upgraded and changed callsigns. Greg VK3BGW is still President but now uses the more DX friendly VK3VT call, and Ewen VK3BMV is now VK3OW.

In those early days the club was involved in JOTA, the John Moyle Field Day, Mount Gambier Convention and Friday night Foxhunting. NERGs is still involved in most of these activities.

Meeting venues have changes at least seven times, though with a little bit of luck Don's serious efforts to find a permanent home will pay off. The two technical articles, both being on antennas, are still current and have enjoyed reprinting on several occasions over the years.

THE POWER SUPPLIES ARE HERE !!!

The Power Supplies ordered from David have arrived and may be collected at the November meeting.

Please bring \$170.00 COD or cheque. (Some people have paid deposits and the balance will kindly be accepted to keep the plastic happy.....)
73, David VK3THY

WEB SITES OF THE MONTH



<http://www.imagineeringezine.com/e-zine/corner.htm>

Imagineering Electronic Magazine and Design Corner - is over 400 pages of circuit schematics, sections covering creativity, inventing, electronics, the consulting profession, science and technology, gardening and much more. This web site has all sorts of technical information and descriptive articles including a good collection of electronics and optical communications projects.



RadioReference.com
Your Complete Reference Source

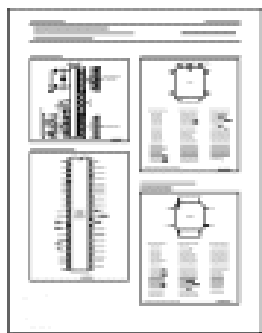
<http://www.radioreference.com>

RadioReference.com is claimed to be the world's largest radio communications reference website, with frequency assignments, trunked radio system information, frequencies, and talkgroups, FCC License assignments and maps, 10-Code Lists, agency maps, files, downloads, and links.

Though mainly concerned with the North American scanning enthusiasts scene, there is some data on Australian trunked radio systems. Plenty of info on trunking formats including EDACS, APCO25, LTR, TETRA, MPT-1327.

The Radio Reference Forums provide a popular place to talk about radio communications monitoring, with over 71,000 posts on subjects from Antennas to hertz.

Access is free, however you must register with this site to access the Radio Reference Database and post to the Forums.



Datasheet Archive ISO-Components

<http://www.datasheetarchive.com>

Looking for **datasheets** for IC's, Transistors, Diodes, Relays, and other components?

ISO-Components is a leading worldwide supplier of electronic components and makes available the

best free collection of data sheets in PDF format I've found so far. You can search on partial part numbers, which is very useful for small parts where the prefix is often abbreviated or missing. For instance a search for "2222" turns up at least 25 datasheets from various manufacturers of the famous 2N2222 transistor, as well as PN2222, 2N2222A, and other variants.

SUMMER VHF/UHF CONTESTS

ROSS HULL MEMORIAL VHF-UHF CONTEST - 26 DECEMBER 2004 - 16 JANUARY 2005

There are major rule changes this year, so please check the rules carefully. The three sections will be VHF/UHF; Microwaves; and Digital Modes (all bands). It is possible to enter more than one section if you wish. There will also be a special award for entrants using modest equipment in the VHF/UHF section.

SUMMER VHF-UHF FIELD DAY - JANUARY 15/16 2005

Rules as in past years. Participation will no doubt be another record! Coincides with the last weekend of the Ross Hull VHF/UHF contest.

FURTHER DETAILS

Rules for all contests, together with cover sheets and scoring tables, are available as PDF files on the WIA web site. Also see October "AR" magazine for the Spring Field Day rules, and the November issue for the other two. (news from WIA).

RED CROSS MURRAY MARATHON

It's time to get prepared for the 2004 Red Cross Herald Sun Murray Marathon! WICEN and other volunteer radio operators are required from 27th to 31st December to assist the Red Cross in the running of the annual canoe marathon.

Portable equipment for HF (mainly 80m & 40m) and 2m is always helpful, however licensed operators without gear can always tag along as second operators.

More details by contacting Bruce Bathols VK3UV 0418 386 030 or email bruce@bookmate.com.au

This is the longest annual canoe race in the world, covering a distance of 404km in five days, the event takes paddlers from Yarrowonga through to Swan Hill. Wholly owned and organised by the Australian Red Cross, funds raised during the marathon are channelled back into the provision of vital community programs and emergency services provided by the Australian Red Cross, including Volunteer Transport, Emergency First Aid, Registration and Catering.

Attracting over 700 participants, 400 volunteers and up to 3000 support crew, the event moves as a tent city from town to town.

The Murray Marathon began in 1969 as a fundraiser for the Australian Red Cross, Victoria, with WICEN providing communications since 1971.

As well as providing a safety network that can be relied upon where public communications often fails, it is also a lot of fun!

PRIVATISATION IS GOOD! (?)

Sad news from VK1:

The two Amateur UHF repeaters co-sited on the Black Mountain Telstra Tower in Canberra were removed from service last month.

Telstra recently carried out an audit of the site and discovered there was no rental agreement that could be found for this ham gear to be on site. After negotiations with Telstra, the rental offer made by Telstra is beyond the economic resources of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club and sadly they had no option but to remove the equipment.

- Unfortunately this story may well be repeated across Australia as many repeaters are located on similar sites. Amateur repeaters are often located in donated space as they are seen as a worthy emergency service and encourage people to take up technical vocations that may benefit the industry.

It appears that Telstra is losing their community spirit and is forgetting that many of their current and future technicians and engineers gained technical skills through their involvement in amateur radio at a young age - Ed.

FUN WITH MICRO/RADIO

(Radi-O is the new nickname for Radio Orienteering, and was held together with a MicrO, a little Orienteering event, at Eaglemont Flats, Ivanhoe on 31st October)

A warm day greeted those who competed in the Fox-oring event run in conjunction with the MicrO event run by Melbourne Forrest Racers. Conditions were great for running except for the odd snake or two seen crossing a path by competitors and your organiser.

5 people competed in the long course of 8 transmitters, which was approximately 5.3Kms when taking the tracks, and allowing for a detour to check which side of the river number 4 was on. The short course of 4 transmitters had two entrants and was approximately 2.5 Kms in length.

Competitors had to navigate to a 100m circle and then use their direction finding equipment to find the transmitter & control. The organiser was a little sneaky and placed two of the circles in an area that covered both sides of the river thus making the competitors choose the route carefully.

It also ensured that directional bearing could help competitors determine which side the transmitter was on, without wasting time looking for the control.

Several competitors once back from the radio course also competed in the MicrO event, while 2 people competing in the MicrO gave the RadiO event a try on a shorter / easier course.

Thanks to MFR for the map and registration and also thanks to Bryan Ackerly for the use of the transmitters that operated perfectly. Another of this type of RadiO event is planned in two weeks in combination with the MicrO event. Thanks, Mark Diggins, VK3JMD

Long course scores:

Place	Competitor	Tx's	Time
1	Adam Scammell	8	27:30
2	Bryan Ackerly	8	31:55
3	Bruce Paterson	8	35:27
4	Ewen Templeton	8	44:58
5	Tony Langdon	8	46:51

Short course scores:

1	Henk de Jong	4	32:03
2	Mike Hubbert	4	39:43

ARDF EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 14th November 2004. BK Micro Relays – Darebin Parklands Radio Sport Event.

The radio event at Darebin will be held in conjunction with the orienteering relays events. The radio part of this event will be the simpler and more popular "Fox-Or" format which works well for people who are used to orienteering or have had limited "Radi-O" experience. For seasoned "Radi-O" runners there is a new course offered which is on the HF (80 metre) radio band. This will be the first time this band has been used for a "fox-or" event. Orienteers may like to try this event as the equipment is much smaller.

There will be two course styles.

1) Full length course, which will consist of 3 individual runners courses: One VHF (2m) Radio course, one HF (80m) radio course and one conventional orienteering. These can be done in any order and will use the same changeover point.

2) Individual radio course. This will be a single course on either of HF or VHF. This course will offer both runners and walkers categories.

If you haven't tried Radio-O before, this will be the perfect opportunity to try it. Come and give it a go.

If you'd like to reserve a sniffer (directional receiver) for either event please email brucep@netspace.net.au. Sniffer hire is \$3 unless you are a member of the Vic ARDF Group (to cover costs).

Late November: End of year social gathering
meal and results presentations, Adam Scammell VK3YDF

Enquiries: Victorian ARDF Group, Bruce 9888 7509
ARDF links: <http://www.ardf.org.au>

USA 2005 ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club (AARC) is to host the fifth annual USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). Tentative dates are August 1 through August 5, 2005. Besides separate on-foot direction finding competitions on the 2-meter and 80-meter bands, there will be opening ceremonies, practice sessions, a sightseeing day, and a closing banquet with awards presentations.

The event centre will be on the campus of the University of New Mexico, where competitors will be housed. Bus transportation to the competition sites will be provided. A flat entry fee will cover the competitions, housing, meals and site transportation.

Although most participants will be licensed hams, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone of any age, with or without an Amateur Radio license.

Visiting competitors from outside the USA are welcome. Competitors will be divided into five age categories for males and four for females, with medals for top finishers in each category. Stateside winners will also be under consideration for positions on ARDF Team USA to the 2006 World Championships in Bulgaria.

Co-chairs of the AARC organizing committee are Jerry Boyd WB8WFK and Mike Pendley K5ATM. WB8WFK was a member of ARDF Team USA at this year's World Championships in the Czech Republic. Other core team members of the committee are Scott Stevenson WC5VVB and Jack Stump KD5OEO.

AARC's official Web site for the 2005 championships will be online soon, with more details and registration information.

Because many conferences and other events will take place at UNM next summer, the organizers are conducting an informal survey to get a preliminary headcount. This will insure that sufficient housing and other resources are reserved and available. If you think you will be able to attend, please e-mail WB8WFK (wb8wfk@att.net) to indicate your interest on a no-obligation basis.

Joe Moell K0OV, USA ARDF Coordinator, www.homingin.com

2004 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

Nov 27 - Dec 5 Special event station VI3BML 150th anniversary of the battle at Eureka Stockade. Ballarat Amateur Radio Group running special event station.

Nov 27-28 CQ World wide DX contest CW

Nov 27-28 Kona 24hr Mountain Bike Race, Redesdale WICEN event coordinator: Gordon VK3FGC ph:5339 2427, Gordon.cornell@bigpond.com 3 checkpoints & net control. www.fullgaspromotions.com.au/24hour.html

Dec 26-Jan 16 Ross Hull Memorial VHF Contest

Jan 15-16 2005 Summer VHF-UHF Field Day

Feb 27 Healesville Amateur Radio Group White Elephant Sale - 10am-2pm Healesville Memorial Hall, Maroondah highway Healesville. Info:: Gavin VK3TLN (03) 5968 8482 or Adrian VK3HEQ 0412 565 357 vk3heq@hotmail.net.au

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

Dates should always be independently confirmed.

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

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 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	
	David Aston	VK3THY	
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
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 -Off air

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:

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NERG

North-East Radio Group VK3CNE

NERG Incorporated 1985
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

STAMP

NEXT MEETING:

7:30 PM Thursday 11th November 2004 – Bogong QRP Ski Trip - Stephen VK3JNH

2004 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD)

Nov 11	NERG MEETING – Mountain Top portable with VK3JNH - Briar Hill Primary School 8 pm
Nov 14	Foxoring / BK Micro Relays Orienteering - Darebin Parklands.
Nov 23	NERG Tuesday Morning Tea meeting at VK3EWM's QTH
Nov 27-28	Kona 24hr Mountain Bike Race, Redesdale WICEN
Dec 9	NERG End of year BBQ
Dec 26	Ross Hull Memorial VHF Contest starts (until Jan 16, 2005)
Jan --	NERG on holidays - No meeting
Jan 15-16	Summer VHF-UHF Field Day - coinciding with last weekend of Ross Hull contest
Feb 10	NERG MEETING - TBA
Feb 27	Healesville Hamfest, 10am-2pm, Memorial Hall, main street