



NERG NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 2005

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
Greensborough
Victoria 3088

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

As the first meeting of the year, now is a good time to plan a few activities for the coming year. To start with, the **John Moyle Field Day** is less than 6 weeks away, and is always good fun!

There are several other **VK and world wide contests** that could be entered by a NERG team if so desired.

WICEN is always after people to join in with their activities, with several NERGs already being big contributors - perhaps more would like to join in.

Maybe NERGs would be interested in trying out a **Friday night foxhunt**, or perhaps run a special **daytime hunt** for newcomers?

Several **construction projects** are well over due. And we will probably want to run "**Foundation Classes**" for newcomers to the hobby, and our annual swap meet at some stage.

Bring along your ideas and requests for discussion at our **February meeting, this Thursday, 10th Feb, at 7:45pm**, Briar Hill Primary School, Briar Hill,

DID YOU MISS IT?

Our December meeting

President Greg and XYL Denise once again put on a great BBQ for the NERG break-up just prior to Christmas. During the afternoon a huge downpour threatened the evening's festivities, however by the time the first guest turned up all the clouds had blown away and a fine evening was enjoyed by all.

Greg was in his element firing up the BBQ and Wok, with everyone else flat out keeping up with the great food and conversation.

WEB SITES OF THE MONTH

John, VK3BIZ suggested this beaut web site this month - it's full of all sorts of links to amateur radio and electronics sties around the web:

AC6V's

Amateur Radio and DX Reference Guide

<http://www.ac6v.com/>

Rod Dinkins, AC6V, web site has links to thousands of web sites organized by topic. The "Boat Anchors" page for instance has around 200 links to everything a boat anchor owner needs to know (apart from anything to do with actual boats, although there are some marine radios and fishing buoys in there somewhere!). There's a lot too on leading edge technologies....☺

NEXT MEETING:

7.45 pm, Thursday
10th Feb. 2005
Briar Hill Primary School

What's Next ?

Update: The Asthma Foundation has unfortunately closed its pollen count web site (featured last newsletter) for this summer. The main Hay Fever season is apparently over for this summer, though eyes and sinuses may dispute this given the crazy weather we've been having! It appears the service will return next season, but as a paid subscription service.

TUESDAY MORNING TEA GROUP

The first NERG Morning Tea Group will meet on the Tuesday 22nd February 2005 at 10 am at the QTH of Ernie VK3FM (VK3CEW) and XYL Jan. 73, Jim, VK3DBQ

Listen out on the NERG chat channel 146.575 MHz

WICEN ACTIVITIES

WICEN will be busy assisting several groups with communications in the first part of 2005. Assistance is always appreciated, even if you don't have a fully functional go-anywhere portable station. They always need extra operators that can talk &/or type.

Call John Weir, VK3ZRV at 9431 0667 for further contacts.

First up is the **Southern Ski-80 water ski race**, held on the mighty Murray River from Echuca over the 11-13 Feb weekend. This year refinements to the WICEN Packet Radio software will help organisers keep track of all the racers as they zip past at death defying speeds.

Next is the more leisurely **Pajero 4-WD rally**, 26-27th February, held up in the North/East hills somewhere around Matlock. Much of the area has been surveyed for radio propagation and it looks like a couple of stations placed on mountain tops will cover most of the coarse using 2m, though some HF may be needed for some of the really deep gullies.

Oxfam Trail Walkers will be racing through the Yarra ranges from Friday 1st through to Sunday 3rd April, though the leaders are expected to be finished before some teams have even left the start gate!

The **M.A.D. bike ride** runs through 100 km of sealed roads and fire tracks between Yarra Glen/ Toolangi /King Lake on 17th April. Listen out for WICEN activity on the local repeaters around this time.

VK3CEW GET NEW FM CALL

Ernie has changed his call from VK3CEW to VK3FM.

Does this mean he's given up CW for FM? Or is it so he can rattle off his callsign that bit faster during pile-ups?

PREPARING FOR THE JMFD - 19-20 MARCH

The John Moyle Field Day contest is rapidly approaching on the weekend 19-20th March, 2005.

This popular field day has been enjoyed by NERGs since 1983, when the group won 2nd place in the 6 hour section from the top of the Greensborough hill. Since then stations have become more ambitious and moved to the somewhat higher hill at Mount Macedon. These days it's not a proper field day unless we go for the full 24-hours and have at least 4 or 5 assorted tents and caravans set up to run on all bands from 80m to 23 cm. 2005 should be no different!

We manage this event by assigning one person to organise each band. They need to get all the operators, radios, power supplies, cables, masts and antennas organised so that nothing is left behind on the day. A few others generally provide the food, shelter and generators. Everyone takes along a few extra bits and pieces to cover the last minute oversights and we get on the air in time.

Since I always leave something behind, I've built up a Check List:

- Transceiver + power cables + spare fuses
- Power supply + mains leads + spare fuses
- Antenna Tuner
- SWR meter (if none in Transceiver or Tuner)
- Antenna connector adaptors, joiners, and short leads
- Coax, Coax, and more coax
- Microphone (+spare if available)
- Key (if so inclined!)
- Headphones (+ adaptors) (+ splitter for multi-op)
- Handbooks or simple operator instructions
- Antenna and Assembly tools, Backup Antenna/s
- Antenna switch for multiple antennas
- Antenna support/s, Masts, Guy ropes, Pegs, Mounting plates, Pipe clamps, Sledge Hammer.
- Fold-up Table and Chair
- Digital Clock
- Extension cords & power boards
- 12V Battery (backup during generator refuelling or failure)
- Torch or LED head lamp
- Desk Light (pref. 12V incandescent)
- Pencils, paper, clipboard, Pencil sharpener, Eraser
- Tools and spare parts (fuses) inc. Shifter, screwdrivers, hacksaw, pliers, file, pocket knife, cordless drill, axe, shovel
- Multimeter, soldering iron (with SOLDER!)
- Insulation Tape, Cable ties
- Compass & big Map of Victoria
- Camera
- Hat, Sun Screen, Sunglasses
- All weather gear, change of cloths & underwear
- Gumboots
- Toiletries, Towel, Toothbrush, Toilet paper, etc.
- Fly spray, Mosquito coils, Insect repellent
- Mug, plate, bowl, wine-glass, eating utensils
- Soft drinks and Snacks
- If you MUST sleep, bring bedding & thick mattress/stretcher (the rocks are hard up here!)
- Ear plugs (if sleeping near certain tents).

For a Self-Sufficient field station you will also need:

- Ample Food and Water
- Cooking gear, Matches

- Generator or 2nd battery (don't use vehicle's battery)
- Tent or shelter (avoid work from inside cars!).
- Portable toilet
- First Aid kit (Bandages, Aspirin, Burn cream, etc)

Please send in anything we missed so we can build up a really useful check list for future events. Mark, VK3BYY

ARDF EVENTS

The local and international ARDF Radio Orienteering calendar is filling up. Here are some activities and tentative dates.

Antenna Build Day, Sat. 12th March, possibly at Box Hill.

3rd IARU Region 2 ARDF Championships & USA Champs, USA 1-5 Aug, Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club. See: <http://www.ardf.us> or Reg-2 site: <http://www.ardf-r2.org>

World Orienteering Champs, Japan, 3-15 August, 2005 (competition on 7-14).

World ARDF Champs, Japan 19-24 September.

Feb Sat 26 th	ARDF	80m	Crewick Diggings	Season Opener
Feb Mon 28 th	StreetO		Waterford Valley	New Map !
Mar Thu 10 th	StreetO		Eltham	
Apr Mon 25 th	ARDF & Fox-or	2m	Macedon Pines	Part of multi-3 days
Apr Sat 2 nd	Fox-or	80m	Ashwood (South)	With street-O event
May Wed 11 th	StreetO		Waterford Lakes	
May Sun 22 nd	All	2m	Endeavour Greens	Micro & Fox-or
June Sat 11 th	ARDF	80m	Mt Gambier	Part of SERG events
June Sun 26 th	Fox-or	2& 80m	Westgate Park	Specialty Fox-or Event
July Sun 24 th	Fox-or	80m	Darebin Park	
Aug Sun 7 th	Fox-or	2m	Gellibrand	
Aug Wed 31 st	StreetO		Blind Creek	
Sept Sat 3 rd	ARDF	2m	Glenluce	Australian ARDF Championships!
Sept 19 th -24 th	ARDF	2& 80m	Japan	Region 3 Champs
Oct Sun 23 rd	Fox-or	80m	Latrobe University	Final event: Series Cup
July/Aug	SnowDF	80m	Lake Mountain	When Ski-O scheduled

From Vic ARDF Group newsgroup

2005 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

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

Mar 6 EMDRC hamfest, Great Ryrie Primary School, details: committee@emdr.com.au

For 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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email: vk3byy@nerg.asn.au



NERG

North-East Radio Group VK3CNE

NERG Incorporated 1985
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

STAMP

**NEXT MEETING:
7:45 PM Thursday 10th February 2005**

2005 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD)

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| Feb 10 | NERG MEETING - discussing Field days and what's on at NERG for 2005 |
| Feb 11-13 | Southern Ski-80 water ski race, Murray River from Echuca, WICEN comms. |
| Feb 27 | Healesville Hamfest, 10am-2pm, Memorial Hall, main street, Healesville |
| Feb 26-27 | Pajero 4-WD rally, WICEN comms exercise |
| Mar 3-6 | 2005 Grand Prix - one for the scanner enthusiasts! |
| Mar 6 | EMDRC White Elephant Sale, Great Ryrie Primary School, door open 10:30am, \$6/head
details: www.emdrc.com.au , wes@emdrc.com.au or call Peter VK3DI (03) 9720 8874
Tons of new & used radios, antennas, components, books, software, food and drink. |
| Mar 10 | NERG MEETING - TBA |
| Mar 15-20 | 2005 Australian International Airshow, Avalon - another one for the scanner enthusiasts! |
| Mar 19/20 | John Moyle Field Day - 12:00 to 12:00 AEDT |
| Apr 14 | NERG MEETING - TBA |
| May 12 | NERG MEETING - TBA |