



NERG NEWS

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

APRIL 2005

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
Greensborough
Victoria 3088

APRIL MEETING

We don't have a guest speaker for this month's meeting however we do have the premier showing of Greg's DVD on the NERG's John Moyle Field Day expedition. A good many of the active NERG members appear in this production, so lookout for yourself on polycarbonate disk!

Also I'll bring along some equipment to test cable losses in coax. If you bring your long field day cables and shack patch cords along, we'll see how they perform in the range 5-1,000 MHz. We can connect to any 50 or 75 ohm cable fitted with BNC, N, F, and UHF (259) connectors.

Mark Harrison VK3BYY

The April meeting is Thursday, 14th April at 7:45 pm, at the Briar Hill Primary School, Briar Hill,

LAST MONTH

We were fortunate to have Craig Oldham, an instructor at the Defence Force School of Signals, at our March meeting to talk about his job and some of the radio equipment he uses in the field. It was amazing just how much gear is needed to go on an operation, and the fact that someone could actually lift it all, as well as parachute out of a plane and march with it all for days.

Amateurs would recognise some of the antennas used, although construction is a little different and probably gave us a few ideas for our next field days and bush walking trips. Mounting a dipole just 300 mm off the ground wouldn't seem like a good idea but apparently works quite well when you don't want to be seen or are in the middle of a desert with no trees.

Thanks Craig for an excellent presentation!

TUESDAY MORNING TEA GROUP

The morning tea set meet at the home of VK3KE and VK3VOJ with those present being Ernie VK3FM, Gerhard VK3EWM, Greg VK3VT and Dave VK3JMB. The usually feast was provided, thanks to Marg. The conversation flowed until around 3.45 pm, with many issues of field days, contest rules and radio flushed out in depth, hi-hi! The Morning Group will meet again at the home of VK3JMB on Tuesday 26th April at around 10am.

73 Jim, VK3KE

Listen out on the NERG chat channel 146.575 MHz

BALLOON HUNTING

Look out for a Balloon foxhunt in May. Plans are still being formulated but tentative plans are as follows:

Payload purpose: Aerial photography
Payload Coordinator: Philip Pawlowski
Launch site: Reservoir (weather permitting)
Launch: 8 am Sunday 15th May (subject to change!!!!)
Expected flight time: 2-4 hours.
Beacon Frequency: 145.300 MHz
regards, Bryan Ackerly, VK3YNG

NEXT MEETING:

7.45 pm, Thursday 14th April 2005
Briar Hill Primary School



FRIDAY NIGHT FOXHUNT

The Fox for next Friday 15th April is the VK3YQN team.

Start is SE corner of Pinewood Shopping Centre car park, Blackburn Rd, Mt. Waverley. First hunt will be called at any time from 8:15 pm onwards and all hunts will be on 2m (unless I get an overwhelming call for co-located 10m on some hunts).

Finish is in Pakenham (we will attempt to finish a little earlier to allow for the longer drive home for some). An indication of numbers would be appreciated. Cheers, Bruce VK3TJN. See <http://www.melbfox.com/>

Current scores: <http://www.melbfox.com/foxcalc.asp> and
<http://www.melbfox.com/score.asp>

MIDLAND SWAP MEET - CASTLEMAINE

Midland Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Castlemaine.

10.00am-3.00pm Sunday, April 24th (ANZAC DAY weekend).

St. Mary's Hall, Cnr. Hargreaves and Lyttleton Streets, Castlemaine.

Talk in: - via VK3RCV Repeater - 147.150MHz, + shift.

Trade displays, second hand equipment and components, Door prizes.

Admission: - Adults \$8.00, Concession \$5.00, Kids under 12 free.

Lucky door prizes drawn around 12.30pm.

Food and Drinks Available. Other fine cafes and eating houses within walking distance of the venue.

Tables available \$10.00 per 6 feet. Bookings are essential.

Contact/Bookings - Bruce Lees, VK3FFF - 0427 271 071 or email to vk3cmz@marc.org.au.

Castlemaine is a popular tourist destination situated 30 mins South of Bendigo and 90 mins from Melbourne and has something for all members of the family. Look for the major turnoffs to Castlemaine from the Calder Highway. Destination signs will be visible within the town.

www.marc.org.au

PROGRESS ON NEW LICENSES

Preparation for the introduction of the new entry level "Foundation Licence" for Australia is moving ahead with the accreditation of examiners to be announced soon. The WIA will be holding a series of accreditation sessions in major capital cities, at which examiners will undergo a nationally recognised accreditation process.

This will enable those who are accredited to carry out the necessary assessment of candidates for the Foundation Licence. Once the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) gives the go ahead, the new licence will then be available. This is expected in May/June, but depends on the progress of the necessary documentation.

The WIA will be making a formal announcement including details of the dates, times and venues of the accreditation sessions.

Final work is being done on a 60-page handbook for the Foundation Licence that will provide candidates with the reference material they need for the new licence.

The restructure of Australia's amateur licence system is also occurring. The ACA has virtually finalised the Licence Condition Determinations for the Advance (former Unrestricted, Limited and Intermediate), Standard (Novice & Novice-Limited) and the Foundation licences.

The exam/assessment syllabuses for the three are also being developed. Other work includes the question banks and examination material.

- Amateur Radio Victoria.

IRLP CONTEST CONTINUES

The IRLP contest continues until 17th April. Activity through the NERG IRLP node VK3RMH was initially prevented by a computer system crash. The computer has since been rebuilt and is back on air.

Anyone can join in the contest; however the contest is limited to participating IRLP nodes so check the list for valid nodes at <http://kg4zxc.com> before calling CQ contest!

70CM INTERFERENCE CONTINUES

Interference in the 70cm band from new cancer treatment machines operating in Collins Street, Melbourne continues, despite promises to stay off 70cm repeater channels.

It looks like the clinic has stirred up more than just amateurs, the Defence services, and the Australian Communications Authority. The other ACA, TV Channel 9's "A Current Affair", also took an interest and ran a very disparaging feature on the clinic and its methods. Some of the RF equipment appeared in background shots, and it appears they have attempted to enclose some of the treatment areas in a RF shielding tents. However judging by the strong signals measured outside the clinic as recently as 24 March, the shielding is either ineffective or not installed in all treatment rooms. Strong signals were heard on 433.000, 433.050, 433.100, 433.150 & 433.200 MHz.

Mark VK3BYY

UNEXPECTED PROTECTOR OF THE RADIO SPECTRUM

The popular online auction system eBay seems like an unexpected protector of the radio spectrum! However eBay recently removed an advert for a Philips FM900 transceiver from the on-line auction site because the radio was advertised for UHF CB and police monitor use. The seller was referred to eBay's policy on selling electronic equipment. The policy includes restrictions on selling such things as 10 meter Amateur gear aimed at CB use, the selling of Police Radar detectors, Phone jammers, High powered Cordless Phones, and LIPDs that don't meet ACA regulations. CB radio gear that is modified for higher power or has extended out-of-band channels are also banned from sale.

This policy is good for amateur radio and CB users alike as it discourages the use of illegal transmitting devices that could otherwise interfere with law abiding users.

So, if you want to sell a kilowatt amplifier, you'd better mention it only operates in the amateur bands, and whatever you do, don't mention it would be great for 11 meters DX work :-)

Mark, VK3BYY.

TINY TIME STANDARD

NIST Demonstrates Miniature Chip Scale Atomic Clock

Researchers at the USA's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have demonstrated the smallest atomic clock yet produced. The inner workings are about the size of a grain of rice, opening up a wide range of frequency generation, time keeping and navigational applications in portable, battery-powered devices. The clock consumes less than 75 milliwatts, and has a stability of about one part in 10 billion, or less than a second in 300 years.



The new device can be manufactured using the low-cost, mass-production techniques used to make semiconductor devices, leading to a complete atomic clock package of about 1 cubic centimetre in size. Though not as accurate or stable as the world's most accurate atomic clocks such as the NIST-F1 caesium fountain atomic clock, it is much better than currently available devices such as the best crystal oscillators.

For more info, see: <http://nist.time.gov/>

WHO WAS JOHN MOYLE?

Just who was John Moyle, and why is there a contest in his name?

Information available from the internet on this subject is very sparse, and only appears infrequently in the WIA Amateur Radio magazine. It is surprising not more is mentioned about this important amateur operator when the contest named after him is announced each year. Fortunately some well known hams came to my rescue when I posed the question on the vk-vhf newsgroup.

John Moyle, VK2JU, had a keen interest in amateur radio, particularly in field day events, and had a career in publishing. He was long time editor of the Radio & Hobbies magazine, which later changed its name to Radio, Television & Hobbies, and later still to Electronics Australia. He also edited a number of Australian Short Wave.

John started as technical editor for Radio & Hobbies after working in its parent publication, Wireless Weekly, but soon took over A.G. Hull's position as editor in 1940. (Ross Hull was A.G. Hull's brother). He also served in the RAAF Publications Department during World War 2 writing technical manuals.

He wrote many of the construction articles that were published in the magazines that he edited, including radio receivers, amateur radio transmitters and receivers and test equipment, and much of the pre 1960 Playmaster series of audio equipment.

John's wife, Alice Moyle, was a pioneer in ethnomusicology and Aboriginal Studies in Australia. She married John Moyle in 1933 and they had two daughters. Alice also worked for the Wireless Weekly in Sydney as a music critic from 1939-43.

In the late 1940s Alice Moyle returned to formal academic studies to analyse recordings of Aboriginal music. Around 1958 she undertook her first field trip which was financed by her husband who also built the recording equipment she used during the trip.

John Moyle was an active amateur. He was also a hard working executive member of the WIA during the immediate post war years. He was the president of the NSW Division for a period, and was co-opted by the federal body to draft the original uniform divisional articles. He was made a life member of the NSW Division in 1958.

After John's death in 1960 the John Moyle Filed Day contest was started to celebrate his enthusiasm for portable operations and work in amateur radio.

NERGS AT THE JOHN MOYLE



A large contingent from NERG again took part in the John Moyle Field Day, including two members new to the mountain trip, Peter VK3DU, and Gerard, VK3JPA.

So how was it? So good that several members are threatening not to go again next year because the weather cannot possibly be as good as it was this year (though a little more DX would be nice!). Otherwise everything went almost like clockwork.

The centre piece of this year's station was a 55 meter portable tower, borrowed from WICEN for a "training exercise". The tower raised the 2m, 70cm, and 23cm beams well above the surrounding trees. However next year we'd like to borrow

two more towers, so that each beam can point in independent directions ☺

Results were as follows: VK3CNE, Mount Macedon - 37.370 South; 144.621 East; Grid Square QF22hp

Operators: David VK3THY Greg VK3VT
 Ernie VK3FM John VK3ZRV
 Ewen VK3OW Mark VK3BYY
 Gerard VK3JPA Peter VK3DU
 Gerhard VK3EWM Steve VK3SN

Band	QSOs	Points
80	80	160
40	82	164
20	53	106
10	1	2
6	81	1042
2	186	2384
70	109	1346
1296	26	236
Totals	618	5440

Equipment: 4 X Icom 706 MKIIG, Icom 746; Atlas 210; Icom 970, Icom 726, Yaesu FT757GX; Kenwood TS120; 55m Portable crank up tower; dipoles and G5RV on HF; 5 element beam and 5/8 Vertical on 6M; 10 element yagi and vertical on 2M; twin 14 element yagis and a vertical on 70CM; and twin loop yagis on 23CM. Power from two generators – one 5 KVA and the other 1 KVA. Deep cycle batteries were also used on some stations.



Big Yell'a - the 5KVA genny (with new starter cord)

The catering was up to the usual high standards, with chef Greg VK3VT refining the process by pre-cooking the roast pork and roast lamb the day before so that he didn't need to spend all Saturday over a hot oven. Instead he spent more time over a warm ICOM 706 working the 80m band, adding some very worthwhile points to the VK3CNE score.

A couple of problems arose during the weekend, with the starter cord being pulled right out of the "Big Yell'a" generator, and white smoke escaping from a mains power filter in the 6-meter after-burner (400W linear amplifier). Both were repaired on the spot with hardly a contact lost.



Ewen, VK3OW working 6 and 10 meters

Refinements for next year?

- Chef to remove spanner from back pocket before driving 60 odd kilometres to mountain where source of discomfort was found.
- Possibly more towers, or several co-axial rotators on a common tower, so that the various band operators don't have to battle over one rotator control. Separate radios for SSB and FM also seems to be important, so that less time is spent twiddling knobs. A vertical beam for FM and horizontal for SSB/CW is also mandatory for VHF/UHF.
- A band pass filter for all ICOM 706 MkIIG's operating on 6 meters. This transmitter produced wideband on all the HF bands, rendering many of them unusable while a QSO was taking place on 6m. Various combinations of power supplies, antennas and 706'es all produced the same result.
- Custom contest software is under consideration so that less time is spent on getting station locators when they have already been received on another band or at an earlier time.

These ideas may give away a few secrets to our competition, but then anything that can increase the activity during the contest is good!

The JMFD contest manager has mentioned he may consider some changes to the rules next year. This is good news - there is a desperate need for increased activity during the contest.

Many thanks to all the portable stations and especially the home stations that took the time to exchange numbers, making the weekend very enjoyable. Also many thanks to Head Ranger Mark and his 2IC Helen for granting permission to use the hilltop once again, and to Don, VK3KDT for gaining their permission even though he wasn't able to make it too the event.

LITHIUM BATTERIES - TOXIC OR NOT?

After hearing at last months NERG meeting that some high energy lithium primary batteries used in military applications can be extremely toxic if broken open, I thought I'd better find out more about the consumer style lithium batteries.

Lithium batteries come in many forms. Primary Lithium batteries are found in consumer photographic applications and emergency devices requiring a long shelf life. The high energy to weight ratio of rechargeable (secondary) lithium-ion cells makes them popular in notebook computers, camcorders, mobile phones, and MP3 players.

Perhaps the following information will put your mind at rest about the consumer type Lithium cells. (But keep in mind the toxicity of some forms of lithium if you ever come across army disposals batteries!).

Information from NEMA, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (USA) March 2001

Spent Consumer Lithium Batteries and the Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Spent consumer lithium batteries are not hazardous wastes because they are neither toxic nor reactive. Consumers routinely dispose of these batteries commingled with other garbage in the municipal solid waste stream. Spent consumer lithium batteries disposed in this manner do not pose environmental or safety hazards. Therefore, there is no need to require the collection and recycling of spent consumer lithium batteries for the purposes of environmental protection.

BACKGROUND: Lithium metal is used as a negative electrode material in undischarged lithium batteries. Most lithium batteries fall into two categories: lithium manganese dioxide or lithium poly-carbon monofluoride. Lithium batteries are light in weight and compact and possess high energy density, excellent shelf life, long-term reliability, and high rate capability over a broad temperature range.

Spent lithium batteries are not reactive. Lithium metal is a reactive material. As a lithium battery is discharged, however, the metallic lithium is converted into a non-reactive lithium compound. One of the features of the lithium battery is its constant voltage (flat discharge curve) until virtually all of the lithium has been converted into a lithium compound. There is, therefore, no reason why a user would replace and discard the battery until the voltage drops sharply. At that time, virtually all of the lithium is no longer present in the reactive metallic state.

By design, manufacturers construct the lithium batteries with an excess positive electrode material to assure that there will be enough of the positive material to react with all of the metallic lithium. This is a safety feature manufacturers design into the battery.

Spent consumer lithium batteries are routinely disposed with other garbage in the municipal solid waste stream. Batteries disposed in this manner generate little heat and pose no safety concerns during disposal.

Spent lithium batteries are not toxic. The U.S. EPA uses the Toxicity Characteristics Leaching Procedure (TCLP) to determine whether a waste is hazardous. Lithium batteries pass the U.S. EPA's TCLP test and therefore are not considered to contain toxic materials that would be hazardous for disposal. EPA maintains a list of metals it considers hazardous. Lithium is not included on this list. In addition, there is no lithium metal present in a spent battery. US law, therefore, does not restrict the disposal of consumer lithium batteries in the solid waste stream. In addition, the overall volume of spent lithium batteries in landfills is negligible. Lithium batteries are, therefore, safe for disposal in the municipal solid waste stream.

Toxicity is not the only danger - one industrial lithium battery comes with the following warning:

- When using lithium batteries, a "Lith-X" or D-Class fire extinguisher should always be available. Water-based extinguishers must not be used on lithium of any kind, since water will react with lithium and release large amounts of explosive hydrogen.

A NIKOLA TESLA SHOW.....

ROOM 207: NIKOLA TESLA

'...this show is a cross between an installation, a theatre work and a technological magic show.' Sydney Morning Herald.

We use his inventions everyday, but this prolific inventor, who propelled the twentieth century forward with his electrical inventions, remains largely forgotten. With over 700 patents to his credit, Tesla has been dubbed the 'forgotten father of technology.' Tesla's polyphase Alternating Current (AC) electricity runs our electrical appliances. It is the Tesla coil that drives the electrical components of our cars and computers. It is Tesla technology that is behind hydroelectric generators, fluorescent lights, microwaves, vacuum tubes, radars, and X-rays.

Room 207: Nikola Tesla leads us into a tale of intrigue, passion and eccentricity uncovering his genius while revealing the nature of his relationship with Thomas Edison, and Edison's campaign devised to discredit him. He was an electrical genius, betrayed by his friend, threatened by the establishment, worshipped by a woman, and finally written out of history. Dying destitute and forgotten, the FBI raided his laboratory immediately following his death, seizing all his papers. To this day they have not released them...

Part science spectacular, part conspiracy theory, *Room 207: Nikola Tesla* portrays a man of extra ordinary genius, an eccentric and driven individual with a passion for electricity and his conflict with nemesis, Thomas Alva Edison.

Presented in Promenade Style, *Room 207:Nikola Tesla* combines verbatim theatre, technological experiments and installation art to bring to life the genius of Nikola Tesla.

Direction, Composition & Sound Design - Max Lyandvert, Written by Paul Brown.

North Melbourne Town Hall & X-Ray House Theatre. July 19, 21, 22, 23 @ 8PM, Tickets \$10.00, Kids \$8.00. Bookings 9685-5111

WEB OF THE MONTH



Project LUXORION (in French & English)

<http://www.astrosurf.com/lombry/index.htm>

The objective of the LUXORION project is to initiate you into astronomy and its history. Its owner, Thierry Lombry, has also been a keen amateur operator for over 25 years working DX stations from his LX station.

Thierry, ON4SKY in Belgium and LX3SKY when in Luxembourg, provides a wealth of information for optical and radio astronomers as well as amateur radio enthusiast.

Buried in this web site there are around 140 software reviews including commercial and free applications for radio astronomy, weak signal "digital" amateur modes, satellite tracking and astronomical applications.

This web site contains 1.3 GB of data, 1400 educational pages, more than 8000 pictures, over 280 animations, close to 360 sound recordings, as well as a directory listing some 1700 selected and categorized hyperlinks.

POSSESSION OF UNLICENSED TRANSMITTERS: LEGAL OR NOT?

A curious discussion broke out recently on the FM900 news list. Is it legal to own or sell a transmitter that is unlicensed? Many years ago the answer was yes - it was only the act of transmitting with an unlicensed transmitter that was illegal. That situation changed though with a revision to the Radiocommunications Act 1992, and judging by the comments aired in the FM900 news list most people must have missed the change.

Now it is illegal not only to operate, but also to merely possess a functional radio transmitter for which you do not hold a license and for which there is no spectrum or class license. There is an exemption for those involved in the "supply" to another person, and for use in an emergency, but that's all!

A functional transmitter, the act says, is one that can transmit when the usual things like power is supplied and appropriate microphones and antennas are connected.

So beware - you may need to remove the fuses or crystals from those old emergency services radios you have out in the shed, or risk having to explain to a judge why you have them in your possession!

Section 47, sub section 1 of the Radiocommunications Act 1992:

(1) Subject to section 49, a person must not have a radiocommunications device in his or her possession for the purpose of operating the device otherwise than as authorised by:

- (a) a spectrum licence; or
- (b) an apparatus licence; or
- (c) a class licence.

Section 49 outlines that the exemption is in an emergency, eg, for rescuing people in an aircraft wreck at sea, or where life is at risk, etc

MOORABBIN HAMFEST 2005

Moorabbin and District Radio Club, **Saturday 7th May 2005**

BRENTWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Watsons Road, Glen Waverley. Melways Reference 71 D7 (Enter via Heath Street.) All inside and undercover.

ENTRY \$6.00 (Doors Open 10am – entry tickets on sale prior)

Importers and suppliers of amateur equipment & accessories.

Preloved ham gear & accessories, PC's & bits & pieces.

Demonstrations of ATV and packet radio.

Major and minor door prize draws during the day. Every entry ticket goes into the draw. Additional tickets on sale.

Snacks and hot food will be available.

Call VK3APC for talk in via VK3REC 2M repeater on 147.075MHz and on 439.900 70cm VK3RSE.

Tables available at \$18 each, (1.8m long) includes lunch voucher. For further info or to book a table please contact:

Lee Moyle, VK3GK. Tel: (03) 9705 1051. Fax: (03) 9705 1054.

Email: lee@noremac.com.au

Graeme Lewis, VK3GL. Tel AH: (03) 9702 1199 or Mobile (0418)

289928 Email: vk3gl@tpg.com.au

ARDF EVENTS

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

Ukrainian International ARDF Championships -

"Kiev Spring 2005", 30 April - 4 May 2005 in Kiev

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 (comp 7-14)

World ARDF Champs, Japan 19-24 September.

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

VICTORIAN FOXHUNT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The radio direction finding championships will be held on 30th April, 2005, from the Mt Evelyn scout hall.

Come on, it's time to dust off and tweak the HF and UHF gear! We've many challenging hunts and a tasty dinner/supper (BYO). It looks like 80m, 10m, 6m, 2m, 70cm, and 23cm will be used.

Anyone can enter - not prerequisites required, though having at least one licensed amateur with a 2m transceiver is preferable to keep in touch with the fox.

Event Coordinator is David, VK3BLN/XAJ. See: www.melbfox.com

2005 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

2005 all year - Special callsign prefix OO may be used by radio amateurs in Belgium may be to celebrate to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the independence of their nation.

April 7-11 DXpedition to St. Peter Island (IOTA OC-220) in the Nuyts Archipelago, South Australia by the VK3 IOTA group, operating as V15PN.

April 18 World Amateur Radio Day
This year marks the anniversary of the ITU founding in 1925 and provides an opportunity to present a positive image of Amateur Radio to the general public.

April 24 Midland Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, 10am
Castlemaine, info: www.marc.org.au

April 30 Victorian Foxhunt Championships.

May 1-7 CQ Repeater Contest

May 7 Moorabbin Hamfest, 10am, Brentwood Sec. College.

May 2-19 DXpedition to Vanuatu YJ IOTA OC-035 by YLs Elizabeth VE3YL and Gwen VK3DYL. CW & SSB.

May 21 VK/trans Tasman Contest - 80m Phone
Info: <http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman>

May 20-22 Dayton (Ohio USA) Hamvention
The world's largest amateur radio gathering and trade show.
Info: www.hamvention.org

May 23-June 8 DXpedition to Tonga A3 IOTA OC-064 by YLs Elizabeth VE3YL and Gwen VK3DYL, CW & SSB.

May 25 WIA Victoria (Amateur Radio Victoria) 2004 AGM - St Michael's Hall corner High St Rd and Victory Boulevard, Ashburton, 8pm.

June 4 VK/trans Tasman Contest - 80m CW

July 9 VK/trans Tasman Contest - 160m Phone

July 9-10 GippsTech 2005 Technical Conference specialising upon VHF, UHF and microwave weak signal communications. WIA Eastern Zone Amateur Radio Club. At Monash University Gippsland Campus, Churchill.
Info: <http://www.qsl.net/vk3bez/>

July 16 Gippsland Gate Radio and Electronics Club annual Hamfest, Cranbourne

July 23 VK/trans Tasman Contest - 160m CW

August 20-21 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend
Info: www.vk2ce.com/illw

September 10-12 ALARA 30th Birthday Get together, Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association 30th birthday national get-together in Mildura.
Info: www.alara.org.au/alaramet.cfm

October 7-9 SEANET Convention
South East Asia Net (SEANET) Convention, Bangalore. SEANET began in 1964 as a net on 14.320 MHz daily at 1200 UTC to promote international understanding, and handle safety and welfare traffic. Info: www.seanet2005.com/

October 15-16 48th Annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

For international contests see: www.arrrl.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.arrrl.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:

editor: Mark Harrison VK3BYY
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NERG

North-East Radio Group VK3CNE

NERG Incorporated 1985
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

STAMP

NEXT MEETING:

7:45 PM Thursday 14th April 2005 - JMFD DVD premier showing

2005 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Apr 14 | NERG MEETING - John Moyle DVD showing & cable loss testing. |
| Apr 18 | World Amateur Radio Day - anniversary of the ITU founding in 1925. |
| Apr 15 | Friday foxhunt - 8:15pm SE corner of Pinewood Shopping Centre, Blackburn Rd, Mt. Waverley. |
| April 24 | Midland Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Castlemaine. 10am, info: www.marc.org.au |
| April 30 | Victorian Foxhunt Championships, Mt Evelyn scout hall |
| May 2-19 | DXpedition to Vanuatu YJ IOTA OC-035, by YLs Elizabeth VE3YL and Gwen VK3DYL |
| May 7 | Moorabbin and District Radio Club Hamfest, Sat, 10am, Brentwood Secondary College, Watsons Rd, Glen Waverley. Melways 71 D7, (Enter via Heath Street.), 10am, entry \$6.00 |
| May 12 | NERG MEETING - TBA |
| May 21 | VK/trans Tasman Contest - 80m Phone - Info: http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman |
| May 20-22 | Dayton (Ohio USA) Hamvention - world's largest amateur radio gathering and trade show. |