



APRIL 2007

NERG Inc.
PO Box 270
Greensborough
Victoria 3088
news@nerg.asn.au

NERG'S APRIL MEETING

Ted Pawson VK3FEAP has kindly offered to talk at our 10th April meeting on Survival in a Fire, based on his personal experiences. He lived through the London blitz in WW2 and later a hotel fire in Europe. I'm sure that he will also deviate to other interesting topics along the way!

Let us know if you have a particular subject you'd like to learn more about at NERG meetings. Alternatively, if you have a pet subject you can talk about we'd love to hear from you!

73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

NEXT MEETING: The next monthly meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 8th May 2008**, starting 7:45pm at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, Melways 21 C3.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

At last month's meeting Don VK3KDT showed a very good video on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). "The 4 Steps for Life" video explained clearly and simply the four steps to saving someone's life. The 4 Steps for Life are easier than you think.

Club member Dr. Warrillow was on hand to answer questions and elaborate on the video through his personal experiences administering CPR. He also dispelled the myths that you could catch a serious disease from the victim or get sued for attempting CPR - something that hasn't ever happened in Australia.

You'll be surprised at how little you have to know to save a life. The 4 Steps for Life are:

1. **Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance**
2. **Open the airway**
3. **Breathe mouth to mouth**
4. **Pump the chest (repeating steps 3&4)**

The emergency 000 operator will talk you through these steps and monitor your progress until an ambulance arrives.

The first critical step of calling for an ambulance has been added to the traditional CPR method.

The video is produced by Ambulance Victoria and the Victorian Government. If you haven't seen this video, ask us for a copy on DVD. A kit containing the video and items to help practice CPR are available for free to groups and clubs from the Ambulance Service via:

Info Line: 1300 550 472

Email: cpr@mas.vic.gov.au

Web: www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/cpr

NERG NEWS

Incorporated 1985 in Victoria, Australia
Reg No A0006776V - <http://nerg.asn.au>
Affiliated with the Wireless Institute of Australia

Meeting:
7:45pm 10th April 2008
Ted VK3FEAP
Survival in a Fire



The next Coffee Shop night:
Thursday 24th April 2008

THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

The group had its regular monthly meeting on Easter Tuesday at the home of Dave, VK3JMB, and Carole. It was another great day with much discussion and even more food. Many thanks to Carole for arranging the food and the serving although Dave did look after us all during the early part of the day. Those present were Ernie VK3FM, Greg VK3VT, Steve VK3JSE, John VK3ZEV, and Jim VK3KE, from the truly gainfully unemployed. However we were honoured with the presentation of Ewan VK3OW, who added to the toing and froing around the table on topics ranging from the lack of rain to DXing. Several of the storwoods were missing and we hope to have them back at our next get together at Greg's at 10am on the Tuesday the 22nd April.

Listen out on the NERG chat channel of 146.575 MHz for the gainfully unemployed during the day and for the latest rare DX spots.

WORLD HEADLINES

Germany plans to cease digital broadcasting in Eureka 147 codec.

The BBC pulls the plug on shortwave broadcasting to Europe.

Sony decided to no longer manufacture cathode ray television tubes.

CQoogle starts a new search engine just for ham radio - cqoogle.com

SOLAR MAX RESCHEDULED

Impatient with the quiet sun, NASA researchers have rescheduled solar maximum. The peak was originally slated for 2012, but now it's going to happen this month. "We've launched millions of dollars worth of spacecraft to study solar activity, and what are we getting? Puny little A-flares and feeble old sunspots," complained a high-ranking source at NASA headquarters. "We need some real explosions! Rescheduling Solar Max should solve the problem."

News from SpaceWeather.com, April 1st.

HIJACKED BY AUTOPILOT

By Ion Zwitter, Avant News Editor, Berlin, April 2, 2009

From the infamous Avant News Service comes a report that on April 2, 2009, a Lufthansa A380-800 passenger aircraft carrying 523 passengers was hijacked shortly after takeoff, apparently by its own autopilot. The aircraft, which was scheduled to fly from Berlin's Tegel airport to Bangkok, Thailand, experienced a "non-standard route deviation" roughly 12 minutes into its flight. Berlin air traffic controllers in communication with the aircraft's pilot, Captain Hans Hucklebein, confirmed the flight had been hijacked by the aircraft's own advanced automatic guidance systems, and that neither pilots nor ground controllers were currently able to regain control of the plane.

While the aircraft, which remains airborne, is being closely tracked by ground radar and escort fighters, its rambling and circuitous route has thus far made it impossible for officials to determine its planned final destination, and the autopilot has thus far provided no consistent indication of its intentions.

"We think the autopilot perhaps became bored with the standard route -- this way, that way, Berlin, Bangkok, back and forth, up and down -- and decided to go exploring on its own," said Bertolt Kafka, a senior official with the Deutsches Bundesamt für die Deutung der Motive der Ziellosen Flugzeuge, a German agency responsible for tracking and analysing airborne anomalies. "We expect it will eventually tire itself out and return home voluntarily from its little adventure."

The Airbus A380, like many of the newer range of Airbus aircraft, is equipped with advanced automation and "fly-by-wire" systems that allow the aircraft to essentially fly itself. Takeoff, landing, and virtually all navigation can be handled entirely automatically, with the pilot's role primarily that of a troubleshooter in the case of mechanical failure, difficult weather conditions, or other situations that would require direct human intervention.

"It's also necessary to have the pilot to keep the passengers calm and obedient," said Wilhelm Flink, a spokesman for Airbus. "You need to have the reassuring voice that tells the passenger you are now six miles over Iceland, or that it is bumpy ahead, or that the movies begin soon. We can do that with tape recorders, but we save that for later. Still things can go wrong sometimes."

The wayward Airbus has thus far traversed a large swath of Europe's scenic landscapes, rambling over parts of Scotland and Wales followed by several circuits of Paris and Versailles and a low pass over the Swiss Alps. It then appeared to be uncertain about its next move, performing a series of long figure eights over northern Italy before heading southward toward the Aegean Sea.

"It wants to go to the beach, maybe," said Kafka. "But perhaps not sure about the weather conditions in Greece."

The passengers and crew of the Airbus A380 are reportedly in good condition, given the circumstances. Food and water have thus far been sufficient, and additional supplies can be tanked aboard together with additional fuel through an aerial procedure known as "coupling".

"We have two pipes when we do the aerial refuelling," said Flink. "One has the jet fuel to keep the aircraft in the air, the other has small bottles of wine and water, crackers and cheese, various in-flight meals including vegetarian and kosher selections, and in-flight entertainment. Passengers have asked for the new Zorro movie. So the safety and comfort of the passengers can be assured for as long as the autopilot decides to stay in the air."

One passenger, Juliette O'Keefe, an advertising executive from Manhattan who spoke to reporters via air-phone, said she was "just fine with the delay. The views are spectacular, the airplane is really comfortable. It's like a little extended vacation. As far as I'm concerned, the autopilot can keep us up here as long as it wants to. I know he'll bring us down safely in the end."

From Avant News, 2005/10/31 9:04:22

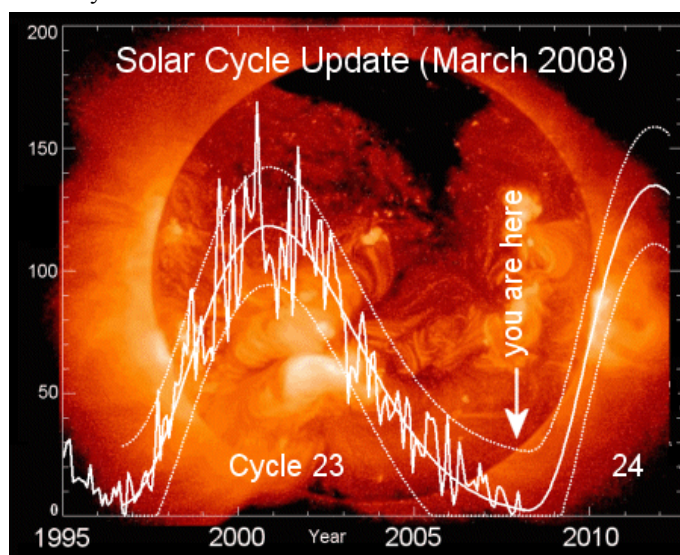
Avant News is a satirical news service, reporting on events yet to happen. Read more unbroken news at:

<http://www.avantnews.com>

SOLAR MINIMA JUMPS THE GUN

Barely three months after forecasters announced the beginning of the new Solar Cycle 24, it appears that the old Solar Cycle 23 hasn't quite finished yet!

"This week, three big sunspots appeared and they are all old cycle spots," says NASA solar physicist David Hathaway. "We know this because of their magnetic polarity. We have two solar cycles in progress at the same time. Solar Cycle 24 has begun (the first new-cycle spot appeared in January 2008), but Solar Cycle 23 has not ended."



Strange as it sounds, this is perfectly normal. Around the time of solar minimum (i.e. now) old-cycle spots and new-cycle spots frequently intermingle. Eventually Cycle 23 will fade to zero, giving way in full to Solar Cycle 24, but not yet.

From: science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/28mar_oldcycle.htm

NERG'S JMFD STATION

Several factors lead to NERG abandoning its usual weekend on Mount Macedon for the John Moyle Field Day last month. Instead we ran a support station from the club rooms in Briar Hill exchanging numbers with all the field and home stations we could hear. We had hoped to encourage many of our newer amateurs to come and try a little contesting, although only one of our F calls picked up the microphone on the night.

VK3CNE won't appear in the official results as there isn't a category for multi-operator non-portable stations but it was good practice setting up the station and getting all the antennas working again.

The station ran from around 2pm Saturday to 10pm. The HF bands were rather quiet, except for 80 meters which picked up in the evening. All the usual suspects were heard on 2 meters and 70cm although there were some very long quiet periods once all stations had been worked at the start of the three hour block. Unfortunately nothing that could be called DX on any band - not even a distant beacon was heard. Better luck next year!

SIMPLE 6-METRE (DX) ANTENNA

By Paul McMahon VK3DIP

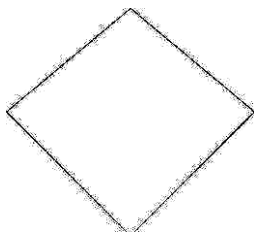
The following is based on an article by LB Cebick in QST May 2002 on a Quad Turnstile antenna for 6 Metres. The quad turnstile is basically two full wave loops mounted at right angles fed 90 degrees out of phase to produce an omni-directional horizontally polarized pattern with about 4 dB's of gain over a dipole. The original article describes exactly how this antenna works etc. so I won't go into that here, what I will give is my somewhat simplified construction of a version of it.

The nominal design frequency for this antenna is 50.5MHz but as far as VSWR is concerned my prototype was still under 1.5 to 1 at 53 MHz and 1.2 or better at 50.5 MHz. The pattern is supposedly a little less omni-directional at the higher frequency but is still better than a dipole, and is horizontally polarized so if you are after some 6 Metre DX and you haven't got the space for a Yagi, you won't suffer from the nominal 20dB polarization loss you would get with some form of vertical.

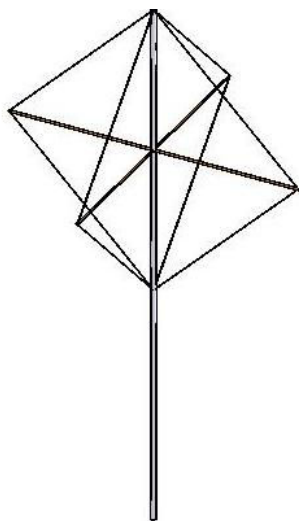
In my case I made the loops out of 6.325 Metre lengths of 16 B&S or about 1.25 mm diameter solid enamelled copper wire. According to the original article, I could have used anything from 10 to 18 B&S (or 2.5mm to 1 mm diameter), and the same length would have been fine. The only caveat was to not use plastic coated wire, mainly because this would need an unspecified shorter length. (I would guess about 5 % if you wanted to give it a go) Each loop is made in the shape of a diamond and is supported on a non-conductive structure made, in my case, out of electrical conduit, which remarkably is actually quite a bit cheaper than wood dowel.

A rough picture of this is shown below.

Two loops like this. Note the break at the bottom where they are feed.



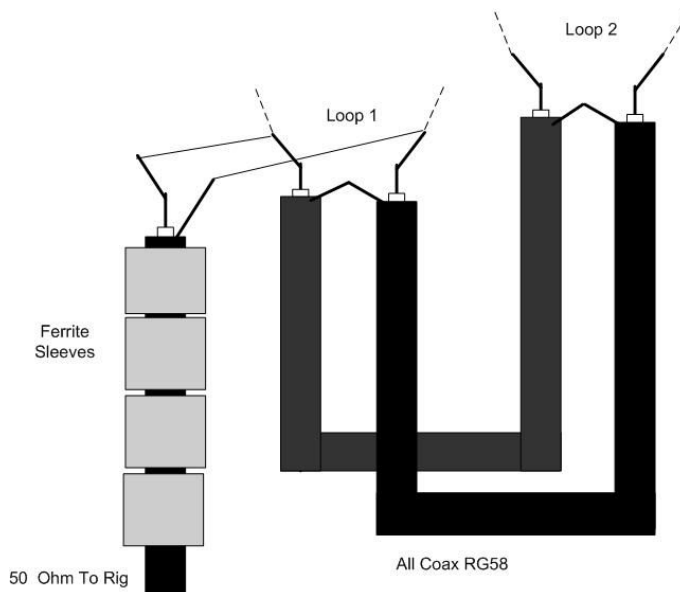
Assembled to look like this...



The main pole in my case was a 4 Metre length of 32mm diam conduit and the cross pieces were some thin 10 mm dowel I happened to have had, but thinner conduit with a four way junction box in the centre would have made a neater job of it. Each of the four arms in my case were about 1.1 Metres long but pretty much anything from about 1 to 1.5 Metres would probably do with little effect. i.e. The shape of the loop is not

as important as the circumference. To increase the strength of the resultant structure I used some fishing line between the four ends of the spreaders. The two loops were placed through holes drilled in the ends of each of the spreaders and the top of the vertical support.

Feeding the structure is very simple. Each loop has an impedance of about 125 Ohms, and needs to be connected by a quarter wave phasing section connected at the base of the diamond. In the original article RG62 was used for this, but as I don't have any of that I used two pieces of 50 Ohm RG58 in series, the braid connected together at each end and feeding into the two centres, this makes effectively 100 Ohm balanced (and shielded) feeder which is close enough to the nominal loop impedance. Again in my case the velocity factor of the coax was 0.67 so the quarter wave section worked out to be 0.994 Metres long at 50.5 MHz. Another rough drawing, this time of the coax arrangement is shown below.



Having the two a bit over 100 Ohm loops connected effectively in parallel via 100 Ohm Feeder gives an effective feed point of around 50 Ohms. So I used some more RG58 cable to connect to the rig. As we are talking about a balanced 50 Ohms in this case I used 6 ferrite sleeves on the end of the coax feeder to act as a choke balun. I used Jaycar part number LF1258 sleeves for this and 6 of them because 6 came in the packet. 6 is a bit of overkill as I had previously tested and found two worked fine at both 2 M and 70cm, but I wanted to be sure in case I subsequently got some more power from somewhere and they are quite cheap. I taped all the coax and sleeves up in insulation tape leaving the four connection points protruding, which were then soldered to the two loops and after pulling the wire loops reasonably taught further taped to the vertical support.

That's it - the whole lot was then stuck up in the air and as previously mentioned the VSWR measured better than 1.2:1 at 50 MHz, rising to 1.5 at the 54 MHz end of the band.

But does it work? Answer yes it does. While tuning down to the bottom end of the band to test the VSWR and going past 50.137 MHz I noticed a strong signal reading well over the S9 on the little meter on my FT690R. Long story short it turned out to be a VK4 talking to a VK3 (the VK4 was by far the stronger signal) and the VK4 subsequently gave me a reasonable signal report when I butted in during a break in the conversation. Not bad running barefoot with only 2.5 Watts.

73 Paul. VK3DIP

LINKED TV ANTENNAS

Two TV antennas got married the other day.
The service was OK, but the reception was fantastic!

MORSE TUTOR PROGRAM

QST magazine recently referred to a program called RUFZ that might be of interest. It is a program that randomly produces call-signs in Morse code. Very useful for Morse practice - but only if you like using that "outdated" ear-phone to ear interface - and not by reading it off the screen like an e-mail !

This Morse tutor program gives you a good "work-out" because the speed increases as you read the call-signs correctly and slows down when you make mistakes. You can set the start speed but then the software takes over. It is calibrated in Characters Per Minute (CPM), running from about 40 to 1,000 CPM (yes, people can read Morse at 1,000 CPM!). By my calculations that equates to about 4 to 200 Words Per Minute.

Of course, if your Morse operation was all keyboard input/computer generated and interpreted (surely this would not apply to any NERGs?) the Morse Tutor would not be of much use. I guess you could still feed it into your sound card though and check that your Morse software was operating correctly!

In my opinion, it is quite a well constructed piece of software. I also had to load Microsoft .NET Framework to get it to run on my home computer. The program and .NET can be downloaded from: www.rufzxp.net

73 Peter VK3DU

RUFZ is used in the official IARU High Speed Telegraphy Championships. Even though it sounds like a data burst, there are operators that can actually decode callsigns at 200 WPM!

DIGGING UP HISTORY

After having dug to a depth of 10 metres last year, Scottish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Scots, in the weeks that followed, English scientists dug to a depth of 20 metres, and shortly after, headlines in the UK newspapers read: 'English archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Scots.'

One week later, The Kerryman, a southwest Irish newsletter, reported the following: 'After digging as deep as 30 metres in peat bog near Tralee, Paddy O'Droll, a self taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Paddy has therefore concluded that 300 years ago Ireland had already gone wireless!

2008 ARDF/FOXHUNT CALENDAR 2008 AMATEUR RADIO EVENTS

H = Hamfest, A = ARDF/RadiO/Foxhunt, C = Contest, M= Meeting, S = Special event, G = General, W = WICEN

FoxHunt = Friday night or weekend daylight mobile hunt.

RadiO = a simplified direction finding competition usually held at an orienteering event. **BushO** = Bush orienteering event. Check the ARDF web site for updates and further details at: www.ardf.org.au

April 2008

- M Apr 10 NERG meeting
- W Apr 11-13 Oxfam Trailwalker - Jells Park to Wesburn, WICEN providing communications.
- A Apr 18 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- G Apr 25 ANZAC day (Friday)
- C Apr 25 Harry Angel Sprint contest, 80m CW/SSB/Mixed (date yet to be confirmed)
- S Apr 26 International Marconi Day - www.gb4imd.org.uk

May 2008

- C May 10 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 80m Phone www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transtasman
- H May 10 Moorabbin Hamfest, Brentwood Secondary College, 10am, map 71-D7, www.mdrc.org.au
- A May 11 Tri-O - FoxOr-Ride-Run. Starts with a FoxOr map, then a bike leg, then a short run to finish. Location to be determined.
- G May 11 Mothers Day
- A May 16 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- M May 21 Amateur Radio Victoria Annual General Meeting St Michael's Hall, cnr Victory Boulevard and High Street, Ashburton, commencing 8pm.
- M May 24-25 WIA AGM, held in Broken Hill
- A May 24 Tri-O - FoxOr-Ride-Run. See May 11 details.
- C May 24 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 80m CW
- C May 24-25 CQ-World-Wide WPX / CW contest (International) www.cq-amateur-radio.com

June 2008

- G Jun 9 Queens Birthday Holiday
- A Jun 15 RadiO ARDF/FoxOr event, Braeside Park
- A Jun 20 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- G Jun 28 - Jul 13 School Holidays
- A Jun 29 RadiO FoxOr event, Birrurung Park

July 2008

- C Jul -- Jack Files Contest, Phone & CW Actual date to be announce. www.wia.org.au/members/contests/jackfiles
- C Jul 5 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 160m Phone www.wia.org.au/members/contests/transtasman
- A Jul 18 Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
- H Jul 19 Gippsland Gates Annual Hamfest 08, 10am-3pm, Cranbourne Public Hall
- C Jul 19 VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 160m CW
- A Jul 20 Victorian ARDF Champs at Kurucaruc Creek, in conjunction with Ballarat series Orienteering
- C Jul 26-27 Islands On The Air (IOTA) contest, www.contesting.co.uk/hfcc/iota.shtml

August 2008

- C Aug 1 QRP Day contest, CW/SSB/FM, HF/VHF
- M Aug 16-17 International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, illw.net
- C Aug 16-17 Remembrance Day Contest, HF or VHF+, Phone/CW/Open or Receive Only 0800 UTC Sat to 0759 UTC Sun. www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rdcontest

September 2008

- A Sep 1-7 14th World ARDF Championships, Korea
- G Sep 20 - Oct 5 Victorian School Holidays
- C Sep 26-27 CQWW RTTY DX contest (international) www.cq-amateur-radio.com

October 2008

- G Oct 5 Daylight Savings starts (subject to change)
- C Oct -- Oceania DX contest (formerly VK/ZL contest) 24hr, Single/Multi/ReceiveOnly,... Phone & CW weekend dates to be announced. WIA/NZART www.oceaniadxcontest.com
- M Oct 18-19 51st Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

- W Oct 18-19 Rally of Melbourne car rally, Yarra Glen to Marysville, WICEN providing communications.
- H Oct 26 BARG Hamvention at the Ballarat Exhibition Centre at The Great Southern Woolshed, on the Western Freeway Ballarat, Doors open 10am. Further information: vk3bml@barg.org.au
- C Oct 25-26 CQ-World-Wide DX / SSB (international) www.cq-amateur-radio.com

November 2008

- G Nov 4 Melbourne Cup holiday (metro only)
- A Nov 15 Night ARDF event at Smiths Reef with Bush-O
- C Nov 15-16 Spring VHF-UHF Field Day, 24 hr (WIA) 0100 UTC Sat to 0100 UTC Sun. 6hr/24hr, Single/Multi/Home www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf
- G Nov 22 Banyule's Manna Gum Festival, Greensborough
- C Nov 24-25 CQWW DX / CW contest (international) www.cq-amateur-radio.com

December 2008

- G Dec 20 Summer School Holidays start
- C Dec 26 Ross Hull Memorial VHF-UHF contest starts (runs for 3 weeks). www.wia.org.au/members/contests/rosshull/

January 2009

- C Jan -- Summer VHF-UHF Field Day, (WIA), 0100 UTC Sat to 0100 UTC Sun. on either second or third weekend, yet to be announced. www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf

NOTE: please confirm details closer to the posted dates!

UTC dates may be used for International events.

Dates gathered from WIA, AR Vic, ARRL, various clubs, VK Contest Club www.vkcc.com, and Banyule City calendars.

NERG COFFEE SHOP NIGHT

The next coffee shop night will be held at the NERG hall at 8pm on Thursday April 24th 2008.

*We don't want to be the best in the world.....
We just want to be the best for our local community*



**Pizza and Pasta
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**Proud sponsors of the NERG
- making our meetings even
more enjoyable!**



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www.margheritas.com.au

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 in 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
	Don Haslam	VK3KDT	0409 024 597
	Ernie Walls	VK3FM	
Repeaters	Mark Harrison	VK3BYY	9435 3043

Meetings

Main Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45 PM (ex Dec & Jan)
Coffee Shop nights: 4th Tuesday each month.
Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Road, Briar Hill
(Near Sherbourne Road intersection) Melway map ref 21-C3

Classes & Exams

NERG occasionally runs classes and exams for Amateur licences

Callsigns and Repeaters (25km North East of Melbourne)

Club call - VK3CNE <http://www.nerg.asn.au/vk3cne>

6m repeater VK3RMH FM 52.550 MHz in 53.550 MHz out
70cm rpt. VK3RMH FM 433.325 MHz in 438.325 MHz out
with 70cm IRLP node 6350, EchoLink node 140587

6m beacon VK3RMH CW 10 Watts H 50.2950 MHz
10m beacon VK3RMH CW 20 Watts V 28.2565 MHz

Packet Radio VK3CNE 2m 144.700 MHz, 1200 bps

VK3CNE-1 for mail,BBS; VK3CNE-7 for the DX Cluster.

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. Also used as a general Net frequency.

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

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BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

STAMP

NEXT MEETING:
7.45 pm Thursday 10th April 2008
Ted talking about Surviving a Fire

2008 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

Apr 10	April NERG Meeting
Apr 11-13	Oxfam Trailwalker - Jells Park to Wesburn, WICEN providing communications.
Apr 17	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
Apr 18	Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs.
Apr 22	Gainfully Unemployed Group, 10am at the QTH TBA
Apr 24	NERG coffee shop night
Apr 25	ANZAC day (Friday)
May 1	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
May 8	NERG Meeting
May 10	Moorabbin Hamfest, Brentwood Secondary College Map 71-D7, 10am,
May 10	VK/ trans-Tasman Contest - 80m Phone
May 15	NERG Net - 8:30pm 146.575 MHz FM
May 16	Friday Night Foxhunt, Melbourne suburbs