



**JULY 2011**

**NERG Inc.**  
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**WHAT'S ON AT NERG IN JULY**

The next NERG meeting will be a Home Brew Show'n'Tell night. The idea is you bring along something you've built, modified or programmed. You'll get up to 10 minutes to show off your creation, with time to answer a question or two from the audience or a big gong if you run overtime!

We'll also have a video camera to display smaller items on "the big screen".

The meeting is 14 July, so rummage around the shack and find that old Beer Can antenna, Free energy machine, Kilowatt amplifier, circuit design program, or your most recent Jaycar kit.

The aim is to demonstrate just how diverse our hobby is and what can be made with a little effort. With luck, we'll inspire others to become "makers" and not just appliance operators!

NERG meetings are held at the Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd, Briar Hill, MELWAY 21 C3. Following the meeting there will be time for a friendly chat over a cuppa and some delicious Margherita pizza for supper! 73, Mark Harrison, VK3BYY, NERG NEWS Editor

**THE GAINFULLY UNEMPLOYED GROUP**

The Gainfully Unemployed Group met at Gerhard's for the June meeting, with all participants drifting in like Browns Cows between about 9.55 am and 11.30 am. At the end, there were nine of us, being Gerhard VK3EWM, Greg VK3VT, John VK3XD, Dave VK3JMB, Ian VK3QL, Ernie VK3FM, Peter VK3DU, Steve VK3JSE and Ewen VK3OW, and we all drifted off, pretty much as a group. XYL Barbara was in attendance the whole day and, needless to say, all catering arrangements went off flawlessly.

As is usual, the discussion was vigorous and varied, and the time flew. It seemed such a short time when the 3 pm bell rang.

A nice selection of bread rolls, meats, cheeses and various bits and pieces was on offer to ward off hunger until the main course, a very nice pumpkin based soup, was served, followed some time later by a nice home baked cake, with a featured flavour of ginger; this flavour provoked an animated group discussion for some time, given that none of us were sure what the 'flavour' was – although to be fair, Greg and Ewen both mentioned ginger as a strong possibility. A few of the group wanted to eat healthy, so had a slightly smaller piece of cake, and then adorned it with a huge dob of whipped cream! So much for eating healthy. Off course, tea and coffee followed the standard procedure, of a bottomless cup; if you emptied your cup, and wanted another; you were graciously looked after by Gerhard.

# NERG NEWS

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

Next Meeting 7.45pm  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011

## Homebrew Show'n'Tell Night



*Home Brew Tin Hat with active confuser circuit*

**Gainfully Unemployed Group: Thurs. 26<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Next Coffee Night: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

**GIPPSLAND GATE HAMFEST 16 JULY**

Reminder.....

The Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club will be conducting their annual Hamfest on the 16th July 2011 at the Cranbourne Community Hall on the corner of Clarendon and High Streets, Cranbourne. High Street is part of the South Gippsland Highway. Melway 133 K4.

40 tables will be presented at this large venue. Tables will be available for \$20 each. Reservations for stall holders may be made by contacting Steve Harding VK3EGD on 0408 878934 or by emailing: [hamfest@ggrec.org.au](mailto:hamfest@ggrec.org.au). More information can be found at <http://ggrec.org.au/hamfest>.

Doors open at 8:30am for stall holders and at 10:00 AM for the general public. Admittance is \$6.

Take away food, tea and coffee will be available. The entry fee includes a ticket in the Door Prize which will be drawn around 1:30pm. Great prizes to be won as usual. Additional tickets can be purchased on the day.

## RESULTS FROM FOXHUNT CHAMPIONSHIPS AT SERG

More than two dozen radio direction finding enthusiasts participated in the annual Australian Foxhunt Championships held in Mt Gambier SA on the Queen's Birthday Weekend last month. The event is hosted by the South East Radio Group (SERG), who also hold a hamfest & convention on this weekend.

Around two dozen foxhunters in nine teams battled it out for 9 events consisting of two sniffer hunts with the rest vehicle and runner based. Hunts were held on 80m, 6m, 2m, 70cm, and 23cm.

As usual, VK3's out numbered VK5 teams, so it's not surprising VK3's won most events. The VK3BLN team won the overall trophy, with VK3TXO and VK3FAST teams not far behind. The VK3OW team (NERG's president) came in 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Mount Gambier forests lived up to their reputation with several vehicles becoming bogged in deep muddy roads (or should that be goat tracks?).

For the full story and photos, see the SERG web site at:

<http://serg.mountgambier.org/>

## NOW THAT'S A MAST!

Poland has the world's tallest wooden radio mast.

At 118 m (387 ft) high the tower, constructed of an impregnated larch wood framework is located in Gliwice, in the South of Poland. The tower's longevity is assisted by the use of 16,000 brass screws – no iron was used because it was thought to affect the aerial efficiency.

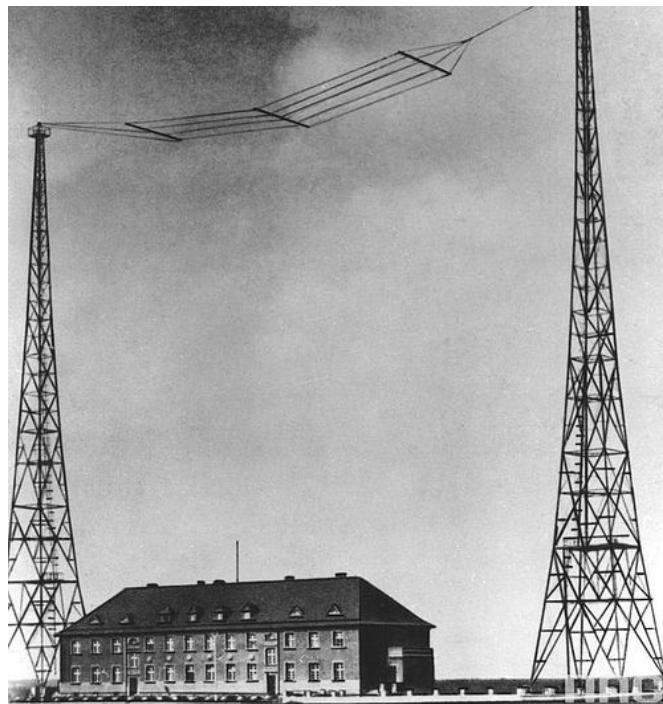


The mast today. *Source: Wikimedia.org*

The tower was nicknamed "the Silesian Eiffel Tower" by the locals. Access to its top is via 365 step ladder.

The tower was originally built in 1935 when the territory was part of Germany. At that time, it was used as the mast for a medium wave 5 kilowatt transmitter on 1231 kHz and between 1945-1953 as the home of Radio Katowice.

Between 1950 and 1956, the station was used to jam western broadcasting stations.



*Source: Wikimedia.org*

Although the tower is now maintained as a museum piece, it supports several mobile phone stations, an FM broadcast antenna, and several mobile radio services.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gliwice\\_Radio\\_Tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gliwice_Radio_Tower)

For a nice aerial shop (pardon the pun!) go to Google Maps ([maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com)) and enter the co-ordinates: 50.313333, 18.688889 in the search box (and select satellite view). The photo is a little out of date – a public park was built recently as can be seen here:

[http://www.radiostacjagliwicka.republika.pl/foldery/Gliwice\\_Radio\\_EN.pdf](http://www.radiostacjagliwicka.republika.pl/foldery/Gliwice_Radio_EN.pdf)

## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER?

Curiously, Great Britain and European CB'ers will soon be allowed to use SSB on their 27MHz Citizens Band. Here is the story from Southgate news:

"The ECC Decision (11)03 of June 24, 2011 paves the way for the use of 27 MHz SSB CB across the British Isles and Europe. It permits the use of SSB equipment running 12 watts PEP output in the frequency band 26.960 - 27.410 MHz. The ECC Decision came into force on June 24, 2011 and the preferred date for implementation of this ECC Decision by national administrations is October 1, 2011."

According to Wikipedia, in 1981 CB was first allowed in the United Kingdom on 40 channels between 27.6 – 29MHz using Angle Modulation (which includes FM). In 1987 an additional 40 channels of FM were added in the more universal 26.965-27.405MHz range (the same range used in Australia).

The new changes allow both SSB and DSB (including Amplitude Modulation), so perhaps there will be a market on eBay for all those old 27MHz CB's you have stored under the bench after all :-)

## REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST

The Remembrance Day Contest for 2011 is on the weekend 13-14 August. The RD will commence at the same time as in previous years, that is 0800 and run until to 0759 UTC the following day.

The rules have been published in the July edition of Amateur Radio magazine and online at [www.wia.org](http://www.wia.org)

## THE ESSENTIAL TOOL GUIDE

### DRILL PRESS:

A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

### WIRE WHEEL:

Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, "Oh, shit!"

### SKILL SAW:

A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

### PLIERS:

Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

### BELT SANDER:

An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

### HACKSAW:

One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

### WISE-GRIPS:

Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

### OXYACETYLENE TORCH:

Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

### TABLE SAW:

A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

### HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:

Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

### BAND SAW:

A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminium sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

### TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST:

A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

### PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:

Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

### STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER:

A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

### PRY BAR:

A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

### HOSE CUTTER:

A tool used to make hoses too short.

### HAMMER:

Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

### UTILITY KNIFE:

Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

### Son of a b\*tch TOOL:

Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling "Son of a bitch" at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

## END OF AN ERA

The days of sending copies of the NERG NEWS out to members via the postal system recently ended. The blank space set aside for mailing labels on the last page has at last gone and is replaced by a new calendar and club information.

Technology has bought us a long way in the last couple of decades of newsletter production. To my knowledge, the newsletter has never been delivered over the air, although I believe was once used as a text source for slow Morse practice!

The NERG NEWS started out life as typewritten and handwritten material glued to a master sheet that was duplicated (generally fading away not long afterwards).

News editors (often employing child labour) have spent years slaving over hot photocopies, folding newsletters and licking stamps. This was usually followed by a quick dash to the post office to send out the news in time for the next meeting.

Home computers and laser printers revolutionised the process, and stamps became pressure sensitised, but there was still the folding, stapling, and a quick dash to the post box.

The news was sent out briefly by FAX as an experiment but was a very time consuming task and just as frustrating as fighting with photocopier paper jams, so it never really caught on.

These days the newsletter is sent via email and is downloadable from the NERG web site. It also circulates the World as people pass it on and radio clubs 'rebroadcast' it to their members. Stories are even picked up and published in real magazines like the WIA Amateur Radio magazine and online at the Southgate Amateur Radio News.

The NERG web site has even been archived by the Wayback Machine, with nearly ten years of snapshots available at [web.archive.org](http://web.archive.org)

I'm not sure what technology we'll be using next, but it's sure to be exciting (and won't involve licking stamps or dashing to the post box :-)

In the mean time, if you hear of any members that miss their hardcopy newsletter please run a copy off for them or point them at the NERG web site [nerg.asn.au](http://nerg.asn.au)



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**Margherita proudly sponsors the delicious pizzas enjoyed at the NERG meeting nights**

# Next Meeting: 7.45 pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011

## Homebrew Show'n'Tell Night

2011 CALENDAR (NERG ACTIVITIES IN BOLD TYPE)

<b>July 7</b>	<b>NERG NET</b> – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
<b>July 14</b>	<b>NERG July Meeting, 7-45pm, Briar Hill Community Hall</b>
July 16	Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club, 10AM Cnr. Clarendon & High St. Cranbourne, Melway 133 K4.
<b>July 21</b>	<b>NERG NET</b> – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
<b>July 26</b>	<b>NERG Morning tea/lunch group</b>
<b>July 28</b>	<b>NERG coffee shop night, 8pm</b>
July 30	VK3RSE repeater group dinner
<b>August 4</b>	<b>NERG NET</b> – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
<b>August 11</b>	<b>NERG Annual General Meeting, 7-45pm, Briar Hill Community Hall</b>
August 13-14	Remembrance Day Contest
<b>August 18</b>	<b>NERG NET</b> – 146.575MHz FM 8.30-9.30pm
August 20-21	International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend
<b>August 23</b>	<b>NERG Morning tea/lunch group 10am-2pm</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>NERG coffee shop night, 8pm</b>

**NOTE: always 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](http://www.vkcc.com), and Banyule City calendars.

### NERG MEETING CALENDAR

The current NERG Calendar is still looking bare! Your assistance is required in filling in a few dates.

We are looking for people to talk about their favourite subject – preferably to do with amateur radio, but we've had some great "off-topic" talks in the past too!

Date	Subject
August	NERG AGM
September	
October	
November	
December	End of year BBQ
January	holidays

**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	Ewen Templeton	VK3OW	
Secretary	John Weir	VK3XD	9431 0667
Treasurer	Marg Baxter	VK3VOJ	9467 1253
T/Assistant	Jim Baxter	VK3KE	
Committee	Betsy King	VK3HBK	
	David Aston	VK3UQ	0411-877-051
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
	Don Haslam	VK3KDT	0409 024 597
	Greg Williams	VK3VT	9432 0563

News/Repeaters

Mark Harrison VK3BYY 9435 3043

**Meetings**

Main Meeting: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45 PM (ex Dec & Jan)  
 Coffee Shop nights: 4<sup>th</sup> 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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