



OCTOBER 2001

NERG Inc.  
PO Box 270  
Greensborough  
Victoria 3088

## This Month:

Better late than never, John Kolm, of R&C magazine and RadioMag fame (and the infamous Nuke-the-NERG foxhunt team), will try again to talk about corporate teams, with some wild and woolly tales. You may know from John's R&C (now Radio Mag) articles that he runs motivational training sessions.

John has also donated a famous Kolm cartoon for the NERG. This will become a perpetual trophy to be awarded for the best story or editorial to be submitted to NERG NEWS each year.

## November Guest Speaker:

David Aston, VK3THY, has offered to talk about Digital Television at the October meeting. What is it, how does it work, why do we need it, and is it any good? David works in the TV industry and should be able to answer these and other questions.

Please note temporary venue at Briar Hill Community Hall.

## Last Month:

Affects of the World Trade Center disaster on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept have even reached the NERG. At very short notice we had to abandon the September meeting due to a sudden increase in security at the Army Barracks, preventing access to the meeting room. Word of the cancellation was sent out via E-mail and was discussed at length on the NERG Net channel (146.575MHz FM). Apologies to those that got turned away at the barracks gates.

## Temporary Meeting Place:

With the US invasion launched today, the above situation is likely to persist for some time. Fortunately Don, VK3KDT, was able to secure a **temporary meeting place**. The next few meetings will be held at the **Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd., Briar Hill (Melway map 21, ref C3)**. The local council have generously offered the hall at very good rates during this (hopefully short-term) disruption.

# NERG NEWS

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

**This Month's Meeting:**  
**7.45 pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2001**

**!!!! NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE !!!!**

**Briar Hill Community Hall**  
**126 Mountain View Road**  
(150 meters North of Sherbourne Rd intersection)  
**Melways map21-C3**

**Guest Speaker: John Kolm**

**Wild and Woolly stories from the Corporate Training World**

(re-scheduled!)

## The Morning Tea Club

The morning tea club once again had a most enjoyable meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September at the home of Dave VK3JMB. Those attending were Steve VK3JSE, Gerhard VK3EWM, Ian VK3BGE and Jim VK3DBQ. The session started with usual "shack" visit. Dave demonstrated the Australian developed computer-logging program Hamlog. His ability with, and knowledge of, it was very impressive.

The group adjourned to the morning tea table where they largely stayed transfixed until well after 3pm, having arrived at 10am. The time

was spent discussing various topical issues with great insight through to some very basic male yarns. The array of food prepared by Carol, Dave's XYL, was vast and almost consumed by the time she returned only to add more fruit cake - a very tasty one.

Future meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month, starting with VK3EWM Gerhard's on 23rd October, 34 Panorama Drive, Lower Plenty. The November 27th meeting will be at VK3JSE Steve's QTH. There is no meeting in December but will resume at the QTH of VK3DBQ, Jim on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2002. (Jim VK3DBQ)

## Christmas in November?

It just could turn out that way, so come along to our:

## NERG White Elephant Night

To be held on **Thursday November 22, 8pm** (off meeting week) at our temporary premises, the **Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Road, Briar Hill (Melway map 21 ref C3)**.

Here is your chance to pass on those much loved but unused items that gather dust in the shack or garage. This is to be a swap, sell, buy, and DONATE fun night for all. Items need not be directly AR related so long as they are not too bulky. (Remember that items not traded must be taken back home again).

Entry for all will be a \$2.00 donation and to help the club along we are having a club table full of donated goodies for sale, so please remember to have a little something special for the club table as you arrive (and bring a little extra cash to spend! - Ed.).

It will be your kindness and generosity that will make the night a roaring success. To start the ball rolling we have a ... you guessed it ... a boat (or antenna) winch!

Donations prior to the night gladly accepted by Don VK3KDT.

Keep **November 22<sup>nd</sup>** free on your calendar and be sure to invite your friends to come along and join us in a fun night of swapping stories and gear.

Looking forward to seeing you there, 73's, Don VK3KDT

## Annual NERG Novice Class Exams

On evening of the morning tea at the QTH of VK3VOJ and VK3DBQ the Novice class exams were held with Greg VK3VT and Jim VK3DBQ acting as the "invigilators". Well it means one who supervises examination candidates and has been chosen by the WIA or ACA for us. There were 8 candidates, two of which were just using the NERG exam facility with the others largely being Novice class attendees. We wish them all the very best for the exam results for which we have high expectations of working them on the bands shortly.

The candidates and the NERG wish to thank all those who helped with this year's classes, especially Mark VK3BYY who had so much thrust upon him. (Jim VK3DBQ)

## 2001 LEONIDS Meteor Storm

The Earth is about to make another pass through the Leonids meteorite belt. Apart from the sometimes spectacular meteor displays in the night sky, amateurs can bounce signals off the trails left behind. Brief but great DX contacts can be made on the VHF and UHF bands. (This is Meteor Scatter).

New dust trail computer models, which have been quite accurate in the past two years, are predicting highest activity over eastern Asia and Australia around 1800 UTC on November 18. More exactly, 1731 UTC for a 9-rev trail and 1819 UTC for a more-interesting 4-rev trail. Everyone is predicting a large storm, with rates anywhere between 2000 and 15,000 per hour, depending upon how close the earth passes to the centre of the trail.

## CW Practice NET

A frequency of 3.540MHz has been chosen for the NERG CW practice net to be held on Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm local time. A call of **CQ NERG CQ NERG CQ NERG de VK3DBQ VK3DBQ VK3DBQ K** will be put out several times with a pause between for stations to send **VK3DBQ VK3DBQ VK3DBQ de your call sign three times**. Please listen to ensure your not doubling. If one station replies I will wait and listen for more stations. Once there is a list we will go around the list going via the net controller using KN to call in only the named station. It would be good idea to have some prepared text to send as it will make it easier in the beginning. Something not too long such as **GOOD TO HEAR YOU THIS EVENING MY NAME IS JIM SO BACK TO YOU VK3DBQ de VK3you**. Over time we will introduce standard Morse abbreviations to help you exchange more information in a given time.

All efforts should be made to keep the Morse speeds between 5 and 12 wpm. It will be hard for some, as it is not easy to vary your speed in the early stages of using CW. So lets all get involved and add a new dimension to our amateur radio skill set but please remember

others are at different stages so lets try to keep it slow and easy so as many as possible gain from the session. (Jim VK3DBQ)

## DX with a handheld 2m box?

(By Gerhard VK3EWM)

Well, almost!

My good mate Don, VK3KDT, did it again. He presented me with building instructions for two 2-Meter ground independent whips. That was several years ago, when I was busy earning money to keep the family going.

Now, that I have permanently retired, I have lots of time and am so bored, that I started to dig a little in a long forgotten corner of the house.

Those plans were rediscovered and I thought: I will give one a "GO". I always wanted a flexible antenna for my VHF-Bucket. Not willing to waste any coax in case of failure, I bought, what I considered in any case, a useful 10m length of DSE quality RG58C/U for, at that time, \$1.35/m (Cat. Number W2092). Furthermore I lashed out and invested in a brand new UHF-Plug (Cat.N.P2311 \$3.25 cash!).

The instructions originate from VK6FC, AR September 1985 and were republished in the WICEN newsletter of August 1996, that is Last Century! It was claimed to achieve a gain of 15 to 25 dB over a Rubber Ducky. Well, well, I thought, one more reason to try it.

Here are the instructions as per the WICEN-newsletter (using solid dielectric cable):

Make Stub "A" and the Radiator "C" first. Remove exactly 10mm of outer PVC from Feed Coax at 35mm from end of Feed Coax. Split Braid and connect Stub and Radiator as shown.

Trim open Stub "D" carefully as 2mm can change Resonance by 500kHz. Leave inner Insulation 1mm longer than Braid to prevent short circuit.

I followed these instructions very carefully and checked the SWR. I did not keep the exact SWR readings but it was obvious, there was a problem. The parallel tuned circuit consisting of "D" (the capacitor) and "A" (the inductor) were tuned too high in frequency. Shortening either of them would have made the SWR even worse. So I had no choice, and unsoldered the lot, and made Stub "D" longer.

Again, I kept no record of the new Stub but the final length was 47mm. I guess, 55mm would be a good starting point (The shorter the Stub "D", the higher the frequency).

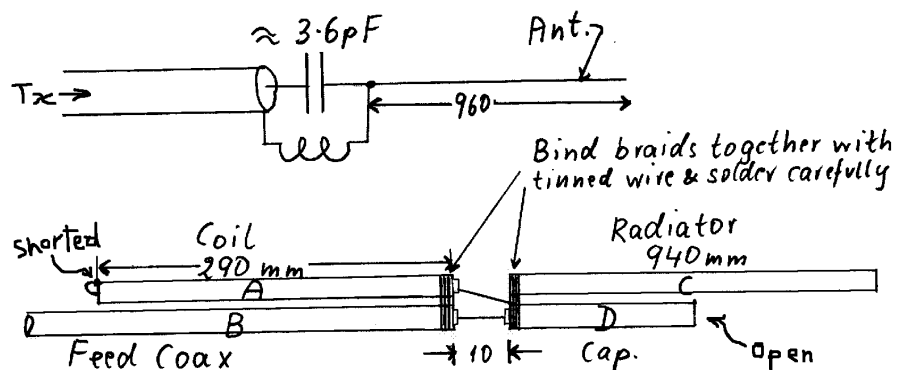
VK6FC claims: The SWR is better than 1.1:1 from 146 to 147MHz, and 1.5:1 at 145 and 148 MHz.

My SWR readings were not so flat and I decided to centre the resonance frequency in the middle of the FM-Band. I ended up with the following readings:

144 MHz - 2.0:1 / 2.1:1  
145 MHz - 1.6:1 / 1.6:1 Not Happy Jan!!!  
146 MHz - 1.5:1 / 1.25:1  
147 MHz - 1.8:1 / 1.15:1- The 147MHz reading didn't make sense.)  
148 MHz - 1.4:1 / 1.3:1 < PANIC > !!!

Deep in my memory banks I came about some info, which was related to "bent" SWR curves. So I changed the coax between the Tx and the SWR-meter and obtained the second set of readings. These looked more realistic. Now I have to give my right index finger a rest as it looks rather flat on the tip (I am using the 1-1.5 finger system). In regards to gain, I heard Dave VK3JMB on an old Xtal locked box; 1 Watt output. Antenna length is 47cm. I asked for a signal port, S 5. Then I used my new "acquisition", S 9+10db! As far as I remember, 1S unit = 6db. I gained 4S units + 10db = 36 dB! I do not doubt the quality of Dave's S-meter. What an improvement! Anybody interested?

Good luck, de Gerhard VK3EWM.



A = Stub (coil) 290mm, shorted on left.  
B = Feed Coax Cable  
C = Radiator 940mm  
D = Tuning Stub 35mm, open circuit.  
Was found to be too short. Try ~55mm!

## Membership fees Due:

NERG membership fees were due at the AGM in August. Many members have paid up but membership is still down on previous years. This month we will be posting reminder notices to the stragglers that are yet to pay up. After that we will reluctantly discontinue postage of the NEWS and invitations to great events like the NERG Christmas BBQ!

Please see back page for membership details.

## Time to Plan for the John Moyle Field Day

Time to plan for the 2002 John Moyle Field Day is here with us again, that's assuming the NERG wants to participate. I think we do and want to use Mt Macedon if we can meet the requirements of Parks Victoria. Assuming we can, then the planning starts with calling for a show of hands of those interested in being involved. Next we need to prepare a list of activities such as bands to be worked and catering etc. A person is needed to organise each activity. For each band they need gather together a transceiver, power supply, antennas, coaxial cable, mast, guys, pegs, operating table and operator's chair.

So please think about what you can provide so the NERG can put forward a full-blown effort in 2002. The dates involve look like being Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> set up from around 9am and finishing in afternoon of Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>. (Jim VK3DBQ)

## Dave's DX Notes:

Dave VK3JMB reports that DX conditions haven't been too good lately. There was at least one big Solar Flare that knocked out communications for several days near the end of the September.

Dave also reports that several DX-pedition stations have been heard operating from islands in exotic places around the world. Here are the QSL addresses for those lucky enough to work some of these and other hard to locate stations:

C21UX & T30UX – QSL via PA3AXU  
Gamic Dijkers,  
DOKTER P.A. CORNETHOF 3  
6669AZ DODEWAARD  
Netherlands

OA4BQE  
827 Varela St., LIMA, 5, PERU

9N7QK – QSL via DL7UFP

Z36A & Z34M – QSL via DJ0LZ  
A. Jevremov,  
BADSTRASSE 8  
DE-82380 PLISSENBERG,  
GERMANY

KH2/WX8C – QSL via WX8C  
Harry G. Rudolph Jnr.  
8047 Dover Drive  
Grand Blanc  
M.I. 48439, USA

ZK1TUG – QSL via OM2SA  
Juraj Sipos

93013 TRHOVA HRADSKA 550  
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

FO0FLA – QSL via AH6HY  
Dave Flack  
PO Box 6005  
Honolulu, HI 96818-0005, USA

9H0VRZ – QSL via PA7DX  
Anton Kerkhoy  
BLAUBLOMKE 2  
8401 MG GORREDIJK  
NETHERLANDS

TG9HL  
PO Box 392-I  
GUATEMALA CITY  
GUATEMALA  
CENTRAL AMERICA

9H3TE – QSL via PE1NZA

(Dave, VK3JMB)

## IRLP feasibility meeting

NERGs met at John VK3BIZ's place last month with IRLP expert Tony VK3JED to consider the installation of a local IRLP node. Various options were considered, but more homework is necessary before the project proceeds any further. Most NERGs would prefer access to IRLP via 2 meters rather than 70cm for it to be useful to them. Running costs and availability of Internet connections may also need some lateral thinking as the NERG cannot afford to fund a long term node by itself. Stay tuned for more news...

## The 'Rough' NERG calendar to Amateur radio activities (OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2001)

Activities where NERGs are participating shown in **BOLD**. Please check all dates with a reliable source!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 <b>OCTOBER</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7 Oceania DX, Ph.
8	9	10	11 <b>NERG Meeting John Kolm</b>	12	13	14 Oceania DX CW
15	16	17	18	19	20 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)	21 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)
22	23 <b>NERG Morning Tea Group (VK3EWM)</b>	24	25	26	27 Ballarat Hamvention	28 Ballarat Hamvention
29	30	31				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>						
5	6	7	8 <b>NERG Meeting Digital TV</b>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 (18:00 UTC) Leonids Meteor Shower
19	20	21	22 <b>NERG White Elephant Night</b>	23	24	25 CQ WorldWide DX contest - CW
26	27 <b>NERG Morning Tea Group (VK3JSE)</b>	28	29	30		
<b>DECEMBER</b>						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 <b>NERG BBQ ?</b>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30
31						

**The NERG Inc.** Reg No 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**

**Committee**

President	Greg Williams	VK3VT	9432 0563
Secretary	Jim Baxter	VK3DBQ	9467 1253
Treasurer	Marg Baxter	VK3VOJ	9467 1253
Committee	Dave Pricter	VK3JMB	9465 9708
	Betsy King	VK3HBK	9431 2191
	Peter Cosway	VK3DU	9379 3626
Social Sec.	Don Haslam	VK3KDT	9439 1102
Repeaters	Mark Harrison	VK3BYY	9435 3043

**Meetings ( \* NOTE: temporary meeting place – see front page!)**

2nd Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm (excepting Dec. & Jan.)  
Normally\* at the Mactier Club (Golf club), corner of Blamey & Stevens Rds, Simpson Army Barracks, Macleod. (Melway map ref 20-F7)  
Car Park opposite in Blamey Rd. **Obey the traffic signs!**  
Facilities kindly donated by the Army for community use.

**Classes**

NERG occasionally runs classes and exams for Amateur license candidates.

**Callsigns and Repeaters (25km North East of Melbourne)**

Club call - 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

(Yes! it works now!!!!)

10m VK3RMH CW Beacon (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 VK3RMHrepeater.

**WEB Site:** <http://nerg.asn.au>, <http://www.qsl.net/vk3rmh> & /vk3cne

**NERG NEWS submissions and comments**

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**NERG**

North–East Radio Group VK3CNE  
Incorporated 1985  
BOX 270 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

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## MEETING This week::

7.45 PM Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2001

\*\*\* NOTE SPECIAL VENUE: Briar Hill Community Hall, 126 Mountain View Rd. \*\*\*

Guest speaker: John Kolm - Wild and Woolly stories from the Corporate Training World

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### CALENDAR 2001

October 11<sup>th</sup>  
October 20/21<sup>st</sup>  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
October 27/28<sup>th</sup>  
October 29<sup>th</sup>

**NERG Meeting – John Kolm** (see above)  
JOTA – Guides & Scouts “Jamboree Of The Air”  
**NERG Tuesday Morning Tea Group**  
Ballarat Hamvention  
Last day for NERG NEWS submission for November issue

November 8<sup>th</sup>  
November 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
November 27<sup>rd</sup>  
December 13<sup>th</sup>

**NERG Meeting – Digital Television with David Aston, VK3THY**  
Leonids meteorite storm (approx 1800 UTC)  
\*\*\* NERG White Elephant Night – Briar Hill Community Hall (Details inside!) \*\*\*  
**NERG Tuesday Morning Tea Group**  
**NERG Christmas BBQ ???**