

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

Further to our silent keys last week, we have been notified of funeral arrangements for the late Dave Pack VK2GIO. It will be at 10am on Monday the 24th of October, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, 1640 Camden Valley Way Leppington.

The November Foundation course at ARNSW is now fully booked. The next foundation course at ARNSW will be in January, but there are still a couple of places available for November upgrade assessments, on Sunday the 20th. As always - a booking is required, which you can do by an email to education@arnsw.org.au.

On the far north coast of VK2, the Summerland A R C at Lismore is planning both Advanced and a Foundation courses in November; the Advanced course runs from Monday the 7th through to Friday the 11th and the Foundation is over the weekend of Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th. The courses are planned to be presented by Duncan VK2DLR and your contact details are required by email to education@sarc.org.au.

A reminder to any club or group with a Foundation or upgrade course planned before the end of the year – please advise us at VK2WI News so that interested parties can be informed. Drop an email to news@arnsw.org.au with the dates and contact details.

The latest ARNSW Disposals items are now on the web site. As noted on the website, offers are only be accepted by email, to the disposals address. Offers *cannot* be accepted by telephone to the office, since with a fully volunteer staff we cannot guarantee an immediate response to voice messages.

For those interested in obtaining a US Amateur licence, exams are being held in Oberon on December 10th at 10 am. The venue is the Bob Hooper Centre in Ross Street, Oberon. Details can be found on the ARRL website, under "Find an Amateur Radio License Exam in Your Area".

6 Metre broadcast transmission

We have a question to listeners who make use of our 6 metre broadcast transmission, on 52.525MHz simplex.

For many decades, the 6 metre service has been provided on this frequency – well before the time that any repeaters came into existence on this band. The frequency of 52.525 was chosen when operation in Sydney was almost exclusively on this single crystal locked channel, which also happened to be the international calling frequency.

These days, many operators have frequency agile stations, and there are a number of 6 metres repeaters – including our own VK2RWI on 53.85MHz.

So, we are considering transferring our 6 metre FM coverage to the VK2RWI repeater. This change would also reduce the problem of various stations not hearing each other as they call in.

The question for listeners - would a frequency change to a new frequency cause you any reception problems? The easiest way to let us know is in the callbacks at the end of this bulletin.

Talkfest is Back!

Though it may seem like it never left.

The final ARNSW presentation day for the year is on Sunday the 6th of November. As usual, the venue is here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural.

We undertook an exhaustive search for the best speakers in Australia, and we were exhausted by the time we got to HADARC. Nevertheless, the topics are;

Digital voice

Single Board Computers and their applications in Amateur Radio
and “treasure trove on ebay”

Lunch is provided, with a sausage sizzle, followed by ice cream for dessert.
BYO nuts.

Following the presentations and lunch, we will have a ‘world class’ magician to entertain you. He isn’t from HADARC, but he is still great fun.

All this is free to AR NSW members.

Gates open at 9am, with the first presentation at 10am sharp.

Registration is necessary for catering purposes; you can RSVP by email to: fieldday@arnsw.org.au. Please advise your name, callsign and a contact number.

From AI VK2OK

Event commander for ARNSW.

Special Event Station Activation

Special Event Station VI4SEA will be active on air from November 1st until November 9th, 2016. Operations will be on bands from 630 metres through to 6 metres. The Amateur Radio Operators working the station are a combination of ex naval, military and professional individuals.

The call sign, VI4SEA, is in honour of the Officers and Sailors of the Light Cruisers – H.M.A.S. SYDNEY, and S.M.S EMDEN – who gallantly fought in the first ever naval action of the Royal Australian Navy, on November 9th 1914, off the coast of the Cocos Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean.

We do not seek to glorify war in any form, but rather to commemorate the deeds of brave men at sea in a time of war. A special webpage has been set up on qrz.com – search for VI4SEA.

The VI4SEA Team looks forward to working one and all, as we pause to remember these brave sailors from Australia, Britain and Germany who fought in a devastating naval action on the high seas that November day back in 1914.

Mike VK4QS

Team Leader VI4SEA

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 14th to the 20th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
10cm flux	93	85	81	76	77	77	75
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	20	8	13	12	10	5	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	9	12	17	6	5	2 estimated
T index	-35	3	17	12	0	9	1

Solar flare activity was on the 14th and 17th, and very low otherwise.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled from the 14th to the 16th, with quiet to minor storm activity observed on the 17th. Activity on the 18th and 19th was quiet except for some unsettled and active periods at high latitudes; then the 20th again returned to quiet conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were depressed 35% during local day and 45% local night on the 14th. The 15th and the local day of the 16th returned to near predicted, before becoming 20% depressed on local night of the 16th. The 17th was mostly near predicted with some depressions of up to 25% after local dawn, then the 18th was depressed 25% with up to 30% depression after local dawn, worsening on the 19th with 30% depressions day and 25% night. Finally, the 20th saw a return to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 21st to the 27th of October;

Solar flare activity should be very low with a slight chance of C-class flares. Geomagnetic activity should be Quiet on the 21st, Quiet to Active on the 22nd, then Unsettled to minor storm from 23rd to the 25th. Unsettled to Active conditions expected on the 26th and Quiet to unsettled on the 27th. Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely see mild to moderate depressions throughout, with significant depressions possible between the 23rd and 25th.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

The figures for September were;

Minimum 80 Average 88 Maximum 99
With the Peak dates between the 1st and the 11th

So far the figures for October;

Minimum 72 Average 86 Maximum 105
With the Peak dates between the 5th and the 15th

And looking ahead to November;

Minimum 75 Average 81 Maximum 90
With peak dates between the 1st and 12th

Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.

[using daily data updates from]
[<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/usaf-45-day-ap-and-f107cm-flux-forecast>]

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

FIJI, 3D2. Aki, JA1NLX and Iko, JI1CNA are active as 3D2YA from Mana Island, IOTA OC-121, until October 25. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, with some SSB and RTTY. QSL via JA1NLX.

VIET NAM, 3W. Operators Jose, EA1ACP, Gen, EA5HPX, Francisco, EA7FTR, Carlos, EA1DVY, Oleg, US7UX and David, EB7DX are active as 3W2R from the Mekong Delta until October 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres. QSL via EB7DX.

SENEGAL, 6W. Ron, VE3REV has moved to Dakar and will be active as 6W1SU. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres. QSL via M0URX.

LESOTHO, 7P. Pista, HA5AO is active as 7P8EUDXF until October 27. Activity is on the HF bands using only CW. QSL to home call.

GHANA, 9H. Rado, S59ZZ, Peter, S54W and Janko, S57L are active as 9G5AM from Langma until October 26. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres. QSL via S59ZZ.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Hitoshi, JA1LPH is active as KH0/JA1LPH. Activity is on the HF bands. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

PERU, OA. Daniel, DL5YWM will be active as OA4/DL5YWM, and possibly as OA8/DL5YWM, until November 5. QSL to home call.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Toivo, ES2RR, Martti, OH2BH and Pertti, OH2PM will be active as OJ0B until October 31. Activity will be on the low HF bands using RTTY. QSL via OH2BH.

ARUBA, P4. John, KK9A will be active as P40A from October 25 to 31. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. QSL via WD9DZV.

BANGLADESH, S2. Syed, S21SM plans to be active from Dhaka. He will be active on 20 and 15 metres using SSB. QSL direct to OH6EAC.

TUVALU, T2. Apinelu, T2AT is a new operator and has been active on 20 metres using SSB. QSL direct to N7SMI.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TL. Operators F4WBN, F9IE, TR8JLD and F5DUX are active as TL0A until October 28. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to F4WBN.

BENIN, TY. Francois, F6AJL is active as TY5AA from Parakou City until November 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres. QSL to home call.

ANTIGUA, V2. Brian, N3OC and Rol, K3RA will be active as V26RA and V26OC, respectively, from October 24 to 28. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB during their daylight hours. They plan to be active as V26B in the upcoming CQ World Wide SSB DX contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

CANADA, VE. Igor, VE3ZF will be active as VE2IDX from CQ Zone 2 beginning October 24 for the upcoming CQ World Wide SSB DX contest. He will pay special attention to the low bands. QSL to home call.

INDIA, VU. Dennis, W1UE will be traveling through Asia. He will be active as VU3XDE during the CQ World Wide SSB DX contest, although he has applied for a special call to be used in the contest. He will also be active before and after the contest. QSL via operator's instructions.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Ibrahim, XT2AGI is a new ham and active from Ouagadougou. He plans to be active on the HF bands. QSL direct to M0OXO.

ROMANIA, YO. Members of the Radio club Admira are active with special event calls YR95HMK and YP95HMK until November 15 to mark the 95th birthday of King Michael. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to YO2KBQ.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL EME Contest, Stew Perry Topband Challenge, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, MCG Autumn Sprint, UK/EI DX SSB Contest and the SA Sprint Contest are scheduled for this weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for October 26.

The ARRL National Parks on the Air event continues throughout 2016 to mark the 100th anniversary of the United States' National Park Service.

WICEN News

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is a significant event in terms of the number of operators required and it runs overnight from Saturday, October 29th to Sunday 30th. Positions are available at on-shore and mid-river checkpoints, on shut-down vessels, at Finish, and at SES SYDWEST at Seven Hills.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at nsw.wicen.org.au - includes contact details, a webform, which is typically the best way to ask questions; and membership information.

WICEN has a twitter account: @wicennsw. Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The website is crarc.ampr.org.

Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event in the Brindabella Ranges on next Sunday October 30. Then in December, the BMSC Rallye des Femme, a car rally for lady drivers, is on the 3rd. Foundation courses are provided bi-monthly, with exams for all levels on the Sunday, with the next one being November 19 and 20.

WICEN Victoria's next event is the Australian 4 Day Enduro. Its a motorcycling event at Mansfield, on November 15. Their website is vic.wicen.org.au.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
on behalf of the WICEN NSW State Management Committee.*

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Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the Club is the monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 5th of November, in the SES Building, Central Road Port Macquarie.

This morning, members of the club provided the safety communications for the 37th Annual Beechwood Billycart Classic. This event is run each year on the road down the 5 kilometre long Pappinbarra Hill at Beechwood, which is west of Wauchope.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. The Advanced Licence classes are already underway on Friday nights. The next training course and assessments for the Foundation licence will run as soon as sufficient candidates have registered.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net takes place from 9am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater, 146.7MHz. This repeater requires a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone for access.

Visitors are always made very welcome at monthly general meetings, at 2pm on the first Saturday of the month, as well as at Friday night gatherings, at 7pm on the third Friday of the month. The venue for all club meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. There you will find a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The September 2016 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, are available on the website.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

Since weather events were unkind on the Club's recent field day, with the event being nearly washed out, the Club is holding a car boot sale.

Its on Saturday the 19th of November at the now dried out club grounds, in york street, Teralba.

The sale is a chance to sell your unwanted gear and get some cash for more radio gear for Christmas... Theres going to be a BBQ with hot and cold drinks available as well.

No cost to set up but bring your own table.

Hope to see you there,

Barrie VK2QG

Vice President, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club.

Hunter Radio Group

Meetings are on the second Friday of each month, except December and January. The next meeting will be on November the 11th.

Meetings are at the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle starting at 8pm local time. After general business a technical lecture is presented, followed by supper.

The Group's weekly monday night broadcasts are at 7:30pm, through the 2 metre repeater VK2RNC on 146.9MHz and 438.025MHz; listen out for VK2AWX.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. They operate on VHF 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with EchoLink, UHF on 438.025MHz as well as a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz.

Charlie VK2CLH for Rodney VK2CN secretary

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of The St George Amateur Radio Society is Wednesday evening the 2nd of November.

Packet Radio - One of the first "modern" digital modes - transmits data in groups or "packets" of 10s or 100s of bytes, which allows improved throughput and error control.

Amateur radio operators have been exchanging packets of data, using the AX25 protocol since the 1970s, with transmission speeds of typically from 300 bps on the HF bands to 1200 and 9600 bps on VHF or UHF. Packet radio is still used today.

Cameron VK2CKP will demystify the world of packet radio in his presentation to The St George Amateur Radio Society gathering on Wednesday 2nd November 2016, commencing at 7.30 PM local time, in the clubs meeting rooms, Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point (near South Hurstville).

All members and visitors are most welcome to attend what should be a very interesting presentation, and have an opportunity to meet up with your fellow amateur radio operators over a cup of tea or coffee.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is the monthly general meeting and presentation evening, on Tuesday, October 25th at the Mount Colah Community Centre, in Pierre Close, Mount Colah – just opposite the Mount Colah Railway Station.

It is a "Show and Tell" and "Bring a Friend Night", an opportunity to introduce others to Amateur Radio. The Community Centre is opposite the Mount Colah Railway Station, or a few minutes' drive from Wahroonga or Normanhurst via the M1.

If you are travelling by bus, the 598 bus stops on the Community Centre side of the line after the turn into Cowan Street, requiring a 200 metre walk north; and the 595 stop on the Highway opposite, allowing the station footbridge to be used.

HADARC operates a dual mode FM and P25 repeater located at Chatswood. VK2RHT's frequency is 438.350 MHz with a -5.4 MHz offset - meaning users transmit on 432.950MHz. A 91.5 Hz tone is required for FM users.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater starting at 8pm; Wednesday evenings on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8; And Morning Tea with HADARC – is on or near 7104kHz from 9:00 am on Fridays.

HADARC's website is at: www.hadarc.org.au. The club has a group on Facebook. which can be found by searching for VK2MA. The Club's twitter feed is @VK2MA. You can also see it on the web, at twitter.com/VK2MA.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS.

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Summary of coming events;

October

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 25th

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, from the 29th to the 30th

November

VI4SEA activity, runs from the 1st to the 9th

St George Amateur Radio Society meets on the 2nd

Waverley Shack night also on the 2nd

ARNSW Talkfest at VK2WI Dural on the 6th

ARNSW Homebrew group net on the 15th

Manly-Warringah lecture night on the 16th

Foundation course weekend at ARNSW on 19th and 20th

Westlakes ARC Car boot sale on the 19th

Trash & Treasure at ARNSW Dural on the 27th.

December

St George Amateur Radio Society meets on the 7th

ARNSW Homebrew group net on the 20th