

Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of two silent keys.

We have recently been notified of the passing, in May last year, of Stan Burge VK2VSB of Mount Colah.

Stan was a member of both HADARC and ARNSW. First licensed in 2012 as VK2FSTB, he quickly upgraded to VK2VSB. He had been a WW2 Air Force radar operator in northern Australia and in later civilian life operated a radio / TV service business in the Hornsby District.

Also we have recently been informed of the passing of Hugh Ivens, formerly VK2DHI, a retired doctor from Turramurra who became a Silent Key last month at the age of 92.

Please pause while we remember Stan VK2VSB and Hugh VK2DHI

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Stan VK2VSB and Hugh VK2DHI

Thanks to John VK2ZOI for the information.

[Play Evening ID1]

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

It is just over a week until ARNSW starts this years Upgrade course at the Dural site on Monday evenings. The first night will be Monday the 6th of March, then every Monday evening, except public holidays, until November. Classes are from 7 to 9 pm.

While it is mainly intended for those who already have a Foundation license, it will also be suitable for anyone starting out to gain an understanding of the required theory for any grade of Amateur radio license. We ask any listener to pass on these details to anyone they may know who wishes to undertake a long duration study course. To register or to inquire, email; education@arnsw.org.au.

We have recently had to change the dates for both the March and May ARNSW Foundation course weekends. Those who previously registered have been notified of these changes to advise if the new dates are suitable. There are unlikely to be any vacancies for March but a couple of places may be available for May – again, enquire by email to education@arnsw.org.au.

There were two further power interruptions at VK2WI, last Friday; the first in the morning to install the new metering and in late afternoon for a couple of hours following lightning strikes during the storm.

As the Wyong field day is Sunday, there will not be a morning news bulletin from VK2WI. Instead, there will be a bulletin on Saturday evening at 7.30pm, with the morning format of VK1WIA and ARNSW News. We would appreciate automated relay providers making adjustments to take the link frequency on Saturday evening, for the expected duration of the bulletin - from about 7:20pm until a quarter to 9. A reminder to contributors that our submission deadline will be strictly Friday evening - those who normally delay until Saturday, will be too late.

Sunday evening after the field day will be the usual format of ARNSW news and the ARRL DX.

ARNSW will shortly be announcing the availability of a 2017 Development Fund Grant to duly constituted VK2 Clubs. Listeners might care to advise their club committee about this forthcoming announcement.

US Licence Exams at Wyong

For those interested in US licences; examinations under the ARRL/VEC will be held during the morning at the Central Coast Field Day at Wyong on Sunday, February 26, commencing at 9:00 am.

There are three levels of licence available; Technician, General, and Extra. Candidates need to do all papers up to the level of the licence they desire. There is a range of books, websites, audio CDs, and 'phone or tablet applications, with both training material and practice examinations.

A fee will be payable on the day to cover one to three papers for examination, but licences are issued free of charge.

Candidates will need a US postal address, such as that of a friend, or a ShopMate address; and to use this address to obtain an FCC Registration Number, or FRN, from the FCC website.

Details are on the ARRL exams search page; while Facebook users can enter "USA Hams in Oz" as a single word into the search bar on the site.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (who is also AG6LE)

[Exam details: www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/australia-fg-00000-4]

[Facebook: [facebook.com/usahamsinoz/](https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/)]

[NCVEC: <http://www.ncvec.org/>]

JOTA Forum at Field Day

The NSW JOTA/JOTI team would like to invite any groups or persons with an interest in the scout and guide's Jamboree on the air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the internet (JOTI) program, and radio scouting in general, to an open forum about the Programs.

The forum will be held at the CCARC Wyong field Day, on Sunday the 26th of February, in the conference room at 2pm. Bring your ideas, questions, suggestions and comments.

Chairing the discussions will be Karl "Buzz" Humphreys, the NSW JOTA/JOTI Coordinator for Scouts NSW.

*Advised By Karl VK2KFH
For the NSW JOTA/JOTI Team*

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 21st the Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

The net starts at 8:00pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147.0MHz and then at about 8:30pm will transfer over to HF. Depending upon conditions, the net may be on either 80m or 40m.

The 80m frequency will be 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency will be 7159kHz – both of which are cheap crystal frequencies. As well as store bought equipment, participants are encouraged to use homebrewed equipment on AM, DSB or SSB.

So for those interested in building their own equipment, experimenting with radios or just looking for a new aspect of amateur radio, then join the net.

Next Sunday, the 26th, is the Wyong Field Day. As usual, the ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group will be having a table to show off our wares. If you are interested in building your own equipment, experimenting or just looking for a new aspect of the hobby, then come along and visit the table for a chat.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

Phone CX Contest

The Phone Classic Exchange, or CX, will run from 1400 UTC 19th February to 0800 UTC 20th February 2017, and from 1400 UTC 21st February to 0800 UTC 22nd February 2017.

Suggested Frequencies -- plus/minus QRM - Listen up and down 5 to 10 Kc for crystal controlled stations.

There are new Bonus Scores for using the same model rigs as your Novice station and for using a military receiver or military transmitter.

Awards will be given in two classes: 1. Three or fewer receiver-transmitter pairs 2. Four or more receiver-transmitter pairs.

More details, including suggested operating frequencies and full details are on the website, classicexchange.org

Submitted by Brian VK2GCE

QRP by the Harbour

Following a visit last weekend to Melbourne, which included taking part in "QRP by the Bay", Peter VK2TPM is now organising a similar event in Sydney – "QRP by the Harbour".

Its on Sunday the 12th of March, a 3pm. The location is Mcilwaine [Mac-ILL-Wayne] Park at Rhodes, on the edge of the Parramatta River.

The park is on the side of Concord Road and is serviced by the M41 express bus at 20 minute intervals and is 200 metres from the Rhodes Railway station, so easily accessible by both car and public transport.

Everyone is invited, to bring along their QRP rigs, either homebrewed or commercial and meet up with other like-minded amateurs. Look for "QRP by the Harbour" on Facebook or in your favourite search engine.

Peter VK2EMU

Council Elections

The Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday 29th April 2017.

At the AGM a new council is to be appointed. Nominations will shortly be open for those members who wish to be on the council for the year 2017 and 2018. Nomination forms are now available for download from the website, arnsw.org.au, or from the divisional office.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 18th March 2017.

Peter VK2EMU
Divisional Returning Officer

Note: Amateur Radio New South Wales is a business name of the company registered as Wireless Institute of Australia New South Wales Division. This company was originally incorporated in New South Wales in 1922.

Since 2004, the company uses the business name Amateur Radio New South Wales to avoid confusion with the independent incorporated entity, The Wireless Institute of Australia.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 10th to the 16th of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
10cm flux	74	76	76	75	75	75	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	3	2	2	1	2	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	2	3	3	1	3	8 estimated
T index	8	1	0	10	7	8	13

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet from the 10th to the 15th, and quiet to unsettled on the 16th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 10th. On the 11th and 12th, frequencies were depressed 15% during local day, but at night near predicted monthly values. The 13th and 14th were near predicted throughout. The 15th was near predicted during day and 15% depressed at night; and the 16th was near predicted all day.

Now, the forecast for the 10th to the 16th of February;

Solar flare activity should be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be active on the 17th, but quiet to unsettled on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be slightly depressed between the 17th and 19th, then predicted monthly values on other days.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Space Weather Summary for January 2017

Complied with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

A broad period of lower than normal MUFs was observed between the 9th and 11th of January, in association with coronal hole induced geomagnetic activity.

The southern region depressions in general, were associated with coronal hole induced geomagnetic activity.

No significant geomagnetic disturbances were observed in January.

A note on the T indices. Each week on these bulletins, we provide the observations of T indices from the previous week observation period, with data provided courtesy of the Space Weather Services department of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

These T-index figures represent the average level of the ionospheric critical frequencies available on a particular day - the higher the value of the Tindex, the higher the ionospheric critical frequencies (and Maximum Usable Frequencies on HF circuits) for that day.

The T-index from SWS is based on data from Australian ionospheric stations and so is most applicable to HF circuits with reflection points in the Australian region.

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

TUNISIA, 3V. Ashraf, KF5EYY will be active as 3V8SS from Sousse during the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL to LX1NO.

GUINEA, 3X. Operators Alain, F5OZC and Sebastien, F8DQZ are active as 3XY3D from Kassa Island, IOTA AF-051, until February 26. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW with some SSB. QSL via F5OZC.

UGANDA, 5X. Eric, SM1TDE will be active as 5X8EW from Entebbe from February 23 to 26. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW. QSL to home call.

JAMAICA, 6Y. Yuri, VE3DZ is active as 6Y2T until February 21. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. He will be a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the ARRL International DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

BARBADOS, 8P. Tom, W2SC will be active as 8P5A in the ARRL International DX CW contest as Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. QSL direct to NN1N.

BAHAMAS, C6. Operators N4UM, K4RUM and N4BP are active as C6ARU, C6AUM and C6AKQ, respectively, from Abaco Island, IOTA NA-080, until February 21. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using mainly CW with some RTTY, other digital modes, and possibly SSB. Each operator will be active in the ARRL International DX CW contest as Single Band entries on 20, 40, and 80 metres, respectively. QSL direct to home calls.

CHILE, CE. Some members of the Radio Club de Chile will be active as CE3AA in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Multi Op/HighPower entry. QSL via operators' instructions.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS, CE0. Michael, DF8AN will be active as CE0Z/DF8AN from Robinson Crusoe Island, IOTA SA-005, from February 21 to 24. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

FRENCH GUYANA, FY. Herve, F5HRY will be active as TO1A in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/Single Band on 15 metres entry. QSL to home call.

ECUADOR, HC. Bill, W0OR will be active as HC1WBT in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band entry. QSL to home call.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Kit, JA1NVF is active as N0J until February 20 during the annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB with some CW. QSL via JJ2VLY.

SURINAME, PZ. Nico, PA3BVK and Harrie, PA3EHS are active as PZ5JW and PZ5HS, respectively, until March 10. Activity is on 40 metres and above using SSB and PSK. QSL via operators' instructions.

PALAU, T8. Noboru, JH1OLB is active as T88DT from Koror, IOTA OC-099, until February 21. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV, PSK31 and JT65A, depending on conditions. QSL to home call.

KALININGRAD, UA2. Members of the UA2 Contest Club will be active as RW2F in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Multi/Multi entry. QSL via operators' instructions.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Felipe, NP4Z will be active as V43Z in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band entry. QSL via operator's instructions.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Members from the Darwin Amateur Radio Club are active with special event call sign V18BOD until March 28, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the World War II bombing of Darwin. QSL via bureau.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Members of the Minnesota Wireless Association will be active as VP5K from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, during the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Multi Single/High Power entry. Look for VP5/K0PC and VP5/AC0W to be active outside the contest until February 22. QSL VP5/K0PC and VP5K via K0PC and VP5/AC0W via AC0W.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Elvira, IV3FSG is here working on the project of InformatiCi Senza Frontiere ONLUS and active in her spare time as XT2SE until March 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via IK3GES.

VENEZUELA, YV. YV1KK will be active as 4M1K in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry. QSL via OH0XX.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Dan, N6MJ is active as ZF2MJ. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres. He will be active in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Novice Rig CW Roundup, SARL 40-Meter Youth Day SSB Sprint, South American Lighthouse Weekend, Russian PSK World Wide Contest and the Feld Hell Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for February 20.

The UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NAQCC CW Sprint and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for February 22.

WICEN News

Next Sunday the 26th, WICEN will have a stand the CCARC Field Day. Its an opportunity for members to renew their membership. Please indicate if you are available to help staff the stand.

February 26th is also the first of a series of Alzheimer's Australia NSW's Memory Walk and Jog events, at Stuart Park, North Wollongong. March 12th is the Western Sydney walk at Tench Reserve, Penrith.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at nsw.wicen.org.au - includes contact details, a web contact form, and membership information. WICEN members can log in on the site and then see meeting Agendas on the main page.

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

WICEN Northern Rivers Region will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 9 at 10am. The venue is the Summerland ARC at 412 Richmond Hill Road, Richmond Hill. The weekly net is on Tuesdays at 8:00pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz which requires a 123 Hz tone; Listen for VK2WIR.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The weekend of April 1st and 2nd is the Canberra Two Day Walk. The Club's AGM is this Wednesday, 22nd at 7:30pm. The website is crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 2030 on or near 3.6 MHz. Coming events include the Field Weekend at Yea on March 3rd to 5th, a 4 wheel drive event on March 25th & 26th, Duncan's Run on April 1, and the Sunraysia 600 on April 22. Their website is: vic.wicen.org.au.

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

[Play Evening ID3]

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; 2pm on Saturday the 4th of March.

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 have concluded and assessments for the Advanced licence will take place on the weekend of the 4th and 5th of March. The next training course and assessments for the Foundation licence will run when 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 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 January 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, can be viewed on the website.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 1st of March.

This month there will be a presentation by Peter VK2EMU about WSPR [Whisper] and the proposed installation of a multi band WSPR station at the Mt. Bindo repeater site.

WSPR is Weak Signal Propagation Reporter, a very low powered digital transmission and associated receiver system that automatically posts information to the internet that will show real time information about propagation paths. See what the system will do and how it will work. Also see what had been do so far and what still needs to be done – and how you can help.

As well as the presentation, there will be the usual free refreshments.

All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend. The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point (near South Hurstville).

The gathering starts at 7.30pm.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".
[<http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted>]

Members are also reminded of the club's 2 metre contest over summer. It runs until the last day of February – check the club's webpage for details.

Listeners are also advised of the "training and assessment" weekend on the 4th and 5th of March. Location will be Sutherland and so suitable for people in the southern half of Sydney and Wollongong. For more details, see the club's website www.sgars.org.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

HADARC will share a table with ALARA at next Sunday's Central Coast Field Day at Wyong. This is expected to be on the first floor of the grandstand, in lovely air-conditioning.

The first formal meeting of HADARC for the year, will be at Mount Colah Community Centre at 8:00pm on 28th of February. The Centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station. Suitable buses are the 598 to Cowan Road, or the 595, stopping on the Highway. March meetings are also on the 14th and 28th, both at Mt Colah.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Its on 147.25MHz, No tone is required, but a 91.5Hz tone is sent. The Wednesday evening net is on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm; 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.

[Play Evening ID 4]

Summary of coming events;

February

ARNSW Homebrew Group net on the 21st

CCARC Wyong Field Day, last Sunday of the month, the 26th

St George ARS Summer Contest concludes on the 28th

HADARC Monthly general Meeting on the 28th

March

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 1st

St George Foundation training and assessment weekend on the 4th and 5th

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest on the 12th

QRP by the Harbour, also on the 12th

ARNSW Council nominations close on the 18th

ARNSW Foundation weekend, on the 18th and 19th

John Moyle Field Day Contest also, on the 18th and 19th

HADARC Monthly Meeting on the 28th

April

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 5th

Urunga Convention on the weekend of the 15th and 16th

ANZAC day is the 25th

ARNSW AGM on the 29th