

Silent Key

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

We have just recently learnt of the passing of Aub Topp, VK2AXT, some time ago.

Aub was a Life Member of ARNSW and much of his working life had been with Qantas. Aub lived in Parramatta, so when the then NSW Division moved from St. Leonards to Harris Park in the early 1980's, it was within walking distance for Aub, who then took on the role of Librarian. Starting with the small collection of books that moved from St. Leonards, Aub greatly increased the range of books, magazines and other collectables.

Today, the ARNSW Library team continues the work started by Aub. While work is continuing, many of the items have been unpacked and setting up of displays and access is underway at Dural. Aub was born in the early 1920's and was 94 at the time of his passing.

Please pause with us, while we remember Aub.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Aub VK2AXT

Advised by his daughter - Kerima-Gae Topp

[Play Evening ID1]

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

Fine weather at Dural yesterday saw attendance of 39 at the ARNSW AGM, held in the Centenary Building. The meeting lasted 1 hour and most present stayed on for the BBQ lunch.

The meeting was opened by President Mathew VK2YAP and observed the Silent Key of Life Member Aub Topp VK2AXT. The President spoke to his report which was accepted and the other reports taken as read and accepted. There was discussion on the accounts and covered some additional information from our accountants which will be forwarded to Members during next month by email or post. Returning Officer Peter VK2EMU advised that all nominations for the incoming year were those from the existing committee, and no election had been held.

Then came the election of Returning Officer and the Alternate with both Peter VK2EMU and Eric VK2VE being re-elected for the year 2017 - 2018. An award was made to Kevin Dawson VK2CKD who had retired after three decades of service on the VK2WI Broadcast Team.

Peter VK2EMU gave a technical presentation on WSPR ['whisper'] and a project under consideration by the St. George A R S. In general business John VK2LJ reported on various projects which had been undertaken on the Dural property like the addition of bollards to protect the veranda posts, the sealing of portion of the entry driveway, the present project of replacing the VK2WI tower and the ongoing work in the library. There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 12 noon. Thanks to all who attended.

Places are still available for the next ARNSW Foundation course. Email education@arnsw.org.au with any enquiries.

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ARNSW Council

As previously mentioned, the ARNSW AGM was held yesterday, and in the lead up to the AGM, nominations had been called for members to stand on the management Council, for the coming year.

At the close of nominations on the 18th of March 2017, there were 9 only nominations for 9 positions, so no election was required. Therefore, the following members are appointed as councillors for the following year:

Paul Anslow VK2APA
Mark Blackmore VK2XOF
John Harper VK2LJ
Allan Hirschel VK2OK
Mathew Magee VK2YAP
Tim Mills VK2ZTM
Kenneth Rayner VK2BBQ
Robert Yorston VK2CAN
Peter Zielinski VK2VG

*Advised by Peter O'Connell
ARNSW Returning Officer*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 21st to the 27th of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
10cm flux	82	84	83	80	81	80	78
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	11	37	24	19	10	8	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	8	30	26	13	8	6	2 estimated
T index	10	31	22	7	10	11	12

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

However, Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 21st, ranging to major storm levels on the 22nd. Activity settled throughout the week however, with quiet to minor storm conditions observed on the 23rd, quiet to active on the 24th, quiet to unsettled on the 25th and 26th, then quiet conditions on the 27th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were depressed 15% during local day on the 21st but recovered to near predicted during local night. The 22nd remained near predicted, and the 23rd was mostly near predicted except for depressions of up to 20% after local dawn. The 24th was depressed 20% during local day, but near predicted at night, the 25th and 26th were both depressed 15% during the day, returning to near predicted at night, then the 27th returned to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 28th of April to the 4th of May;

Solar flare activity should be low.

Geomagnetic activity will be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Firstly, as we near the end of April ...

Minimum 71 Average 82 Maximum 112
With peak dates between the 1st and 6th, and the 22nd to the 29th.

The prediction for May is;

Minimum 75 Average 79 Maximum 85
With peak dates between the 20th and the 25th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 75 Average 75 Maximum 80
With peak dates between the 11th 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

VIETNAM, 3W. Peter, DF7DQ will be active as 3W9DQ from South Vietnam from May 1 to 10. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some digital modes. In addition, Yuri, RM0F will be active as 3W9FU from Nha Trang while on vacation from May 1 to 10. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. He also plans to be active as 3W9FU/p from IOTA AS-157 for two to three days.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Jim, G3VDB is active as 8Q7EJ until May 7. Activity is on 30, 20 and 17 metres using mostly CW with some SSB, PSK and RTTY.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Luca, IK2PFL will be active as 9M2/IK2PFL from Perhentian Besar, IOTA AS-073, from May 1 to 8. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M8. A group of operators will be active as 9M8RC from Satang Besar, IOTA OC-165, until May 1. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres.

BOTSWANA, A2. A group of operators are active as A25UK until May 6. Activity is on the low bands with an emphasis using RTTY.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Members of the DARC club Pfronten Fuessen will be active with special callsign DL60TELF from May 1 to April 30 2018, to celebrate the clubs 60th anniversary.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Doug, W6HB and Bruce, AD7MM will be active as E51DLD and E51BAS, respectively, from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until May 12. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using SSB.

MARQUESAS ISLAND, FO. Max, IZ2ZTQ will be active as FO/IZ2ZTQ from Fatu Hiva, IOTA OC-027, beginning May 1. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres using SSB, RTTY, PSK and JT65 using solar panels and a wind generator. He will be active from other islands as well.

JAPAN, JA. Special event stations 8J4VLP, 8J6VLP, 8J8VL P and 8J9VLP are active until June 30 to commemorate World QRP Day on June 17. All these stations will be active on the HF bands using 5 watts.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Hiroyuki, JG7PSJ will be active as JD1BMH from Chichi Jima until May 5. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

GREENLAND, OX. Michael, 5P1KZX is active as OX/5P1KZX from Nuuk until May 5. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using various digital modes.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Jan, PY4NY will be active as PY0NY from May 5 to 15 to celebrate the 65 years after the creation of the Smoke Squadron, the Brazilian Air Force's Official Squadron. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and various digital modes.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Ivan, LZ1PJ will be active as S79J from Mahe, IOTA AF-024, from May 2 to 10. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 metres using only CW. He welcomes calls from SKCC members.

POLAND, SP. Special event station SN74GETTO is active until May 16 to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

CRETE, SV9. Seppo, OH1VR is active as SV9/OH1VR until May 3. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using only CW.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Christoph, DL1YAF plans to be active as DL1YAF/VK9L from May 1 to 8. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Al, KZ3AB and Tony, W1FHN will be active as ZF2AB until May 6. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Digital Spring Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Feld Hell Sprint, Helvetia Contest and Florida QSO Party are happening this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Meter Club SSB Championship and AGCW QRP/QRP CW Party are scheduled for May 1.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for May 2.

The MIE 33 Contest, 432 MHz Spring Sprint, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CW Test are scheduled for May 3.

WICEN News

This weekend, WICEN Northern Rivers is providing communications assistance for the Tenterfield Endurance Riders Club 2017 event in the Girard State Forest, west of Drake.

The next Memory Walk and Jog, run by Alzheimer's Australia NSW, is the Sydney walk on May 7th, at Leichhardt Oval #3. The 21st of May is the Hunter event, at Tulkaba Park in Teralba, then in Port Macquarie at Westport Park, on the 4th of June. These are short events, suitable for new members.

June 10th and 11th is True Grit, promoted as a "military inspired obstacle challenge", in Lower Portland, north-west of Sydney. As one of the competition classes in this event continues overnight, additional operators are needed, in order to work in shifts. Navshield, a major bush navigation event, is on June 24th and 25th, with WICEN setup the afternoon before.

Several training days are being planned, including a one-day First Aid qualification; Please express your interest to WICEN Operations.

BSAR, Bush Search and Rescue New South Wales, are running first aid training; "Provide First Aid", which is also day one of "Remote First Aid", is on Sunday 21 May, with days two and three of the latter on 27-28 May 2017. Registrations close on May 11th, for details click the First Aid link at: bwrs.org.au.

WICEN Northern Rivers has a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8:00pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR.

The next WICEN Mid North Coast Region monthly meeting is coming up next Saturday, the 6th of May. Its at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie, beginning at 3:30pm.

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 to see meeting Agendas and events throughout the year.

Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group. On Twitter, look for @wicennsw.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Coming events include a Carriage Driving event at Witwood, a property at Braidwood, Sunday, May 7th ; the BMSC National Capital Rally, May 26th to 28th, and the SCSCC Bega Rally on the weekend of June 10th and 11th.

At the CRARC club meetings on Wednesday 2nd May, there will be WICEN Training and preparation for the NatCap Rally. Doors open at 7:30 pm at the Mount Mugga Scout Hall, 17 Astrolabe Street, Red Hill. Their website is: crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. The Kenda Rally, a motorcycle event in Rubicon is Sunday, May 7. 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 6th of May.

It is now only 6 weeks to the club's annual Field Day on the weekend of the 10th and 11th of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. It's at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall, Matthew Flinders Drive, Port Macquarie. Don't forget to book accommodation early; as Port Macquarie is a popular destination during the June Long Weekend.

The next training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will run when sufficient candidates have registered; contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible, to register your interest.

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 sub-audible 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. The March 2017 issue of "Oxtales" as well as past issues, are available on the website.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The next monthly meeting is on Friday 12th of May. The meeting is at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm.

After general business, a technical lecture is presented, followed by supper.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. In the 2 metre band they are on 146.9MHz, which is best suited for mobile use; and 146.975MHz which is on Echolink, node 1474. On UHF the repeater is on 438.025MHz, for general use. There is also a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz.

*Regards, Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on the 9th of May. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee meeting at 6:30pm.

The Society's meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall, Bridge Street Coniston, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is located right next door to the Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

The next meeting will have a presentation and video from Club member Ned VK2AGV. Ned's had a varied career of past professions, at one stage being the radio operator on merchant vessels out of Australia. On one voyage he was docked in the South Pacific when a volcano erupted close by, creating a downfall of ashes with amazing sights. Ned videoed the voyage and edited a video which he has called "Out of the Ashes", giving a fascinating insight into merchant shipping, bulk carriers and an erupting volcano. As Ned is a passionate speaker with an in-depth understanding of his topic, this presentation should prove to be very interesting.

After Ned's presentation, raffle tickets will be available for purchase for the chance to win a full-featured soldering/desoldering reworking station, followed by the usual ragchew over a hot cuppa' and biscuits.

The VK2RUW repeater at Knights Hill on 146.675MHz, has returned to service after an extensive refit - from the repeater, through the duplexer, the feedline and antenna system, all on a new tower. The coverage appears to have improved greatly in all directions, with access from Narooma in the south, Goulburn to the south-west and Lithgow to the north west. The installation took considerable time and co-ordination as it had to be done to the professional required of the tower's owner.

ARNSW News Bulletins are now being relayed on three of the Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill as well as VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres, 53.65MHz and 2 metres on 146.85MHz. These three repeaters provide coverage over much of Sydney, Wollongong, the Southern Highlands and the Shoalhaven areas.

The Society is also trialling a Yaesu Fusion repeater on 438.725MHz at VK2RMP Maddens Plains. This 70 centimetre repeater operates with the usual 5MHz negative offset, with a 123Hz CTCSS access tone necessary for FM users. The repeater is operating in Auto Mode, so analogue FM transmissions are retransmitted in FM and digital C4FM signals retransmitted in C4FM. Any users of this new digital mode are invited to make use of this UHF repeater on 438.725.

Additionally, if you're interested in having a bit of a chinwag on Saturday mornings, Steve VK2BGL runs a very popular net on the VK2RMP and VK2RUW 2m repeaters, starting at 9.30am local. As these repeaters are also connected to Echolink, the Net receives call-ins from all over Australia, as well as many different other countries. So put the time of 9.30am in your diary & call-in next Saturday morning on either 2m repeater or on Echolink via VK2BGL-R.

To conclude, for a great evening of entertainment, fun and information, come along to the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's next meeting at 7:30pm on May the 9th at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT - Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 3rd of May.

This month there will be a presentation by John VK2BBC on antenna modelling - using software to design an antenna.

This is an introduction to Computer Modelling of Antennas. The presentation looks at the characteristics of a simple H.F. dipole and examines the effects of height above ground on its input impedance and radiation pattern. A review of the basics of Ionospheric Propagation is included, as it provides a context in which we consider take-off angle and its importance in optimising the performance of an H.F. propagation path.

If you want to see how it is done, then come along to the gathering.

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 – which is 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>

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of HADARC is on Tuesday 9th May at the Mount Colah Community Centre, starting at 8:00pm. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, very close to Mount Colah Railway Station.

The Club's AGM is on the 23rd of May.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights (tomorrow night) 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.

The Club also has a dual mode FM - P25 repeater, located at Chatswood, on 438.350 MHz, with a -5.4 MHz offset, meaning users transmit on 432.950 MHz. A 91.5Hz tone on FM, or NAC of 293 for P25, is required for access. Most radios allow either custom offsets, or have at least some memory channels that allow transmit and receive frequencies to be set independently of any default offset.

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;

May

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 3rd

Waverley Shack night, also on the 3rd

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 5th

Waverley Project Day on the 6th

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 9th

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 9th

Manly-Warringah lecture on the 17th

HADARC AGM on the 23rd

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 28th

Manly-Warringah theme night – Microphones - ends the month, on the 31st

June

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 2nd

Port Macquarie Field Day, on the weekend of the 10th and 11th

Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, also on the 10th and 11th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend is the 17th and 18th

Manly-Warringah lecture night - Foxhunting – on the 21st

BWRS Navshield 2017, a WICEN event, on the weekend of the 24th and 25th