

## **Silent Key.**

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

We have learnt of the passing last Tuesday, 6th June, 2017, of Norm Stanley, VK2BNS of Hillsborough, Lake Macquarie.

Norm was past President and Patron of the Hunter Radio Group.

A celebration of Norm's life will be held on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> June, at David Lloyd Funerals, 599 Pacific Highway Belmont, starting at 10 am.

Please pause with us, while we remember Norm.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Norm Stanley VK2BNS.

*Advised by Rodney VK2CN  
on behalf of the Hunter Radio Group.*

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

As Monday is a public holiday for the Queen's Birthday long weekend, the Library and Classes at VK2WI will be closed for the evening – but things will resume next Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The next ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend is in July on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bookings can be made by email, to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au). Places are limited, so register your interest as soon as possible.

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, there is a group of ARRL recognised Volunteer Examiners in Sydney. They are planning to hold an exam session in July, tentatively around the Bankstown area in Sydney. For more information, contact Julian VK2YJS, or look up the Facebook group "USA Amateur Radio Licence Exams in Australia"  
[\[https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/\]](https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/)

## **Need a big Dish?**

If you are looking for a large dish for Moonbounce - or maybe you want to try some Microwave operation - then a big dish might be just the kind of antenna you want to use.

Well, Ian VK2ZIM has a 4.6 metre satellite dish that may be of use. This dish was designed for Ku-band uplink use so has a very accurate profile, that would be suitable for use on 10GHz or even higher bands.

The dish is a spun aluminium single piece Gregorian dish and is complete with Ku band feed and subreflector. Mount is a kingpost / tripod type.

It has been pulled down and is situated in St Leonards Sydney, ready for transport.

If you are interested, please contact Ian on 0412 804 732.

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	78	78	78	79	75	76	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	9	3	5	5	5	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	6	0	2	2	2	1 estimated
T index	12	8	14	14	12	10	9

Solar flare activity was very low on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and low otherwise.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, but otherwise quiet all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted monthly values on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and daytime of the 4<sup>th</sup>, then local night on the 4<sup>th</sup> saw enhancement of 15%. The 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> were both near predicted during local day, with local night showing enhancements of up to 20%. .6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Then the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> returned to near predicted values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of June;

Solar flare activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity will be at quiet levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be 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, the figures for May were;

Minimum 69      Average 74      Maximum 82  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Now for June, the figures so far;

Minimum 72      Average 77      Maximum 80  
With peak dates between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

And looking ahead to the prediction for July;

Minimum 78      Average 78      Maximum 80  
With peak dates between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>.

*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> ]

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## **ARRL DX news**

MALTA, 9H. Haru, JA1XGI is active as 9H3XG until June 12. Activity is on 40 to 15 metres using CW and RTTY.

BAHAMAS, C6. Operators Kenny, K2KW, Russ, K6KLY and David, K8CC are active as C6ATA, C6ALY, and C6ACC, respectively, until June 16. Activity is on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 cm and 23 cm, including possibly some HF activity.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Shirley, VK5YL will be active as E51XYL from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until June 17. Activity will be on 20 metres using SSB.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, E7. Members of the radio club from Zenica are active as E770BAB until the end of 2017, to commemorate its 70th anniversary.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Operators Didier, F6BCW, Dominique, F6DTZ, Serge, F6IPT, Pascal, F1MNQ and Pierre, F1TCV will be active as TX5EG from Atoll Ahe, King George Islands, IOTA OC-131, until June 19. Activity will be on 80 to 12 metres using CW and SSB.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Thomas, F4HPX is active as FR/F4HPX from various locations on Reunion Island until June 16. Activity is on 40 to 15 metres using possibly CW, with SSB, RTTY, PSK31, JT65 and JT9.

SCOTLAND, GM. Graham, MM0GHM is active as either MM0GHM/p or MM0GHM/m from Arran, IOTA EU-123, until June 17. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

BELGIUM, ON. Special event station OS500RD is active until the end of June to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Flemish physician and botanist Rembert Dodoens.

FAROE ISLANDS, OY. Bill, K2HVN will be active as OY/K2HVN from June 13 to 26. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

GREENLAND, OX. Bo, OZ1DJJ will be active as OX3LX from Tasiilaq Island, IOTA NA-151, grid square HP15eo from June 12 to 26. Activity will be in his spare time on 6 and 4 metres, and possibly HF as well during his morning and evening hours.

ST. MAARTEN, PJ7. Operators K9UK, KK9N, W9AEB and W9KXQ will be active as PJ7/home calls from June 14 to 28. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with two stations active. Look for PJ7/W9DR to be active on 6 metres as well.

PALAU, T8. Ryosei, JH0IXE is active as T8CW from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until June 18. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and JT65.

COSTA RICA, TI. A group of operators are active as TE8DX from Chira Island, IOTA NA-116, until June 12. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, including 6 metres.

MALI, TZ. Fredo, TZ4PR is active until October. Activity is casual on the HF bands.

UKRAINE, UR. Special event station EO25P is active until December 31 to celebrate the 25 years of the Volyn Amateur Radio League.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL June VHF Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, HA3NS Sprint Memorial CW Contest, DRCC World Wide RTTY Contest, VK Shires Contest, Asia-Pacific SSB Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Portugal Day Contest, GACW WWSA DX CW Contest, REF DDFM 6-Meter Contest and Cookie Crumble QRP Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for June 12.

The RSGB 80-Meter Club CW Championship, Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for June 14.

## WICEN News

True Grit, promoted as a "military inspired obstacle challenge", is on this weekend at Lower Portland, north-west of Sydney.

Bush Search and Rescue New South Wales, BSAR, organises Navshield, a major bush navigation event, is on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, with WICEN setup the afternoon before.

The weekend of 21st to 23rd July will be a recce for the VH-MDX Search and Rescue Exercise, which will be held on 15th to 17th September.

The tentative date for the WICEN AGM is Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://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.

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 Bom Bom State Forest Enduro, is next weekend.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Coming events include the BMSC Rallye des Femmes on June 17<sup>th</sup>, and the BMSC Narooma Rally is tentatively planned for July 22.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. The Mallee Rally is on this at the spectacular Lake Tyrell, near Sealake. Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of August is the Rainbow Desert Rally, which is an off-road buggy event. Their website is: [vic.wicen.org.au](http://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.

Today was the final day of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio club annual Field Day. Here with an update recorded this afternoon, is Club President Henry VK2ZHE;

***[Play audio insert – E ORARC FD17 01:18]***

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[in: "This weekend, Saturday and Sunday..."]  
[Out: "...bigger and better Field Day, in 2018"]

We will have more details in VK2WI News next week, and the Field Day will be the topic of discussion at the Oxley Club's Friday night gathering, 7pm this Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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 next training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will run once 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 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 Club, visit the website at [orarc.org](http://orarc.org). The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The May 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well.

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

## Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group will be in July, on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

At the meeting there will be a "Do it yourself" discussion, so bring along your current technical project and give a short presentation.

The mid-year Social Luncheon of the Group will be held on Saturday, 15th July, 2017. Its at the Windale Bowling Club, at Windale, Lake Macquarie, starting at 11:30am. Please contact our President Len, VK2ZFD for bookings.

*Submitted by Rodney VK2CN  
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

## **Illawarra Amateur Radio Society**

The next meeting of the Society is the Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. The general meeting starts at 7.30pm, right after the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall in 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 by Club Secretary, Keith VK2KQB, on transformers and power supplies. Keith is professionally involved in the design and building of power supplies, both linear and switch mode. He will explain the re-use of old transformers, volts per turn ratios, wire sizing and rewinding. Also, the repurposing of switch mode power supplies to suit usage in your shack. Keith's decades of knowledge on the subject should prove both interesting and valuable.

After Keith's presentation, everyone is invited to join-in with the usual ragchew over a hot cuppa' and chocolate biscuits.

The Club's VK2RUW Knights Hill repeater on 146.675MHz has returned to service after an extensive refit. Coverage appears to have improved greatly in all directions, with access from Narooma in the south, Goulburn to the south-west, Lithgow to the north-west and much of Sydney to the north. The entire installation took considerable time and co-ordination as it had to be done to the strict professional requirements of the tower's owner.

With the return to service of the VK2RUW repeater, ARNSW News Bulletins are now relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres, and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres on 53.65MHz and 2 metres on 146.85MHz. These three repeaters provide Broadcast coverage over much of Sydney, Wollongong, the Southern Highlands and the Shoalhaven areas.

The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society is also presently trialling a Yaesu Fusion C4FM 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 or VK2MT-R.

To conclude, for a great evening of entertainment, fun and information, come along to the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's next meeting - 7:30pm on June the 13th, 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 St. George Amateur Radio Society would like to announce that the relay of the VK2WI Sunday broadcasts, have been restored through the Mt. Bindo repeater.

The repeater, situated between Jenolan Caves and Lithgow, provides coverage out to Bathurst, Orange and beyond.

The repeater has an output of 146.650MHz and with a standard minus 600kHz offset input, with no tone required. It is also accessible from many parts of the Sydney Basin.

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

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the informal mid-monthly this Tuesday the 13th June, at the Mount Colah Community Centre from 8:00pm. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, close to Mount Colah Railway Station.

Additionally, two buses from Hornsby can be used: the 595 straight up the original Pacific Highway, or the 598 via the backstreets of Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road.

The following meeting is on the 27th.

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](http://www.hadarc.org.au). The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS  
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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## **Summary of coming events;**

### **June**

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>

HADRC Mid-monthly meeting also on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend is the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

Homebrew Group monthly net on the 20<sup>th</sup>

Manly-Warringah lecture night - Foxhunting – on the 21<sup>st</sup>

The Winter VHF/UHF field day is on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

BWRS Navshield, a WICEN event, also on the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

### **July**

St George ARS meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Radio Group social lunch at Windale Bowling Club, on the 15<sup>th</sup>

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Also this weekend, Canberra Region ARC has a Foundation course as well.

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 30<sup>th</sup>

### **August**

St George ARS meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>