

Silent Key.

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

The Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of long-time member, Bob Walker VK2WRJ, on 8th of July. He was 94 years old.

Bob's funeral was held on Friday the 14th of July.

In a final message to friends, Bob said that; "at 94 years of age I have had a wonderful life and have no complaints."

Please pause with us, while we remember Bob.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Bob Walker VK2WRJ.

*Advised by Dave VK2AWZ
on behalf of the Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

[Play Evening ID1]

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

Following our request for callbacks last week, we have been advised by the St. George Amateur Radio Society, that they will be taking reports on their Mt. Bindo repeater which serves the western side of the Blue Mountains.

VK2RDX at Mt Bindo, operates on 146.650 MHz with a negative offset. Call in to Mt. Bindo at the same time that VK2WI take their call backs.

The callback figures are not only useful to us as an indication, but also are reported to VK1WIA news to provide the Australia wide weekly indication of listeners to Amateur News Broadcasts. At the moment, it appears that VK2WI News has the second highest figures, behind VK6. These additional regional reports may put us in the lead.

Another source of VK2WI News is via the webSDR provided by Manly Warringah Radio Society. It usually gets good reception of 1845 and 3595, though with current propagation, 7146 and 14170 more difficult to receive at the Terry Hills site.

If propagation on any band is a problem, you can stream us live on our website, at arnsw.org.au/audio. There we are also trialling on-demand replays of the last few weeks of bulletins.

The Next Trash & Treasure at ARNSW is coming up at the end of the month, Sunday the 30th. We have a request for transport on the day - Bob VK2CAN who also provides membership and badge requests during the event, is currently in need of a lift from his home on that day. If anyone is passing through the mid north shore on Sunday morning and can assist would you make contact with Bob VK2CAN, perhaps by today's callbacks.

Education Update

Next weekend is the ARNSW July Foundation course, which is fully booked. The next Foundation course weekend at ARNSW is set down for the 16th and 17th of September and this is also filling fast. Inquiries for this or the November course can be made by the usual email, to; education@arnsw.org.au. Upgrade assessments from Foundation or Standard grade are also available on the Sunday of these weekends.

Other clubs provide regular Foundation and upgrade assessments, which are publicised through VK2WI News when those details are provided by the respective groups.

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team will hold a session on the morning of Sunday the 27th of August, in the Bankstown area.

Note that candidates need to study all grades up to the one which they wish to obtain, but that all papers necessary can be sat for the one affordable fee. To aid this, there are a range of online, printed, and audio learning resources available.

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/)

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ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 18th, the Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net. It starts at 8pm 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 is 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency is 7159kHz. 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.

Coming at the next next bi-monthly meeting of the group, at noon on Sunday the 30th, there will be a presentation by Mike VK2BMR on a method to make high resolution PCBs at home that works every time.

The presentation will cover all the practical aspects of producing your own boards, from PCB design and component selection through to how to drill more accurate holes. The system described has been in routine use for 9 years with no failures. It caters for single or double sided boards using any combination of through-hole and surface mount components - all at high resolution.

The meeting will start with the usual "Show and Tell" segment where members of the audience get up to show some project that they have been working on. So come along at noon, to VK2WI at 63 Quarry Road, Dural, on Sunday the 30th.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 7th to the 13th of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th
10cm flux	80	87	91	95	91	90	92
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	3	26	11	9	5	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	1	13	6	6	2	1 estimated
T index	15	14	16	19	19	12	13

Solar flare activity was low on the 7th and 8th, then moderate on the 9th with an M1.3 flare observed at 0319UT. Solar activity returned to low levels on the 10th and 11th, was very low on the 12th, and low on the 13th.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet on the 7th and 8th, then unsettled to active storm level on the 9th. Activity was then at quiet to unsettled levels on the 10th and 11th, before returning to quiet levels for the 12th and 13th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted on the 7th and 8th, then near predicted during local day on the 9th and enhanced 35% during local night. The 10th remained near predicted throughout, the 11th and 12th were near predicted during the day and enhanced 20% during local night. Then the 13th was near predicted during the day, and enhanced 15% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 14th to the 21st of July;

Solar flare activity is expected to be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to active levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly near predicted monthly values with minor to mild depressions possible on the 14th and 15th of July.

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 June were;

Minimum 72 Average 75 Maximum 79
With peak dates between the 2nd and the 8th

Now, at the middle of July, the figures so far;

Minimum 71 Average 84 Maximum 95
With peak dates between the 9th and 19th, and the 30th to the 31st

And looking ahead to the prediction for August;

Minimum 85 Average 86 Maximum 90
With peak dates between the 7th and 12th, and the 25th to the 26th.

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

GEORGIA, 4L. David, DL7ZM is active as 4L/DL7ZM until July 20. Activity is on 6 metres from grid square LN11.

KENYA, 5Z. Nick, LZ4NM is active as 5Z4/LZ4NM until June 30, 2018. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ALGERIA, 7X. Members of the Algerian Radio Amateur Union are active as 7V5J until July 30 in celebration of Algerian National Day. Activity is on all bands, depending on propagation.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Philip, G4PWO will be active as 8Q7PW from Fonimagoodhoo Island, IOTA AS-013, beginning July 18 for two weeks. Activity will be on 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres using mostly SSB and various digital modes.

NORTH COOK ISLAND, E5. Warwick, E51WL is active from Penrhyn Atoll, OC-082, and is occasionally active using JT65.

BALEARIC ISLANDS, EA6. Andreas, DK5ON will be active as EA6/DK5ON from Cala Ratjada on Mallorca, IOTA EU-004, from July 17 to 31. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, JT65, PSK and other digital modes. He also plans to activate the Lighthouse Cap de Pera, ARLHS BAL-010.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Michael, K5MDK is active as HL/K5MDK until August 10 while currently on temporary assignment. Activity is in his spare time and mostly weekends from Changwon-ski on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

CZECH REPUBLIC, OK. Special event station OL60SIENEL is active until July 23 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Joseph Sienel Observatory in Losov.

SWEDEN, SM. Special event station SC40VIC is active until the end of 2017 to celebrate the 40th birthday of Crown Princess Victoria.

CRETE, SV9. Jurg, HB9DQL is active as SV9/HB9DQL until July 23. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20 and 10 metres using CW.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Operators Vasily, R7AL, Vasily, RA1ZZ, Sergey, RW5D, Vladimir, RK8A and Stan, UA3LMR will be active as RI0C from Lony Island, IOTA AS-069, from July 18 to 22. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, various digital modes and satellites.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON is active as V47JA from Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, until August 5. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres. This includes being active in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND, VK9C. Andy, VK9CC is active on 160 and 80 metres using CW at various times.

INDONESIA, YB. Special event station YB0JARF is active this weekend to draw attention to the Jakarta Amateur Radio Fair 2017 being held in Ancol Beach City. In addition, look for operators N7BHK, KJ6UZK and KY1A to be active as YB0/home calls from Jakarta during the Fair.

VENEZUELA, YV. Special event station YW450ARV is active throughout July to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the founding of the city of Caracas.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American RTTY QSO Party, CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Russian Radio Team Championship, Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge, DMC RTTY Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and RSGB Low Power CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for July 17.

The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for July 19.

WICEN News

Next weekend, on the 21st to 23rd July, WICEN is looking for an additional team member to take part in the recce for the VH-MDX SAREX. The main event is on 15th to 17th September. SAREX is a search and rescue exercise built around the search a light aircraft missing since 1981, in the rugged Barrington Tops.

The tentative date for the WICEN AGM is Saturday the 26th of August.

In October, the Trek for Timor in Kangaroo Valley is on 7th and 8th, and the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight, subject to confirmation, on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of October.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at nsw.wicen.org.au - includes that printable membership form, a web contact form, other contact details, and some useful links. 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 8pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR. Members will be providing communications for the Jackadgery Horse Enduro on July 29 and 30. Sunday 13th August is a group meeting starting at 10am.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. July 22 is penciled in as the BMSC Narooma Rally. September 2nd and 3rd is the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Enduro on the north-west border of the Territory. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. Sunday the 6th of August is the Rainbow Desert Rally, an off-road buggy event in the state's west, and the Stockman's Rally on September 17 is a non-competitive motorcycle event in Big River State Forest. 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 Friday night gathering on the 21st of July, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's Annual General Meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday the 5th of August 2017 in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The August Monthly General Meeting will be held immediately after the AGM. Formal notice of the AGM accompanied the July issue of Oxtales when it was send to members last week.

Club membership is now due and members are asked to please renew promptly.

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 be 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 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. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The July 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

At the club meeting coming up on the 5th August, there will be a sausage sandwich BBQ commencing at noon. The business meeting will start at 1pm, followed by the club's AGM.

Members are also reminded that membership fees are now due.

The Club has renewed interest in building electronic kits, with the activity being enthusiastically led by Jim VK2LC, along with Rod VK2LAX. The pair have found online, a transistor tester kit. So far, 3 kits have been assembled, and passed the 'smoke test' with flying colours. Two of these kits have already found homes with other club members.

The Transistor Tester kit includes other useful functions such as a Volt Meter, a Pulse Width Modulated output and a square wave output. The device automatically detects other components such as FET's, Diodes, Capacitors, Resistors, Inductors and display a drawing of the device under test and it's characteristics including terminal identification.

Jim will be trialling a Sunday project workshop next Sunday, starting at 9.30am.

At the Wyong Field Day 2017, Doctor Vickal Kumar, Space Weather Scientist from the Bureau of Meteorology Space Weather Services Branch, conducted a presentation of space weather events and services available to the community. The presentation was converted to a Power Point Presentation format and is still available on the website, www.fieldday.org.au. Dr Kumar has also advised that there is a Space Weather Workshop coming up in November 2017. If you missed the workshop in 2015, then don't miss this one. For more details, contact Bob via email at vk2aor@bigpond.com or visit the Space Weather Services website.

*Submitted by Bob VK2AOR
For the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This coming Wednesday is lecture night at the Manly-Warringah Radio Society, and Ian VK2ZIM will speak on the subject of Digital Radio Broadcasting. Can't tell D R M from D A B Plus? Then come along this Wednesday for some digital enlightenment. As usual, doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Those of you who go mobile in the outback might like to know that the Society has helped set up a 30m band APRS iGate in Alice Springs, in cooperation with Greg VK8KMD. This is to improve APRS coverage in the Red Centre for mobile Amateurs, including many from Manly-Warringah! If you have made use of this iGate, the club would be pleased to hear about it.

Now, a little bit more about the upcoming MWRS Postcode Challenge, which takes place on 16 September, from 10am to midnight AEST.

This is a fun contest, designed to get people on the air, especially those who don't normally take part in contests. Simply contact stations in as many postcode areas as you can, on any band and mode you like, exchange signal reports and postcode.

Full Contest rules and points scoring, including some special information on how to earn bonus points, are available on the club website, mwrs.org.au. You'll also find information about other club projects such as the WebSDR, the club YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the club's Scouting program and much more.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club's website, mwrs.org.au, for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Last weekend was the club's annual auction, which turned out to be a good day. Although the numbers were a bit down on previous years, this also meant that the amount of equipment to sell was also down a bit so the auction was finished by about lunch time and everyone got an early mark. Some fun was had, with some spirited bidding on some items.

This coming Wednesday, July the 19th, is the next monthly general meeting of the club. This month we have what should be a very interesting talk by Dr. Tony Monger, VK2KZ, on waking up sleeping satellites which don't want to wake up. This covers the recent launch of some satellites, including some Australian ones, from the ISS and how the ground crews tried to wake them up when they wouldn't deploy their antennae properly. As usual, tea, coffee and a chat will be available afterwards.

The next Shack night will be on Wednesday, August 2nd, commencing at 7:30pm, a good time to bring along something to test or get some help with.

There is a working bee at the clubhouse from around 10am until about 4pm on most Tuesdays. A quick call on one of the club repeaters will confirm that the club is open and the coffee on.

The next Project Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 5th, commencing around 1:30pm and usually running through to about 4:30 or 5pm.

The club runs a weekly net every Monday evening, commencing at 8pm on its VK2RBV Fusion repeater, in FM mode on 438.1125MHz. All are welcome to join in

Skip's Morse sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings, see the club website for details.

The club runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends. The next scheduled course and upgrade assessments run by the club, will be over the weekend of September 16th and 17th. To book and reserve your place, see our website, under Education and Training, for details. The last training weekend for this year will be in November. See the events calendar on the website for dates.

Waverley's clubhouse is located in the Scout Hall, in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay, with parking normally available in the grounds. Visitors are always welcome at any of the club's activities.

There is full information about the club on its regularly updated website at "vk2bv dot org". It includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form on the webpage.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the monthly meeting on Tuesday, 25th July, starting at 8:00pm. It is at the Mount Colah Community Centre from 8:00pm.

The meeting will feature a presentation by Stephen VK2AAV, which will look at the application of modern digital electronics to the generation of SSB signals using the phasing method.

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, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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Summary of coming events;

July

ARNSW Radio Homebrew Group nets on the 18th

Manly-Warringah lecture night – on Digital Radio Broadcasting - on the 19th

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 21st

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend on the 22nd and 23rd

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

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 25th

St George 80 Metre contest on the 29th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 30th

August

St George ARS meeting on the 2nd

Oxley Region ARC AGM is on the 5th

Central Coast ARC AGM also on the 5th

Illawarra ARS AGM on the 8th

2017 RD contest, on the 12th and 13th

Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, on the 12th and 13th

St George ARS Foundation weekend on the 19th and 20th

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, also on the 19th and 20th

Shahzada Horse Enduro, 21st to the 25th

Summerland SARCfest on the 27th

September

St George ARS meeting on the 6th

SAREX for VH-MDX in the Barrington Tops, 15th to the 17th

Manly-Warringah Postcode Challenge on the 16th

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend, 16th and 17th

Waverley AR Society Foundation weekend, also 16th and 17th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 24th