

Silent Key.

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

The Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club have reported on the passing of their last founding member Leslie Eric Simmons, formerly VK2TJ.

Les was involved in the founding of the Club in 1983. He was a local CB operator and along with other notable hams, eventually formed the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club. It is believed Les studied and sat for his Amateur Radio licence in 1984, and for some ten years following, helped many others to also study and obtain their licence.

In the late 1990's Les had a difficult battle cancer, which he overcame.

At Club meetings, Les was well known for bringing up a point of order, or some other point that had been overlooked during discussion, keeping the club on the best path for all concerned.

In later years, Les put his Amateur Radio activities aside and found much enjoyment in dancing and playing darts at Campbelltown RSL Club. It was not uncommon though, for new or re-joining members to inquire if Les was still around, as he had assisted them previously in getting their licence. He was a life member of the Club.

Les' funeral will be held at St. John's Anglican Church, Camden on Monday 24 July at 10:00am. For those attending, in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to DEMENTIA RESEARCH. A donation box will be provided at the service.

Please pause with us, while we remember Les.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Leslie Eric Simmons, formerly VK2TJ.

*Advised by Wal VK2ZWK
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

[Play Evening ID1]

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

Last Sunday saw callbacks being taken on the Mt. Bindo 2 metre repeater, VK2RDX, by the St. George Amateur Radio Society. There were 10 in the morning and 7 in the evening; Thanks to all who provided their input. We understand that callbacks will be continued each week when practical.

Now if we could have callbacks taken in the Illawarra and the Hunter, it would provide a better picture of our audience. All callbacks - whether from individuals or clubs, can be emailed to; callbacks@arnsw.org.au. The callback figures are important to keep us informed of our reach to the Amateur Radio community, and support continued operation and development of amateur radio news bulletins.

Alternate sources of VK2WI News bulletins can be found on the internet, either by the Manly Warringah web SDR, or by streaming or on demand, at arnsw.org.au/audio.

Ready for the Trash & Treasure next Sunday? Some major items have already been listed - on the ARNSW website. The listings will be updated to remove the items already sold.

There are several stages to the T & T; For early arrivals there is the free table on the veranda. A while later, the shed is open for access to the second stage of priced items on the tables. Then - a bit after 9 am - the third stage with access to the inner store for a full range of goodies. After that there is the BBQ for your breakfast or lunch - depending how early you got up. Then, from noon, the Radio Experimenters and Home Brew group meet, details later in this bulletin.

This weekend has seen the Foundation course and assessments here at Dural. The next course conducted by ARNSW is in September; enquiries and bookings can be made by email to education@arnsw.org.au.

US Amateur Exams in Sydney

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, at Bankstown Airport.

Note that candidates need to study all grades up to the one, which they wish to obtain, but all the 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/>

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the group is next Sunday the 30th.

While the meeting starts at noon, starting a bit earlier – about 10am - there will be a “build-a-thon” of a high powered dummy load. A number of kits available for the project, which is the copy of a load built several years ago.

The kit includes a 250W 50 Ohm RF resistor, a copper heat spreader and huge diecast aluminium heatsink as well as a few other pieces. The prototype load was measured at 1.1:1 at 70cm and 1.2:1 at 23cm. The kits are only available for building on the day.

Places can be reserved by contacting Peter VK2EMU at homebrew@arnsw.org.au.

At noon, 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 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 14th to the 20th of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
10cm flux	94	92	87	86	78	73	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	4	29	23	7	5	6
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	1	27	22	3	1	3 estimated
T index	12	13	18	16	8	-2	0

Solar flare activity was moderate on the 14th, with an M2.3 flare observed at 0219UT. Solar activity then returned to low levels for the remainder of the period.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet on the 14th and 15th, then quiet to minor storm level on the 16th with a weak impulse of 34nT observed in magnetometer data at 0601UT. The 17th remained at quiet to minor storm levels, though the 18th and 19th returned to quiet conditions, and the 20th was mostly quiet as well.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 14th and 15th, then near predicted during local day on the 16th and enhanced 35% during local night. From the 17th to the 20th, frequencies returned to near predicted monthly values.

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

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

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels with active periods possible on the 21st and 22nd.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly 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 June were;

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

Now, well into July, the figures so far;

Minimum 70 Average 79 Maximum 95
With peak dates between the 8th and 18th, and the 30th to the 31st

And looking ahead to the prediction for August;

Minimum 74 Average 84 Maximum 90
With peak dates between the 1st and 12th, and the 26th to the 31st.

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. Bill, VK4FW is active as 3D2T from Viti Levu, IOTA OC-016, until July 27. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 15 metres using mainly CW. He plans to be active from some World Wide Flora and Fauna areas as well.

SAMOA, 5W. Roly, ZL1BQD will be active as 5W0RR from Apia from July 26 to August 15. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly JT65 and possibly the new mode FT8.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Members of the Kuala Lumpur DX Team will be active as 9M4IOTA from Pangkor Island, IOTA AS-072, until July 24. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ANGOLA, D2. Paulo, CT1FJZ is active as D2FJZ from Luanda. Activity of late has been on 20 metres using SSB. His length of stay is unknown.

LIBERIA, EL. Dickson, EL2DT has been active on 20 metres using CW around 1900z.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Randy, WW6RG will be active as WW6RG/KH9 on July 24 on 20 metres using SSB and QRP power around 0330 to 0730z.

POLAND, SP. Special event station HF6TWG is active from Wroclaw until July 30 during the 10th World Games.

EGYPT, SU. Christian, DM4DX is currently living in Cairo until at least November, and is active as SU0ERA from the Egyptian Radio Amateurs Society station. He is also active as SU/DM4DX. Activity is on 20 to 10 metres using SSB.

DODECANESE, SV5. Georgia, SV1QXU is active as SV5/SV1QXU from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, until July 24. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

PALAU, T8. Ted, JA7XBG is active as T88GA until July 30. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres.

ICELAND, TF. Special event station TF15MOOT will be active from July 25 to August 2 during the 15th World Scout Moot from the Scout Activity Centre in Ulfljotsvatn.

CAMEROON, TJ. Dan, TJ3PD has been active on 20 metres using SSB around 1600 to 1700z.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. A group of operators will be active as R66IOTA from Popova Island, IOTA AS-066, from July 25 to 30. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using only CW. This includes an entry in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Tim, VE6SH will be active as V29SH from Jumbay Bay Island, IOTA NA-100, until August 7. Activity will be on 30 and 17 metres.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. After his Wake Island activity, Randy, WW6RG will be active as V73/WW6RG from Kwajalein on July 26 from around 0330 to 0800z on 20 metres using SSB and QRP power.

CANADA, VE. Mike, KI1U will be active as KI1U/VE9 from Grand Manan Island, IOTA NA-014, until July 30. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and various digital modes, including possibly the new mode FT8, as well as possible activity on the FM satellites.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is active as Z81D from Juba. Activity of late has been on 40 metres using SSB.

PRINCE EDWARD AND MARION ISLANDS, ZS8. David, ZS8Z is active from Marion Island, IOTA AF-021, until May 2018 and has been active on 20 metres using SSB between 1200 to 1300z.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Scottish DX Contest and SA Sprint Contest are all on this weekend.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for July 26.

WICEN News

This weekend was 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 WICEN AGM is on Saturday the 26th of August, starting at 2pm, at ARNSW Dural.

Looking ahead to October, the Trek for Timor in Kangaroo Valley is on 7th and 8th, for more details visit the website, kvrp.net.au. The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight, 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. 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 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 reminded that membership fees are now due.

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 previous Space Weather Wworkshop 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.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club is proud to announce their new website and discussion forums are now online. The new website is fgarc.org.au and you will find a secure link to the forums via the website menu, or go straight to fgarc.org.au/forum . Any hams or prospective hams are welcome to register.

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Club is this Wednesday the 26th of July, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net on 147.500MHz simplex is on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is this Tuesday, 25th July, starting at 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 meeting is at Mount Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance 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 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 second repeater is VK2RHT at Chatswood. The user listens on 438.350 MHz, and transmits on 432.950 MHz, due to the -5.4 MHz offset, needed to avoid so-called LIPDs. FM users need to send a 91.5Hz tone, and P25 users a NAC of 293.

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.*

[Play Evening ID 4]

Summary of coming events;

July

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 25th
Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting on the 26th
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
WICEN NSW AGM on the 26th
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