

Silent Key.

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

The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society has informed us of the passing of John Morris VK2BES aged 90 years of Kiama. John passed away last Saturday August 26th.

John was a long time member of the Society and right up to his death, was active on the local repeaters.

John was a World War 2 veteran, spending most of his active time in a training capacity in Japan & Asia during the reparations. He also spent a lengthy period in the US in the military in a training role.

With a keen mind, he was always experimenting with the latest technology in our hobby. Just last week he was playing around with a new type of magnetic loop HF antenna system.

His funeral will be held next Tuesday at midday, in the Kiama Anglican Church. Gone but never forgotten by his amateur radio friends in the Illawarra.

Please pause with us, while we remember John.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] John Morris VK2BES.

*Advised by Steve VK2BGL
on behalf of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

[Play Evening ID1]

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

September sees a few events at VK2WI Dural; The September ARNSW Foundation weekend is on the 16th and 17th. The next Trash and Treasure is on the 24th.

For ARNSW members – badge orders have been placed, with delivery expected later in the month. We are also able to order antenna wire and egg insulators kits for building dipoles; please let AI know if you are interested, best by email, balun@arnsw.org.au.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 25th to the 31st of August.
First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 25 th | 26 th | 27 th | 28 th | 29 th | 30 th | 31 st |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm flux | 81 | 78 | 78 | 82 | 84 | 87 | 92 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 25 estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 23 estimated |
| T index | 3 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 15 | 19 | 17 |

Solar flare activity was low on the 25th, very low on 26th, then low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 25th, 26th, 28th and the 30th, and quiet to unsettled on the 27th and 29th. The 31st saw quiet to minor storm levels of activity; with SWS magnetometer data recording a weak impulse of 14nT, at 0538UT on the 31st.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted all week during local daylight hours, however some nights showed enhancements - On the 27th, frequencies were enhanced 15% during local night, 20% enhanced during local night of the 30th, and 30% enhanced during local night, on the 31st.

Now, the forecast for the 1st to the 7th of September;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be between quiet and unsettled levels, with possible isolated active periods on the 1st.

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, having just finished August, the figures were;

Minimum 68 Average 77 Maximum 90
With peak dates between the 19th and the 31st.

Now, as we start September;

Minimum 74 Average 85 Maximum 92
With peak dates between the 1st and the 19th

And looking ahead to the prediction for October;

Minimum 72 Average 81 Maximum 88
With peak dates between the 7th and the 15th.

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

MAURITIUS, 3B. Hans, PA3HGT will be active as 3B8/PA3HGT from September 5 to 22. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20 and 10 metres using SSB and possibly various digital modes.

ALGERIA, 7X. A group of operators are active as 7Y94I from Rachgoun Island, IOTA AF-094, until September 10.

BOTSWANA, A2. Alex, IW5ELA will be active as A25AL from September 7 to 15. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using mostly CW.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Michael, W6QT is active as DU3/W6QT from Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, until the end of the year. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ is active as E51JHQ from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until September 4. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres. This includes being active in the All-Asian DX Phone contest.

BELARUS, EU. Special event station EV500S is active until September 20, to celebrate the Quincentenary of the town of Schuchin.

SCOTLAND, GM. Station GB5TAM is active throughout September, from the H.M.S. Tern Naval Air Station Museum on Orkney Island, IOTA EU-009.

COLOMBIA, HK. Special event station 5K300PF will be active from September 5 to 9 during his Holiness Pope Francis' visit.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Operators K9HZ, K0UM and K8SD are active as J68HZ until September 16. Activity is on 160 to 2 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

BULGARIA, LZ. Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are active with special event call sign LZ100SK during September, to honour Bulgarian Saints.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Jukka, OH2BR will be active as OJ0/OH2BR until September 9. Activity will be on the HF bands including 60 metres.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Wilko, PA3BWK is active as PJ4/PA3BWK until September 16. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, and possibly 30 metres, using mainly CW with some RTTY and occasional SSB,

FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1/F. Eugene, UA4RX is active as UA4RX/1 from Heiss Island and is there until July or August 2018. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

GREECE, SV. Dave, GM0LVI is active as SV8/GM0LVI/p from Zakynthos, IOTA EU-052, until September 19. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

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

VIETNAM, XV. BJ, WA7WJR is active as XV9WJR from various locations until September 17. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres using CW.

INDONESIA, YB. Bert, PD1SA plans to be active as YB1/PD1SA until October 2.

PRINCE EDWARD AND MARION ISLANDS, ZS8. David, ZS1BCE is active as ZS8Z from Marion Island, IOTA AF-021, until May 2018. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The All-Asian DX Phone Contest, IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day, RSGB SSB Field Day, QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key CW Contest, Russian RTTY World Wide Contest, CWOps CW Open, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, Colorado QSO Party, AGCW Straight Key 40-Meter CW Party, PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80-Meter PSK31 Sprint, WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone and the Tennessee QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint is scheduled for September 4.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for September 5.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, UKEICC 80-Meter Contest, and Phone Fray are all scheduled for September 6.

WICEN News

At last Saturday's AGM, the following committee members were elected;

President is John VK2LJ, Vice President: Mal VK2YVA,
Secretary is Steve VK2MCA, Treasurer: Doug VK2DCR.

Other Committee members are Steven VK2BOS, Jan VK2FEB, Eric VK2VE,
and Lindsay VK2FLEA. Thanks go to Steven VK2BOS for his service as
President, for the past few years.

Next weekend is the Great North Walk one-hundreds; it's a long distance
race with 100 km and 160km – or 100 mile – options; hence the name. It
starts from Teralba near Lake Macquarie, and finishes at Patonga Wharf. It
will be a good event for new operators.

The VH-MDX SAREX is over the weekend of 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, north of
Newcastle. While some checkpoints can be accessed by a regular car,
others require a four wheel drive.

In October, the Trek for Timor in Kangaroo Valley is on 7th and 8th, for more
details visit the website, kvrp.net.au. The Volunteer Memorial Day is Sunday,
October 8th. 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 a
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.

The Mid North Coast Region will be supporting the AMSAG Johns River
Rally, between Johns River and Heron Creek, on Saturday, 28 October.
Their Thursday night net at 7pm local time, has changed to 28.32 MHz,
effective 7 September, due to noise on 80 metres. The 10m frequency will be
tried for a few weeks.

WICEN Northern Rivers holds 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.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The BMSC Rallye des Femme is on Saturday, October 14th. Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event on Sunday October 29.

In November, the 4th is the LCCC Monaro Stages event around Cooma, then Sunday the 5th is the NSW Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood. Then, near the end of the month is Fitz's Challenge, a cycling event on Sunday October 29. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. 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.*

[Play Evening ID3]

Club News

We start this week with news from the Hunter Radio Group.

The next meeting of the Group is coming up this Friday the 8th of September. The location as usual, will be NBN T.V. Studios at Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle. After General Business, there will be a lecture on Analogue RF Linear Amplifiers. Tea, coffee and Ragchew after the meeting.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, serving Newcastle and the Lower Hunter. 146.9MHz is best suited for mobile coverage throughout the area; and 146.975 MHz with ECHO Link and on UHF 438.025MHz general use. There is also a 6 metre beacon, on 50.288 MHz.

*Regards, Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club will be holding a Foundation course and exam on Saturday 9th of September.

Its at the club rooms in Dandaloo St Kariong, next to the Rural Fire Services building. The course starts at 9am.

To secure a place on the course, contact Chris VK2YY by email, vk2yychris@gmail.com.

Any upgrade examinations tests can also be organised with Chris.

Foundation course candidates need to take;

- One passport-size photo to submit with your licence application. Most Australia Post offices can do passport photos for you.
- One form of photo ID, such as a drivers licence, student id, passport
- Pens and a simple calculator
- Credit card to pay for the exams.

Foundation Callsigns can be pre-selected – for a small additional fee a candidate can request two preferred callsigns from the list of those available NSW, which is on the WIA website. Otherwise the WIA will allocate the next callsign available.

[<http://www.wia.org.au/licenses/foundation/callsign/>]

*Bob VK2AOR
President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of Friday the 15th of September, 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. Training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences 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. 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. The September 2017 issue will be published in the coming week.

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

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The society meets on the second Tuesday of every month, with the next meeting on the 12th of September. 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 Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

Due to popular demand, the next meeting will be another "Show and Tell" night, with attendees invited to bring along photos or videos showing their shack, tower, antenna system, latest project or anything else that they are proud of, or gives them enjoyable distraction! The last "Show and Tell" night was such a success, that time totally ran out, with disappointment all round. A projector and laptop will be provided on the night, to allow for full and unrestricted showing and telling.

Hopefully, after all the presentations, there will still be enough time for the favourite ragchew over a hot cuppa' and chocolate biscuits.

Listeners who are interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven regions, are advised that there is a team of enthusiastic Amateurs led by Ted VK2ARA to assist, mentor, teach and then examine for your licence. The team runs learning programs for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced licenses and can be contacted via the email address of vk2ara@wia.org.au. That address again, vk2ara@wia.org.au.

Are you interested in a fun picnic day at a scenic location with a bunch of other Amateurs, comparing stories, erecting portable antennas and having something good to eat? Well the Goulburn Amateur Radio Society, the Mid-South Amateur Radio Club and the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society are hosting a Tri-Club Picnic Day on Saturday the 9th of September. The location is near Robertson at the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir Picnic Area, with a free sausage sizzle being sponsored by all three Clubs. The picnic day kicks off at 10am through to about 3pm. Check the Club's websites for more information.

Sunday ARNSW News Broadcasts are relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's repeaters, they being VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres on 53.650MHz and 2 metres on 146.850MHz. These three repeaters provide coverage over much of Sydney, Wollongong, the Southern Highlands and the Shoalhaven areas.

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. As these repeaters are also connected to Echolink, the Net receives call-ins from all over Australia, as well as many other countries. So put the time of 9.30am in your diary and 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 at 7:30pm on September the 12th 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 this coming Wednesday evening, the 6th of September.

This month there will be a presentation by Mark VK2WTF on 3D printers and how they can be used in amateur radio.

While most people think of 3D printing as being useful for making toys and figurines, they can also be useful for making parts for the radio amateur. Among these are coil formers for RF inductors and RF chokes as well as antenna mounting brackets. They can also be used for custom-built boxes for homebrewed projects. The sky is the limit as to what these printers can make.

Just as software is changing how radios work, software is also changing how parts are made.

As well as the presentation, there will be the usual 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>]

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Next months mid-monthly meeting, on the 12th of September, will be a dinner at a club near Waitara station, with family members welcome. Please contact HADARC to book.

At the September monthly meeting on Tuesday 26th, Andrew VK2TAN will give a presentation on the NBN, with a focus on the how it might be connected to your home. Given your old telephone service and internet service will be eventually switched off, there are few other choices.

The meeting commences at 8:00pm at the Mount Colah Community Centre. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station.

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.*

[Play Evening ID 4]

Summary of coming events;

September

St George ARS gathering on the 6th

CCARC Foundation Day on the 9th

Tri-Club Picnic Day at Robertson, Saturday the 9th

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society meeting on the 12th

HADARC dinner meeting on the 12th

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 15th

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

Manly-Warringah *Flagpole* 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

HADARC monthly meeting on the 26th

October

St. George ARS gathering on the 4th

CCARC Lecture on the FT8 digital mode on the 21st

JOTA & JOTI on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd

“QRP by the Harbour” on the 22nd

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, on the 28th and 29th

November

St. George ARS gathering on the 1st

CCARC Lecture and Workshop; antennas for Satellite operation on the 18th

St. George Foundation training and assessment weekend, 18th and 19th

Manly-Warringah theme night, on Portable lights, on the 29th