

Silent Key.

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

Don Richardson VK2KDR passed away last Tuesday the 26th of September.

A funeral service will be held for Don on at 11am on Friday 6th October at Goulburn Crematorium.

Please pause with us, while we remember Don.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Don Richardson VK2KDR.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
on behalf of the St. George Amateur Radio Society.*

[Play Evening ID1]

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

As NSW is now on Summer time for the next six months, hopefully you have found all the clocks and the instruction on how to adjust them. Its also a good reminder idea to change smoke detector batteries at the same time.

With this being a long weekend we hope you enjoy the balance of the break, and there will be no class or library tomorrow evening at Dural.

Last Sunday was another well attended Trash & Treasure and Home Brew gathering at VK2WI Dural; the next event- last for the year - will be on Sunday the 28th of November.

At the gathering last Sunday, a presentation of this year's Development Fund Grant from ARNSW was made, to the Manly Warringah Radio Society. The grant will be used by the MWRS to help upgrade their portable station equipment, which operates at events and raises the profile of Amateur Radio in the broader community.

Some membership badges were sent out to ARNSW members recently. Any members who missed out should send in their request to office@arnsw.org.au by the end of October, in time for the next order.

News submissions to VK2WI News should be for a single session. Besides making it easier for the news team to keep track of items, it is preferable to concentrate on the most topical news, or the next events. Submissions can also include additional items to include in the Coming Events section, we include the next three months in every bulletin.

QRP by the Harbour

In March this year, the Amateur Radio NSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group held an event called "QRP by the Harbour". It was well received, with about a dozen amateurs attending.

Well, it is on again in three weeks' time; Sunday the 22nd of October. Its at the same location - Mcilwaine Park in Rhodes. Mcilwaine Park is on the edge of Bray Bay, part of the Parramatta River and is conveniently located next to Concord Road and public transport, being on the M41 bus route and only 200 metres from Rhodes Rhodes station. From the Central Coast, change at Epping or from the Blue Mountains, change at Strathfield.

The park has grass and picnic tables, trees and shade, as well as water.

So bring along your radios, portable antennas and do a bit of operating.

Look for "QRP by the Harbour" on facebook and the what3 words address is "limes inform sung"

73 from Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 22nd to the 28th of September.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th
10cm flux	78	81	87	90	91	91	91
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	4	5	5	3	24	43 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	2	5	3	3	17	24 estimated
T index	7	15	21	22	25	32	21

Solar activity was very low from the 22nd to the 25th, low on the 26th and 27th, and very low again on the 28th.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet from the 22nd to the 26th, quiet to active on the 27th, and from quiet to minor storm levels on the 28th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 22nd and 23rd. The 24th saw quite a change, ranging from 35% depressed during the local day, then improving to 15% enhanced at local night. The 25th saw some enhancement of 20% after local dawn, then was otherwise near predicted; the 26th was enhanced 15% all day and up to 25% right after dawn; the 27th was enhanced 15% during local day and 35% during local night; then the 28th returned to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 29th of September to the 5th of October;

Solar activity is expected to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels on the 29th and 30th, and otherwise be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be briefly depressed after local dawn on the 29th and 30th, otherwise 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 September were;

Minimum 71 Average 92 Maximum 140
Peak dates between the 2nd and the 11th, and the 26th to the 30th

The prediction for October;

Minimum 71 Average 85 Maximum 95
Peak dates between the 1st and the 19th, and the 21st to the 31st

And looking ahead to the prediction for November;

Minimum 71 Average 80 Maximum 95
With peak dates between the 1st and the 5th.

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

ALGERIA, 7X. Members of the Radio Club of Djelfa will be active as 7Y7AI from Ile du Cavallo, IOTA AF-104, until October 10. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres.

BHUTAN, A5. Operators Zorro, JH1AJT, Kasu, VR2KF and Champ, E21EIC are active as A5A until October 8. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. The main objective of this visit is to support the Bhutan Olympic Committee in its setup of a Paralympic Committee.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Gust, ON6KE will be active until October 10 as FR/ON6KE on 80 to 10 metres using CW, JT65 and FT8.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Stan, LZ1GC returns to Nendo Island as H40GC until October 20. He will focus on the low bands using SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK.

DODECANESE, SV5. Oliver, DK7TX will be active holiday-style from the islands Kos, Lalymos, Nisyros, and Telendos, IOTA EU-001, from October 3 to 30 as SV5/DK7TX on 40 to 6 metres, with a focus on 20, 15 and 10 metres.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. R60SAT will be active to commemorate the first Sputnik until October 8. An award is available as well.

MICRONESIA, V6. Chusuke, JR1FKR and Yutaka, JH1MLO will be active until October 2. They will sign V63FKR and V63MLO on SSB and RTTY.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Listen for Harald, DF2WO until October 30 as XT2AW on HF including 60 metres using digital modes such as JT65 and FT8.

PALESTINE, E4. SP9FIH will be active at E44WE from October 18 to 29. This will include a single-op single band 15 meter assisted low power effort in the CQ WW DX Phone Contest. Outside the contest activity he will be on 30, 15, 12 and 10 metres using SSB, PSK and possibly RTTY.

NEPAL, 9N. Gerhard, OE3GEA is now active as 9N7GE. Length of his stay is unknown. His activity has been on various HF bands using CW.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Leo, PP1CZ will be active as PY0FW from October 22 to 27. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres with some tries on 6 metres if he has propagation, using CW, RTTY, some SSB, and possibly JT65 and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Feld Hell Sprint, UK/EI SSB DX Contest, Russian World Wide MultiMode Contest, UBA ON 80-Meter SSB Contest, Classic Phone Exchange and the Peanut Power QRP Sprint are all on this weekend.

The IQRP Quarterly Marathon runs from October 2 to 8.

The German Telegraphy Contest and ARS Spartan CW Sprint are scheduled for October 3.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, 432 MHz Fall Sprint, UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest and Phone Fray are all scheduled for October 4.

WICEN News

The Volunteer Memorial Day is coming up Sunday, October 8th.

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of October. This is a big event and WICEN has responsibility for checkpoint communications over a large portion of the course, so a good turnout of operators is required.

Trek for Timor in Kangaroo Valley, originally scheduled for October, has been postponed until April 2018. For more details, visit the website, kvrp.net.au.

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.

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. The next meeting of the group is coming up at 10am Sunday October 8th.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region meets at 3:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The region is also experimenting with an HF net on Thursday evenings starting at 7pm, using the 10 metre WICEN frequency of 28.450 MHz.

The Region will be supplying safety radio communications for the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic on the 15th of October, and the AMSAG Johns River Rally, between Johns River and Heron Creek, on Saturday, 28 October.

They will also be setting up communications vans for JOTA, in Port Macquarie on 21st of October, and in Wauchope on the 21st and 22nd. The region is also supporting the White Ribbon Walk on 26th November.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The BMSC "Rallye des Femme", an event for Lady Drivers, 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. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. December 1st to 3rd is the Alpine Rally covering 700 km in East Gippsland. 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the club is a monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 7th of October, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

October is a busy month for club activities; On Sunday the 15th of October, the club will be providing the safety communications for the Beechwood Billycart Classic.

The club will be running two stations for the Jamboree on the Air again this year, on the weekend of 21st and 22nd of October; VK2BOR will operate from Port Macquarie and VK2SMI will operate from Wauchope.

The club will be providing the safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally in the Herons Creek area south of Port Macquarie on Saturday the 28th of October.

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 September 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, along with past issues as well.

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

Hunter Radio Group News

The October Monthly Meeting on the 13th October, 2017, will be the Anniversary of Hunter Radio Group's 94th year.

It will be our annual "Do It Yourself" night, so bring along a project that you have been working on; It does not have to be completed. There should be a short presentation to go with your project.

There are some interesting member's projects lined up already, so come along and have an informative time.

Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

Tea, Coffee and Ragchew after the meeting.

Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters serving Newcastle and the Lower Hunter. They are on 146.9MHz, 146.975 MHz with ECHO Link and 438.025 MHz in the 70cm band. There is also a 6 metre beacon, on 50.288 MHz.

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

Chifley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings are held every Saturday at 1pm, in the clubrooms, 130 Hyatts Road Plumpton.

The club's 2m and 70cm repeaters are back online. Output frequencies are 147.075 MHz and 439.425 MHz respectively. Both repeaters require a 123 Hz access tone. IRLP, Echolink and Allstar facilities are available. For more information visit the club's website, www.carc.org.au.

Pay us a visit and enjoy a Saturday afternoon with a group of friendly amateurs.

*Submitted by Harry VK2BHT
For the Chifley Amateur Radio Club.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club is running a licence course and assessment weekend on the 11th and 12th of November. The Foundation course and practical exam is on the 11th, and exams for Foundation theory, Standard or Advanced theory, and regulations are on the 12th.

A minimum of 5 Foundation candidates for the Saturday course are needed to cover costs. Sunday exams can be run with a minimum of 1 candidate. The course and assessments will be conducted in the Macarthur area. For more information, including costs or to book your place, contact the Club's Learning Organiser, Frank VK2FRW, on (02) 4681 8334, or email vk2frw@wia.org.au.

The July to September period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge for 2017 has now closed and entries are open until 14 October. The objective of the challenge is to work the most wanted DXCC entities based on their ranking in Clublog's "Most Wanted" list, which is published on the contest website. All Australian amateurs are eligible to enter and entering is easy. You don't need to be a serious DX'er. If you've worked any DX during July to September, head over to vk2au.org and submit an entry. The website is tidy and easy to understand. Scroll down to the "Entry Submission" section where you will find a number of simple ways to submit your entry. This is a fun and relaxed challenge where you work DX in your own time over a 3 month period. It's easy, and submitting an entry only takes a few minutes. The website again, vk2au.org.

The next Monthly General Meeting of Club will be held on Wednesday 25th October 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 Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access. A 91.5Hz tone is also sent.

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

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this Wednesday evening, the 4th of October.

This month will be a practical antenna building evening. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to assemble your own 2m gain antenna for either your home station or portable / field operation. Two popular designs are available.

One is a J-Pole vertical omni-directional antenna, fabricated from 1/2 inch copper tube, based on the popular "copper cactus" design. The other is a 5-element yagi directional antenna, based on the popular NT1K insulated through beam design. No gamma match required.

Not feeling confident about sourcing the parts and home brewing your own antenna? The St George Amateur Radio Society has solved both problems. First purchase a kit containing the required parts and then attend our practical workshop to assemble your antenna. Tools will be available at the workshop to assist in assembling your selected antenna.

Kits have already been ordered and payment can be made at the workshop. Details are on the society's website at; www.sgars.org.

As well as the building session, 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

The next meeting is the mid-monthly meeting, on Tuesday 10th. Its back at Mt Colah Community Centre and starts at 8pm.

The venue is near the northern end of Pierre Close, and 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 Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road.

Coming up at the monthly meeting on the 24th will be a Tash & Treasure.

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;

October

St. George ARS gathering on the 4th

Oxley Region ARC Monthly meeting on the 7th

Waverley ARS Contest weekend on the 7th and 8th

HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 10th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 13th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend on the 14th and 15th

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

HADARC Monthly general meeting on the 24th

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 25th

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

Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation and exam weekend the 11th and 12th

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

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 25th and 26th

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

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

December

George ARS Christmas BBQ & Annual General Meeting on the 6th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend the 9th and 10th

And don't forget... Christmas Day on the 25th