

Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of two silent keys.

The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of two of their members.

Tony Kay, VK2KAY, Passed away on Monday October 9th after an ongoing battle with ill health. Although not always able to attend meetings, Tony will be sadly missed for his wit and wonderful sense of humour. Tony's funeral was held on Thursday October 19th at Leura Memorial Gardens.

Rick Allen VK2CMR, was president of Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club and passed away suddenly last Sunday October 15th at home. Most recently, rick had been at the clubrooms to assist in organising Foundation assessments.

There will be a funeral for Rick on Wednesday 25th October, starting at 3.00 pm. The service will be at Pine Grove Memorial Park Cemetery, Kington Street, MINCHINBURY. Cards can be sent to;

404A Nutt Road, LONDONDERRY NSW 2753

Please pause with us now, while we remember Tony and Rick.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Tony Kay, VK2KAY and Rick Allen VK2CMR.

*Advised by Daniel VK2DC and Irene VK2FEB
on behalf of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

[Play Evening ID1]

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

Places are filling fast for the November ARNSW Foundation Course. It's the last for this year and its on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of November. Licence examinations for other grades of licence are also available, email education@arnsw.org.au for more details or to book a place.

QRP by the Harbour was held this morning, organised by the ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group. We will have a full report in next week's bulletin.

JOTA 2017

This weekend saw the 60th Annual Jamboree On the Air, with guides and scouts getting on the air for all around Australia, and all over the world.

One of the biggest JOTA stations was at Kurnell in Sydney, as part of the Endeavour Boree Regatta. . The St George Amateur Radio Society reported around 500 guides and scouts taking part in JOTA activity over the weekend, here is a short excerpt of one of the contacts;

[Play File: E-VIJOTA.wav]

Duration: 0m23s

[content – contact excerpt]

Full report in our news bulletin next week;

Our thanks to Paul VK2GX and Cameron VK2CKP from the SGARS.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 13th to the 19th of October.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
10cm flux	70	69	70	71	70	73	73
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	26	26	21	6	4	4	12 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	21	21	16	4	5	2	11 estimated
T index	-11	-15	-7	-21	-9	-10	-5

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region started out at quiet to minor storm levels on 13th and 14th, then was at quiet to Active levels on the 15th with one isolated minor storm period. The 16th returned to quiet conditions, the 17th was quiet to unsettled, the 18th again quiet, and the 19th ranged from quiet to active conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out depressed; on the 14th, 25% local day and 30% local night, the 15th was depressed 20% throughout, and the 16th was depressed 30% local day and 20% local night. The 17th showed some improvement, with depressions of 15% during local day, and local night conditions returning to near predicted monthly values. The 18th and the 19th then remained near predicted.

Now, the forecast for the 20th to the 26th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low from the 20th to the 22nd, then low to moderate from the 22nd to the 26th.

Geomagnetic activity should be at active levels from the 24th to the 26th, with quiet to unsettled conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed 15% on the 24th, briefly depressed after local dawn on the 25th, then be near predicted monthly values on other days.

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 69 Average 78 Maximum 89
Peak dates between the 1st and the 8th, and the 22nd to the 27th

And looking ahead to the prediction for November;

Minimum 70 Average 71 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 1st and the 3rd, and the 16th to the 30th.

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

SRI LANKA, 4S. Alex, UT5UY and Roman, UR0MC will be active as 4S7AYG from October 22 to 31. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

LESOTHO, 7P. Pista, HA5AO is active as 7P8AO until October 28. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, RTTY and FT8.

BOTSWANA, A2. Andre, NJ0F is active as A25A until November 5. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Johannes, PA5X is active as C93PA from Beira for the next few months. Activity is on various HF bands using SSB, JT65, WSPR and FT8.

PALESTINE, E4. Janusz, SP9FIH is active as E44WE from Bethlehem until October 29. Activity is on 30, 15, 12 and 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 15 metres.

IRELAND, EI. Oliver, ON4EI will be active as EI8GQB until November 1 from a caravan using mainly green energy. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres. He will be active as EI1A in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

MOLDOVA, ER. Ben, DL7UCX is active as ER/DL7UCX until October 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Roly, ZL1BQD is active as P29RR until November 6. Activity is mainly on 40 and 20 metres using CW, JT9, JT65 and FT8.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. A group of operators will be active as PY0FW until October 27. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

BANGLADESH, S2. Operators G3KHZ, G4EDG, DL6KVA, S21ED and S21TV will be active as S21ZDC from Saint Martins Island, IOTA AS-127, until October 25. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres using CW and SSB.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Kasimir, DL2SBY is active as S79KB from Mahe, IOTA AF-024, until November 1. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB with a focus on RTTY.

TUVALU, T2. Tony, 3D2AG will be active as T2AR from Funafuti, IOTA OC-015, until October 28. Activity will be on the HF bands, as well as 6 and 2 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND, VK9C. Keith, GM4YXI and Chris, GM3WOJ will be active as VK9CZ from October 24 to November 7. Activity will be on the HF bands with two stations. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

MONTSERAT, VP2M. Operators K2DM and N0SMX will be active as VP2MDG and VP2MMX, respectively, from October 26 to 30. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes a Multi/Single entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. Scouts Jamboree On The Air, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge, JARTS World Wide RTTY Contest, Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest, 10-10 International Fall CW Contest, RCB XYL Test, New York QSO Party, Worked All Germany Contest, South Dakota QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint, Illinois QSO Party and the RSGB RoLo 80-Meter CW are all on this weekend.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 25.

WICEN News

Next weekend is a major event on the WICEN calendar - the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic runs overnight from 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.

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 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 running an HF net on Thursday evenings from 7pm, using the 10 metre WICEN frequency of 28.45MHz. The Region will be supplying safety radio communications for the AMSAG Johns River Rally, between Johns River and Heron Creek, next Saturday 28th October. They will also be 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. Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event next 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.*

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; their next meeting is the monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of November in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Yesterday, the club ran just one station for the 60th annual Jamboree on the Air; VK2BOR operated all day yesterday from the club's communications caravan at the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts' boatshed at McInherney Park on the banks of the Hastings River. Scouts and Guides from Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Camden Haven, Kempsey, South West Rocks, Bellingen and Coffs Harbour came to Port Macquarie, which became a District JOTA Station. Unfortunately, it was not possible to run the planned second station at Wauchope, and there was a shortage of JOTA stations in the district this year. It was a busy day!

The club will be providing the safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally in the Herons Creek area south of Port Macquarie, next 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. 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 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

The next meeting of the group is on Friday the 10th of November. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

After general business, Barry VK2AHE will present a lecture on Cinema Projector Systems.

Tea, Coffee and Ragchew as usual, after the meeting.

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

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club is running a licence course and assessment weekend on the 11th and 12th of November.

The Foundation licence course and practical exam is on Saturday the 11th, with Foundation regulations and theory exams on Sunday. Exams for Standard and Advanced theory and regulations, are also on the 12th.

A minimum of 5 Foundation candidates are needed for the Saturday course to cover costs, but Sunday exams can be run with 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 - September period results of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge are now published on the contest website, vk2au.org. Congratulations to the winner of both categories, Paul VK5PAS.

The next Meeting of the Club is on this Wednesday the 25th of 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 the website, fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
For the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

Do you know someone who would like to obtain an amateur radio licence or upgrade their existing licence? The St George Amateur Radio Society has a team of educators dedicated to assisting new comers to amateur radio in obtain their licence, and for existing licensees to upgrade to a higher licence category.

The next training and assessment weekend is on next month – Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th of November. The classes and assessment will be in Sutherland, a short walk from the railway station.

For more information, or to reserve a place, send an email to education@sgars.org or check out the society's website at sgars.org.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is the monthly general meeting, on Tuesday the 24th. This will be a Trash & Treasure event, with the added rule that, if it is not sold it must be taken home. Venue is the Mt Colah Community Centre and starts at 8pm.

The Club's Christmas party will be in Waitara on Sunday 3rd December, starting at noon. It is essential to book with Colin VK2JCC, as there will be no seats available for "walk-ins".

HADARC and the Kur-ring-gai Historical Society are planning celebrations for the Centenary of the Reception of the first direct Wireless message from the UK to Australia for next year.

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. Due to noise issues, Morning Tea with HADARC has moved up the band slightly, to be on or near 7106 kHz, but same time, 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;

October

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

Oxley Region ARC monthly meeting on the 4th

Gold Coast ARS Hamfest on the 5th

Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 10th

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

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

ARNSW Foundation training and assessment weekend, 18th and 19th

St. George ARS Foundation weekend as well.

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 25th and 26th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew group, on the 26th

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

December

HADARC Christmas party at Waitara on the 3rd

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