

Silent Key.

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

The Karuah Valley Radio Group advises of the passing of Kim Piper, VK2ZW, on Sunday evening the 23rd March 2018.

With a long held interest in amateur radio, Kim was one of the first assessors in the initial group trained by Fred Swainston, in NSW. He was a founding member and president of the Karuah Valley Radio Group, whose main charter was to educate and motivate people to obtaining their amateur radio licence.

Kim had a great love for amateur radio and was very proud that he had been able to encourage and assisting a large number of people into our hobby.

Another of Kim's passions was serving his community. Over 30 years ago Kim started the local Karuah Valley (now Stroud) State Emergency Service unit. Kim held various positions including deputy controller, unit controller and duty officer. Kim trained members in SES communications procedures and was instrumental in establishing local communications networks.

Kim was a wonderful husband to Roma, VK2NZW, and father to his two children Sarah, VK2FOXX and Jonathan, VK2HJJ, both of whom Kim was extremely proud.

Kim was a Psychiatric nurse until his retirement. Kim passed peacefully at the age of 67 years and will be sadly missed by the many whose lives he touched.

Please pause with us, while we remember Kim.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Kim Francis Piper VK2ZW.

*Submitted by Paul Howarth VK2GX
on behalf of members and friends of the Karuah Valley Radio Group.*

[Play Evening ID1]

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

As daylight saving time concluded early this morning, VK2WI News maintains the same local times of 10am and 7.30pm. With the current difficult conditions, there may be some differences in propagation. If you have difficulties in reception, VK2WI News is also being streamed, which can be found at arnsw.org.au/audio.

The change back to standard time – is also a good reminder, to change batteries in clock and importantly, smoke alarms.

Due to the Easter Long weekend, there are no Upgrade class or Library operations at VK2WI Dural tomorrow evening, Monday the 2nd; these resume next week.

Last Sunday's Trash & Treasure did a good job of vacuuming up most items on offer, with no major items remaining in store. The next Trash & Treasure is scheduled for the 27th of May. The T & T event is always on the last Sunday of the odd numbered month, the rest of the year being in July, September and November.

The VK2RSY 2 metre beacon located at Dural has been recently upgraded. After some reports of intermittent frequency stability issues, it has now been replaced with a newly designed system. Progressively during this year, it is planned that all the VK2RSY beacons will be renewed.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 23rd to the 29th of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th
10cm flux	68	68	68	68	68	69	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	15	7	15	10	7	2	3
Australian Index (Aaus)	8	6	13	6	7	0	2
T index	18	7	12	0	0	0	0

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet to unsettled on the 23rd and 24th, quiet to active on the 25th, quiet on the 26th, quiet to unsettled on the 27th, then quiet again on the 28th and 29th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values from the 23rd to the 25th. The 26th saw depressions of 30% during local day, improving to 15% depressed at night. The 27th was depressed 15% during the day, returning to near predicted at night. The 28th and 29th then remained near predicted monthly values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 30th of March to the 5th of April;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with some active periods possible on the 30th of March.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed mildly on the 30th and 31st of March, otherwise 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.

Having just finished March, the figures were;

Minimum 67 Average 68 Maximum 70
Peak dates between the 16th and the 23rd

At the start of April, the figures look like...

Minimum 68 Average 69 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 1st and the 16th

And looking ahead, the prediction for May;

Minimum 69 Average 70 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 2nd and the 12th.

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

MALAWI, 7Q. Members of the EIDX Group are active as 7Q7EI from the shores of Lake Malawi until April 2. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with four stations active.

GHANA, 9G. Richard, 9G5AR is now licensed and active from Accra. He is generally active on 20 metres SSB during his weekdays and weekends.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Mike, CT1IUA plans to be active as D41A from Santa Maria, Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until April 9. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW with some SSB.

NORTHERN IRELAND. Special event station GB106TBC will be active from April 2 to 9 to commemorate the sinking of the RMS Titanic on April 15, 1912.

THAILAND, HS. Members of the Digital Thailand DX Association are active as HS8JCV/p from Lipe Island, IOTA AS-126, until April 2. Activity is on the HF bands.

ARGENTINA. Special event station AZ36H is active until April 2 to recognise the 36th anniversary of the Falkland Islands War.

BULGARIA, LZ. Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are active as LZ362ME during April, to honour the memory of Bulgarian Saints.

NETHERLANDS. Special event station PF2018SLO is active from Sloten during April during the context of the 11th Cities Marathon. Activity is on the HF bands.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Special event stations UE12APR, R12APR, R108M and UE57G will be active until April 15 to mark Cosmonauts Day to commemorate the first flights in space.

CANADA. Special call VD1BOOM is active on Saturdays and Sundays during April to mark the 40th anniversary of a mysterious explosion called the Bell Island Boom that happened April 2, 1978 on Bell Island, IOTA NA-198, one of Newfoundland's coastal islands. Activity is on 20 metres.

TURKS AND CAICOS, VP5. Bernie, KD5QHV plans to be active as VP5/KD5QHV until April 2. Activity is on 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres using CW and SSB.

KOSOVO, Z6. Gab, HB9TSW is active as Z68GB until April 19. Activity is on 80 to 17 metres using CW.

GIBRALTAR, ZB. Special Event Station ZB2RAF will be active until July 29 to honour the Centenary of the Royal Air Force.

NEW ZEALAND; Special event station ZM50GW will be active during April to commemorate the loss 50 years ago of the ferry TEV Wahine.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Russian World Wide MultiMode Contest, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Feld Hell Sprint, UK/EI DX CW Contest and the RSGB 80-Metre RoLo SSB contest are all on this weekend.

The IQRP Quarterly Marathon and RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship are scheduled for April 2.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for April 3.

The UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, are scheduled for April 4.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

Saturday, May 5 is the Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley. Further info is available at: www.kvrp.net.au.

WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events. "The Bay Run" commencing at Leichhardt Oval #3 at Lilyfield is on the 6th May and the Hunter event is at Speers Point Park, near the lake named "Awaba", on the 25th of May. These are great "on-the-job" training events for new members.

The recce for the VH-MDX SAREX in mid September, will be on Sunday May 19.

True Grit, on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of June will be followed by the Obstacle Course Racing World Championship the next weekend, the 9th and 10th, both at Lower Portland, in north-west Sydney.

Navshield, a bush navigation contest, held within 4 hours' drive of Sydney, is on June 23 and 24.

The WICEN website at nsw.wicen.org.au includes a printable membership form, a web contact form, often the best way to contact WICEN, as well as other contact details and useful links. Logging in gives members access to further coming events, and various manuals.

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. Their next meeting is the AGM at 10am on Sunday, 8th April.

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.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The National Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood was on today, and the Canberra Two Day Walk is on next weekend. The National Capital Rally will be the 1st to 3rd of June and the following weekend, the 9th and 10th, is the SCSCC Bega Rally. 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 Sunraysia Safari Rally will be held in the far north-west corner of Victoria, south of Wentworth, on April 21 and 22, as will a 4WD event at Toolangi State Forest. May 6th is the Kenda Rally, a motorcycle event, then The Mallee Rally is on the 9th and 10th of June at the spectacular Sealake.. 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 monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 7th of April, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The new venue for the Club's annual Field Day, on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of June, is the Wauchope High School hall in Nelson Street, Wauchope. The Field Day dinner will still be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club, as in past years. It's a good idea to book accommodation well before the Field Day, as Port Macquarie is a very popular destination for the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Training courses and assessments will 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 these 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 club information. The March 2018 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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

For this month's meeting, there is both a change of date and venue. The meeting will be on Wednesday, the 11th of April, with the general meeting starting at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

This month's meeting was planned to return to Coniston Community Hall, however repairs at the hall are taking longer than expected, so the meeting will again be at the North Wollongong Scout Hall. Its on the corner of Virginia Street and Squires Way at North Wollongong, opposite Stuart Park. For more information, check the IARS website at www.iars.net.au.

At this meeting, on Wednesday the 11th, Jesse VK2XJB will be presenting information on the progress of the digital repeater project. He has spent many months researching, integrating and building a multi-mode digital UHF repeater for use by all Amateurs. It will operate on D-Star, P25 & DMR modes and will be located at the VK2RMP repeater site of Maddens Plains. As well as talking about the project, he will be bringing-in the repeater, as well as all the associated equipment for a full demonstration. This will make for a most interesting presentation for those attending.

For those interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven regions, the Society has 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; so contact Ted by email, vk2ara@wia.org.au.

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 local time. As these repeaters are also connected to Echolink, the Net receives call-ins from all over Australia, as well as many different 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, see you at the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society. For this month, its on Wednesday the 11th of April, at North Wollongong Scout Hall.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer, Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday the 13th April.

In place of the usual monthly meeting, there will be a technical visit to the Westpac Helicopter Service at Broadmeadow, Newcastle. Members are requested to be at the base at 6.30pm.

Then on Saturday the 14th April, a further technical visit will be at Aeropelican, Belmont, at 11.30am, to see the maintenance operation.

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The Waverley Amateur Radio Society is pleased to announce that at its April Meeting, on the 18th, there will be a special talk by Ross Clements entitled "Cracking Germany's Enigma Code in World War II".

Ross is an established speaker, with many years experience at various venues, as well as being president of the Model Makers Club. He has built a replica Enigma machine, which he demonstrates. This should be a fascinating talk, especially as some members as well as many others, have been to the Bletchley Park site where much of the code breaking took place.

Instead of the normal meeting venue, it will take place in the Monash Hall at Club Rose Bay, which is in the Rose Bay RSL club, next door to the Waverley club's normal location and is on the corner of New South Head Road and Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay.

All will be most welcome to join us and there will be plenty of room for additional attendees for this special talk.

Many members will also congregate in the bistro in the RSL from about 6:00pm for dinner and all are welcome to join them. Ross and his wife will also be in attendance.

Next Wednesday, April 4th, will be the regular shack night and then Saturday, April 7th, will be the April project Day.

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.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, which is normally actioned within a couple of days.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

St George Amateur Radio Society

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

Last December, members and visitors to the Society's AGM and Christmas party were all given a free gift - a small black plastic box. They were issued with a challenge of building some piece of electronics into it.

At the February gathering, Roger Harrison VK2ZRH showed off a microwave detector that he had made. This he has used it with his point to point microwave gear.

At the April gathering, other members and visitors will be showing off their "black box" projects. For anyone else who hasn't managed to build a project into a black box, but has some other piece of gear that they have been playing with, then bring that along as well.

Also there will be a wide range of disposal items available for purchase, so don't miss out on these bargains.

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".

[\[http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted\]](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 club meeting will be the informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday the 10th. Its at Mt Colah Community Centre, Pierre Close, Mt Colah, starting at 8pm.

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 3608.5kHz, also from 8pm. Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz, from 9:00 am on Fridays.

To celebrate the anniversary of Marconi's birthday, 25 April 1874, International Marconi Day is an annual event held on the nearest UTC Saturday. VK2IMD will be active on various HF bands from 10am Saturday 21st April, until 9.59am on Sunday 22nd. Further events will be held later in the year to mark 100 years since that first official direct message from Britain to Australia, which is the link to Marconi that allows HADARC to run this award station. Given that the original message was sent on behalf of Prime Minister Billy Hughes, there is high-level interest in the centenary celebration in September.

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;

April

St George ARS gathering on the 4th

Manly-Warringah Radio Society Training and Licensing Day on the 7th

Oxley Region ARC General meeting on the 7th

HADARC meeting on the 10th

Illawarra ARS meeting – Change of date, now on the 11th

Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 13th

Waverley ARS meeting - “Cracking Germany’s Enigma Code” on the 18th

International Marconi Day on the 21st

Westlakes ARC open day on the 21st

HADARC monthly General meeting on the 24th

Anzac Day on the 25th – You can use the AX prefix with your callsign

ARNSW AGM on the 28th

May

St George ARS gathering on the 2nd

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 12th and 13th

Also, Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, 12th and 13th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 27th

June

St George ARS gathering on the 6th

Oxley Region ARC Field Day, the weekend of the 9th and 10th

The VK Shires Contest, also on the weekend of the 9th and 10th