

Silent Key.

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

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club has advised of the passing on Tuesday the 8th of May 2018, of Colin Hart Wall VK2JC at Wauchope Palliative Care. He was 86 years old.

Colin was born in Sydney, and after graduating in Dentistry from the University of Sydney in 1954, moved to Broken Hill before practicing in Narrabri, Coffs Harbour and Gilgandra, with periods working in the UK and the Northern Territory. In the Northern Territory, he often collaborated with the late Dr Fred Hollows to bring his surgical skills to remote communities. After Cyclone Tracy, he returned to Sydney as the Executive Director of the Australian Dental Association from 1974 until 1993. Colin received many awards including an MBE in recognition of his services to dentistry.

Colin was a keen Amateur Radio operator and electronics hobbyist who previously held the callsigns VK2CM and VK8CM before becoming VK2JC on his return to NSW. A great many stations will have Colin's callsigns in their log books over the last 60 years. Colin had recently become a member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, but illness prevented him from participating in club activities.

Colin and his late wife Marie, whom he married in 1957, had six children including two sets of twins.

Colin's Funeral was held in Port Macquarie on Friday. His children and their families were joined by relatives and friends at the service.

Please pause with us, while we remember Colin .

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Colin Hart Wall VK2JC.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE
on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

[Play Evening ID1]

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

A happy Mother's Day to all of our XYL's today.

After last month's ARNSW AGM, there were some changes to the office bearers, the new office bearers are; President is Mathew VK2YAP, Vice Presidents are Tim VK2ZTM and Al VK2OK, Secretary is Eric VK2VE, and Treasurer is Ray VK2ASE. Contact emails and other details remain the same.

The next ARNSW Trash & Treasure is coming up in two week's time on Sunday the 27th of May. Then in June, the 17th is another ARNSW TalkFest and the topic for this event will be Antennas. More details in a later bulletin.

The next Foundation weekend at ARNSW is scheduled for the 14th and 15th of July. Enquiries are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 15th, the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

The net starts at 8:00pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147.0MHz and then at about 8:30pm will transfer over to HF. Depending upon conditions; the net may be on either 80m or 40m.

The 80m frequency will be 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency will be 7159kHz. As well as store bought equipment, participants are encouraged to use homebrewed equipment on AM, DSB or SSB.

So for those interested in building their own equipment, experimenting with radios or just looking for a new aspect of amateur radio, then join the net.

In two week's time, Sunday the 27th, is the bi-monthly meeting of the group. Peter VK2EMU will give a presentation on "Making Frequency".

This will be an examination of the various methods of making radio frequencies used in transmitters and receivers. Starting with LC tuned circuits and progressing through crystal oscillators to phase locked loops, synthesisers and clock generators. Each method has advantages and disadvantages, so choosing the right method for a homebrewed project can be a challenge.

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 at noon, to VK2WI at 63 Quarry Road, Dural, on Sunday the 27th.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 4th to the 10th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
10cm flux	68	68	67	70	70	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	12	24	14	12	13	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	10	19	11	12	10	9 estimated
T index	3	1	20	12	9	3	5

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 4th, then quiet to active on the 5th, with the SWS magnetometer recording a weak impulse of 10 nanoteslas, at 1026UTC. Geomagnetic activity remained quiet to active levels between the 6th and 9th, before reducing a little, to quiet to unsettled levels on the 10th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during daylight hours on the 4th and enhanced 20%. The 5th remained near predicted throughout, but the 6th saw some very significant variation, ranging from 15% depressed during local day, then turning around to reach up to 60% enhancement(!) during local night. The 7th was near predicted during the day and enhanced 25% at night, the 8th was again near predicted during the day and enhanced 15%, then the 9th and 10th returned to remained near predicted monthly values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 11th to the 17th of May;

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

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly 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 finished April, the figures were...

Minimum 66 Average 70 Maximum 77
With peak dates between the 19th and the 26th

In the middle of begin May, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 67 Average 69 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 20th and the 26th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 68 Average 70 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 11th and the 22nd.

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

RODRIGUEZ ISLAND, 3B9. Operators Jacky, FR4NP, Bruno, FR4PF, Emile, FR4PM, Jean, FR5CB and Patrick, FR5FC will be active as 3B9RUN until May 16. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

MOZAMBIQUE; Members of the Lions DX Team are active as C8T from Bilene-Macia, Gaza until May 15. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres and 2 metre EME, using CW, SSB and RTTY.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Press, N6SS is active as DU6/N6SS from Sibalom, Antique Province, Panay Island, IOTA OC-129, until May 17. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and FT8.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Bruce, WB7OTC is active as E51OTC from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, Aitutaki Island, IOTA OC-083, and Atiu Island, IOTA OC-083, until May 18. Activity is on the HF bands using QRP power.

CANARY ISLANDS; Members of the Union de Radioaficionados de Las Palmas are active with special call EG8CID until May 30 to commemorate Canary Islands Day, which is on May 30.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. A group from the Ynomy DX Club will be active as HB0/PG8M/p and HB0/PH0NO/p from various World Flora-Fauna sites and nature reserves on May 12 and 13. Activity will be on 80 to 2 metres, including 60 metres, using CW and SSB with two stations.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Special event station HL50IARU is active until the end of October 2018 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of IARU Region III.

ITALY; Special event station 4U29MAY is active until the end of June to commemorate the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29.

JAPAN; Take, JI3DST will be active with special call sign, 8J3XXIII/3 from Tanga Island, IOTA AS-117, on May 12 and 13. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, JT65 and FT8. Operations may vary based on local conditions.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC, OM. Members of the radio club Horec are active with special event call OM75TESLA until the end of the year to commemorate Nikola Tesla's death 75 years ago.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PB18MILL will be active on May 12 and 13 for the Mills on the Air event. Activity will be on the HF bands.

CURACAO, PJ2. Savvas, SV2AEL is active as PJ2/SV2AEL until May 15. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1/F. Eugeny, RI1FJ has been active using CW on 30 and 20 metres at various times.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Special event station VI50IARU3 is active until August 31 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of IARU Region III.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Operators Chris, VK3QB, Brenton, VK3YB and Luke, VK3HJ are active as VK9LI until May 18. Activity is on 160 to 17 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

TURKS AND CAICOS, VP5. Mickey, AK5Q is active as VP5/AK5Q from Providenciales, IOTA NA-002, until May 14. Activity is holiday style on 20 metres using FT8.

KOSOVO, Z6. Emir, 9A6AA and Robert, 9A5RBJ will be active as Z68AA and Z68RBJ, respectively, from Peja from May 14 to 21. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ-M International DX Contest, Dutch National Windmill and Waterpump station Weekend, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, VOLTA World Wide RTTY Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Arkansas QSO Party, FISTS Spring Unlimited CW Sprint, 50 MHz Spring Sprint and the WAB 7 MHz Phone are all on this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for May 14. The RSGB 80-metre Club Data Championship, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for May 16.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events. The final one is the Hunter event at Speers Point Park, near the lake named "Awaba", on the 20th of May. These are great "on-the-job" training events for new members.

The recce for the VH-MDX SAREX, in mid September, is on next weekend.

True Grit, on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of June will be followed by the Obstacle Course Racing World Championship on Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th, both at Lower Portland, in north-west Sydney.

The 30th annual Navshield bush navigation contest, is on June 23 and 24. The course is set in a secret location, approximately 2.5hours from Sydney.

The WICEN website at nsw.wicen.org.au includes membership information, a web contact form, 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. The Region is the Spring Mountain horse Enduro event near Brisbane on the 19th and 20th of May.

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, now on the band-plan's 80 metre WICEN frequency of 3.6MHz.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The National Capital Rally is on the 1st to the 3rd of June then the following weekend, the 9th and 10th, is the SCSCC Bega Rally. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria has a net on 3.6 MHz each Wednesday at 8:30pm local time. Their next event is the Mallee Rally is on the 9th and 10th of June at the spectacular Lake Tyrell, Sealake. Visit their website at 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 Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 18th of May, in the SES Building, Port Macquarie.

The 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 be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club, as in past years. It's a good idea to book accommodation well in advance, 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; the next session will be conducted, 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 newly published May 2018 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, can be viewed via the website. The May 2018 issue of Oxtales is larger than normal, containing 28 pages of interesting reading plus many photographs of recent club activities.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is on Friday the 8th of June.
It will be held at the Belmore Function Room of Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, Newcastle. Starting time is 7.30pm.

After General Business a lecture will be presented.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle; on 146.9MHz for mobile use, 146.975MHz with EchoLink and 438.025MHz in the 70 cm band. There is also a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This coming Wednesday the 18th is lecture night at the club, and will be on the subject of the bulk carrier ship MV Iron Pacific, and its adventures in the Phillipines at the time of the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in June 1991. How does a ship cope with being covered with a quarter metre of volcanic ash? Come along on Wednesday evening to find out!

Two weeks later, on the 30th May, is the Society's Show and Tell night. This time the theme is "Crystals Galore": small, large, metal cans, ovens, crystal cutter, germanium poke, crystal radio sets. If you have something to show, bring it along, and perhaps win the prize. Or bring along a gold coin or two to vote for your favourite!

For listeners who would like to earn their Amateur Radio ticket, or upgrade their existing licence, the Society runs regular One-Day Training and Assessment Events. The next one is on Saturday 7th July. Please email education@mwrs.org.au for more information, or to register for the event.

Visit the club web site at www.mwrs.org.au for more information about these and other club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), the club YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the club's Scouting program and much more.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's two metre repeater on 146.875MHz, or visit the web site at www.mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Following last month's very well attended meeting and talk, this month brings the clubs AGM. Normal start time of 7:30pm at the usual venue; the Scout Hall in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay. After the formalities, there will be a discussion pertaining to next year's celebrations. Tea, coffee and bickies will be available during and after the meeting. As usual, many members will also congregate in the bistro on the ground floor of the RSL next door from about 6pm for dinner and all are welcome to join them. All, members and non-members alike, are always most welcome to join in any of the clubs' activities.

There have been some problems with the club's website recently and the webmasters are still trying to ascertain exactly what is causing them. They are hoping to sort it out in the near future and request members' indulgence whilst they do this, as it is a long and painful process to gradually eliminate one thing at a time.

This weekend the club ran a foundation course and assessments as well as upgrades for all levels. The next course and assessment weekend at the club will be September 15th and 16th. Either register on the website or send an email to education@vk2bv.org if the website is playing up.

Don't forget the club's weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater on 438.1125MHz with -5.4MHz offset and 91.5Hz CTCSS from 8:00pm every Monday. The Morse sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings and Sundays.

The next space special interest group meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22nd starting at 7pm. The next project day will be on Saturday June 2nd, and the next shack night will be on Wednesday, June 6th starting at 7:30pm.

As usual, the club is open most Tuesdays for all those who can make it along from about 10am to about 4pm.

There is full information about the club on the 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*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Annual General Meeting, on Tuesday the 22nd of May, at Mt Colah Community Centre, from 8pm. This is in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station.

Celebrations of the first direct message from Wales to Australia are being planned for September, including a special callsign, VK100MARCONI.

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.

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;

May

Manly-Warringah Radio Society lecture - MV Iron Pacific - on the 16th
ORARC Friday Night Gathering on the 18th
WIA AGM on the Gold Coast, the 18th to the 20th
St George ARS Foundation Weekend on the 19th and 20th
The WICEN VH-MDX SAREX Survey is on the 20th
HADARC AGM on the 22nd
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 27th
MWRS Show and Tell Night - Crystals Galore! – on the 30th

June

St George ARS gathering on the 6th
Hunter Radio Group meeting, at Adamstown Bowling Cub, on the 8th
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
ARNSW Talkfest - on antennas, on the 17th
Navshield, a WICEN event, on the 23rd and 24th

July

St George ARS gathering on the 4th
MWRS Training and Licensing Day on the 7th
ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 14th and 15th
Trans-Tasman Low-Band Contest on the 21st
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 29th