

Silent Key.

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

We have been advised of the passing last week, of Rob Waller VK2ZZR.

Rob was a member of the Mid South Coast Amateur Club, and had been a licenced amateur since the early 1960s.

He also spent much of his working life in radio and television, working for broadcasting organisations including 2CBA, WIN television, and as Chief Engineer for 2ST. Later, he ran his own retail business on the South coast and held a management position with Shoalhaven City Council.

Please pause with us, while we remember Rob.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Rob Waller VK2ZZR.

*Advised by Brian VK2BX
on behalf of the Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

[Play Evening ID1]

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

The next ARNSW Trash & Treasure is coming up next 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

Next Sunday the 27th, is the bi-monthly meeting of the group, and 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 11th to the 17th of May.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
10cm flux	70	70	71	70	70	70	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	19	10	10	5	5	3	12 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	9	5	6	2	1	1	6 estimated
T index	5	4	1	-2	-1	+4	7

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to active on the 11th, quiet to unsettled on the 12th and 13th, quiet from the 14th to the 16th, before reaching active levels active again on the 17th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 11th and 12th, then the 13th was near predicted during daylight hours and enhanced by 15% during local night. The 14th and 15th were near predicted throughout, then the 16th was near predicted during the day and enhanced 20% at night, and the 17th was again near predicted during the day but enhanced 35% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 18th to the 24th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

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

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.

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 May, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 67 Average 69 Maximum 71
With peak dates between the 8th and the 17th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 68 Average 70 Maximum 71
With peak dates between the 10th 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

CYPRUS, 5B. Bob, 5B4AGN and Nick, G3RWF are active as 5B80FOC during May in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the FOC.

BOTSWANA, A2. Dave, VE7VR will be active as A25VR from May 24 to June 3. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 30 and 20 metres.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Special event station DQ2018KTMS is active until the end of the year to mark the 101st gathering of German catholics in Muenster.

IRELAND, EI. A group of operators will be active as EJ7NET from Inisheer Island, IOTA EU-006, until May 23. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 metres.

ENGLAND, G. Special event station GR9RW will be active until May 23 to celebrate the marriage of Great Britain's Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. Activity will be on 80 metres to 70 centimetres using mainly CW and SSB and some FM with three stations active.

ISLE OF MAN, GI. Bob, MD0CCE will be active with special event call MROCCE until May 21 to celebrate the marriage of Great Britain's Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. Afterwards, he will be active as GT4FOC from May 21 to 25 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the FOC.

HONDURAS; Rudy, N2WQ, Paul, K1XM, Charlotte, KQ1F and Dennis, W1UE will be active as homecalls/HR9 from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, until May 28. Activity will be on the HF bands. They will be active as HQ9X in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest as a Multi-2 entry.

FINLAND, OH. Operators DL2VFR, DL2YBG and DL7UXG will be active as OH1/homecalls from Reposaari, IOTA EU-173, until May 23, and then from Parainen-Pargas, IOTA EU-096, from May 23 to 26. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, PSK and FT8.

DENMARK, OZ. Special event station OU7G will be active until May 21 from a vintage technology fair that will be held on Sjaelland Archipelago, IOTA EU-029. Activity will be on 80 to 20 metres using CW and SSB, and daily from 0800 to 1600UTC.

ST. MAARTEN, PJ7. Zorro, JH1AJT and Nao, JN1RVS will be active as PJ8Z and PJ8RV, respectively, until May 27. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

EGYPT, SU. Nacho, EA1AK is active as SU9JG from Gezira Island in the Nile River. Activity is on 30 to 10 metres using FT8.

GREECE; Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Greece are active with special event call SX60RAAG to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

SOMALIA; Baldur, DJ6SI is in Hargeisa and plans to be active as 6O0X until June 6.

INDONESIA, YB. Yosuke, JJ1DQR will be active as YB9/JJ1DQR from Bali, IOTA OC-022, until May 21. Activity will be on the HF bands only SSB.

GIBRALTAR, ZB. Michael, DF8AN is active as ZB2/DF8AN and is active on 6 metres, 4 metres, 2 metres, and 70 centimetres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Portuguese Navy Day Contest, Slobozhansky Sprint Contest, UN DX Contest, NZART Sangster Shield 80-Metre CW Contest, EU PSK DX Contest, Aegean RTTY Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and the Baltic 80-Metre Contest are all on this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for May 21.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 23.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

WICEN supported the Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events. The final was the Hunter event at Speers Point Park, earlier this morning. Also this weekend was the recce for the VH-MDX "Barrington SAREX"- the event itself, runs from the 14th to the 16th of September.

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. This weekend, the Region is supporting its second horse endure for the month, at Spring Mountain near Brisbane.

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 June monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 2nd of June, in the SES Building, Port Macquarie.

It's now only 3 weeks until the Club's annual Field Day on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of June. The venue is the Wauchope High School hall, Nelson Street Wauchope. Come and enjoy all the usual Field Day activities.

Remember to bring your home brew projects along for the home brew display and competition. Don't miss the trade and special interest displays. Bring your surplus items for the disposals. There will be demonstrations of live HF, VHF and UHF digital voice and weak signal communications. Fox hunts will be run on both the Saturday and Sunday. Everyone will be well fed from the barbeque. 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 May 2018 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, can be viewed on the website.

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

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting on the 12th of June. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall, in Bridge Street Coniston. It's just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong and right next door to Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

This year is the Society's 70th Anniversary, and several activities are planned to celebrate this milestone. Firstly, the Society has been allocated a special callsign of VI2AMW70 for the duration of the anniversary period. Secondly, the next meeting night on the 12th of June is coincidentally the actual date of the official formation of the Society, back in 1948.

On the Saturday following the meeting, the 16th of June, an anniversary luncheon will be held at the Wollongong Golf Club. All past and present members, along with their partners, are most cordially invited to come along to the celebration luncheon.

Then lastly, on the weekend of the 30th of June and 1st of July, the Society is holding a Field Day weekend at the Good Hope Resort camping area on Burrinjuck Dam, located just south of Yass. Members and listeners alike are most welcome to come along and have fun with antennas, radios, telescopic masts, good food and great comradeship. The special event callsign will be activated over the weekend, but the big anniversary event will be on the Sunday with the launch of a high altitude balloon. The balloon's payload will contain APRS along with a CW beacon transmitting on 28.636MHz. The APRS transmission will be sending balloon height, location and general status.

For more information on all anniversary activities, please contact the Society's Secretary Keith VK2KQB, via email on iars.keithb@gmail.com. That address again, is iars.keithb@gmail.com.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, 7.30pm on Tuesday the 12th of June, the Society's 70th Anniversary night, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club will be holding its next Foundation Licence training weekend on the weekend of the 16th and 17th of June.

The course will be held at the Old Scout Hall, 9 Moore Street, Glenbrook.

Saturday is the training day, running from 8:30am through till 5:30pm, then examinations and practical assessment for all licence grades are on Sunday, also starting at 8:30am.

Tea and coffee will be provided, but BYO lunch. Candidates will also require some form of Photo ID.

Full details and contact information can be found on the website, bmarc.org/education.

Irene van Ekris
Secretary, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Annual General Meeting, on Tuesday the 22nd of May, starting at 8pm. This is an opportunity for members to contribute their skills to the committee, or to a sub-committee. The meeting is at Mt Colah Community Centre, in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station.

Celebrations of the first direct message from UK to Australia, specifically north-west Wales to Wahrenonga, 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

The WICEN VH-MDX SAREX Survey is on today

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

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 2nd

St George ARS gathering on the 6th

Hunter Radio Group meeting, at Adamstown Bowling Club, 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

Illawarra ARS meeting, at Coniston community hall, on the 12th

Illawarra ARS 70th anniversary lunch on the 16th

ARNSW Talkfest - on antennas, on the 17th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation course weekend, 16th and 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