

Silent Key.

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

Norm Partridge, VK2TOP, passed away on Monday the 3rd of September, at the age of 66.

Norm obtained his amateur radio licence in the early 1980s, while working for Telecom, where he continued working until the late 1990s. Later he undertook a career change into aged care, but maintained a keen interest in Amateur Radio. From the early 2000s Norm was on the Council of the WIA New South Wales Division, which later became Amateur Radio NSW, for about 10 years, including a few years as President.

More recently, Norm continued to volunteer for ARNSW, as well as being a member of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, and Secretary of Walcha Radio Group. Here, Norm was instrumental in the establishment of a number of linked repeaters in the North West and New England area.

A service will be held for Norm on Monday the 10th of September at 10am, at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Walcha. By request, no flowers, donations in lieu to Careflight.

Please pause with us, while we remember Norm.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Norm Partridge VK2TOP.

Our thanks to Rick VK2RR and Brian VK2DK for advising VK2WI News.

[Play ID File: EV ID1.wav]

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

The ARNSW Education team is in need of assessors for the Foundation and Upgrade Assessment day, next Sunday the 16th of September.

If you are an Assessor, and can help out, please contact Paul VK2APA by email to; education@arnsw.org.au.

Later in the month, the Oz-VE group is running US Amateur Licence examinations on Saturday the 22nd of September at Waitara. More information is on the group's website, veexams.com.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 31st August to the 6th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
10cm flux	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	5	5	4	9	9	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	2	2	3	6	8	3 estimated
T index	0	4	6	3	7	7	1

Solar flare activity was very low, all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 31st of August until the to 3rd of September. Unsettled conditions were observed on the 4th and 5th before returning to quiet levels on the 6th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were depressed 15% during local daytime on the 31st of August, recovering to near predicted at night. Frequencies remained mostly near predicted for the 1st and 2nd. The 3rd was near predicted during the day, with enhancements of 20% during local night. The 4th returned to predicted levels during the day but again improved to 15% enhancement at night. The 5th also saw enhancements of 20% after local dawn, near predicted levels during the day but again 20% enhanced at night; and the 6th also, at predicted levels during the day with 20% enhancement at night.

Now, the forecast for the 7th to the 13th of September;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to active 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.

Looking back at August, the figures for the month were a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 2nd and the 11th, and the 24th to the 30th

At the beginning of September, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates between the 16th and the 23rd

And looking ahead to the prediction for October, we expect;

Minimum of 68, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates between the 11th and the 20th.

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>]

Space Weather Summary for June 2018

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was at very low levels again this month, with no M-class or X-class flares observed. Most activity observed was in the form of solar coronal holes, though there was also an erupting solar filament and associated coronal mass ejection on the 20th of August.

The eruption of the solar filament appears to have induced some geomagnetic disturbances; the 26th of August saw severe storm conditions with a local A index of 48. Later that day, further disturbances were most likely due to the coronal hole activity induced some high speed solar wind streams, which extended geomagnetic disturbances at Active levels, into the 27th of August.

Generally lower ionospheric maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were observed this month, in association with lower solar flux levels. Whilst no significant region wide ionospheric depressions were observed, Southern Australian region MUFs were mildly to moderately depressed at times. The largest depressions in the region were observed on the 21st and 28th of August, with MUFs 20% below the normal predicted monthly values.

Question time: What's all this about Solar Flux?

Also called the 10cm flux, its something we talk about every week here on VK2WI News – with both the observed values from the past week, and the predictions for the next 3 months. But what's it all about?

Historically, it was found that a useful indication of the sun's activity could be gleaned by observation of sunspots; literally, by photographic or direct observation of the solar disk, counting the darker looking 'spots' or regions. This is a laborious and potentially error prone process, but there is a great deal of historic data for this particular measurement.

As we learned more about the sun, we found out that sunspots are localised cool spots, caused by disturbances in the sun's magnetic field. That led the way to measuring solar activity by electromagnetic means, which is where the 10 centimetre flux comes in.

The 10cm flux is the radio frequency energy emitted by the sun, at a wavelength of 10.7cm, that is, a frequency of 2800MHz. Measuring the strength of this 'signal' from the sun is a good indicator of solar activity – and with an appropriate measuring receiver, its probably less time consuming than counting the spots. Its even possible to measure it on a cloudy day. So, most applications today use 10cm in place of the sunspot number, as a measure of sunspot activity.

The reference values for 10cm flux are measured by the Penticton radio observatory in Canada. Unlike the sunspot number, the 10cm flux never drops to zero, even during solar minimum. There is a constant and well-defined relationship between the 10cm Flux and the Sunspot number; When no sunspots visible on the solar disk, the 10cm flux will still have a value of around 67. The unit of measure is a special unit called, perhaps unsurprisingly, Solar Flux Units.

For the definition of solar flux units, how they compare with sunspot units, and a whole lot more data about space weather and solar measurement, visit the Space Weather Services website – its at www.sws.bom.gov.au.

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What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with the series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: E-FCAL016.wav]

Duration: 2m48s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

For more information about this series, you can contact Onno via email, to onno@itmaze.com.au, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

ARRL DX news

BHUTAN; Zorro, JH1AJT and Champ, E21EIC are active as A5A until September 14. The main purpose of this trip is to meet with Foreign Ministry officials to discuss progress on a youth development project. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

FRENCH GUIANA; Manfred, DL5FAB is active as FY/DL5FAB from Kourou until September 18 while here to participate in the launch preparations for the satellite MetOp-C. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and FT8.

ST. LUCIA; Bill, K9HZ is active as J68HZ from Soufriere until September 17. Activity is on 160 to 2 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY, mostly from 2000 to 0700UTC.

MARIANA ISLANDS; Harry, JG7PSJ will be active as KH0/KW2X from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, from September 12 to 18. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

ST. MAARTEN; Randy, K5SL will be active as PJ7/K5SL until September 15. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20 and 17 metres using CW and SSB.

POLAND; Special event stations SN100ID, SN100IP, SN100JH, SN100JP, SN100L, SN100PS and SN100PW are active until November 11 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence.

GREECE; Oliver, DK7TX will be active as SV8/DK7TX from the islands Paxoi, Vido, and Kerkyra, all IOTA EU-052, from September 9 to 15. Activity will be on the HF bands.

DODECANESE; Claudio, HB9OAU will be active as SV5/HB9OAU from Karpathos Island, IOTA EU-001, until September 20. Activity is be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

ANTIGUA; Bud, AA3B will be active as V26K until September 17 while doing maintenance on the station. His activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using primarily CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL September VHF Contest, North American CW Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Worked All Europe SSB DX Contest, Kulikovo Polye 20-Metre CW Contest, SARL Field Day Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon and the Russian Cup Digital Contest are all on this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and RSGB 80-Metre Autumn SSB Series are scheduled for September 10.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for September 12.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

The Great North Walk Ultras, from Teralba to Patonga Wharf, concluded today. Next on the WICEN calendar is the "Barrington SAREX", or Search And Rescue Exercise, on the 14th to 16th, built around the search for the missing Cessna 210M.

The Hounslow Classic is a running event centered around Blackheath, on the 22nd and 23rd.

In October, the 27th and 28th are the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and the Wisemans Dash; these events raise funds for the ARROW Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

October 14th is Volunteer Memorial Day.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au and includes a web contact form. Facebook users will find an 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 Sunday the 14th of October at 10am.

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, 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, and on the South Coast of NSW. The ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is on September 29th and 30th, on the north west border of the Territory. October has the ANU "Inward Bound" adventure race on the 5th and 6th, then both Fitz's Challenge and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, on the 28th. 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. Coming events include the Field Weekend at Lauriston Scout Camp in the Macedon Ranges, on the 5th to the 7th of October, and the Stockmans Rally at Big River on Sunday the 28th. For details, visit the 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 Hunter Radio Group.

The next meeting of the group is coming up this Friday the 14th of September. Location is as usual, the Belmore Function room at Adamstown Bowling Club, and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. Parking is available, at the side of the Bowling Club.

*Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club regrets the passing of long-term member Norm VK2TOP last Monday. Also a member of the Walcha club, he was heavily involved with the North and North West Repeater Linking Project, and he will be sadly missed by both Clubs.

The Shahzada Horse Enduro is now well and truly over, and a summary will appear next week; in the meantime we would like to thank the Club members who froze their monkeys off whilst taking part. Also, several Club members were participating in communications for the Great North Walk this weekend, so as this goes to air, they will either be shivering, or recovering.

Have you ever wondered how the GPS works? At this month's lecture, on Saturday the 15th September, you can learn more about the ubiquitous GPS system with a presentation by Dave VK2KFU; don't worry, as it will not get too technical, so a full house is expected.

For those looking to obtain or to upgrade their licence, a Foundation Training and Assessment Day has been set for the 22nd of September. Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible with Karen VK2AKB.

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the club rooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station, at 1pm, preceded by the obligatory sausage sizzle starting at noon. The club rooms are accessible by bus, with a bus stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station, every hour. The club rooms are usually open from 10.30 every Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the workshop and library.

The Club relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6m and 2m repeaters VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725MHz respectively; please note that both repeaters require a sub-audible tone of 91.5Hz.

The club also runs a mixed-mode repeater VK2RAG on 439.950MHz, which is connected to the P25 network; a 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and is highly recommended for receiving (unless you like hearing random noise).

There is a net held every Thursday on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm, and all members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved).

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for centralcoastarc, and a Twitter account, @ccarclub [pronounced “at CC AR Club”].

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the website, at ccarc.org.au.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer for the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering, at 7pm on Friday the 21st of September, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444; Training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences, run once sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

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 the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each 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 July 2018 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", is now available to read on the website, and past issues can be viewed there as well. The September 2018 issue of Oxtales is in preparation, and will be published later this coming week.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is the informal mid-monthly meeting, on Tuesday the 11th of September, starting at 8pm. The meeting is at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station.

The Google "Plus code" for this site is: 84H8+64 Mount Colah, New South Wales.

It is now less than two weeks until the big day; Saturday 22nd of September, is the centenary of the Marconi-Fisk message. Operation of special event station VK100MARCONI will be at St Andrew's Anglican Church from 11 am, with formalities at the monument at 1 Stuart Street, from 1 pm. The site is a short walk north-east of Wahroonga station, with rail services in the region apparently running normally.

The Club runs three nets each week; For more information on these and other club activities, the 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;

September

HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 11th

Barrington SAREX, a WICEN event, from the 14th to 16th

Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 14th

CCARC Lecture on the GPS on the 15th

ARNSW Foundation and Assessment weekend, 15th and 16th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, the 15th and 16th

Oxley Region ARC gathering on the 21st

Centenary of the first direct message from the UK to Australia via radio, 22nd

Central Coast ARC Foundation Training and Assessment day on the 22nd

Canberra Region ARC Foundation Weekend and assessments, 22nd and 23rd

ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 30th

October

St George ARS gathering on the 3th

JOTA and JOTI on the 20th and 21st

Hawkesbury Canoe Race, a WICEN event, on the 27th and 28th

November

St George ARS gathering on the 1st

MWRS Training and Licensing Day on the 10th

St George Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 17th and 18th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 25th