

Silent Key.

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

Earlier in the week, we were advised of the passing of William Newall Southall, VK2LQ.

Please pause with us, while we remember William.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] William Newall Southall VK2LQ.

[Play ID File: EV ID1.wav]

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

Places are nearly full at the final ARNSW Foundation weekend for the year, on the 10th and 11th of November. Enquiries are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

QRP by the Harbour

After a successful event earlier in the year, the ARNSW Radio and Experimenters Group is holding another QRP gathering next Saturday, the 3rd of November.

The location is McILLWAIN Park in Rhodes – which is by the water, on the site of the old Phillips Radio factory. Its next to Concord Road, and with ample parking, express buses and a 5 minute walk from Rhodes railway station, getting there couldn't be easier.

Activities start from 3pm, which coincides with QRP by the Bay in Melbourne. If it is raining, then the group will retire to the Kokoda Cafe in Rhodes Park about 300 metres south.

Look for QRP by the Harbour on Facebook and we will see you there or talk to you on the air.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19th to the 25th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm flux	70	70	71	71	72	70	60
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	1	0	4	5	3	2	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	1	5	4	2	2	5 estimated
T index	-16	-11	-11	-14	-18	-22	-23

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 19th and 20th, quiet to unsettled on the 21st, then quiet again, for the rest of the week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values, from the 19th to the 23rd. The 24th was near predicted during local day but was depressed 15% at night, then the 25th was depressed 20% throughout local day, but night returned to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 26th of October to the 1st of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity should be mostly quiet with the possibility of isolated unsettled periods on the 26th of October.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 26th and 27th of October, but 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.

Nearing the end of October, the figures for the month are;

Minimum of 67, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 12th and 15th, and the 22th to the 24th.

For November, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 7th and the 19th

And looking ahead to the prediction for December, we are now expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 4th and the 16th.

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>]

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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-FCAL022.wav]

Duration: 1m43s

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

Several stations are active especially to take part in the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest;

GEORGIA; Mamuka, 4L2M will be active, Single Band on 20 metres.

CYPRUS; A group of operators will be active as C4A from Nicosia.

OMAN; A group of operators will be active as A44A as a Multi Operator entry.

QATAR; A group of operators from the Qatar Amateur Radio Society and others will be active as A73A from Doha as a Multi/Multi entry.

TAIWAN; A group of operators will be active as BV2A/3 from DaXI, Tao Yuan City.

CHINA; Look for B4T to be a Multi/Multi entry.

HONG KONG; Alberto, VR2XAN will be active from Peng Chau Island, IOTA AS-006, as a Single Band on 80 metres entry.

CUBA; A group of operators will be active as T42T as a Multi Operator/Single Transmitter/High Power entry.

PALESTINE; Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as E44WE in the contest as a Single Band on 20 metres entry.

ESTONIA; A group of operators will be active as ES9C as a Multi/Two entry.

FRENCH GUIANA; A group of operators will be active as FY5KE.

ZIMBABWE; A large group of operators will be active as Z23MD as a Multi/2 entry.

In other activity this week;

CAPE VERDE; A group of operators are active as D4C in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest, and will also be active as either D4Z or D41CV prior to the contest.

BHUTAN; Operators JH1AJT, OH2BH, DJ9ZB, JF1IST and E21EIC are active as A5A, A52BH, A52ZB, A52IST, and A52C, respectively, from Thimphu until October 30. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres. They will be active as A5A as a Multi/2 entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

MAYOTTE; Willi, DJ7RJ will be active as FH/DJ7RJ from October 29 to November 6. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB, with a focus on 160 metres.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA ; Members of the Noronha Contest Group are active as PY0F until October 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8. This includes being active in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

SURINAME; A group of operators are active as PZ5K until October 30. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and RTTY. This includes being active in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

GREECE; Nicolas, F1RAF will be active as SV8/F1RAF from Poros Island, IOTA EU-075, until November 3. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB.

MARSHALL ISLANDS; Masa, JA0RQV will be active as V73MT until October 29.

DUCIE ISLAND; A large group of operators are active as VP6D until November 3. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes including FT8.

BURKINA FASO; A group of operators are active as XT2SZZ from Bobo Dioulasso until October 30. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being active in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

VANUATU; Chris, VK2YUS is active as YJ0CA from Efate, IOTA OC-035, until October 29. Activity is on 40, 20 and 15 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL EME Contest, CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint and NCCC CW Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend. The UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 31.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

The 111km Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and the 67km Wiseman's Dash, concluded today. These events raise funds for ARROW, the bone marrow transplant foundation.

Sunday November the 18th, is a WICEN training day at ARNSW Dural. Topics covered include network design, message passing, and repeater trailer setup and operation. Please email operations@nsw.wicen.org.au if you are attending.

The group will be at the CCARC Wyong Field Day, confirmed as Sunday the 24th of February, 2019.

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, 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, 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. Both Fitz's Challenge, and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, were held today. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crar.org.

WICEN Victoria has a net on 3.6 MHz each Wednesday at 8:30pm local time. Coming events include the Peninsula Shire Communications Exercise in Mornington on Saturday the 10th of November. For details, visit the website at vic.wicen.org.au, which also includes some reports on recent events.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS,
on behalf of the WICEN 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 November general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd of November, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Last Saturday the 20th of October, the club station VK2BOR participated in JOTA. The station was set up in the club's communications caravan at McInherney Park in Port Macquarie, at the Scouts and Guides District Camp with participants from the area between Camden Haven and Coffs Harbour. With good weather, it was a busy and most successful day, with 44 Scouts and Guides making HF on air contacts with other JOTA stations.

Last Sunday morning, the 21st of October, club members provided the safety communications for the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, west of Wauchope. This is the longest downhill bilycart road course in Australia. The weather remained fine all day. The event ran smoothly with more entrants and many more spectators than usual, as a result of the event having been very actively publicized this year.

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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The September 2018 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, along with past issues, are available on the website. The November issue is currently in preparation and will be published soon.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
F6or the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Hunter Radio Group

The last monthly meeting of the Group for the year will be held on Friday the 9th of November.

The meeting is at the Belmore Function Room of the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, Newcastle.

After General Business, a lecture will be presented.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. These repeaters operate on 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with EchoLink, and on UHF, on 438.025MHz.

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

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting on the evening the 13th of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the committee meeting at 6:30pm.

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

The next meeting is the Society's very popular Annual Auction night. As usual, our Auctioneer is Simon VK2XQX who helps create both an entertaining night and an opportunity to pick-up a great bargain. Amongst the many items that will be up for auction, there are at least 5 different HF radios, antenna tuners, SWR meters and power supplies.

Following the Auction, there will be the usual ragchew over a cup of tea or coffee with chocolate biscuits, and based on many past meeting nights, this ragchewing will continue out in the carpark long after the hall has been locked- up.

The Society's new 70cm DMR repeater is getting lots of use. It is located at the VK2RMP Maddens Plains site and is on 438.725MHz, with a 5MHz negative offset. On Slot 1 it is presently connected to World Wide Talk Group 91 and on Slot 2, it is connected to the Australian and NSW Talk Groups of 505 and 5052. All listeners in the Wollongong and Sydney region are invited to use the repeater with any reports to be sent to the Society's Secretary Keith VK2KQB on iars.keithb@gmail.com

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.

Don't forget about the Saturday morning Net run by Steve VK2BGL; You can join in on either VK2RMP or VK2RUW 2m repeaters from 9.30am local time, or call-in on Echolink using VK2BGL-R.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening the 13th of November, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Last week's lecture on RADHAZ i.e. Radiation Hazards by Allan VK2EFM was most informative. It started with the basics of electromagnetic radiation e.g. the E-field (electric) and the H-field (magnetic) at 90 degrees to it. Basic calculations were shown, such as volts/metre from the E-field and amps/metre from the H-field. Did you know that it only takes 6 minutes of over-exposure to RF to heat body tissue and cause injury? Note: Dural staff need not worry. Various other risks were mentioned, such as ignition of fuel, gas and explosives, and the effects on cruise control in vehicles. This was followed by a practical demonstration, with Club President Myles VK2ASS as the guinea pig.

The next business meeting of the Club will be next Saturday 3rd November, and all are invited. And don't forget the forthcoming Wyong Field Day next year, on Sunday 24th February; this event is sponsored by the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

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 famous sausage sizzle run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, starting at noon. The Club rooms are accessible by bus, with a 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 Club 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 146.725 MHz respectively; please note that both repeaters require the standard sub-audible tone of 91.5 Hz.

The Club also runs a mixed-mode repeater VK2RAG on 439.950 MHz, which is connected to the P25 network; the 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and is highly recommended for receiving.

There is a net held every Thursday on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm; all members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved). Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au, preferably by 12 noon on Friday.

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for “centralcoastarc”. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [*announcer: pronounced “At CC AR Club”*].

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the web site, www.ccarc.org.au.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of Club is on this coming Wednesday, the 31st 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, on 438.65MHz. 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 Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club's activities, visit the website, fgarc.org.au.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday the 31st, is Show and Tell night; being Halloween, the theme will be of spookiness, horror, gore, and the like. Do you have a radio set that's had some bloody repair work done to it? Perhaps some gear that came to an horrific untimely end through misuse? Maybe a vintage set that would have been at home at 1313 Mockingbird Lane...?

If you are not quite old enough to get that reference, one episode of the 1960s horror comedy series, The Munsters, featured a ham radio set. [PRINT ONLY clip at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-8RltOZE30>]] As usual, voting will be by gold coin, with a prize for the best display, and possibly for the most horrific story.

If you are interested in gaining an Amateur licence, or upgrading your existing one, the next education and licensing day is on Saturday, 10th November. To book a place, email Mark VK2MP as soon as possible, by email to: education@mwrs.org.au, that's education@mwrs.org.au.

The WebSDR is still off air, pending replacement audio hardware, but the VHF repeater audio stream is back online: the receiver is currently scanning several repeaters, so there's a bit more to listen to.

There's more information on the Society's website, www.mwrs.org.au; you will also find information about the Society's YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the 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 two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the web site at www.mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
Publicity Officer, Manly-Warringah Radio Society.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 7th of November.

This month there will be a presentation by Wal VK2ACE on SDR – Software Defined Radio. This will cover the History, principles, and practical examples of SDR receivers and transceivers, both home-brewed and commercially manufactured, plus an overview of various SDR software and their pros and cons.

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, and 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>]

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday the 13th of November, starting at 8:00pm. The venue is the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of Mt Colah railway station.

The Club runs three nets each week; Monday from 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, 147.250MHz No tone is required, but a 91.5 Hz tone is sent. The 80 metre net is on Wednesday evenings on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm, and Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz from 9am 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

Manly-Warringah Halloween Horror show and tell, on the 31st
Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 31st

November

QRP By the Harbour, and QRP by the Bay, on the 3rd
St George ARS gathering on the 7th
Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 9th
Manly-Warringah Education and Assessment Day on the 10th
ARNSW Foundation Licence and Assessment weekend, 10th and 11th
HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 13th
Illawarra ARS meeting on the 13th
St George Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 17th and 18th
Manly-Warringah lecture night; on Honeysuckle creek, on the 21st
Spring VHF & UHF contest, on the weekend of the 24th and 25th
Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 24th and 25th
ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 25th

December

St George ARS Christmas BBQ and AGM on the 5th
Waverley ARS Christmas Party on the 15th
Christmas Day is the 25th