

Silent Key.

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

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Christo Simeonoff, formerly VK2ZAX, last Saturday.

Christo was very active in Amateur Radio in the 1970's and 1980's, with involvement in the then WIA NSW division, precursor to ARNSW, and with WICEN.

His interest in technology was not only confined to radio; his company Blue Sky Industries was well known in the computer industry, and specialised in the early days of Unix computing, pioneering computer systems in critical business and government applications.

The funeral service for Christo will be at noon, on Wednesday the 7th of November, at Anne Wilson Chapel, 40 Darley St Mona Vale.

Please pause with us, while we remember Christo.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Christo Simeonoff, formerly VK2ZAX.

[Play ID File: EV ID1.wav]

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

The November Foundation weekend at ARNSW is now fully booked. Other Club that have advised VK2WI News of Foundation course dates in November, are the Manly-Warringah Radio Society, with their Education and Assessment Day on Saturday the 10th, St George Amateur Radio Society on the weekend of the 17th and 18th, then the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on the 24th and 25th.

ARNSW is planning Foundation weekends in 2019, with the first expected to be in March. For more information on this and other education activities at ARNSW, enquiries are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

While on the topic of Amateur Radio Education – for some time now there has been some interest in the possibility of gaining a US Amateur Radio licence, while in Australia. The Oz-VE group organises the exams and assists candidates with the admin to do just that; and their next exam session is planned to take place at next year's CCARC Wyong Field Day, on the 24th of February 2019. General information and links to study material can be found at the group's website, which is: veexams.com.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 26th of October, to the 1st of November.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st
10cm flux	69	69	68	69	67	68	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	3	2	1	4	3	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	2	1	1	2	3	5 estimated
T index	-30	-33	-27	-24	-22	-25	-13

Solar flare activity was very low all week.
Geomagnetic activity was as quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out depressed 20% after local dawn and during daylight on the 26th, recovering to near predicted at local night. The 27th was also depressed 20% during local day, recovering at night to near predicted; the 28th and 29th were also depressed 15% during local day, again both recovering to near predicted monthly values at night; then frequencies remained near predicted monthly values, from the 30th of October to the 1st of November.

Now, the forecast for the 2nd to the 8th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach minor storm levels on the 3rd; Active to unsettled levels are expected on the 4th; then quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to be depressed on the 4th and 5th, 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.

Having finished October, the figures for the month were;

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

For November, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 11th and the 18th

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 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 ID File: EV ID2.wav]

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-FCAL018.wav]

Duration: 2m21s

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

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

ARRL DX news

SRI LANKA; Peter, DC0KK is active as 4S7KKG from Moragalla, IOTA AS-003, until April 2, 2019. Activity is on the HF bands.

MADAGASCAR; Eric, F6ICX will be active as 5R8IC from Sainte Marie Island, IOTA AF-090, from November 5, until February 2019. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB, some RTTY, and PSK.

KENYA; Scott, WA5A is active as 5Z4/WA5A from Ruaka until November 7. Activity is on 40, 20, and 17 metres.

GERMANY; Some members of the European DX Foundation are active as DL32EUDXF during November to celebrate the EUDXF's 32nd anniversary.

LIBERIA; Eric, EL2EF, Col, MM0NDX and Jonathan, MM0OKG will be active as EL2EL/4 from Telengbe Island, IOTA AF-111, a new IOTA, from November 5 to 9. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20 and 17 metres using SSB and FT8 with three stations.

ENGLAND; Special event station GB100ARM is active during November to commemorate the armistice at the end of World War I.

ANTARCTICA; Danilo, IZ1KHY is active as IA0/IZ1KHY until the end of February 2019, while involved in several scientific missions and research projects at some of the remote camps.

ITALY; Special event station IO8MQP is active until November 6 to commemorate the first Mario Ambrosi, I2MQP, Memorial Days. Activity is on the HF bands.

ST. LUCIA; Gerd, DL7VOG will be active as J68GU until November 25. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes entries in the upcoming Worked All Europe RTTY and CQ World Wide DX CW contests.

AUSTRIA; Jo, OE4VIE is active as OE32EUDXF until November 17 to celebrate the EUDXF's 32nd anniversary.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS; Michael, DF8AN will be active as VK9CH from November 6 to 9. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, RTTY, various digital modes, and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND; Prior to his Cocos Keeling operation, Michael, DF8AN will be active as VK9XQ until November 6, and then from November 9 to 17. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, RTTY, various digital modes, and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

INDIA; The Manic Monkeys will be active as AT4DK from Pamban Island, IOTA AS-173, until November 4. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

BURKINA FASO; Harald, DF2WO will be active as XT2AW during November. He will focus on 160 metres.

INDONESIA; Operators Burkhard, DL3KZA and Irfan, YE4IJ are active as YE4/DL3KZA from Belitung Island, IOTA OC-144, until November 11. Activity is holiday style on 20 and 17 metres, depending on conditions, and using SSB.

LATVIA; Special event stations YL100K, YL100L, YL100R, YL100V and YL100Z are active until November 18 to celebrate Latvia's independence centennial.

KOSOVO; Jeremy, EI5GM and Dave, EI9FBB are active as Z6/homecalls until November 5. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Jakarta RTTY Contest, IPARC CW Contest, Ukrainian DX Contest, IPARC SSB Contest, EANET Sprint and the High Speed Club CW Contest will keep contesters this weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for November 6.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Meter SSB Contest and Phone Fray are scheduled for November 7.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

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.

WICEN will be attending 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. 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 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 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 usual location - the Belmore Function Room of the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, Newcastle.

After General Business, a lecture will be presented on Audio Oscillators by Len, VK2ZFD.

The Group's Christmas Luncheon will be held at noon on Saturday the 8th of December, also at the Windale Bowling Club; Mark this date on your calendar.

The Hunter Radio Group conducts a broadcast on Monday Evenings from 7:30pm. This is on the VHF repeater on 146.9MHz, and UHF on 438.025MHz. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

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

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday Night gathering at 7pm on the 16th of November, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

On the morning of Sunday the 25th of November, club members will be providing safety communications for the Port Macquarie 2018 White Ribbon Coastal Walk, which starts at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club and finishes this year, in West Port Park. Radio communications between the checkpoints is challenging due to the steep coastal topography along the route.

The club's Christmas Party is on Saturday the 1st of December, in the picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. Members and their families and visitors are all cordially invited. Starting time is 10am. As usual, there will be a sausage sizzle lunch followed by a delicious home-made dessert. There will not be a December monthly general meeting; the next general meeting will be on Saturday the 5th of January 2019 in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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
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 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 now has two weekly Nets for a catch-up with each other. Along with the popular Saturday morning chit-chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL, an 80m Net has now been added. This new Net is on Friday evenings starting at 8:30pm local time, on 3.630MHz, plus or minus existing usage. All listeners are invited to join in either Net; Saturday mornings on the 2m repeaters of VK2RMP and VK2RUW or Echolink via VK2BGL-R, or Friday evenings from 8:30pm on 3.630MHz.

The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's new 70cm DMR repeater is getting lots of use. It's 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.

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

Firstly, an apology to those who noticed the CCARC news had gone missing in last week's morning VK2WI bulletin; it was due to a slight email mixup, which the Club's Publicity officer describes, as a "senior moment". We were however able to locate the wayward item in time for the Evening bulletin, and the VK2WI News Team wishes many happy returns to the CCARC Publicity Officer, for last week.

Last Saturday saw a working bee at the CCARC, with around a dozen Club members (and assorted dogs) in attendance at Kariong and Somersby. Mowers along with whipper-snippers trimmed back the grass, and branches were collected in Karen's ute and stomped down with Graham's motorcycle boots. A Club member (who shall remain nameless for modesty reasons) was presented with a cake by Karen for his 66th birthday, then some members departed for Somersby to clean up the dumped rubbish, and a tour of the repeaters was conducted.

A summary of the RADHAZ lecture by Allan VK2EFM is expected to appear in "Smoke Signals" soon, and it will make interesting reading.

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

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. Wal will give us the benefit of his vast knowledge of software-defined radios; covering 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.

A lunch will be held in early December, and a BBQ will be held on the evening of the second Tuesday in January, the 8th, in Hornsby.

The Club runs three nets each week, which continue over the holiday period. Monday's net starts at 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; new on the site, you can find links to video of the VK100MARCONI, wireless message centenary celebrations.

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;

November

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

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 16th

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

Oxley Region ARC Christmas party on the 1st

St George ARS Christmas BBQ and AGM on the 5th

Hunter Radio Group Christmas Lunch on the 8th

Waverley ARS Christmas Party on the 15th

Christmas Day is the 25th

Events for 2019

HADARC BBQ evening in Hornsby, on the 8th of January

Then in February;

St George ARS Foundation and Assessment Weekend, 9th and 10th

And CCARC's Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 24th.