

Silent Key.

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

The Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club have advised us, of the passing of their friend and club life member, Victor Hee VK2KVVH, on Saturday the 1st of June, aged 92 years.

Victor was an active radio amateur since 1984, and had been a member of several Sydney and regional clubs before joining the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club in 2000. He was always very generous, and the club station at Cataract Scout Park is adorned with many of his donations including antennas and the BBQ. He was always willing to help with club activities, including at the 2010 and 2016 Scout Jamborees. He was elected a life member of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club in 2016.

Victor's location at Wilton was ideal for access to many repeaters across the Sydney area, and he was often heard on them.

Victor's service will be held at Lakeside Memorial Park, 230 Kanahooka Rd. Dapto at 11am on Wednesday 12 June 2019. His family have requested donations to Guide Dogs NSW in lieu of flowers.

Please pause with us, while we remember Victor.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Victor Hee VK2KVVH.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

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

Because of the long weekend – the VK2WI Dural library will be closed tomorrow. Normal operations will resume next week. Members can contact the library volunteers by email, to library@arnsw.org.au.

For the benefit of visitors to the Dural site, guest Wifi access is now available. Login information is displayed on noticeboards around the site.

As we approach the bottom of the solar cycle, some are finding HF propagation conditions are difficult. If you can't find a local repeater relaying these news bulletins, you can hear them streamed live on our website, at <http://arnsw.org.au/audio>. Recordings are automatically uploaded to the site and are available for a number of weeks afterwards, if there is anything you would like to catch up on.

The next ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend is scheduled for the 13th and 14th of July. Bookings close at 5pm on Friday the 28th of June. Enquiries are best made by an email to education@arnsw.org.au.

If you are travelling over the long weekend, be aware that double demerit points are in force. As Geoff VK2AYA has pointed out, the state legislation and laws that prohibit the use of mobile phones while driving do specifically allow the use of microphones, on CB and other two-way radios. Of course, it is always a requirement to maintain concentration on driving at all times, and any erratic driving or lapse of concentration will invite closer inspection from the authorities.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 31st of May to the 6th of June.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
10cm flux	69	70	70	70	70	70	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	4	4	5	8	5	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	0	1	2	4	1	0 estimated
T index	-3	-1	-4	-3	+1	+7	-6

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were near predicted during local daylight hours, all week, with some enhanced conditions observed at night; starting off with 30% enhancement on the 31st of May, 35% on the 1st of June, 20% on the 2nd, 30% on the 3rd, 15% on the 4th, 25% on the 5th, and 20% on the 6th.

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

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at mostly quiet to unsettled levels, with a chance of some Active periods.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 May, the figures were;

Minimum of 66, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 5th to the 18th

So far for June, we have have a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates from the 15th to the 18th

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

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates from the 2nd to the 14th, and the 27th to the 29th.

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 May 2019

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was at very low, to low levels this month, with no significant flares observed. There was one coronal mass ejection, observed in association with a C9.9 flare on the 6th of May. Solar filament eruptions, with associated CMEs, were observed late on the 10th and early on the 11th of May, continuing on the 12th and 13th. Some of these CMEs were mildly to moderately geo-effective.

The C9.9 flare on the 6th caused a flare alert to be automatically issued; its observed maximum magnitude was C9.97, just below the M1.0 threshold level.

The strongest geomagnetic disturbance for the month was on the 14th with a local A index of 16 reached, signifying minor storm conditions and causing a geomagnetic alert to be issued. This was associated with the earlier solar coronal mass ejections, but the onset of geomagnetic disturbance was sooner than expected. Disturbed conditions were also expected from the 15th to the 17th May due to the anticipated arrival of later solar CME events; however, these subsequent disturbances failed to eventuate. The disturbance on the 14th of May was apparently stronger in the northern hemisphere. Also, a mild increase in geomagnetic activity was observed on the 11th of May, possibly associated with the coronal mass ejection on the 6th.

The ionosphere was relatively stable, with no significant ionospheric depressions observed this month. Generally lower than normal MUFs were observed overall this month, probably in association with continued lower solar flux levels as we progress towards solar minimum. Warnings for degraded conditions were issued on the 6th and on the 15th of May.

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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-FCAL056.wav]

Duration: 1m53s

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

GHANA; Matteo, IZ4YGS is active as 9G5GS until July 2. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

AZORES; Herman, HB9CRV is active as CU8FN from Flores Island, IOTA EU-089, until June 11. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8 and FT4. He plans to be active in the Portugal Day Contest operating CW while CU8AS will be active using SSB.

IRELAND; Members of the Galway Radio Experimenters Club will be active with special event call sign EI100ABC from June 11th to 16th during the Alcock and Brown Centenary Festival, commemorating the first non-stop transatlantic flight by John Alcock and Arthur Brown.

FRANCE; Members of the Association des Radioamateurs des Cotes d'Armor will be active with special call sign TM1MOON on June 8 and 9 to commemorate the first spaceflight landing humans on the moon.

GUADELOUPE; Reiner, DL2AAZ is active as FG/DL2AAZ from Deshaies, Basseterre Island until June 13. Activity is on 20 and 17 metres using SSB.

ENGLAND; Members of the Peterborough and District Amateur Radio Club are active as GB0DDR until June 9 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

WALES; Special event station GB2ORM is active until June 9 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

JAPAN ; Special event station 8N7JAPAN is active until October 31, 2020 to commemorate the Olympic Games 2020, the Paralympics 2020, and the World Cup Games 2019.

SVALBARD; Erling, LB2PG is active as JW/LB2PG from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until November 2019 while working at the weather station. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 20 metres using SSB.

MARKET REEF; A large group of operators will be active as OJ0AW until June 15. Activity will be mostly on the HF bands, with some VHF activity, using CW, SSB, FT8 and other digital modes.

CURACAO; Paul, VA3ZC will be active as PJ2/VA3ZC until June 16. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 30 and 20 metres using CW and FT8.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE; Operators EA1ACP, EA1DVY, EA5BJ, EA5EL, EA7FTR, EB7DX and S92HP are active as S9A from Sao Tome, IOTA AF-023, until June 18. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

GREECE; Operators Alex, SV8QG, Pantelis, SV8DCY, Kostas, SV8DCW, Periklis, SV8DTD and Fotis, SV8RMA are active as J48GEO from the Geo park on Lesbos Island, IOTA EU-049, during June. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

BURKINA FASO; Elvira, IV3FSG is active as XT2SE from Ouagadougou until June 13. Activity is on the HF bands.

VIETNAM; Operators R9LAJ, R9LR, UA9KDF and UA9LDD are active as XV9DF from Hon Tre Island, IOTA AS-157, until June 15. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL June VHF Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, HA3NS Sprint Memorial CW Contest, DRCG World Wide RTTY Contest, VK Shires Contest, Asia-Pacific SSB Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Portugal Day Contest, GACW WWSA DX CW Contest, REF DDFM 6-Metre Contest, Cookie Crumble QRP Contest and The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint will certainly keep operators busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship is scheduled for June 10.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, NAQCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 12.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, event runs throughout 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

WICEN News

This weekend saw the OCR World Championship 24 hour, held at Lower Portland, in outer North-West Sydney.

The Glow Worm Marathon is at Newnes, next weekend, June 15th and 16th.

The BSAR Navshield is a bush navigation contest, on the 22nd and 23rd of June, this year in the Western Blue mountains area. As well as providing support and safety for the event, WICEN may enter a team, subject to interest.

Due to the number of events in June, there will be no training at Dural. We will have more details on July's activities in coming bulletins.

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.

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 SCSCC Bega Rally was on this weekend. The NSSCC "Rally of the Bay" at Bateman's Bay is on the 29th. August 6th is the BMSC Narooma Rally. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Eureka Rally on August 24th and 25th, around Ballarat. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria, including reports on recent events, can be found on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

This weekend was the Club's 44th annual Field Day, at the Wauchope showground hall. Saturday saw some keen fox hunting, despite variable weather, with the highlight of Saturday's activity being the Field Day dinner, in the Seaview Room of Port Macquarie Golf Club. Activity continued today, with further foxhunts, competitions and a BBQ lunch.

We will have a full rundown on the Field Day, including the results of the foxhunts, in next week's VK2WI News.

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

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 regarding training and assessments; the first assessments under the new arrangements will be held soon.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 9am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater on 146.7MHz, which 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 May 2019 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for ORARC.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is on this Friday the 14th of June, at the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe road Adamstown. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. At the meeting, Gordon VK2XDR will present a lecture on antennas.

*Regards, Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The next club lecture will be on Saturday the 15th of June, with Dave VK2KFU giving a presentation on the GPS system. So, if you want to know where you are, why and how, it's a presentation not to be missed; assuming, of course, that you can find your way there...

Due to the long weekend, the Central Coast WICEN meeting for this month has been postponed to Saturday the 15th; the same day as the lecture.

And, in a blast from the past, progress is being made on the VK2EHQ packet BBS. There is too much detail to be included here, but it works as it used to, and in a nod to progress, it is also available from the Internet.

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the Clubrooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, from noon, followed by Karen VK2AKB's home cooking; a specialty being her homemade cakes and pikelets.

The Clubrooms are accessible by bus, with a stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station every hour; and one can usually arrange a lift back. The Clubrooms are usually open from 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library.

The Club also conducts Foundation training on an as-required basis, and a new course is coming up soon, once details of the new licencing arrangements are finalised.

The Club relays VK2WI News every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6 and 2m repeaters VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725 MHz respectively; 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; a 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and highly recommended for receiving. Also, both IRLP and EchoLink will be available soon.

Along with these, there is a packet radio BBS on 147.6 MHz, as VK2EHQ; it can also be accessed via the digipeater VK2RAG-1; old-timers will know how to use it.

There is a net every Thursday from 8pm, on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725; all members are encouraged to join, especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved. There is also an experimental HF net on 80m, but as it is difficult to find a free frequency, the frequency will be announced on the VHF net prior. Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au, preferably by noon on Friday. Listeners may “join” the net by email to netmaster@ccarc.org.au and their comments will be read out.

The Club also has a Facebook page: look for “centralcoastarc” and be sure to “like” it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [“At CC AR Club”], and a YouTube channel of the weekly streaming world-wide news via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with Amateurs both interstate and overseas.

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

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of each month, with the next meeting this coming Tuesday, the 11th of June. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's committee meeting, which starts at 6:30pm.

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

At the next meeting, Mal VK2DXM will be presenting on the rather interesting subject, of weather fax. He will explain how to use the available software and all the tricky bits to get you started. If you are interested in this fascinating subject, come along and enjoy the presentation.

Following this, will be the usual ragchew over a cup of tea or coffee with chocolate biscuits.

A reminder of the Society's two weekly Nets; the first is the Saturday morning Chit-Chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in at 9:30am by either using one of the Club's 2 metre repeaters - VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, while out-of-towners can call-in on Echolink via VK2BGL-R. The second is the "TGIF" End-of-Week 80 metre Net, run by a rotation of Club members – it's on Friday nights from 8:30pm, on 3.630MHz, plus or minus frequency for usage.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm this coming Tuesday the 11th of June, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is an informal mid-monthly meeting at 8pm on Tuesday the 11th of June. It is at Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Station. The monthly general meeting, which will include an interesting presentation, is on the 25th.

The Club runs three nets each week, including on public holidays. 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. 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;

June

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 11th

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 11th

Hunter Radio Group meeting at Adamstown on the 14th

Winter VHF/UHF contest on the 15th and 16th

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 21st

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 25th

Bookings for ARNSW July Foundation course close on the 28th

July

SGARS Gathering on the 3rd

Blue Mountains ARC Monthly meeting on the 5th

BMARC Buy and Sell day at Glenbrook on the 7th

BMARC visit the Kurrajong Radio Museum on the 15th

ARNSW Foundation and licence assessment weekend, 13th and 14th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 28th

August

Blue Mountains ARC Meeting on the 2nd

BMARC 3D Printing Demo on the 3rd

BMARC Foundation Training weekend, 10th and 11th