

Silent Key.

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

The St George Amateur Radio Society has advised of the passing of their friend and club member Philip Higgerson, VK2AXS/VK2OX, last Sunday the 20th of October.

Phil was born in 1948, and initially obtained his Novice amateur licence in 1982, before progressing to limited and then full call, VK2AXS, in 1985. He took on his uncle's callsign, VK2OX, on the 8th of the 8th, 1988; Phil always had a 'thing' for numbers.

Phil was an active member of the St George Amateur Radio Society from the very early 80's, including holding various committee positions, and was awarded Life Membership in 1996 for his services to the society. Phil was instrumental in the acquisition of the Mt Bindo site, which houses the VK2RDX repeater. This repeater covers not only a large part of the Sydney Basin, but also west over the Blue Mountains to Orange and Bathurst, and also carries relays of VK2WI News. Up until this year, Phil continued to assist the society with the preparation of annual accounts, having been a CPA and registered Auditor in his professional life; and, anyone who has been presented with a St George Amateur Radio Society Life Membership Certificate, will notice and remember, his beautiful calligraphy.

Besides amateur radio, Phil's diverse interests included involvement in Apex, hot-rods, karate, pistol and rifle shooting. While the technology of amateur radio was always a core appeal, he most loved the lifestyle aspect of the hobby and talking to people.

Phil lived life to the fullest and will be remembered for his sense of humour and wit, which was as wry as it was dry.

Phil was preceded by his son, Blake, and is survived by his wife Christine and daughter Bree.

A service celebrating Phil's life will be held at Woronora Cemetery's South Chapel at 2pm on Monday 28th October 2019.

Please pause with us now, while we remember Phil.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Phillip Higgerson, VK2AXS/VK2OX.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
on behalf of the St George Amateur Radio Society.*

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

Bookings are now closed for the ARNSW November Foundation course and licence upgrade weekend, with the course fully booked. The course at the Summerland ARC is also full. As this bulletin goes to air, there are still places at the Waverley Amateur Radio Society course – bookings close on Friday the 1st of November – and at the Fishers Ghost ARC, the week after.

Here at ARNSW Dural, work continues on moving the VK2RWI repeaters over to the new antennas. The improvements have unfortunately uncovered some intermittent interference issues on both the 2m and 70cm repeaters. At this stage, it appears the signals are on-channel and originating off site. As such, it will take some detective work on part of our Engineering team to locate the interferers, and we appreciate the perseverance of our members and repeater users while this work is underway.

We are grateful for the feedback we have already received on the improved coverage of the VHF repeaters, and further reports on coverage improvements are welcome. The dedicated email address of callbacks@arnsw.org.au is the best way to submit any detailed observations, as this address goes directly to our engineering volunteer team.

Also a reminder that this news bulleting is being relayed tonight on Echolink, and we once again thank John VK3HJQ and the ANZEL team, for making this service available to VK2WI News.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 18th to the 25th of October.
First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 18 th | 19 th | 20 th | 21 st | 22 nd | 23 rd | 24 th |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm flux | 66 | 66 | 65 | 64 | 66 | 65 | 65 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 14 estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 5 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 10 estimated |
| T index | -25 | -21 | -25 | -23 | -20 | -23 | -27 |

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 18th, quiet from the 19th to the 23th, then again quiet to unsettled on the 24th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were 15% depressed on the 18th, 15% depressed during local day on the 19th and 20th though returning to near predicted values during local night. Frequencies then remained near predicted from the 21st to the 23rd; and on the 24th except for some brief depressions of up to 20%, immediately after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 25th to the 31st of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, with no current or returning active regions.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels on the 25 and 26th due to coronal hole effects, returning to quiet to unsettled levels afterwards.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed between 15 to 30% on the 25th and 26th of October, before recovering to 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 September, we had a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 74
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 11th

Nearing the end of October, we expect a;

Minimum of 64, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 69
With peak dates from the 1st to the 6th, and the 10th to the 13th

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

Minimum of 65, Average of 66, and a Maximum of 68
With no peak prediction as yet.

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-FCAL075.wav]

Duration:2m48s

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

Several stations are on air this weekend especially for the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest;

GEORGIA; Operator 4L4WW will be active as 4L0A as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 40 metres.

SENEGAL; Operators F5VHJ, F6BEE and W6NV will be active as 6W1RY.

OMAN; Look for A44A, operating as a Multi/Multi entry.

BAHRAIN; Fawaz, A92AA plans to be active as an All Band entry.

ISLE OF MAN; Gordon, MM0GOR and Mark, M0UTD will be active as MD1E and MD1U, respectively.

THAILAND; A large group of operators will be active as E20AX in the Multi-2 category of the contest.

INDONESIA; Members of the Grobex Team Contest Indonesia will be active as 7A2A.

NEW ZEALAND; A youth team will be active as ZM4T in the Multi-2/High Power category.

EGYPT; Members of Radio Arcala and Egyptian Radio Amateurs Society for Development will be active as SU8X.

In other activity this week;

CYPRUS; Jamie, M0SDV is active as 5B/M0SDV, on the HF bands using CW and SSB, and as P3F in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

VIETNAM; Alex, KU1CW is active as 3W9A until October 28. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using all modes, including an entry in the contest.

EAST MALAYSIA; Saty, JE1JKL is active as 9M6NA from Labuan Island, IOTA OC-133, until October 28, including an entry in the contest.

SURINAME; A group of operators are active on the HF bands as PZ5K until October 29, including an entry in the contest.

ST. LUCIA; A group of operators are active as J68MD from Soufriere until October 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8, and includes an entry in the contest.

COMOROS; Members the Mediterraneo DX Club are active as D68CCC until November 2. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

BELIZE, V3. Operators V31CT, V31MM, V31NY, V31ST and V31ZZ are active until October 30. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4 and possibly EME. They will be active as V3M in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

SEYCHELLES; Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK are active as S79W and S79CI, respectively, until October 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8, and includes an entry in the contest.

TURKEY, TA. A group of operators plan to be active as TC0F from Bozcaada, IOTA AS-099, including an entry in the contest.

PITCAIRN ISLAND; A large group of operators are active as VP6R until November 1. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres with eight stations active using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8, including an entry in the contest.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS; Operators Sree, VU2OB, Shabu, VU2CAC and Samson, VU3XTG are active as VU7RI until October 30. Activity is on 80, 40, 30, 20 and 15 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

VANUATU; Chris, VK2YUS is active as YJ0CA from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, until October 30. Activity is on 40, 20 and 15 metres, and possibly 10 metres, using SSB. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint and QCX CW Challenge are all on this weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 30.

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

WICEN News

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic concluded this morning. One of the largest events on the WICEN calendar saw members staffing a significant number of checkpoints, the "close-down" sweep vessel, and administrative posts.

The next WICEN Training Day is Sunday the 3rd of November here at ARNSW in Dural. WICEN Members are also encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

WICEN's website is at nsw.wicen.org.au. There is a web contact form on the site, which is usually the best way to get in contact with any enquiries. 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's HF net is 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. Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event which was held today. The BMSC Rallye de Femmes is on December 7th. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria is supporting the Stockman's Rally next Sunday October 27th in Big River State Forest, and the Alpine Rally, November 29 to December 1, around Lakes Entrance. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria, including reports on recent events, can be found on their website, vic.wicen.org.au.

[URL for OEM: <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/>]

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Club News

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

The next meeting will be the club's November monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 2nd of November, in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

This morning, Club members provided safety communications for the 40th annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, west of Wauchope. This is the longest downhill bilycart road course in Australia.

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 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 September 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.*

Great Lakes Radio Club

The next meeting will be the club's Annual General Meeting. Its on Monday the 28th of October, at the studios of Great Lakes FM Community Radio Station, 16 Douglas Avenue, Tuncurry. The meeting starts at 7:30pm.

The AGM will be followed by a regular business meeting. Members should note that membership fees will become due at the AGM.

Visitors are welcomed at our meetings.

For visitors and those unfamiliar with the venue, entry is via the rear door accessed from the car parking area.

Great Lakes Radio Club serves the mid-north coast area of NSW, centred on the twin towns of Forster-Tuncurry.

The club operates the VK2RGL repeaters from Cabbage Tree Mountain; on 2 metres, 147.1 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone required and on 70cm, 439.775 MHz with no tone required.

The club also has a Facebook group; just search for Great Lakes Radio Club.

*Andy VK2AAK
Secretary, Great Lakes Radio Club.*

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is on Friday the 8th of November. It's at the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe road Adamstown, starting at 7:30pm. There will be a lecture presentation at the meeting.

The group operates three Repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. The Repeaters are on 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with EchoLink, and a 70cm repeater on 438.025MHz. The 146.975MHz Repeater transmits a CTCSS tone of 91.5Hz.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Meetings of the club are at the Clubrooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle at noon, run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, followed by Karen VK2AKB's homemade cakes and pikelets.

The Clubrooms are usually open from 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library.

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 VK2RAG repeaters also support various digital modes of operation. Details on the digital modes and the current repeater status are available on the club website.

There is a net every Thursday, starting at 7pm on Thursday during the winter months, on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725; all members are encouraged to join. Listeners can "join" the Club net by email to netmaster@ccarc.org.au and their comments will be read out. Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au, preferably by noon on Friday.

The Club has a Facebook page: just look for "centralcoastarc" and be sure to "like" it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on [@ccarclub](https://twitter.com/ccarclub) [*pron.* "At CC AR Club"], and a YouTube channel of the weekly streaming news via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with Amateurs both interstate and overseas.

For more information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at www.ccarc.org.au.

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Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month, with the next meeting on Tuesday the 12th of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's committee meeting, which starts at 6:30pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

The venue for the Society's meetings is now the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre located on Springhill Road, on the southern side of the CBD of Wollongong. The centre has fantastic facilities and plenty of off-street parking; Attendees should turn off Springhill Road into the main BlueScope Steel entrance, then immediately turn right just before the security gates, following the large Visitors Centre direction signs.

The November meeting is the Society's very popular Annual Auction night and, as usual, auctioneer Simon VK2XQX creates both an entertaining night, and an opportunity to pick-up a great bargain. Anyone wishing to bring along something to sell, should arrive by 7pm so that it can be booked-in with time to spare. After the Auction, there will be the usual ragchew over a hot cup of tea or coffee with cake and chocky biscuits in the foyer of the new meeting venue.

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 from 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 via Echolink, VK2BGL-R. The 80 metre net is now on Tuesday evenings – except for meeting nights – starting at 8:30pm local time, on 3666kHz plus or minus frequency for usage.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on their website, iars.org.au, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again, is iars.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 12th of September, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is an informal gathering on Tuesday the 12th of November. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre, 6X Pierre Close; opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station, starting at 8pm. The last meeting for the year at Mt Colah, will be on the 26th.

The Club's End-of-Year event will be a lunch on Sunday, 15 December.

The Club runs three nets each week; 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;

October

Great Lakes Radio Club AGM on the 28th

Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 30th

November

Waverley ARS Foundation course bookings close on the 1st

Oxley Region ARC Monthly meeting on the 2nd

Fishers Ghost ARC November Foundation Course bookings close on the 5th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 8th

ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 9th and 10th

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 12th

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 12th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 16th and 17th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 24th

HADARC monthly meeting on the 26th

December

HADARC End of year lunch on the 15th

Christmas Day is on the 25th