

Silent Key.

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

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club has advised of the passing of their friend and fellow club member Kenneth Charles Edmondson VK2KCE, on Monday the 11th of November 2019, aged 92 years.

Charles previously held the callsign VK2FSH but changed it to VK2KCE when it became available. Charles had always coveted VK2KCE as his initials were KCE despite being known as Charles rather than Kenneth.

Charles was a long-time active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, including being a past President. Charles was made a Life Member of the Club in 2012.

Charles was also a very proud member of the National Servicemen's Association NSW and was a foundation member of the Port Macquarie Sub Branch.

The funeral service for Charles will be at 11:30 am on Tuesday the 19th of November 2019, in the Chapel of the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Crematorium on Philip Charley Drive in Port Macquarie. He will be buried in the Lawn Cemetery.

Please pause with us, while we remember Charles.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Charles Edmondson VK2KCE.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE
on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

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

Next Sunday is the final ARNSW Trash and Treasure for 2019. With the current bushfires and other emergencies around the state, it is timely to mention that activities at VK2WI Dural are subject to the site Emergency Management Procedures.

For those planning to visit the site next Sunday, while there is plenty of parking space available within the property, all vehicles should be parked so that they are facing the main gate, exiting onto Quarry Road, to facilitate a quick exit should this be required. Secondly, it is a site requirement that *anybody entering the site*, sign in an attendance book.

At the Trash and Treasure, members can enquire in person about their membership status, update their details or renew membership. It will also be the final opportunity to apply for a membership badge in the current order. There will be a J.P on site should you need one; just ask at the membership desk.

The first Trash and Treasure for 2020 will be on Australia Day, Sunday January the 26th.

Yesterday, ARNSW completed the last of the Foundation course exams for the year. The course in 2020 is scheduled to commence in March, on the weekend of the 14th and 15th. Enquiries can be made at any time by email to our education team, at education@arnsw.org.au.

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.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The next bi-monthly meeting is at noon next Sunday the 24th, after the Trash and Treasure; here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

This month, we will have a presentation by Stephen VK2TQ, about cleaning old workshop equipment. He give a talk on how to go about cleaning dirty grotty old machines or other mechanical metal things.

Using simple chemicals and solvents, and letting them do most of the work over time, saves a lot of hard physical work. Even high pressure water blaster can be very useful for a few tasks. There is NO five minute easy fix, it takes time and effort, but the result can be amazing. No doubt other people have their ways of doing the job; but he has found with many machines cleaned, over time, that these methods do work well. Sometimes several different chemicals are needed to remove different parts of the old often oxidised oils and other dirt. It is not a hard job, but doing it in a preset series of steps gives the best results.

The meeting will start with the usual “Show and Tell” segment where members of the audience get up to show some project that they have been working on.

All are welcome – noon on Sunday the 24th of November, at 63 Quarry Rd Dural. If you can't make it to Dural, we also plan to have the live stream available on the website, <http://arnsw.net.au/audio>.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of November.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12	13 th	14 th
10cm flux	70	70	71	70	71	71	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	3	2	7	3	1	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	2	1	7	5	1	3 estimated
T index	-32	-26	-29	-28	-49	-36	-30

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, except for some unsettled periods on the 11th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out 15% depressed during local daylight hours on the 8th, improving at night to near predicted monthly values; where they remained through the 9th and 10th. The 11th again saw depressions of 15% during local daylight hours, recovering to near predicted at night. The 12th however, was depressed 30% during local day and 15% during local night; the 13th remained near predicted in the day but was depressed by 20% at night; but the 14th recovered to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 15th to the 21st of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity to reach active levels on the 20th and 21st with a chance of isolated minor storm periods. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be depressed from 15 to 30% on the 21st of November, but should otherwise 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 October, we had a;

Minimum of 64, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 69
With peak dates from the 26th to the 31st.

So far for November, we expect a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 1st to the 3rd, and the 16th to the 30th

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

Minimum of 70, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 1st to the 4th, and the 20th 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>]

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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.

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Duration: 1m04s

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

NIGER; Pierre, HB9AMO is active as 5U9AMO until November 25.

GHANA; Members of the Slovenia Contest Club will be active as 9G5W until November 27. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

BAHAMAS; A group of operators are active as C6AGU from Wood Cay Island, IOTA NA-001, until December 9. Activity is on the HF bands with a focus on 160 and 80 metres. This includes entries in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW and ARRL 160-Metre contests.

CAPE VERDE; Eric, OE4AAC will be active as D4CC from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, from November 17 to 30. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and some FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

CEUTA AND MELILLA; Philippe, EA4NF will be active as EA9/EA4NF from Melilla from November 18 to 21. Activity will be on various satellites.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS; Didier, F6BCW will be active as FO/F6BCW from Hiva Oa Island, IOTA OC-027, from November 19 to 25. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres.

TEMOTU PROVINCE; Rob, N7QT and Grant, KZ1W are active as H40KT and H40TT, respectively, from Pigeon Island IOTA OC-065, until November 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes an entry as H40KT, in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

ARGENTINA; Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano are active as LU4AAO until November 18 to celebrate the Argentine Traditions Day. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS; Wlodek, SP6EQZ and Janusz, SP6IXF will be active as PJ5/home calls from Saint Eustatius, IOTA NA-145, until November 30. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes a possible entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA; Bud, AA3B will be active as V26K from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, November 16 to 26. Activity will be on the HF bands with an emphasis on CW. This includes being a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

MICRONESIA; Al, K7AR will be active as V63AR from Pohnpei, IOTA OC-010, from November 18 to 26. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Dennis, K2SX, Art, KZ5D, Les, W2LK, Bill, AC0W and Jim, K4QPL will be active as VP5/home calls from Caicos, IOTA NA-002, from November 19 to 26. They will be active as VP5M in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

VIETNAM; Mats, SM6LRR will be active as XV9D until November 30, on 40 to 20 metres. This includes being a Single Op/Single Band entry on 40 metres, in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

INDONESIA; Burkhard, DL3KZA is active as YB9/DL3KZA from Sumbawa and Lombok Island, IOTA OC-150, until December 2. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Dan, N6MJ will be active as ZF2MJ from November 19 to 25. He will be active as ZF1A in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest on all bands.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; sees the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest, ARRL EME Contest, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, YO International 80-Metre PSK31 Contest, LZ DX Contest, All Austrian 160-Metre CW Contest, REF 160-Metre CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest and the Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment CW Party.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for November 18. The RSGB 80-Metre Autumn SSB Series, CWops Mini-CWT Test, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt and Phone Fray are scheduled for November 20.

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

With unprecedented bush-fire activity in northern NSW, WICEN is currently assisting the Rural Fire Service, by providing operators for their Glen Innes Command Centre and for VRA's support of the Bush Fire Information Line at Homebush. There has recently been an urgent request for a further six operators to cover Kempsey and Wauchope, over the coming week.

While no further training currently planned for this year, members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

WICEN will be present at the Wyong Field Day on Sunday, 23 February.

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. The BMSC Rallye de Femmes, which as Francophone listeners may have worked out, is a car racing event for female drivers, on December 7th. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Alpine Rally, November 29 to December 1, around Lakes Entrance in East Gippsland. 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 December Friday night meeting, starting at 7pm on the 20th of December, in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie. The November social evening scheduled for last Friday was cancelled, as the SES Building has been in operational use for management of the current fire situation.

On Sunday the 1st of December, club members will again provide safety communications, for the White Ribbon Liberty Coastal Walk Against Domestic and Family Violence. The walk along the beaches starts at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club and finishes at Westport Park in Port Macquarie.

The club's 2019 Christmas Party will be on Saturday the 7th of December, at the now traditional venue of the covered picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Gallery near Lake Cathie. Members and friends are invited to enjoy an informal morning followed by a barbeque lunch. There will not be a December Monthly General Meeting; the next general meeting will be on Saturday the 4th of January 2020.

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 the November issue will be published soon. 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 last event of the group for the year, is the Christmas Luncheon on Saturday the 7th of December. It's at the Windale Bowling Club, Lake road Windale, starting at noon.

Bookings are required, so please contact our President, Len, on 49 57 77 85 and advise him of your attendance.

The Group's Monday night broadcast starts at 7:30pm, on the 2 metre repeater 146.9MHz, and the 70cm repeater on 438.025MHz. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

As mentioned on last week's VK2WI News, the 2020 Wyong Field Day is on Sunday the 23rd of February 2020. Preparations are in full swing; if you are looking at parting with some unused equipment, spaces for the car boot sales in the dedicated undercover area are filling up fast! For more information, head on over to field day website, www.fieldday.org.au.

The Clubrooms are located in Dandaloo Street, Kariong, just past the fire station. They are open from 10.30am each Saturday, with formal meetings starting at 1pm.

The Club has an examination day planned for the 24th of November. Candidates interested in obtaining or updating their licence, can contact the club's education facilitator by emailing education@ccarc.org.au.

Club nets are on Thursday evenings from 8pm, on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater. The repeater is linked to both EchoLink and IRLP, and several international visitors each week drop in to say G'day. On Thursday evenings, the repeater is connected to Echolink conference server "CCARCNSW"; and to VK2RAG-R, node 7060, at other times. Alternatively, IRLP node #6060; just make sure to disconnect the node when you have finished. Listeners can "join" the net by checking into the live Facebook video stream on Thursday evening, or by emailing netmaster@ccarc.org.au, and their comments will be read out.

Speaking of Digital, the club also runs a mixed mode FM & P25 repeater on 439.95MHz. This repeater is linked to the 10400 Pacific talk group, a 91.5Hz tone is required for analogue access. The D-star digital service is currently inactive due to a hardware failure.

There is a packet radio BBS on 147.6MHz, operating as VK2EHQ; it can also be accessed via the digipeater VK2RAG-1.

The Club relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening, on the 6m and 2m VK2RAG repeaters, on 53.725MHz and 146.725MHz. Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only.

Listeners to the news broadcast may have observed some interference recently; a shout out to the club's repeater committee for isolating the issue and swiftly putting a fix into action. Speaking of interference – The club has recently observed an operator broadcasting APRS beacons via the clubs 2 metre repeater; A timely reminder for all to check their rigs and ensure they are set to the correct frequency.

You can find out more about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club on the web, at www.ccarc.org.au. The club is also active on Facebook, twitter and YouTube. Simply search for “Central Coast Amateur Radio Club” and remember to like and follow, to keep up to date.

Brad VK2NMZ.

Vice President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday the 20th, is lecture night at the Society.

This month its a treat for all you space tragics; Apollo Unified S-Band Communications. The Apollo program needed to cram many kinds of signals onto a single carrier, including Doppler, Ranging, Voice, Command, Telemetry, Biometrics, Science and Video; and did it all with a minimum of space-borne equipment and with sufficient gain to operate at lunar range from many sites on earth. This lecture shows how they made that work.

Last month's lecture on Wildlife tracking prompted a lively discussion on creating affordable solutions to the problem of tracking our native fauna. Expect a club project or two to eventuate from this. To watch the lecture, go to YouTube and search for the club callsign VK2 Mike Bravo.

Club station VK2MB, will be on air for the Spring VHF/UHF Field Day on the weekend of the 23rd and 24th November. Looking forward to working you on the bands!

Visit the society web site for other news, information about the various club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), the club YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the club's 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 club's two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club's web site at www.mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Firstly a correction to last week's news; the November meeting of the society is in fact coming up *this* coming Wednesday the 20th of November, in the usual venue of the Scout Hall at Vickery Avenue Rose Bay, behind the RSL club. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. All visitors are always most welcome, and to also join us for dinner prior to the meeting in the bistro of the RSL club next door, from around 6:30pm.

The next shack night is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th starting at 7:30pm. The next project day will be on Saturday December 7th commencing at 1:30pm through to 4 or 5pm.

The Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00am, so the next meeting is on December the 1st. The digital special interest group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month; the next meeting is scheduled for December 10th, from 7:30pm.

The Christmas party is scheduled for the December Meeting night, that is, December 18th, probably in the RSL next door. Al will be sending out details and menus shortly, if he hasn't already.

As usual, the clubrooms are open most Tuesdays from 10:00am until 3:00pm for those who would like to have a chat, work on a project and enjoy a cup of coffee from our resident barista in a sort of "men's shed" type of atmosphere.

As there were insufficient candidates by the close off date, the club's November Foundation weekend has been cancelled. Dates for courses in 2020 are yet to be finalised; see the website for details and how to reserve your place.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8:00pm every Monday.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the website, vk2bv.org. You can book courses or assessments on the site, or use the contact form on the website to contact them.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The final HADARC meeting for the year, is on Tuesday the 26th at 8pm, at the Mt Colah Community Centre, 6X Pierre Close; opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station, starting at 8pm.

The Club's End-of-Year event will be a lunch on Sunday the 15th of December. The venue is Magpies, near Waitara railway station.

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 net6 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;

November

Manly-Warringah lecture night - Apollo Unified S-Band Comms - on the 20th

Waverley ARS meeting – corrected date is the 20th

Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation Course weekend, the 23rd and 24th

VK2MB active in Spring VHF/UHF Contest, also on the 23rd and 24th

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

HADARC monthly meeting on the 26th

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 27th

December

Oxley Region ARC Christmas party on the 7th

Hunter Radio Group Christmas lunch also on the 7th

HADARC End of year lunch on the 15th

Waverley ARS Christmas party on the 18th

Oxley Region ARC Friday Night gathering on the 20th

Christmas Day is on the 25th

January 2020

Oxley Region ARC monthly general meeting on the 4th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 26th ...

The 26th is also Australia Day – you can use the AX prefix.