

Silent Key.

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

VK2WI News has been advised of the passing of former ARNSW member John Birdsall VK2BM, on Thursday the 2nd of July, aged 91 years.

Please pause with us now, while we remember John.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] John Birdsall VK2BM.

[Play ID File: 4-OP ID1.wav]

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

With the restrictions currently in place due to Covid-19, there are no events at VK2WI Dural. We continue to monitor the advice from public health organisations and the updates to government regulations, with a view to resume in person activities when it is practical.

For now, the VK2WI site unfortunately must remain closed to visitors. You can still make contact via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by phone message to 02 96511490.

As a result of the public health restrictions, many clubs and groups have increased on air activities. Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on air activities, from various groups in Sydney and across News South Wales.

We would like to hear about activities happening in your area, please let us know; by emailing the details to news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need formatted news items, just the details of the activity and contacts. We also welcome any updates on the progress in these activities; which we can report on VK2WI News, and tell listeners how it went.

We should also remind our listeners of some telephone services that are available, if you have health concerns at this time. The National COVID hotline is 1800 020 080, providing general advice; If you are feeling unwell, Healthdirect is on 1800 022 222. Both of these services are available 24 hours a day, and are a free call from most telephone services.

For many years now, these VK2WI News bulletins have been relayed via many VHF and UHF repeaters, and we would like to thank those clubs for their continued support of our news service.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 3rd to the 9th of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
10cm flux	69	70	69	69	68	67	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	9	13	6	5	2	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	4	7	2	0	0	1 estimated
T index	-2	+1	2	2	-3	-5	-3

Solar activity was at very low levels all week.

Geomagnetic activity reached quiet to unsettled levels on the 5th, but remained at Quiet levels on other days.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week.

Some enhanced conditions were observed during local night hours, with 25% enhancement on the 3rd; 35% on the 4th; 60% on the 5th; 40% on the 6th; 45% on the 7th and 25% on the 8th.

The 9th of July was enhanced 20% at night, and 25% after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 10th to the 16th of July;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet, to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly near predicted monthly values, with some enhanced conditions again possible during local night hours.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

For June, we had a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 73
With peak dates from the 6th to the 13th

So far for July, we expect a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 4th to the 13th; and the 26th to the 31st

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 69
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th; and the 22nd to the 24th

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>]

What use is an F-call?

Today we continue with this series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: 5-FCAL104.wav]

Duration 1m18s

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

THAILAND; Champ, E21EIC will operate E2A in the IARU HF World Championship in a SOAB Mixed effort.

CROATIA; Members of the Radio Klub Novi Bokanjac are operating as 9A164T from Zadar to mark the birthday of Nikola Tesla.

PHILIPPINES; Members of the Ham Society of the Philippines are operating as DZ30SH from Malolos City until August 29, supporting STAYHOME activities.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA; Vedo, E72U informs us that E7HQ will be the Headquarters Station of ARABH in the IARU contest.

BONAIRE; John, K4BAI will participate in the IARU HF World Championship as PJ4A. Before and after the contest he will sign PJ4/K4BAI.

RUSSIA; Victor, RV3YR and Viktor, RN3YN will commemorate the first Soviet-American space flight in the Apollo-Soyuz program with the call sign UE45SA. They will be active until July 19.

POLAND; Special event station SN87LOT commemorates the transatlantic flight of the Lithuanian pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girenas, 87 years ago.

CANADA; VC3STYWELL, the third COVID-19 special event station run by The Seven Thirty Social Distancing Net, will be active until July 19.

INDONESIA; Special event station 8A343CJR celebrates the 343rd anniversary of the Cianjur District on Java. They will be active until July 12 on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 2 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FM.

GREENLAND; Bo, OZ1DJJ will be active from Aasiaat Island as OX3LX until July 30. Look for him on 40 to 4 metres. He will also try to activate other islands of this IOTA group.

OGASAWARA; Tony, JD1/JH1FFW will be active from July 15 to 19 on 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

FAROE ISLANDS; Torsten, OY/DL4APJ and Udo, OY/DL2AQI will be active September 15 to 23, holiday style on 80 to 10 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8.

KOSOVO; German team Z66DX will be active from October 15 to 28, on 160 to 10 metres, including the WARC bands. Look for them using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. Operators are DJ9KH, DL2AMD, DL2AWG, DL3APO, DL9GFB and DM2AUJ.

RUSSIA; The Russian Robinson Club announces that Milhail, R1MJ, Yulia, R1CBL and Vitalia, RA1AGJ will be active from Gogland Island (EU-133) from July 23 to 28. They plan to operate in the RSGB IOTA Contest with their individual calls. Activity will be on 160 to 15 metres.

BULGARIA; During this year's IARU HF World Championship the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs 80 metre HQ station will be transmitting as LZ0AA from The Vakarel Transmitter broadcasting facility which has been off the air since January 1, 2015. The transmit antenna, which was erected in 1937, is 215 metres high. After the contest, the antenna will be taken down.

CORSICA; Max, DL8UW is active as TK4VQO. He is active on 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. You can also find him every day on the Medical Assistance Radio (MAR) net on 14332kHz at 0730UTC.

BURKINA FASO; Max, DK1MAX will be active as XT2MAX sometime during November to December. Activity is usually holiday style on all bands using mostly CW and FT8. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The IARU HF World Championship, FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint will keep contesters busy this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is on July 13, the RSGB 80-Metre Club Championship, SSB is on July 15, and the NAQCC CW Sprint is on July 16.

[Play ID File: 6-OP ID2.wav]

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Due to COVID-19, WICEN has limited non-emergency activations, and has moved meeting to radio and other electronic means.

Preparations are continuing for the 2020 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, planned for the 24th and 25th of October. This event supports Arrow, the bone marrow transplant foundation. The Volunteer Memorial Day for 2020 is at Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Domain, at 11am on Sunday the 11th of October.

By request, on Sunday the 19th July at 9am, there will be a repeat of the videoconference session held on 6 May, covering access to SAP, and access to training documents for both WICEN and the VRA. Members are also encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

WICEN is now running weekly nets on Sunday evenings. The main net is at 6pm, with a check-in net at 6:30pm. On the 1st, 4th and 5th Sundays this will be on the Chatswood 2m repeater, then on 2nd and 3rd Sundays the Kurrajong - Berowra 70 cm FM system, followed at 6:30pm by a net on User Activated Talk Group 3810 on the VK-DMR network.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au; which includes membership information and a web contact form. Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page; and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. The next event planned is the BMSC Narooma Rally on the 1st of August, followed by the LCCC "Blue Range Rallysprint" on September 5. ANU's Interhall "Inward Bound", and the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Enduro are both on the second weekend in October. For more information visit the website, at the new address of crarc.org.au or the CRARC Facebook page.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. They are planning to resume involvement in events, the first being the Sunraysia Rally, south of Wentworth on October 17; followed by the Baw-Baw Extreme from October 31. The website is at vic.wicen.org.au.

[OEM link; <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/>]

Club News

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

The Club committee met last Saturday the 4th of July, but the monthly general meeting was cancelled. Minutes of the Committee meeting have been emailed to members to keep them informed of club affairs.

The Friday night get-together, scheduled for Friday the 17th of July, has also been cancelled.

The club's AGM is scheduled for Saturday the 1st of August. Notice of the meeting is being sent out, assuming the meeting will be able to proceed as planned, but the Committee is closely monitoring the evolving COVID 19 situation.

Membership subscriptions are now due. Thank you to those members who have already renewed.

There are two club nets each week; the club's 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. In the absence of meetings, members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible; access to VK2RPM is also available via EchoLink, for those outside the coverage area of the repeater.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The May 2020 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now available, and past issues are available on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club has resumed in person activities from Saturday the 4th of July, with some changes to ensure physical distancing is in place.

The Club is also planning a car boot sale on Saturday the 18th of July in the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, starting at 8am, with physical distancing in place.

You can set up a stall at no charge, but bring your own table. There will also be a BBQ and hot and cold drinks available.

All are welcome. For more information, contact the club on 0478228983.

Westlakes has a net every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 09:30am on 3565kHz.

Barrie VK2QG

Vice president, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

Hunter Radio Group

In place of the regular meetings, the Group conducts a weekly net on the Group's VHF Repeater, on 146.9MHz. The net is on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. The net has been running for a few weeks now with a good roll-up, and the group would like to invite any interested amateurs to join in.

The Hunter Radio Group also has a news broadcast on Monday nights starting at 7:30pm, on the 2 metre repeater 146.9MHz, and the 70cm repeater on 438.025MHz. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

*Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The clubrooms are reopened, though with reduced capacity to allow for physical distancing requirements. The club's executive is working on way to continue to facilitate activities combining both in-person and teleconference participation.

The Club regretfully announces a Silent Key; Dennis Tidy VK2DET. Dennis used to be a member of our club and resided on the Central Coast. He had recently spent a great deal of time exploring digital modes and hotspots and was found often within the HF Bands from his QTH. There will be a service for Dennis next Tuesday.

Vale Dennis VK2DET.

The Club would like to welcome new members, Jim VK2FJEG and James VK2JW, whose membership applications were received while the clubrooms were restricted for access. The club thanks those who have renewed.

The Club's membership renewal date of the 1st of July and renewal notices have been sent out; you can contact treasurer@ccarc.org.au to renew, or to check your current membership status.

The Club's AGM is being held on the 15th of August, with both face-to-face and Video Conference attendance options available. More details will be supplied closer to the date.

Present social distancing rules mandates a maximum of 10 occupants within the primary meeting room and 4 occupants within the club's radio room. Weather permitting, the club will attempt to set up the undercover area outside with video link, however, space will be still be limited.

The club wishes to say a special thanks to Bob VK2AOR for hosting the "Are you okay" net at 10am each day, on the VK2RAG repeater on 146.725MHz. The concept was formed after the club's Thursday evening net and then grew into a significant achievement. Yesterday, the 11th of July was Day 100 of this net and was also the final day that this net was held. A monumental effort from Bob and the club would like to thank all those who participated in the net.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week, was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ. Topic of the evening was, "*What test/build equipment do you use in your shack?*" The net ran for about 90 minutes, covering an incredible amount of equipment that operators on the net utilised frequently.

The Thursday evening net is on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, on 146.725Mhz; If you're within range of our repeater, why not drop by? You can also join in via EchoLink using the *CCARCNSW* conference server and more recently via IRLP reflector 9509, plus you can view the live stream on the club's Facebook page.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au; or on Facebook, just search for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

*Brad VK2NMZ
Vice-President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

[Play ID File: 7-OP ID3.wav]

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting this Tuesday evening, the 14th of July. With the relaxation of the restrictions around public gatherings, this meeting is back, in person, at the usual location of the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre.

The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

The Visitors Centre is located on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD, with attendees turning off Springhill Road into the main entrance of BlueScope Steel, then immediately turning right, just before the security gates, following the large Visitors Centre direction signs. As well as the opportunity to safely reunite with fellow Members and Visitors after the long Virus separation, the meeting will also feature Keith VK2KQB showing how to de-solder and solder SMD components. The days of large discrete components on circuit boards has all but disappeared, so the need to work with SMD components to repair your own equipment has become necessary.

The night will conclude with coffee, tea and cake in the venue's large foyer area where you can also relax on the very comfortable lounges, while of course maintaining the necessary physical distancing.

A reminder of the Society's weekly Nets; The Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL. You can join on the 2 metre repeaters, on 6850 or 6675, or call-in on EchoLink, via VK2BGL-R. The second weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings; except on meeting nights. The usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage, starting at 8:30pm.

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 the 14th of July; back, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

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

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The second period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge for 2020 is now complete, and entries can be submitted until the 14th of July. If you have worked any DX over the past 3 months, its not too late, to head over to contest.fgarc.org.au and submit your entry.

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Club will now be on Thursday the 30th of July on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Note the change of date. The on-air meeting will precede the usual Thursday evening net, which will go ahead at about 8pm. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at; fgarc.org.au.

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

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club held its AGM on Friday the 3rd of July.
Congratulations to the new committee who are:

President; Daniel VK2DC

Vice President; Stephen VK2TSG

Treasurer; Ron VK2OTC

Secretary; Irene VK2VAN

Education; Jan VK2FEB

Repeater Manager; Brian VK2AAF

Publicity Officer; James VK2GOH

Committee Members; Steven VK2YE and Stephen VK2FCBD

The position of Technical Officer is still under consideration.

Club members coordinated with Scouts NSW to run an antenna building and repeater refresher workshop, on Wednesday 7th of July at Greystanes scout hall. The event was well received by all and scouts NSW hopes to do more amateur radio activities in the near future.

Other club activities are currently suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions. The new committee will soon meet to discuss what activities are practical under the current guidelines.

73 from James VK2GOH

Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.

St George Amateur Radio Society

In two week's time, on Saturday the 25th of July, is the annual St. George 80 metre contest. The contest is a practice for the RD contest, a few weeks later. Starting this year, the contest is open to all amateurs.

Details are available on the society's website; www.sgars.org.

Peter VK2EMU

Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is the Wednesday the 13th of July, currently planned to take place via Zoom. Look for an email prior to the meeting with the details. There is likely to be some interesting discussion at this meeting about some future directions for the club.

The special guest speaker, Kerrie Dougherty, has been rescheduled for the September meeting, which is planned to be held in the ANZAC room in the Rose Bay RSL club next door to the usual meeting venue. Kerrie's talk will be on Australis OSCAR-5, the satellite built in Melbourne and launched by NASA. Due to the current restrictions, it will be necessary for attendees to register beforehand, as it may be necessary to move it to a different room if the numbers require it. There will be details of how to register your attendance next month.

The next project day will be on Saturday August 1st commencing at 1:30 pm through to 4 or 5pm. The next shack night is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th starting at 7:30pm. Hopefully these will both be at the Rose Bay club rooms.

The Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month the next meeting being on August 2nd. The digital special interest group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month; next meeting is scheduled for August 11th from 7:30pm.

The next Foundation weekend is scheduled for September 19th and 20th and it looks like that one will be going ahead, albeit with limited numbers. We are awaiting notification from AMC that we can start holding assessments again. Full details and registration form can be found on the society's website, vk2bv.org.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually MC'ed by Richard VK2XRC. There is full information about the society on the website at <https://vk2bv.org>. You can book for courses or assessments or use the contact form on the website to get in contact for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Given the ongoing "QRM from COVID", HADARC will be replacing Mount Colah meetings with extra nets on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater.

The next such net is on this Tuesday the 14th of July, starting at 8pm. Net control will be using the callsign VK2WAH, with the phonetics "We Are Home".

This will be supplemented by Jitsi video conferencing; not only adding the "show" to the "Show & Tell" segments, but allowing participation in the meeting by out-of-area members, even by dialling in from a basic 'phone, worldwide.

The Club's website has more details on this and other changes to club activities, along with information on how to use Jitsi; the address is www.hadarc.org.au. The site also includes a contact form.

The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

The Club's three regular nets continue 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.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

[Play ID File: 8-OP ID4.wav]

Activities on the air

Some current on air activities, notified to us here at VK2WI News;

Oxley Region ARC nets 7:30pm Thursday, 9am Sunday. VK2RPM repeater, 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net 7pm Monday on VK2RGL, 147.1MHz.

Westlakes nets Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9:30am on 3565kHz.

Hunter Radio Group meeting net Wednesday 7:30pm on 146.9MHz.
VK2AWX News 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz.

Central Coast ARC net Thursday night on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; also on Echolink *CCARCNSW*.

Amateur Radio Central West Group afternoon tea net 4pm, Monday and Friday night at 8pm, on VK2RCW. HF net 8pm Wednesday on 3653kHz.

Illawarra ARS Nets - Tuesday at 8:30pm on 80m, 3666kHz. Saturday 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

WICEN nets now on Sunday evenings from 6pm, see the website for details.

Waverley ARS net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and in person, see website for details.

Fishers Ghost ARC net 7:30pm Thursday on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz. Next Monthly meeting net on Wednesday the 29th.

St George ARS Online gathering Wednesday 1st 7:30pm, visit website for details. Net 8pm Thursday, on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz, on air net Tuesday the 14th at 8pm on VK2RNS – net control is VK2WAH[we are home].

Manly-Warringah on air meeting net, Wednesdays 8pm on 146.875MHz.

At ARNSW, Morning News bulletins continue, and audio can be downloaded or streamed live from the website.