

Silent Key.

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

It is with sadness that we inform members of the passing of Pixie Chapple, ex VK2KPC/VK6KPC, last week in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Many will remember Pixie as the face of the WIA NSW Divisional office at Parramatta for many years in the late 90s. She spent several years as the administrative secretary, where she was always a welcoming face for all visitors or voice on the phone and helped to keep the council of the day in order.

She and husband Henry subsequently moved to Salmon Gums in WA to takeover running the local post office there in around 2009. Current AR NSW secretary Eric visited them in 2013 after the WIA conference in Fremantle. Pixie and Henry later moved to Esperance, to be closer to medical treatments in Perth.

Pixie is survived by her husband, Henry, brother Albert in the UK, children Helen and Leonard, granddaughter Kini and great grandkids Aeliana, Tevita & Leilani.

Please pause with us now, while we remember Pixie.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale Pixie Chapple ex VK2KPC/VK6KPC.

[Play File: 14-E-ID1.wav]

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

With public health restrictions still in place across the Greater Sydney area, events at VK2WI Dural are currently suspended and the site is closed to visitors. You can still make contact via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message with the office, on 02 9651 1490.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state. We would welcome any updates from club and groups especially regarding any new meeting and check in nets. You can email news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. As always, we also welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities, which we can report to our listeners.

We wish to remind our listeners of some telephone services that are available, if you currently have any health concerns – the National COVID hotline is 1800 020 080, providing general advice; if you are feeling unwell, Healthdirect is on 1800 022 222. Both services are available 24 hours a day; and are a free call from most telephone services.

Tonight we again welcome listeners on the EchoLink "HAM" conference, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network. Callbacks will also be taken tonight on the network after the bulletin. Our thanks to John VK3HJQ and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network team, for making this relay available to VK2WI News.

In last week's VK2WI News, we reported on the Chatswood 23cm repeater, which was off the air with some power supply trouble. Compton VK2HRX has contacted us to advise that the repairs are complete, and with some additional care and attention, the repeater is now back on the air.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20th to the 26th of August.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
10cm Flux	78	77	77	78	81	84	89
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	4	4	8	5	8	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	2	2	1	3	4	3 estimated
T index	17	16	15	13	14	22	20

Solar activity was very low on the 23rd, and low on other days.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels for the entire period, and F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 27th of August to the 2nd of September;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at Active levels with a possibility of isolated minor storm periods on the 27th and 28th; quiet to unsettled on the 29th; and mostly quiet on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 27th and 28th, otherwise 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 July, we had a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 82 and a Maximum of 95
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th and the 20th to the 26th

So far for August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 77 and a Maximum of 90
With peak dates from the 21st to the 31st

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 76 and a Maximum of 90
With peak dates from the 1st to the 4th and the 20th to the 21st.

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?

Tonight, 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: 15-FCAL189.wav]

Duration 3m39s

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.

[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

MALAYSIA; Look for various special event stations using the prefix 9M64 to celebrate the 64th anniversary of Malaysia's independence, until September 1. Operations will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO; Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Radio Society will be active with special call sign 9Y59IND until September 12 to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago. Operations will be on various HF bands and modes.

TONGA; Masa, JA0RQV is active as A35JP from Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu Island (OC-049) until early November. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; Members of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society (EARS) will activate special event station A60EXPO from September 1 to October 1, to promote World Expo in Dubai.

SPAIN; Pascual, EA5WO will be active with special call sign AN5WAR throughout September, commemorating the 82nd anniversary of the beginning of World War II. Activity will be on various HF bands.

MADEIRA; Operators Klaus, DJ9KM and Georg, DD8ZX will be active as CT9/DJ9KM and CT9/DD8ZX until August 31. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using mainly FT8 and RTTY.

UKRAINE; Look for special event station EM30UARL to be active until December 31 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Independence Day of Ukraine and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Ukrainian Amateur Radio League (UARL).

ESTONIA; Members of the Estonian Radio Amateur Union are active as ES30ES, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia's passing the Resolution on the National Independence of Estonia.

HUNGARY; Members of the Budapest Radio Amateur Society will be active as HG52IEC until September 30 to celebrate the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress.

TANZANIA; Gab, HA3JB will be active as 5H1IP from September 17 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. He also plans to participate in the CQWW DX RTTY Contest.

GUINEA-BISSAU; The Italian DXpedition Team will be active from October 9 to 22, using the call signs J5T on CW, SSB and RTTY and J5HKT on FT8. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres.

HAWAII; Keith, KC0PP will be active as KC0PP/KH6 until September 12. He plans to participate in the Hawaii QSO Party.

GUINEA; Jean Philippe, F1TMY will sign 3X2021 during his upcoming visit, starting in mid-September. He will be on 160 to 6 metres and the QO-100 satellite. He will also be portable from Los Islands, IOTA AF-051.

UNITES STATES; N7F is a September 11th 20th anniversary special event call sign by the American Legion Post 10 Amateur Radio Club, N7ALA. They will be active from September 9 to 12 on 40 and 20 metres using SSB, PSK31 and CW. Also, N3U will be active September 9 to 14 to remember the 9/11 victims who crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania and those in New York City and Washington, D.C. in 2001. Operator W3BTX plans to do mostly SSB and CW but will do some digital modes as well.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The Hawaii QSO Party, ALARA Contest, W/VE Islands QSO Party, YO DX HF Contest, World Wide Digi DX Contest, Kansas QSO Party, Ohio QSO Party and the SARL HF CW Contest are all on over this weekend.

WICEN News

This year's WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting will be held at 2:30pm on Saturday the 18th of September. With public health restrictions continuing, the meeting will be online; members will have received the documentation and meeting invitation for the AGM, via their VRA email. Please contact the WICEN secretary if you did not receive the AGM information.

The Watagan State Forest Ride has been cancelled for this year, along with the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic. Hopefully next year will see these events return bigger and better than ever.

WICEN weekly voice nets are on Sunday evenings, starting at 6pm, on either the Chatswood 2 metre repeater, or the Kurrajong 70cm repeater. Please check the WICEN website for details.

Please note, the Berowra 70cm repeater is currently off air.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. The website is at nsw.wicen.org.au.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information; its at www.crarc.org.au.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the website at vic.wicen.org.au.

Club News

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

The next meeting of the club is the AGM, at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of September. With ongoing public health restrictions, the AGM will only be held online using Microsoft Teams; there will be no in-person meeting. A link to join the meeting will be emailed to members, in the coming week. The September Monthly General Meeting and the August and September Friday night get togethers have been cancelled.

The Committee continues to closely monitor public health directives, to ensure that club activities comply with restrictions which may change at short notice. When club face-to-face meetings can resume, they will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible; Assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run once sufficient candidates have registered, and public health regulations permit.

There are two club nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 9am Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater on 146.7MHz, which requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. VK2RPM is also available via EchoLink, for those outside the coverage area of the repeater. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible.

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 the club information. The July 2021 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues can be viewed 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.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With public health restrictions currently in force, the Clubrooms are currently closed; The club continues to monitor the ongoing public health situation, hopeful that the doors can reopen again soon.

The club's new executive team are still handing over from the previous committee and will continue to drive the ongoing projects and initiatives.

A reminder that the next general business meeting will be held next Saturday at 1pm, via the Google meet online as well as telephone conference dial in. This meeting will have a large agenda with several topics of discussion. Information on how to join has been distributed to members via email. If you have not received this and wish to obtain the details, please email the club, or call on 02 4340 2500 and leave a voicemail message.

The daily morning tea net continues, and the club would like to thank Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU for their amazing efforts. With stay-at-home orders currently including the Hunter region, it is a terrific way to get to know your fellow operators. This week's shout out goes to Brad VK2ITA, for dropping by daily and will soon be diving into the world of DMR. A massive thanks go out to Bob and Dave for running these nets, you will be sure to learn a little piece of history each day.

A reminder that the club's BrandMeister DMR repeater is currently offline due to a power related fault, and EchoLink and IRLP facilities are also currently offline due to hardware failure. The repeater team hopes to investigate further once travel restrictions ease. However, D-Star and the RadNet DMR repeaters remain fully operational.

Yesterday and today, Karen VK2AKB, Peter VK2EHQ, Jaye VK2QRZ and Brad VK2NMZ are representing the club operating as VK100AF under all modes and all bands available to them. Make sure you keep an ear out!

The club wishes to not only thank the crew for the hours behind the seats but also to the 50-plus Amateur Radio operator across all Australian states and territories, who have volunteered their time over the last few months to contact as many stations around the world as possible. You can find more information by checking out the V1100AF and VK100AF QRZ pages.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au; via phone on 02 43402500 or on social media by searching for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club; remember to “like” to follow for updates.

Brad VK2NMZ

Publicity, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Sydney ATV Group

The Blue Mountains ATV repeater at Lawson transmits high-definition TV on 445.50MHz, with analogue and digital inputs on 23cm. Reception is possible over the Sydney Metro area, or via the British Amateur TV Club streaming web site; select the VK2 callsign and the HTML5 option. You can also text to say that you're watching.

There are two nets; Thursday afternoon starting at 2:30pm, and Monday nights from 7pm.

We regularly have technical talks, show our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call during net times on the Lawson repeater, 147.325 MHz with positive offset, with reports, questions or help with receiving Amateur Television. Why not join in and find out more about this fascinating and fast-growing aspect of digital amateur radio.

*Advised by John VK2ATU
on behalf of the Sydney ATV Group.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

While in-person activities are suspended, the club is still running regular events online and on-air, such as the Wednesday evening licence upgrade courses and the regular weekly nets.

The next online meeting will be on Friday 3rd September at 7:30pm. The club is appreciative to have returning speaker Darren Spoor present a talk entitled "The Energy Transition - towards renewables". Darren has previously presented a technical talk with the club which was well-received.

Licence upgrade courses are still run by Jan VK2FEB, from 6pm on Wednesday nights. If you would like to upgrade to a Standard or Advanced licence, contact Irene, VK2VAN. The Club is planning a Foundation Licence weekend, restrictions permitting, on the 9th and 10th of October; contact Irene to register your interest.

Jamboree On The Air is still planned to go ahead, however more than likely it will be on-air and online. If you are interested in helping out and joining the JOTA subcommittee, please contact James VK2GOH.

On air nets continue weekly; The 80-metre net is from 8pm Tuesday evenings on 3543 kHz; on Wednesday night from 8pm, on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access, and on the 6 metre repeater, 53.875MHz; and on Sunday Afternoons at 3pm, on the 2 metre repeater as well.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

*73 from James VK2GOH
Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

With lockdown continuing, the Society will have an online meeting this coming Wednesday, the 1st of September.

Several months ago, Brian VK2GCE gave a presentation entitled "An Introduction to Operational amplifiers." Now he's back with a sequel.

Brian has been designing op amp circuits since 1968, when he wanted to multi-track record his playing in bands and orchestras. His designs were kicked off by chance comments from a fellow Master's degree student and an air-conditioning engineer. The pathway was strewn with hurdles; not least because op amp ICs back then, weren't all that wonderful.

He started with Jim Rowe's 1969 Electronics Australia circuit, using the Fairchild 709 before moving through more and more sophisticated ICs. In 1974, working at De Lane Lea, one of the big-name recording firms in London, one of Brian's early IC-based mixers caught the eye of De Lane Lea's chief electronics designer - you'll see pictures of this mixer. Some of Brian's designs ended up being used on well-known recordings, including the London recordings of Pink Floyd's 'The Wall'.

Brian will take us through the iterative process of designing a very good, balanced-input audio pre-amplifier. He will then take us on the next stage of the journey to design a mixer using several of these pre-amps. Major concerns and the workarounds include noise, EMI, headroom, frequency response - and compromise.

The meeting will start at 7:30pm, on Wednesday the 1st of September. More information, including login details, can be found on the society's website <https://sgars.org>.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next informal mid-monthly meeting is on Tuesday the 14th of September, starting at 8pm. This will be online using Jitsi Meet, and on the 2 metre repeater. Members and visitors can join the Jitsi meeting online, using a web browser, on a smartphone app, or even from a landline phone. September's general meeting is on the 28th.

The Club's three regular nets continue each week. Monday's net starts at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. 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. These nets may be supplemented with Jitsi as well.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities, getting setup for Jitsi Meet, plus contact information and the Covid Safety plan; it's 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.*

[Jitsi Meet details:
Phone: 08 7150 1136 and enter 3145759306#
Web: <https://meet.jit.si/HADARC>]

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID4.wav]

Activities on the air

WinterNet Mondays 8pm on 1860kHz, Net Control Steve VK2STG.

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

Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net 7pm Monday, currently simplex on 147.1MHz and EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

Westlakes 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9:30am on 3565kHz, 2m nets on 146.775MHz, see website for details.

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

Central Coast ARC net Thursday night on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz.

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

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

Blue Mountains ARC nets 8pm Tuesday on 3543kHz, 8pm Wednesday on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz and 53.875MHz. 2m Net Sundays 3pm.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society meeting net 8pm Wednesdays VK2RMB 146.875MHz.

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

Fishers Ghost ARC net 7:30pm Thursdays on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with -7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone required, also on Echolink.

St George ARS net 8pm Thursday, on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz, Wednesday from 8pm on 3608.5kHz, Friday 9am on 7106kHz.