

Silent Key.

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

We have been informed that vice president of the Urunga Radio Convention, Terry Wood VK2TEZ, passed away late last week.

Practically everyone who had attended a Convention in the last 15 or more years, would have met Terry in the kitchen. Always with a smile on his face and a terrific sense of humour, his unexpected passing has cause shock and grief. He will be missed.

Please pause with us, while we remember Terry.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Terry Wood VK2TEZ.

*Advised by Gloria Savins
on behalf of the Urunga Radio Convention.*

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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.

This month's edition of the ARNSW Newsletter, *All Access*, was emailed to durin the week, and is now available from our website. If you didn't receive an email copy; it may be that we don't have your current contact details. Please let our membership team know by email, to membership@arnsw.org.au.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17th to the 23rd of September;
This report issued on Friday the 24th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm Flux	73	74	75	79	85	89	90
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	19	14	2	4	6	11	10 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	12	6	1	1	8	6	8 estimated
T index	14	11	10	14	19	27	28

Solar activity was low from the 17th to the 19th; very low on the 20th; low again on the 21st and 22nd, and moderate on the 23rd.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to active levels on the 17th, with the SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 8 nanoTesla, at 0219UTC. Activity became quiet to unsettled on the 18th and quiet on the 19th, before increasing again to active levels on the 21st, and quiet to unsettled levels across the 22nd and 23rd.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted monthly values, with some depressions; 20% during local day and 25% during local night of the 18th, and 15% during local night on the 19th.

Now, the forecast for the 24th to the 30th of September;

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels on the 25th and 26th, with quiet to unsettled conditions otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values, with some slight depressions possible on the 27th.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures, last updated on the 23rd of September;

Having finished August, we had a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 77 and a Maximum of 91
With peak dates from the 24th to the 31st

Nearing the end of September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 88 and a Maximum of 101
With peak dates from the 6th to the 13th and the 22nd to the 30th

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 80 and a Maximum of 90
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th and the 24th to the 30th.

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-FCAL199.wav]

Duration 1m55s

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

TANZANIA; Maurizio, IK2GZU is active as 5H3MB until November 20. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

MALDIVES; Nobby, G0VJG plans to be active as 8Q7CQ from Innahura Island, IOTA AS-013, from September 28 to October 13. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using SSB and digital modes.

MADEIRA ISLANDS; Operators DK4QT, DM2RM, DL2AWG, DL6TK, DF8XC, DJ9RR and DJ8NK will all be active as CR3W in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

ANGOLA; Mikalai, UT6UY is active as D2UY from Cabinda for a few months. Activity is on 20, 15, and 10 metres using mostly CW, generally between 1600 and 2300UTC.

COMOROS; Operators Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK are active as D60AC and D60AD, respectively, from Moroni, IOTA AF-007, until October 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

WALES; Paul, G4PVM will be active as GW4PVM from Holy Island, IOTA EU-124, from September 26 and October 1. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

JAPAN; Take, JI3DST will be active as JI3DST/5 from Shodo Island, IOTA AS-200, until September 28. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 metres using CW and SSB, and will be active as JR8YLY/p when running FT8.

BULGARIA; Special event station LZ1340BG is active until the end of 2021 to support the Thracian Rose Club and the TRC DX Contest.

POLAND; Members of club station SP4PZM are active with special event call sign SO39SYBIR until February 2022 to mark the opening of the Sybir Memorial Museum in Bialystok[*bee-au-WOO-stok*]. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

DODECANESE; A group of operators will be active as SV5/HB9COG from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, from September 28 to October 5. Activity is EME on 70, 23, 13, 9, 6, and 3 centimetres, at various times, using JT65C, Q65C, Q65D, and CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The CQ Worldwide RTTY DX Contest, Railways On The Air, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint, Maine QSO Party, AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, Masonic Lodges on the Air and UBA ON 6-Metre Contest are all on over this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed Test, QCX Challenge, and RSGB FT4 Contest Series are all scheduled for September 27.

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for September 28.

The Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test, and UKEICC 80-Metre Contest are all scheduled for September 29.

WICEN News

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.

The VK2RWS 70cm repeater is now back on the air. Formerly at Berowra, it is now operating from Hornsby, but it is not currently linked to the Kurrajong repeater. Signal reports are welcomed and can be emailed to tech.team@nsw.wicen.org.au.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. 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. On Saturday the 2nd of October, the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club will be 50 years old. The club was formed at a meeting in Port Macquarie on the 2nd of October 1971 and two of the Founding Members, Arthur VK2ATM and Henry VK2ZHE, are still active in the club. A celebratory dinner to mark the 50th anniversary will be held once the Covid situation improves.

While some restrictions have recently changed, it is not yet possible for the club to run in-person meetings. As a result, the September and October club meetings and get-togethers, have been cancelled. The Committee continues to closely monitor public health directives. When in-person activities can resume, they will be held in accordance with the club's Covid 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. The assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run when sufficient candidates have registered, and COVID restrictions 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 September 2021 Issue of Oxtales will be published in the coming week; it contains a full report on the club's recent AGM, including a list of the office holders elected at the meeting. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

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

The daily morning tea net continues, and the club would like to thank Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU for their ongoing efforts. With stay-at-home orders still in effect, it is a terrific way to get to know your fellow operators. 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.

Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member and avid SSTV fan, hosts a fortnightly SSTV net on the Club's 2 metre WICEN repeater, 147.125 MHz with 91.5 Hz tone. The net consists of 2-3 rounds predominately in Scottie-2 mode. The net attracts many participants, and Adrian would love to see you drop in. Adrian has had a large amount of support from members and would love to see you drop in; the next net is on Friday the 8th of October at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was hosted by Alan VK2MG, with the topic of *"your most unusual contact or other radio related experience"*. One participant has an authenticated RTTY contact with North Korea, complete with QSL card. The net runs on Thursday night at 8:00pm on the club's 2m VK2RAG repeater – 146.725 with 91.5Hz tone. The SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page.

Our IT Team are experimenting with a WebSDR destined for the Somersby repeater site. websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured for 2 metres, with several presets. More features will be added as testing proceeds.

The club's BrandMeister DMR repeater is currently offline, as are EchoLink and IRLP facilities. The team hopes to have these services restored once travel restrictions have eased. D-Star and the RadNet DMR repeaters are fully operational.

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.

*Alan VK2MG
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.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be an on-air meeting, on the Club repeater, VK2RFG, this Thursday the 30th of September, commencing at 7:30pm. The Club's weekly net will follow the meeting. The repeater is on 438.65MHz with a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz tone for access. The repeater is also accessible via Echolink.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or 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.

St George Amateur Radio Society

With restrictions continuing, the Society will have an online meeting on Wednesday, the 6th of October. The meeting will have a presentation by Roger VK2ZRH, on G A Taylor: The Wireless Messiah and Very Naughty Boy.

George Augustine Taylor organised and chaired a meeting of radio experimenters in Sydney in 1910, leading to the establishment of the Wireless institute of Australia.

But only months before that, he was the first man to fly a heavier than aircraft in Australia, on 5 December 1909 at Narrabeen, having established the Aerial League of Australia earlier that year.

In the early-1900s, George Taylor "saw the future" in aviation and the new wireless technology. He was the right guy, in the right place, at the right time, with the vision, the connections and "the push".

He became the "wireless messiah", promoting the nascent broadcasting industry. However, George Taylor came to that position from a very different direction. Unable to get work as an architect in the mid-late 1890s, he exploited his latent talent as an artist, producing cartoons for The Bulletin, the Melbourne Punch and The Worker, a union newspaper.

He befriended well-known artists, writers, journalists, and poets, and they formed The Dawn and Dusk Club - an excuse for the Bohemians of Sydney to get together, eat drink and make merry. He was a very naughty boy. Better yet, he wrote a tell-all book about it!

The meeting will start at 7:30pm, on Wednesday the 6th of October. More information, including login details, can be found on the society's website at sgars.org.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The club's next meeting is on this Tuesday the 28th of September, starting at 8pm. This will be online using Jitsi Meet, and on the 2 metre repeater. You can join the Jitsi meeting online, using a web browser, on a smartphone app, or even from a landline phone.

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.

Listen for VK2WAH, We Are Home.

HADARC operates two repeaters at VK2RNS Hornsby; On 2 metres at 147.25MHz with a +600 kHz offset and sends a 91.5Hz tone. On 70cm VK2RNS is on 439.975 MHz -5 MHz, requiring either a 91.5Hz tone for FM, or NAC 293 for P25.

The VK2RHT repeater at Chatswood, VK2RHT, is on 438.35Mhz with a - 5.4MHz offset. It is part of ARNSW RadNet.

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>]

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Activities on the air

Lightning Net – formerly WinterNet – 8pm Mondays 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 nets on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; Morning tea at 10am daily, and Thursday night at 8pm. 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.