

Silent Key.

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

We have been advised of the passing of Phil Orchard VK3APO and VK2BTT, on the 30th of September; just a month short of his 100th birthday.

Phil discovered Radio as a schoolboy in Melbourne in the 1930's, and in 1940 attended the Marconi School of Wireless, qualifying for a Commercial Operators Certificate of Proficiency. In November 1941 following in the footsteps of his father, a marine Chief Engineer, Phil signed on the British ship Ettrickbank/GDDS. The only Aussie on board, he was on board for 15 months sailing into war zones of the Mediterranean, North and South Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

After the war, Phil worked as a PMG technician in telephone exchanges. Having a fondness for relays, he kept his relay adjustment tools with him into retirement. But in the 1960's he went back to sea on the Australian coast, notably on the Darwin run where he operated VK3APO/MM making many friends on the way.

In the Mid 70's he came ashore this time to home port of Sydney, taking out callsign VK2BTT. He was active in the Liverpool Radio Club, the Liverpool RSL sub-branch and the Cape Don/VLFQ, the lighthouse ship under restoration at Waverton. In 2013 Phil was a member of Australia's contingent attending the commemoration of the Battle of the Atlantic in London and Liverpool, UK, proudly wearing his six wartime medals.

Please pause with us, while we remember Phil.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Phil Orchard, VK3APO and VK2BTT.

Advised by Colin VK2BCC

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

While the VK2WI Dural site is currently closed to visitors; with public health orders changing, we are planning to re-introduce some on-site activities later in the year. In the meantime, 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.

We wish to remind our listeners of some telephone services that are available, if you currently have 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.

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 current or planned changes to activities. 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.

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.

[*only if item] JOTA and JOTI 2021**

This weekend saw the 61st JOTA, Jamboree on the Air and 22nd JOTI, Jamboree on the Internet. The educational event brings together more than 2 million Scouts and Guides each year, with young people learning about communications technology and connecting with fellow Scouts and Guides from over 171 countries.

It's a weekend where the Amateur Radio community gets to show its community spirit and demonstrate the capability and benefits of the Amateur Radio Service to a broader audience. Despite public health restrictions preventing many of the usual larger activities here in Sydney and NSW, some activity was still heard on HF and some repeaters.

[report if available]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of October;
This report issued on Friday the 15th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
10cm Flux	92	81	85	89	84	84	83
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	4	9	15	32	5	6 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	2	8	8	30	2	6 estimated
T index	20	21	17	14	16	8	5

Solar activity low on the 8th, then moderate on the 9th, with an M1.5 solar flare at 0640UTC. After this, solar activity was low on the 10th and 11th, very low on the 12th, and low on the 13th and 14th.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels on the 8th and 9th, and quiet with some active periods on the 10th, and quiet to unsettled conditions on the 11th. The 12th reached major storm levels, with SWS magnetometer dater showing a weak impulse of 13 nanoTesla, at 0226UTC. Quiet conditions returned for the 13th and 14th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were near predicted monthly values with some depressions of 15% during local day on the 8th and 11th. The 12 was depressed 15% throughout and up to 20% after local dawn; the 13th was 20% depressed during day and 15% at night; and the 14th was depressed 25% during the day and 20% during local night.

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

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures, last updated on the 30th of September;

At the end of September, we had a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 87 and a Maximum of 102
With peak dates from the 6th to the 13th and the 23rd to the 30th

So far for October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 85 and a Maximum of 100
With peak dates from the 1st to the 12th and the 22nd to the 31st

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 85, Average of 87 and a Maximum of 100
With peak dates from the 15th to the 27th.

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-FCAL139.wav]

Duration 1m40s

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

GUINEA BISSAU; Members of the Italian DX Team are now active as J5T on CW, SSB and RTTY and J5HKT on FT8 until October 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. They will have 6 operators and 4 stations active.

ANGOLA; Vasco, CS7ACE is now active as D2ACE from Luanda for the first time since 2016. He has been found on 18145 kHz from 1500 to 1600UTC.

INDONESIA; A team of operators will be active as 7A2A from a contest station in Central Java during the CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest at the end of the month.

KUWAIT; Abdallah, 9K2GS will be active as 9K2K during the CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest as a Single-Op/Single-Band entry on 15 metres.

MAURITANIA; Operators Johannes, PA5X and Gerben, PG5M will be active as 5T5PA/P and 5T1GM, respectively, until October 19. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

JAPAN; Kenji, JA4GXS will be active as JA4GXS/4 from Mi Island until October 18. Activity will be on 40, 20, 17 and 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

UNITED STATES; Rich, WA5LFD, is active as WA5LFD/p from North Padre Island, NA-092, until November 30. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, and possibly on 6 and 2 metres, using CW, SSB, and RTTY. Mike, W7LG/4 will be active from Hatteras Island, NA-067 from October 24 to 29, using CW and SSB on 80, 40 and 20 metres.

KINGDOM OF ESWATINI; The Russian DXpedition Team (RUDXT) will be active as 3DA0RU until October 22. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and QO-100 satellite, with multiple stations. The Latvian RSF team will be active as 3DA0WW until October 26. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. Lionel, ZS6DPL will be active as 3DA0LP from Manzini from November 1 to 5.

AUSTRIA; Members of the International Amateur Radio Contest DX Club (ARCDXC - United Nations, 4U1A) will be active as 4U2U until October 31. Activity is to celebrate United Nations Day.

HAWAII; Alex, KU1CW, will be active as KH7Q from Oahu Island (OC-019) during the CQWW DX SSB Contest as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. Look for activity before and after the contest where Alex will be signing KH6/KU1CW.

TAIWAN; Jun, JH4RHF/OE1JUN is in Taiwan for work until November 8. In his spare time, he will try to be on the bands, probably on 40 to 10 metres using CW.

SABA; Bart, PD1BAT is planning to be active as PJ6/PD1BAT from October 30 to November 5. He plans to be active on FT8 on 40 and 20 metres.

CYPRUS; Paul, SA6PIS will operate holiday style as 5B/SA6PIS from October 19 to 31 and will also visit WWFF references.

CRETE; Erwin, DK5EW is active until October 28 as SV9/DK5EW on 2 metre EME and MS.

SERBIA; Members of the Amateur Radio Club Novi Sad celebrate their city's status as European Capital of Culture 2022 with the call sign YU2022NS until December 30.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The JARTS WW RTTY Contest, 10-10 International Fall Contest, CW, New York QSO Party, Worked All Germany Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, Argentina National 7 MHz Contest, Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW, UBA ON Contest, 2 Metres, Illinois QSO Party, RSGB RoLo CW, and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest are on this weekend.

The ARRL School Club Roundup and RSGB FT4 Contest Series are on October 18.

WICEN News

This weekend saw several WICEN Operators assist with this year's JOTA. These included Compton VK2HRX, Mark VK2MOH, Richard VK2SKY, Nicholas VK2MYK, Raffy VK2RF, Irene VK2VAN and Jan VK2FEB. Thanks also to James VK2GOH for organising the WICEN operators to assist with the JOTA weekend.

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.

While the October in-person meetings have been cancelled, with the easing of restrictions, the Committee is examining the feasibility of holding an in-person Monthly General Meeting on Saturday the 6th of November. A decision will be made closer to time. When in-person activities can resume, they will be held in accordance with the club's Covid Safety Plan.

The Telegraph Point VK2RCN 147.0 MHz 2 metre repeater was restored to service on Wednesday the 13th of October; A recently repaired Yaesu DR-1X repeater was installed in place of the 147.0 MHz repeater which had failed.

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 their interest.

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. Access to VK2RPM is 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 newly published September 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 current issue 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

The Clubroom were opened yesterday for the first time in several months; thank to the members who attended and followed the current health orders. It's good to be back!

The daily morning tea net continues, thanks to Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU; 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 scheduled for Friday the 22nd of October at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was an informal one, hosted by Alan VK2MG. 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.

The club's BrandMeister DMR repeater is still offline; however, work is progressing on restoring EchoLink and IRLP facilities. With the replacement equipment currently under test, hopefully ready to be installed soon. D-Star and the RadNet DMR repeaters are fully functional.

The Club's IT Team are experimenting with a webSDR, destined for the Somersby repeater site. websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to allow four users to listen on 2 metres with several presets.

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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

For over 40 years, the society has operated the VK2RDX repeater at Mt. Bindo in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, on a remote mountain-top about 25km south of Lithgow. VK2RDX is on 146.65MHz, with a negative 600kHz offset.

In the last couple of years, several upgrades have been done at the site, and planning is now underway to install a UHF DMR repeater on site. This repeater will provide coverage into Sydney, and to the Central West cities of Bathurst, Orange and surrounding areas.

The repeater will be on 438.15MHz with input on 431.15MHz. The repeater is currently under test in Sydney, and the Society hopes to be able to visit the site in November to undertake installation.

The society's other repeaters are available to all amateurs;

VK2RLE at Heathcote on 146.800MHz

VK2RDX at Mt Bindo, on 146.65MHz and

VK2RLY at Rylestone, on 147.225MHz.

Peter VK2EMU

Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

For the safety of members, HADARC will continue to meet via the Jitsi Meet video and audio conferencing system; and their 2 metre repeater, with a return to Mt Colah expected in February.

The Club's next meeting will be on October the 26th. The talk will be a recording of a presentation by the late Welsh scientist Edward George "Taffy" Bowen, CBE, FRS, given at a HADARC meeting some decades ago, on the development of RADAR during World War 2.

The Club's three regular nets continue each week. Monday's net starts at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, which is on 147.25MHZ. No tone is required but a 91.5Hz 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.

Listen for VK2WAH, We Are Home.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities, getting setup for Jitsi Meet, plus contact information, a web-based contact form 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 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 – after news on Sundays – and Thursday night at 8pm. SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz; next net October 22.

Amateur Radio Central West Group *lunchtime net* 1pm daily; evening net Monday and Friday night net at 8pm, on VK2RCW and EchoLink VK2BLO. 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 on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm and 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. Next meeting 26th.