

Silent Key.

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

The Great Lakes Radio Club have advised of the passing of Morris Creevey VK2EMC, on the 16th of October.

As well as being a member of the Great Lakes Radio Club for several years, Morris was also very active in the field of emergency communications with coastal patrol.

Please pause with us, while we remember Morris.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Morris Creevey VK2EMC.

Advised by Andy VK2AAK.

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

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 changes to activities or planned events. 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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15th to the 21st of October;
This report issued on Friday the 22nd of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
10cm Flux	84	78	77	76	76	76	82
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	3	6	9	9	5	8 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	4	7	6	11	5	5 estimated
T index	3	9	14	-14	-19	-16	+2

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet on the 15th, otherwise quiet except for some unsettled periods on the 17th, and active conditions on the 19th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were generally below predicted, with 20% depression on the 15th, 15% during day and 20% during night on the 16th; 20% during the day on the 17th; 30% during the day and 25% at night on the 18th; 25% during the day and 30% during the night on both the 19th and 20th; and on the 21st, finally some improvement, only 15% depressed during local day, recovering at local night to near predicted values.

Now, the forecast for the 22nd to the 28th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low, although there is a small chance of an M-class flare.

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 84 and a Maximum of 92
With peak dates from the 1st to the 10th and the 27th to the 31st

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 84 and a Maximum of 95
With peak dates from the 1st to the 12th and the 22nd 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-FCAL156.wav]

Duration 1m54s

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

KINGDOM OF ESOWATINI (or Swaziland); A group of operators are active as 3DA0WW until October 26. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

THE GAMBIA; Operators Jan-Francois F4AHV, Gerard F5NVF, Luc F5RAV and Abdel M0NPT, will be active as C5C from Kololi until November 19. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, and Satellite activity on QO-100.

BAHAMAS; Richard, NN2T will be active as C6AHB from Bimini Island, IOTA NA-048, from October 27 to November 3. This includes being active in the next weekend's CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

GERMANY; Members of the DARC local association Wolfsburg, and possibly others, will be active as special event station DR0OEBIS until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the railway station Oebisfelde. Activity will be on various HF bands and Satellites using CW, SSB, RTTY and various digital modes.

MARTINIQUE; Miguel, EA1BP will be active as FM/EA1BP from October 27 to November 5. This includes being active as TO7O in the upcoming CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS; Members of the Tifariti Gang/DX Friends will be active as HD8R from October 26 to November 7. Activity will be with four stations on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, various digital modes, and on Low-Earth orbit Satellites, and entry in the upcoming CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest as either a Multi/2 or Multi/Multi entry.

SARDINIA; Richard, OM2TW is active as IS0/OM2TW until November 1. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes, including in the upcoming CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

JAPAN; Members of the radio club in the city of Tama are active as 8N1TAMA until the end of June 2022 to mark their city's 50th anniversary. Activity is on 160 metres to 70 centimetres using CW, SSB and FM.

ARGENTINA; Special event station L21RCA is active until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Radio Club Argentina.

BELGIUM; Special event stations ON75AF, ON75BAF and ON75BFS are active until the end of 2021 to draw attention to the 75th anniversary of the Belgian Air Force.

BONAIRE; Tjeerd, PE1OJR is active as PJ4/PE1OJR until October 29. Activity is holiday style mainly on 40 and 20 metres using SSB, FT8 and FT4.

RWANDA; Members of the Holy Land DX Group (HDXG) are active as 9X4X until December 1. They will run 3 stations on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 and maybe some satellite operation as well. They will also participate in the CQWW DX CW Contest.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS; John, W5JON will be active as PJ5/W5JON from St. Eustatius, IOTA NA-145, until November 1. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8, including the upcoming CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

ARUBA; John, W2GD will be active as P40W from October 25 to November 1. Activity will be on all bands as time permits, including next weekend's CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Mario, W4HBW is active as VP5MA from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, until October 31. He is usually active on 20 and 15 metres using FT8.

BERMUDA; Jeff, N6CQ will be active as VP9/N6GQ from October 27 to November 1. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. He plans to be active as VP9I in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL EME Contest, Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, North American SSB Sprint Contest, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, YBDXPI FT8 Contest, UK/EI DX SSB Contest and the Classic CW Exchange are all on over this weekend.

The Telephone Pioneers QSO Party and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for October 25. The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for October 26.

The SKCC CW Sprint, Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test and UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest are on October 27.

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.

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.

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 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 Clubrooms have been reopened, subject to the restrictions in the current public health orders.

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 5th of November at 7:30pm.

There was no Thursday night net this week, but it will return this coming 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

If you are interested in Amateur TV; 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 is a regular net on Thursday afternoon starting at 2:30pm.

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.*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

At last, Sydney COVID restrictions are easing, which means that in-person meetings have returned.

As well as the regular Wednesday night meetings, the Society's AGM, which was originally to be held in July, will now take place on Sunday 7 November at 2pm. It will be an outdoor meeting, weather permitting.

Next, a couple of treats for fans of military aviation history. Last month, the club was fortunate enough to have two lectures, delivered online by James Oglethorphe of the "RAAF 3 Squadron Association". First is "The Side Slippers - WW I Treasures from the 3 Squadron Website". The second is entitled "Gliding off to War - The Use of Gliders as Weapons in World War Two". Both lectures were well received, and can now be viewed on the club's YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. If you need directions, call in on the club's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the web site for details; the address is mwrs.org.au.

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society will be on-line, on Wednesday the 3rd of November.

The theme of meeting will be "show and tell"; during the lockdown, many amateurs have been forced to stay at home, giving them more time to work on radio, electronics and other projects. Even those who have been working have found extra free time available for projects.

The on-line meeting on Wednesday 3rd November will be a good opportunity for members and visitors to show their projects; radio, electronic or otherwise. Projects don't have to be finished; they can be "works in progress". It will also be an opportunity for those logging in to the meeting to ask questions about other people's projects and maybe even obtain that vital piece of information that they are looking for to complete their project.

So, join the on-line meeting, show what you have been doing and see what others have been doing as well. The meeting will be online on Wednesday the 3rd of November, starting at 7:30pm.

Log-in details are now on the society's website sgars.org.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The topic at the next club meeting will be; “Development of Air Borne Radar in the United Kingdom during World War Two”.

In the 1980s, a recording was made of a presentation at a HADARC meeting; this has recently been unearthed and digitally remastered. The presentation was made by the late “Taffy” Bowen who gave a talk on the invention and development of early Air Borne Radar in the UK. This will be presented as a two-part series at the next two online Monthly meetings of the Club.

The idea of radar was an indirect response to an administrator’s question in 1935: Can we build a death ray to shoot down aircraft? The reply was, no, but we might be able to build a ray to detect their presence. Edward Bowen, a Welsh physicist, nicknamed “Taffy”, was primarily responsible for building the first ground-based transmitters, and went on to be primarily responsible for the invention and development of radar in Britain during the period between 1935 and 1940.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 26th, starting at 8pm.

The Club’s website has up to date details on club activities, getting setup for Jitsi Meet, plus weekly nets, 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 November 5.

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.