

Silent Key.

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

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of their friend and fellow club member Ron Swindley VK2DDQ, on Monday the 31st of January.

Ron obtained his amateur radio licence in the 1970s and remained active ever since. Ron was originally from a farming family at Albert near Trangie in the Orana Region of Western NSW. When he retired from his career in IT, he moved to Kempsey and joined the Oxley Region Amateur Radio club.

Funeral details have not yet been advised.

Please pause with us, while we remember Ron.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Ron Swindley VK2DDQ.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE
on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

[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, 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 currently available if you 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 events and activities over the holiday period. You can email news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts; and, as always, we welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities.

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

ARNSW Elections

As previously announced, the Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 9th of April 2022.

At the AGM, four of the nine directors will be retiring. Nominations will shortly be open for those members who wish to be a director for the years 2022 and 2023. The term of a director elected in 2022 is two years – until the AGM 2024.

Nomination forms are available from the office, and on the website at arnsw.org.au.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 26th February 2022.

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 28th of January to the 3rd of February;
This report issued on the 4th of February.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
10cm Flux	113	125	130	130	129	128	127
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	14	8	8	5	9	18 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	7	6	5	5	7	20 estimated
T index	71	65	61	70	91	77	70

Solar activity was low all week, except for the 30th of January, which reacted moderate levels of activity, with an M1.0 solar flare at 2347UTC.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 28th through to the 31st, with some isolated active periods on the 29th. The 1st saw quiet conditions, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 11 nanoTesla at 2222UTC. The 2nd saw quiet to unsettled conditions, and the 3rd was at quiet to minor storm levels.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted values. Enhancement of 20% was observed during local night on the 1st of February, and 25% during local night on the 3rd. Depression of 20% was observed after local dawn on the 3rd, recovering to near predicted during local daylight.

Now, the forecast for the 4th to the 10th of February;

Solar activity is expected to be moderate for the beginning of the week, returning to low levels in the second half of the week. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at unsettled to active levels on the 6th, and quiet to unsettled levels otherwise. Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted monthly values with 15% enhancements possible in the first half. Some isolated fadeouts at lower HF are possible early in the week.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished January, we had a;

Minimum of 84, Average of 102 and a Maximum of 130
With peak dates from the 13th to the 20th, and the 28th to the 31st.

As we start February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 120, Average of 126 and a Maximum of 132
With peak dates from the 1st to the 6th, and the 19th to the 28th

And looking ahead to March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 120, Average of 127 and a Maximum of 135
With peak dates from the 1st to the 12th, and the 18th 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>]

Space Weather Summary for January 2022

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was high on the 20th of January due to an M5.5 flare; the largest for the month. The flare was produced by solar region AR2929. The rest of the month saw activity ranging from very low, up to moderate on days with sporadic M1 flare activity. There were a total of 7 M class flares during the month and no X class flares.

Coronal holes and associated high-speed wind streams were observed on the 8th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th and 19th. A solar proton event at 100MeV level was observed in association with the M5.5 flare on the 20th, along with a reasonably strong coronal mass ejection (CME) which was not Earth-directed. Solar filament eruptions were on the 21st and 22nd, associated with weak CMEs.

The geomagnetic field in the Australian region saw no significant disturbances, with the A index remaining below 16 all month. A minor storm period was observed from the 14th to the 15th, due to a coronal high-speed wind stream, but the A index only briefly reached a maximum of 15.

The Australian region saw no significant wide area ionospheric depressions. The largest depression, of 25% below monthly predicted MUF, was observed in the Southern Australian region on the 15th. Solar fadeouts, impacting lower HF frequencies, were observed on the 14th and 20th.

[Play File: 15-E-ID2.wav]

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: 16-FCAL134.wav]

Duration 3m08s

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

CYPRUS; Philipp, DK6SP is active as 5B4AQC from Nicosia until July 27. Activity is mostly holiday style on various HF bands using CW.

SENEGAL; Willy, ON4AVT is active as 6W/ON4AVT from Warang until April 2. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes, and on Satellite QO-100.

MALDIVES; Henry, LU4DXU will be active as 8Q7AH from Dharavandhoo Island, IOTA AS-013, from February 8 to 15.

KUWAIT; Members of the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society are active with special event call sign 9K9NLD until February 28 to celebrate both Kuwait National Day and Liberation Day.

FRANCE; Francois, F8DVD will be active as TM19AAW from Macon from February 7 to 22 to celebrate the 19th Antarctic Activity Week. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS; Jean-Gabriel, F4CIX is active as FW1JG from Wallis Island, IOTA OC-054. Activity is mainly on 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes. He expects to be there for two or more years.

ARGENTINA; Horacio, LU5BE is active as LU5BE/r from San Jose Santa Maria in the Catamarca Province, Grid Square FG63xe, until February 11. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8, and FM on various Satellites.

BULGARIA; Special event station LZ150GD is active until February 28 to honour the birth of Gotse Delchev, a Bulgarian revolutionary leader.

ARUBA; Lee, K3DMG is active as P4/K3DMG until the end of March. Activity is holiday style on various HF bands using mainly CW, RTTY and digital modes.

CURACAO; Mike, W1USN is active as PJ2/W1USN until February 12. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA; Everton, PU2MEA is active as PU2MEA/PY0F until November 26. Activity is on 10 metres using SSB and QRP power in his spare time.

SURINAME; Axel, DL6KVA is active as PZ5KV until February 10. Activity is on the HF bands using only CW.

COTE D'IVOIRE; Petr, OK1BOA, Petr, OK1FCJ and David, OK6D will be active as TU5PCT until February 12. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.

AUSTRALIA; Special event station VK90ABC is active during 2022 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

ZIMBABWE; Operators DJ7TF and DL7BO are active as Z21A and Z22O, respectively, from Harare until February 20. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The Mexico RTTY International Contest, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Vermont QSO Party, 10-10 International Winter SSB Contest, EurAsia HF Championship, F9AA CW Cup, Minnesota QSO Party, FYBO Winter QRP Sprint, AGCW Straight Key 80-Metre CW Party, British Columbia QSO Party, FISTS Saturday CW Sprint, European Union DX Contest, North American CW Sprint, and the Classic CW Exchange will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The OK1WC CW Memorial, RSGB 80-Metre Club SSB Championship, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, NAQCC CW Sprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW, and Mini-Test 80 CW are all scheduled for February 7 to 9.

WICEN News

The first WICEN NSW training exercise for the year is FEDEX22, on the weekend of the 19th and 20th February. The plan is to setup a wide area HF network on both amateur and commercial frequencies. It will introduce field operations to new members under the guidance of experienced members. So, you don't have to have any equipment, just come along, and participate.

For more information or to indicate your interest in taking part in the exercise, contact Mark VK2MOH via email to; mark.halliwell@vrarescue.org.

Hunter WICEN will be providing communications for the Watagan Horse Enduro on the weekend of 30th April and 1st May. If you would like to participate, please contact Dan VK2GG at daniel.joyce@vrarescue.org.

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.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. For more information on WICEN events, or how to join, visit 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 on Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the website at vic.wicen.org.au.

[Play ID File: 17-E-ID3.wav]

Club News

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

The Monthly General Meeting planned for Saturday the 5th of was cancelled due to the ongoing COVID situation; the Committee Meeting was held online on Saturday and minutes will be emailed to members, to keep them abreast of club affairs.

The club's Antenna Shoutout, planned for Sunday the 6th of February, along with February's Friday night get-together, have also been cancelled.

The inconvenience caused by the cancellations is regretted, but the Committee will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure that future activities comply with restrictions and circumstances which may change at short notice.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will run once 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 with a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. Access to VK2RPM is available via EchoLink for those outside the repeater coverage area. 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 January 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues can be viewed on the website as well. You can also find the Club on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubroom have reopened, subject to public health orders. Yesterday saw the first general meeting for 2022, followed by a planning meeting for Mayham, the Club's field day, scheduled for Sunday the 1st of May. Expressions of interest are now open for those wishing to give a lecture; please contact Col VK2ZCO by email, to ccarc@ccarc.org.au for further information.

At VK2RAG Somersby, 70cm EchoLink and IRLP and the BrandMeister DMR repeater are still having problems. All other services are fully operational, including the webSDR; websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to listen on 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm.

The Club's Morning Tea is on at 10am daily and after the VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. The Weekly Thursday night net at 8pm, retuned, hosted by Alan VK2MG. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences.

The Fortnightly SSTV net is hosted by Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member. The net consists of 2 to 3 rounds, predominately in Scottie-2 mode. The net has seen a large amount of participation from members, and Adrian would love to see you drop in. The next net is on Friday the 18th of February, on the club's WICEN repeater – 147.125 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone. All are welcome to watch or participate.

SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page, and recordings of past nets can be found, in the "Videos" section.

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.

73 Alan VK2MG

Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Sydney ATV Group

The Group's ATV repeater at Lawson in the Blue Mountains, 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; on the site, select the VK2 callsign and if requested, the HTML5 option. You can also text to say that you're watching – just enter /nick, a space then your name, your following text will appear in the column above.

Regular nets are on Monday evenings starting at 7:30pm. We regularly have technical talks, show our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call during the net 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

The Society's monthly gatherings have resumed for 2022, online.

The next will be Wednesday the 2nd of March, at 7:30pm, details in a later bulletin.

The Society's 2 metre Summer Contest is currently active until the end of February 2022. The contest is open to all SGARS members and is conducted on the 2m Amateur Radio band. It is a self-reporting (no QSL cards required) contacts-based contest; your single best contact, is all that is required to enter.

SGARS will be operating the club's callsign VK2LE for the John Moyle Memorial Field Day over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of March 2022. The team intends to operate from a field location in the Southern Highlands. The aim of the contest is to encourage and provide familiarization with portable and field operation, and provide training for emergency situations. The rules are specifically designed to encourage field operations.

In recognition of Don, the Society will be holding the "Don Edwards Memorial slow Morse contest" on the weekend of the 14th and 15th of May. The contest will be in two sections, 80 metres on the Saturday evening from 6pm to 9pm (0800 - 1100 UTC) and 40 metres on the Sunday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm (0300 - 0600 UTC). The contest is open to all VK and ZL amateurs, and participants can enter either or both sessions.

For more information about these events, along with general information, visit the society's website at sgars.org.

*73 Peter VK2EMU
Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Starting the year for the Club, informal dinner on Tuesday the 8th of February, at Magpies in Waitara. This is across Alexandria Parade from Waitara Station. If you wish to attend then RSVP to the Social Co-ordinator, Chris VK2YMW. A Magpies by-law requires those attending to provide evidence of full vaccination.

The 22nd of February meeting will be at Mt Colah community centre from 8pm, with the option to join via the Jitsi conferencing system.

The club's three weekly nets are;

Monday evenings at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2m repeater, 147.25MHz. No tone is needed for access, but 91.5 Hz is sent; Wednesday's 80 metres net is also at 8:00 pm, on 3608.5kHz; and "Morning Tea with HADARC", is on Fridays from 9am on 7106kHz.

Both HF nets are plus or minus QRM; Listen for VK2MA.

International Marconi Day is the UTC day of Saturday, 23 April. HADARC will once again be operating VK2IMD across various HF bands.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities, including setup information for Jitsi Meet; 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

Lightning Net 8pm Mondays on 1860kHz, Net control Steve VK2STG.

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm Saturday on South east network; VK2RFS 146.75MHz, VK2RSE 147.375, VK3RDH 146.625, and EchoLink.

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

Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net 7pm Monday, on the VK2RGL Repeater, 147.1MHz with 91.5Hz tone, EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

Westlakes 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 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 146.9.

Central Coast ARC Morning tea at 10am daily – after news on Sundays; Thursday nights 8pm; VK2RAG 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone and EchoLink. Next SSTV net February 18.

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net 1pm daily; evening net Monday and Friday at 8pm, 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 on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm; Second Sunday of the month from 5pm.

Waverley ARS net 8pm Monday VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and on air; see website. Sydney Harbour & Ferry Contest 6th March.

Sydney ATV Group net 7:30pm Monday on 445.5MHz from Lawson.

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.