

Silent Keys.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of two silent keys.

We have been advised of the passing of Henri Haans (Hank) Laauw, VK2BHL, on Tuesday the 3rd of May. Hank was 81 years old.

Born on the Island of Terschelling, Holland, Hank lived in Wollongong before moving to Heathcote. After living in Sydney for more than 40 years, earlier this year he moved to Mackay in Queensland, with his sister.

Hank passed away peacefully at Mackay base hospital on Tuesday morning suffering respiratory problems, after being admitted on April 10. There will be no funeral; his sister Carla and his niece will have a small gathering by his side before his cremation.

He will be sadly missed, 73's, Hank, VK2 "Big Hairy Legs."

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club has advised of the sudden passing of Peter McAdam VK2EVB of Coffs Harbour. He was aged 71 years.

During his retirement, Peter was very active on air and in his workshop. He particularly enjoyed QRP operation and often called back to the VK2WI broadcasts "VK2EVB QRP". Yes, he called back last Sunday.

Peter was active on all bands and had recently upgraded his satellite antenna system and was a regular on satellite passes. He was very active on all the digital modes, in particular DStar and often operated pedestrian mobile during his walks. He was an exponent of APRS, operating an APRS Digipeater.

Peter enjoyed technical challenges including computer and digital technology. Peter undertook many projects, built many QRP transceivers and was at home with microprocessor and computer-based applications. He enjoyed experimenting with antennas and built a great variety of antenna types. He had great expertise in 3D printing and incorporated 3D printed parts in many of his projects. He had an enquiring mind and carried a wealth of knowledge in many fields.

Peter will be sadly missed by the Amateur Fraternity. We extend the deepest sympathy to Peter's wife Jenny and all the McAdam family.

Please pause with us, while we remember Hank and Peter.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY]

Henri Haans (Hank) Laauw, VK2BHL,

and

Peter McAdam VK2EVB.

Our thanks Barry VK2FP and Henry VK2ZHE for advising us here at VK2WI news.

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

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

ARNSW is reintroducing in-person activities at VK2WI Dural, in line with current public health guidance. Following on from our trial of the “Member Moring Meetup” in March, our next event is planned for Sunday the 29th of May. Once again the site open for members to have a socially-distanced catchup and some equipment sales will be available. more details in next week’s news.

As always, you can contact the ARNSW office via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message on 02 9651 1490.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from both Sydney, and across New South Wales. We would welcome any updates from club and groups; simply email news@arnsw.org.au – we don’t need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. Don’t forget, we always welcome reports on the outcome of recent activities, as well.

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.

VK2WI news bulletins are streamed live from our website, arnsw.org.au/audio, and recordings of previous bulletins are also available.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 29th of April to the 5th of May;

This report issued on the 6th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
10cm Flux	124	120	109	112	114	130	120
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	16	9	6	7	6	5 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	10	8	6	2	5	3	1 estimated
T index	92	88	83	70	74	78	77

Solar flare activity reached R1 level on the 29th with two M1.2 flares. The 30th reached R3 with 5 M-class flares and an X1.1 at 1347UTC. Low activity was observed on the 1st and 2nd of May before R3 again on the 3rd with an M1.3 and an X1.1 at 1325UTC. The 4th was at R2 with 5 M-class flares, and the 5th was down to R1, with 2 smaller M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 29th and 30th, then remained quiet from the 1st to the 5th of May.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were generally enhanced over predicted monthly values; by 30% during the and 20% during night on the 29th; 30% all day on the 30th; 25% during day and 20% during the night of the 1st of May; 15% during daylight hours on the 2nd; 15% through the 3rd; 20% on the 4th; and 15% enhanced during local day on the 5th of May.

The forecast for the 6th to the 12th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be moderate, with flares at R1 to R2 level.

Geomagnetic conditions should generally be quiet.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be near predicted to slightly enhanced.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished April, we had a;

Minimum of 96, Average of 132 and a Maximum of 164
With peak dates from the 1st to the 4th, and the 18th to the 29th.

So far for May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 105, Average of 119 and a Maximum of 145
With peak dates from the 5th to the 7th, and the 15th to the 25th.

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 97, Average of 114 and a Maximum of 130
With peak dates from the 10th 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 April 2022

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity remained below any warning level in the first half of the month, except for the 2nd of April, which reached ASWAS R1 (minor) level. A 10 MeV proton event caused an S1 (minor) solar warning; from 1425UTC on the 1st until 2235 UTC on the 2nd; the event peaked at 32.2 pfu at 1600 UTC.

The second half of the month saw increased flare activity. The largest flare for the month was an X2.2 on the 20th, from region 2992 just over the southwest limb. This reached R3 warning level; as did the 17th and 30th. There were also several M-class flares on these days. R2 (moderate) activity occurred on the 21st, and R1 on the 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 25th and 29th.

Enhancements in solar wind were due to many weak coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and some coronal hole wind streams. The interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) was most disturbed on the 10th and 14th. An unexpected mild CME on the 27th; likely resulted in IMF disturbance observed on the 30th.

Globally, the most geomagnetically disturbed days were the 10th and the 14th of April with planetary A indices of 29 and 34, respectively. In the Australian region, the 10th saw G3 (strong) activity, and the 14th was at G2 (moderate) levels. G1 (minor) conditions were observed on the 10th and the 27th as well. On other days, Australian region activity was generally at quiet levels. Weak sudden impulses in the Australian region geomagnetic field were observed on the 1st, 10th, 12th, and 15th.

Solar flux above predicted levels resulted in enhanced maximum usable frequencies in the Australian region, although frequencies were closer to predicted monthly values at middle and higher latitudes. Maximum usable frequencies were nearer predicted on the 15th due to geomagnetic disturbances. Some depressions related to geomagnetic activity were observed at mid and higher latitudes from the 1st to the 3rd, late 10th to 11th, and 14th to the 16th.

Short-wave fadeouts affecting lower frequencies in the Australian region may have occurred on 2, 17, 20, 22, 25 and 30 April. Higher frequencies were impacted by fadeouts in the Australian region on 17, 20 and 21 April.

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-FCAL023.wav]

Duration 1m27s

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.

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ARRL DX news

GUINEA; Jean-Philippe, F1TMY is active as 3X2021 from Conakry. He is active on 160 to 10 metres using SSB, and FM on 10 metres. He is also active on Satellite QO-100 from Grid Square IJ39.

GEORGIA; Byron, KF8UN will be active as 4L/KF8UN until May 11. Activity will be mainly on 20 metres using SSB.

ISRAEL; Israeli amateurs may use special prefixes 4X74 or 4Z74 until May 11 to mark their country's 74th anniversary of independence.

NEPAL; Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK are active as 9N7WE and 9N7CI, respectively, until May 19. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres.

MOZAMBIQUE; Kiyoo, JA7NQQ is active as C83YT from Macuti, Beira. He has been active on 17 to 10 metres using FT8.

CHILE; A group of operators are active as CB2R until May 29 to commemorate the Month of the Sea. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, and 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

PHILIPPINES; Mike, W6QT is active as DU3/W6QT from Subic Bay until September 15. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

KYRGYZSTAN; Ilya, R5AF and Igor, R4FCN will be active as EX/R5AF and EX/R4FCN, respectively, from May 9 to 14 from Issyk-Kul State Nature Reserve, EXFF-0002, and Ala-Archa State Natural Park, EXFF-0011. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW and FT8.

ECUADOR; Members of the HCDX Group are active with special call sign HD200BP from Quito until the end of May, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Pichincha. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, FT8, and FT4.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA, HK0. Renato, PY8WW is active as HK0/PY8WW from San Andres Island, IOTA NA-033, until May 12. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

BELGIUM, ON. Members of the Pajottenlandse Radio Amateur Club are active with special event call sign OT2022EPIC until May 22 to promote the fifth edition of the Antwerp Port Epic Cycling Race.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA; Alberto, EA4PL is active on the HF bands, as P29LL from Port Moresby.

GABON; Roland, F8EN is active as TR8CR until the end of July. Activity is on 40, 30, and 20 metres using mainly CW.

ANTARCTICA; Warren, VK7WN will be active as VK0WN while stationed at Australia's Casey Research Station. Activity is in his spare time.

NAMIBIA; Paul, ZS2PS is active as V5/ZS2PS and operating mobile until mid-June. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS; Yuris, YL2GM is active as VU4W from Andaman Island, IOTA AS-001, until May 16. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The New England QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, 10-10 International Spring CW Contest, RCC Cup, Microwave Spring Sprint, ARI International DX Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, F9AA Digital Cup, 7th Call Area QSO Party, Indiana QSO Party, Delaware QSO Party and the WAB 7 MHz Phone are scheduled over this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, RSGB 80-Metre Club SSB Championship, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club CW AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW and the Mini-Test 80 CW are on from May 9 to 11.

WICEN News

Hunter WICEN will be providing communications for the Watagan Horse Enduro, on the weekend of the 4th and the 5th of June. If you would like to participate, please contact Dan VK2GG at daniel.joyce@vrarescue.org.

WICEN NSW is providing communications for several events in May, including the safety communications for two Memory Walk and Jogs; at Cronulla on Saturday the 21st of May and Sydney on Sunday the 22nd of May. Also on that same weekend is a Camp Quality fund-raising Trek, spanning 50km from Bobbin Head to Balgowlah Heights.

If you are interested in participating in either of these events, please email wicen.ops@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 website for details.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. For more information on upcoming events, or how to join, visit the website at nsw.wicen.org.au.

For information about other WICEN groups; WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information and can be found at www.crarc.org.au. WICEN Victoria has a weekly net on Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the web at vic.wicen.org.au.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; The next meeting is a Friday night get-together at 7pm on Friday the 20th of May, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

VK2RCN repeaters are currently off air, due to a lightning strike on the evening of Friday the 25th of March. Repairs are expected to take several weeks, as a new underground power line is required to be run to site, along with repair of damaged equipment.

Now is the time to plan to attend the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club's annual field day on Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th of June, during the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend. The Field Day will be at the spacious Wauchope Showground Hall, with the Field Day Dinner at Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. A Foundation training and assessment weekend is planned for the near future, and Assessments for other 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, 146.7MHz with a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. VK2RPM is also available via EchoLink.

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 March 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.*

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Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is this Tuesday the 10th of May. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm. Attendees are most welcome to arrive from 6.30 onwards to enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

Meetings are at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD. After turning off Springhill Road into the BlueScope main entrance road, attendees then turn immediately right before the security gates, following the large signs towards the Visitors Centre.

The May meeting features a presentation by Paul VK0PD/VK2PAD. Paul will be sharing his Antarctic experiences with us, as he managed to squeeze in some amateur radio activities and antenna erections, whilst working at the snow-bound base. It promises to be most entertaining and interesting. Following the presentation there will be the usual tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake.

The Society has two weekly Nets. The Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL. You can join on the 2 metre repeaters, VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, or from out of town via EchoLink, VK2BGL-R. The second weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings, except for meeting nights, at 8:30pm; the usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage; the next net will be on May the 17th.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, including details on Amateur Radio training and examination activities, on the web at iars.org.au, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; iars.org.au.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm this Tuesday the 10th of May, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

*Advised by Rob VK2MT
President of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Thank you to everyone who attended Mayham last weekend. Please visit “tiny.cc/ccarc” on the web and fill in a survey to let us know how we did.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional. Brand Meister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still having problems.

Also at Somersby is a WebSDR, websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23 centimetres.

The Club’s daily Morning Tea continues at 10am and after VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. The Thursday night net starts at 8pm. 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. It’s usually 2-3 rounds on the Club’s 2 Metre WICEN repeater; 147.125 MHz with 91.5Hz tone. Adrian has had a large amount of support from other members and would love to see you drop in on the next net, Friday the 13th of May at 7:30pm.

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; by 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.

You can call in 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.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club is hosting "Airwaves by the Sea" on Saturday the 4th of June, at Long Reef, from 4:30 pm. This is an opportunity to test your ability to go portable. Even if you have never gone portable before, it's an opportunity to learn from seasoned operators.

With solar cycle 25 in an upswing, strong signals are being heard from Europe, and Colin VK2JCC has worked some very rare DX here. Bring along your portable equipment, antennas, batteries, should you have them. There are also coastal paths to repeaters not accessible in Hornsby. That's 4.30pm on Saturday the 4th of June.

HADARC's next meeting will be the Mid-monthly on May 10. This consists of discussion on all things radio and beyond. Later in the month is the Annual General Meeting on May the 24th. The venue for these meetings is the Mt Colah Community Centre, at the northern end of Pierre Close.

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.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities; 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.

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm Saturday on Southeast 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 VK2RGL; 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 May 13.

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, next net May 17th..

Blue Mountains ARC Nets on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm; Tuesdays from 8pm on 3543kHz.

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

Sydney ATV Group net 7:30pm Monday; call in on repeater 147.325MHz.

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.