

Silent Key.

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

The Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of their friend and fellow club member Richard Mackay VK2HRM, on the 4th of May.

Richard was a founding member of the Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club back in the early 2000s and served as club president for a period of time. He took an active part in establishment and operation of the Club's repeaters.

A service was held for Richard on the 13th of May.

Please pause with us, while we remember Richard.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Richard Mackay VK2HRM.

*Advised by Angelo VK2NWT
on behalf of the Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

[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.

From about 9:30am, the site is open for a physically-distanced catchup. the VK2WI grounds provide plenty of green space in fine weather, with a large indoor area on the ground floor of the Centenary Building as well. Tea, Coffee, cold drinks, and refreshments will be available; and the trash and treasure room will be open, with some procedures in place to manage access to the relatively small room. As well-being of our members is paramount, the event will run in accordance with the ARNSW Covid Safety plan.

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.

New News Relay

While on the topic of news relays, we also welcome our newest relay; with the combined efforts of John and the ANZEL team, with Jared VK2WAY and the FreeDMR group, the VK2IW Sunday Evening news is available via FreeDMR Talk Group 50599, that's the VK Dial-A-Node.

There's been a replay on both FreeDMR TG5050 and the UK's OZ-DMR group for a little while now, but now you can listen live on TG50599.

For more information, along with the full News & Nets Schedule, visit vkfreedmr.com/nets.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 13th to the 19th of May;

This report issued on the 20th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
10cm Flux	150	153	154	162	171	180	173
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	9	10	11	15	7	10 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	3	9	7	8	3	6 estimated
T index	75	81	94	84	92	87	89

Solar flare activity was low on the 13th and 14th, moderate reaching R1 level on the 15th with one M2.2 flare; R1 also on the 16th with an M2.4 flare; low on the 17th with one C class flare; up to R1 again on the 18th with an M1.1; and R2 on the 19th with an M5.6, an M1.5 and an M1.2.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet all week.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were generally near predicted monthly values, with some periods of enhancements. On the 13th, frequencies were enhanced 15% during local day and 20% at night; 15% enhanced during local night on the 14th; 20% during the day and 25% during the night of the 15th; 15% during the day and 20% during the night on the 16th; 20% during the day and 30% during the night of the 17th; 20% during the day and 15% at night on the 18th; and 20% enhancement throughout, on the 19th.

The forecast for the 20th to the 26th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be moderate, with a chance of activity reaching R3 warning level. Geomagnetic conditions should generally be quiet with a chance of unsettled conditions on the 21st.

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 109, Average of 144 and a Maximum of 180
With peak dates from the 14th to the 28th.

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 136, Average of 143 and a Maximum of 154
With peak dates from the 10th to the 20th.

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-FCAL066.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.

[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

MAURITIUS; Fabian, DF3XY is active as 3B8/DF3XY until June 2. Activity is holiday style on 40, 30, and 20 metres using SSB and FT8. call.

GUINEA; Jean-Philippe, F1TMY is active as 3X1A from Conakry, on 160 to 6 metres, and Satellite QO-100. His portable activities take place from the Los Islands, IOTA AF-051. His length of stay is unknown.

THE GAMBIA; Gerard, F5NVF, Abdel, M0NPT, and Luc, F5RAV will be active as C5C from Kololi until June 8. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, and on Satellite QO-100. On May 29, they plan to be active as C5B from Bijol Island, IOTA AF-060, from 0800 to 1600UTC.

ANGOLA; Mikalai, UT6UY is working in the hospital in Cabinde. He is active as D2UY in his spare time on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using mostly CW.

SPAIN; Special event callsign EH40URV is active until May 29 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Union de Radioaficionados de Vizcaya.

CANARY ISLANDS; Special event station EF0F/8 will be active from La Isla Bonita in the His Majesty King of Spain CW contest.

HUNGARY; This weekend, special call HG0WFF is active from the Hungarian Flora and Fauna reference HA FF 0025 Kesznyeten TK. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes with 20 operators active.

HAITI; Members of the Radio Club d'Haiti are active as HH18MAI until May 23 to commemorate the creation of the flag of Haiti.

ITALY; Members of the United Nations Global Service Centre ARC in Brindisi are active as 4U29MAY until May 31.

MONGOLIA; Andrey, R9YU and Gennady, R5QA are active as JV0YU from the Bayan-Olgii province until June 10. Activity is on 160 metres to 70 centimetres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE; Ryan, K0EFW is active as S9EFW until the end of May. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB.

ALAND ISLANDS; Keijo, OG5O and Raili, OH2HOD are active as OH0/OG5O and OH0/OH2HOD, respectively, from Lemland Island, IOTA EU-002, until May 27. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4.

GREECE; Erwin, DK5EW will be active as SV8/DK5EW from Santorini, IOTA EU-067, from May 23 to 28. Activity will be mainly on 2 metres using EME and Meteor Scatter.

TURKEY; Byron, KF8UN will be active as TA/KF8UN on May 23 and 24. Activity will be mostly on 20 metres using SSB.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; Bob, WX4G will be active as V4/WX4G from Calypso Bay, St. Kitts, from May 24 to 31. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. He plans to be active as V48A in the upcoming CQ World-Wide WPX CW contest.

MARSHALL ISLANDS; Stewie, WV7MS is now active as V73MS from Kwajalein Atoll while working as a firefighter. Activity is in his spare time on 20, 17, and 15 metres between 0600 to 0900UTC.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Mario, W4HBW is active as VP5MA from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002. Activity is on 80, 40, 17, and 10 metres using FT8.

KOSOVO; Bodo, DF8DX and Rene, DL2JRM will be active as Z68QQ from Gjilan from May 23 to 30. They will be active as Z66BCC in the upcoming CQ World-Wide WPX CW contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest, UN DX Contest, NZART Sangster Shield 80-Metre CW Contest, YOTA Contest, His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest, EU PSK DX Contest, Arkansas QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint and the QRP ARCI Hootowl CW Sprint are on this weekend.

The ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SKCC CW Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40 and the Mini-Test 80 are scheduled for May 23 to 25.

WICEN News

The recent storms and wet weather on the east coast, has led to some changes in upcoming events. The Watagan Horse Enduro has been cancelled for this year, and the Camp Quality Trek has been postponed until later in the year.

WICEN NSW is providing communications support for several events in June. First is the Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon, from the 17th to the 19th of June, in the Wolgan Valley around Newnes. We are seeking volunteers to help out; please email Neil, VK2XNF, at neil.fallshaw@vrarescue.org.

Later in the month is True Grit, a military-inspired obstacle course race, on Saturday the 25th at Dargle Farm, Lower Portland. A few volunteers are still required; contact Nic VK2KXN at nicholas.mclean@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.

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

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club; The June general meeting is scheduled for 2pm on Saturday the 4th of June, at 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 in 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. The May 2022 issue will be published in the coming week. 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

Thank you to everyone who attended Mayham; you can give the Club your feedback using the online survey; please visit “tiny.cc/ccarc” on the web and 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 WIGEN 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 27th 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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

Last weekend saw The Don Edwards Memorial Slow Morse Contest, with many amateurs from around Australia and New Zealand taking part. For some, it was the first time that they had used Morse code in years, if not decades.

All those who took part are encouraged to submit their logs; remember to read the rules, as there are bonus points to be had. Log submissions close on the 31st of May; details can be found on the website at sgars.org.

Monthly gatherings return to Connells Point, with the next one scheduled for Wednesday the first of June at 7:30pm.

Last year, Wal VK2ACE gave a presentation on the History of Telecommunications. The communications revolution began with the invention of the Morse Telegraph, closely followed by the Bell Telephone.

At the next gathering Wal will present part 2 of this the series, examining the anatomy of the telephone itself, manual and automatic exchanges, and the networks that carried analogue communications right across Australia. Come with us on a tour the fascinating technology timeline from then to now, making frequent stops along the way to examine the major milestones.

As well as the presentation, there will a friendly rag chew, tea, coffee, biscuits and cake as well as many items of disposal equipment available for inspection and purchase.

The gathering will be "in person" at the Society's meeting rooms, Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade Connells Point – near South Hurstville. All members and visitors will need to sign-in. Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Clubs 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.

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>]

[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 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 27.

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.