

Silent Keys.

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

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club has advised of the passing of esteemed Life Member, David William Harding VK2AIF known as Dave to his many friends. He passed away at Wauchope on 15th of August 2022 at the age of 93.

David was born on the 11th of January 1929 at Paddington, NSW. In 1947 he started working for AWA and other companies in the manufacture of radio and later, television receivers.

David joined the Citizens Military Forces in 1949 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1954. During the 1955 Maitland floods, he was called up for full time duty with the Regular Army as a radio operator. He went on to full time service with postings at Paddington and Lidcombe, before being posted to the Royal Australian Medical Corps where he served a term in Papua New Guinea.

In 1970 during the Vietnam War, David was posted to the 110 Signal Squadron in South Vietnam. After Vietnam David transferred to the Medical Corps. He was discharged from full time duty as a Major in 1975. He then resumed CMF duty in the Army Reserve until Army retirement in 1984 after 35 years of service. David retired from his position as Security Manager with Woolworths in 1995.

In retirement, David moved to Wauchope where he became an active member of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. He was very proud to be awarded Life Membership in 2014.

David had always been an active Amateur Radio operator. He held the callsign VK2ZDH for many years until he upgraded to VK2AIF which held great significance to him.

The Funeral for David will be held on Friday the 26th of August 2022 in the Innes Gardens Memorial Park Chapel at Port Macquarie.

We have also been advised of the passing of Maxwell Kadwell Francis VK2BMK known as Max on the 4th of August 2022, at the age of 94. Max had been an active Amateur Radio operator for almost 70 years.

In the 1960s when Max lived at Scone he was the WIA NSW North West Zone Officer. He later moved to the North Coast and was instrumental in the formation of the Coffs Harbour and District Amateur Radio Club in 1978. He was a Life Member of the Club.

In retirement Max moved from Bellingen to Dorrigo where he continued to regularly call back to the VK2WI broadcasts until ill health curtailed his activities a couple of years ago and he moved to Coffs Harbour.

As was his wish, Max will be privately cremated at Coffs Harbour.

Please pause with us now, while we remember David and Max.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY]
David William Harding VK2AIF, and
Maxwell Kadwell Francis VK2BMK.

Our thanks to 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;

As always, you can direct any general enquires to 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 12th to the 18th of August;

This report issued on the 19th of August.

First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 12 th | 13 th | 14 th | 15 th | 16 th | 17 th | 18 th |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm Flux | 120 | 124 | 126 | 131 | 129 | 123 | 117 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 6 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 22 | 19 observed |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 14 estimated |
| T index | 59 | 54 | 63 | 60 | 60 | 69 | 70 |

Solar flare activity was low from the 12th to the 14th, becoming moderate on the 15th with three M-class flares, the largest being an M2.7 at 1654UTC. The 16th saw activity reaching R2 warning level, with two M-class flares; M5.0 at 0758UTC, and M1.9 at 2121UTC. Activity remained at moderate levels on the 17th with two M-class flares; and the 18th, with three M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet with some unsettled periods. On the 17th, SWS magnetometer data showed a weak impulse of 9 nanoTesla, at 0259UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained mostly near predicted monthly values. Depression of 20% was observed during local night on the 12th, and enhancement of 15% was observed during local night on the 17th.

The forecast for the 19th to the 25th of August;

Solar activity is expected to be moderate, a chance of R2 warnings from the 19th to the 21st, and possible R1 conditions otherwise.

Geomagnetic activity may reach G2 warning levels from the 19th to the 21st, with quiet conditions and a slight chance of G1 levels afterwards.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be mildly degraded until the 21st, but frequencies near predicted monthly values afterwards. Shortwave fadeouts are possible.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished July, we had a;

Minimum of 91, Average of 126 and a Maximum of 176
With peak dates from the 9th to the 21st

So far for August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 111 and a Maximum of 131
With peak dates from the 6th to the 24th

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 110 and a Maximum of 116
With peak dates from the 2nd to the 16th, and the 29th 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-FCAL020.wav]

Duration 2m27s

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.

WICEN News

This year's WICEN NSW AGM, is on Saturday 3rd September at 2pm, in the Centenary Building here at VK2WI Dural.

WICEN NSW is providing safety communications for the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, on the weekend of the 29th and 30th of October. Competitors paddle 111km overnight, along the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Mooney Mooney. Please email mark.cheeseman@vrarescue.org if you would like to help out.

WICEN NSW 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. They are on twitter @wicennsw, and on Facebook.

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.

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ARRL DX news

We start this week with some stations active for this year's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. It continues until the end of the weekend in UTC time – so there's still a few hours of activity left tonight.

CYPRUS; station P3CG is active from Cape Greco, ILLW CY0004.

GREECE; SZ8G will be active from the Gaidouronisi Islet Lighthouse, ILLW GR0005, or possibly the Didymi Islet near Syros Island, IOTA EU-067. They will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

SCOTLAND; Members of the Zetland Amateur Radio Club are active as GB2ELH from Eshaness Lighthouse, ILLW UK00058, on the Shetland Islands, IOTA EU-012.

TAIWAN; station BV1EJ is active from Kaohsiung Lighthouse, TW0001.

....and in other DX activity this week;

AUSTRALIA; Operators Fred VK2FM, Steve VK2SPF and Russel VK4NGN, will be active as VK2FM from South Solitary Island, IOTA OC-194, until August 22. This include being active from the Solitary Lighthouse, ILLW AU0054, during the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

TIMOR-LESTE; Satoshi, JH2EUV is active as 4W/JH2EUV. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using mostly FT8.

MAYOTTE; Marek, F4VVJ will is active as FH4VVK from Petite-Terre, IOTA AF-027, until April 1, 2024. Activity will be in his spare time.

THAILAND; Brad, VK2FY is active as HS0ZNR until September 2. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres.

DJIBOUTI; J28RC is a new club station located in a US Army military camp.

JORDAN; Nart, JY5IB is active from Amman and is active on 60 to 12 metres using FT8.

LITHUANIA; Special call sign LY770CT is active until October 14 to commemorate the 770th anniversary since the founding of the Lithuanian city of Klaipeda. Activity is on all bands and modes.

FINLAND; Members of the Scandinavian Young Lady Radio Amateurs, and DL3KWF and DL3KWR, will be active as OH1SYL from Katanpaa Island, IOTA EU-096, until August 23. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

ALAND ISLAND; A group of operators will be active as OG0C from August 22 to 28. Activity will be on 160 to 2 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8, with a focus on 30, 17, 12, and 6 metres.

POLAND; Members of the Dobrzycki Amateur Radio Club are active with special call signs SO550MK, SP550MK and SQ550MK to commemorate 550 years since the birth of astronomer and mathematician Nicolaus Copernicus.

ALBANIA; Vladimir, Z35M will be active as ZA/Z35M on August 23. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres using CW and SSB with 5 watts.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Station ZF1PB/9 is active from Cayman Brac, IOTA NA-016, until August 22. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, ARRL RTTY Rookie Roundup, North American SSB QSO Party, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, SARTG Worldwide RTTY Contest, Russian District Award Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, CVA DX CW Contest, NJQRP Skeeter Hunt and the FISTS Sunday CW Sprint are all scheduled for this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest, K1USN Slow Speed Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SKCC CW Sprint, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, Mini-Test 40 and Mini-Test 80 are all on from August 22 to 24.

Club News

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

The next meeting is a monthly General meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd of September. The meeting is at the SES Building in Port Macquarie and will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due.

The VK2RCN repeaters at Telegraph Point are currently off air following a lightning strike in March. The underground mains power cable to site was extensively damaged, and work to restore mains supply to site is still ongoing.

Candidates for the next Foundation training and assessment weekend, or those interested in assessments for the Standard or Advanced licence, can contact the club at PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 or via the web site contact form.

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. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible. 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 July 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. July Oxtales includes a comprehensive report on the Club's Annual Field Day, which was held on the June Long Weekend. 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.*

Sydney ATV Group

A special event coming up later this week... from 7:30pm on Friday the 26th of August, there will be an Australia-wide hookup of Amateur TV stations.

The event will be live in most capital cities and also on the British Amateur TV Club streamer web site. On Saturday from 10am, it will include various ATV groups from the USA. Most operators have created a special one-off video for the event.

In Sydney, the Group's ATV repeater at Lawson in the Blue Mountains, transmitting on 445.50MHz, with reception over the Sydney Metro area.

*Advised by John VK2ATU
on behalf of the Sydney ATV Group.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms at Kariong are open every Saturday. “Show and tell” days have also returned to the last Saturday of each month.

Members are reminded that membership is now due.

The Somersby WebSDR, online at websdr.ccarc.org.au, is configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23cm.

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 on the sick list.

The Club’s Morning Tea net continues at 10am daily, and after VK2WI News on Sunday mornings. The Club’s weekly net is on Thursday night from 8pm; this week’s net included a discussion on “*go-to antennas*”, with consensus around simplicity.

Both club nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on the 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 2nd of September at 7:30pm.

Both the SSTV and the Thursday Night Nets are video streamed live to the club’s Facebook page. Recordings of past nets can be found there, in the “Videos” section.

You can find out more about the CCARC, including information on upcoming social events and all the details we can’t tell you about here; on the web page – at ccarc.org.au – by phone, 02 43402500 – or social media, search Central Coast Amateur Radio Club; remember to “like” to follow for updates.

*73 Alan VK2MG
Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club will be conducting a Foundation licence course and assessment weekend on the 24th and 25th of September, at Cataract Activity Centre, Baden Powell Drive, Appin. The course will be dependent on a minimum of 5 candidates.

Foundation training will be held on Saturday, and examinations for both Foundation and all other licence grades will be on Sunday.

Bookings are essential, and close on the 5th of September; to register, contact the Club's learning organiser, Frank Walker by email to walker_frank@hotmail.com.

The next General Meeting of the Club is on Wednesday the 31st of August, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access, and its also available via EchoLink.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au, and the Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

This week, we have an Update on the Society's VK2RDX repeater at Mt Bindo, in the Western Blue Mountains.

For over four decades, the 2m repeater has provided coverage from Sydney across the Blue Mountains and west to Bathurst and Orange. Over time, the repeater's performance did decline, so in recent years a team of dedicated amateur radio operators from Sydney and Bathurst areas, have been working to restore and improve the VK2RDX site.

The work has included remove rust and corrosion causing passive intermodulation issues and receiver de-sensing, refurbishing antenna systems, replacing the original "RDX" 2m repeater with newer ex-commercial equipment, new customised repeater controller based on the design by John Drew VK5DJ and upgrading and expanding power supply capacity.

The 2m FM repeater operates on 146.650 MHz with a negative 600 kHz input offset. This repeater also features "Smart Squelch" – when activated by users transmitting a 91.5 Hz CTCSS tone on the repeater input, this improves the receiver sensitivity by 2 to 3 dB; beneficial for mobile and distance stations. However, the repeater will operate normally without the 91.5 Hz CTCSS tone.

On Sunday, the 2m FM repeater re-broadcasts VK2WI News Bulletins. After last weekend's morning news, the callback numbers set a 12-month record.

With the assistance of Amateur Radio NSW, the repeater team have also recently installed a 70cm DMR repeater, part of the RadNet and VKDMR networks. It operates on 438.15MHz with an input frequency of 431.15MHz.

All amateur radio operators are welcome to use the VK2RDX repeaters.

For more information about VK2RDX, and the other activities of the St George Amateur Radio Society, visit their website at www.sgars.org.

*Paul VK2GX
For the St George Amateur Radio Society.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's recent "Balun Business" experimenters evening was a great success, with a display of Baluns ranging from WW2, to 5 kilowatt Baluns and many home-made units. We ran tests to see how they performed using a VNA as well as seeing how different baluns compared across the HF spectrum.

After a recent upgrade, the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater at Hornsby, is now available via Allstarlink and EchoLink. You can connect via EchoLink to VK2RNS-R, or on Allstarlink to node 57272. Feel free to connect and put out a call, or join the Club's Monday night net from 8pm. HADARC would appreciate any feedback.

The Club's next general meeting, is at 8pm this Tuesday the 23rd of August. At this meeting, the Club's new strategy will be presented by Matt VK2BAI. Radio indeed has a strong future and interest levels in the community remain high. Also, Carmel VK2CAR will give a "technology update" with new and interesting technologies impacting radio and the wider community; and Steve VK2AAV will be presenting on "The Magic of MOSFETS" and how to tame these great devices. Steve is a great experimenter and designer, so this will be another great night to attend HADARC.

HADARC welcomes you, as a member or visitor, to join us for another top evening for Radio Amateurs... and don't forget to keep Radio Active; join the Club's weekly nets; Monday on VK2RNS, Wednesdays on 80 metres and Moring Tea with HADARC every Friday on 40 metres.

*73, Matt VK2BAI
HADARC President*

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Activities on the air

Daily;

The **CCARC Morning Tea net** is on at 10am, and after VK2WI News on Sundays. VK2RAG, 146.725MHz with 91.5Hz tone, also on EchoLink.

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net 1pm daily on VK2RCW.

Monday;

Westlakes ARC nets 9:30am on 40 metres, 7115kHz, VK2ATZ Portable.

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

Hunter Radio Group VK2AWX News 7:30pm, 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz.

Sydney ATV Group net 7:30pm; call in on 2m repeater 147.325MHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group net at 8pm on VK2RCW.

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

HADARC net 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz, also available via EchoLink.

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

Tuesday;

Blue Mountains ARC net from 8pm on 3543kHz.

Illawarra ARS 80m net at 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

Wednesday;

Westlakes ARC net 9:30am on 7115kHz. 2 Metre nets, see website for details.

HADARC 8pm on 3608.5kHz

Blue Mountains ARC 8pm on VK2RBM, 147.05MHz with 123Hz tone.

Amateur Radio Central West Group from 8pm on 3653kHz.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society from 8pm on VK2RMB, 146.875MHz.

Thursday;

Fishers Ghost ARC net from 7:30pm on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with -7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone; also, on EchoLink.

Oxley Region ARC from 7:30pm on VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

St George ARS 8pm on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

Central Coast ARC net 8pm on VK2RAG.

Friday;

Morning tea with HADARC at 9am on 7106kHz.

Westlakes at 9:30am on 7115kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group at 8pm on VK2RCW.

The next **CCARC SSTV Net** is at 7:30pm on the 2nd of September; 147.125MHz with 91.5Hz tone.

Saturday;

Illawarra ARS net 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

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

Sunday;

Oxley Region ARC from 9am, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.