

Silent Key.

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

The Chifley Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of one their founding members, Ralph Simmons, on the 28th of August 2022.

Ralph formerly held the callsign VK2GRS and was a founding member of the Chifley Amateur Radio Club, was at one stage President, and very active in all aspects of the club including lectures and training. In later years Ralph had other priorities in life, but his input helped shape the club.

Please pause with us, while we remember Ralph.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Ralph Simmons, formerly VK2GRS.

*Advised by Nigel VK2NB
on behalf of the Chifley Amateur Radio Club.*

[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 welcome any updates from clubs 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.

RadNet Update

Now with an update on ARNSW RadNet, here is Matt VK2FLY;

[Play File: 15-B-RNT-3.wav]

Duration: 1m18s

In: Our DMR network ...

Out:.... VK2FLY for ARNSW RadNet.

Our DMR network continues to operate extremely well with only the Oxley club's repeater currently offline.

The Oxley Club is working hard to move into their new site at Telegraph point and the photos from the new location look absolutely amazing.

We know the guys up north are working hard and we can't wait to hear the fruits of your hard work on air soon.

On the home front our rollout has paused somewhat this year due to supply chain problems.

Repeaters have been hard to come by and even spare parts for our existing nodes have been in short supply.

But last week we received the welcome news from our commercial supplier that more repeaters are around the corner, and we can expect delivery soon.

So, if your registered amateur radio club or organisation has a great radio site and would like to partner with ARNSW to place one of our shiny new DMR repeaters in your region please contact us by email on dmr@arnsw.org.au

That address again D M R @ A R N S W . O R G . AU or you can find more information on the microsite at arnsw.net .

73 and Hope to hear you on 505 soon This has been VK2FLY for ARNSW RadNET.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 2nd to the 8th of September;
This report issued on the 9th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
10cm Flux	130	123	128	130	126	126	127
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	23	33	21	14	12	11 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	15	29	22	10	11	10 estimated
T index	47	64	71	53	59	63	64

Solar flare activity was low all week except for the 5th, which reached R1 warning level, with an M.1 flare at 1806UTC. Geomagnetic activity was quiet throughout most of the week, except for the 4th when activity reached G2 warning levels, and the 5th which was at G1 level.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia remained near predicted monthly values, except on the 5th, when frequencies were 20% depressed during local night.

The forecast for the 9th to the 15th of September;

Mostly low levels of solar activity are expected, with a chance of R1 activity levels. Geomagnetic activity should be at quiet levels, with a chance of G1 periods from the 13th to the 15^h.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed from the 13th to the 16th, but near predicted at other times.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished August, we had a;

Minimum of 94, Average of 118 and a Maximum of 252
With peak dates from the 13th to the 18th, and the 27th to the 31st

So far for September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 113, Average of 122 and a Maximum of 130
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 22nd

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 115, Average of 122 and a Maximum of 126
With peak dates from the 9th to the 19th.

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 August 2022

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was mostly at low levels through the month; however, a total of 29 M-class flares were observed, the largest was M8.7 at 1113UTC on the 29th of August. Activity was at R1 warning levels on the 15, 17th, 19th, 25th, 27th and 30th; and reached R2 levels on the 16th, 26th, 28th and 29th. In general, solar flare activity peaked towards the end of the month.

Note that the 10.7 cm flux measurement recorded on the 28th was a particularly high value of 258; this is likely a flare-enhanced value.

An enhancement of solar proton flux was observed by the US GOES satellite on the 27th with a peak flux of 27.5 PFU likely associated with an M4.8 flare at 0242UTC on the 27th; this reached S1 solar warning level.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region remained at G0 level all month. Some periods of mild activity, below the G1 warning threshold, were due to a combination of CME impacts and coronal hole high-speed wind stream effects. The highest A-index value for the Australian region was 16, which was reached on the 11th and 17th. At the planetary level, effects were more intense, reaching G1 on the 8th, 18th and 19th, and G2 on the 7th and 17th.

No significant ionospheric depressions were observed across the Australian region in August; the largest Southern Australia ionospheric depression was 15%. Minor shortwave fadeouts, impacting lower HF frequencies were observed primarily in the Northern Australian region.

The average regional monthly T index was 53, slightly below monthly predicted, with no significant drops throughout the month. This reflects the mildly depressed conditions observed in the Australian region during the month. Transpolar HF circuits may have experienced increased absorption on the 27th of August, due to solar proton events following strong flare activity on the 26th.

Spread-F was frequently observed during local night hours in both northern and southern Australian regions; Sporadic-E was observed at some sites, particularly for the first half of the month during local day.

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-FCAL025.wav]

Duration 1m19s

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: 17-E-ID2.wav]

WICEN News

The WICEN NSW AGM was held Last Saturday. A new committee was elected, with President Lindsay VK2JLB, Vice-president Neil VK2XNF, Secretary Steve VK2DCA, and Treasurer Doug VK2DCR. Other committee members are Mark VK2MOH, Nic VK2KXN, Paul VK2PTB and Simon VK2TW.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Compton VK2HRX, Barry VK2AAB and Nic VK2KXN.

WICEN NSW will be conducting a training exercise on Saturday the 24th of September, over a number of locations with as many WICEN members as possible. This will be similar to the exercise last February. Operations will be on HF as well as 2 metres, and country members are encouraged to join in. If you would like to participate, please contact Mal Alexander at malcolm.alexander@vrarescue.org.

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

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, the web address is nsw.wicen.org.au, 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.

ARRL DX news

MADAGASCAR; Operators Ron PA3EWP, Guenter DL2AWG, Erno DK2AMM and Gerben PG5M. will be active as 5R8WP, 5R8WG, 5R8MM and 5R8CG, respectively, from October 11 to 22. They will operate two stations simultaneously on CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS; Jean F4CIX continues to be active as FW1JG. Look for him on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 metres using SSB and FT8/FT4.

REUNION; Michal OK1WMR will be active as FR/OK1M until September 12. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8.

MAYOTTE; Michal OK1WMR then moves on to Mayotte as FH/OK1M from September 13 to 25. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8. He will also be in the CQWW DX RTTY Contest.

FRENCH POLYNESIA; Vincent K6VVK will be active as FO/K6VVK from September 27 to October 5. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8/FT4.

CURACAO; Frank, PH2M will be active as PJ2/PH2M until September 25. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using mainly FT8.

ICELAND; Operators George, K5KG, Steve, K4EU and Tom, K4NMR will be active as TF/K5KG, TF/K4EU and TF/K4NMR until September 20.

TIMOR LESTE; Satoshi, JH2EUV will be active as 4W/JH2EUV until September 20. Activity has been mainly using FT8 on 20, 15, 12 and 10 metres.

MOROCCO; Operators Abderrahmane CN8QR, Hafid, CN8GFH and Mustapha, CN8GC are active with special call signs 5C40QR, 5C40GFH and 5C40GC, respectively, until September 12, in memory of Kharbouch CN8KD, who became a Silent Key on August 3. Activity will be on various HF bands.

BERMUDA; Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as SP9FIH/VP9 from September 23 to October 2. Look for him on 30, 17, 15 and 12 metres using SSB, RTTY and FT8.

UNITED STATES; Station WA2NYC is a remembrance of the 21st anniversary on the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. The station will operate from 0000UTC on September 11 until 0300UTC on September 12.

SAUDI ARABIA; The Saudi Amateur Radio Society (SARS) announced the 92nd Saudi National Day celebration will take place from September 7 to 25 with special event stations HZ92ND, 7Z92ND and 8Z92ND.

LIECHTENSTEIN; Tina, DL5YL and Fred, DL5YM are active holiday style as HB0/home calls on 160 to 6 metres using CW and some SSB and RTTY.

ITU GENEVA; Look for 4U1ITU with operators PA2CHR and PA3CMC from September 13 to 16 from the club station at ITU Headquarters.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The VHF FOC QSO Party, WAE DX Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Ohio State Parks on the Air, Alabama QSO Party, 50 and up ARRL September VHF Contest and the North American Sprint will keep contesters busy this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is on September 12 and the VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest is on September 14.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. At last Saturday's Monthly general meeting, Bob VK2ZRE delivered a very interesting practical demonstration of the Nano VNA and how to use it for Amateur Radio applications. The very attentive audience gained a much better understanding of the capabilities of this affordable piece of extremely versatile test equipment.

The next Friday Night Get together is 7pm on the 16th in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting 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 destroyed the underground mains to site, which has not yet been repaired. Work is progressing at the new VK2RCN site, with mast and antennas erected during the past week. It is expected the new site will be commissioned in November.

Candidates for the next Foundation training and assessment weekend, and those interested in assessments for Standard and Advanced licences, 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, and on EchoLink as VK2RPM-R. 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 July 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. The September 2022 issue of Oxtales will be published soon. 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

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; select VK2RTS Sydney. 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.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms at Kariong are open every Saturday.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional. There have been some changes to the D-star connection timetable; it now includes the Monday morning International D-Star net, Wednesday AR Newline and Sunday WIA news. Voice announcements have been added for notifications of timed changes. Brand Meister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still on the sick list.

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

The club is considering a special Christmas ham event and wants your input. A survey has been released; you can find the links on the Club's website and social media.

The 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; last week's net discussion was on what tools or equipment, we considered invaluable. 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, this coming Friday the 16th 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.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on this coming Tuesday the 13th of September. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting 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.

Tuesday night's meeting will feature a presentation on microcontrollers by IARS Members, Keith VK2KQB and Simon VK2KU. They will be explaining the different types of micros, how to select the correct one for your project, showing the different types of programming including binary and hexadecimal, plus showing past projects that have been greatly improved by the use of a microcontroller being included. No prior knowledge will be necessary, and, by the end of the presentation, attendees will hopefully feel confident in using them.

Following will be the usual tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake while having a yarn or two amongst your old and new mates. As a bonus, resident Barista Vinnie VK2VIN will prepare your preferred cuppa from the coffee machine.

The Society has two weekly Nets. The Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL; join in via 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.

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 coming Tuesday the 13th of September, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the society is on Wednesday the 21st of September. This will be the last meeting in the Scout Hall, as the committee has decided to pursue other options. Because of the move, we have some minor items to auctioned on the day; this does not include the major pieces of radio equipment, as they are being held for future endeavours. So come along and maybe pick up a bargain to take home.

Meetings will then take place in the ANZAC room of Rose Bay RSL for the foreseeable future; it is far more accessible for those with mobility problems as well as being much more comfortable.

The committee continues to investigate future accommodation options.

Apart from the weekly nets on a Monday evening, the “project day” get-togethers are scheduled for the first Saturday of the month.

Nets are on the VK2RBV repeater on 438.1125 MHz with -5.4 MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone for access, from 8pm.

Other activities are continuing either in person or on Zoom; see the website for details.

The Wednesday lunchtime get togethers, from midday, are back on in the RSL bistro, with good rollups so far. There will soon be facilities to continue them in the ANZAC room, along with some practical activities as well.

You can keep up to date with the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the web, at vk2bv.org. On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's VK2RNS repeater recently added EchoLink capability. This has led to an increase in usage which is great for all amateurs.

This coming Tuesday the 13th is the Club social dinner at Magpies in Waitara, starting at 6pm. Please come along and tell some radio stories or share ideas on your current projects. As part of the evening, we will also provide the balun kits that have been on order. Please bring the exact amount of cash to cover what you ordered.

The Club is excited to announce that at the next monthly meeting, our speaker will be David VK2CZ. David will be speaking on "Professional Antenna Modelling" and show us how to use software from his deep experience in designing and building antennas. David is a Senior Life Member of the IEEE and has been a licenced amateur for 50 years. This will be a great evening to ask lots of questions and perhaps seek ideas for putting up that new antenna, ready for summer-time use.

So, a speeding bullet travels about 1 kilometre per second. That seems fast, but radio waves are faster still. You can make good use of your access to the speed of the radio spectrum, by joining one of the Club's weekly nets; Monday on VK2RNS, Wednesdays on 80 metres and Moring Tea with HADARC every Friday on 40 metres.

73 for now, and don't forget to keep Radio Active.

Matt VK2BAI, HADARC President.

[Play ID File: 19-E-ID4.wav]

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 16th 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.