

Silent Key.

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

Graham Bennet VK2AIB, late of New Lambton, passed away in hospital on the 19th of October. Graham was a member of the Hunter Radio Group and Westlakes.

Please pause with us, while we remember Graham.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Graham Bennet VK2AIB.

Advised by Charlie VK2CLH

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

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

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. We also welcome reports on the outcome of recent activities.

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.

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.

Special Event Operation

Colin VK2JCC and Stuart VK2BMX, along with two other amateurs will be operating a Special Event station on board HMAS Vampire, which is permanently berthed at the Australian National Maritime Museum located at Darling Harbour in Sydney.

This event will take next Saturday the 29th of October, from 10am to 2pm.

The HMAS Vampire is a Daring-class destroyer, launched on the 27th of October 1956. It has an extensive service record including the Indonesia–Malaysia confrontation in 1966, and escorted the troop transport HMAS Sydney on six of the latter's 25 transport voyages to South Vietnam.

In 1977, the destroyer escorted the Royal Yacht Britannia during Queens Elizabeth's and Prince Phillips visit to Australia in 1980, finally being decommissioned on the 13 August 1986.

The special event station will operate on 40 metres; SSB on 7150kHz, and CW on 7050kHz, conditions permitting. The station will also be listening on VHF frequencies.

If you have never visited the Australian National Maritime Museum, you are in for a great treat; it boasts extensive displays of maritime artefacts as well as a number of extremely interesting experiences, such as going on board an Oberon-class submarine.

Why not come on down to the museum on Saturday the 29th to visit, and while you're there see the special event station on board the ship; the team look forward to both working you on the air and meeting you in person.

If you hear the callsigns on the air, be sure to give them a call.

73, Stuart VK2BMX and Colin VK2JCC.

Check your HF Reception?

Just before our reports on HF propagation, here's some news on a HF transmission you can try no matter the space weather... HAARP, the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program, is again conducting some HF transmission experiments starting this weekend. Situated in Alaska, the high-power transmitters and massive phased-array antennas can transmit a maximum effective radiated power, of a little over 5 gigawatts.

Along with the scientific HF transmissions, there are some special audio and SSTV transmissions scheduled as part of the *Ghosts in the Air Glow* project. This first part of this project, transmitted in 2019, received signal reports from all over the world including New Zealand, and reception reports are welcome for this series of transmissions as well, with a special QSL card available.

For more details of times, transmissions, and frequencies, visit the website at ghostsintheairglow.space.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 14th to the 20th of October;

This report issued on the 21st of October.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
10cm Flux	121	115	119	126	114	113	116
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	16	15	11	4	0	2	0 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	10	9	14	6	3	4	3 estimated
T index	90	108	101	88	104	112	113

Solar flare activity reached R1 level on the 14th, with one M1.2 flare at 0945UTC. Solar flare activity remained at low to moderate levels for the remainder of the week.

Geomagnetic activity was generally at quiet to unsettled levels; and remained below the warning level for the whole week.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were enhanced 15% during local day and 30% during local night, with a brief depressed period after local dawn. The 15th saw depressions of 25% during local day, recovering to near predicted at night. Frequencies remained near predicted from the 16th to the 20th.

The forecast for the 21st to the 27th of October;

Solar activity should be generally low. Geomagnetic activity may reach G1 levels on the 23rd or 24th due to coronal hole effects.

MUFs are expected to be near predicted, with a chance of degradations on the 23rd and 24th due to increased geomagnetic activity.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished September, we had a;

Minimum of 113, Average of 134 and a Maximum of 154
With peak dates from the 11th to the 30th

So far for October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 110, Average of 136 and a Maximum of 163
With peak dates from the 1st to the 13th, and the 30th to the 31st

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 130, Average of 148 and a Maximum of 160
With peak dates from the 1st to the 13th, and the 25th 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>]

Foundations of Amateur Radio

This series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB, continues a weekly examination, of the building blocks of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: 15-FOAR008.wav]

Duration 2m32s

In: "Foundations of Amateur Radio ..."

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; and you can contact Onno by email, to cq@vk6flab.com.

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WICEN News

WICEN voice nets continue at 6pm on Sunday, on either the Chatswood 2 metre repeater, or the Kurrajong 70cm repeater, please check the website for details; and the new state-wide 40m net, starting at 6:30pm on 7110kHz. Net control is VK2WIZ.

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

QATAR; Special event stations A722FWC, A71FIFA, A72FIFA, A73FIFA, A74FIFA, A75FIFA, A76FIFA, A77FIFA, and A78FIFA are active from various locations in Qatar until December 18 during the FIFA Football World Championship.

MOZAMBIQUE; Jean-Louis, ZS6AAG is active as C96JLH from Nametil while working for Doctors Without Borders. Activity is in his spare time, on Satellite QO-100, and also on 20 metres using FT8.

MALAWI; Don, K6ZO is active as 7Q6M until November 29. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres. He plans to be active in the upcoming CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

SAINT BARTHELEMY; Phil, K2LIO is now active as FJ4WEB. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Members of radio club HL0UHQ are active as HL22NSF until October 30 during the 103rd Korean National Sports Festival.

GUINEA BISSAU; Carlos, CT2GQA is active as J5JUA until the end of 2022. Activity is mostly using FT8, and as a mobile station. He may also use J5GQA.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA; A large group of operators will be active as P29RO from Loloata Island, IOTA OC-240, from October 25 to November 10. Activity is on all bands and modes.

BONAIRE ; Tjeerd, PE1OJR is active as PJ4TB until October 31. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8. This includes being active in the upcoming CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

SINT MAARTEN; Ed, N2HX is active as PJ7PL until December 9. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. This includes being active in the upcoming CQ Worldwide DX SSB and CW contests.

SUDAN; Nader, ST2NH has been active using FT8 on 20 metres just after 0100UTC.

TURKEY; Members of the Tango Alpha Ham Radio Club will be active as TC29EKM from October 26 to 30 to commemorate the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey.

BENIN; A group of operators are active as TY0RU until October 26. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, and Satellite QO-100, using CW, SSB, and FT8 with nine stations active.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS; Randy, K5ZD will be active as V47T from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until November 1. This includes an entry in next weekend's CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

NAMIBIA; Gunter, DK2WH is active as V51WH. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres. During contests he will be active as V55Y.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Kann, JJ2RCJ will be active as VP5Z from Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, from October 24 to 31. Activity will be on the HF bands using FT8 with some CW.

FALKLAND ISLANDS; Garry, ZC4GR is active as VP8DLB from Port Stanley until December. He is active on 40 to 10 metres using FT8.

KOSOVO ; Rene, DL2JRM will be active as Z68XX near Gjilan from October 27 to 31. Activity will be on the HF bands using mainly CW. This includes being active in the CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest.

ALBANIA; Dragan, 4O4A is active as ZA/4O4A.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, North American SSB Sprint Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Telephone Pioneers QSO Party, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, YBDXPI FT8 Contest, UK/EI DX SSB Contest and YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest are on this weekend.

The Classic CW Exchange, 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, Mini-Test 80 and the UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest are scheduled from October 24 to 26.

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The November general meeting is at 2pm on Saturday the 5th of November, in the SES building at Port Macquarie. After a short business meeting will be followed by a presentation on P25 digital radio, by Paul VK2ICQ.

Club members were planning to provide safety communications for the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, originally scheduled for this morning; however, due wet weather the event has been postponed to Sunday the 27th of November 2022. Club members will provide safety communications for the rescheduled event.

The VK2RCN Telegraph Point repeaters will soon return to air, operating from the new site. With work progressing well, commissioning is expected next month.

Candidates for the next Foundation training and assessment weekend, as well as those interested in assessments for Standard and Advanced licences, can contact the club at PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 or via the contact form, on the website.

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 September 2022 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are on the website as well. September's "Oxtales" features a progress report on the new VK2RCN site. 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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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms at Kariong are open every Saturday.

Last weekend was the Club's inaugural "Portable and Picnic" day at Terrigal Haven. About twenty attendees from both the CCARC and HADARC, made the most of a perfect spring day and seaside location. Contacts were made on 40, 20 and 10 metres with openings to Mexico, USA and Japan. The picnic shelters, tables and benches were well used and grew quite a collection of antennas, attracting the attention of passers-by. The club banner and information handouts helped with publicity. All had a great time, and look forward to future events.

Last Saturday also saw members participate in JOTA and the VKFF Team Challenge.

The club is holding a "Christmas Ham" event starting in November; for more details, visit the Club's website or social media.

At VK2RAG Somersby, the D-Star, RadNet DMR and 2m EchoLink services are fully functional; BrandMeister DMR and 70cm EchoLink and IRLP are still on the sick list. The Somersby WebSDR is online at websdr.ccarc.org.au; its configured to listen on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70 centimetres and 23cm.

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. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2m repeater – 146.725 MHz with 91.5Hz tone, and on the EchoLink HAM and CCARC conferences.

The Thursday night net is also video streamed live on the club's Facebook page and recordings can be found 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.

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.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next Meeting of the Club will be on Wednesday the 26th of October, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly net on Thursday evenings starts at 7:30pm on the Club's repeater, VK2RFG, on 438.65MHz. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access – 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

The Society's next gathering will be on Wednesday the 2nd of November, at Kyle Bay.

As well as catching up with the general happenings of the society, there will be a presentation by Rolande VK2YAD, on high-speed packet radio. Back in the 1980's, packet radio ran at 1200 Baud, or if you were really adventurous even 2400 Baud. Now, in the 21st century, things have got a lot faster. Rolande will show some of the latest advances and speeds that will knock your socks off!

As well as hearing Roland's presentation, you can catch up with fellow amateur radio operators, check out the disposal items for a bargain and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake.

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

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

This Tuesday night at HADARC's Monthly meeting, the guest presentation really will be rocket science...

Alexander Ryan is CEO of VXB Aerospace and an experienced Aerospace Engineer. He is in the final stages of his PhD in Aerospace Engineering and Physics at the University of Sydney.

Alex has designed propulsion systems, including the development of a small RF plasma thruster. His UHF engineering and simulation of plasma skills are cutting edge.

So to find out more about what is happening in space, where Australia stands in the Aerospace Industry, or just to hang out with a rocket scientist, come along to the HADARC meeting, 8pm at Mt Colah Community Centre this Tuesday the 25th of October.

You can also keep Radio-active on HADARC's weekly nets; Monday nights on VK2RNS, Wednesday night on 80 metres 3608.5kHz, and Morning Tea with HADARC every Friday on 40 metres, 7106kHz.

73 Matt VK2BAI, HADARC President.

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Activities on the air

Daily;

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

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

Mondays;

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.

Tuesdays;

Blue Mountains ARC net from 8pm on 3543kHz.

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

Wednesdays;

Westlakes ARC net 9:30am on 7115kHz.

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.

Thursdays;

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.

Fridays;

Morning tea with HADARC at 9am on 7106kHz.

Westlakes at 9:30am on 7115kHz.

Amateur Radio Central West Group at 8pm on VK2RCW.

Saturdays;

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.

Westlakes Stone the Crows net; 6am on 3588kHz.

Sundays;

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

Westlakes DMR Net from 8:30am on Talkgroup 8. 2 Metre nets throughout the week, see website for details.

WICEN NSW new statewide HF net a 6:30pm on 7110kHz +/- other traffic. Net control VK2WIZ.