

## **Silent Key.**

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

The Amateur Radio Central West Group have advised of the passing of their friend and member, Kim Stevens VK2ASY of Orange. Kim passed away Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, following a 3-year battle with Motor Neuron Disease.

Kim was highly regarded in both the amateur and broader community of Orange. He served 54 years as a volunteer in NSW SES, with 19 of those years as the Orange City Commander, tirelessly helping others and continuing to be actively engaged until his final hours.

Kim was also a founding member of the Amateur Radio Central West Group. At the start of the COVID 19 outbreak, he instigated a lunchtime net on the local 2m repeater VK2RCW, so that members could maintain social connection while isolation rules were in place.

Kim was always experimenting with new technologies, both analogue and digital, with one of his passions being APRS, and also digital voice modes like DMR. He also was interested in microcontrollers and programming, including designing, and building a repeater controller, using Arduino. He will be greatly missed by all in the amateur radio and the SES communities.

Kim's funeral will be at 2pm on Monday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October at Wesley Uniting Church, 217 Anson St, Orange; just down from the Ex-services Club. After the service, a wake of afternoon tea will be held at the Orange SES Headquarters on the corner of Margaret and McLachlan Streets.

Please pause with us now, while we remember Kim.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Kim Stevens VK2ASY.

*Advised by Lindsay VK2AMV*

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

Now, we always ask for callbacks after our news bulletin, but a few weeks ago, Brad VK2NMZ was taking evening callbacks on 20 metres, when he heard something... a little unexpected;

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### [Play File: 15-B-CB-0WN.wav]

*Duration: 0m43s*

*In: Victor Kilo Zero...*

*Out:...tonight and hear from you.*

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Even closer to home, we welcome your callbacks. We take callbacks directly here at VK2WI, and many of our relay stations do too; or you can email us directly, to [callback@arnsw.org.au](mailto:callback@arnsw.org.au).

## Special Event Operation

From 10am until 2pm yesterday, there was a special event activation of HMAS Vampire at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Operating from the training room on Vampire was Stuart VK2BMX, Charlie VK2GMT, Colin VK2JCC and Steve VK2KHA. HF operation was using Colin's base-laded vertical and Stuart's 40/20 metre linked dipole. Despite difficult propagation conditions, a number of successful SSB and CW contacts were made. Charlie had good success on DMR logging more than 10 contacts throughout the Southern states including NSW using a DMR handheld.

The operation attracted many of the visitors to Vampire. Some stayed for a considerable time, and were asking questions about Amateur Radio and keen to learn more; two people said they will enquire about obtaining an Amateur Licence.

The day was considered very successful by the Museum, with a possibility that we will be given the opportunity to promote a similar event next year. The team wishes to thank the Australian National Maritime Museum and their staff for their hospitality and assistance in making this event a success.

*73, Colin VK2JCC and Stuart VK2BMX.*

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of October;

This report issued on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
10cm Flux	109	105	108	115	116	122	130
Planetary A-Index (Ap)	3	25	12	5	3	4	7
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	17	10	5	3	5	10 estimated
T index	69	69	20	54	59	70	61

Solar flare activity remained at low to moderate levels, with no warnings issued. Geomagnetic activity reached G1 warning level on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but remained at quiet to unsettled levels on other days.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia were mostly near predicted, with some depressed periods early in the week; depressions of 15% were observed during local day on the 21<sup>st</sup>; 35% after local dawn on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; and 25% to 35% all day on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The forecast for the 28<sup>th</sup> of October to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November;

Solar activity should be generally low. Geomagnetic activity may reach G1 levels on 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> due to coronal hole effects.

MUFs are expected to be near predicted monthly values. There is a chance of degraded conditions if geomagnetic activity is increased by coronal hole effects.

*Data courtesy of the Australian Space Weather Forecasting Centre.*

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>

Nearing the end of October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 105, Average of 133 and a Maximum of 163  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 98, Average of 111 and a Maximum of 125  
With peak dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>

*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>]

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## Foundations of Amateur Radio

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

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### **[Play File: 17-FOAR003.wav]**

*Duration 4m06s*

*In: "Foundations of Amateur Radio ..."*

*Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"*

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For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; [vk6flab.com](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB; and you can contact Onno by email, to [cq@vk6flab.com](mailto:cq@vk6flab.com).

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

## **ARRL DX news**

Starting this week with stations on air for the CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest;

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA; A group of operators are active as V26B from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, as a Multi/Single entry.

BRUNEI; Hajime JO1RUR is active as V85RH from Gadong.

EGYPT; Members of the Egyptian Radio Amateur Organization are active as SU8X.

ESTONIA; Look for ES9UKR as a Multi/2 entry.

GUAM; Operators Toshinobu NH2C, and Mikawa WI3O, are active as AH2R as a Multi/Single entry.

ICELAND; Ben TF3T is active from Reykjavik.

MONGOLIA; A group of operators are active as JT5DX from Zuunburen.

THAILAND; A large group of operators are active as E2A from Ban Ta Bong, Phimai, as a Multi Op entry.

TURKEY; A large group of operators are active as TC7G.

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

MALAWI; Don, K6ZO is active as 7Q6M until November 29, on 160 to 6 metres. He plans to be active in the contest as well.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS; Operators VK6VY, VK6CQ, VK3QB and VK3HJ are active as VK9CM until November 3. They will be active as VK9C in the contest.

ST. EUSTATIUS; John, W5JON is active as PJ5/W5JON until November 1. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8, and in the contest as a Single Op/All Band entry.

ST. LUCIA; Bill K9HZ is active as J68HZ until November 5. Activity is on the HF bands and in the contest as a Multi Op entry.



SAINT MARTIN; A group of operators are active as TO5M until October 31.

CORSICA; Valentin, DL5GA is active as TK/DL5GA until November 1. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using SSB, and part-time in the contest as a Single Op entry.

TOGO; Andy KB9IJI is active as 5V7JA. Activity is on 20, 15, and 12 metres using mostly FT8.

DJIBOUTI ; Members of the Mediterraneo DX Club will be active as J28MD until November 7. Activity will be on the HF bands, with a focus on the low and WARC bands, using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

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

MALI; Jeff, TZ4AM is active from Bamako and is active on 40 to 6 metres using CW and SSB.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND; Mikio, JA3GEP is active as VK9QO until October 31. Activity is on Satellite QO-100.

VANUATU; Chris, VK2NYA is active as YJ0CA from Port Vila, Efate Island, IOTA OC-035. Activity is on 40, 20, and 15 metres, and possibly 10 metres, using SSB, and in the contest as a Single Op entry.

KOSOVO; Rene, DL2JRM is active as Z68XX near Gjilan until October 31. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint and CW Sprint, Zombie CW Shuffle, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Feld Hell Sprint, and Ham Spirit CW Contest are on this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, QCX Challenge, ICWC Medium Speed Test, Silent Key Memorial CW Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW, Mini-Test 80 CW and the UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest are scheduled for October 31 to November 2.

## Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The November general meeting is at 2pm this coming Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Due to wet weather last weekend, the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, has been postponed until Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. 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](http://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. Yesterday was the monthly “Show & Tell” with the topic; “What powers your shack?” Various power supply and power supply test equipment, was on show.

Next Saturday will be the regular monthly business meeting, starting at 1pm. Information will be distributed this week to members by email.

The club’s first “Christmas Ham” event is on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November; to find out more, 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](https://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](https://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.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's next gathering will be on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.sgars.org).

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

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Rocket Scientist presentation has encountered a slight launch delay, due to a late plane flight. Alexander Ryan, CEO of VXB Aerospace will now present at our November meeting, so stay tuned for updates as we get closer to the event.

At the last meeting, the Club welcomed another new member; Kevin VK2VKB.

Stephen VK2KHA outlined recent updates to the Club's website, which now contains links to many helpful resources including Antennas, Electronics and a "Just Interesting" section.

Also, Chris VK2YMW gave an amazing presentation on his recent overseas trip, which included a visit to the Radio Room of the warship, USS Iowa. The ship has massive size and capability – the main conning tower control room armour is an incredible 17.3 inches thick.

We heard from Matt VK2BAI on the setup and design of the Hy-Gain AV-640 antenna. This design optimised RF performance by placing coil at the top of the antenna and has 4 levels of capacitive loading hats.

Finally, to wrap up the evening, Rod VK2DAY auctioned off some great gear and perhaps questionable old gear for bargain prices.

The mid-monthly meeting is coming up on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November; it is the "Great November Recalibrate". There will be top of the line test gear to accurately check Voltage, Current and Resistance; so, bring your multimeters, wire or other leads and alligator clips and see how lossy cables are or how accurate your gear is vs precision test gear.

HADARC welcomes Members and guests to attend all its meetings.

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