

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

Next weekend is the annual Remembrance Day Contest, which runs for 24 hours – starting at 1pm Eastern Standard Time on Saturday the 12th, and finishing at 1pm on Sunday the 13th.

The half hour period before the contest is observed as a silent period during which an opening address is transmitted by various stations. VK2WI will be providing the address on the normal frequencies except VKE580 on 5MHz. We will also stream live online from our website, arnsw.org.au/audio.

Since we don't have further details on the address at this time, we recommend listening to start listening from about 12.30pm on Saturday. The normal relay stations are invited to configure their repeaters to take this special time slot.

All Amateurs are encouraged to take part in the contest, and importantly, submit a log to help VK2's score.

US Licence exams in Sydney

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team are conducting an assessment session on the morning of Sunday the 27th of August, at Bankstown Airport.

Candidates for a US licence, need to study all grades up to the one which they wish to obtain, but all the papers necessary can be sat for the one affordable fee. To aid this, there are a range of online, printed, and audio learning resources available. You can find the question pools, and the FCC "Part 97" rules on the web, at: ncvec.org.

For more information, contact Julian VK2YJS, or look up the Facebook group "USA Amateur Radio Licence Exams in Australia"
[\[https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/\]](https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/)

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 28th of July to the 3rd of August.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
10cm flux	70	70	70	72	74	74	75
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	4	0	2	10	8	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	1	0	1	3	3	6 estimated
T index	8	8	8	2	3	5	9

Solar flare activity was very low from the 28th to the 31st, low on the 1st of August, then back to very low on the 2nd and 3rd.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 28th, quiet from the 29th to the 2nd, then quiet to unsettled again on the 3rd of August.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during local days, all week. However, on some local nights enhancements were observed – 15% on the 29th, 20% on the 30th, 20% on the 2nd of August, and a remarkable 45% enhancement during local night on the 3rd of August.

Now, the forecast for the 4th to the 10th of August;

Solar flare activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at active levels on the 4th, Unsettled to active on the 5th, then quiet to unsettled on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Firstly, for July, the figures were;

Minimum 68 Average 78 Maximum 95
With peak dates between the 8th and the 19th

Now, as we begin August;

Minimum 70 Average 74 Maximum 78
With peak dates between the 4th and 14th, and the 28th to the 31st

And looking ahead to the prediction for September;

Minimum 70 Average 73 Maximum 75
With peak dates between the 1st and the 10th.

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 July 2017

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was predominately at very low to low levels this month, though there were still 3 M-class flares observed. The largest flare for the month was an M2.4 flare on July 14th. This flare was associated with a coronal mass ejection, and a weak solar proton event, which fluctuated over the 10MeV threshold level. This solar event was produced by solar region 2665. This solar region is also thought to be a possible origin, for a strong solar far/back side full halo coronal mass ejection on 23rd of July.

Being a far side event, they are not geo-effective, as they are projected away from the Earth. However, this activity does show us that the Sun can still surprise us with activity, even in the declining phase of a solar cycle.

There were no significant ionospheric depressions observed this month. There was a minor short wave fadeout, which only affected lower frequencies in the Northern Australian region, associated with the M2.4 flare at 0209UT on the 14th July. The Australian regional ionosphere during the local days of the 16th and 17th of July, was not significantly depressed following the onset of the geomagnetic activity following the flare; However, degraded HF communications conditions may have been experienced during local night hours for the southern Australian region, during this period.

There was a little geomagnetic disturbance this month, the strongest disturbance was observed on the 16th and 17th of July with local A indices of 27 and 22 respectively.

A sudden impulse of 34nT was observed at 0515UT on the 16th; this sudden impulse was followed by geomagnetic activity that peaked at minor storm levels. This geomagnetic activity is thought to be associated with the M2.4 flare and coronal mass ejection on the 14th of July.

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ARRL DX news

GEORGIA, 4L. Armen, 4L6DL, Sergo, 4L6QC, Alex, UR5EAW, Antoine, F5RAB, and Luc, F5RAV are active as 4LOGF near Batumi until August 13. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

MONTENEGRO, 4O. Gianluca, IK4LZH and Teresa, IU4ICT will be active as 4O/home calls until August 15. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres using only SSB.

LESOTHO, 7P. Dennis, ZS4BS will be active as 7P8DG from Roma during the SARL HF Phone Contest. Activity in the contest is limited to 80, 40 and 20 metres.

CHINA, BY. Zhao, BD7IHN is active as B7/BD7IHN from Hainan Island, IOTA AS-094. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW. His length of stay is unknown.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Look for Babs, DL7AFS and Lot, DJ7ZG to be active as DK0DFF, from a variety of World Flora and Fauna sites for about a week beginning August 5. Activity will be on the HF bands.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Alex, F4GHS will be active as E51GHA from Aitutaki Island, IOTA OC-083, from August 7 to 16. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

KERGUELEN ISLANDS, FT/X. Gildas, TU5KG is currently active as FT5XT. Activity is on 20 and 15 metres using SSB.

ENGLAND, G. Various members of the RSGB will be active as GB17YOTA and GB4YOTA from the summer camp at Gilwell Park until August 12 during the 7th Youngsters On The Air event.

SARDINIA, IS0. Gil, IZ2DLV is active as IS0/IZ2DLV from Portobello di Gallura until August 25. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

ALASKA, KL7. Mikhail, VE7ACN will be active as AL3/VE7ACN from Hinchinbrook Island, IOTA NA-042, from August 9 to 15. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres, and possibly 160 and 80 metres, using CW and SSB.

ARGENTINA, LU. Special event station LU4AAO/A will be active from the Argentine Federal Tiro of Buenos Aires to celebrate its anniversary on August 5 and 6. Activity will be on 80, 40 and 20 metres using CW, SSB, JT65 and FT8 at various times both days.

BRAZIL, PY. Special event station ZY158CAT is active until August 30 to commemorate the 158 years of the city of Catalao. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS. Alex, RI1ANO has been active on 30 metres CW around 1900z.

POLAND, SP. Special event stations SN1944W and SN0MPW are active until October 3 to commemorate the Warsaw Uprising 73 years ago.

TURKEY, TA. Vlad, US7IGN will be active as TA4/US7IGN from Kargicak from August 7 to 17. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and QRP power. This includes an entry in the upcoming Worked All Europe CW contest.

COSTA RICA, TI. Bryant, KG5HVO is active as TI5/KG5HVO until August 8 during the Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure. Activity is on most HF bands.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Members of the Russian Robinson Club will be active as RI0LI from Bear Island, IOTA AS-022, from August 7 to 12.

INDONESIA, YB. Special event station YB72RI is active with ten stations as YB72RI/0 to YB72RI/9 from various locations until August 17 to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the Republic. Activity is on all HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8. Randy, WW6RG will be active as ZD8RA on August 8. Activity will be on 20 metres using SSB and QRP power around 0800 to 1030z and then between 1530z to 2000z.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZS. A group of operators will be active as ZS9V from Robben Island, IOTA AF-064, in the Western Cape Province from August 9 to 13. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and possibly digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, North American CW QSO Party, 10-10 International 10-Meter Summer SSB Contest, European HF Championship, WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone and SARL HF Phone Contest are all on this weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for August 8.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for August 9.

WICEN News

The WICEN AGM is on Saturday the 26th of August, starting at 2pm, here at ARNSW, 63 Quarry Road Dural.

The VH-MDX SAREX is over the weekend of 15th to 17th September. SAREX is a search and rescue exercise built around the search a light aircraft missing since 1981, in the rugged Barrington Tops, north of Newcastle. While some checkpoints can be accessed by a regular car, others require a four wheel drive.

In October, the Trek for Timor in Kangaroo Valley is on 7th and 8th, for more details visit the website, kvrp.net.au. VRA Memorial Day is Sunday, October 15, and the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of October.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at nsw.wicen.org.au - includes a printable membership form, a web contact form, other contact details, and some useful links. Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN Northern Rivers is providing communications for the Jackadgery Horse Enduro. There is a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR. The next group meeting starts at 10am on Sunday 13th August.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. September 2nd and 3rd is the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Enduro on the north-west border of the Territory. Fitz's Challenge is a cycling event on Sunday October 29. November 4 and 5 sees the group double up; the Light Car Club of Canberra's Monaro Stages event around Cooma on the Saturday, and the NSW Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood on Sunday. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. Sunday the 6th of August is the Rainbow Desert Rally, an off-road buggy event in the state's west, and the Stockman's Rally on September 17 is a non-competitive motorcycle event in Big River State Forest. Their website is: vic.wicen.org.au.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
on behalf of the WICEN NSW State Management Committee.*

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Club News

We start this week with news from the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

The next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society is this Tuesday the 8th of August. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm.

Meetings are held at Coniston Community Hall in Bridge Street Coniston, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is located right next door to the Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

The next meeting is the Society's Annual General Meeting, but attendees need not be concerned about unexpectedly being appointed to a position as many of the current executive, are happy to stand again. At the conclusion of the AGM there will be a short radio-related video followed by the usual enjoyable rag chew over a hot cuppa' and chocolate biscuits.

Sunday News Broadcasts from VK2WI are relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres, and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres on 53.65MHz and 2 metres on 146.85MHz. These three repeaters provide coverage over much of Sydney, Wollongong, the Southern Highlands and the Shoalhaven areas.

If you're interested in having a bit of a chinwag on Saturday mornings, Steve VK2BGL runs a very popular Net on the VK2RMP and VK2RUW 2m repeaters, starting at 9.30am local. As these repeaters are connected to Echolink, the Net receives call-ins from all over Australia, and overseas as well. So put the time of 9.30am in your diary and call-in next Saturday morning on either 2m repeater, or on Echolink via VK2BGL-R or VK2MT-R.

To conclude, for a great evening of entertainment, fun and information, come along to the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's next meeting, at 7:30pm on August the 8th at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The club's Annual General Meeting was held yesterday, Saturday the 5th of August. At the meeting, the following office bearers were elected:

President:	Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Vice President:	Paul Colledge VK2ICQ
Secretary:	Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
Treasurer:	Larry Lindsay VK2CLL

Henry VK2ZHE also takes on the portfolios of Public Officer, Repeater Chairman, VK2BOR Station Manager, Welfare Officer and Social Director. Paul VK2ICQ additionally takes on QSL Manager, Publicity Officer, Webmaster and Member Liaison Officer.

Committee members are Steve VK2ZSW, Dennis VK2DAM and Arthur VK2ATM. Oxtales Editor is John VK2AYQ and Co-editor is Trevor VK2TT. Education Officer is Larry VK2CLL, Club Historian is John VK2KHB and WIA Liaison Delegate is Bob VK2ZRE.

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 18th in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Club station VK2BOR will participate in the RD Contest next weekend, and in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on the 19th and 20th of August. The club's Communications Caravan will be located at the Camden Haven Airfield for the RD Contest, and at the Tacking Point Lighthouse for the ILLW.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net takes place from 9am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater, 146.7MHz. This repeater requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access.

Visitors are always made very welcome at monthly general meetings, at 2pm on the first Saturday of the month, as well as at Friday night gatherings, at 7pm on the third Friday of the month. The venue for all club meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The July 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club is holding a Foundation licence weekend next weekend, that's Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th August, starting at 8.30am. As well as the foundation course there will be upgrade examinations as well.

The Club's Winterfest and Open Day is on Sunday 20th August, from 9.00 am to 4pm, at the Clubhouse at 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook.

There will be tables available and you can bring items to sell or give away; here is an opportunity to clean out the shack.

A sausage sizzle lunch will be available.

The clubhouse will be open on Saturday 19th August for set-up of tables, etc. Any help is appreciated from 10am.

Please contact the Secretary, Irene VK2VAN on 0438 606 740 for queries on any club events.

73,
Irene VK2VAN
BMARC Secretary

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Club is pleased to announce their 70cm FM & C4FM repeater, VK2RFG, is now testing on air. The repeater is located at Gregory Hills, and all reports are welcome. The output frequency is 438.65MHz with a negative 7MHz input of 431.65MHz. A 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required to access the repeater in FM mode, and it also transmits a 91.5Hz tone. The repeater operates in auto/auto mode, meaning analog in gives analog out, or digital in gives digital out. It is also WIRES-X enabled. The repeater's node is VK2RFG-RPT and room is VK2RFG-ROOM.

The Club will be running a licence course and assessment weekend over the 19th-20th August 2017. Examinations for the Foundation, as well as Standard or Advanced theory and/or regulations exams are on the Sunday. A minimum of 5 registrations are needed for the Saturday course to cover costs. Sunday exams can be run with a minimum of 1 candidate. The course and assessments will be conducted in the Macarthur area. For more information, including costs or to book your place, contact the Club's Learning Organiser, Frank VK2FRW, on (02) 4681 8334, or email vk2frw@wia.org.au.

Results of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge have now been released. Congratulations to VK3JLS for winning both the Most Wanted *and* Top 5 categories. Full results can be found on the Club's contest website, vk2au.org. To get involved in the current period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge, simply log at least 1 QSO with any DX station, (or even VK), between July and September, then head over to vk2au.org during the entry submission period to send in your entry.

The next meeting of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club is Wednesday 30th August, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. The Club's weekly net, on Thursday evenings, starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in.

The Club has recently commissioned a new website and discussion forums, at fgarc.org.au. There you can find detailed information about the Club and its activities, and a link to the discussion forums. Anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio is welcome to register on the forums.

Submitted by Peter VK2PR

on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

It's a busy month at VK2MB. First off, the club station will be active in the Remembrance Day Contest next weekend, the 12th and 13th. This follows the club's success in the recent Trans-Tasman contest in the multi-operator, single transmitter category.

Wednesday the 16th is lecture night, which will feature a talk on 3D printing. More details in next Sunday's broadcast. The following weekend, the 19th and 20th, is International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, when VK2MB portable will setup shop at Barrenjoey Lighthouse at Palm Beach in northern Sydney.

Then on Sunday the 26th, Sydney University will be hosting an Electrical Engineering Open Day, where VK2MB aims to operate a portable station. No doubt there will be other things to see!

To round off August, Wednesday the 30th is the club's "5th Wednesday theme night", where the theme will be "Cameras". If you have any unusual camera or photographic gear to show off, this will be the time to do it!

A few weeks ago we told you that the club's annual Flagpole Contest had been retired in favour of a new Postcode Challenge. Well, we've had a think about it and decided to keep the Flagpole Contest after all, but the format will change. More details here closer to the event.

Visit the club web site at mwrs.org.au for more information about the contest and other club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), the club YouTube channel **VK2MB-TV**, the club's Scouting program and much more.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club's web site at mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be an informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday, 8th August, starting at 8:00pm.

Then, at the monthly meeting on the 22nd, there will be a talk on adding TFT displays to projects.

Next month's mid-monthly meeting, on the 12th of September, will be a dinner at a club near Waitara station, with family members welcome.

Meetings are held at Mount Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station. Additionally, two buses from Hornsby can be used: the 595 straight up the original Pacific Highway, or the 598 via the backstreets of Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Its on 147.25MHz, No tone is required, but a 91.5Hz tone is sent. The Wednesday evening net is on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm; And Morning Tea with HADARC – is on or near 7104kHz from 9:00 am on Fridays.

HADARC's website is 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.*

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Summary of coming events;

August

Illawarra ARS AGM on the 8th

HARARC Mid-monthly meeting on the 8th

2017 RD contest, on the 12th and 13th

Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, on the 12th and 13th

Manly-Warringah Radio Society Lecture night on the 16th

St George ARS Foundation weekend on the 19th and 20th

Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation weekend, also on the 19th and 20th

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, on the 19th and 20th

BMARC Winterfest, at the clubrooms on the 20th

Shahzada Horse Enduro, 21st to the 25th

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 22nd

WICEN NSW AGM on the 26th

VK2MB at Sydney University Electrical Engineering Open Day on the 26th

Summerland SARCfest on the 27th

MWRS Theme night – Cameras – on the 30th

Fishers Ghost ARC Meeting on the 30th

September

St George ARS meeting on the 6th

SAREX for VH-MDX in the Barrington Tops, 15th to the 17th

Manly-Warringah *Flagpole* Challenge on the 16th

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend, 16th and 17th

Waverley AR Society Foundation weekend, also 16th and 17th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 24th

October

St. George ARS gathering on the 4th

JOTA & JOTI on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd

“QRP by the Harbour” on the 22nd

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, on the 28th and 29th