

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

For ARNSW members – badge orders are being placed this week, so if you need your name badge, let the office know your given name and callsign. Best contact by email, to office@arnsw.org.au.

Also for members, we are able to provide hard-drawn copper antenna wire in 22-metre lengths, together with two plastic egg insulators, suitable for building a dipole. If you are interested, please let AI know by email, to balun@arnsw.org.au, so that we can gauge interest and place orders.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 18th to the 24th of August.
First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 18 th | 19 th | 20 th | 21 st | 22 nd | 23 rd | 24 th |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm flux | 80 | 87 | 86 | 87 | 90 | 85 | 79 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 20 | 23 | 21 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 12 estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 12 | 18 | 12 | 6 | 13 | 16 | 8 estimated |
| T index | 11 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 4 |

Solar flare activity was low on the 18th and 19th. On the 20th, there was moderate activity with an M1.1 flare observed at 0153UT. Actiity was then low from the 21st to the 23rd, and very low on the 24th.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 18th and 20th, quiet to active on the 19th and 22nd, quiet on the 21st, quiet to minor storm levels on the 23th, then back to quiet to unsettled on the 24th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted values during local day on the 18th, though enhanced 25% during local night. Frequencies remained near predicted from the 19th through to the 21st. The 22nd and 23rd were near predicted during local day though enhanced 15% during local night, then the 24th saw near predicted values during local day, but depression of 15% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 25th to the 31st of August;

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be between quiet and unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain mostly 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, nearing the end of August;

Minimum 68 Average 77 Maximum 90
With peak dates between the 19th and the 30th

And looking ahead to the prediction for September;

Minimum 75 Average 82 Maximum 90
With peak dates between the 9th and the 25th.

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>]

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

CROATIA, 9A. Peter, GW4UWD will be active as 9A/GW4UWD/p from Zlarin Island, IOTA EU-170, until September 2. Activity will be on the HF bands using only SSB.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Special event station 9M29SEAKL is active until August 29 during the 29th SEA GAMES 2017 being held in Kuala Lumpur.

TAIWAN, BV. Special event station BV0FISU is active until August 30 to draw attention to the 29th Summer Universiade sporting event being held in Taipei.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Stefan, DF8HS will be active from two different locations on Fehmarn from August 28 to September 14.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Doug, W6HB will be active as E51DLD until September 8. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using only SSB.

ESTONIA, ES. Members of the Russian Lighthouse Society are active as ES/RX3AMI until August 31 from IOTAs EU-034, EU-149, and EU-178.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Han, DS2GOO will be active as DS2GOO/4 from Pogil Island, IOTA AS-085, until August 28. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

JAPAN, JA. Members of the Tokyo Bay Ham Club are active with special event call sign 8J1ZIU until the May of 2018, to celebrate the club's 40th anniversary.

ALASKA, KL7. Mikhail, VE7ACN is active as NL6/AA7CH from Kayak Island, IOTA NA-157, until August 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

CORSICA, TK. Frans, DJ0TP is active as TK/DJ0TP until September 8.

MICRONESIA, V6. Toshi, JA6REX will be active as V63KS from Chuuk Island, IOTA OC-011, from August 28 to September 3. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

VIETNAM, XV. William, WA7WJR will be active as XV9WJR until September 17. Activity will be from various locations, and active mainly on 40 and 20 metres using primarily CW.

VANUATU, YJ. Bert, CX3AN will be active as YJ0CX from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, until September 3. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. In addition, Tony, KQ2I will be active as YJ0AT from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, from August 28 to September 13. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using only CW.

U. K. SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4. Adrian, G0KOM has renewed his license and is active as ZC4MK for the next 12 months. Activity will be on the HF bands.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint Ladder, Hawaii QSO Party, ALARA Contest, YO DX HF Contest, SCC RTTY Championship, W/VE Islands QSO Party, Kansas QSO Party, Ohio QSO Party, CVA SSB DX Contest, 50 MHz Fall Sprint and the SARL HF CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for August 30.

WICEN News

The Great North Walk one-hundreds, is a long distance race with 100 km and 160km – or 100 mile – options; hence the name. It starts from Teralba near Lake Macquarie, and finish at Patonga Wharf. It runs from the 9th to 10th September, and will be a good event for new operators.

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. The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of October.

The correct date for the Volunteer Memorial Day is Sunday, October 8th

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.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region monthly meeting is held on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie, beginning at 3:30pm. The region is also experimenting with an HF net on Thursday evenings at 7pm, on 3.6 MHz, subject to band conditions. They will be supporting the AMSAG Johns River Rally, between Johns River and Heron Creek, on Saturday, 28 October.

WICEN Northern Rivers holds 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.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Next weekend 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. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. 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 Hunter Radio Group.

The next meeting of the Group is coming up on Friday the 8th of September. The location as usual, will be NBN T.V. Studios at Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle. After General Business, there will be a lecture on Analogue RF Linear Amplifiers. Tea, coffee and Ragchew after the meeting.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, serving Newcastle and the Lower Hunter. 146.9MHz is best suited for mobile coverage throughout the area; and 146.975 MHz with ECHO Link and on UHF 438.025MHz general use. There is also a 6 metre beacon, on 50.288 MHz.

*Regards, Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the September monthly general meeting, 2pm on Saturday the 2nd of September, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Last Saturday the club station VK2BOR participated in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend from the club's Communications Caravan at the Tacking Point Lighthouse. It was a windy but fine day. 25 contacts were made with lighthouses in Australia and New Zealand. The very enjoyable event was well supported by club members.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. Training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences run, once sufficient candidates have registered.

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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The society meets on the second Tuesday of every month, with the next meeting on the 12th of September. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee meeting at 6:30pm.

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

Due to popular demand, the next meeting will be another "Show and Tell" night, with attendees invited to bring along photos or videos showing their shack, tower, antenna system, latest project or anything else that they are proud of, or gives them enjoyable distraction! The last "Show and Tell" night was such a success, that time totally ran out, with disappointment all round. A projector and laptop will be provided on the night, to allow for full and unrestricted showing and telling.

Hopefully, after all the presentations, there will still be enough time for the favourite ragchew over a hot cuppa' and chocolate biscuits.

Listeners who are interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven regions, are advised that there is a team of enthusiastic Amateurs led by Ted VK2ARA to assist, mentor, teach and then examine for your licence. The team runs learning programs for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced licenses and can be contacted via the email address of vk2ara@wia.org.au. That address again, vk2ara@wia.org.au.

Are you interested in a fun picnic day at a scenic location with a bunch of other Amateurs, comparing stories, erecting portable antennas and having something good to eat? Well the Goulburn Amateur Radio Society, the Mid-South Amateur Radio Club and the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society are hosting a Tri-Club Picnic Day on Saturday the 9th of September. The location is near Robertson at the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir Picnic Area, with a free sausage sizzle being sponsored by all three Clubs. The picnic day kicks off at 10am through to about 3pm. Check the Club's websites for more information.

Sunday ARNSW News Broadcasts are relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's repeaters, they being VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres on 53.650MHz and 2 metres on 146.850MHz. 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. As these repeaters are also connected to Echolink, the Net receives call-ins from all over Australia, as well as many other countries. 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 September the 12th at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of Club is this Wednesday, the 30th 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, 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. A 91.5Hz tone is also sent.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website, fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
For the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Next months mid-monthly meeting, on the 12th of September, will be a dinner at a club near Waitara station, with family members welcome. Please contact HADARC to book.

Then, coming up at the September monthly meeting on Tuesday 26th, Andrew VK2TAN will give a presentation on the NBN, with a focus on the how it might be connected to your home. Given your old telephone service and internet service will be eventually switched off, there are few other choices. The meeting commences at 8:00pm at the Mount Colah Community Centre. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station.

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

MWRS Theme night – Cameras – on the 30th
Fishers Ghost ARC Meeting on the 30th

September

Oxley Region ARC Meeting on the 2nd
St George ARS gathering on the 6th
Tri-Club Picnic Day at Robertson, Saturday the 9th
Illawarra Amateur Radio Society meeting on the 12th
HADARC dinner meeting on the 12th
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
HADARC monthly meeting on the 26th

October

St. George ARS gathering on the 4th
CCARC Lecture on the FT8 digital mode on the 21st
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