

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

The September Foundation course is coming up next weekend here at VK2WI Dural. There may be standby positions available on the course if there are last minute cancellations. If you are interested, please email by Monday night, to education@arnsw.org.au.

The final ARNSW Foundation weekend for this year, is on the 18th and 19th of November. Early bookings and any other education inquiries are best made by email, education@arnsw.org.au. As our services are administered by volunteers, please allow a little time for a reply.

The September Trash & Treasure will be in two weeks' time, on Sunday the 24th.

A reminder to those attending any activities or gatherings at VK2WI – there is an attendance book, which we require all visitors to sign.

We have recently received some enquires regarding this requirement; like many other organisations, it is a requirement for both safety administration and insurance purposes, that we have a record of who is on site at any time. It also serves as useful feedback for event organisers, to give an idea of attendance.

So next time you are at a gathering, please help out the organisers by filling out the attendance book.

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

In two weeks time. Sunday the 24th, is the bi-monthly meeting of the group. George VK2KGG will give a presentation on “Lightning, Lightning Protection, Surge Protection, Earth and Earthing”.

A big tower and big antenna may be the tallest object in the surrounding area. For most amateurs, your radio equipment can be a sizable investment and one that you would not like to have to replace from a lightning strike or even a near miss. Not only amateur radio equipment, but other electronic and electrical equipment in your shack or house can be damaged.

With the right protection, it is possible to safeguard your investment and even survive a direct hit.

The meeting will start with the usual “Show and Tell” segment where members of the audience get up to show some project that they have been working on.

So come along at noon, to VK2WI at 63 Quarry Road, Dural, on Sunday the 24th.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 1st to the 7th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
10cm flux	93	100	120	183	121	133	129
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	17	25	10	16	11	18	21 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	12	13	5	8	7	6	21 estimated
T index	12	20	23	29	35	31	34

Solar flare activity was low from the 1st to the 3rd. But the rest of the week showed high levels of solar activity and a number of solar flares.

On the 4th there was one C-class and 4 M class flares – the largest was M5.5 at 2033UT. The 5th had two C9.0 flares, and 4 M-class flares, the largest being M4.2 at 0108UT. On the 6th there were 4 M-class flares, and a X9.3 flare – the largest flare observed during this solar cycle - at 1202UT. On the 7th there was 4 M-class flares, and an X1.4 at 1436UT.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to active on the 1st and 2nd, quiet on the 3rd, quiet to unsettled on the 4th and 5th, quiet on the 6th, then quiet to major storm on the 7th. The 6th also saw SWS magnetometer data, recording a weak impulse of 10nT, at 2344UT.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, saw some significant enhancements this week; on the 1st, 15% during local night, on the 2nd, 20% during local night and 30% after local dawn. On the 3rd, enhancement of 15% and up to 20% just after local dawn; on the 4th 20% day and 25% during local night and after local dawn. The 5th was enhanced 20%, 30% after local dawn. The 6th 15% during the day, 30% night and 35% local dawn; and the 7th, was 20% enhanced during local day, 40% after local dawn and up to 55% during local night. These enhancements are relative to the normally predicted monthly values for F2 and the unusually high level of solar activity this week.

Now, the forecast for the 8th to the 14th of September;

Solar activity is expected to remain at moderate to high levels, with very high solar activity expected, early in the week. HF fadeouts are possible.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to show major to severe storm conditions on the 8th, active to major storm levels on the 9th and 10th, then quiet to active levels on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to exhibit overnight depressions on the 8th, moderate to severe depressions on the 9th and 10th, and then near predicted to slightly depressed from the 11th.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Space Weather Summary for August 2017

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was predominately at very low levels last month, with only 1 M-class flare observed. However, there were several coronal hole high-speed solar wind streams.

The solar radio flux increased after the 29th August, in apparent association with two solar regions numbered 2674 (northern solar hemisphere) and 2673 (southern solar hemisphere) rotating onto the solar disk. These regions continued to grow in size until the end of the month; and while they did not produce significant flare activity in August, region 2673 did produce some of the flare activity observed during the first week of September.

The solar wind streams mentioned earlier, did result in some geomagnetic disturbances. The strongest disturbance for the month was observed on the 31st of August, with a local A index of 23. The entry into the high speed wind stream on the 31st was associated with strong southward fluctuations in the the north-south component of the solar winds' interplanetary magnetic field (IMF).

Southward IMF conditions are associated with increased geomagnetic activity. While this resulted in a geomagnetic alert being issued on the 31st, these conditions did not persist and the geomagnetic disturbance subsequently declined.

Ionospheric conditions showed few disturbances throughout August. Slight reduction in HF communications quality may have been observed in the southern Australian region, during local night hours on the 31st of August, due to geomagnetic activity induced by coronal hole high-speed solar wind streams. The largest F2 critical frequency depression in the Southern Australian region was on the 24th, with an MUF reduction of 20%.

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ARRL DX news

SENEGAL, 6W. Ronald, VE3REV is active as 6W1SU from Dakar and is there for the next 2 to 3 years. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using SSB.

ALGERIA, 7Y. Bodo, DF8DX will be active as 7Y0A from Bechar from September 11 to 22. Activity will be on the various HF bands using CW and SSB.

BOTSWANA, A2. Alex, IW5ELA is active as A25AL from various locations until September 15. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using mostly CW.

MOROCCO, CN. Tev, TA1HZ and Golkem, TA7AZC are active as CN2HZ and CN2ZC, respectively, until September 13. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being active in the Worked All Europe SSB DX contest.

NIUE, E6. Grant, VK5GR will be active as E6AG from September 13 to 25. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY contest.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Emanuele, IZ1UKX is active as EA8/IZ1UKX from Lanzarote Island, IOTA AF-004, until September 17. Activity is holiday style on 30 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK.

FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO. Heinz, DF1YP is active as FO/DF1YP from Moorea, IOTA OC-046, until October 1. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Kasimir, DL2SBY will be active as HB0/DL2SBY until September 15. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB with a concentration on RTTY.

DENMARK, OZ. Jens, OZ0JD will be active as OZ0JD/p from Laesoe Island, IOTA EU-088, until September 15. Activity will be on the HF bands using RTTY and FT8.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Sebastian, SQ1SGB is active as HF0ARC from the Polish Antarctic Station H. Arctowski on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, until October 10. Activity is on 40 and 10 metres at various times using JT9/65 and some SSB.

DODECANESE, SV5. Claudio, HB9OAU will be active as SV5/HB9OAU from Karpathos Island, IOTA EU-001, until September 22. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and PSK.

ANTIGUA, V2. Bud, AA3B will be active as V26K from September 14 to 19. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and possibly RTTY and FT8.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND, VK9C. Lance, W7GJ will be active as VK9CGJ from September 12 to 30. This is a 6-Meter EME operation.

VANUATU, YJ. Rod, YJ8RN will be active as YJ8RN/p from Loh Island, IOTA OC-110, from September 11 to 29. Activity will be in his spare time on 80, 40 and 20 metres using SSB. He may be active from IOTAs OC-035 and OC-104 as well.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. David, G4NRT will be active as Z21NRT from Harare until September 29. Activity will be during his spare time on 80 to 6 metres, and 2 metres FM, using CW, SSB, PSK, JT9/65 and FT8.

MACEDONIA, Z3. Arno, DL1CW will be active as Z38/DL1CW from Orhid from September 11 to 13. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using only CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL September VHF Contest, ARRL EME Contest, North American CW Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Worked All Europe SSB DX Contest, Kulikovo Polye 20-Meter CW Contest, FOC CW QSO Party, SARL Field Day Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Ohio State Parks on the Air, Russian Cup Digital Contest and the Classic CW Exchange will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80m Autumn SSB Series and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are scheduled for September 11.

The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for September 13.

WICEN News

This weekend sees the Great North Walk one-hundreds; it's a long distance race with 100 km and 160km – or 100 mile – options; hence the name. It starts from Teralba near Lake Macquarie, and finishes at Patonga Wharf. It will be a good event for new operators.

The VH-MDX SAREX is on next weekend, from the 15th to 17th September. This 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 Volunteer Memorial Day is Sunday, October 8th. The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of October. This is a big event and WICEN has responsibility for checkpoint communications over a large portion of the course, so a good turnout of operators is required.

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 Mid North Coast Region will be supporting the AMSAG Johns River Rally, between Johns River and Heron Creek, on Saturday, 28 October. Their Thursday night net at 7pm local time, is currently on 28.32 MHz, due to noise on 80 metres.

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. The BMSC Rallye des Femme is on Saturday, October 14th. Fitz's Challenge is a road cycling event on Sunday October 29.

In November, the 4th is the LCCC Monaro Stages event around Cooma, then Sunday the 5th is the NSW Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood.

Then, near the end of the month is Fitz's Challenge, 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 of the inaugural Tri-Club Picnic.

This was held yesterday, at the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir Picnic Area near Robertson on the Southern Highlands. It was a get together of members from three nearby radio clubs; the Goulburn Amateur Radio Society, the Mid-South Coast Amateur Radio Club and the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, along with quite a few additional Amateurs who heard about the event and joined-in. The weather was fantastic with close to 60 people attending, including kids, partners and Amateurs themselves.

Upon arrival, assorted antennas soon were hoisted into the air, including beams, verticals, dipoles and G5RV's, supported by handy tree branches or telescopic squid poles. The "showing-off" of projects on car tailgates and tables included beacons, power supplies and emergency deployment radio systems.

Barbeques were soon fired up with some excellent sausages and rissoles being cooked, but the Mid-South Coast ladies out did themselves, with delicious cakes, slices and assorted salads for everyone to enjoy.

Afterwards, a group photo was taken, with the three Club Presidents thanking everyone for attending, with particular thanks directed to the many patient partners who came along.

Hoisting of a long-wire antenna was attempted with the help of 40 helium balloons. All was looking great until wind directed the antenna into nearby gumtrees. Fortunately, after many well-intentioned and mainly good-natured suggestions, the antenna was retrieved.

With the combination of antennas, radios, good food and excellent company, the day was a terrific success. All agreed that another picnic day should be planned.

Submitted on behalf of all three radio clubs by Rob VK2MT.

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on coming up this Friday the 15th of September, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

At the club's September Monthly General Meeting last Saturday, Steve VK2ZSW was formally appointed as Secretary. Steve had agreed to take on the Secretary position after last month's AGM. Stuart VK2FSTU was formally co-opted to fill the Committee Member vacancy created by Steve becoming Secretary.

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 September 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online. Featured this month are reports in words and pictures on the club's participation in the RD Contest, and in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. There are past issues 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 this coming Tuesday 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.

Sunday ARNSW News Broadcasts 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 53.650MHz 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*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The September mid-monthly meeting, on this Tuesday the 12th of September, will be at Magpies Club near Waitara station, starting at 6pm. Family members welcome. Please contact Colin VK2JCC to book, or use the website contact page.

At the September monthly meeting on Tuesday 26th, Andrew VK2TAN will give a presentation on the NBN. The meeting starts 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;

September

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society meeting on the 12th

HADARC dinner meeting on the 12th

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 15th

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

November

St. George ARS gathering on the 1st

CCARC Lecture and Workshop; antennas for Satellite operation on the 18th

St. George Foundation training and assessment weekend, 18th and 19th

Manly-Warringah theme night, on Portable lights, on the 29th