

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

Earlier this week we had reports of some problems with the VK2WI morse transmission, on 3699 kHz. Maintenance was carried out yesterday, which included repairs to the wire dipole. The service is now back to normal operation. Reports and feedback are welcome on this, or any of our other services.

This weekend at Dural, has been the ARNSW Foundation course with five candidates taking part.

The next ARNSW Foundation course weekend will be in November. Bookings and enquiries can be made by email, to; education@arnsw.org.au.

Next Sunday sees the September Trash & Treasure – don't forget to sign the attendance book.

Its also time for the final VK2WI broadcast roster to be prepared. Those already on the broadcast team should let the roster co-ordinator know their availability. If you are interested in joining the team, please let us know – you can email us at; news@arnsw.org.au.

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 19th, the Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

The net starts at 8:00pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147.0MHz and then at about 8:30pm will transfer over to HF. Depending upon conditions; the net may be on either 80m or 40m.

The 80m frequency will be 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency will be 7159kHz. As well as store bought equipment, participants are encouraged to use homebrewed equipment on AM, DSB or SSB.

So for those interested in building their own equipment, experimenting with radios or just looking for a new aspect of amateur radio, then join the net.

Coming up next week is the bi-monthly meeting of the group on Sunday the 24th, after the next Trash and Treasure. It's at the usual location – here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

This month there will be a presentation by George VK2KGG by George VK2KGG 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.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
10cm flux	117	107	100	80	76	75	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	50	6	12	8	16	13	16 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	35	2	3	10	10	12	16 estimated
T index	47	16	14	33	17	27	16

Solar activity was high on the 8th, moderate on the 9th, high again on the 10th, then settled down to low levels on the 11th and 12th, and very low on the 13th and 14th. Some significant solar flares were observed early in the week; on the 8th there were 5 M-class flares, the largest was an M8.1 at 0749Ut. The 9th saw 3 M-class flares and one C-class flares – the largest was M3.7, at 1104UT. On the 10th there was a C9.0 flare, and an X8.3, which was observed at 1606UT.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, reached Major storm levels on the 8th. SWS magnetometer data recorded a weak 13nT impulse at 0537UT, and a 20nT impulse at 0709UT. Geomagnetic activity was then quiet on the 9th, quiet to unsettled from the 10th to the 12th, quiet to active on the 13th, and at quiet to minor storm levels on the 14th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out significantly enhanced on the 8th – 35% during local day and 30% during local night. However the 9th was near predicted during the day and then depressed 20% during local night. The 10th remained near predicted though some enhancement of up to 20% was observed after local dawn. The 11th was enhanced 15% throughout, the 12th was enhanced 15% during the day, and the 13th was 20% enhanced during the day and 25% at local night. The 14th returned to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 15th to the 21st of September;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain at active levels on the 15th and 16th but return to quiet to unsettled levels on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to also return to 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 the figures for August were;

Minimum 68 Average 77 Maximum 90
Peak dates between the 19th and the 31st

The prediction for the rest of September;

Minimum 74 Average 97 Maximum 140
Peak dates between the 3rd and the 12th, and the 26th to the 30th

And looking ahead to the prediction for October;

Minimum 81 Average 100 Maximum 125
With peak dates between the 1st and the 7th, and the 21st to the 23rd.

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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ARRL DX news

GEORGIA, 4L. Dmitry, R4WW will be active as 4L/R4WW until September 29. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, and possibly SSB and RTTY. This may include an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY contest.

SAMOA, 5W. Al, K7AR will be active as 5W0RA from Apia, IOTA OC-097, from September 19 to 29. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8.

MAURITANIA, 5T. A group of operators are active as 5T5OK until September 29. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY with several stations active simultaneously.

ALGERIA, 7X. Rodrigo, EA7JX will be active as 7U1X from Djelfa from September 18 to 25. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Members of the Kuala Lumpur DX Team will be active as 9M4IOTA from Indah Island, IOTA AS-074, until September 18.

BOTSWANA, A2. Operators Pavel, R2AD, Yuri, RM0F and Elena, RC5A are active as A25BE, A25BI and A25SP, respectively, from Kasane until September 25. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB.

TONGA, A3. Hal, JR4OZR will be active as A35W from Nuku'alofa from September 20 to 26. Activity will be on the HF bands using RTTY and FT8. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest.

NIUE, E6. Grant, VK5GR is active as E6AG until September 25 while on vacation. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 metres using mainly digital modes but also some CW and SSB. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON, FP. Operators G7VJR, G3ZAY, DH5FS, M0BLF, M0WUT, M0ZXA and M0INN will be active as FP/homecalls from Ile aux Marins from September 18 to 22. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using all modes, including FT8, with four stations active simultaneously.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Members of the 7163 Group are active as HD8M from Isabela Island, IOTA SA-004, until September 21. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes, including FT8.

GRENADA, J3. Wayde, KD2NOP is active as J3/KD2NOP until September 20. Activity is on various HF bands using JT65, FT8 and possibly other digital modes.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Operators DK2DO, DL1ZBO and DL5FF will be active as OH0JWL from September 19 to 25. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest. In addition, special event callsign OF100FI/0 will be active from Brando Island during the SAC CW contest to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the independence of Finland.

CZECH REPUBLIC, OL. Special event station OL100SV is active until September 23 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Signal Forces of the Czech Army.

LAOS, XW. Champ, E21EIC will be active as XW1IC from September 21 to 25. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY DX contest.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. David, G4NRT is active as Z21NRT from Harare until September 29. Activity is on 80 to 2 metres using CW, SSB, PSK, JT65, JT69, FT8 and FM on 2 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American RTTY Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, AGB 80-Meter NEMIGA Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest, Scandinavian Activity CW Contest, All Africa International DX Contest, Iowa QSO Party, New Hampshire QSO Party, New Jersey QSO Party, QRP Afield, Washington State Salmon Run, Feld Hell Sprint and BARTG Sprint 75 are all scheduled this weekend.

The 144 MHz Fall Sprint and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are scheduled for September 18.

The RSGB 80-Meter Autumn CW Series, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for September 20.

WICEN News

The VH-MDX SAREX concludes today; 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.

Operators are still needed for 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.

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.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region meets at 3:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The region is also experimenting with an HF net on Thursday evenings at 7pm, use the 10 metre WICEN frequency of 28.450 MHz.

They will be supplying safety radio communications for the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic on the 15th of October. The Group is also setting up communications vans for JOTA, in Port Macquarie on 21st of October, and in Wauchope on the 21st and 22nd. The region is also supporting the White Ribbon Walk on 26th November.

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 from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the club is a monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 7th of October, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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, along with past issues as well.

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

Hunter Radio Group News

The next meeting of the group is coming up on Friday the 13th of October. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

After General Business, at the meeting there will be the Annual "Do it yourself" Technical Project discussion, where participants will give a short presentation on their current projects.

Tea, Coffee and Ragchew after the meeting.

*Submitted by Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Coffs Harbour and Districts Amateur Radio Club

For anyone travelling in the Coffs Harbour area, the club has just commissioned a new repeater on 6 metres, with the callsign VK2RCB.

Its on 53.75Mhz, located at Francis lookout, Dorrigo. At 850 metres above sea level, it covers the wider Coffs Harbour area. No subtone is required.

The club welcomes coverage reports and holds an 80m weekly net Monday nights at 8:00pm on 3609Khz, all are welcome.

Submitted by Les VK2CPC

Vice President, Coffs Harbour and Districts Amateur Radio Club.

Chifley Amateur Radio Club

The club meets every Saturday commencing from 1pm. We have now settled in to our new clubrooms, but the address remains the same, at 130 Hyatts Road Plumpton.

Why not pay us a visit? Visitors are most welcome.

For more information and news, visit our website at www.carc.org.au.

Submitted by Harry VK2BHT

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

The Society's annual Flagpole Challenge took place yesterday. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the event; if you missed out, mark your calendar for next year!

This coming Wednesday is lecture night and Des VK2TGJ will talk about Radio Networks for Special Events. Des spends a large part of his life participating in CREST events, which involves setting up communications networks. For those of you who don't know, CREST is the Citizens Radio Emergency Service Team, sort of a cousin to WICEN.

Visit the club web site, at www.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 7.30p.m. for an 8p.m. 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*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

This Wednesday September the 20th at 7:30pm, is the clubs next monthly meeting. This month, Raffy VK2RF will talk about solar power and the electricity companies, and Alex VK2PSF will be talk about changes in DMR, DMR Plus and Brandmeister, plus linking in Sydney and parts of the country.

As usual a chat, tea, coffee and bickies will be available at the end of the presentations.

October is "contest season" at the Society and Skip, along with a group of volunteers, have been busy preparing a beautiful site in the Southern Highlands, offered by a generous club member. The first operating date is Oct 7th and 8th for the Oceania DX SSB contest [<http://oceaniadxcontest.com>] and we are looking for operators. No contest experience required. We will have a number of operating positions working any HF bands that show activity and this will require many willing hands to cover the entire period of the contest. There are other contests later in the month but one thing at a time.

The working group has so far installed a G5RV multi-band antenna as well as a 40m vertical, 80m dipole, 20metre vertical and a massive full wave 160 meter horizontal loop, thanks to some huge gum trees and Laurie VK2GZ's trusty slingshot. These folks have put in all the hard yards and many hours of time; all other club members have to do, is come along for a few hours and operate. This is indoor work with tables and chairs; no windblown soggy tents are involved. Comfort and enjoyment are practically guaranteed!

There is plenty of nearby accommodation for those who stay overnight and the famous springtime events and sightseeing of the Highland country. Why not bring the whole family and join in the barbecue at Sunday lunch?

The contest runs from 0800UTC (7PM local time) on Saturday Oct 7th to 0800UTC on Oct 8th. We need you there - contact Skip, VK2ALR at skiphod@ozemail.com.au to put your name on the roster - and add your family members to the caterers list for the BBQ. The team is looking forward to as many helpers as possible. See you there.

The next Shack night will be on Wednesday October 4th, commencing at 7:30pm, a good time to bring along something to test or get some help with.

There is a working bee at the clubhouse from around 10am till 4pm on most Tuesdays. A quick call on one of the club repeaters will confirm that the club is open and the barista is working.

The next Project Day is scheduled for Saturday October 7th, commencing around 1:30pm and usually running through to about 4:30 or 5pm.

The club runs a weekly net every Monday evening, commencing at 2000 on its VK2RBV Fusion repeater, in FM mode on 438.1125MHz, usually run by Richard, VK2XRC. All are welcome to join in

Skip's Morse sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings, see the club website for details.

The club runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends; to book a place for the next course and assessment weekend, to be held over the weekend of November 25th/26th, see the website, under Education and Training, for details. See the events calendar on the website for further details and bookings.

Waverley's clubhouse is located in the Scout Hall, in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay, with parking normally available in the grounds. Visitors are always welcome at any of the club's activities.

There is full information about the club on its regularly updated website at vk2bv.org. It includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form on the webpage, which is normally actioned within a couple of days.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

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

ARNSW Radio Homebrew net on the 19th

Waverley ARS Meeting on the 20th

Manly-Warringah Radio Society meeting on the 20th

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

HADARC monthly meeting on the 26th

October

St. George ARS gathering on the 4th

Waverley ARS Contest weekend on the 7th and 8th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend on the 14th and 15th

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

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 25th and 26th

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