

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

Today saw the September Trash and Treasure meeting; the next and final for the year, will be Sunday the 26th of November.

Next Sunday sees the start of Summer time in NSW and south-east Australia. VK2WI News maintains the same local times, of 10am and 7:30pm, so there may be some changes in propagation. If the propagation isn't favourable where you live, you may wish to try our live streaming, at arnsw.org.au/audio and your feedback is welcome.

Our 23cm beacon on 1296.42MHz is currently offline for maintenance.

US Amateur Licence examinations were recently held at Bankstown airport, and Congratulations go to Bob on a perfect pass in the three papers, resulting in him being issued with the Extra class call, AC1CZ.

50th Anniversary of VLF station

Australia and the US have just celebrated the 50-year anniversary of Naval Communication Station Harold E Holt in Exmouth, Western Australia.

Since commissioning on the 16th of September 1967, the station has provided VLF (Very low frequency) communication transmission services in support of Australian, US and allied submarines.

The VLF antenna array covers over 400 hectares. The transmitting antenna consists of a large spider web of wires supported in a 'top hat' arrangement using 13 towers, the tallest of which is nearly 400 metres high.

Construction of the station commenced in 1963, and the Western Australian town of Exmouth was declared open on the same day as the station was commissioned. Exmouth has since become a popular tourist destination in its own right.

In 1992, command of the base was officially passed from the US Navy to the Royal Australian Navy, and the station is now operated and maintained by the Australian Department of Defence on behalf of the Commonwealth and the US.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15th to the 21st of September.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
10cm flux	73	72	72	72	71	74	73
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	30	23	13	21	6	8	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	22	16	10	12	5	7	4 estimated
T index	17	12	6	6	-2	3	4

Solar activity was very low all week, in stark contrast to the significant activity seen over the last two weeks.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was at unsettles to minor storm levels on the 15th, quiet to active from the 16th to the 18th, quiet on the 19th, quiet to unsettled on the 20th, then quiet again on the 21st.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during local day on the 15th and 15% enhanced during local night. The 16th saw depressions of 15% during local day, though frequencies returned to near predicted during local night. The rest of the week remained near predicted, except for some depressions of up to 15% during local daytime on the 19th.

Now, the forecast for the 22nd to the 28th of September;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low on the 22nd and 23rd, though there is a possibility of moderate to strong activity on other days.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels on the 27th and 28th, but otherwise be quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely remain 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 71 Average 93 Maximum 140
Peak dates between the 3rd and the 12th, and the 29th to the 30th

And looking ahead to the prediction for October;

Minimum 72 Average 98 Maximum 115
With peak dates between the 1st and the 8th, and the 22nd to the 31st.

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

BARBADOS, 8P. Dean, 8P6SH plans to be active as 8P50B on 20 metres in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

NEPAL, 9N. Gerhard, OE3GEO is active as 9N7GE. Activity of late has been on 30 and 17 metres using CW. His length of stay is unknown.

TAIWAN, BV. A group of operators will be active as BV2A/3 from SaXi, Tao Yuan City in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

BOTSWANA, A2. Operators Paul, R2AD, Elena, RC5A, and Yuri, RM0F are active as A25SP, A25BE, and A25BI, respectively, from Chobe National Park until September 25. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

TONGA, A3. Hal, JR4OZR will be active as A35W from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

OMAN, A4. Members of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society will be active as A44A in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest as a Multi/2 entry.

CEUTA AND MELILLA, EA9. Jorge, EA9LZ will be active as EF9R in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Alain, F8FUA is active as FR/F8FUA until September 30. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

JERSEY, GJ. Kazu, M0CFW will be active as MJ5Z in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest on all bands. Before and after the contest he is active as MJ0CFW.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Take, JA1UII is active as JD1BON until September 30. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

ARUBA, P4. Operators Jim, K8JH and Mike, KB8KB will be active as P40N and P40M, respectively, from September 27 to October 3. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and FT8.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Leo, PP1CZ is active as PY0F/PP1CZ until September 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using mainly CW, with some RTTY, JT65 and FT8 as well.

CRETE, SV9. Joerg, DM1OS will be active as SV9/DM1OS from Gavdos Island, IOTA EU-187, until September 25. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

PALAU, T8. Katsumi, JA3KIO is active as T88XA from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until September 26. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and JT65. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest. In addition, Toshi, JA3JND is active as T88ON from Koror Island until September 28. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and JT65.

BELIZE, V3. Victor, WB0TEV is active as V31VP from Blackman Eddy until September 25. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using some SSB. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

LAOS, XW. Champ, E21EIC is active as XW1IC from Vientiane until September 25. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres. This includes being a Single Op/Single Band on 20 meter entry in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. A group of operators will be active as ZF1A in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

GIBRALTAR, ZB. Robert, M0TTT will be active as ZB2TT in the CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, Railways on the Air, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Maine QSO Party, Texas QSO Party and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest are all on this weekend.

The 220 MHz Fall Sprint is scheduled for September 22. The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, Phone Fray and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for September 27.

WICEN News

Due to issues including an early bush-fire season, the Trek for Timor in Kangaroo Valley, originally scheduled for October, has been postponed until April 2018. For more details, visit the website, kvrp.net.au.

The Volunteer Memorial Day is coming up 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 next meeting of the group is coming up Sunday October 8th.

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 starting at 7pm, using the 10 metre WICEN frequency of 28.450 MHz.

The Region will be supplying safety radio communications for the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic on the 15th of October, and the AMSAG Johns River Rally, between Johns River and Heron Creek, on Saturday, 28 October.

They will also be 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. December 1st to 3rd is the Alpine Rally covering 700 km in East Gippsland. 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.

At the club's monthly get together last Friday night, there was a demonstration of how the System Fusion Automatic Mode Selection (AMS) enables seamless automatic switching between C4FM digital and analog FM operation. The club's UHF repeaters have AMS enabled, so the repeaters will revert to analog FM when an FM transmission is received; even if a digital C4FM QSO is in progress. Users of System Fusion digital radios are encouraged to leave AMS enabled on their radios. This ensures that users of FM only radios are not disadvantaged, and all users are able to communicate with each other via the repeaters. The club's VK2RPM 146.7 MHz VHF repeater automatically receives either analog FM or digital C4FM transmissions but always transmits in the FM mode.

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.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next Monthly general meeting of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club is coming up this Wednesday the 27th at McDonald's Woodbine, 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 438.650MHz. 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 at fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 4th of October.

This month will be a practical antenna building evening. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to assemble your own 2m gain antenna for either your home station or portable / field operation. Two popular designs are available.

One is a J-Pole vertical omni-directional antenna, fabricated from 1/2 inch copper tube, based on the popular "copper cactus" design. The other is a 5-element yagi directional antenna, based on the popular NT1K insulated through beam design. No gamma match required.

Not feeling confident about sourcing the parts and home brewing your own antenna? The St George Amateur Radio Society has solved both problems. First purchase a kit containing the required parts and then attend our practical workshop to assemble your antenna. Tools will be available at the workshop to assist in assembling your selected antenna.

Kits need to be ordered by close of business on Friday 29th September, with payment made at the workshop on Wednesday the 4th of October. Kits can be ordered by email to; kit_orders@sgars.org, or check out the society's website at; www.sgars.org.

As well as the building session, there will be the usual refreshments. All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville. The gathering starts at 7.30pm.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".
[<http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted>]

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society.*

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

HADARC monthly meeting on the 26th
Fishers ghost ARC meeting on the 27th

October

St. George ARS gathering on the 4th
Oxley Region ARC Monthly meeting on the 7th
Waverley ARS Contest weekend on the 7th and 8th
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 13th
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