

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

Places are filling fast for the November ARNSW Foundation Course. It's the last for this year and its on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of November. Licence examinations for other grades of licence are also available, email education@arnsw.org.au for more details or to book a place.

The current Membership badge offer closes this Tuesday the 31st of October; if you need one, email office@arnsw.org.au.

News for WIA members – the October issue of Amateur Radio Magazine should have arrived throughout VK2, though there have been reports of some deliveries being delayed, and only starting to arrive in mailboxes in the past week. The November issue has been produced, and hopefully will arrive in the next few days.

If you are travelling interstate in the next few weekends, there are some interstate groups holding some events.

The Yarra Valley Amateur Radio Group in Victoria has an event on today; the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group on the 5th of November; the 11th of November sees the Gold Coast Amateur Radio society event, then the 12th of November is both the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio Society, and in Victoria, it's the Rosebud Radio Fest.

QRP by the Harbour

Last Sunday the ARNSW Radio Homebrew & Experimenters Group held QRP by the Harbour at Rhodes. A number of amateurs arrived early and set up various antennas and contacts were made to VK2, VK3 & VK4 on both 40m and 20m, running 5 Watts QRP.

However, the weather had other ideas, and shortly after 3pm Rhodes was hit with a storm with both rain and hail. A decision was made to pack up, with those in attendance adjourning to the Kakoda Cafe a few hundred metres away.

Apologies for anyone who turned up later and missed the gathering.

The next QRP by the Harbour will be held on Sunday 4th February next year, which will give those interested ample time to build up a new QRP rig or dust off an old one.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20th to the 26th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
10cm flux	76	77	77	78	78	79	77
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	13	6	3	13	15	17 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	7	4	4	14	12	14 estimated
T index	-7	-10	-10	4	4	5	10

Solar activity started out low on with an M1.1 flare observed at 2328UT. Activity then remained very low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet from the 20th to the 23rd; with a weak 8nT impulse observed on the SWS magnetometer at 0611UT on the 21st. Activity was then at quiet to Active levels from the 24th to the 26th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out depressed by 20% during local day, and 25% during local night, of the 20th. The 21st was depressed 15% during the day and 20% at night; the 22nd was depressed 15% during local day but returned to near predicted for local night. The 23rd and 24th remained mostly near predicted. The 25th was depressed during local day by 15%, but near predicted during local night; then the 26th remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 27th of October to the 2nd of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet to active on the 27th, quiet to unsettled on the 28th, then quiet conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be 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.

Nearing the end of October, the figures so far;

Minimum 69 Average 78 Maximum 89
Peak dates between the 1st and the 8th, and the 23rd to the 28th

The prediction for November;

Minimum 76 Average 82 Maximum 85
Peak dates between the 4th and the 6th, and the 21st to the 30th

And looking ahead to the prediction for December;

Minimum 80 Average 81 Maximum 85
With peak dates between the 1st and the 3rd.

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

A number of stations are active especially for the CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest over this weekend;

CYPRUS; Members of Nicosia Contest Group will be active as C4A as a Multi/2 entry.

TUNISIA; Operators Ash, 3V/KF5EYY and Ludovic, HB9EOU will be active as 3V8SS from the Radio Club Station of Tunisian Scouts in Sousse, as a Multi/Single/Low Power entry.

GEORGIA; Mamuka, 4L2M will be active as a Single Op/Single Band on 20 metres. In addition, Gia, 4L4WW will be active as 4L0A from Obcha as a Single Op/All Band entry.

TONGA; Hiro, JA6WFM will be active, except on 160 and 80 metres, as A31MM from Nuku'alofa on Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, as a Single Op/All Band entry.

OMAN; A large group of operators will be active as A44A as a Multi/Multi entry.

TAIWAN; Look for operators JL3RDC, JP3PZG and JN3MXT to be active as BW/home calls on all bands.

CHINA; Members of the Chinese Radio Amateur's Club will be active as B9K from Hangyashan, Gansu Province as a Multi/2 entry.

CAPE VERDE; Rafal, SQ9CNN will be active as D4Z from Sao Vicente Island, IOTA AF-086, operating on 15 metres.

MONGOLIA; A group of operators will be active as JT5DX.

MARIANA ISLANDS; A group of operators will be active as AH0K from Tinian Island, IOTA OC-086.

CORSICA; Salvatore, IK8UND will be active as TK9R from Ajaccio, IOTA EU-014.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA; A group of operators will be active as V26B from Antigua, IOTA NA-100.

HONG KONG; Members of the FUN Amateur Radio Club will be active as VR20FUN.

INDONESIA; A group of operators will be active as YE2A.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS; Adrian, G0KOM will be active as ZC4MK from Avdimou Beach.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Stan, K5GO will be active as ZF9CW from Cayman Brac Island, IOTA NA-016, as a Single Op/All Band entry.

And in other DX activity.....

GUINEA, 3X. A group of operators are active as 3XY3D/p from Tristao Island, IOTA AF-096, until October 31. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using mainly CW. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. Afterwards, they will be active as 3XY3D from Kassa Island, IOTA AF-051, from November 2 to December 1. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using mostly CW. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

TIMOR-LESTE, 4W. Thomas, OZ1AA will be active as 4W/OZ1AA from Dili, IOTA OC-148, from November 1 to 7. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW and some FT8.

LIBERIA, EL. A group of operators will be active as 5L3BI from Baiyah Island, IOTA AF-111, from October 31 to November 4. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

PALAU, T8. Tetsuya, JA7XBG is active as T88GA from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until October 31. Activity is on the HF bands. He will be active as T8ED in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

BELIZE, V3. Victor, WB0TEV is active as V31VP from Blackman Eddy until October 31. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using SSB and RTTY. He will also be active in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest as a Single Op/All band/High Power/Assisted entry.

NAMIBIA, V5. Tev, TA1HZ is active as V51/TA1HZ until October 30. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint and NCCC CW Sprint are scheduled for this weekend. The Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test and UKEICC 80-Meter SSB Contest are scheduled for November 1..

WICEN News

WICEN ACT has requested WICEN NSW operators for the Light Car Club of Canberra's "Monaro Stages Rally" around Cooma on Saturday, November 4. Available members should contact Operations as soon as possible.

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic concluded this morning.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at nsw.wicen.org.au - includes a printable membership form, a web contact form which is the best way to contact WICEN as well as 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 running an HF net on Thursday evenings from 7pm, using the 10 metre WICEN frequency of 28.45MHz. The Region is 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. In November, the 4th is the LCCC Monaro Stages Rally and Sunday the 5th is the NSW Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood. 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 Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

The Club was formed on Friday, 18th of October 1957 and yesterday there was a lunch at the Central Coast Leagues Club, to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary.

The club is gearing up for the next annual Field Day - "WFD 2018" – which will be held on Sunday 25th February 2018 and further celebrations will be held then. If you are interested in presenting an amateur radio topic or holding a commercial stall, please contact the club, the details are on the website. For those who participated last year and would like to do so again, the club will be contacting you soon.

The club hosts a number of 2m and 70 cm repeaters as well as Amateur Digital TV repeater, ARPS, 23cm, a linked radio to Rylstone repeater with IRLP node on 438.075 and further enhancements are on the drawing board.

The clubrooms at Dandaloo St Kariong are open each Saturday morning from 10 am. The Next Lecture will be a Workshop; Building Simple Antenna for Satellite Operation, on Saturday 25th November.

The club can be contacted by phone, 02 4340 2500 or for via the website ccarc.org.au, and email ccarc@ccarc.org.au.

*Bob VK2AOR
President CCARC*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is the monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of November in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Yesterday, Saturday the 28th of October, club members provided the safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally in the Herons Creek area south of 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. The next training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run when 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 and past issues are on the website as well. Look for the November 2017 issue of Oxtales, early in the month.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The last meeting of the group for the year, is coming up on Friday the 10th of November. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

After general business, Barry VK2AHE will present a lecture on Cinema Projector Systems.

Tea, Coffee and Ragchew as usual, after the meeting.

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

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting on the 14th of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at 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 the Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

This coming meeting is the Society's Annual Auction, where there will be lots of pre-loved equipment and accessories available to be bid upon and taken home with pride. Listeners are also invited to avail themselves of the opportunity to bring along any unused radio gear that may be taking up space in the shack and put it up for auction. The booking-in of gear for the auction will start at 7pm.

As well as the opportunity to sell or buy something, the auction itself will be very entertaining, with Simon VK2XQX bringing his unique style as auctioneer. At the conclusion of the auction, there will be the usual fun rag-chew over a hot cup of tea or coffee, with a bunch of friendly, like-minded individuals.

Listeners who are interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas can contact our 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 email to vk2ara@wia.org.au. That address again is, vk2ara@wia.org.au.

Sunday News broadcasts from ARNSW Broadcasts are relayed via three of the Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres 146.675MHz and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres 53.650MHz and 2 metres 146.850MHz. These three repeaters provide Broadcast 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 time.

As these repeaters are also connected to Echolink, the Net receives call-ins from all over Australia, as well as many different 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 Annual Auction at 7:30pm on November the 14th 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 Club's has changed the dates for their November licence course and assessment weekend; it's now on the 25th and 26th of November.

The Foundation licence course and practical exam is on Saturday, with Foundation regulations and theory exams on Sunday. Exams for Standard and Advanced theory and regulations, are also on Sunday.

A minimum of 5 Foundation candidates are needed for the Saturday course to cover costs, but Sunday exams can be run with 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.

The next Meeting of the Club is on Wednesday the 29th of November 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. 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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this coming Wednesday evening, the 1st of November.

Brian Clarke, VK2GCE, WIA Director and Life Member of The St George Amateur Radio Society, will lead a 'fireside chat' regarding the WIA, its current activities and focus for the immediate future.

Also there will be a wide range of disposal items available for purchase, so don't miss out on these bargains.

As well as the presentation, 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>]

The Society has a team of educators dedicated to assisting new comers to amateur radio in obtain their licence, and for existing licensees to upgrade to a higher licence category.

The next training and assessment weekend is on Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th of November. The classes and assessment will be in Sutherland, a short walk from the railway station.

For more information, or to reserve a place, send an email to education@sgars.org or check out the society's website at sgars.org.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is an informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday 14th of November, at Mt Colah Community Centre, from 8:00 pm. The venue is near the northern end of Pierre Close, and 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 Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road. The year's last Mt Colah meeting will be on the 28th of November.

The Club's Christmas party will be in Waitara on Sunday 3rd December, starting at noon. It is essential to book with Colin VK2JCC, as there will be no seats available for "walk-ins".

HADARC and the Kur-ring-gai Historical Society are planning celebrations for the Centenary of the Reception of the first direct Wireless message from the UK to Australia for next year.

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. Due to noise issues, Morning Tea with HADARC has moved up the band slightly, to be on or near 7106 kHz, but same time, 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;

November

St. George ARS gathering on the 1st

Oxley Region ARC monthly meeting on the 4th

Gold Coast ARS Hamfest on the 5th

Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 10th

HADARC Mid-monthly meeting on the 14th

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

ARNSW Foundation training and assessment weekend, 18th and 19th

St. George ARS Foundation weekend as well.

Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation and exam weekend, new date, the 25th and 26th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 25th and 26th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew group, on the 26th

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 28th

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

Fishers Ghost ARC Meeting on the 29th

December

HADARC Christmas party at Waitara on the 3rd

George ARS Christmas BBQ & Annual General Meeting on the 6th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend the 9th and 10th

And don't forget... Christmas Day on the 25th

January 2018

The Ross Hull contest – all month, from the 1st to the 31st

Australia Day – you can use the AX prefix – on the 26th