

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

Next Weekend sees the annual RD contest, running from 0300UTC (1pm Sydney time) on Saturday, continuing for 24 hours. This contest commemorates the Amateurs who died during World War II and is designed to encourage friendly participation and help improve the operating skills of participants. It is held on the weekend closest to the 15th August, the date on which hostilities ceased in the southwest Pacific area.

Subject to delivery, VK2WI is planning to relay the contest opening address on Saturday afternoon the 11<sup>th</sup> August, check the usual VK2WI frequencies from about 12:45pm.

If you are an ARNSW member, don't forget about the HF balun kits and wire antenna components that are available; for more information, contact Al by phone to 0415 259 777, or email [balun@arnsw.org.au](mailto:balun@arnsw.org.au).

## Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27<sup>th</sup> of July to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
10cm flux	67	68	68	68	69	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	6	5	5	5	5	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	3	2	3	2	4	3 estimated
T index	-3	0	+1	0	7	8	9

Solar flare activity was very low, all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region remained near predicted monthly values, during daylight hours, all week. However, on some days, enhancements were observed during local nights – 20% on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 35% on the 31<sup>st</sup>, 40% on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, and 30% on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly at quiet levels, though unsettled conditions are possible from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of August.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should 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.

As we just finished July, the figures for the month were a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 73  
With peak dates between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>

Now as we start August, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 72  
With peak dates between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>

And looking ahead to the prediction for September, we expect;

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70  
With peak dates between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup>.

*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>]

## Space Weather Summary for July 2018

*Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services*

Solar activity was predominately at very low levels this month, and once again, no M-class or X-class flares were observed. Most of the solar activity observed was in the form of coronal holes.

There was also little significant geomagnetic activity, with only one active period, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July. This active period was associated with a coronal hole, but did not cause a geomagnetic storm and no geomagnetic alert was issued.

No significant ionospheric depressions were observed during the month. Occasional enhancements in F2 critical frequencies have been observed during local night-time hours, across the Southern Australian region. The only depression of note was on the 24<sup>th</sup>, when the period of elevated geomagnetic activity on the 24<sup>th</sup> caused mild MUF depressions of up to 20%. Otherwise, MUFs remained in line with the predicted monthly values.

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## What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with the series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio. Contesting is just one area of activity – and with the RD contest coming up next weekend, F-calls can get involved too, as Onno explains;

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*Duration: 3m25s*

*In: "What use is an F-call?"*

*Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"*

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For more information about this series, you can contact Onno via email, to [onno@itmaze.com.au](mailto:onno@itmaze.com.au), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## **ARRL DX news**

SRI LANKA; Dariusz, SP9DLM will be active as 4S7DMG from Kalkudah from August 6 to 14. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres.

MALAYSIA; In celebration of Malaysia's 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of their independence on August 31, look for special call 9M61Mx to be active from fifteen locations, each with a different suffix, during the month of August.

AZORES; Jim, W6PQL is active as CT8/W6PQL from Pico Island, IOTA EU-175, until September 3. Activity is primarily on 20 metres using SSB and FT8. This also includes some activity on 40, 17 and 15 metres. He plans to be active using EME on 2 metres mid-month when the Moon is in a favourable position.

GERMANY; Special event station DQ800HRO is active during the month of August during the occasion of the Hanse Sail 2018.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS; Dave, G4BUO is active as E51BUO on Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until August 6. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW.

ISLE OF MAN; Andrew, G8GNI plans to be active as GD8GNI from Scarlett Point Tower from August 6 to 10. Activity will be on the HF bands using only digital modes.

GUERNSEY; Mek, SP7VC will be active as MU/SP7VC until August 11. Activity will be on the HF bands, as well as 6, 2, and 4 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS; Alfredo, HC1HC will be active as HC1HC/8 from Santa Cruz Island, IOTA SA-004, from August 7 to 10. Activity will be mainly on 30, 17 and 12 metres, and possibly 6 metres, using CW, and FT8 in DXpedition mode, all using QRP power.

BULGARIA; Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are active with special event station LZ1146SPS during August for their annual All Saints 2018 celebration.

ANTARCTICA; Sergey, R3IW is active as RI1ANW until March 2019 from the Novolazarevskaya [NOVO-laz-ar-revs-kaya] Station. Activity is on the various HF bands.

GREECE; Operators I2KBD and IZ2AMW are active as SV8/home calls from Kefallonia Island, IOTA EU-052, until August 10. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

MALI; Youma, TZ5YL is usually active on 17 metres using slow CW typically between 1400 and 1700UTC.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA; Philippe, EA4NF will be active as V26NF from Antigua Island until August 19. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 metres using QRP power.

INDONESIA; In celebration of the 73rd anniversary of the Independence of Indonesia, special call YB73RI will be active as YB73RI/0 to 9 from all ten Indonesian call areas from August 10 to 17.

ALBANIA; Waldi, SP7IDX will be active as ZA/SP7IDX until August 12. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, North American CW QSO Party, 10-10 International Summer SSB Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, European HF Championship, WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone, and the SARL HF Phone Contest.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for August 7.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 8.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

## WICEN News

The WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting will be held here at ARNSW in Quarry Road, Dural, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 3pm. AGM papers have been either emailed or posted to members. Any members missing a copy of the Appointment of Proxy Form, can download one from the WICEN website – by going to the “Forms” section once logged in. Alternately, contact the Secretary on 0408 397 217, and he will Express Post one to you.

September is shaping up to be a busy month on the WICEN calendar. The Great North Walk Ultras, are a series of trail races from Teralba to Patonga Wharf, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Then the VH-MDX "Barrington SAREX", or Search And Rescue EXercise is on the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, with the second recce concluding today, and the Hounslow Classic is a running event centered around Blackheath, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The next day of WICEN Induction will be held at VK2WI Dural on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

October the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> are the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and the Wisemans Dash. These events raise funds for the ARROW Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

The WICEN website at [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au) includes membership information, a web contact form, other contact details and useful links. Members can login and access further information.

Facebook users will find an 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. Their next meeting is on Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10am at the SARC clubrooms.

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, on the band-plan's 80 metre WICEN frequency of 3.6MHz.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The Batemans Bay Rally is on August 11 and the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. In October, the ANU "Inward Bound" adventure race, is on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, then both Fitz's Challenge and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, are on the 28<sup>th</sup>. See the WICEN and Events pages on [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).

WICEN Victoria has a net on 3.6 MHz each Wednesday at 8:30pm local time. Coming events include the Field Weekend at Lauriston Scout Camp in the Macedon Ranges, on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October, and the Stockmans Rally at Big River on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>. For details, visit the website at [vic.wicen.org.au](http://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 club's AGM took place yesterday, and the following members were elected as office bearers;

President; Henry VK2ZHE	Vice President; Paul VK2ICQ
Acting Secretary; Henry VK2ZHE	Treasurer; Dennis VK2DAM

Committee Members; Larry VK2CLL, Arthur VK2ATM and Rob VK2CRF.

Henry VK2ZHE also takes on the roles of Public Officer, Repeater and VK2BOR Station Manager. Paul VK2ICQ is also QSL manager, publicity officer, member liaison and webmaster.

John VK2AYQ is Oxtales Editor, Dennis VK2DAM is welfare officer, Larry VK2CLL is education officer, John VK2KHB is club historian, Jim VK2VIV is Social director, and Bob VK2ZRE is the WIA Liaison Delegate.

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering, starting at 7pm on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Next weekend, club station VK2BOR will be active from the club's communications caravan at the Camden Haven Airfield south of Port Macquarie, to participate in the RD Contest on Saturday and Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August. The station will operate for 24 hours on all bands including 160 metres.

The following weekend, VK2BOR will operate from the club's caravan at the Tacking Point Lighthouse, taking part in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

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 the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each month. The venue for all these meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Club, visit the website at [orarc.org](http://orarc.org). The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The July 2018 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", is now available to read on the website, and past issues can be viewed there 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 except for January, with the next meeting on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. General meetings start at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm. Meetings are held at the Coniston Community Hall located in Bridge Street Coniston, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is right next door to Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train, is very easy.

The next meeting is the Society's AGM, with all positions vacated and up for election. There is no need for thinking of visiting, to be concerned about being hijacked into a vacated position, as many of the current Committee and Executive are happy to volunteer again – if elected of course.

Following the AGM, Rob VK2MT will give a presentation on HF antennas - from balanced to unbalanced and resonant to non-resonant. Following which will be the usual ragchew and cuppa with chocky biscuits. Based on many past meeting nights, ragchewing continues until the hall lights are turned off, but then leads on into the carpark!

If you are interested in gaining your Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas, remember 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, so contacted Ted via email to; [vk2ara@wia.org.au](mailto:vk2ara@wia.org.au).

And don't forget about the Saturday morning chit-chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. If you're interested in joining-in, listen on either VK2RMP or VK2RUW 2m repeaters from 9.30am or you can call-in on Echolink, using VK2BGL-R.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 14th of August, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT  
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

## Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club held its Annual General Meeting yesterday; there will be further details in next week's news.

In the recent Trans-Tasman Contest, the Club managed 148 valid contacts as VK2AFY, clocking up 1,500 points; we congratulate all eight operators involved.

Business meetings of the club are held on the first Saturday of every month, and naturally all are welcome, especially visitors.

The Club holds lectures on the third Saturday of Every month; this month's lecture, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, will be a practical demonstration of test equipment, presented by Graham VK2GRA.

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the club rooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station, at 1pm - just look for the big tower - preceded by a sausage sizzle starting at noon. The clubrooms are accessible by bus, with a bus stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford train Station, every hour.

The Club also relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6m and 2m metre repeaters VK2RAG, on 53.725 and 146.725MHz, respectively. Please note that both repeaters require a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone.

There is a net held every Thursday on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater, on 146.725MHz, starting at 8pm.

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the website, at [ccarc.org.au](http://ccarc.org.au), which will soon have various interactive features.

*Submitted by Dave VK2KFU  
CCARC Publicity Officer.*

## **Hunter Radio Group**

The next monthly meeting of the Group will be on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> August. Please note that this meeting has been moved back a week, due to the RD Contest on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August.

The location is as usual; the Belmore Function Room at the Adamstown Bowling Club. The meeting starts at 7.30pm, and light meals will be available from the bar, before the meeting.

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

## **Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club**

The Club is holding a “Winterfest” car boot sale, on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August. Its at the BMARC Club rooms, 4 Moors Street, Glenbrook, and starts at 9am. Entry is \$5 per person.

If you wish to set up a stall, contact [president@bmarc.org](mailto:president@bmarc.org) for more details.

It’s not just Amateur Radio equipment; as members have other hobbies too, there is a diverse range of goodies available.

Tea, Coffee and bickies will be available all day for a Gold coin donation. A sausage sizzle and drinks will be available at reasonable prices.

There will also be a raffle.

The BMARC Club rooms are open to all on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 10am until 2pm.

*Submitted by Daniel VK2DC  
President, BMARC.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting will be the informal, mid-monthly meeting, with the presentation of a series of short talks. Its on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August and starts at 8pm. The meeting is at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, is the centenary of the Marconi-Fisk message, including the operation of special event station VK100MARCONI.

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 3608.5kHz, also from 8pm. Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz, from 9:00 am on Fridays.

HADARC's website is at: [www.hadarc.org.au](http://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**

WICEN NSW AGM at VK2WI Dural on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
Remembrance Day Contest on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
Illawarra ARS AGM on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
ORARC gathering on the 17<sup>th</sup>  
International Lighthouse & lightship weekend, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
Blue Mountains ARC "Winterfest" on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **September**

St George ARS gathering on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
Great North Walk Ultra – A WICEN event – on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>  
Barrington SAREX, a WICEN event, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>  
Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>  
Centenary of the first direct message from the UK to Australia via radio, 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **October**

St George ARS gathering on the 3<sup>th</sup>  
JOTA and JOTI on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>