

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

The next Foundation course and assessment weekend run by ARNSW, is next month, on the weekend of September 15th and 16th, here at VK2WI Dural. Places are already filling for the weekend, so please register your interest by email to education@arnsw.org.au. Also that weekend is a foundation course run by the Waverley ARS in Sydney's eastern suburbs.

For something a little different in education and assessment, the Oz-VE group is planning to run a US Amateur Licence examination session in Sydney, on Saturday the 22nd of September. It will be held at Waitara, in the northern suburbs of Sydney. Julian VK2YJS is co-ordinating the day and more information will shortly be available on the group's website, veexams.com.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 21st of August, the ARNSW Radio 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.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 10th to the 16th of August.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
10cm flux	70	67	68	68	69	69	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	11	6	6	6	12	12 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	9	3	2	2	10	9 estimated
T index	7	7	4	-1	-2	0	6

Solar flare activity was very low, all week.

Geomagnetic activity this week, started out quiet on the 10th before becoming unsettled on the 11th. Activity then returned to quiet levels between the 12th and the 14th. The 15th saw activity ranging from quiet to active levels, and the 16th ranged from quiet to unsettled.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region remained near predicted monthly values, during daylight hours, all week. But again we have seen some slight enhancements during local nights – 35% on the 10th and 11th, 25% on the 12th, 15% on the 13th, 20% on the 15th and the 8th, and 15% on the 16th.

Now, the forecast for the 17th to the 23rd of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with possible active periods on the 20th.

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.

Looking back at July, the figures for the month were a;

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

Now to August, and the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 2nd and the 11th, and the 24th to the 31st

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

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 1st and the 6th, and the 20th to the 30th.

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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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.

[Play File: E-FCAL011.wav]

Duration: 2m56s

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

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

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

ARRL DX news

TONGA; Operator DL7JLL is active as A35JLL until September 19 from several islands in the Tongatapu Group, IOTA OC-014. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB.

CUBA; Several members of the Mayabeque Contest Group will be active as T43SD from the San Dionicio Lighthouse during the ILLW, ILLW CU0015. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS; Members of the CanAm DX Group are active as TX5T from Raivavae Island, IOTA OC-114, until August 25. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 with three stations.

ENGLAND; Members of the Norfolk ARC will be active as GB0HL from the Happisburgh Lighthouse in the ILLW. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB, as well as 2 metre and 70 centimetre stations active. In addition, look for members of the King's Lynn ARC to be active as GB2HLH from the Hunstanton Lighthouse during the ILLW. Activity will be on the HF, VHF and UHF bands using various modes.

MARKET REEF; A group of Youth On The Air operators will be active as OJ0C until August 25.

AUSTRIA; Members of the Austrian club ADL031 will be active with special call OE18BALLON until August 25, during the 23rd FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship. Activity will be on the HF bands, as well as 6 metres, 2 metres, and 70 centimetres.

BRAZIL; Special event station ZY159CAT is active during August, in celebration of the 159th anniversary of the city of Catalao.

SWEDEN; Baldur, DJ6SI is active as SD6X from the Pater Noster Lighthouse on Hamneskar Island, IOTA EU-043, until August 20. This includes being an entry in the ILLW.

POLAND; A group of operators are active as SN140LHG until August 20 from the Gaski Lighthouse, ILLW PL0012. This includes an entry in the ILLW.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Members from the Chukchi Sea Coast East group will be active as RT65KI from Idlidlya Island, IOTA AS-065, from August 19 to 25. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

BELIZE; Victor, WB0TEV is active as V31VP from Maya Hill Lodge until August 22. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and RTTY. This includes entries in the North American SSB QSO Party and SARTG RTTY contest. Outside the contests, he is active using RTTY.

NAMIBIA; Wynand, V51WW plans to be active from the Swakopmund Lighthouse during the ILLW, and as V51NAM from the Pelican Point Lighthouse at Walvis Bay.

INDIA; A group of operators are active as AT3LH from the Vengurla Point Lighthouse until August 20. Activity is on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres using SSB, PSK and FT8, and includes an entry in the ILLW.

INDONESIA; Operators YB3MM/8, YB8OUN/8, YC8OBM/8 and YD8MGN/8 will be active from Waleakodi Island, IOTA OC-213, until August 21. Activity will be on 40, 30, and 20 metres using CW and FT8.

KOSOVO; Tev, TA1HZ is active as Z68HZ from Prishtina until August 27 as part of the Kosovo International Friendship Consortium. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

SOUTH AFRICA; A group of operators are active as ZS9V from Robben Island, IOTA AF-064, as well as the Lighthouse located here, until August 20. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL RTTY Rookie Roundup, ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, 21st Annual International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, North American SSB QSO Party, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, SARTG World Wide RTTY Contest, Russian District Award Contest, Keyman's Club of Japan CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, CVA DX CW Contest and the SARL HF Digital Contest are all on this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for August 20. The SKCC CW Sprint, CWops Mini-CWT Test, and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 22.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

The WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting was held last week, and the results of the election are;

President; John VK2LJ, Vice President; Neil VK2XNF
Secretary; Steve VK2MCA Treasurer; Doug VK2DCR
Committee; Jan VK2FEB, Lindsay VK2FLEA, Nicholas VK2KXN and Eric VK2VE.

WICEN thanks Mal VK2YVA and Steven VK2BOS for their service on the outgoing committee.

Hunter Region WICEN needs more operators for The Great North Walk Ultras, are a series of trail races from Teralba to Patonga Wharf, on the 8th and 9th of September. If you are available on these days, please contact WICEN operations as soon as possible.

Later in September is the "Barrington SAREX", or Search And Rescue Exercise, on the 14th to 16th, built around the search for the missing Cessna 210M, VH-MDX.

The Hounslow Classic is a running event centered around Blackheath, on the 22nd and 23rd.

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

October 14th is Volunteer Memorial Day.

The WICEN website at nsw.wicen.org.au. 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.

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 ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is on September 29th and 30th. In October, the ANU "Inward Bound" adventure race, is on the 5th and 6th, then both Fitz's Challenge and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, are on the 28th. See the WICEN and Events pages on 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 5th and 6th of October, and the Stockmans Rally at Big River on Sunday the 28th. For details, visit the website at 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 the September monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 1st of September, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Club station VK2BOR participated in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend today; The station was set up in the club's Communications Caravan at the Tacking Point Lighthouse early this morning.

Last weekend, VK2BOR participated in the RD Contest, from the club's communications caravan at the Camden Haven Airfield south of Port Macquarie. It was a very successful and enjoyable weekend with perfect weather. It was particularly pleasing that a great many contacts were made on 160 metres throughout the night, despite the strong static crashes from the thunderstorms in the southern part of the state.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444; Training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences, run once sufficient candidates have registered their interest.

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. 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Central Coast WICEN AGM was held yesterday; full details in next week's broadcast.

The club's mixed-mode UHF repeater VK2RAG on 439.950MHz has now been connected to the MMDVM P25 network. For P25 use the NAC is 293, and to use it in analogue, a 91.5 MHz CTCSS tone is required. Analogue users of the repeater will probably want to use the 91.5Hz tone for reception as well, otherwise the noise heard when the repeater is transmitting in digital mode will drive you crazy. Information on the various talk groups, etc can be found on the Club's website and Facebook page.

Due to the Shahzada Horse Enduro being held in the last week of August, the usual business meeting has been postponed to the following Saturday, the 8th of September. Naturally all are welcome, especially visitors.

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 the obligatory sausage sizzle starting at noon. The club rooms are accessible by bus, with a bus stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway 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 repeaters VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725MHz respectively; please note that both repeaters require a sub-audible tone of 91.5Hz.

There is a net held every Thursday on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm, and all members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved).

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for centralcoastarc, and a Twitter account, @ccarclub [pronounced "at CC AR Club"].

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the website, at ccarc.org.au.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer for the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Winterfest is on Sunday the 26th of August at the BMARC Club rooms, 4 Moors Street, Glenbrook. Doors open at 9am, entry is \$5 per person.

Car boot sales are available, and not just limited to Amateur Radio equipment; as members have other hobbies too, there is a diverse range of goodies available.

If you wish to set up a stall, contact president@bmarc.org for more details.

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, which will be drawn at about 1pm.

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

Meetings of the club are on the first Friday of each month, except for January, and start at 7:30pm. Visitors are very welcome.

The club also operates 2 nets each week; Tuesdays at 8pm on 80 metres at 3543kHz, and on the club 2 metre repeater on 147.050Mhz. Please note the repeater requires a 123hz tone.

The Club regularly holds Foundation License weekends; the next is scheduled for October. For more information on all Club activities, visit the website, at www.bmarc.org.

*Submitted by Daniel VK2DC
President, BMARC.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is the monthly general meeting, on Tuesday the 28th of August starting 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 22nd of September, is the centenary of the Marconi-Fisk message. Operation of special event station VK100MARCONI will be at St Andrew's Anglican Church from 11 am, and the monument from 1 pm.

The Club runs three nets each week; Monday nights from 8pm on the 2 metre repeater VK2RNS, 147.25MHz. No tone is required, but a 91.5 Hz tone is sent. The 80 metre net is on Wednesday evenings on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm; and Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz from 9am on Fridays.

For more information on nets and other club activities, the 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;

August

Blue Mountains ARC "Winterfest" on the 26th

HADARC monthly meeting on the 28th

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 29th

September

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 1st

St George ARS gathering on the 5th

CCARC business meeting – a week later than usual – on Saturday the 8th

Great North Walk Ultra – A WICEN event – on the 8th and 9th

Barrington SAREX, a WICEN event, from the 14th to 16th

ARNSW Foundation and Assessment weekend, 15th and 16th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, the 15th and 16th

Centenary of the first direct message from the UK to Australia via radio, 22nd

Canberra Region ARC Foundation Weekend and assessments, 22nd and 23rd

ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 30th

October

St George ARS gathering on the 3th

JOTA and JOTI on the 20th and 21st

Hawkesbury Canoe Race, a WICEN event, on the 27th and 28th