

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

Places are filling fast for the next ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend. Its on the weekend of September 15th and 16th, here at VK2WI Dural. Register your interest by email to education@arnsw.org.au. Also that weekend is a foundation course run by the Waverley ARS at Rose Bay, in Sydney's eastern suburbs. The final ARNSW Foundation course for the year, is on November the 10th and 11th.

September's ARNSW Trash and Treasure is on Sunday the 30th – the last Sunday of the month.

If you took part in the RD contest, don't forget to submit your log. Every entry helps the overall state total.

For something a little different in education and assessment, the Oz-VE group is running US Amateur Licence examinations session in Sydney, on Saturday the 22nd of September. It will be held at Waitara, in the northern suburbs of Sydney, commencing at 8:15am. Julian VK2YJS is co-ordinating the day and more information is on the group's website, veexams.com.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17th to the 23rd of August.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm flux	67	67	67	68	68	67	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	14	11	8	15	6	8	5
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	9	5	12	4	3	2 estimated
T index	10	2	-4	+2	-8	-5	-2

Solar flare activity was very low, all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 17th, briefly becoming quiet to active on the 18th then returning to quiet on the 19th. The 20th saw quiet to active conditions, with the SWS magnetometer recording at weak impulse of 9 nanoTeslas, at 1447UTC. But, after this things settled down, with activity remaining at quiet levels from the 21st through to the 23rd.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during local day on the 17th and enhanced 20% during local night. The 18th was near predicted all day, then the 19th was depressed 15% during local day, returning to near predicted during local nights. The 20th was mostly near predicted, the 21st was depressed 20% during local day, though night was near predicted, then the 22nd and 23rd remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 24th to the 30th of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with a possibility of Active to minor storm conditions between the 24th and 25th of August, if any glancing CME effects eventuate. Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values, though higher altitude depressions are possible if the geomagnetic storm activity eventuates.

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 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 68
With peak dates between the 12th and the 16th.

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-FCAL007.wav]

Duration: 3m13s

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

CYPRUS; Operators Emil, DL8JJ, Paul, G4PVM, Norman, 5B4AIE and Col, MM0NDX will be active as C4II from Agios Georgios Island, IOTA AS-120, until August 26. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8, and on 6 metres depending on operating conditions.

EASTER ISLAND; Otis, NP4G will be active as CE0Y/NP4G until August 29. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW and FT8.

IRELAND; Station EJ0DXG is active from Bere Island, IOTA EU-121, until August 26 as part of the third activation of the Irish Islands IOTA Tour 2018.

MOLDOVA; Roberto, IK1HGE is active as ER/IK1HGE from Nisporeni until September 1. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using only SSB.

FRANCE; Reg, G3WPF is active with special event call TM100HAB until September 4, to commemorate 100 years since the liberation of Hardecourt-aux-Bois in the Somme in World War I. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW with some SSB.

ENGLAND; Members of the Pontefract and District Amateur Radio Society are active as GB250CC until September 19 to commemorate the beginning of Captain James Cook's first voyage 250 years ago.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Special event station D73V is active until the end of August to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of Korea's independence.

MINAMI TORISHIMA; Take, JG8NQJ is active as JD1/JG8NQJ while delayed on Marcus Island, IOTA OC-073, and remains here until September 6.

BULGARIA; Special event station LZ35PAR is active until August 31 during the 35th FAI World Freefall Style and Accuracy Landing Championship.

CZECH REPUBLIC; Special event station OL100CSR is active until October 31 to celebrate the founding of Czechoslovakia 100 years ago.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC; Special event station OM100CSR is active until October 31 to celebrate the founding of Czechoslovakia 100 years ago.

CURACAO; Charles, NK8O will be active as PJ2/NK8O from August 27 to September 2. Activity will be holiday style on 20 to 10 metres using QRP power and during his daylight hours.

GREECE; Members of the Thessaloniki Amateur Group will be active as special event station SX10HF during their 10th Ham Fest.

TURKEY; Members of the 2018 Turkish Ankara Youth Contest Team will be active as TC2F from August 29 to September 4. Activity will be on the HF bands, including an entry in the upcoming All Asian DX SSB contest.

BURKINA FASO; Alain, F8FUA is active as XT2BR from Ouagadougou until August 29. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.

KOSOVO; Franco, IZ5YHD is active as Z6/IZ5YHD/p until August 26. Activity is holiday style on the various HF bands using SSB.

MACEDONIA; Franco, IZ5YHD will be active as Z3/IZ5YHD from Ohrid from August 27 to 31. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Hawaii QSO Party, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint Ladder, ALARA Contest, YO DX HF Contest, SCC RTTY Championship, W/VE Islands QSO Party, Kansas QSO Party, Ohio QSO Party, CVA DX SSB Contest, 50 MHz Fall Sprint and the SARL HF CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 29.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is an independent incorporated organisation that provides communications support during emergencies; and assists in the operation of community events, and sporting events which take place over a long course, or in a remote area. WICEN is accredited by the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association, and is listed in the NSW Government's DISPAN, or Disaster Plan.

Our congratulations to the eight WICEN members who completed their induction training here at ARNSW in Dural last Sunday.

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.

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.

Last Sunday, club station VK2BOR participated in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. The station was set up in the club's Communications Caravan at the Tacking Point Lighthouse. The weather was perfect until the wind arrived as forecast late in the afternoon, as the station was being packed up. Most of the activity was on 20 metres this year, signals on 80 and 40 metres were not as strong as usual and the persistent noise level made copy difficult on those bands. The day was very enjoyable with breakfast and lunch from the barbeque. A good cross section of members took the opportunity to operate the station, helping to make the day a great success.

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

Last week's lecture was by Graham VK2GRA, on the use and abuse of oscilloscopes and their limitations. This was followed by a donation of probes for the Club's own CRO, by a member who shall remain anonymous for modesty reasons, and a demonstration of the 12V "DC" plug-pack from hell.

Next month's lecture will be on Saturday the 15th of September, and the topic will be the GPS system, by Dave VK2KFU.

Due to the Shahzada[pronounced shuh-ZAR-da] 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.

For those looking to get licenced, or to upgrade, a Foundation Training and Assessment Day has been set for the 22nd of September; please confirm your attendance as soon as possible with Karen VK2AKB.

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 rooms are usually open from 10.30 every Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the workshop and library.

The Club 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.

The club also runs a mixed-mode repeater VK2RAG on 439.950MHz, which is connected to the P25 network using the of NAC 293; a 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and is highly recommended for receiving.

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

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club is this Wednesday the 29th of August, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Road 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 at fgarc.org.au.

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

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. At the meeting, Kevin VK2KVJ will present a talk on diplexers.

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

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
Central Coast ARC Foundation Training and Assessment day on the 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