

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

As today is Father's Day, we hope that any fathers listening tonight had an enjoyable day, and perhaps received a little something for the shack.

We start with some unfortunate news this week, that active North Coast amateur and ARNSW Membership Officer, Norm VK2TOP, was involved in a serious car accident on Sunday the 26th of August. He is currently in hospital and while his condition has improved slightly during the week, it is likely to be a long hospital stay. Our thoughts are with Norm and we are hoping for a speedy recovery.

Education Update

Places are filling fast for the next ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, on 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.

On the Central Coast, the CCARC has a Foundation day on September the 22nd, more details later in this news.

In November, The final ARNSW Foundation course for the year, is on November the 10th and 11th, and the weekend after there is a course run by the St George Amateur Radio Society.

Finally, 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 24th to the 30th of August.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th
10cm flux	72	72	71	70	70	71	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	12	34	20	9	7	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	10	48	16	7	3	2 estimated
T index	0	+1	6	-4	-13	-9	-1

Solar flare activity was very low, all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 24th, and quiet to active on the 25th before reaching severe storm levels on the 26th. Activity remained at quiet to active levels on the 27th, returning to quiet to unsettled levels on the 28th and settling back down to quiet for the 29th and 30th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 24th and 25th. The 26th saw depressions of 20% during local day, returning to near predicted at local night. The 27th was near predicted, then the 28th was depressed 15% during day and 25% during local night. The 29th and 30th remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 31st of August to the 6th of September;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be 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 August, the figures for the month were a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 2nd and the 11th, and the 24th to the 30th

As we start September, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 14th and the 23rd

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 10th and the 20th.

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-FCAL010.wav]

Duration: 3m34s

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

MAURITIUS; Hans, PA3HGT plans to be active as 3B8/PA3HGT from September 4 to 24 while on vacation here. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20 and 10 metres using mostly SSB with a little CW and digital modes.

BHUTAN; Zorro, JH1AJT and Champ, E21EIC will be active as A5A from September 4 to 14. The main purpose of this trip is to meet with Foreign Ministry officials to discuss progress on a youth development project. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

CHILE; Members of the Discolo DX Group will be active as XR208A, XR208B, XR208C and XR208D during September to celebrate the 208th anniversary of the first government of Chile as an autonomous republic. Activity will be on the HF bands using on SSB, PSK31 and FT8.

PHILIPPINES; Jin, DU1IST will be active as DU1IST/9 from Tawi Tawi Island, IOTA OC-174, until September 4. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres.

KYRGYZSTAN; Special event stations EX3NOMAD and EX3WNG are active until September 15 during the third World Games of Nomads taking place in Cholpon-Ata.

FRANCE; Philippe, F5PTA will be active as TM70ONU from Lyon until December 27 to mark the 70 years of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948.

GUADELOUPE; Laci, HA0NAR is active as FG/HG0R until September 7. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

REUNION ISLAND; Patrick, FR5FC, is active from Saint Leu. Activity is mainly on 40 to 15 metres using SSB and FT8. His length of stay is unknown.

THAILAND; Champ, E21EIC will be active as E2A as a Single Op/All Band entry in the All Asian DX Phone contest.

GUAM; Operator JR1VAY is active as AH2J until September 3, including entries in the All Asian DX Phone and Russian World Wide RTTY contests.

BULGARIA; Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik will be active as LZ920MLC during September for their annual All Saints award.

PERU; Arno, DL1CW is active as OA7/DL1CW in Urubamba until September 5. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres.

ALAND ISLANDS; Ray, DL1ZBO, Volkmar, DL2VU and Peter, DL5FF are active as OH0JWL until September 7. This includes an entry in the Russian World Wide RTTY contest.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC; Members of the Radioklub KAPA are active with event call sign OM80PAR until the end of 2018 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the city of Partizanske.

CRETE; Operators DE3BWR and DD0VR will be active as SV9/DD0VR until September 10 while touring the Cyclades Islands. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB, and with QRP power.

PALAU ; Nobu, JA0JHQ is active as T88PB from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until September 3. Activity is on the HF bands, with a focus on 30 metres, and using CW. This includes an entry in the All Asian DX Phone contest.

TURKEY; Operators Golkem, TA7AZC and Furkan, TA7AOF are active as TC2F until September 4. This includes an entry in the All Asian DX Phone contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The RSGB SSB Field Day, IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day, All Asian DX Phone Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key CW Contest, Russian World Wide RTTY Contest, CWOps CW Open, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, Colorado QSO Party, AGCW Straight Key 40-Metre CW Party, Alabama QSO Party, PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80-Metre PSK31 Sprint, WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone and the Tennessee QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint is scheduled for September 3. The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for September 4. The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for September 5.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

Hunter Region WICEN is looking for more operators for The Great North Walk Ultras, are a series of trail races from Teralba to Patonga Wharf, next weekend. If you are available, please contact WICEN operations as soon as possible.

Later this month 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.

In 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. Their next meeting is Sunday the 14th of October at 10am.

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 Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

If you turned up to the CCARC rooms yesterday afternoon expecting the regular business meeting, then it means that you missed the advice in last week's news, that it had been rescheduled due to a major exercise (the Shahzada Horse Enduro) involving many Club members. That is, the next business meeting of the Club will be on Saturday the 8th of September, starting at 1pm.

Have you ever wondered how the GPS works? At this month's lecture, on Saturday the 15th September, you can learn more about the ubiquitous GPS system with a presentation by Dave VK2KFU; don't worry, as it will not get too technical, so a full house is expected.

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, 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; 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

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is coming up on Friday the 14th of September. Location is as usual, the Belmore Function room at Adamstown Bowling Club, and the meeting starts at 7:30pm.

More Details in future broadcasts.

*Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering, at 7pm on Friday the 21st of September, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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. The September 2018 issue of Oxtales is in preparation, and will be published early in the month.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this Wednesday, the 5th of September.

This month the group will be holding a "Buy, Swap and Sell". So look through your shack or shed and grab some of the things that you no longer need and bring them along; Hopefully you will go home with some money in your pocket, or some better stuff. Or, just bring your money with you and grab a bargain, or something you have been looking for, for a long time.

Only one rule - everything you bring goes home with someone else, or you take it home yourself.

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, and the gathering starts at 7.30pm.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".

[\[http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted \]](http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted)

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is the informal mid-monthly meeting, on Tuesday the 11th of September, 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.

The Google "Plus code" for this site is: 84H8+64 Mount Colah, New South Wales.

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, with formalities at 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;

September

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

HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 11th

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

Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 14th

CCARC Lecture on the GPS on the 15th

ARNSW Foundation and Assessment weekend, 15th and 16th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, the 15th and 16th

Oxley Region ARC gathering on the 21st

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

November

St George ARS gathering on the 1st

MWRS Training and Licensing Day on the 10th

St George Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 17th and 18th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 25th