

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

This weekend, ARNSW Education held training and assessments for foundation candidates.

[update if available]

The next Foundation and Upgrade weekend at ARNSW is in November, on the 10th and 11th.

Next Saturday the 22nd, the Oz-VE group is running US Amateur Licence examinations at Waitara, starting at 8:15am. More information is on the group's website, veexams.com.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 18th of September, 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.

Then in two week's time, Sunday the 30th is the bi-monthly meeting of the group. At this meeting, Peter VK2TPM and Peter VK2EMU, will be doing a combined presentation on making metal boxes.

A project is never finished until it is boxed up in a suitable enclosure. Sometimes it is best to use a custom made box, often of aluminium. The presentation will include cutting and bending aluminium for boxes as well as making holes both big and small. This will include drill, punches and hole saws, as well as drilling and taping holes.

There will be diversions into rivets and clinch nuts for holding boxes together, and finally, finishing aluminum panels.

The meeting will start with the usual "Show and Tell" segment where members of the audience get up to show some project that they have been working on.

So come along at noon, to VK2WI at 63 Quarry Road, Dural, on Sunday the 30th.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 7th to the 13th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th
10cm flux	68	69	68	69	69	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	5	6	15	24	10	13
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	4	4	11	16	6	11 estimated
T index	-1	+3	4	4	6	0	6

Solar flare activity was very low, all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 7th to the 9th, with some unsettled conditions on the 8th. The 10th ranged from quiet to active across the Australian region, continuing into the 11th, which was quiet to active with some Minor Storm periods. Then the 12th was again quiet, before the 13th again ranged from quiet to active conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values, during local daytime, for the whole week. However, some enhancements were observed during local nights; 35% on the 7th, 15% on the 8th and 10th, 20% on the 11th, and 15% on the 12th and 13th.

Now, the forecast for the 14th to the 20th of September;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at mostly quiet to unsettled levels, with some isolated active periods possible on the 17th and 18th of September.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly 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

Halfway through September, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 11th and the 15th

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 8th and the 10th.

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-FCAL009.wav]

Duration: 3m58s

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

SWAZILAND; Pista, HA5AO plans to be active as 3DA0AO from Mbabane until September 28. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, RTTY and FT8.

VIETNAM; Jacek, SP5APW will be active as 3W9JK/p from Cham Island, IOTA AS-162, until September 22 and then as 3W9JK from Hoi An until September 27. Activity will be on 20 to 6 metres using SSB.

MALAWI; Alex, IW5ELA will be active as 7Q7ELA from September 17 to 26 while traveling through the country. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW in his spare time.

MALDIVES; Christian, OE3DEC is active as 8Q7EC until September 23 while on vacation. Activity is mostly on 20 metres using SSB.

WEST MALAYSIA; Members of the Kuala Lumpur DX Team will be active as 9M4IOTA from Redang Island, IOTA AS-073, until September 15 to 17. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

TONGA; Eberhard, DL7JLL is active as A35JLL from Niuafu'Ou Island, IOTA OC-123, until September 19. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using QRP power.

SAUDI ARABIA; Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society will be active with special calls HZ88ND, 7Z88ND and 8Z88ND from Riyadh from until September 30 to celebrate the 88 National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

MARIANA ISLANDS; Harry, JG7PSJ is active as WH0RU from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, until September 18. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

DODECANESE; Alex, SQ9UM is active as SV5/SQ9UM from Rhodes Island, IOTA EU-001, until September 24. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 metres, and possibly 60 metres, using CW, RTTY, PSK and FT8.

EAST KIRIBATI [kir-ah-bas; Uli, DL2AH is active as T32AH from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, until October 2. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and FT8.

SAN MARINO; Members of the Radioamateurs Association of the Republic of San Marino will be active as T71A from Torre Guaita, T71B from Torre Cesta, and as T71C from Torre del Montale, also known as the three towers of San Marino, on September 15 and 16. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Dima, UA1OLM is active as RK1OWA/p from Solovetsky Island, IOTA EU-066, until the end of September. Activity is in his spare time on 40, 30 and 20 metres using CW.

KOSOVO; Max, ON5UR will be active as Z68UR from Gjakove from September 20 to 30. Activity will be on various HF bands using mainly SSB and FT8.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA AND GOUGH ISLAND; Steve, G4EDG will be active as ZD9CW from Tristan da Cunha Island, IOTA AF-029, from September 20 to October 22. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres, and possibly 80 metres later in the operation, using mainly CW and RTTY.

ANTARCTICA; Adam, ZL4ASC is active as ZL5A from the Scott Base on Ross Island, IOTA AN-011, while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, North American RTTY Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Collegiate QSO Party, SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest, Scandinavian Activity CW Contest, All Africa International DX Contest, Iowa QSO Party, QRP Afield, New Hampshire QSO Party, New Jersey QSO Party, Washington State Salmon Run, Feld Hell Sprint and the BARTG Sprint 75 will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Phone Fray, 144 MHz Fall Sprint and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest, are scheduled for September 17.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and RSGB 80-Metre Autumn CW Series are scheduled for September 19.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

The "Barrington SAREX", or Search And Rescue Exercise, concluded today; this is an event built around the search for the missing Cessna 210M.

Next weekend is the Hounslow Classic is a running event centred around beautiful Blackheath.

In October, the 27th and 28th are the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, and the shorter Wisemans Dash; These are amongst WICEN's largest events, in terms of number of operators required, and they raise funds for the ARROW Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

October 14th is Volunteer Memorial Day.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au and includes a web contact form. 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, and on the South Coast of NSW. The ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is on September 29th and 30th, on the north west border of the Territory. October has the ANU "Inward Bound" adventure race on the 5th and 6th, then both Fitz's Challenge and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, 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 to the 7th of October, and the Stockmans Rally at Big River on Sunday the 28th. For details, visit the website at vic.wicen.org.au, which also includes some reports on recent events.

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

Candidates for 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 this coming week; it will be another large edition with 28 pages of interesting reading and lots of photographs.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club runs lectures on the third Saturday of every month; yesterdays's ~~victim~~ volunteer was Dave VK2KFU, who spoke about the GPS system, with various props on display.

The next lecture will be by Allan VK2EFM on Radiation Hazards. It will involve a practical demonstration and a talk on field strength readings of Electromagnetic Radiation, and the acceptable levels of exposure on the human body in accordance with APANSA regulations. Compliance with these regulations is not only a requirement of your Amateur Radio licence, but it's a good idea to protect your vital organs; so it would be wise to turn up and learn more.

For those looking to obtain or to upgrade their licence, 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 Street Kariong, just past the fire station, at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle run by Steve VK2KSC, 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 (unless you like hearing digital noise).

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.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

This coming Wednesday, September 19th, will be the monthly general meeting of the society. At this meeting, Alex, VK2PSF will give a brief session on the Barrington Tops WICEN communications and then an introduction to ThumbDV and hotspots with DMR.

The Echolink and IRLP node on the Paddington UHF repeater was down for a while, but the new Raspberry-Pi based node is up and running, and so everything is working OK again. Echolink node is 725953 and IRLP is 6250. The UHF repeater is on 438.575 with -5MHz offset and 91.5Hz CTCSS tone for analogue FM.

We would also like to remind users of this and our digital repeaters, to listen before commencing to use them and please announce your callsign and that you are about to use the mode before connecting. This is especially important on the Fusion (C4FM) system as there may be an analogue QSO in progress on the repeater, which you won't hear on digital unless you check first.

As usual, the club is open most Tuesdays for all the retirees, idle rich or those just skipping work for the day or any others who can make it along from about 10am to about 4pm. Live Morse practice sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings commencing at 8:00pm on or about 21.020MHz.

The next shack night is on Wednesday, October 3rd starting at 7:30pm. The next project day is on Saturday October 6th commencing at around 1:30pm and going through to about 4:00 or 5:00pm.

There were insufficient candidates to run a foundation course this weekend however upgrade assessments were run today. The next Foundation course and Assessments weekend is scheduled for November 24th & 25th. Details, and how to book, can be found on the club website in the Education and Training section.

Don't forget the club's weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater on 438.1125MHz with -5.4MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone from 8:00pm every Monday.

There is full information about the society on its regularly updated website at vk2bv.org. It includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form on the site, which is normally actioned within a couple of days.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This coming Wednesday the 19th, is lecture night at the Society; this month's speaker is Norm Champion, who has spent most of his working life in radio communications, particularly in professional radio gear manufacturing for PMG, Civil Aviation and the Military. His lecture is entitled "Anecdotes about the Difficulties of Manufacturing to Meet Cutting Edge Specifications in Radio Receivers and Transmitters". As usual, doors open at 7.30pm, for an 8pm start.

The July lecture, "Time and Tide" by Professor Richard de Grijs [PRONOUNCED: "GRICE"] has been uploaded to YouTube and is now available for viewing.

The club has concluded its three month DMR repeater trial. The good news is that it gets to stay; the other good news is that D-STAR repeater it replaced, gets to come back too. The bad news is that the little-used 70cm analogue FM repeater will be shuffled off the side. The new arrangements will be as follows:

The D-STAR repeater will return on its old frequency of 438.4 MHz, with a -5.4 MHz offset; The DMR repeater will take over the existing 70cm FM repeater frequency, 438.175 MHz with a -5 MHz offset; and the 70cm FM repeater will move to a new frequency, to be determined. All of this is pending on the necessary paperwork being completed; more details will be included in this news broadcast once details are finalised.

The Society is now gearing up for next month's Jamboree on the Air, on 20-21 October. Visit the club web site for information about these and other club projects such as the WebSDR, the club YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the club's Scouting program and much more.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the website, at mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Saturday the 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 at 1 Stuart Street, from 1 pm. The site is a short walk north-east of Wahroonga station, with rail services in the region apparently running normally. Club members are asked to wear their club T-shirts. It is hoped that streaming of events will be available. Please check the website closer to the event.

The next HADARC meeting will be an informal mid-monthly meeting, on Tuesday, 25 September, starting at 8:00pm. The venue is the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of Mt Colah railway station.

The Club runs three nets each week; For more information on these 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

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group net on the 18th

Waverley ARS meeting on the 19th

MWRS meeting on the 19th

International Talk like A pirate day is the 19th

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

The Hounslow Classic, A WICEN event, on the 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