

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

Last weekend, ARNSW Education ran foundation training, along with licence upgrade examinations. 5 foundation and 6 upgrade candidates were successful, and we hope to hear them on air soon.

The next ARNSW foundation and upgrade weekend is scheduled for November, on the 10th and 11th.

Next Sunday sees the Trash and Treasure here are VK2WI Dural, followed by the Radio Experimenters Group meeting.

Don't forget the Sunday after next, October the 7th, is the first Sunday of October - that means the start of daylight saving for the south east of Australia. Remember, VK2WI News stays on the same local times, at 10am and 7:30pm.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

Next Sunday, the 30th of September, 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 holing 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*

Marconi—Fisk Message Centenary

As we have recently reported here on VK2WI News, yesterday the 22nd of September, marks 100 years since the first direct wireless message, from the UK to Australia. The message was sent by Marconi, from the northern Welsh town of Waunfawr, and was received by Sir Ernest Fisk at his home in Wahroonga.

To commemorate this historic event, a celebration was held yesterday, organised by the Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club in co-operation with the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society. The event was well attended, with over one hundred visitors including Radio Amateurs, Parliamentary members, members of the Fisk family, and included a re-enactment of the message sent on the day, announced by the City of Sydney Town Crier;

[Play File: E-marconi100.wav]

Duration: 5m10s

In: [bell ringing]

Out: "...a worthwhile effort from everybody."

Jamboree on the Air – October 2018

With just a month to go before JOTA 2018, planning should be well underway for your Jamboree On The Air radio station. As Australia is one of the first countries to start the JOTA weekend, making contacts with other JOTA radio stations within Australia would give guide and scout youth members a great start to their JOTA weekend experience.

To assist radio operators in making contact with other JOTA Radio stations, The St George Amateur Radio Society has setup a database where you can register details of your JOTA radio station such as callsign, location, bands and frequencies, operating times and contact details. The information collected on the database, will only be shared with other users.

Please consider registering your JOTA station at www.jota.sgars.org and follow the menu link. For more information email jota@sgars.org

Submitted by Paul VK2GX

JOTA coordinator for The St George Amateur Radio Society

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 14th to the 20th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
10cm flux	69	69	69	69	69	68	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	11	0	0	9	6	4	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	10	4	2	7	5	2	0 estimated
T index	7	4	1	5	2	-4	-4

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity started out at quiet to unsettled levels on the 14th, then returned to quiet levels from the 15th to the 17th. The 18th again saw some quiet to unsettled conditions, but the 19th and 20th returned to quiet levels, overall.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values, during local daytime, for the whole week. However, the 14th and the 15th saw enhancements of 15% during local night, and additionally the 15th was enhanced 20% immediately after local dawn. The rest of the week remained near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 21st to the 27th of September;

Solar activity is expected to remain very low, with no current or returning active solar regions.

Geomagnetic activity may reach active levels on the 22nd and 23rd, but should be at mostly quiet to unsettled levels on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mild to moderately depressed at higher latitudes on the 23rd and 24th, but otherwise, 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

Nearing the end of September, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 9th and the 17th

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 3rd 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>]

[Play ID File: EV ID2.wav]

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-FCAL027.wav]

Duration: 2m11s

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

VIETNAM; Jacek, SP5APW will be active as 3W9JK from Hoi An until September 27. Activity will be on 20 to 6 metres using SSB.

MALDIVES; Shinji, JF2SDR is active as 8Q7SD from Halaveli Island, Alifu Atoll, IOTA AS-013, until September 25. Activity is holiday style on 30 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

PHILIPPINES; Brian, AI6US has obtained a temporary permit to operate as DU7/AI6US from Dumaguete, IOTA OC-129, until October 21. Activity will be on 80 to 2 metres.

BELARUS; Special event station EV890G is active until October 20 in celebration of the 890th anniversary of the city of Grodno.

MAYOTTE; A group of operators will be active as TO6OK until October 4. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON; Ronan, F5TJP and George, DK7LX are active as FP/home calls until September 30. Activity is holiday style.

PANAMA; A group of operators will be active as H88X from Playa Farallon from September 24 to October 9. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

MONGOLIA; Josef, OK1XC and David, JT1DBS are active as home calls/3 near Batshireet until September 30. Activity is on 40 to 15 metres using CW and FT8.

SVALBARD; Peter, DJ2AX and Torsten, DL4APJ are active as JW/home calls from the JW5E club station in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, until September 25. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

FAROE ISLANDS; Carsten, OY1CT is active almost daily from Streymoy Island, IOTA EU-018, on 20 metres CW after 1500UTC. QSL

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ has received consent from the federal government to operate as 6O1OO while he works for the United Nations in the African Union Mission to Somalia. Once setup, he plans to be active on 20 and 15 metres using SSB during his various local times.

PALAU; Operators JM1LIG, JA6UBY, JO3LVG and JR3QFB will be active as T88FM, T88RR, T88MK, and T88JH, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until September 26. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using SSB, JT65 and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American SSB Sprint Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, AGB 80-Metre NEMIGA Contest, FOC QSO Party, UK/EI DX SSB Contest, Maine QSO Party, AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest and Classic CW Exchange are all on this weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for September 26.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

This weekend was the Hounslow Classic, a running event centred on Blackheath, in the Blue Mountains.

Looking ahead to 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 next weekend, 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 meeting is the October general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of October, 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information, including the September 2018 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter Oxtales. This is another large edition, with 28 pages of interesting reading and lots of photographs. Past issues are available on the website as well.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Dave VK2KFU apologises for being too sick to give the lecture on the GPS system, as advertised last week. He looks forward to presenting the lecture at the next available opportunity, replete with a variety of props.

The next Club lecture, on the 20th of October, 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 ARPANSA 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.

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held at the club rooms in Dandaloo Street Kariang, 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.

Hunter Radio Group

The October Monthly Meeting of the group will be held on Friday the 12th. The meeting is in The Belmore Function Room of Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, and starts at 7:30pm.

The presentation at this meeting will take the form of our Annual Technical Member Projects, where members bring their items and give a short presentation.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. They are on 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with EchoLink Node 1474, and 438.025MHz in the 70cm band. All welcome.

Rodney VK2CN
Secretary for the Hunter Radio Group.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next monthly general meeting of Club is this Wednesday, the 26th of September, at McDonald's Woodbine, 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, on 438.65MHz. 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, fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
For the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday was the centenary of the Marconi-Fisk Radio message, including operation of VK100MARCONI. If you made contact with the special event station, please QSL with an SASE to;

HADARC
PO Box 362
HORNSBY NSW 1630

The next HADARC meeting will be the September monthly meeting, this Tuesday the 25th, 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 meeting will feature a series of short talks on projects, or other topics, by members of the club.

HADARC's website, which includes details on club nets and other activities, can be found 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 Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 30th

October

St George ARS gathering on the 3th

Oxley Region ARC General Meeting on the 6th

Daylight Saving begins in NSW at 2am on the 7th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 12th

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 19th

CCARC Lecture afternoon on the 20th

JOTA and JOTI on the 20th and 21st

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 25th

Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Woodbine on the 26th

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