

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

For the eastern states of Australia, Daylight Saving started early this morning. Since VK2WI News stays on the same local times, at 10am and 7:30pm, there may be slight differences in propagation. If you are having trouble hearing us on the radio, but you have internet access, you can hear the live stream our news bulletins, at our website, arnsw.org.au/audio. We also have been experimenting with on demand audio files and live event streaming, so you may want to bookmark that page for future reference.

Last week we brought you the sad news of the passing of Anthony Dodds, VK2ABM. We now have the details for Tony's funeral service; it will be at Tuesday the 9th at 11am, at Lake Macquarie Memorial Park, 405 Cessnock road, Ryhope.

A brief historical note for this week - 61 years ago, Thursday the 4th October 1957, saw the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1. The satellite was in low earth orbit, making a orbit roughly once every 96 minutes, and with a 1 watt signal on both 20.005 and 40.002MHz, many amateur radio operators around the world were able to receive the signals.

The final ARNSW Foundation weekend for this year will be on the 10th and 11th of November. While on the topic of licencing, two weeks ago we reported on the Ox-VE group examinations at Waitara. Now, we are pleased to report that both candidates passed all papers attempted. Congratulations to Armen KF6RCW, who has keeps this call, on upgrading to Extra; and to Leo on passing all three papers to obtain the Extra call, AG7QG.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 28th of September to the 4th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
10cm flux	69	69	68	70	67	68	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	9	4	6	6	4	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	8	3	8	3	3	4 estimated
T index	-7	-13	-8	-11	-15	-16	-13

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 28th and 29th, briefly returning to quiet levels on the 30th of September before becoming active on the 1st of October. Activity then returned to quiet levels on the 2nd and 3rd, and the 4th of October saw quiet to unsettled conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values on the 28th. The 29rd was depressed 15% during local day, recovering to near predicted values at night. The 30th remained near predicted during the day but was depressed 20% at night. The first of October was also near predicted during local day but depressed 15% at night, then the rest of the week remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 5th to the 11th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity may reach active levels between the 7th and 8th of October, with quiet to unsettled conditions expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be briefly depressed on the 8th and 9th, otherwise mostly 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.

Having just finished September, the figures for the month were a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 9th and 17th, and the 25th to the 30th.

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 20th and the 31st.

And looking ahead to the prediction for November, we expect a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 1st and the 7th, and the 15th to the 18th.

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-FCAL020.wav]

Duration: 2m27s

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

LIBYA; Elham, 5A0YL has been active on 20 metres using SSB around 1200 and 1300UTC.

UGANDA; Anders, SM0HPL is active as 5X7W from Kampala until October 13. Activity is in his spare time on 20 metres only using CW, JT65 and FT8 with QRP power.

CAPE VERDE; Harald, DF2WO will be active as D44TWO from Praia Baixo, Santiago, IOTA AF-005, until October 21. Activity is on the HF bands, with a preference for 160 and 80 metres, using CW, SSB, JT65 and FT8.

NIUE; Members of the Quake DXpeditioners will be active as E6Y from the Makefu area until October 15. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 in DXpedition mode. This includes an entry in the Oceania DX Phone contest.

CANARY ISLANDS; Ben, DL1RNT is active as EA8/DL1RNT from El Hierro. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using mainly CW with some digital modes.

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

REUNION ISLAND; Stephan, DL9HAL will be active as FR/DL9HAL from October 9 to 27. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands. In addition, Willi, DJ7RJ will be active as FR/DJ7RJ from October 9 to 21. Activity will be on the HF bands, and a focus on 160 metres, using CW and SSB.

AMERICAN SAMOA; Darren, VK4MAP is active as KH8/VK4MAP from Tutuila Island, IOTA OC-045, until October 10. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres and includes an entry in the Oceania DX Phone contest.

DODECANESE; Wolf, DL3DRN is active as SV5/DL3DRN from Rhodos Island, IOTA EU-001, until October 10. Activity is on the HF bands.

PALAU; Ichy, JH7IPR, Hirotaka, JA6KYU and Kouko, JQ6FQI are active as T88UW, T88HS and T88WM, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until October 10. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

CHAD; Ken, LA7GIA will be active as TT8KO from N'Djamena from October 9 to 21. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

NORFOLK ISLAND; Takao, JO7GVC and Hirokazu, JK7LXU will be active as VK9/home calls from October 9 to 14. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, PSK and FT8. In addition, Joe, N7BF, Everett, W6ABM, Russ, N7QR and Peter, ZL2HM will be active as VK9BF, VK9EV, VK9QR and VK9PM, respectively, from October 9 to 20. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

VIETNAM; William, WA7WJR is active as XV9WJR from Vung Tau until October 27. Activity is on 40, 20 and 15 metres using CW, with some SSB and PSK31. He also plans to visit Con Son Island, IOTA AS-130, and Phu Quoc Island, IOTA AS-128.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, TRC DX Contest, Oceania DX Phone Contest, Microwave Fall Sprint, Russian World Wide Digital Contest, YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest, California QSO Party, International HELL-Contest, FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint, SKCC CW QSO Party, RSGB DX Contest, UBA ON SSB Contest and the Peanut Power QRP Sprint are all on this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Autumn CW Series is scheduled for October 8.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray, 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for October 10.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

October 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.

On Sunday November the 18th, there is a WICEN training day at ARNSW Dural. Topics covered include network design, message passing, and repeater trailer setup and operation. Please email operations@nsw.wicen.org.au if you are attending.

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, 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. Two upcoming are Fitz's Challenge and the Whitwood Carriage Driving event, both on the 28th of October. 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 Stockmans Rally at Big River on Sunday the 28th of October, and the Peninsula Shire Communications Exercise in Mornington on Saturday the 10th of November. For details, visit the website at vic.wicen.org.au, which also includes some reports on recent events.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Hunter Radio Group.

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

There will be a cake to celebrate the Group's 95th Anniversary.

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, Hunter Radio Group.*

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

Their next meeting of the club is the Friday Night gathering, 7pm on Friday the 19th of October, at the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Club station VK2BOR will be participating in JOTA on Saturday the 20th of October. The station will be set up in the club's communications caravan at McInherney Park in Port Macquarie, alongside the Scouts and Guides District Camp, with participants from the area between Camden Haven and Coffs Harbour. Operation will be on all HF bands between late morning and 5 pm.

On Sunday morning, the 21st of October club members will be providing the safety communications for the annual Beechwood Billycart Classic, west of Wauchope; this is the longest downhill bilycart road course in Australia.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences can contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. The next training course for upgrade to the Advanced licence will commence soon, and courses and assessments for Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences, run once sufficient candidates have registered.

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. The September 2018 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, along with past issues, are available on the website.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The next Central Coast WICEN meeting is on Saturday the 13th October starting at 1pm, with the usual BBQ beforehand.

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.

The following Saturday, the 27th of October, will be a Working Bee at the Club rooms.

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"].

The Club has a new website, and comments are requested; please send them to webmaster@ccarc.org.au.

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

Next weekend, the 13th and 14th of October, the club is running a Foundation weekend; with training on Saturday and exams on Sunday.

There are a couple of candidates already confirmed, if you are interested then please contact the Club's education officer Jan VK2FEB, as soon as possible, by email to education@bmarc.org.

JOTA is on the following weekend, 20th and 21st of October, and the BMARC Clubhouse in Glenbrook will be visited by members and leaders of Scouting NSW and The Girl Guides. Ron Beckett is the contact person if you are able to volunteer as a radio operator for this weekend.

*Irene VK2VAN
Club secretary*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is an informal mid- monthly meeting, this Tuesday the 9th of October, 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 next general meeting is on the 23rd.

The Club runs three nets each week; Monday from 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, 147.250MHz 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.

HADARC's website, which includes the address for VK100MARCONI QSLs, and details on other club 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;

October

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 9th
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 12th
BMARC foundation weekend on the 13th and 14th
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 23rd
Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Woodbine on the 26th
Armidale & District ARC AGM on the 27th
Hawkesbury Canoe Race, a WICEN event, on the 27th and 28th
Westlakes ARC field day on the 28th

November

QRP By the Harbour, and QRP by the Bay, on the 3rd
St George ARS gathering on the 7th
MWRS Training and Licensing Day on the 10th
ARNSW Foundation Licence and Assessment weekend, 10th and 11th
St George Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 17th and 18th
ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 25th

December

St George ARS Christmas BBQ and AGM on the 5th
Christmas Day is the 25th