

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

The final ARNSW Foundation weekend for this year will be on the 10th and 11th of November. Enquiries are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

Next weekend the 20th and 21st of October, is the 61st JOTA, or Jamboree on the Air. Subject to availability, VK2WI will transmit the opening address at 1pm Local time, on Saturday, through the normal frequencies and some automated relays, and streaming from our website, at arnsw.org.au/audio.

For those in Sydney with an interest in ATV, John VK2ATU advises us that the VK2RTS ATV repeater in the Blue Mountains, now has a 5.6 GHz video receiver. Input to the repeater is possible using low cost video drone equipment. The repeater is active on Monday nights from 7pm, with output on 446.500 MHz digital and streamed on the internet by VK2CRJ and the UK BATC web site, at batc.org.uk/live/. Voice liaison is via the Lawson 2m FM repeater, on 147.325MHz.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 16th of October, 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.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 5th to the 11th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
10cm flux	69	69	68	69	70	70	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	5	13	16	14	12	10 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	2	13	16	12	10	7 estimated
T index	-12	-13	-14	-16	-17	-19	-16

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 5th, briefly returning to quiet levels on the 6th before becoming active on the 7th, and ranging from quiet to Minor Storm levels on the 8th. Activity was at quiet to Active levels on the 9th, and quiet to unsettled conditions on the 10th and 11th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values from the 5th to the 7th. The 8th was depressed 20% during local day, recovering to near predicted values at night. The 9th saw depressions of 25% during local day and 15% at night, and the 10th saw depressions of 20% during the day and 15% at night. The 11th remained depressed 15% throughout, compared to the predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 12th to the 18th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity may reach active levels on the 14th and 15th October, with quiet to unsettled conditions expected on other days.

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 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.

Nearly halfway through October, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates between the 10th and the 19th

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

Minimum of 69, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 69
With this low level of solar flux activity, no peak is currently predicted.

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>]

Space Weather Summary for September 2018

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity remains at very low levels overall this month, with no M-class or X-class flares. The major form of solar activity observed, was in the form of coronal holes.

Geomagnetic Activity similarly, remained generally quiet. The strongest disturbance observed on 11 September, with the Australian A-index reaching a maximum of 16, corresponding to active conditions. This activity was associated with the Earth's entry into a high-speed solar wind stream, induced by a coronal hole. No geomagnetic alerts were issued for the month.

The deepest ionospheric depression for the month was observed on the 24th of September, in association with coronal hole induced geomagnetic activity. This depression, in the southern Australian region resulted in Maximum usable frequencies 25 below predicted monthly values.

Since we are in a declining part of the Solar cycle, coronal holes are the main source of disturbances to the Earth's Ionosphere, and thus HF communications. So, what is a coronal hole, and what does one look like?

The solar corona is the outer atmosphere of the Sun, extending from the solar "surface" out into space. A coronal hole is a region that is less dense, and cooler, than its surroundings. They can appear at any time but are most common during the declining phase of the cycle, occurring when Sun's magnetic field is open to interplanetary space which allows particles to escape. These are sources of high-speed solar wind streams, and when particles from these streams hit the Earth, they can cause geomagnetic storms.

Generally, geomagnetic storms caused by from coronal holes have a gradual commencement - over hours - and are not as severe as storms caused by Coronal Mass ejections, or CMEs, which usually have a sudden onset.

While coronal holes are most commonly observed in satellite X-ray images of the Sun, where they appear as darker regions, they can also be observed from the ground in the light of helium, at a wavelength of 1083 nanometres.

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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-FCAL021.wav]

Duration: 2m41s

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

WESTERN SAMOA; Steve, WB2IQU will be active as 5W2IQ from Apia from October 18 to 25. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres.

CAPE VERDE; Harald, DF2WO is active as D44TWO from Praia, Santiago Island, IOTA AF-005, until October 22. Activity is holiday style on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SPAIN; Members of the Cartagena Team are active with special call AM5BCP until October 21, to commemorate the Battle of Cabo de Palos 80 years ago.

WALES; Special event station GB100MCV is active from Holyhead on Holy Island until October 28, to commemorate the sinking of the Royal Mail Ship Leinster during World War I.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS; Sang, DS4NMJ is active as DT8A from the Korean Antarctic Scientific Base King Se-Jong on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, until the end of December 2018. Activity will be on various HF bands using mainly CW and some SSB.

PANAMA; Members of the Radio Club de Panama and GREMPA, an emergency group, are active with scout station 3E1JT until October 31. This includes being active in the upcoming Jamboree On The Air. Activity is on all bands using SSB, with some CW and on various satellites.

SVALBARD ; Just, LA9DL, Erling, LA6VM and Halvard, LA7XK are active as JW9DL, JW6VM, and JW7XK, respectively, from Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026, until October 15. They will be active as JW5X in the Scandinavian Activity SSB contest.

ARUBA; Operators NN5E and NT5V are active as P4/home calls until October 19. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

UKRAINE; Special event station EM75QM is active until October 28 to commemorate the liberation of Melitopol in World War I.

GREECE; Erich, HB9FIH is active as SV8/HB9FIH from Lesbos, IOTA EU-049, until October 21. This includes being active from numerous COTA, SOTA, and lighthouses, as well as an entry in the upcoming Worked All Germany contest.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND; A group of operators will be active as VK9XG from October 17 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

CAMBODIA; Jaye, VK2SD is active as XU7AME from Phnom Penh until October 16. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 metres.

VIETNAM; Jun, OE1ZKC is active as XV9RH from Hanoi until October 16. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using only CW.

LAOS; Bruce, 3W3B is active as XW4XR until October 22. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, RTTY and FT8. In addition, Champ, E21EIC is active as XW1IC until October 16. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres.

VANUATU; Stan, LZ1GC, Lubo, OM5ZW and Karel, OK2WM will be active as YJ0GC from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, from October 15 to November 4. Activity will be on the HF bands, with a focus on the low bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Makrothen RTTY Contest, QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party, Nevada QSO Party, Oceania DX CW Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Scandinavian Activity SSB Contest, Pennsylvania QSO Party, Arizona QSO Party, FISTS Fall Unlimited CW Sprint, South Dakota QSO Party, PODXS 070 Club 160-Metre Great Pumpkin Sprint, UBA ON 80-Metre CW Contest and the UBA ON 6-Metre Contest are all on over this weekend.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from October 15 to 19.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and Telephone Pioneers QSO Party are scheduled for October 15.

The RSGB 80-Metre Autumn Data Series, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 17.

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.

Today is Volunteer Memorial Day.

Sunday November the 18th, 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.

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. Continuing a busy October, the LCCC Monaro Stages are on Saturday the 20th, 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 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Their next meeting is the Friday Night gathering, from 7pm this Friday the 19th, 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.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of Club is this Wednesday, the 31st in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. 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, 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.

The July to September period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge for 2018 has now closed, and logs can be submitted until 2359UTC, on 14 October.

The objective of the challenge is to work the most wanted DXCC entities based on their ranking in Clublog's "Most Wanted" list, which is published on the contest website. All Australian amateurs are eligible to enter and entering is easy. You don't need to be a serious DX'er - If you've worked any DX from July to September, head over to vk2au.org and submit an entry.

The website is tidy and easy to understand. Scroll down to the "Entry Submission" section where you will find a number of simple ways to submit your entry. This is a fun and relaxed challenge where you work DX in your own time over a 3 month period. It's easy, and submitting an entry only takes a few minutes.

Some changes have been made to the Log Uploader to to fix a minor problem; Previously, the QSO times in your log had to be 6 digits – but now the uploader will also work for those who use a 4 digit time in their logs. The contest website again, is vk2au.org.

To find out more about the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club's activities, visit the website, fgarc.org.au.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

October is a busy night for the Society!

This coming Wednesday the 19th, is normally lecture night at the club, but there is no lecture this month, as everyone's busy with JOTA preparations. We can tell you however, that NEXT month's lecture will be given by Andrew Tink, on the subject of the Honeysuckle Creek tracking station, and satellite communications.

The Society is now gearing up for the 61st Jamboree on the Air, this coming weekend, 20-21 October. JOTA station VK2SNR will be on air from the club rooms at Terrey Hills.

Finally, the 31st of October, as well as being Halloween, is "Fifth Wednesday Show & Tell Night". More details closer to the event.

The club's WebSDR, and the VHF repeater audio stream, have been off-line recently, due to hardware issues. With a bit of luck, they will be back online "Real Soon Now".

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 club's two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club's web site at www.mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the society is this Wednesday the 17th, commencing at 7:30pm. At this meeting, Tony VK2KQ will be giving a talk entitled "ISS Studies - A High School Lecture in Preparation for The ISS Contact". This is the lecture he is planning to give to school students in the lead up to their ISS contacts next year. He is especially looking for feedback from members on the lecture.

If you are a beginner or want to brush up on, or re-learn, Morse code, the Society has regular Sunday get-togethers, where CW enthusiasts at all skill levels swap ideas and experiences as well as get in some hands-on practice.

We have Elmers to help you through the learning process from zero words per minute, through proficiency handling basic QSOs, up to High Speed QRQ. Maybe you would like to ask if a hand key or a paddle is best for you, you're looking for advice on CW operating procedures, or maybe you're just interested in the history of Morse code and would like to learn more. Our group meets 11 am every Sunday at the Rose Bay clubrooms and everyone is invited, even if you aren't yet licensed. Contact us by email, at morsecode@vk2bv.org, or just drop in on Sunday morning. Live on air Morse practice sessions continue on Thursday evenings, commencing at 8:00pm on or about 21.02MHz.

The society's Christmas party is on Saturday December 15th so please keep this date free. More details closer to the date.

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

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.

The next Foundation course and Assessments weekend being run by the Society, is scheduled for the weekend of November 24th & 25th. Details and how to book can be found on the website in the Education and Training section.

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

For more information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, visit its regularly updated website, at vk2bv.org. The site includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form, which is normally actioned within a day or two.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the monthly general meeting on Tuesday the 23rd 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 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

ARNSW Radio Experimenter's Group net on the 16th
Waverley Amateur Radio Society meeting is on the 17th
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
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
Manly-Warringah show and tell night is the 31st
Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 31st

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
Manly-Warringah lecture night; on Honeysuckle creek, on the 21st
Spring VHF & UHF contest, on the weekend of the 24th and 25th
Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessment Weekend on the 24th and 25th
ARNSW Trash & Treasure, and Radio Experimenters Group Meeting 25th

December

St George ARS Christmas BBQ and AGM on the 5th
Waverley ARS Christmas Party on the 15th
Christmas Day is the 25th