

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

[if no update]

The ARNSW presentation this afternoon by Dick VK2DIK was well attended with about 100 guests here at VK2WI, and many joining the webstream. The audio from the webstream will be available as audio on demand from our website, early next week. The address is <https://arnsw.org.au/audio>.

The last Foundation training weekend for 2018 is at the Blue Mountains ARC next weekend, the 8th and 9th of December – more details later in this bulletin. ARNSW Foundation courses will resume in 2019; for more information on education activities at ARNSW, enquiries are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 23rd to the 29th of November.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th
10cm flux	69	70	70	69	69	69	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	1	2	3	2	4	2	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	4	4	1	5	1	2 estimated
T index	-34	-31	-29	-35	-39	-37	-30

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region again saw some depressions; from the 23rd to the 25th, frequencies were 15% depressed during local daylight, recovering to near predicted at night. The 26th saw depressions of 20% during local day, improving at night to near predicted; the 27th remained near predicted during the day but then became 15% depressed at night. The 28th was depressed 20% during the day but near predicted at night; then the 29th was depressed 15% during the day and 20% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 30th of November to the 6th of December;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to show minor storm conditions on the 1st of December, continuing at unsettled to minor storm levels on the 2nd. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to again show depressions; between 10% to 40% on the 1st and 2nd of December, and on other days, up to 30%.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished November, the figures for the month were;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 73
With peak dates between the 17th and the 21st

At the start of December, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 14th and the 28th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for January, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates between the 10th and the 16th.

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.

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Duration: 4m8s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

ARRL DX news

TUNISIA; Ash, KF5EYY plans to be active as 3V8SF in the ARRL 160 Metre contest.

TIMOR-LESTE; Operators Sookun, HL1AHS and Tae-Su, DS3EXX are active as 4W/HL1AHS and 4W/DS3EXX, respectively, until December 3. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

CYPRUS; Special event station C4XMAS is active during the festive season throughout the month of December. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

THE GAMBIA; Andre, ON7YK is active as C5YK until March 9, 2019. Activity is on 60 to 10 metres using FT8, with some CW and SSB.

SAINT MARTIN; Operators John, K9EL, John, W9ILY, Paul, K9NU, Paul, FS4WBS and Mike, W9MK are active as FS/home calls and FS4WBS until December 7. Activity is with three stations on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

SOLOMON ISLANDS; Remo, HB9SHD is active as H44SHD from Uepi Island, IOTA OC-149, until mid December. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

FINLAND; Members of Santa's Radio Club will be active with special event call OH9S from the Arctic Circle until December 8. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

NETHERLANDS; Rene, PD2RKG and Roberto, PB5X will be active as PB18XMAS and PD18SANTA from December 2 to 27. Activity will be on the HF bands.

POLAND; Special event station SN0UNESCO will be active December 3 and 4 from the Silver Mine Museum in Tarnowskie Gory. This is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and PSK31.

GREECE; Special event station SX60RAAG will be active during December to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Radio Amateur Association of Greece.

MONTSEERRAT; Operators K7NM, WM7Z, NS7K and AC7ZN are active as VP2MLB, VP2MMZ, VP2MSK and VP2MZN, respectively, until December 2. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8. They will be active as VP2MLB in the ARRL 160 Metre contest.

INDIA; Special event station AU2JCB is active until December 11 to commemorate the Indian scientist Jagadish Chanda Bose. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB.

BURKINA FASO; AI, F8FUA will be active as XT2BR from Ouagadougou until December 11. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

CAMBODIA; Steff, HB9FXL is active as XU7AKB from various locations until December 14. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

NICARAGUA; Operators Sergey, R4WAA, Elena, RC5A, Yan, RZ3FW, Yuri, RM0F and Yuri, N3QQ are active as H7/R4WAA, H7/RC5A, YN4RRC, H7/RM0F and H7/N3QQ, respectively, from Big Corn Island, IOTA NA-013, until December 26. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 160-Metre Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, UFT CW Contest, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, YARC QSO Party, TOPS Activity CW Contest, FT8 Roundup and EPC Ukraine DX BPSK63 Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for December 4. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for December 5.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues until December 31, 2018.

WICEN News

WICEN will be attending the CCARC Wyong Field Day, on Sunday the 24th of February, 2019. Membership renewals will be accepted on the day.

Training activities are being planned on the 2nd of February, and for the 2nd and 3rd of March, a field training weekend is being planned, at Newnes.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au and includes a web contact form.

Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page, which includes some photos from last weekend's training day; 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. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria's has a 4WD event tentatively scheduled for the 9th and 10th February, at Big River. The group runs a net on 3.6 MHz each Tuesday from 8:30pm local time. More information can be found on the website, at vic.wicen.org.au, which includes reports on recent events.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS,
on behalf of the WICEN State Management Committee.*

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Yesterday, Saturday the 1st of December, was the club's Christmas Party at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. A report will be included in next week's news.

The next meeting is the informal Friday night gathering, at 7pm on the 21st of December, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. This is the club's final activity for 2018; members and visitors are invited to enjoy some Christmas cake with tea or coffee, while reflecting on the year that has passed and sharing their plans for 2019.

The next monthly general meeting will be on Saturday the 5th of January 2019 in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's 2019 Calendar is now available; as in past years, the calendar has a photo of each club member showing their callsign. The calendar is very popular, but there are copies still available at club meetings and activities.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. The assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will run when 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 November 2018 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online, and 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

There is a combined CCARC/WICEN Christmas luncheon on Saturday the 8th of December, at 11am for 12 noon, and is free to members (BYOG and soft drinks); this will be followed by the regular WICEN meeting at 2pm, so it's best to stay clear-headed. RSVP to Karen VK2AKB by email to vk2akb@wia.org.au by Wednesday the 5th of December.

The Central Coast Amateur Radio Club's Wyong Field Day is coming up on Sunday 24th February 2019, at Wyong Racecourse. It is the biggest hamfest in the Southern Hemisphere. As usual, there will be a swag of lectures, and there will be further details in future broadcasts. In the meantime, should anyone have any photographs of the old Field Days then Vice-President Jaye VK2FOMG would love to hear from you.

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 famous sausage sizzle run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, starting at noon; whether the onions will be served on top or under the bangers, may depend on propagation conditions. The Club rooms are accessible by bus, with a 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 Club 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 146.725 MHz respectively; please note that both repeaters require the standard sub-audible tone of 91.5 Hz.

The Club also runs a mixed-mode repeater VK2RAG on 439.950 MHz, which is connected to the P25 network; the 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and is highly recommended for receiving (unless you like listening to digital noise).

There is a net every Thursday evening on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725, starting at 8pm; all members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved). Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au, preferably by 12 noon on Friday.

Listeners can “join” the net by email to netmaster@ccarc.org.au and their comments will be read out.

The Club also has a Facebook page: just look for “centralcoastarc”, and be sure to “like” it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account, @ccarclub [*pronounced “At CC AR Club”*].

More information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, including coming events, can be found on the web site, www.ccarc.org.au, which will be updated soon with a completely new look.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Hunter Radio Group

The Group's Christmas Luncheon will be held at noon on Saturday the 8th of December, at Windale Bowling Club, Lake Street, Windale.

Bookings are required, so please advise club President, Len VK2ZFD, of your attendance as soon as possible.

*Rodney, VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting on the 11th of December. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

The Society's meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall in Bridge Street Coniston, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is located right next door to Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

The next meeting is going to be really worth attending. First-up, Mal VK2DXM is doing a presentation on the 17 kHz VLF Grimeton transmitter in southern Sweden, that he recently visited. This will be a very interesting presentation which will then be followed by a delicious Christmas dinner. Club member & professional chef Vinnie VK2VIN has offered to prepare a terrific meal for attendees. Vinnie prepared a delicious meal last Christmas and this year he is promising something very special. The meal is free to all financial IARS members or \$10 to non-members. Those intending to attend are asked to RSVP to the Club Secretary Keith VK2KQB on iars.keithb@gmail.com.

Following on from VK2DXM's VLF transmitter presentation and VK2VIN's Christmas dinner, there will be the usual ragchew over a cup of tea or coffee, with chocolate biscuits if the attending stomachs have enough room left. So it's going to be a great night and all listeners are invited to attend, just remember to RSVP to Keith VK2KQB – his address, by email to iars.keithb@gmail.com.

The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society now has two weekly Nets for a catch-up with each other. As well as the popular Saturday morning chit-chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL, an 80m Net has now been added. This new Net is on Friday evenings at 8:30pm local time, on 3.630MHz, plus or minus existing usage. All listeners are invited to join in with either Net, Saturday mornings on the 2m repeaters of VK2RMP and VK2RUW or Echolink via VK2BGL-R, or Friday evenings on 3.630MHz.

The Society's new 70cm DMR repeater is getting lots of use. It is located at the VK2RMP Maddens Plains site and is on 438.725MHz, with a 5MHz negative offset. On Slot 1 it is presently connected to World Wide Talk Group 91 and on Slot 2, it is connected to the Australian and NSW Talk Groups of 505 and 5052. All listeners in the Wollongong and Sydney region are invited to use the repeater.

If you are interested in gaining your Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas, the Society has team of enthusiastic Amateurs led by Ted VK2ARA who can assist, mentor, teach and then examine for your licence. The team runs learning programs for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced licenses, for more information, contact Ted via email, to vk2ara@wia.org.au.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening the 11th of December, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The last Foundation training weekend for 2018 at the Club is on next weekend, the 8th and 9th of December. Saturday is training day and Sunday is the Examination Day.

The address is 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook, starting at 8:30am and running until 5pm on both days.

Advanced exams can also be accommodated on Sunday; please advise the club ASAP if you are in this category, since the exam papers will need to be ordered.

At least four trainees are required to host the weekend; If there are insufficient numbers, the training will be held over until February 2019. For more information, contact the secretary by phone on 0438 606 740, or email bmarc-secretary@bmarc.org, or email the Education Officer at education@bmarc.org.

*Advised by Irene VK2VAN
Secretary, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The final gathering of the Society for 2018, will be gathering for the final time in 2018 on Wednesday the 5th of December at Donnelly Park, on the picturesque shores of Kyle Bay, near South Hurstville.

Commencing at 6pm, members, family, friends and visitors are invited to share in a sausage sandwich and soft drink, in the great outdoors of the Georges River.

For catering purposes, food and drink orders should be placed using the "on line" form, which can be found on the Society's [website](#). A hidden transmitter fox hunt will also be held for those wishing to test the radio direction finding skills.

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)

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's Christmas lunch is on December the 8th at Magpies; RSVP to Colin VK2JCC.

There will be a club BBQ at Hornsby Rifle Range will be on Tuesday, January 15th.

The Club runs three nets each week, which continue over the holiday period. Monday's net starts at 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 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;

December

St George ARS Christmas BBQ and AGM on the 5th
BMARC Christmas meeting on the 7th
CCARC/WICEN Christmas luncheon on the 8th
Hunter Radio Group Christmas Lunch on the 8th
BMARC Foundation weekend on the 8th and 9th
Illawarra ARS Meeting and Christmas dinner on the 11th
Waverley ARS Christmas Party on the 15th
Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 21st
Christmas Day is the 25th

January 2019

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 5th of January
HADARC BBQ evening in Hornsby, on the 15th of January

February 2019

St George ARS Foundation and Assessment Weekend, 9th and 10th
And CCARC's Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 24th.