

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

Next Sunday will be the first of the ARNSW Trash & Treasure events for this year. No pre-listing of available items this month, though items for sale include a range of older broadcast radios, which can be viewed on Sunday from 9 am.

With the tower construction underway at VK2WI, there have been some earth works and there is limited access in front of the Centenary Building for boot sellers; they will be in slightly different positions next Sunday. General parking will be in the normal locations, except where there are construction fences round some trees.

During last Thursday, the new pole was erected and work continues on fitout; cabling and antennas will follow later. To enable this work to be carried out most HF antennas were taken down, including the Morse transmission and some beacons. Antennas were restored yesterday for most services; The 6 metre beacon is still off due to antenna troubles, and the 10 metre beacon has returned on a vertical antenna.

The first of the ARNSW Foundation weekends will be in March. For this month it will be on two consecutive Saturdays - the 17th and 24th. Later in the year, the course will run as usual on a single weekend, two weeks before that month's Trash and Treasure. Enquiries can be made by email to education@arnsw.org.au Other Foundation weekends are on in Sydney during February, being conducted by St. George and Waverley.

In past years, ARNSW has run licence upgrade classes on Monday nights, but our previous lecturer Paul VK2APA will be moving out of Sydney. We are seeking expressions of interest from those who may like to join our education team, and help in providing lectures and instruction. Please advise your interest by an email to education@arnsw.org.au. We would also like to hear from anybody interested in undertaking the upgrade course at ARNSW in 2019.

The ARNSW Library is scheduled to re-open for 2019, from tomorrow. Operation hours start in the late afternoon and continue into the early evening. Members can direct enquires by email, to library@arnsw.org.au.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the group is at noon, next Sunday the 27th of January, after the Trash and Treasure – here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

With 5 Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) repeaters around the Sydney area and over 30 Australia wide, the DMR network is more easily accessible than ever before.

For those new to DMR, Paul VK2GX will be giving a presentation including an introduction to time slots, repeater coverage, available equipment and getting started. Learn about code plugs and the basics of DMR programming including the relationship between contacts, talk groups, receive groups, zones and scan lists, plus available programming and cloning software.

The presentation will also look at the popular “DMR plus” network, providing easy access to talk groups and group repeater reflectors world-wide. DMR Plus also supports connectivity via the DV4mini, DVMEGA and OpenSpot devices.

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 to the trash and treasure in the morning and stay for the Radio Experimenters Group meeting at noon—at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural, on Sunday 27th of January.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group.*

40 Metre Dipole Buildathon

ARNSW is holding a 40 metre antenna buildathon, on Sunday the 10th of March, here at VK2WI Dural. While the day is primarily intended to be of interest to Foundation licencees, all members are of course welcome to attend.

The session will start at 10am with a brief presentation on the how and why of the dipole antenna. Following this, you will sit beside an experienced ham to assist you in constructing your own 1:1 balun. This is fairly easy, as it is in kit form, with half of the assembly already done

After completion, your dipole will be tested and following this...lunch.

The attendance fee on the day includes the antenna kit, consisting of the 1:1 balun, two insulators and 20 metres of hi-quality Kevlar antenna wire.

Also, for an additional fee we will have available kit-sets to make up some feedlines – with a 15m run of RG58 type coax, and a couple of PL-259 connectors. Again, on the day you will make this up yourself under supervision.

So, at the end of the day, you will have a fully functioning dipole antenna complete with a 1:1 balun and 15metres of feedline, ready to go on air; All of which you made yourself.

All this stage we only require an expression of interest, not confirmation of attendance – so if you are interested please send us an email, to events@arnsw.org.au – including your name, callsign, and a contact phone number.

*AI VK2OK
Event Co-ordinator, ARNSW*

US Licence Exams at Wyong Field Day

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team are conducting an assessment session at the 2019 Wyong Field day, coming up on Sunday the 24th of February.

While many VK amateurs can operate a hand-held in the US under the reciprocal system, there are some eligibility restrictions on the reciprocal arrangement. Also, the VK licence may not permit some more interesting operations, such as using higher power. But, fear not, you can obtain a US licence or upgrade by passing an exam at Wyong,

The new FCC CORES (COMmission REGistration System) is one of the few FCC functions that remain available, despite the current US government shutdown. If the shutdown continues into February, exams can still proceed with the results being forwarded to the ARRL, but licences will not be issued until the government re-starts. However, those upgrading an existing licence may use the /KT, /AG, or /AE suffix on their new bands for the duration.

Detailed information, and links to study material can be found at the Oz-VE group website, veexams.com

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (also AG6LE).

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 11th to the 17th of January.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
10cm flux	68	70	69	70	70	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	2	3	6	4	5	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	2	2	6	3	5	7 estimated
T index	-35	-38	-25	-35	-34	-35	-27

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled on the 11th, quiet from the 12th to the 16th, then quiet to unsettled again on the 17th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region again saw some depressions; 15% on the 11th, 15% during the day and 20% during the night of the 12th and the 14th; 20% on the 15th; 20% during the day and 30% during the night on the 16th; then 20% depressed during the day on the 17th, with night critical frequencies improving, to near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 18th to the 24th of January;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be reach active levels on the 23rd and 24th of January, with quiet to unsettled expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to again show depressions of up to 30%, likely due to the relatively low levels of ionising radiation from the Sun.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

The figures for December were;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 9th and 13th, and the 22nd to the 23rd

Into January, the so far prediction is a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates between the 2nd and 10th, and the 22nd to the 25th

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

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates between the 1st and 2nd, and the 17th to the 24th.

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:2m13s

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

MALDIVES; Andy, UT4UEP is active as 8Q7UA from Ukulhas Island, IOTA AS-013, until January 23. Activity is on 40, 30 and 20 metres using CW and FT8.

SIERRA LEONE; A large group of operators are active as 9LY1JM from Banana Island, IOTA AF-037, until January 21. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8 with four stations active.

EAST MALAYSIA; Saty, JE1JKL will be active as 9M6NA from Labuan Island, IOTA OC-133, from January 24 to 28. Activity will be mainly on 160 metres and includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

RWANDA; Harald, DF2WO is active as 9X2AW from Kigali until February 14. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

BAHAMAS; Heli, DD0VR will be active as C6A/DD0VR from Bahama Island, IOTA NA-001, until February 2. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. He plans to activate other islands during this time.

CANARY ISLANDS; Erich, HB9FIH is active as EA8/home call from El Hierro, IOTA AF-004, until the end of March. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

ECUADOR; Rick, NE8Z is active as HC1MD until February 7, on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8. He may be active portable from other HC prefixes as well.

ITALY; Operators S50X, S52P, S54W, S56DX, S57DX, and S59A will be active as IG9/home calls from Lampedusa Island, IOTA AF-019, from January 21 to 31. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

ARUBA; Mathias, DL4MM will be active as P4/DL4MM from January 22 to 30. Activity will be on the HF bands with a focus on CW. He may also be active using SSB and FT8. He will be active as P40AA in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

BONAIRE; Operators Norbert, DJ7JC, Heye, DJ9RR and Emil, DL8JJ will be active as PJ4P from January 22 to 30. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, various digital modes, and FT8. They plan to be active in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

SEYCHELLES; Mike, OE6MBG is active as S79AA from Mahe, IOTA AF-024, until February 2. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres, and 6 metres as conditions permit, using CW and SSB.

TUVALU; Antoine, 3D2AG is active as T2AR from Funafuti until January 31. Activity is on the HF bands, including 160 metres. In addition, Apinelu, T2AT is active on the HF bands using FT8.

PALAU; Nobu, JA0JHQ will be active as T88PB from Koror, IOTA OC-009, from January 25 to 28. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

MYANMAR; Akio, JE2QIZ is active as XZ2B from Nay Pyi Taw. His license is valid for 150 days. He is permitted to operate from 15 to 1.25 metres within 20 kHz of each band edge, and using only CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL January VHF Contest, North American SSB QSO Party, North American Collegiate SSB Championship, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, LZ Open CW Contest, Hungarian DX Contest, RSGB AFS SSB Contest, WAB 1.8 MHz Phone/CW and Feld Hell Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for January 21.

The 40-Metre QRP Fox Hunt, CWops Mini-CWT Test, NAQCC CW Sprint, Phone Fray and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for January 23.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, event runs throughout 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

WICEN News

The next WICEN training day will be here at ARNSW in Dural, on Sunday, 10th February.

WICEN will be at the Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 24th of February. This is a good opportunity for members to pay their annual membership. A shift on the display is a good chance to catch-up with fellow members, and meet potential new ones.

The 2nd and 3rd of March are planned as a training weekend at Newnes, near Lithgow. This is the site of the Glow Worm Marathon, which WICEN will again support, in mid June.

Members should remain prepared, as summer storms and fires periodically result in the services of WICEN being required.

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. Dementia Australia is kicking off the 2019 Memory Walk & Jog season in Canberra, on the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin, on the 24th of February, supported by WICEN ACT. The Canberra Two Day walk is March 30 and 31. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting a Fun Run on January 26th, in the Rosebud - Domana area, on Mornington Peninsula. The 2019 Pajero Challenge is on the 9th and 10th of February, at Big River. Duncan's Run is an Ultra-Marathon on Saturday the 23rd of 23 March. 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.

*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.

The next meeting is the monthly general meeting on Saturday, the 2nd of February, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's annual Antenna Shootout is on Sunday the 10th of February, at Tuffins Lane Sportsfields in Port Macquarie. Facilities will be available to test both home brew and commercial antennas on 6 metres, 2 metres and 70 centimetres. The day will commence with set up at 9am with a bacon and egg BBQ breakfast for early arrivals. There will be a sausage sizzle BBQ lunch at noon, in the shade of the covered picnic tables. The communications caravan will be on site in the carpark with tea, coffee, water and soft drinks, and there are even still some copies of the 2019 Club Calendar available. So prepare your antennas now, for the shootout.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible; Assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences are 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 starts at 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 newly published January 2019 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for ORARC.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday's Club lecture was presented by Dave VK2KFU, who gave a talk on how the ubiquitous GPS system works.

Don't forget the Wyong Field Day organised by the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club next month; it is the biggest hamfest in the Southern Hemisphere, on Sunday the 24th February, at Wyong Racecourse.

Presentations confirmed so far include: "Impacts of Space Weather on Aviation" by Vickal Kumar; "How science works" by Brian VK2GCE; "Satellites and collecting telemetry" by Cameron VK2CKP; a talk on the RAVEN frequency-hopping military radio using valve technology by Ray VK2NO (which at the time was hush-hush); and a talk on the Multi Mode Digital Voice Modem (MMDVM) by Lindsay VK2AMV. There will also be raffle prizes on the day. More details on these and other activities, closer to the event.

In the meantime, should anyone have any photographs of the old Field Days then Vice-President Jaye VK2FOMG would love to hear from you. The club is also interested in collecting some early history about itself, as some has fallen by the wayside over the years. If anyone stories, snippets, or even outright gossip, then please share them.

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. 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.

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*

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest

The Waverley Amateur Radio Society is running the fourth annual Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest on Sydney Harbour, on Sunday March the 10th.

This is the centenary year of the Society, and participants will be able to work our special event callsign.

This unique contest aims to gather hams to Sydney Harbour and invites them to make VHF/UHF contacts from any of the system's ferries and wharves. With all-day travel for just \$2.60 using an Opal Card, its a great way to spend a Sunday.

The contests runs from 10am until 4pm. Operation is restricted to hand-held radios (any mode) and can include repeater, simplex or "eyeball" (a handshake) contacts. Contestants can obtain points multipliers by working multiple ferries and multiple wharves during the contest. A number of awards, including the prestigious "Worked All Ferry Lines" are available.

The Society's Club station will be operating at Rose Bay Ferry Wharf, to eyeball as many contestants as we can during the day.

This is a fun contest for the amateur radio community but also a great way to promote amateur radio to the community at large.

Full contest details are at the Waverley Amateur Radio Society's website, vk2bv.org.

*73 Rob VK2XRH
Secretary, Waverley Amateur Radio Society*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

The Club's "Fifth Wednesday" Show and Tell night is on the 30th; the theme is "Old Instruction Manuals, Technical Manuals, and Catalogues". If you have a manual for an old dinosaur, or an interesting old catalogue (even if it's not about radio gear), bring it along to show off. Gold coins vote for the best item *and* the best story, with prizes for the winners.

The November 2018 lecture by Andrew Tink, on Honeysuckle Creek space tracking station, is now available for online viewing. Just go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for "V K 2 M B dash T V". There you'll also find many previous club lectures, plus other videos about Amateur operations.

[Direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxDp98CGHc>]

Visit the society's web site for other news, information about the various club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), 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*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club BBQ last Tuesday went well; the Club thanks the Manly Rifle Club, whose air-conditioned rooms were appreciated by many. Several members were recognised for their efforts.

A family dinner is planned for the 12th of February, with details to be confirmed soon. The next meeting at Mt Colah will be on the 26th of February. If you have a presentation you would like to give then, please let the club know.

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;

January

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 27th
Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Woodbine on the 30th
Manly-Warringah show-and-tell night on the 30th

February

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 2nd
St George ARS gathering at Kyle Bay on the 6th
Chifley Amateur Radio Club AGM, 2pm at their clubrooms on the 9th
St George ARS Foundation and Assessment Weekend, 9th and 10th
Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessments, also on the 9th and 10th.
WICEN training day at ARNSW on the 10th
Oxley Region antenna shootout on the 10th
HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 12th
The CCARC's Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 24th
At Wyong on the 24th, there is also the Oz-VE group US licence exams.
HADARC monthly general meeting on the 26th

March

WICEN training weekend at Newnes on the 2nd and 3rd
40 Metre Dipole Buildathon at ARNSW on the 10th
Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest, Sunday the 11th