

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

Work continues here at the VK2WI Dural site on the construction of the new tower. Landscaping work has begun and there are some site parking changes, look out for these if you are visiting our Dural site.

A reminder that there was no morning VK2WI News today, due to the wyong field day – in its place was a special bulletin last night. VK2WI news bulletins are streamed live on our website, <http://arnsw.org.au/audio>, and we are trialling audio on demand, so the recordings are made available further down that page, which you can download or listen to, later on.

Wyong Field Day 2019

As we just mentioned - this morning was the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club's Wyong Field Day.

We managed to catch up with the CCARC's Vice President, and here we have his report, on the day;

[Play File: E-WFD19-1.wav]

Duration: 1m12s

In: [noise]... Jaye Here, VK2FOMG...

Out:.... We're glad to share it with you.

US Licence Exams at Wyong

The Oz-VE group provided US licence exams at the field day today. It attracted quite some interest, with 9 candidates sitting exams for various licence levels. Of note is VK2WI News Team volunteer, John VK2JV, who is now qualified to the US Extra class licence – congratulations John!

If you are interested in future sessions, or for more information on the benefits of having a US licence, visit the Oz-VE group website, at veexams.com.

Our thanks to Julian VK2YJS (also AG6LE)

ARNSW Elections

The next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 13th of April 2019.

At the AGM, a new management council is to be appointed. Nominations are open for members who wish to be on the council for the year 2019 and 2020. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website, arnsw.org.au or can be obtained from the office.

Nominations close at midday, next Saturday, the 2nd of March 2019.

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Note: Amateur Radio New South Wales is a business name of the company registered as Wireless Institute of Australia New South Wales Division. This company was originally incorporated in New South Wales in 1922.

Since 2004, the company uses the business name, Amateur Radio New South Wales, to avoid confusion with the independent incorporated entity, The Wireless Institute of Australia.

40 Metre Dipole Buildathon

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

The day will include a short presentation, as well as providing you with the materials and assistance in constructing the dipole antenna, a 1:1 balun kit, and optionally, some feedline with connectors.

Lunch will also be included on the day.

If you are planning to attend, please let us know by next Sunday, the 3rd of March; email events@arnsw.org.au – including your name, callsign, and a contact phone number. You will receive further information via email.

AI VK2OK

Event Co-ordinator, ARNSW

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15th to the 21st of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
10cm flux	71	71	70	70	70	71	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	3	3	5	2	2	9 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	2	1	4	1	3	7 estimated
T index	-20	-13	-10	-1	-8	-15	-10

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet from the 15th to the 20th, and quiet to unsettled on the 21st.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were depressed on the 15th, by 20% during the day and 25% during local night. However, conditions then improved, with frequencies remaining near predicted monthly values, for the rest of the week.

Now, the forecast for the 22nd to the 28th of February;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with possible active conditions on the 22nd, 27th and 28th

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly be near predicted monthly values, though mild to moderate depressions are possible, due to 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 January were;

Minimum of 68, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 77
With peak dates between the 3rd and 4th, and the 27th to the 31st

So far for February, the prediction is a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 1st and 2nd, and the 21st to the 28th

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

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates between the 12th to the 26th.

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-FCAL036.wav]

Duration: 1m56s

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

MAURITANIA; Johannes, PA5X is active as 5T5PA from Nouadhibou and is there for six months. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 6 metres using SSB, RTTY and FT8.

SENEGAL; Willy, ON4AVT is active as 6W7/ON4AVT from Warang until March 30. Activity is on the HF bands, including 60 metres, using CW, PSK, and possibly FT8.

PHILIPPINES; Christian, F4EBK is active as DU3/F4EBK from Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, until March 31. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB.

NEW CALEDONIA; Arnaud, JG1XMV will be active as FK/JG1XMV from Grand Terre Island, IOTA OC-032, until March 10. This also includes a visit to Mare Island, IOTA OC-033, and a few other islands as well. Activity will be on 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres using only SSB.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS; A group of operators will be active as HD8M from Santa Cruz Island, IOTA SA-004, from February 27 to March 6. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, and FT8 in DXpedition mode. This includes being active in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA; Jean, VE2FDJ is active as 5J0JC from San Andres Island, IOTA NA-049, until February 27. Activity is on 80, 40, 20 and 6 metres using only SSB.

PANAMA; Special event station H31A is active until August 15 in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the founding of Panama City. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using mostly RTTY, PSK31 and FT8 with some SSB.

HONDURAS; Dennis, W1UE is active as either HQ9X or W1UE/HR9 from Roatan Island, IOTA NA 057, until February 26. He is active as HQ9X in the CQ World Wide 160 Metre SSB contest. Activity includes being on 160 and 80 metres during his evening hours, as well as 60 metres.

TUVALU ; Tony, 3D2AG is active as T2AR until February 27. He is active in his spare time on 160, 80, 60 and 40 metres using CW, with some SSB, RTTY and FT8. Tili, T2AT is also active during these days using FT8.

EAST KIRIBATI[kir-uh-BAS]; Ken, KH6QJ will be active as T32AZ from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, from February 28 to March 5. Activity will be on the HF bands and includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

TURKEY; Members of the Giresun Radio Amateur and Sports Club are active with special event call TC10GITRAD until the end of 2019 to celebrate the club's 10th anniversary.

BELIZE; Will, AA4NC is active as V31NC from Placencia until March 13. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8. This includes being a Single Op/All Band entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest. In addition, George, W2AIV will be active as V31GF from Placencia until March 2. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres, and possibly 15 and 10 metres, using SSB with some CW and PSK31.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The CQ 160-Metre SSB Contest, North American RTTY QSO Party, North American Collegiate RTTY Championship, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, REF SSB Contest, UBA DX CW Contest, South Carolina QSO Party, High Speed Club CW Contest, Classic Phone Exchange, SARL Digital Contest and North Carolina QSO Party are all on over this weekend.

The SKCC CW Sprint, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and The QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for February 27.

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

WICEN NSW is once again supporting Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events. The next event is in the Illawarra at Stuart Park North Wollongong, next Sunday, March the 3rd. Contact WICEN Operations if you are available to assist.

Then, in Hunter at Speers Point Park, Lake Macquarie on March the 31st; Western Sydney – at Tench Reserve, Penrith on April 7th; and Sydney - Leichhardt Oval #3, Lilyfield (over the "Bay Run") on May 19th.

The 2nd and 3rd of March are planned as a training weekend at Newnes, near Lithgow. Activities will include testing and configuring NVIS antennas. This is the site of the Glow Worm Marathon, which WICEN will again support, on June 15th and 16th.

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. The Canberra Two Day walk is March 30 and 31, then Friday May 10th and Saturday 11th are the BMSC National Capital Rally. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting Duncan's Run, an Ultra-Marathon on Saturday the 23rd of March. The Sunraysia 400, on the 27th and 28th of April, is an off-road motorsport event held at Keera station, in far north-west Victoria, just south of Wentworth NSW. Then the Kenda Rally, a motorcycle endurance event, is on Sunday, May 5.

The group runs a net on 3.6 MHz each Tuesday from 8:30pm local time. More information can be found on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

As we reported earlier, today was the Club's Annual Wyong Field Day. Hopefully everybody went away with a car full of goodies, attended the lectures and exhibits, and in general had a good time.

Club Vice President, Jay VK2FOMG, is working on compiling some historical information about the early days of the Club, as some history appears to have fallen by the wayside as various members came and went. If you have any snippets, photographs, or memorabilia of the early history of the club, and especially any photographs of old Field Days, he 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. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, from 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 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library. The Club also conducts Foundation training on an as-required basis.

The Club relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6 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; a 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and is highly recommended for receiving.

There is a net held every Thursday 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 may "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”, so be sure to “like” it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [pronounced “At CC AR Club”], and a YouTube channel streaming world-wide via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with interstate visitors.

Further information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, can be found on the website, www.ccarc.org.au.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is the monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 2nd of March, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

The club will be conducting a 40 metre dipole antenna building and testing day at Port Macquarie, on Sunday the 10th of March, in conjunction with the ARNSW 40 metre dipole Buildathon at Dural.

Then, on Saturday and Sunday the 16th and 17th of March, club station VK2BOR will participate in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day, from the club's Communications Caravan at Camden Haven Airfield.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 regarding training and assessments.

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 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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is coming up on Tuesday evening the 12th of March. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm.

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

The next meeting is a "Show and Tell" night, with members and visitors welcome to bring in projects or photos and videos, to proudly show to the gathered audience. Past "Show and Tells" have been very interesting, showing diverse interests contained with Amateur radio.

Additionally, there will be final discussion and planning for the upcoming John Moyle Field Day over the weekend of the 16th and 17th of March. The Committee have located a fantastic noise-free site for the Club's station, so come along and join-in the fun of the Field Day.

Following the presentations, there will be the usual ragchew over a cup of tea or coffee with chocolate biscuits. Based on many past meeting nights, this ragchewing will continue out in the carpark long after the hall has been locked up.

The IARS now has two weekly Nets, with the addition of an 80m Net on Friday nights from 8:30pm local time on 3.630MHz, plus or minus for usage. The very popular Saturday morning chit-chat Net continues to grow, ably run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in by either using one of the Club's 2 metre repeaters - VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, while out-of-towners can call in on Echolink via VK2BGL-R.

The Society's 70cm DMR repeater continues to get a lot 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.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening the 12th of March the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club meetings at 7:30pm local time, on the first Friday night of each month, excluding January, at the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook – that's behind the Oval.

The next meeting is this coming Friday, the 1st of March, and we hope to see anyone who can attend. As always, newcomers are most welcome.

The club regularly holds Foundation training courses, which will resume once the new examination process is up and running.

In the meantime, we are holding training in Radio and Electronics theory, at 7pm on Thursday nights at Glenbrook. This is suitable for those intending on sitting for Standard and Advanced Licence Exams. For any queries regarding training at BMARC, please e-mail education@bmarc.org.

Club activities include weekly Nets on HF and two metres, Tech talks, show-and-tell, Guest Speakers, field days such as John Moyle and JOTA, project and antenna Building, and of course, a good old chin-wag.

For more information, please see our website at www.BMARC.org or come along to this Friday's meeting.

*Submitted by Steve VK2TSG,
Vice-President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is the Annual General Meeting, this Wednesday the 27th of February, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm.

The AGM will be followed by the Monthly General Meeting. All financial members are encouraged to attend the AGM to vote for their 2019 committee, and as usual, 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. 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 Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be on this Tuesday the 26th of February and will feature a number of short talks, including by Steve VK2SVN on battery isolators and chargers for an auxiliary battery in a vehicle.

The meeting is at the Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Railway Station.

The Club was at today's field day; if you picked up a membership form today, you can take it along to the meeting on Tuesday, or post it to the address on the form.

The Club runs three nets each week. 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;

February

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 26th
Fisher's Ghost ARC AGM on the 27th at Campbelltown

March

Blue Mountains ARC Meeting on the 1st
Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 2nd
ARNSW Council nominations close on the 2nd
WICEN training weekend at Newnes on the 2nd and 3rd
Westlakes ARC Special General Meeting on the 9th
40 Metre Dipole Buildathon at ARNSW on the 10th
Also, 40 Metre Dipole antenna day at the Oxley Region ARC, on the 10th
Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest, Sunday the 10th
Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 12th
The John Moyle Field day is on the weekend of the 16th and 17th
Westlakes ARC car boot sale, from 9am on the 30th

April

ARNSW AGM on the 13th
Urunga Convention on the Easter weekend, 20th and 21st