

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

A reminder that next Sunday the 31st is Trash & Treasure day at VK2WI Dural. With the new turf still settling in, there is no parking in front of the Centenary Building; boot sellers will be relocated to the road end of the building. There are no major items listed on the disposal site; this month, there is a variety of smaller items, including some AM mantle and other domestic radios.

With information about the new assessment process starting to dribble through, the ARNSW Education team has tentatively proposed May 11th and 12th –to resume Foundation classes and assessments. This is still subject to finalisation of the process, so if you are interested, please register your interest with the education team, at education@arnsw.org.au to be kept up to date.

Reports for the next ARNSW AGM, coming up Saturday the 13th April 2019, were sent out last week, by post and by email, for members who have expressed their preference accordingly. However, we had some issues with our email distribution, and had to revert to the previous email distribution system, with the result that some members may have received two emails. We appreciate those members that elect to receive their notices by email, as this cuts down on the need for printing and the cost of postage.

Where we received an email bounce back, we will attempt to post a paper copy, with a request to update their email and any other changes. Indeed, we remind all members to let us know of any changes to address and particulars, so we can keep our records up to date.

Those members who plan to attend the AGM are advised to bring along their own copy of the reports if they want to read them, as limited printed copies will be available on the day.

Another reminder for April; Sunday the 7th is the end of daylight saving time for the south-eastern part of Australia. VK2WI news bulletins remain at the same local times, of 10am and 7.30pm. If the change in time zone affects the radio propagation to you, remember that VK2WI News is streamed live on our website, at arnsw.org.au/audio.

ARNSW Radio Experimenter's Group

The next meeting of the group is at noon on Sunday the 31st of March, after the Trash and Treasure – here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

This month we will have a double presentation. Firstly, Brian VK2GCE will give a presentation on the theory and mathematics of how power transformers work. Basically - "everything you wanted to know about transformers, but was afraid to ask". This will include among other things - Faraday's Law, Lenz's Law, Magnetisation Law as well as core materials and windings.

This will be followed by Bernie VK2ABN on the practical uses of a transformer - how to pull them apart and rewind them for different voltages. Specifically, how to rewind them for making heater transformers for high powered valves, such as the 813 which requires 10V at 5Amps, not something commonly available to buy these days.

The meeting starts 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 31st of March.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15th to the 21st of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
10cm flux	70	70	69	70	70	77	80
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	7	14	2	5	5	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	11	7	0	5	4	1 estimated
T index	-6	-3	-5	-4	-6	-4	-1

Solar activity was very low from the 15th to the 19th, then low on the 20th and 21st.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 15th then quiet to active on the 16th and quiet to unsettled on the 17th, before returning to quiet conditions from the 18th to the 21st.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were enhanced 15% during local night hours on the 15th and 16th. The 17th saw depressions of 20% during local daytime, returning to near predicted at night. Then, frequencies remained near predicted monthly values, from the 18th through to the 21st.

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

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low, with a small chance for isolated M-class flares between the 22nd and 24th of March.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach minor storm levels on the 23rd, and then be at unsettled to active levels on the 24th. Otherwise, activity should be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed by between 10% and 30% on the 25th of March, but are otherwise expected to remain 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 finished February, the figures were;

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

So far for March, the prediction is a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 80
With peak dates between the 21st and the 27th

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

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th, and the 27th to the 30th.

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:2m14s

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

GEORGIA; Luc, F5RAV will be active as 4L/F5RAV from March 26 to April 2. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest.

UGANDA; Members of the Italian DXpedition Team are active as 5X3C until March 25. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. They are active as 5X3E using FT8.

SENEGAL; Elvira, IV3FSG is active as 6W/IV3FSG from Thies, near Dakar, until April 16 while working for the InformatiCi Senza Frontiere organization. Activity is in her spare time on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and possible digital modes.

JUAN FERNANDES ISLAND; A group of operators are active as XR0ZRC from Robinson Crusoe Island, IOTA SA-005, until April 3. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

NORTH COOK ISLANDS; Dagmar, DM7PQ and Rainer, DL1AUZ are active as E51NPQ and E51AUZ, respectively, from Manihiki Island, IOTA OC-014, until March 25. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using only CW.

NIUE; Janusz, SP9FIH is active as E6AF until April 25. Activity is on 160 to 15 metres using SSB, RTTY and FT8.

FRENCH GUIANA; Hartwig, DL7BC is active as TO2BC near Cayenne until April 2. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB, with some RTTY and PSK, and with CW on request, depending on operating conditions. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

BONAIRE; John, KK9A will be active as PJ4/KK9A until March 31. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. He will be active as PJ4R in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

BELIZE; Victor, WB0TEV will be active as V31VP from the Maya Hill Lodge from March 28 to April 2. Activity will be on the HF bands, with an emphasis on 160 and 80 metres using slow CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. This includes being a Single Op/All Band entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

TURKS AND CAICOS; John, AF3K and Ross, W2TT will be active as VP5/AF3K and VP5/W2TT, respectively, from Providenciales, IOTA NA-002, from March 26 to April 2. They will be active as VP5P in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

BERMUDA; Operators KG8CO, W8KA, KB8TXZ, N8LI and AC8W will be active as home calls/VP9 from March 28 to April 2. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes being active as VP9I as a Multi/2 entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

MEXICO; Special event stations 4A3MAYA, 4B3MAYA, 4C3MAYA, 6E3MAYA and 6F3MAYA are active until March 24 to mark the Equinoccio Maya 2019. Activity is on the HF bands, 6 metres, and various satellites.

MYANMAR; Yuki, JH1NBN is active as XZ2C until March 28. Activity is on 15, 12, 10, and 6 metres using 25 watts.

VANUATU; Chris, VK2YUS will be active as YJ0CA from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, from March 26 to April 2. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 15 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX DX SSB contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American SSB Sprint Contest, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, FOC QSO Party, UK/EI DX CW Contest and the UBA Spring 6-Metre Contest are all on tap for this upcoming weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray, SKCC CW Sprint and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 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. These are short events, typically packed up by noon, and ideal for new members. The upcoming events are;

In the 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.

April 7 is also a training day here at VK2WI Dural. WICEN members planning to attend can email training@nsw.wicen.org.au. WICEN is intending to conduct training on the first Sunday of each month.

True Grit is an obstacle course running event, scheduled for the 1st and 2nd of June, and the OCR World Championship 24 hour is on the 8th and 9th of June. Both events are at Lower Portland, in outer NW Sydney. Nic VK2KXN is event commander for both of these events, let him know via email, mcleannb@bigpond.com if you are available for either or both.

The Glow Worm Marathon is at Newnes, 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 has 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. The SCSCC Bega Rally is on June 8 & 9, and the NSSCC "Rally of the Bay" at Bateman's Bay is on the 29th. 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 Kenda Rally, a motorcycle endurance event, is on Sunday May 5th and the Mallee Rally, in spectacular Sealake, is on June the 8th. More information on WICEN Victoria's website, vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

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

The next meeting is the Club's monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of April, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

As we reported last week, Club station VK2BOR had planned to operate in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day, from Camden Haven Airfield. Due to the heavy rain that had set in by Saturday morning, unfortunately the decision was made to abandon the operation. However, some club members ended up operating from their home stations instead and contributed to the on-air activity.

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club annual Field Day will be held at the Wauchope Showground hall with all the usual field day activities, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend, Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of June. The Field Day dinner will be at Port Macquarie Golf Club on the Saturday night; mark your calendar now. The Wauchope Showground permits camping, so it is possible to stay on site in your own motor home, caravan or tent, with power and amenities.

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 March 2019 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, will be available online this week, 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

The April monthly meeting of the group will be on Friday, the 12th of April. It's in the Belmore Function room at Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, starting at 7:30pm.

The Hunter Radio Group conducts a Monday night broadcast starting at 7.30pm, on the Group's Repeaters, 146.900MHz on 2 metres, and 438.025MHz on 70cm. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

Rodney, VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Users of the Club's VK2RAG repeater may be wondering why it stopped a few days ago; the reason is, that during summer the site operated on solar power, and due to recent inclement weather it ran out of sunlight and hence battery power. Normal service was restored as soon as humanly possible, and the Club thanks its hard-working Repeater team.

The next business meeting will be Saturday fortnight 6th April, and a member will be bringing a box of free stuff surplus to his requirements.

Those with GPS receivers may like to check them the following day, April the 7th; as the system will "roll over" at 0000 GPS time. Note that this is not the same as the leap second adjustment. Cheaper receivers may go berserk, and the more inferior ones will already have. It is completely coincidental that this is also the end of Daylight Saving.

Please note that due to Easter, there will be no lecture on 20th April.

All Meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are at the clubrooms 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 Clubrooms are accessible by bus, with a stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station every hour. The Clubrooms are usually open from 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library. The Club conducts Foundation training on an as-required basis, and a new course is coming up soon.

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 (unless you like listening to digital noise).

There is a net every Thursday from 8pm, on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725. All members are encouraged to join (especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved). There is also an experimental HF net on 80m, but as it is difficult to find a free frequency, the frequency will be announced on the VHF net. 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 of the weekly streaming world-wide news via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with Amateurs both interstate and overseas.

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

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Club station VK2HZ portable, was active across several bands from Katoomba Airfield last weekend, for the Annual John Moyle Contest.

Although the camp site was a washout with the torrential weather, the team consisting of Peter VK2VG, Stephen VK2YE, Brian VK2AAF; and Contest Manager, John VK2QN, braved the elements, and what appeared to be a small inland sea, to obtain a total of 136 contacts, across 160, 80, 40, 20, and 2 metre bands.

Despite antenna problems, laptop issues, and everybody ending up getting very, very wet, the group remained in high spirits for the duration of the contest, and are hoping for kinder weather next year.

BMARC meetings are on the first Friday night of each month, excluding January, starting at 7:30pm local time. Meetings are at the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook, behind the Oval.

The next meeting is on Friday, 5th of April; we hope to see anyone who can attend and as always, newcomers are most welcome.

The club regularly holds Foundation training courses, which will resume once the details of the new examination process is finalised. In the meantime, we are holding training in Radio and Electronics theory on Thursday nights at Glenbrook, with classes starting at 7pm. The classes are suitable for those intending on sitting for Standard and Advanced Licence Exams. For any enquiries 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 and JOTA, project and antenna Building, and of course, a good old chin-wag.

For more information, please visit the website, at BMARC.org or come along to our next meeting on Friday the 5th of April.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 3rd of April.

This month there will be a presentation by Malcolm VK2DXM on the Grimeton VLF transmitter.

Built in the 1920's the Grimeton transmitter in Sweden is the last remaining example of the Alexanderson alternator; a technology that not only pre-dated solid state, but also valve technology. At a frequency of 17.2kHz and a power of 200 kilowatts, into an antenna 1.2kilometres long, it is a sight to behold and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The transmitter was used until 1960 and has been preserved in working order, with transmissions several times per year.

There will be the usual refreshments; All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville, and the gathering starts at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd April.

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)

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
for the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

This Tuesday at HADARC, Rob VK2DIO will talk about weak-signal digital modes. The talk will help you to recognise some of those tones and strange signals you might hear on the bands. Rob will show you how to decode them and, better still, how you can easily start working some of these modes which are ideal in the present depressed HF propagation conditions.

The meeting is this Tuesday the 26th starting at 8pm. The location is Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Station.

International Marconi Day is the UTC day of the 27th April; that is, 10am local time on the 27th to 10am on the 28th. VK2IMD has been registered on the participating station list for this year's event.

HADARC's website, with details on the weekly nets and club activities, 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;

March

HADARC Monthly General Meeting on the 26th

Westlakes ARC car boot sale, from 9am on the 30th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 31st

April

St George ARS gathering on the 3rd

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 5th

Central Coast ARC meeting on the 6th

Oxley Region ARC monthly meeting on the 6th

Waverley ARS project day on the 6th

Daylight Saving Time ends on the 7th

Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 9th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 12th

ARNSW AGM on the 13th

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

May

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 26th

Manly-Warringah show and tell night on the 29th