

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

A reminder to ARNSW members that the AGM is on at 11am next Saturday morning, in the Centenary Building at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural. The reports and agenda for the meeting were emailed, or posted if requested, to financial members two weeks ago. If you are attending the meeting and wish to have a copy of the reports, we suggest that you bring your copy with you. The meeting audio will be streamed live on our website, at arnsw.org.au/audio.

Eastern states of Australia reverted to standard time early this morning, with clocks going back one hour. VK2WI News keeps the same local times, so if the time change has reduced HF propagation to you, you can hear the VK2WI news bulletin on our streaming service, the address again, is arnsw.org.au/audio.

Not everybody likes daylight saving – there is even a report out of the European Union suggesting that they are considering dropping daylight saving throughout their region, in 2021.

Appointment of Proxies for AGM

ARNSW members who cannot attend the AGM next Saturday, have the option of appointing a person who they know will be at the AGM to be their proxy. Alternatively, if you do not know any person that you are certain will attend the meeting, members can direct their proxy to the chair. Members can write on their Appointment of Proxy form, any directions they may wish their proxy to follow.

As indicated on the Appointment of Proxy form in the AGM papers, forms must be received at the Dural Office at least 4 hours before the AGM, which in this case is 7am next Saturday, the 13th of April. The Returning Officer and/or others will be in attendance to receive the forms.

Alternatively, if posting, they must arrive by the last mail, which is on Friday 12th April. With the changes to Australia Posts delivery times, don't wait until the last day - do it today.

*Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer*

Urunga Radio Convention

The Urunga Radio Convention is on again this Easter, on April 20th and 21st. This is a big year for the convention; at lunch on Saturday April 20th, they will cut the 70th Birthday Cake – the convention has each year continuously since 1949.

There is non-stop (almost) Fox Hunting of the kind you only see at Urunga, including one on Saturday night. For those who have taken part in the Fox Hunts before, the program has remained largely unchanged for nearly 50 years. If you are a Hunter and you're uncertain of the timetable, you can email or check the website for details.

The traditional (dress as you are) Saturday Night Dinner will be at the Ocean View Hotel, with an a la carte menu. At lunchtime on Saturday and during the Dinner Saturday night, we hope to hear from some of the early Hunters, and anybody with recollections of previous conventions will be more than welcome to share their stories.

There will be a certificate for attendees as a commemorative token of the event. Also on display will be a collection of photos from the early years; if you have any copies of yours to share, the convention organisers would love to have them.

Other contests on the weekend include the three traditional competitions Mens, General and Easter Eggs, and several challenging free guessing games. There is a Technical and a General Quiz, with topics both entertaining and unusual. Trading tables are available if you have some goodies to sell.

The Convention winds up on Sunday afternoon, with the presentation of prizes around 3.00 pm.

You can find more information on the website – just search for “Urunga radio Convention”.

[\[http://users.tpg.com.au/goldy2/index.htm\]](http://users.tpg.com.au/goldy2/index.htm)

*Gloria Savins,
Secretary, Urunga Radio Convention.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 29th of March to the 4th of April.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
10cm flux	69	69	70	69	71	71	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	3	9	6	5	12	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	1	7	7	2	10	8 estimated
T index	-10	-3	-7	-3	-10	+1	-4

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet on the 29th, quiet on the 30th and quiet to unsettled on the 31st. The 1st of April saw quiet to active conditions; the 2nd was again quiet but the 3rd again reached active levels, slightly reducing to unsettled levels of activity on the 4th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out 20% depressed during local day on the 29th, recovering to near predicted at night. The 30th remained near predicted, the 31st was near predicted during the day and 15% enhanced during local night. The 1st of April was near predicted; the 2nd was 20% depressed during local day, recovering to near predicted at night; the 3rd was again near predicted during the day and 15% enhanced during local night; and the 4th was mostly near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 5th to the 11th of April;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, with no active or returning solar regions. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with possible Active periods due to coronal hole effects early in the forecast period.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to be mostly near predicted monthly values, with some possibility of moderate depressions due to elevated geomagnetic activity, early in the forecast period.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having nearly finished March, the figures were;

Minimum of 68, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 82
With peak dates between the 21st and the 25th

For April, the prediction is a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 23rd

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

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 1st to the 8th, and the 12th to the 20th.

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 March 2019

Complied with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was at predominately very low levels this month, with no significant flares observed. Solar X-ray C-class flares were observed on the 8th, 20th and 22nd of March. The 10.7cm solar flux showed a mild increase from background solar levels, from the 20th to the 24th of March, probably mostly due to solar region 2736 emerging in the north-west solar quadrant. Several weak coronal mass ejections, mostly associated with the C class flare, were observed this month. In particular, a halo coronal mass ejection was observed on the 20th March. None of the coronal mass ejections were significantly geoeffective.

No significant geomagnetic activity was observed this month in the Australian region; the strongest disturbance for the month was on the 1st of March, where the local A index reached 18. This activity was declining geomagnetic activity associated with the Earths entry into a high speed solar wind stream induced by a coronal hole late in February. The halo solar CME observed on the 20th produced a minor geomagnetic impulse on the 24th of March at approximately 2150UTC, but no significant geomagnetic activity followed.

The Ionosphere remained fairly stable, with significant depressions associated with geomagnetic disturbances this month. Generally lower than normal maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were observed frequently however, likely due to the continued lower solar flux levels as we progress towards solar minimum. The southern Australian region saw the largest depressions, of 25%, on the 2nd and 3rd.

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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-FCAL042.wav]

Duration:2m01s

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; Evert, PA2KW will be active as 5T2KW from Nouadhibou from April 9 to 15. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW and some SSB.

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.

JAMAICA; Kasimir, DL2SBY is active as 6Y5KB until April 10. Activity is usually on 40 to 6 metres, including 17, 12, and possibly 30 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

MALDIVES; Ben, DL1RNT is active as 8Q7NT from Embudu Island, IOTA AS-013, until April 13. Activity is on the HF bands.

THE GAMBIA; A group of operators are active as C5DL until April 15. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes, with three stations active.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS; Operators Dagmar, DM7PQ and Rainer, DL1AUZ are active as E51NPQ and E51AUZ, respectively, from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until April 11. 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.

SPAIN; To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the IARU Society Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles, or the URE, special event stations AM70URE, AM70A, AM70C, AM70D, AM70E, AM70F, AM70I, AM70L, AM70N, AM70O, AM70P, AM70R, AM70S and AM70U are active until June 9. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres.

ITALY; Special event station I10KT is active until August 31, to commemorate the 1947 voyage of the raft Kon Tiki.

GUINEA-BISSAU; Livio, IZ3BUR is active as J52EC from Cumura until April 15.

LIECHTENSTEIN; Operators PA2HGJ, PA2RDK, PA3CNO, PE0MGB and PE1FLO will be active as HB0/home calls until April 13. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using mainly CW and FT8, with some SSB.

ALAND ISLANDS; Mart, DL6UAA will be active as OH0UA from April 8 to 19. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and various digital modes.

NORFOLK ISLAND; Operators VK3QB, VK3HJ, VK2PN and VK3BDX are active as VI9NI until April 14. Activity is on 160 to 17 metres using CW, SSB and FT8. The operation commemorates the signing of the Norfolk Island Act 40 years ago. Activity includes some SOTA activations from Mt. Bates and Jacky Jacky.

ANTARCTICA; Roman, UT7UA is active as VP8CTR from Wordie House on Winter Island, IOTA AN-006. Activity of late has been with FT8. His length of stay is unknown.

BURKINA FASO; Harald, DF2WO will be active as XT2AW until April 26. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The SP DX Contest, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, LZ Open 40-Metre CW Sprint Contest, PODXS 20-Metre 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest, Mississippi QSO Party, Missouri QSO Party, Florida State Parks on the Air, EA RTTY Contest and RSGB 80-Metre RoLo SSB are all on this weekend.

The 144 MHz Spring Sprint is scheduled for April 8.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, RSGB 80-Metre Club SSB Championship, NAQCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for April 10.

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 Western Sydney event at Tench Reserve, Penrith was on today; and the Sydney event at Leichhardt Oval #3, Lilyfield (over the "Bay Run") on May 19th.

Today was a WICEN training day here at VK2WI Dural. WICEN is intending to conduct training on the first Sunday of each month; members can email training@nsw.wicen.org.au for details.

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.

It is with regret that we announce the closure of the Northern Rivers region. The members will meet on Sunday 14th April, to formally vote to close the region. Past and present members are invited to attend wearing WICEN/VRA or allied shirts for a photo opportunity, marking the end of one era and the beginning of the next. There will be a last WICEN NR net on Tuesday 16 April to confirm, on air, that the region has closed, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR.

Looking forward, Summerland Amateur Radio will continue to support WICEN NSW in its activities. All amateurs in the Northern Rivers Region are encouraged to support WICEN NSW, through individual membership.

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 concluded today. 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 the Kenda Rally, a motorcycle endurance event on Sunday May 5th. The Mallee Rally, in spectacular Sealake, is on June the 8th. There will be a training event at the Dromana Drive-in on Saturday April 13th. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. 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 will be the Club's Friday night gathering, this month at 7pm on Friday the 26th of April, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. Note that it's a week later than usual this month, as the 3rd Friday is Good Friday.

The Club's annual Field Day is 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 newly published March 2019 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now 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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month, with the next meeting on this Tuesday the 9th of April. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's committee meeting, which starts at 6:30pm.

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 the Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

The next meeting will be a report and presentation on the Club's recent involvement in the John Moyle Field Day weekend. Many members attended over the weekend, enjoying great contacts, good food and excellent company. At the end of the presentation there will be the usual ragchew over a cup of tea or coffee with chocolate biscuits.

A reminder of the Society's two weekly Nets; the first is the Saturday morning Chit-Chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in at 9:30am 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 second is the End-of-Week 80 metre Net, run by a rotation of Club members – it's on Friday nights from 8:30pm, on 3.630MHz, plus or minus frequency for usage.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm this Tuesday the 9th of April, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

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

The CCARC clubrooms are usually open from 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library. The clubrooms are in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. They are accessible by bus, with a stop just opposite serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station every hour. Just a reminder that, due to Easter, there will be no lecture on Saturday, 20th April.

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 highly recommended for receiving.

There is a net every Thursday from 8pm, on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725. There is also an experimental HF net on 80m, as the frequency varies due to band conditions and usage, it is announced on the VHF net prior. 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.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The first three-month period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge for 2019 has now closed, and entries can be submitted until the 14th of April.

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 January to March, 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. The website again, is vk2au.org.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is an informal mid-monthly meeting, on Tuesday the 9th of April. The meeting is at 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, the only IMD station active in Australasia, will operate on various HF bands.

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;

April

Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 9th

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 9th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 12th

ARNSW AGM on the 13th

Wauchope ARC meeting on the 13th, 1pm at Wauchope RSL Club.

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

Oxley Region ARC gatering on the 26th

May

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 3rd

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 10th

Westlakes AGM, 1pm on the 11th at the clubrooms

ARNSW Foundation and licence assessment weekend, 11th and 12th

Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 14th

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

Manly-Warringah show and tell night on the 29th

June

ORARC Field Day, Wauchope showground hall on the 8th and 9th