

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

This year's John Moyle Field Day results have been released. Our congratulations to the Armidale and District Amateur Radio Club; their Club station VK2IY, was this year's first place VK2 winner.

From the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Club; President Bruce VK2EM, advises that the VK2RGL 147.00MHz 2 metre repeater at Cabbage Tree Mountain, now requires 91.5 Hz CTCSS for access. This has become necessary due to low level interference on the repeater input frequency.

ITU World Telecommunication Day is Friday the 17th of May, marking the founding of the International Telecommunication Union, in 1865. To commemorate this day, Australian amateurs are permitted to use the AX prefix with their own callsign.

A reminder that bookings have closed for the May ARNSW foundation and assessment weekend. Bookings are now open for the July weekend; the deadline is Friday the 28th of June, as papers have to be ordered, for each individual candidate. Enquiries and bookings are best made to the Education team, by email to; education@arnsw.org.au. Other clubs and groups will be holding courses and assessments; we invite them to advise VK2WI News of arrangements so that their information can be included in these news bulletins.

At the next Trash and Treasure, Sunday May 26th, Amateur Radio NSW will be hosting delegates from the WIA Conference and AGM – more details on that, later in this news Bulletin. With the extra activities at Dural on the day, boot sellers are requested to contact the ARNSW office to book their space in advance.

If propagation is making reception of our news bulletins difficult, they are streamed live from our website, at arnsw.org.au/audio. You are able to listen back to past bulletins a few days after they go to air, along with the audio of some event held at VK2WI Dural. Text of news items is uploaded to the website during the week after they go to air, and the VK2 News submissions to Amateur Radio Magazine is posted, a few days after the magazine is released.

Activities at the 2019 WIA Conference and AGM

This year's WIA Conference and AGM is being held in Sydney, from Friday the 24th to Sunday the 26th of May. You don't have to be a WIA member to attend and participate in the activities.

On the evening of Friday the 24th, the Waverley Amateur Radio Society celebrates its 100th anniversary in the historic Marconi Room of Sydney Town Hall, with keynote speaker David Dufty, author of the Australian "Secret Code Breakers".

Saturday's program includes the short formal AGM, followed by an open Forum, technical presentations, discussions and reports. This is an opportunity to influence the direction of Amateur Radio in Australia.

Saturday Night's Conference Dinner is at Sydney's Parkroyal Hotel, with renowned keynote speaker Professor Fred Watson, astronomer extraordinaire, whose father was an amateur radio operator.

On Sunday morning, attendees will be able to take the shuttle bus here to VK2WI Dural, where along with the usual Sunday activities there will be special exhibits from a number of groups, including our own Radio Experimenters Group, and other radio club around the greater Sydney area. There will also be commercial exhibitors, technical demonstrations and talks, and complimentary catered lunch for registered attendees.

The conference coincides with the start of Vivid Sydney – now in its tenth year. So for a really great weekend in Sydney, Register now to secure your place; visit the website, at www.wia.org.au under the WIA Information tab, or search for WIA 2019 Annual Conference. As a bonus, attendees who register by midnight on the 11th of May, go into the draw to win a UHF, type approved, DMR/FM handheld.

Billeting arrangements are being co-ordinated by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society; if you are a Sydney amateur with a spare bed or two, or if you are planning to attend the conference and are looking for a low cost accommodation option; you can find all the details on the Waverley Amateur Radio Society web site, at vk2bv.org. There is a link to the billeting information on the home page.

A request for some historical information.

Back in the late 1980s - or perhaps even the early 1990's - the University of Canberra acquired some equipment and to establish a radio telescope. Unfortunately, many of the academics that used it have since moved on. Now, the university is looking for anyone who may be able to provide some information about the origins and history of the installation.

It was used for various experiments by Paul Edwards, Michael Wagner, and John Rayner, but so far little information has been found regarding its origins – except that some members of the Amateur Radio community were involved. It would appear that equipment came from a former Department of Communications site, possibly near Mount MacDonald, west of Canberra; but it seems so far, that it did *not* come from Honeysuckle, Orroral or Tidbinbilla.

Any help or information would be greatly appreciated, so if you have some information, please forward it to the ARNSW office, by email to office@arnsw.org.au, and we will pass it on.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 26th of April to the 2nd of May.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd
10cm flux	67	67	68	67	69	68	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	5	4	6	4	8	10 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	5	2	2	2	7	7 estimated
T index	-4	+1	0	-1	2	0	+7

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 26th, quiet to unsettled on the 27th, quiet from the 28th to the 30th, then quiet to unsettled on the 1st and 2nd of May.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region remained near predicted during local daylight hours from the 26th of April to the 1st of May, with some enhanced condition at night; 25% on the 26th and 28th, 30% on the 27th and 29th, 35% on the 30th, and 45% on the 1st of May. The 2nd of May showed large variation through the day; with depression of 15% during local daytime hours; becoming enhanced 45% at local night, compared to monthly predicted values.

Now, the forecast for the 3rd to the 9th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to be near predicted monthly values, with mild depressions possible.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished April, the figures were;

Minimum of 67, Average of 73, and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 7th to the 18th

At the beginning of May, so far we have a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 78
With peak dates from the 4th to the 19th

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

Minimum of 69, Average of 76, and a Maximum of 78
With peak dates from the 1st to the 14th.

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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Space Weather Summary for April 2019

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was predominately at Very Low levels this month, with no significant solar flares observed. There were also no significant geomagnetic disturbances, with the maximum A-index reaching 10, signifying slightly unsettled conditions.

The ionosphere was also relatively stable; No significant ionospheric depressions associated with geomagnetic disturbances were observed this month. Southern Australian region maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were depressed at times, with the largest depression of 30% observed on the 5th of April. Generally lower than normal MUFs were observed frequently this month, probably in association with continued lower solar flux levels as we progress towards solar minimum.

In the solar and geophysical report each week, we talk about the maximum usable frequencies both observed in the report period, and in the forecast for the next week. This is based on observations of foF2, which is the maximum frequency reflected vertically by the ionosphere. While a vertical propagation path in itself is not particularly useful, the data is a reference point, from which estimates of frequencies for any oblique circuit can be made.

The foF2 is the most important parameter describing the state of the ionosphere at a particular location. Along with the T-index, foF2 is a key indicator of ionospheric conditions.

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: 1m43s

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; Nobu, JA0JHQ and Ted, JA7XBG plan to be active as 8Q7NH and 8Q7XB, respectively, from Embudu Island, IOTA AS-013, from May 7 to 10. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW and FT8.

CROATIA; Jan, PA4JJ is active as 9A/PA4JJ until June 5. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using mainly FT8.

GHANA; Emil, ZS6EGB is active as 9G5ZS until February 2020. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8.

GERMANY; Members of radio club Bad Doberan are active with special call sign DM460DA until the end of October, to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary.

PHILIPPINES; Audie, DU1ZDR and Gazelle, DU1ZDQ will be active as DZ1A from Siargao Island, IOTA OC-235, on May 4 and 5. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres.

SPAIN; Members of the Radio Club de las Fuerzas Armadas Espanolas will be active with special call sign EG1FAS until June 2 to commemorate Spain's armed forces.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS; Nobby, G0VJG will be active as FW/G0VJG from Wallis Island, IOTA OC-054, from May 6 to 20. Activity will be on 60 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

HAITI; Dale, N3BNA and Mark, K3MSB will be active as HH6/home calls until May 11. Activity will be in their spare time on 160 and 60 metres.

THAILAND; Special event station HS10KING is active until July 31 to commemorate the Coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn [wah-JEE-ruh-long-korn], King Rama 10th. Activity is on all bands and possibly satellites.

DOMINICA; Operators Thomas, SM0CXU and Tore, SM0DZB will be active as J79U and J79TA, respectively, from May 7 to 15.

ST. VINCENT; Brian, GW4DVB will be active as J88PI from Palm Island from May 7 to 14. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using SSB, SSTV and FT8.

ARGENTINA; Horacio, LU5BE and Enrique, LU8EFF are active as home calls/T until May 5 from Susques and Purmamarca. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, PSK31, HELL, JT65 and FT8.

BULGARIA; Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are active with special call LZ497OM during May to honor Orthodox saints.

PERU; Michael, AC0PR plans to be active as OA3/AC0PR from Chimbote until May 14. Activity will be in his spare time 40 to 15 metres using only CW and QRP power.

MARKET REEF; Pasi, OH3WS plans to be active as OJ0W until May 11. Activity will be in his spare time on 60 and 30 metres.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC; Special event stations OM83IHW and OM2019IHF are active during May to mark the 83rd Men's World Ice Hockey Championships. Activity is on the HF and VHF bands.

RUSSIA; A number of stations are using the RP74 prefix until May 9, to commemorate the 74th year since the end of World War II.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The New England QSO Party, 10-10 International Spring CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest, SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge, Microwave Spring Sprint, ARI International DX Contest, 7th Call Area QSO Party, Indiana QSO Party, Delaware QSO Party, FISTS Spring Slow Speed CW Sprint and MIE 33 Contest are all on this upcoming weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for May 7.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 8.

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 continues to support the Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events. The last one is the Sydney event, which will be at Leichhardt Oval #3 Lilyfield, around Iron Cove, on May 19th.

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.

Navshield is a bush navigation contest, on the 22nd and 23rd of June, held at a location to be determined, somewhere in the greater Sydney region. While WICEN provides communication support for this bush navigation contest, WICEN can also enter the event, if there are members willing to do so.

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.

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. Friday May 10th and Saturday 11th are the BMSC National Capital Rally. The SCSCC Bega Rally is on June 8th & 9th, 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 today; its a motorcycle endurance event at Eildon. The Mallee Rally has been cancelled. 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 is the May Friday night gathering, at 7pm on Friday the 17th of May, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

The Club will be undertaking a test to evaluate a possible reduction in interference on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater at Middle Brother, by changing its frequency.

For two weeks from Saturday the 11th of May 2019, the repeater will temporarily change frequency to 147.0MHz with 91.5 Hz CTCSS tone. During this test, the repeater on 146.7 MHz will be off the air. VK2RCN on 147.0MHz at Telegraph point will remain on air, but will require 123 Hz CTCSS for access.

The test is expected to conclude on Saturday the 25th of May, when the VK2RPM repeater will return to 146.7 MHz and VK2RCN will no longer require CTCSS for access.

It's now only five weeks until the Club's 44th annual Field Day at the Wauchope showground hall, on Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. All of the usual field day activities will be there; remember to bring your projects for the home brew display, and there will be foxhunts on 2 and 80 metres, on both days. The Field Day dinner will be at Port Macquarie Golf Club on the Saturday night; mark your calendar now. Wauchope showground permits camping, so you can stay on site in your own motor home, caravan or tent, with power and amenities. Please book ahead, as Port Macquarie and Wauchope are very popular holiday destinations for the June Long Weekend.

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 first assessments under the new arrangements will be held soon.

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, which 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 May 2019 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, will be online soon, 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 next meeting of the group is on this Friday the 10th May. This meeting will take the form of a technical visit to the N.S.W. Fire Station in Newcastle City, starting at 7:15pm. The Fire Station is on the corner of Union and Bull Streets. There will be no meeting at the Adamstown Bowling Club this month.

The Hunter Radio Group conducts a broadcast at 7.30pm on Monday nights. You can find this broadcast on the Group's Repeaters on 146.9MHz in the 2 metre band and 438.025 MHz in the 70 cm band. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

*Regards, Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month, with the next meeting on Tuesday the 14th of May. 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.

At the next meeting two representatives from RASA, the Radio Amateur Society of Australia, will be in attendance. Ian VK3BUF and Chris VK3QB have offered to come along and both present, explain and discuss their reasons for a second representative body for Australian amateurs.

Whatever your thoughts may be about either the WIA or RASA, everyone should endeavour to best understand a diversity of views in any situation. With this in mind, attending members and visitors will be able to explore their thoughts and concerns with Ian and Chris who believe that RASA is not a divisive influence, but more a healthy competition, thus inspiring everyone to work harder for our hobby.

Following will be the usual ragchew over a hot cup of tea or coffee with chocolate biscuits.

A reminder of the Club's two weekly Nets; one being the Saturday morning Chit-Chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in at 9:30am local time 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 "TGIF" End-of-Week 80 metre Net run by a rotation of Club members, 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 on Tuesday evening the 14th of May at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer, Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

We apologise for the lack of news recently; now that the Club's publicity officer has a kludgy internet service restored, we can bring you some more updates.

The last Club lecture was by Peter VK2EHQ on the past, present, and future of packet radio. It brought back memories for some in attendance of involvement in the various (and infamous) "packet wars".

Remember that Friday 17th May is ITU Day, so please use the "AX" prefix whenever possible; as the saying goes: "use it, or lose it".

The next lecture will be on Saturday the 18th of May, on surface mount soldering by Graham VK2GRA; it will involve a demonstration and some practice. Don't forget that this is also the date of the Federal election, so remember: "vote early, and vote often".

Central Coast WICEN (which has a close relationship with the Club) has a new web page; please visit ccwicen.org.au, with thanks due to Club webmeisters Henrick VK2FTDR and David VK2VGA for setting it up.

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are held 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, followed by Karen VK2AKB's yummy pikelets.

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; and one can often arrange a lift back. The Clubrooms 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, and a new course is coming up soon, once details with the new licencing arrangements are finalised.

The Club relays VK2WI News 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; 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. Also, both IRLP and EchoLink will be available soon.

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 prior. Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au, preferably by 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: look for “centralcoastarc” and be sure to “like” it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [“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

The Club held its Annual General Meeting on Friday night, the 3rd of May. We will bring you the results of the positions in next week's news.

Meetings of the Club are held on the first Friday night of each month, excluding January; at the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook, behind the Oval. All are welcome.

Club activities include weekly Nets on HF and two metres, Tech talks, show-and-tell, Guest Speakers, Field Days, JOTA, project and antenna Building, and of course, a good old chin-wag.

We are also holding training in Radio and Electronics theory on Thursday nights, starting at 7:30pm. This training is suitable for those intending to sit for Standard and Advanced Licence Exams. The next foundation weekend, also at Glenbrook, will be on the 11th and 12th of May.

For any enquiries regarding training at BMARC, please e-mail education@bmarc.org.

Steve VK2TSG

Vice President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is at 8pm on Tuesday the 14th of May. The meeting is at Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Station. The AGM is coming up on the 28th of May.

The Club runs three nets each week, including on public holidays. 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;

May

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 10th

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

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

Westlakes ARC Foundation course and assessments on the 11th and 12th

Illawarra ARS Meeting at Coniston on the 14th

HADARC meeting on the 14th

ITU Radio Day – you can use the AX prefix – on the 17th

Oxley Region ARC Friday Night Gathering on the 17th

WIA AGM and Conference in Sydney, 24th to the 26th

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

Westlakes ARC open day and boot sale on the 26th

HADARC AGM on the 28th

Manly-Warringah show and tell night on the 29th

June

BMARC Working bee at Glenbrook on the 1st

BMARC Monthly meeting on the 7th

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

Bookings for ARNSW July Foundation course close on the 28th

July

Blue Mountains ARC Monthly meeting on the 5th

ARNSW Foundation and licence assessment weekend, 13th and 14th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 28th