

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

Today saw ARNSW hosting delegates on the final day of the WIA Conference, held this year in Sydney. This morning's VK2WI News included live interviews about the weekend's activities, with delegates visiting VK2WI. We now have an edited segment from this morning's news, with VK2WI presenter Tim VK2UJ, talking to John VK2LJ from the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, and Aiden VK4APM from the WIA board.

[Play File: E-WIA19-1.wav]

Duration: 3m23s

In: ... In the studios of VK2WI this morning...

Out:.... See you later.

That was Aiden VK4APM, ending our report from this morning's activities at the 2019 WIA Annual conference.

This morning's full bulletin, along with an audio segment from the technical presentations this afternoon, will be available for download tomorrow morning, at our audio-on-demand page, <http://arnsw.org.au/audio>.

US Licence Exams

As we reported last week, the Oz-VE group again ran US licence exams in Sydney in the lead-up to the WIA AGM.

At the session on Thursday night, both candidates passed all three papers, earning new Extra licences, while on Friday morning, one candidate each earned a new Technician, a new General, and a new Extra licence.

Given the possibility of running the first session in the world with the new General paper, a session is being considered for July 1. You can register your interest on: veexams.com

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS, and AG6LE (VE).

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17th to the 23rd of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm flux	72	71	68	69	68	67	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	8	3	7	4	5	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	2	0	1	1	3	3 estimated
T index	5	7	-1	+2	-7	-4	-4

Solar activity was very low, and geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region remained near predicted during local daylight hours, all week. However, some enhanced conditions were observed at night; 20% on the 18th, which continued with 20% enhancement after local dawn, 25% on the 19th and 20th, 15% on the 21st; and 30% during local night of the 22nd and 23rd.

Now, the forecast for the 24th to the 30th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low. There are no sunspots currently active, though Returning Region 2740 is expected back, on the 30th of May.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to be 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 April, the figures were;

Minimum of 67, Average of 73, and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 7th to the 20th

Nearing the end of May, we have a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 5th to the 11th

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 76
With peak dates from the 2nd to the 12th, and the 28th 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>]

[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-FCAL047.wav]

Duration: 1m51s

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

We start this week, with some stations on air, especially for the CQ Worldwide WPX CW contest;

CHINA; Members of Club Station Jiangyin ARES will be active as B4T.

DENMARK; Henning, OZ2I will be active as 5Q6EE from Fyn, IOTA EU-172.

INDONESIA; Yohanes, YB2DX will be active as a Single Op/Single Band on 80 metres entry.

ISRAEL; Zvi, 4X6OM plans to be active as 4X7R as an All Band entry.

KENYA; Nick, LZ4NM plans to be active as 5Z4/LZ4NM.

KUWAIT; Hamad, 9K2HN will be active as an All Band entry.

MOROCCO; A large group of operators will be active as CN3A as a Multi/Multi entry.

In other operating activity this week;

GEORGIA; Jun, JH4RHF will be active as 4L9S from Tbilisi until June 2. Activity will be on the HF bands using only CW.

EAST MALAYSIA; Saty, JE1JKL is active as 9M6NA from Labuan Island, IOTA OC-133, until May 28. Activity is focused on 6 metres using FT8 in DXpedition mode. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

ERITREA; A large group of operators will be active as E31A until June 3, while there in support of humanitarian activities. Activity will be in their spare time on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

FRANCE; Special event station TM19ATHF is active until May 27 during the Tour des Hauts-de-France 2019 bicycle race.

GUADELOUPE; Didier, F6BCW is active as FG/F6BCW from Archipel des Saintes, IOTA NA-114, until May 26. Activity is on 20 metres using CW.

ALAND ISLANDS; A group of operators are active as OG0C from Kokar until May 28. Activity is on 160 to 2 metres using CW, SSB, MSK144, FT8, and FT4, and also includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PA100IAU will be active until June 16 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the International Astronomical Union.

SEYCHELLES; Laci, HA7JTR is active as S79HA from Praslin Island, IOTA AF-024, until May 29. Activity is holiday style on 160 to 17 metres, with a focus on the low bands, using mainly CW and some SSB.

DODECANESE; Wolf, DL3DRN will be active as SV5/DL3DRN from Rhodos, IOTA EU-001, until June 14. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY.

BELIZE; Josep, EA3AKY is active as V31AK until May 28. Activity is mainly on 6 metres using FT8. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

KOSOVO; Look for members of the Kosovo Friendship Consortium to be active as Z66X from Pristina in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest. When not active in the contest, they will be working with young hams in preparation of YOTA 2019.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint and NCCC CW Sprint are all on this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge is scheduled for May 27.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 29.

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

True Grit is an obstacle course running event, scheduled for the 1st and 2nd of June. Then the weekend after is the OCR World Championship 24 hour, on the 8th and 9th. Both events are at Lower Portland, in outer North-West 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 BSAR Navshield is a bush navigation contest, on the 22nd and 23rd of June, held at a location somewhere in the greater Sydney region. As well as providing support and safety for the the event, WICEN may enter a team, subject to interest.

Due to the number of events in June, there will be no training at Dural. We will have more details on July's activities in coming bulletins.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au and includes a web contact form. Members can log in and update personal details online. 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. The SCSCC Bega Rally is on June 8th & 9th, and the NSSCC "Rally of the Bay" at Bateman's Bay is on the 29th. August 6th is the BMSC Narooma Rally. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Eureka Rally on August 24th and 25th, which is around Ballarat. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria's, including a report on Duncan's Run, is on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

[Play ID File: EV ID3.wav]

Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting is June monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 1st of June, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Yesterday, Saturday the 25th of May, saw the conclusion of testing at the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater, at Middle Brother. VK2RPM has now returned to its normal operating frequency of 146.7MHz, with 91.5Hz CTCSS. Echolink is available on VK2RPM, as previously. VK2RCN on 147.0MHz at Telegraph point remains on air, but no longer requires a subaudible tone for access.

It's now only two 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, including both 80 metre and 2 metre foxhunts, on both days. Remember to bring your projects for the home brew display. Field Day dinner will be in the Seaview Room of Port Macquarie Golf Club on 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 on 146.7MHz, 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, is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for ORARC.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Last week's lecture was on the theory and practice of surface-mount devices, and the techniques and tools required. Some members of the audience with sharp eyes and steady hands practised their skills with particular attention paid to "vias" [*pronounced VYE-ers*], or those through-hole thingies. Yes, SMD soldering is easier than you thought. The next club lecture will be by Dave VK2KFU, on the GPS system.

The Club has gained a somewhat large satellite dish, so visitors can expect to see a new landmark on the horizon soon; further details will appear in later broadcasts, but the local residents need not be concerned about spontaneously growing extra appendages; as the dish is receive-only.

Central Coast WICEN meetings are on the second Saturday of every even-numbered month; the next is on the 8th of June. 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 home cooking.

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 usually 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 of 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 next meeting of the Club is on Friday the 7th of June; at the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street Glenbrook; behind the sports Oval. All are most 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. Some of these events are in the Coming events section, later in this bulletin.

We are also running training in Radio and Electronics theory, on Thursday nights from 7pm. The classes are suitable for those planning to take either Standard or Advanced Licence Exams.

On the 10th and 11th of August, the Club will be holding a Foundation training weekend at Glenbrook. For any enquiries regarding training and assessments at BMARC, please email education@bmarc.org.

Steven VK2TSG

Vice-President, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.

Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club

A new 2m Repeater, VK3RDH is operational on 146.625MHz, -600Khz (no tone) in Northern Victoria. The Repeater is located on Mount Delegate; just over the border with NSW. Early signal reports have been favourable and so far received from Sale, Bairnsdale and North Eastern Tasmania amongst others.

This Repeater is linked to VK2RSE 147.375MHz + 600Khz at Mt Roberts near Bredbo, and VK2RFS 146.750MHz – 600Khz at Mumbulla Mountain, on the Far South Coast of NSW, near Bermagui. No tone is required for access.

With these three linked repeaters, 2 metre access is now provided from south of the Batemans Bay NSW area along the coast down to Eden, into the Monaro Plains and Snowy Mountains areas between Bredbo and Jindabyne as well as up into the NSW Main Range ski areas and west to Adaminaby. The addition of VK3RDH now extends that coverage into Northern Victoria and surrounding areas.

The Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club would really appreciate signal reports and testing from Amateurs in the North Victorian areas and welcomes amateurs to join in the weekly 2m Net (VK2SNO), every Saturday from 7:30pm. The club also re-broadcasts the WIA Weekly News Broadcast every Sunday night from 6pm.

The Club appreciates the work of Peter VK2DIE over the last couple of years, in making the above facilities and coverage possible.

*Regards,
Angelo VK2FJCM.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is coming up this Wednesday the 29th of May, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. 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.*

St. George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 1st of June.

At this gathering, there will be a presentation on Digital Mobile Radio, or DMR. With 5 repeaters in the Sydney area and over 30 Australia wide, the DMR network is more easily accessible than ever before.

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

The presentation will also look at the popular DMRplus network, providing easy access to talk groups and group repeater reflectors worldwide. DMR Plus also supports connectivity via the DV4mini, DVMEGA and OpenSpot devices.

At the meeting, there will be the opportunity to buy a ticket in a raffle for a GD-77 DMR handheld transceiver, which will do both DMR and FM.

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 1st June.

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

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

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

HADARC AGM on the 28th

Fisher's Ghost ARC Meeting at Campbelltown on the 29th

Manly-Warringah show and tell night on the 29th

June

SGARS Gathering on the 1st

Oxley Region ARC monthly meeting on the 1st

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

BMARC Buy and Sell day at Glenbrook on the 7th

BMARC visit the Kurrajong Radio Museum on the 15th

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

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