

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

The next ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend is coming up, on July 13th and 14th. Bookings are essential, and close at 5pm this Friday, the 28th of June. Bookings and Enquiries are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

The VK2WI Dural library will open tomorrow afternoon and evening. For any enquiries regarding the library, or to get involved with the library team, you can contact the library by email, to library@arnsw.org.au.

Yesterday, Saturday the 22nd of June, was the winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere. So this weekend sees the shortest daylight hours for the year, with Sydney getting just under 10 hours of daylight.

US Licence exams in Sydney

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team are conducting their next assessment session at Sefton, in Sydney's western suburbs, on the 1st of July starting at 10:30am.

This exam will be using the new 2019 to 2023 General question pool. You can find the new question pools, and the FCC "Part 97" rules on the web, at: ncvec.org.

For more information, visit the Oz-VE group website, veexams.com

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (also AG6LE).

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 14th to the 20th of June.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
10cm flux	68	67	66	66	67	68	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	13	6	6	5	3	4	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	1	1	0	1	2	4 estimated
T index	-2	-4	-10	-7	-6	-5	-4

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was mostly quiet on the 14th and the 15th, then remained quiet from the 16th to the 19th. The 20th was mostly quiet, with some isolated unsettled periods.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were near predicted during local daylight hours, all week. However, some enhanced conditions were observed at night; 30% enhancement on the 15th and 16th, 15% on the 18th, 20% on the 19th; and 40% enhancement, during local night of the 20th.

Now, the forecast for the 21st to the 27th of June;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet, with some isolated unsettled conditions possible.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain mostly near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI)6 figures for this week.

Having finished May, the figures were;

Minimum of 66, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 5th to the 18th

So far for June, we have a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 1st to the 13th

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

Minimum of 66, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 69
With peak dates from the 1st to the 5th, and the 26th to the 31st.

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:2m40s

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

SRI LANKA; Kamal, 4S7AB has been active using FT8 on 6 metres.

BELARUS; Sixteen special event stations are using the EV19 prefix until June 30th, to mark the 2nd European Games being held in Minsk. Stations EV0CA, EV0MA and EV0SD represent the sports venues.

FRANCE; Special event station TM57FFC will be active until July 9, during the 8th FIFA Women's World Cup.

HONDURAS; John, AD8J will be active as HR9/AD8J from Guanaja Island, IOTA NA-057, until July 6. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

JAPAN; Special event station 8J8HAM is active until September 22 to mark the 6th Hokkaido HAM Fair.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS; W9DR will be active as PJ5/W9DR from Sint Eustatius from June 25 to July 2. Activity will be on 6 metres only using SSB.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; A group of operators will be active as R3ARS/4, from specially protected natural areas in the Orenburg and Samara regions from June 24 to 29. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

CANADA; Special event station XN1M is active until July 21 to commemorate the 1969 Apollo 11 mission.

LAOS; Bruce, 3W3B will be active as XW4XR from Vientiane from June 26 to July 7. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, RTTY, JT65 and FT8.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, Y11DZ is active as Z81D from Juba. Activity will be in his spare time on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Kan, JJ2RCJ will be active as ZF2CJ from Grand Cayman Island, IOTA NA-016, until June 25. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using FT8.

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operations are approved for DXCC credit:

Conway Reef, 3D2CR, 2019 operation;
Niue, E6ET, 2019 operation.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. ARRL Field Day, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest and His Majesty King of Spain SSB Contest are all on this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge is scheduled for June 24.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for June 26.

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

The BSAR Navshield, in the Kanangra-Boyd National park, concluded today.

The next training activity is scheduled for July the 7th, at ARNSW Dural.

Returning to the WICEN calendar is the Shazada Horse Enduro, at St Albans. This is a week-long event, from the 26th to the 30th of August.

September 14th and 15th is the Kangaroo Valley - Remexio Partnership's Trek for Timor. See: kvrp.net.au for details. Then September 28th and 29th is the Hounslow Classic, a running event in the upper Blue Mountains.

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. The NSSCC "Rally of the Bay" at Bateman's Bay is on net Saturday, June the 29th. August 6th is the BMSC Narooma Rally; and the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is September 2nd and 3rd, on the North-West border of the Territory. 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, around Ballarat. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria, including reports on recent events, can be found on the 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 club meeting is the July monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of July, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie.

Candidates for 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

Yesterday's "special solstice lecture" was on the secrets of SMD soldering, desoldering, and recognition of those tiny devices.

Progress continues on the VK2EHQ packet BBS, though as Peter is sick at the moment, work is on hold. While there is too much detail to be included here, it will all work as it used to, and in a nod to progress it is also available from the Internet.

The next General Meeting is on Saturday the 6th of July, and all are invited.

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, followed by Karen VK2AKB's home cooking, especially her homemade cakes and 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 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 70cm VK2RAG repeater on 439.950 MHz, is a mixed-mode repeater; currently supporting analogue FM and P25, with IRLP and Echolink access coming soon. A 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and highly recommended for receiving.

Along with these, there is a packet radio BBS on 147.6 MHz, as VK2EHQ; it can also be accessed via the digipeater VK2RAG-1; old-timers will know how to use it.

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 can “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.

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club is having a car boot sale on Saturday the 20th of July.

Its at the club grounds, 6a York street, Teralba.

A BBQ with hot and cold drinks will available. You can set up a stall at no charge, but bring your own table. All are welcome.

Westlakes has a 40 metre net every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30am on 7150kHz. All are welcome.

*Advised by Barrie VK2QG
Vice president, Westlakes ARC.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club is on Friday the 6th of July, starting at 7:30pm. Meetings are in the former Scout Hall, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook – behind the sports Oval.

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

The club runs classes in Radio and Electronics theory, at 7pm on Thursday nights at Glenbrook. This is suitable for those intending on sitting for Standard and Advanced Licence Exams. For any queries regarding training at BMARC, please e-mail education@bmarc.org.

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

Coming events at BMARC include the “mini-winterfest” at Glenbrook on Sunday the 7th of July. This is a small event for members, visitors and friends to meet up and chat, as well as buy and sell. The event attracts all kinds of items, not just radio equipment.

On Monday the 15th of July, the club is visiting the Kurrajong Radio Museum, and on Saturday the 20th, there is an antenna building day, with BMARC President Daniel VK2DC leading attendees in the construction of a Moxon.

For more information, please see our website at www.BMARC.org or come along to the next meeting, at 7:30 on Friday the 6th of July.

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

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is on this Wednesday the 26th of June, in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Road 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, is on Thursday from 7:30pm, on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access. A 91.5Hz tone is also sent.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is on Tuesday the 25th of June, Starting at 8pm. At the meeting, John VK2ZOI and Rod VK2DAY will lead a discussion on loop antennas, with emphasis on the Delta Loop. Loop antennas have comparable (and sometimes higher) gain over a half wave dipole; are very tolerant of objects such as trees and houses in the immediate vicinity; and require less real estate than a conventional dipole. Loops have two significant advantages over the dipole: natural multi-banding and less noise.

Just to show they work, the Club's Publicity Officer won the Home Station, 8 hours, Single-band in Division 2 of the 2016 Summer Field Day, using a 6 metre delta loop; which also works well on 2 metres.

To find out more, come along to the next club meeting, 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;

June

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 25th

Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 26th

Bookings for ARNSW July Foundation course close on the 28th

July

US licence exam at Sefton on the 1st

SGARS Gathering on the 3rd

Blue Mountains ARC Monthly meeting on the 5th

Central Coast ARC Meeting on the 6th

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 6th

WICEN training day on the 7th

BMARC Monthly meeting at Glenbrook on the 6th

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

BMARC Moxon Antenna building day on the 20th

Westlakes car boot sale on the 20th

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

August

Blue Mountains ARC Meeting on the 2nd

BMARC 3D Printing Demo on the 3rd

BMARC Foundation Training weekend, 10th and 11th

Shahzada horse Enduro, a WICEN event, from the 26th to the 30th

Waverley ARS Foundation course bookings close on the 31st