

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

Today's Trash & Treasure was well attended; the next will be on the last Sunday of September. Bob VK2TG was available to provide JP services to any member needing them; if there is interest, Bob is prepared to attend future T & T in this capacity.

Also today, Amateur Radio NSW reintroduced something old, to be new again. Older members may remember –before the days of the internet - a monthly bulletin mail out. This later became a Mini Bulletin insert in AR Magazine, before fading away.

At today's Trash and Treasure at Dural, we introduced the first issue of *All Access* – a newsletter with information about current ARNSW activities. Printed copies were available on the day, and in the coming week copies will be emailed to members already on the email notice list. It will be posted to those members who previously indicated they wish to receive items in print and the file will also be available for download on our website.

We plan to publish bi-monthly – shortly before each Trash & Treasure unless there is something to convey which warrants a special issue. Editor is Ray VK2ASE.

It was noted last Sunday evening that VK2WI News relay via the Illawarra repeater network had returned after some difficulties. We are always interested in hearing from those listening to our news bulletins, so any callbacks from listeners in the region would be appreciated.

In some recent propagation news; On Wednesday there were reports of South-eastern VK2 and several VK3 stations making contact with Europe on 6 Metres. The best so far seems to be between VK3ZL and EI 3 KD in Ireland - a distance of 17,375 kilometres. Openings were round local sunset in VK. There is speculation that the European heat may have played a part.

On shorter paths - We have recently received reports from ZL about interest in looking for the VK2RSY Dural beacons. The 23cm beacon on 1296.42 MHz is heard at infrequent intervals, though the 2 metre beacon, on 144.420 MHz, often crosses the Tasman.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19th to the 25th of July.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm flux	67	67	68	67	67	68	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	5	9	11	7	5	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	0	3	5	4	2	0 estimated
T index	-6	-5	-4	+1	-5	-2	+1

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained were near predicted monthly values from the 19th to the 23rd. The 24th saw enhancements of 15% during local night, and 20% immediately after local dawn, before returning to predicted values on the 25th.

Now, the forecast for the 26th of July to the 1st of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet, but with some unsettled conditions at times.

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) figures for this week.

In June, the figures were a;

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

So far for July, we have a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 68
With peak dates from the 10th the 11th, and the 20th to the 28th

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 68
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd.

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>]

World Radiocommunication Conference 2019

This Year's World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC2019 is being held in Egypt.

At the WRC, ITU member countries meet to discuss and revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing use of the radio-frequency spectrum, and satellite communications. All matters regarding the spectrum can be up for review at these conferences, including frequency assignments on a national and international basis.

We are fortunate that, since 1959, the Australian government has invited representation from the WIA to be part of the Australian delegation to WRC, and directly represent the interests of all Australian radio amateurs. International conferences are not cheap to attend and in recent years, the WIA has been budgeting hard to fund attendance.

At this morning's Trash & Treasure event at VK2WI Dural, it was with much pleasure that ARNSW was able to assist the WIA. Amateur Radio NSW President, Mathew VK2YAP was able to present a donation to WIA President Greg VK2GPK to assist with attendance of the WIA delegate, to WRC2019.

There is still the opportunity for clubs, groups and individuals to assist by supporting the WIA; the opportunity for Australian radio amateurs to have representation where international regulations are made, provides benefits to all of us in the long run.

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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: 1m23s

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.

Classic Exchange September 2019 Contest

Brian, VK2GCE from the St George Amateur Radio Society, has reminded us of the Classic Exchange or CX contest, coming up again in September.

The CX is a no-pressure contest, celebrating the older commercial and home brew equipment that was the pride and joy of ham shacks many decades ago. The object of the contest is to encourage restoration, operation and enjoyment of this older Classic equipment.

However, you don't have to operate a Classic rig to participate in the CX; you can use ANY rig. While homebrew or classic equipment will earn you higher points, you can still work the "great ones" using modern equipment.

The contest has sections for both CW and Voice operation, all the details can be found on the website, at www.classicexchange.org.

[direct link; http://www.classicexchange.org/sep19/Fall_2019_CX_Rules.pdf]

ARRL DX news

Several Stations are on air this weekened, especially for the RSGB Islands on the air, or IOTA, contest;

CROATIA; A group of operators are active as 9A2L from Susac Island, IOTA EU-016.

EAST MALAYSIA; A group of operators will be active as 9M8RC from Satang Besar Island, IOTA OC-165, as a Multi/Single entry.

TAIWAN; A large group of operators will be active as BO0M from Ma Tsu Island, IOTA AS-113.

PHILIPPINES; A group of operators will be active as DX9EVM from Mindanao Island, IOTA OC-130.

ESTONIA; Igor, ES0IA plans to be active from Kassar Island, IOTA EU-034, as a 12 Hour/SSB entry in the contest.

SARDINIA; Simone, IU4HRJ will be active as IM0/IU4HRJ from Maddalena Island, IOTA EU-041, as a Single Op/Island DX-pedition entry.

DENMARK; Henning, OZ2I will be active as 5Q6EE from Hjarno Island, IOTA EU-172, as a Single Op/All Band entry.

GREECE; Konstantinos, SV8GGI will be active from Salamina Island, IOTA EU-075, as a 12 Hour/CW entry.

AUSTRALIA; Andrew, VK4NM will be active as VK4NM/p from Fraser Island, IOTA OC-142.

In other operations this week;

ALGERIA; A group of operators are active as 7V9A from Sridjina Island, IOTA AF-104, until July 29. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. This includes an entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

CHINA; Operators BA4TB, BD4TS, BD4SS, BG4TRN, BH4TXN, BH4TVU, BH4SCF, BI4SCC and BH4BWX are active from Chongming Island, IOTA AS-136. They will be active as BG4TRN in the IOTA contest.

MOROCCO; A large group of operators are active as 5C9A from Los Farallones, IOTA AF-118, until July 30. Activity is on the HF bands with three stations active.

PORTUGAL; A group of operators are active as CR5IC from Insua Island, IOTA EU-150, until July 29, including being active in the contest.

KYRGYZSTAN; Vlad, UN1GSW is active with special call sign EX0NPL until August 25 from a base camp for mountain climbers. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres using SSB.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS; Oliver, W6NV is active as TX2A from Raivavae, IOTA OC 114, until July 29. He will also be a Single Op/All Band/24 Hours/Mixed Mode/DX-pedition entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

MARKET REEF; A group of operators are active as OJ0DX from Market Reef, IOTA EU-053, until July 31, including entry in the contest.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PA13HJ is active until August 6 during the 13th Haarlem Jamborette Scouts Camp. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA ; Operators Julio, PP2BT and Renner, PY7RP are active as PY0F until July 28. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes being a Multi Op/Assisted/24 Hours entry in the RSGB IOTA contest.

CRETE; Thomas, SV2CLJ is active as SV9/SV2CLJ until July 31. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8, and will also be active in the IOTA contest.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Members of the Ukrainian Radioclub Sputnik will be active as UR1G from Kalanchakskiye Island, IOTA EU-179, in the RSGB IOTA contest. Before and after the contest they are active as home calls/p.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Rick, AI5P will be active as VK9APX from July 31 to August 10. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 17 metres using CW and FT8.

VANUATU; Geoff, ZL3GA is active as YJ0GA near Efate, IOTA OC-035, until August 2. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and possibly 10 metres using only SSB. He will also be active as a Single Op entry in the IOTA contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The RSGB IOTA Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint and the ARS CW Flight of the Bumblebees are all on this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge is scheduled for July 29.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray is scheduled for July 31.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, event continues throughout 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

WICEN News

The Annual General Meeting of WICEN NSW will be held here at ARNSW, 63 Quarry Road Dural, at 2pm on Saturday, 21st of September.

Operators are sought for two upcoming events. First is the Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley on Saturday, September the 14th. This scenic walk stretches 14km from Kangaroo Valley, up McPhall's trail to Fitzroy Falls, optionally continuing to Meryla Pass, or all the way back to Jack's Corner Road. This event supports development projects in Timor-Leste, visit the website kvrp.net.au for details.

WICEN is also looking for extra operators for the Hounslow Classic, a running event in the upper Blue Mountains, on September 28 & 29.

The next WICEN training session here at VK2WI Dural, is on August 4th; in the meantime, members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

A long-standing event on the WICEN calendar is the **Hawkesbury Canoe Classic**, including the new Classic Relay, running from Saturday October 26th, overnight to Sunday the 27th.

The WICEN website is nsw.wicen.org.au. 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. 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. On October 4th and 5th, WICEN is providing support for ANU's Inward Bound. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Eureka Rush on August 24th and 25th, held around Beaufort, near Ballarat. Field Weekend is on September 20th to 22nd. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria can be found on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

[OEM Link; <https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/emergency-management/Training-and-Capability/Training-and-capability.aspx>]

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting is the AGM, at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd of August, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The August Monthly General Meeting will take place after the conclusion of the AGM.

Club station VK2BOR will participate in the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend and the Remembrance Day contest, on the weekend of the 17th and 18th of August. VK2BOR will operate on HF and VHF from the club's Communications Caravan which will be set up in the carpark of the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club. This is the nearest practical location for the station as the road to the Tacking Point Lighthouse is currently closed for a major upgrade.

Club membership renewals for the 2019 – 2020 year are now due. Members who have not yet renewed are asked to please do so promptly.

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 July 2019 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. The July issue of Oxtales reports in detail on the recent club Field Day, in words and pictures. 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

[check for update] As this item goes to air, digital services at VK2RAG (D-Star and P25) are offline; work is underway to get things working, hopefully within a day or two.

A reminder that the Club's weekly 2m net starts at 7pm on Thursday during the winter months, with an informal HF net on Friday from 7.30pm, on 3645kHz +/- QRM.

The next Central Coast WICEN meeting will be held at the clubrooms on Saturday the 10th of August and all are invited, whether a WICEN member or not.

There will not be a Club lecture on the 17th August, due to the Annual General Meeting; there are plenty of positions to be filled.

Looking further ahead, the Shahzada [*sha-ZAR-da*] 400km Horse Enduro will be as usual on the last full week of August; starting on the 25th and running until the 31st. Although not an official Club event, many members take part in it. You can turn up for the full week, or just for a day or so, and you will have fun; especially if you have a four-wheel drive.

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; a specialty being 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 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 439.950MHz 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 7pm, 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 informal HF net on 80m, from 7:30pm on Fridays, on 3645kHz, +/- QRM.

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.

Hunter Radio Group

The next monthly meeting of the group is on Friday the 9th of August. It's at the Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe road Adamstown, starting at 7:30pm. There will be a lecture presentation at the meeting.

The Group conducts a Monday night broadcast starting at 7.30pm, on the Group's Repeaters, 146.9 MHz on 2 metres, and 438.025MHz on 70cm. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

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

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's next Amateur Radio Training weekend is scheduled for the 10th and 11th of August. While the main activity on the weekend is providing Foundation licence training, examinations for a Standard or Advanced licence can also be made available.

If you are interested in taking part, you can contact the Education Officer by email, to education@bmarc.org for more information. Please let us know as soon as possible, so that exam packs can be ordered and assessors informed.

Irene VK2VAN
Secretary, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is an informal meeting on Tuesday the 13th of August, starting at 8pm. Its at Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station.

The Club operates a 70cm Repeater VK2RNS at Hornsby, on 439.975 MHz, with a - 5 MHz offset. In FM it uses a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone, and in P25, the NAC is 293. Back on-air is VK2RHT at Chatswood, a DMR-only repeater on 438.350 MHz, with a -5.4 MHz offset. The "Color Code" is 1, and it is linked to the VKDMR network.

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;

July

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 28th
Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 31st

August

Blue Mountains ARC Meeting on the 2nd
Oxley region ARC AGM and monthly meeting on the 3rd
BMARC 3D Printing Demo on the 3rd
Waverley ARS project day on the 3rd
WICEN training day at ARNSW on the 4th
Waverley ARS shack night on the 7th
Hunter Radio Group meeting at Adamstown on the 9th
Central Coast WICEN meeting on the 10th
BMARC education weekend, 10th and 11th
HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 13th
Illawarra ARS meeting on the 13th
Central Coast ARC AGM on the 17th
Waverley ARS meeting on the 21st
United States licence exams at ARNSW on the 25th
Shahzada horse Enduro, a WICEN event, from the 26th to the 30th
HADARC monthly general meeting on the 27th
ARNSW Foundation Course bookings close on the 30th
Waverley ARS Foundation course bookings close on the 31st

September

BMARC Monthly Meeting on the 6th
ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 14th and 15th
Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessments, September 14th and 15th
WICEN NSW AGM at ARNSW Dural on the 21st
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 29th