

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

The RD Contest is over for another year. If you made any contacts – even if only just a few – be sure to send off your log without delay, as every point helps your State score. As mentioned in last week's National News from the WIA, the RD Contest is always held on the weekend closest to "VP Day" – the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, which marks the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific during World War II. So next year's RD contest will be on the weekend of August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

Places are filling up for the next Foundation course and licence assessment weekend at ARNSW, scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Bookings close at 5pm on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of August; late bookings cannot be accepted. On the same weekend, the Waverley ARS has scheduled their Foundation course, at their Rose Bay clubhouse.

And one for the calendar – well, next year's one – the 2020 ARNSW AGM has been scheduled for Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2020.

## US Licence Exams

The next exam session for US licences, being run by OzVE, an Australian group of ARRL Volunteer Examiners, will be here at VK2WI Dural, next Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, starting from 9am.

At this session, it is possible to take whatever exams are necessary to obtain a new US licence at your desired level, or to upgrade, for a single session fee.

Candidates need to obtain a US address, which can be a friend's address, or a Shopmate one; and use this to register for an FCC Registration Number, (FRN) on the FCC CORES site. Print these, and bring them with your ID, pencils, a pen, and a calculator on August 25.

One commonly asked question is; what time is allocated for a candidate to complete each examination paper. The answer, perhaps surprisingly, is that there is no specific time limit applied.

If you are interested in taking part, please email: [vec.nsw@veexams.com](mailto:vec.nsw@veexams.com) to register your interest

*Advised by Julian VK2YJS  
For OzVE.*

# Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.  
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
10cm flux	67	67	68	67	67	67	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	8	7	7	8	5	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	3	4	3	5	2	1 estimated
T index	-4	0	+3	-6	-7	-6	-10

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was quiet all week except for some unsettled periods on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week. Some enhanced conditions were observed during local nights; 20% on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 30% on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 15% on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 20% on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15% enhancement during local night, of the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Now, the forecast for the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to mostly quiet, with some unsettled conditions possible on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 just finished July, the figures were a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 68  
With peak dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>

So far in August, we have a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 69  
With peak dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 67  
With no peak predication at this time.

*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:2m16s*

*In: "What use is an F-call?"*

*Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"*

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For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; [vk6flab.com](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## ARRL DX news

We start this week with those stations active specially for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, which runs over the UTC weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, so there's still a few more hours of activity.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO; Look for 9Y4XD operating from Chacachacare [CHAR-catch-cha-care] Lighthouse, ILLW TT0002, on Trinidad, IOTA SA-011.

GERMANY; Members of the newly founded DL-AMSAT Operator Group will be active as DA0SAT and with other calls from the Kamp-Karnin-Oberfeuer Lighthouse, ILLW DE0072. Activity is on the HF bands.

FRANCE; A group of operators are active as TM0BSM from the Berck-sur-Mer Lighthouse.

PANAMA; Members of the Panama Digital Group and the Radio Association of the Panama Canal will be active as H92L, on 80 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

AUSTRALIA; Members of the Warrnambool Radio Amateurs Group will be active as VK3DX from Portland's Whalers Bluff Lighthouse.

MEXICO; Members of the Radioaficionados Yucatecos will be active as XF3LL from Cozumel Island, IOTA NA-090, and from the Celarain Lighthouse, ILLW MX0011. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB, various digital modes, and on various satellites.

And in other DX activity for this week;

MOROCCO; Members of the Royal Amateur Radio Association of Morocco are active with special event call sign 5E6A until September 29, for their National Celebration.

MARKET REEF; Operators DS4EOI, JE6HIB, JH4RHF and W5XU will be active as OJ0O until August 24. Activity will be on the HF bands and includes being active during the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend.

FAROE ISLANDS; Alessandro, IZ1AZA will be active as OY/IZ1AZA from August 21 to 26. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

BRAZIL; Members of the GRC DX Group are active with special event call ZY160CAT until August 30th to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the city of Catalao[kat-a-LOW] in the state of Goias[goy-ICE]. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

GREECE; Michele, IW7EGQ will be active as SV8/IW7EGQ from Zakynthos Island, IOTA EU-052, from August 20 to 28.

KALININGRAD; Operators SP7VC, SP5Y, SP5DL and SQ7OYL are active as RA2/home calls from Lesnoj until August 18. Activity is on the HF bands and 2 metres, as well as 5.7, 10 and 24 GHz, using CW, SSB, FT8 and MSK144.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Operators Vladimir, RV1CC and Yuri, RM0F are active as RV1CC/0 and RM0F/P, respectively, from Iturup Island, IOTA AS-025, until August 22. Activity will be on various HF bands.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, ARRL RTTY Rookie Roundup, International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, North American SSB QSO Party, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, SARTG World Wide RTTY Contest, Russian District Award Contest, Keyman's Club of Japan CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, CVA DX CW Contest, SARL HF Digital Contest and the NJQRP Skeeter Hunt will certainly keep contesters this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for August 19.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 21.

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, 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

Operators are sought for the Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley on Saturday, September the 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://kvrp.net.au) for details.

The Hounslow Classic is a running event in the upper Blue Mountains, on September 28 & 29.

The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, including the new Classic Relay, running from Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>, overnight to Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Since September the 1<sup>st</sup> is Father's Day, there is no WICEN training session for the month. Members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

The WICEN website is [nsw.wicen.org.au](http://nsw.wicen.org.au), which also has a link to those courses. 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's HF net is 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 ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, on the North-West border of the Territory. In October, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, WICEN is providing support for ANU's Inward Bound; the LCCC Monaro Stages are on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>; and Fitz's Challenge is on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on [www.crarc.ampr.org](http://www.crarc.ampr.org).



WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Eureka Rush next Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup>, held around Beaufort, near Ballarat. Field Weekend is on September 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Stockman's Rally is on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Big River State Forest. 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](http://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 will be a Special General Meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The agenda for this meeting is a motion to amend the club's constitution, to give Distant Members the right to vote. The normal September Monthly General meeting will take place as soon as the Special General Meeting is closed.

This weekend, club station VK2BOR participated in both the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend and the Remembrance Day contest, from the club's Communications Caravan which was set up in the carpark of the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club.

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 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](http://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 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

The VK2RAG D-Star service is still out of action due to a hardware failure. The rebuild is underway thanks to Ian VK2HK, but members are asked to remain patient until normal service has been restored. The P25 Pacific Talk Group 10400 is not affected, and IRLP has not been abandoned; it is hoped to have further news in next week's broadcast.

The Shahzada [*sha-ZAR-da*] 400km Horse Enduro is coming up soon; it starts next Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of August and runs until the 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 (unless you like listening to digital noise).

There is a net every Thursday, starting at 7pm on Thursday during the winter months, on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725; all members are encouraged to join in.

Further information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the website, [www.ccarc.org.au](http://www.ccarc.org.au).

*Dave VK2KFU*

*Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

## Waverley Amateur Radio Society

A final reminder about the August meeting this Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup>, featuring a special presentation by Kerrie Doherty entitled "*The Dish was not the whole story: Australia's role in the Apollo lunar program*".

*The Dish* is a delightful Aussie film about Australia's role in the Apollo 11 lunar landing. However, while "based on a true story", we must remember that it is only a movie: its focus on the crucial role played by the Parkes Radio Telescope, in bringing the live television broadcast of the Apollo 11 lunar landing to the world, leaves untold the much larger role in the Apollo program played by space tracking facilities in Australia. Join space historian Kerrie Dougherty as she delves into the larger story behind *The Dish* to find the answers.

Kerrie is an independent space historian, curator and educator, who was previously Curator of Space Technology at the Powerhouse Museum. She is an author of a book and numerous articles on Australia's space activities, a lecturer in space humanities for the International Space University and an elected Member of the International Academy of Astronautics.

The meeting and talk will commence at 7:30pm; it will be at the Rose Bay RSL Club, which is right next door to the clubrooms. Please let the secretary know of your attendance by email, to [secretary@vk2bv.org](mailto:secretary@vk2bv.org), so that arrangements to accommodate expected numbers can be finalised. All visitors are most welcome to join us for dinner prior to the meeting in the bistro of the RSL club, from around 6:30pm.

Looking ahead to September, the society's Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 am at the clubrooms, so the next meeting is on September 1st. The next shack night is scheduled for Wednesday the 4th starting at 7:30pm, and the next project day will be on Saturday the 7th commencing at 1:30pm. The digital special interest group next meets on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30pm.

As usual, the club is open most Tuesdays from 10:00am until 3:00pm for those who have a chat, work on a project and enjoy a cup of coffee from our resident barista in a sort of "men's shed" type of atmosphere.

The club's next Foundation weekend is on September 14th & 15th. Closing date for participants to enrol will be August 28th as sufficient assessment packs need to be ordered in time from the AMC to cover those attending. See the club website for details of how to reserve your place.

Don't forget the club's weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8:00pm every Monday.

As always, you can find out more about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on their website at [vk2bv.org](http://vk2bv.org). You can use the contact form on the website to obtain further information, or to book courses and assessments.

*73 from Eric VK2VE  
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the monthly meeting on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

VK2RHT at Chatswood is back on air. It is DMR-only repeater on 438.350 MHz, with a -5.4 MHz offset. The "Color Code" is 1, and it is connected to the VKDMR network.

HADARC's website is at [www.hadarc.org.au](http://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;**

### **August**

Waverley ARS meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Rose Bay RSL  
SARCFest – Summerland ARC at Lismore on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
United States licence exams at ARNSW on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Shahzada horse Enduro, a WICEN event, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>  
HADARC monthly general meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Waverley ARS Foundation course bookings close on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Foundation Course bookings close on the 30<sup>th</sup>

### **September**

BMARC Monthly Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Oxley Region ARC Special General Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Illawarra ARS meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessments, September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
Special ARNSW licence assessments at Dural on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
WICEN NSW AGM at ARNSW Dural on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 29<sup>th</sup>

### **October**

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>