

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

The next training weekend at ARNSW is on September the 14th and 15th, with additional assessment day on Saturday the 21st. Bookings close next Friday the 30th August, at 5pm. No late applications are possible, as papers for each candidate have to be ordered.

On the same weekend – the 14th and 15th of September - the Waverley ARS also has a Foundation course and assessments, bookings close this coming Wednesday.

ARNSW has Foundation training manuals available for collection from VK2WI Dural, on Sunday mornings by prior arrangement. Contact the team via email, to education@arnsw.org.au to make a booking or enquiry. The final course at ARNSW for the year, is scheduled for November.

The office has received an offer of a free 60 foot triangular tower - still erected – in the Lismore area. The local club has been advised, but if they are not interested it may be available to others. If you are interested, email the office, office@arnsw.org.au and we will advise the owner on your behalf.

Following the recent release of the ARNSW newsletter, *ALL ACCESS*, many listeners will be aware that, to help develop a statewide DMR network, ARNSW is making available some DMR repeaters to duly constituted VK2 clubs on a loan basis. The recently restored HADARC DMR repeater at Chatswood is one such loan from ARNSW.

Its a week since the RD Contest, and a reminder to anybody who took part and made some contacts – even if only a few – to submit your logs to the Contest Manager. Each entry helps the overall score for your State, in the contest.

We always appreciate listeners to this bulletin giving callbacks, as it gives us a good indication of how many people are listening, and where. Last week, the 11th of August, VK2WI News on Sunday received over 200 callbacks – which represents about 25% total callbacks advised to the VK1WIA National news. If you can't get through to us on radio, we are also happy to receive callbacks via email, to callbacks@arnsw.org.au.

US Licence Exams

Today at VK2WI Dural, the OzVE group conducted US licence examinations.

There were two candidates who took part, with a pass for both,

There will be further US exams in a few weeks time; we will have the details in a future news bulletin.

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

*Advised by Julian VK2YJS
For OzVE.*

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]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 16th to the 22nd of August.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd
10cm flux	68	69	68	69	67	67	66
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	6	7	4	7	5	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	1	2	1	2	1	3 estimated
T index	-8	-3	-3	-4	+1	0	-4

Solar activity was very low all week.
Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels.

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 night hours and immediately after local dawn. There was enhancement of 20% at local dawn and 30% during the night of the 16th; 20% on the night of the 17th; 20% at night and dawn of the 18th; 20% on the night of the 19th; 45% during the night and 25% after dawn on the 20th and 21st; and 25% during the night and 25% after dawn on the 22nd.

Now, the forecast for the 23rd to the 29th of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to vary from quiet to unsettled levels, with a chance of some isolated Active periods between the 27th to the 28th.

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 10th to the 11th, and the 26th to the 28th

So far in August, we have a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 69
With peak dates from the 6th to the 9th, and the 17th to the 20th

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

Minimum of 67, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 68
With peak dates from the 13th to the 22nd.

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:2m34s

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

LESOTHO; Arnold, WB6OJB is active as 7P8JK from Roma, with activity on 80 to 10 metres using SSB.

NEW CALEDONIA; Jan, F6EYB will be active as FK8CJ from Noumea from August 29th, until the end of 2019. Activity will be primarily on 30, 20 and 17 metres.

SOLOMON ISLANDS; Michael, DL2GMI and Bernhard, DL2FAC are active as H44MI and H44MS, respectively, until September 3. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Han, DS2GOO will be active as DS2GOO/3 from Sapshi Island, IOTA AS-080, until August 26. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

ST. LUCIA; Bill, K9HZ is active as J68HZ from Labrelotte Bay, Castries, IOTA NA-108, until October 4. Activity is on 160 to 2 metres using CW, AM, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

ALASKA; A group of operators plan to be active as KL7RRC/p from Sledge Island, IOTA NA-210, from August 27 to September 2. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

FAROE ISLANDS; Alesandro, IZ1AZA is active as OY/IZ1AZA until August 26. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

DODECANESE; Bernie, DJ5MN is active as SV5/DJ5MN until August 28. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW and SSB.

ICELAND; Tom, KE1R is active from Icelandic ARC station TF3IRA in Reykjavik until the end of August. Activity is holiday style on 20 metres using SSB and possibly some CW.

INDONESIA; In celebration of the 74th anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia, look for special event stations signing 8A74RI/call area number until September 17. Activity is on the HF, VHF and UHF bands using all modes.

VANUATU; Ron, YJ8RN is active from Torres on Lo Island, IOTA OC-110, until August 26, and then Sola Island, IOTA OC-104, from August 26 to September 1. Activity is on 40 metres using FT8.

ROMANIA; A group of operators will be active as YP0F from Fericirii Island, IOTA EU-191, from August 27 to September 1. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, YI1DZ is active as Z81D from Juba and is here until mid October. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The W/VE Islands QSO Party, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Hawaii QSO Party, ALARA Contest, YO DX HF Contest, SCC RTTY Championship, Kansas QSO Party, Ohio QSO Party, YARC QSO Party, CVA SSB DX Contest, 50 MHz Fall Sprint and the SARL HF CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The QCX CW Challenge is scheduled for August 26.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 28.

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 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; a total distance of 50km. This event supports development projects in Timor-Leste, visit the website 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 26th, overnight to Sunday the 27th.

Since next Sunday 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, 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 2nd and 3rd, on the North-West border of the Territory; it is named after the property, "Brookvale". In October, on the 4th and 5th, WICEN is providing support for ANU's Inward Bound; the LCCC Monaro Stages are on Saturday the 19th; and Fitz's Challenge is on Sunday the 27th of October. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria supported the Eureka Rush today, near Ballarat. Field Weekend is on September 20th to 22nd, and the Stockman's Rally is on October 27th 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.

[Office of Emergency Management, new URL: <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/>]

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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 7th 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.

Last 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. 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

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.

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 4th of September. At this gathering, there will be a presentation on Mesh Networks.

What are Mesh Networks? Mesh networks are used to create fault tolerant local area networks via radio. You might be asking yourself, what does that mean and how does it apply to Amateur Radio? Well, come along to our September gathering, and Greg VK2GSB will explain.

Mesh networking has a range of applications with Amateur Radio but as it uses Wi-Fi, there's an overlap with our 2.4GHz spectrum; which means we can also experiment in that band.

One way Amateurs experiment is with open source software that can be used with a range of suitable off the shelf Wi-Fi routers. Greg will explain how this is done. He will also show a mesh network he has been experimenting with, using a common brand of Wi-Fi router that you can pick up now quite cheap.

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 4th of September.

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

VK2RHT at Chatswood is a 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.

Now, if that makes about as much sense to you, as "Blue tastes like Tuesday", well fear not; for the talk at the HADARC meeting this Tuesday the 27th, is "DMR Demystified : a practical guide to getting on the air with DMR", given by Rob VK2DIO.

The meeting starts at 8pm, at the Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station. The 595 and 598 buses also serve the Centre.

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.

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;

August

Shahzada horse Enduro, a WICEN event, from the 26th to the 30th
HADARC monthly general meeting on the 27th
Waverley ARS Foundation course bookings close on the 28th
ARNSW Foundation Course bookings close on the 30th

September

SGARS gathering on the 4th
BMARC Monthly Meeting on the 6th
Oxley Region ARC Special General Meeting on the 7th
Illawarra ARS meeting on the 10th
ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 14th and 15th
Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessments, September 14th and 15th
Special ARNSW licence assessments at Dural on the 21st
WICEN NSW AGM at ARNSW Dural on the 21st
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 29th

October

Jamboree on the Air, JOTA, from the 18th to the 20th
Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, from the 26th to the 27th