

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

Last Sundays Trash and Treasure was well attended and consumed most of the stock. Details about T&T items are published in the bimonthly member newsletter, *All Access*. If you have not received a copy by email or post - check your details are up to date, by an email to membership@arnsw.org.au.

The ARNSW Library is closed for the long weekend; normal activities resume next Monday the 14th. Also, if you are driving, Double Demerit points apply until Tuesday. While it is legal to use a hand-held microphone for a radio while driving, it is important to keep attention on the road at all times; not only to avoid a fine but for your safety as well.

Daylight Saving Time commenced at 2am today, when the clocks went forward to 3 am. Normal time returns on the first Sunday of April 2020. VK2WI News stays with the same local times, of 10am and 7:30pm, so there may be a change in propagation. If HF reception is proving difficult, news bulletins can be streamed live, or downloaded after, from the audio page of our website, arnsw.org.au/audio.

The Talking clock went off line at midnight on the 30th, joining its partner VNG - the RF version of Australia's time standard, many years ago.

Speaking of many years ago; Russia's Sputnik-1, the first artificial satellite, was launched into low earth orbit on the 4th of October 1957. It transmitted on 20 and 40 MHz, lasting about three weeks until the batteries died.

The 20 Metre VK2WI Broadcast transceiver has been replaced with a new unit. It is operating on the same frequency, of 14.170MHz. Reports are welcomed, to callbacks@arnsw.org.au, or during callbacks at the end of this bulletin.

Once again this week, we welcome those listening via the EchoLink "HAM" conference, and the ANZEL network; a reminder that callbacks to this news will be taken after the bulletin, and our thanks to John VK3HJQ and the whole ANZEL team, for making this relay available to VK2WI News.

JOTA request for assistance

JOTA and JOTI for this year is on is just under two weeks time; running from Friday the 18th to Sunday the 20th of October.

The ARNSW Office received a request for volunteers to assist in operating a JOTA/JOTI station, at Castle Hill Britannia Girl Guides.

There are about 25 guides are hoping to take part in JOTA on the weekend, so the leaders are looking for some Amateur Radio operators to set up their equipment at the hall and help the guides get on air.

If you are able to assist, please get in touch with the ARNSW office, preferably by email to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a voicemail on the office phone, 02 9651 1490. Even if you can only spare a few hours, it would be a worthwhile contribution to the worldwide JOTA activity, and help introduce more young people to the hobby of Amateur Radio.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27th of September to the 3rd of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
10cm flux	66	67	67	68	69	68	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	15	21	10	11	11	7	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	10	14	8	9	5	5	2 estimated
T index	-6	-1	-8	-9	-5	-10	-10

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet to active on the 27th, reaching quiet to minor storm levels on the 29th. Activity then remained at quiet to unsettled levels from the 30th of September until the 2nd of October, before returning to quiet levels on the 3rd.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week. Enhancements were observed during local night hours, of 20% on the 27th and 28th. The 1st of October saw enhancement of 20% after local dawn; and the 3rd of October saw enhanced conditions of 15% during local night hours.

Now, the forecast for the 4th to the 10th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

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

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 finished September, we had expecting a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 74
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 11th

So far for October, we expect a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 69
With peak dates from the 6th to the 11th

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

Minimum of 68, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 68
With no peak prediction as yet.

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>]

Space Weather Summary for April 2019

Complied with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was predominately at Very Low levels this month, with no significant solar flares observed. Geoeffective high-speed wind streams, resulting from coronal holes, were observed on the 1st of September, and again between the 27th to the 28th.

The strongest geomagnetic disturbance for the month was observed on the 1st with a local A index of 27 reached, signifying minor storm conditions. This activity was associated with the Earth's entry into a high-speed solar wind stream induced by a coronal hole. A weaker coronal hole wind stream induced disturbance was observed on 28 Sep resulting in active periods, reaching a local A index of 14; this geomagnetic activity was weaker than on the previous solar rotation

The ionosphere remained relatively stable with no significant ionospheric depressions observed. Mild to moderately depressed maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were observed for the southern Australian region on the 2nd, probably in association the geomagnetic activity resulting from the solar wind stream. MUFs were depressed up to 20% at times in the Southern Australia region.

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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: 1m36s

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

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON; Look for Manfred, DK1BT, Wolf, DL4WK, Annette, DL6SAK, Sigi, DL7DF, Frank, DL7UFR, Jan, SP3CYY and Leszek, SP3DOI as TO80SP until October 14. They are active on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

TONGA; Grant, VK5GR, Oly, VK5XDX and Andrew, VK5AKH are active as A35JT from Tongatapu, IOTA OC 049, until October 7. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes being active in the CQ World Wide RTTY DX and upcoming Oceania DX contests.

CAPE VERDE; Harald, DF2WO will be active as D44TWO from Sao Tiago, IOTA AF-005, until October 13. Activity will be on the HF bands and possibly various satellites.

LUXEMBOURG; Gerard, PA0PIW, Gert, PA2LO, Maarten, PA3EYC, Tymen, PA3GRM, and Bert, PD0GP will be signing LX/home calls from until October 7, on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

WESTERN KIRIBATI[kir-uh-BAS]; Stan, LZ1GC, Karel, OK2WM and Mitko, LZ3NY will be active as T30GC from October 7 to 23. They plan to be active on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

LIBERIA; Members of the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as A82X and A82Z until October 11. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 with five stations.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA ; Members of the Noronha Contest Group plan to participate in the CQ WW DX SSB Contest as PY0F. They will be active on 160 to 10 metres.

UGANDA; Anton, ON6NL is active as 5X8C from Entebbe until October 7. Activity is in his spare time, while working and teaching telecom training classes.

VIETNAM; Sven, HB9DXB is operating as XV9DXB until October 9, on 40 and 20 metres using CW and SSB. Also, Geri, DK8KW will be active as 3W9KW in Hanoi from October 18 to 26. Activity will be on various HF bands running QRP, mostly CW and possibly some SSB.

SEYCHELLES; Ravi, VU2IIX will be active as S79VU from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024, until June 30, 2021. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

DODECANESE; Wolf, DL3DRN is active as SV5/DL3DRN from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, until October 10. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY.

GABON; Roland, F8EN will be active as TR8CR until December 15. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW.

VANUATU; Oleh, KD7WPJ will be active as YJ0BCP from Efate, IOTA OC-035, until October 10. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The TRC DX Contest, The Oceana DX Contest Phone, Russian WW Digital Contest, YLRL DX/NA YL Contest, International HELL-Contest, California QSO Party, FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint, SKCC QSO Party, RSGB DX Contest, UBA ON Contest SSB and the Peanut Power QRP Sprint are all on over this weekend.

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 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, including the new Classic Relay, runs from Saturday October 26th, overnight to Sunday the 27th.

WICEN training was held this morning, here at ARNSW Dural. Members are also encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

Next Sunday, October 13th, is Volunteers Memorial Day.

WICEN's website is at 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'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 Brookvale Horse Enduro, in the north-west border of the Territory, is next weekend, the 12th and 13th; the Light Car Club of Canberra 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 is supporting the Stockman's Rally on October 27th in Big River State Forest, and the Alpine Rally, November 29 to December 1, around Lakes Entrance. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria, including reports on recent events, can be found on their website, vic.wicen.org.au.

[URL for OEM: <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 the club's October Friday night social gathering, from 7pm on Friday the 18th of October, in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

On Saturday the 19th of October, club station VK2BOR will participate in JOTA from the Scouts and Guides District event, at McInherney Park on the bank of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie.

Later in the month, club members will provide the safety communications for the 40th annual Beechwood Billycart Classic on Sunday the 27th of October.

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 September 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

We trust that all members remembered that Daylight Saving started today, and that you are not one hour out. In the meantime, also please be aware that the “1194” time service shut down recently, with very little fanfare.

The next Club Lecture will be on Saturday 19th October, on a topic to be advised by the new Lecture Coordinator. In the meantime, the next meeting of WICEN Central Coast will be on Saturday 12th October.

Meetings of the club are at the Clubrooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle at noon, run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, followed by Karen VK2AKB's 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. 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 VK2RAG repeaters also support various digital modes of operation. Details on the digital modes and the current repeater status are available on the club website.

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. Listeners can “join” the Club net by email to netmaster@ccarc.org.au and their comments will be read out. Club news is happily accepted at “publicity@ccarc.org.au”, preferably by noon on Friday.

The Club has a Facebook page: just look for “centralcoastarc” and be sure to “like” it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [pronounced “At CC AR Club”], and a YouTube channel of the weekly streaming news via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with Amateurs both interstate and overseas.

For more information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at www.ccarc.org.au.

*Advised by Dave VK2KFU
For the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month, with the next meeting on Tuesday the 8th of October. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's committee meeting, which starts at 6:30pm.

The venue for the Society's meetings has recently changed to the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre located on Springhill Road, on the southern side of the CBD of Wollongong. The new venue has fantastic facilities and plenty of off-street parking. Attendees should turn off Springhill Road into the main entrance of BlueScope Steel, then immediately turn right just before the security gates, following the large Visitors Centre direction signs.

At the next meeting there will be a Trivia competition, with questions to test your radio knowledge. A great time will be had by all, with prizes even being awarded at the end of the night. After the competition there will be the usual ragchew over a hot cup of tea or coffee with cake and chocky biscuits in the foyer of the new meeting venue.

A reminder of the Society's two weekly Nets; the first is the Saturday morning Chit-Chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in from 9:30am by either using one of the Club's 2 metre repeaters - VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, while out-of-towners can call in via Echolink, VK2BGL-R.

Like the change of meeting venue, the second weekly net has moved as well. The 80 metre net is now on Tuesday evenings, on 3666kHz, plus or minus frequency for usage; but still at the same time, of 8:30pm. All VK2WI News listeners are invited to call in & say hello.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on their website, iars.org.au, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again, is iars.org.au.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening the 8th of September, at the new meeting venue – the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The third period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge for 2019 has now closed and entries can be submitted until the 14th of October.

The objective of the challenge is to work the most wanted DXCC entities based on their ranking in Clublog's "Most Wanted" list, which is published on the contest website. All Australian amateurs are eligible to enter and entering is easy. You don't need to be a serious DX'er - If you've worked any DX from January to March, head over to the website, contest.fgarc.org.au and submit your entry.

The website is tidy and easy to understand. Scroll down to the "Entry Submission" section where you will find a number of simple ways to submit your entry. This is a fun and relaxed challenge where you work DX in your own time over a 3 month period. It's easy, and submitting an entry only takes a few minutes. The new website address again, is contest.fgarc.org.au.

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club is on Wednesday the 30th of October, 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.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be an informal mid-monthly meeting, this Tuesday the 8th of October, starting at 8pm. It's at the Mt Colah Community Centre, 6X Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station. The general meeting for October is on the 22nd.

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;

October

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 8th

HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 8th

Westlakes ARC Field Day, Sunday the 13th

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 18th

CCARC monthly lecture on the 19th

Jamboree on the Air, JOTA, from the 18th to the 20th

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 22nd

ARNSW November Foundation Course bookings close on the 25th

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, a WICEN event, from the 26th to the 27th

Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 30th

November

Oxley Region ARC Monthly meeting on the 2nd

Summerland ARC Advanced licence course 4th to the 8th

Summerland ARC Foundation course on the 9th and 10th

ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 9th and 10th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 16th and 17th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 24th

December

Christmas Day is on the 25th