

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

On Saturday, some 13 candidates attended here at Dural to undertake the Foundation course. Some candidates sat their examinations today, and the rest of the examinations will take place next Saturday. This is the last ARNSW exam session for this year; exams will resume in March next year. As the Waverley Amateur Radio Society only had a small number of candidates for examinations next week, those candidates will sit there examinations here at ARNSW, next weekend.

It is now just two weeks to the final ARNSW Trash and Treasure for 2019, its on Sunday the 24th of November. Trash and Treasure days are held on the last Sunday of the odd numbered month; so the first one for 2020, is on Sunday, January the 26th.

Gaffer Tape is 60 years old this year; that's the waterproof tape with so many uses. There is a detailed story in the current Westlakes club newsletter.

Is your mailing address correct? The ARNSW 2020 magnetic calendar will be posted soon to all members, and we don't like getting R T S envelopes which then we have to located an address and resend. If you need to update your details, or you are not quite sure, please let us know. The best way is to email membership@arnsw.org.au.

ARNSW continues to operate over the holiday period, including three weeks of morning only VK2WI News – more details in a later bulletin.

A reminder that our news bulletins, along with live audio of many other events here at ARNSW events, are streamed from our website, arnsw.org.au/audio. Recordings of the audio are uploaded to this site, in the early hours of the morning after, and can be listened to or downloaded for at least six weeks after the event.

Also a reminder that this news bulleting is being relayed tonight on Echolink, and we once again thank John VK3HJQ and the ANZEL team, for making this service available to VK2WI News.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 1st to the 7th of November.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
10cm flux	71	71	69	71	70	69	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	1	1	4	2	4	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	0	2	5	5	3	2 estimated
T index	-35	-39	-33	-32	-29	-27	-29

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 1st to the 3rd, was quiet to unsettled on the 4th, quiet on the 5th, again quiet to unsettled on the 6th, then quiet on the 7th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, from the 1st to the 5th. On the 6th, frequencies were depressed 15% during local day, returning to near predicted values at night; then on the 7th, frequencies remained near predicted monthly values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 8th to the 14th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with a chance of isolated active periods on the 10th due to coronal hole effects.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly remain near predicted monthly values, but some mild to moderate depressions of up to 30%, are possible.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished October, we had a;

Minimum of 64, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 69
With peak dates from the 26th to the 31st.

As we start November, we expect a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th, and the 22nd to the 30th

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

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th, and the 19th to the 23rd.

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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Space Weather Summary for October 2019

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

October was a quiet month overall for space weather.

Solar activity was at Very low levels this month, with no M-class or X-class flares solar flares observed. There was a coronal hole high-speed wind stream observed on the 25th and 26th of October. A very faint coronal mass ejection was also reported on the 25th, but this did not appear to be geoeffective.

There were no significant geomagnetic disturbances – though some mild disturbance were observed on the 25th and 26th, associated with the high-speed wind stream resulting from a coronal hole.

There were some moderate ionospheric depressions between the 25th and 27th of October, with Southern Australian region MUFs being depress by up to 25% compared to predicted values.

In the solar and geophysical report each week, we talk about the maximum usable frequencies both observed in the report period, and in the forecast for the next week. This is based on observations of foF2, which is the maximum frequency reflected vertically by the ionosphere. While a vertical propagation path in itself is not particularly useful, the data is a reference point, from which estimates of frequencies for any oblique circuit can be made.

The foF2 is the most important parameter describing the state of the ionosphere at a particular location. Along with the T-index, foF2 is a key indicator of ionospheric conditions.

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.

[Play File: E-FCAL071.wav]

Duration: 1m43s

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

MADAGASCAR; Hiro, JF1OCQ and Kuni, JA8VE will be active as 5R8VX and 5R8KU, respectively, from Nosy Be Island, IOTA AF-057, from November 12 to 25. Activity will be with two stations on HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4 and other digital modes.

MALDIVES; Tommy, DL8KX will be active as 8Q7KX from Baa Atoll, IOTA AS-013, until November 17. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 30, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW. In addition, Roly, ZL1BQD will be active as Q7XR until December 30. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

RWANDA; Harald, DF2WO is active as 9X2AW from Kigali until November 20. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using mostly FT8 and some CW and SSB, and possibly including some satellite activity as well.

THE GAMBIA; Alan, G3XAQ and Don, G3XTT will be active as C56XA and C56DF, respectively, from November 12 to 26. Activity will be on the HF bands, including being active in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest. In addition, Artur, SQ7RAI will be active as C5/SQ7RAI from November 12 to 20. Activity will be on 20 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

MARQUESAS ISLANDS; A group of operators are active as TX7T from Hiva Oa until November 18. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8 with three or four stations active.

PANAMA; Special event station 3E1FP is active to celebrate the 116th anniversary of the Republic of Panama. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

THAILAND; Lars, SM6NT will be active as HS0ZME from November 12 to April 5, 2020.

AMERICAN SAMOA; Tom, JA1VND will be active as KH8/K1TF from Pago Pago, IOTA OC-045, from November 12 to 18. Activity will be on HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ALAND ISLANDS; Mart, DL6UAA is active as OH0UA until November 18. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, RTTY and FT8.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS; Chris, GM3WOJ and Keith, GM4YXI will be active as VK9CZ from November 12 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8 with a focus on the low bands. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

INDONESIA; Operators YE1AR, YC1KK, YC1BIQ and YB1MAE are active as home calls/p from Biawak Island, IOTA OC-237, until November 14. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using FT8 with some CW and SSB.

BURKINA FASO; AI, F8FUA is active as XT2BR from Ouagadougou until November 17. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

EL SALVADOR; Gabo, HK4GOO will be active as YS1/HK4GOO until November 16. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Japan International DX Phone Contest, Worked All Europe DX RTTY Contest, North American SSB Sprint Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, 10-10 International Fall Digital Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, OK/OM DX CW Contest, CQ-WE Contest and AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 CW QSO Party are all on this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Autumn Data Series and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are scheduled for November 11.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for November 13.

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

WICEN will be present at the Wyong Field Day on Sunday, 23 February.

WICEN's website is at nsw.wicen.org.au. There is a web contact form on the site, which is usually the best way to get in contact with any enquiries. 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 BMSC Rallye de Femmes is on December 7th. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Alpine Rally, November 29 to December 1, around Lakes Entrance in East Gippsland. 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 November Friday night gathering, starting at 7pm on the 15th of November, in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

On Sunday the 1st of December, club members will again provide safety communications, for the White Ribbon Liberty Coastal Walk Against Domestic and Family Violence. The walk along the beaches starts at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club and finishes at Westport Park in Port Macquarie.

The club's 2019 Christmas Party will be on Saturday the 7th of December, at the now traditional venue of the covered picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Gallery near Lake Cathie. Members and friends are invited to enjoy an informal morning followed by a barbeque lunch. There will not be a December Monthly General Meeting; the next general meeting will be on Saturday the 4th of January 2020.

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 the November issue will be published soon. 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

As mentioned on last week's VK2WI News, the date has been set for the 2020 Wyong Field Day; its on Sunday the 23rd of February 2020. For more information, check out the field day website, www.fieldday.org.au.

The Clubrooms are located in Dandaloo Street, Kariong, just past the fire station. They are open from 10.30am on Saturday, and formal meetings start at 1pm.

The club has a net each Thursday evening from 8pm, on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater. The repeater is linked to both EchoLink and IRLP, and several international visitors each week drop in to say hello. On Thursday evenings, the repeater is connected to Echolink conference server "CCARCNSW"; and to VK2RAG-R, node 7060, at other times. Alternatively, IRLP node #6060; just make sure to disconnect the node when you have finished. Listeners can "join" the net by checking into the live Facebook video stream on Thursday evening, or by emailing netmaster@ccarc.org.au, and their comments will be read out.

Speaking of Digital, the club also runs a mixed mode FM & P25 repeater on 439.95Mhz. This repeater is linked to the 10400 Pacific talk group, a 91.5Hz tone is required for analogue access. The D-star digital service is currently inactive due to a hardware failure. There is a packet radio BBS on 147.6MHz, operating as VK2EHQ; it can also be accessed via the digipeater VK2RAG-1. The club is working on updating its digital footprint to ensure that the clubs' active repeaters are listed correctly, and we suggest that other clubs do the same.

The Club relays VK2WI News broadcasts every Sunday morning and evening, on the 6m and 2m VK2RAG repeaters, on 53.725MHz and 146.725MHz. Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only. Thanks to the efforts of the Club's amazing repeater management team, the interference issue on the news broadcasts has been isolated. The Club would welcome any feedback from listeners who are still experiencing interference on the local repeater.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web, at www.ccarc.org.au. The club is also active on Facebook, twitter and YouTube. Simply search for "Central Coast Amateur Radio Club" and remember to like and follow, to keep up to date.

*Brad VK2NMZ.
Vice President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is this coming Tuesday, the 12th of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's committee meeting, which starts at 6:30pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

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

The meeting on the 12th of November is the Society's very popular Annual Auction night and, as usual, auctioneer Simon VK2XQX creates both an entertaining night, and an opportunity to pick-up a great bargain. Anyone wishing to bring along something to sell, should arrive by 7pm so that it can be booked-in with time to spare. After the auction, 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. The other weekly net is on 80 metres, on Tuesday evenings – except for meeting nights – starting at 8:30pm local time, on 3666kHz plus or minus frequency for usage.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on the Facebook page or on their website, iars.org.au. The website again, 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 the 12th of November, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road Wollongong.

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The November meeting is on this this coming Wednesday the 13th of November, in the Scout Hall, Vickery Avenue Rose Bay, behind the RSL club. The meeting starts at 7:30pm. All visitors are always most welcome, and to also join us for dinner prior to the meeting in the bistro of the RSL club next door, from around 6:30pm.

The next shack night is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th starting at 7:30pm. The next project day will be on Saturday December 7th commencing at 1:30pm through to 4 or 5pm.

The Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00am, so the next meeting is on December the 1st. The digital special interest group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month; the next meeting is scheduled for December 10th, from 7:30pm.

The Christmas party is scheduled for the December Meeting night, that is, December 18th, probably in the RSL next door. More details to follow soon.

As usual, the clubrooms are open most Tuesdays from 10:00am until 3:00pm for those who would like to 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.

As there were insufficient candidates by the close off date, the club’s next Foundation weekend on November 16th & 17th has been cancelled. Some of our assessors will be assisting at ARNSW instead. Dates for courses in 2020 are yet to be finalised; see the website for details and how to reserve your place.

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

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the website, vk2bv.org. You can book courses or assessments on the site, or use the contact form on the website to contact them.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next HADARC meeting is an informal gathering on Tuesday the 12th of November. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre, 6X Pierre Close; opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah railway station, starting at 8pm. The last meeting for the year at Mt Colah, will be on the 26th.

The Club's End-of-Year event will be a lunch on Sunday the 15th of December. The venue is Magpies, near Waitara 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 net6 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;

November

HADARC mid-monthly meeting on the 12th

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 12th

Waverley ARS Meeting on the 13th

Oxley Region ARC Friday Night gathering on the 15th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 16th and 17th

Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation Course weekend, the 23rd and 24th

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

HADARC monthly meeting on the 26th

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting at Campbelltown on the 27th

December

Oxley Region ARC Christmas party on the 7th

HADARC End of year lunch on the 15th

Waverley ARS Christmas party on the 18th

Christmas Day is on the 25th

January 2020

Oxley Region ARC monthly general meeting on the 4th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 26th ...

The 26th is also Australia Day – you can use the AX prefix.