

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

As we mentioned last week, the 2020 AR NSW magnetic calendars are on their way out to members, with the last lot destined for Sydney addresses being posted during the past week.

There has been a report that one calendar was so attached to another envelope - magnetically - that the pair travelled together to a north coast town. Their friendship was short lived however; they have since been separated.

The top line of the address label, shows your membership renewal date. If it has the year as 2019, you may care to renew by getting in touch with membership@arnsw.org.au. All the usual payment methods are available; should you wish to pay by direct debit, please contact the office for the details and procedure, on office@arnsw.org.au or call 02 9651 1490 and leave a message.

If you do not receive the calendar when you expected one, then we may not have your updated postal address, or it is possible your membership expired in 2018. If you have an enquiry about your membership status you can contact the membership team by email membership@arnsw.org.au or a phone call to the office answering machine on 02 9651 1490.

The 6 metre VK2RSY beacon, on 50.289MHz, here at Dural, has received some adjustment. It should now be putting out a better signal, in time for the - hopefully - six metre season.

As we approach the Christmas and new year period, the ARNSW Library group will take a break on Monday afternoon / evening from the middle of this month. VK2WI News bulletins will become morning only across the holiday period. The first of the Foundation weekends in 2020 will be in March. Inquiries always welcome to education@arnsw.org.au

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.

US Licence Exams at Wyong Field Day

As we have mentioned previously on VK2WI News, the date for the 2020 Wyong Field Day is Sunday the 23rd of February. If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, examination sessions will be running on the day.

There is a wide range of study material is available, including books and e-books from the ARRL, and numerous online materials. There are also trial exams, which can be found online, and the current question pools are available at: ncvec.org.

For more information, or bookings, you can contact the Australian VE team, thorough their website on: vea.org.au. They are also on facebook, look for the **VEA Exams** page.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (also AG6LE).

[VEA on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VEAExams/>]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 22nd to the 28th of November.
First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 22 nd | 23 rd | 24 th | 25 th | 26 th | 27 th | 28 th |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10cm flux | 70 | 70 | 71 | 70 | 70 | 71 | 70 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 8 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 10 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 estimated |
| T index | -23 | -16 | -30 | -25 | -34 | -36 | -27 |

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was quiet to unsettled from the 22nd to the 24th, then quiet from the 25th to the 28th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values during local night hours, all week; however there were some depressions during daylight hours. Conditions were 15% depressed during local daylight hours on the 22nd and 23rd, 20% depressed on the 24th and 25th, and again 15% depressed for daylight hours of the 26th and 27th.

Now, the forecast for the 29th of November to the 5th of December;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed, but should mostly 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 November, we had a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates from the 1st to the 3rd, and the 25th to the 28th

Just starting December, we expect a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th, and the 10th to the 23rd

And looking ahead to the prediction for January 2020, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 6th to the 12th.

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.

[Play File: E-FCAL080.wav]

Duration:2m58s

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

SRI LANKA; Bernhard, DK7TF is active as 4S7DLG from Ambalangoda, IOTA AS-003. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly SSB and FT8. His length of stay is unknown.

MALAWI; Karl, DK2WV is active as 7Q7W from Lilongwe for about three weeks. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

ZAMBIA; Mario, IK1MYT is active as 9J2MYT from Lusaka until May 2020. He is active on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres.

WEST MALAYSIA; Rich, PA0RRS will be active as 9M2MRS from Penang Island, IOTA AS-015, from December 3 to February 27, 2020. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and various digital modes.

THE GAMBIA; Paul, SA6PIS is active holiday style as C56PIS, until December 13. In addition, Andre ON7YK, is active as C5YK from Bijilo until early March 2020. Activity is on 60 to 10 metres using some CW, SSB and various digital modes, especially FT8.

CHILE; Special event call XR2YOTA is active during December, to commemorate Youngsters On The Air month.

SPAIN; Members of the Mike Delta Victor DX Group will be active with special call sign EG3PCD from December 2nd to 5th, during United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

ECUADOR; Antonio, EA5RM plans to be active as HC3/EA5RM from Loja and possibly also as HC2/EA5RM from Guayaquil from December 2 to January 5, 2020. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

ITALY; Members of the ARI section Fidenza will be active with special call sign I4TIB during December to commemorate Ugo Tiberio, one of Italy's pioneers in the history of radio.

BULGARIA; Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik will be active as special event call sign LZ4408SPA during December to honour the memory of Bulgarian saints.

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ will be active as 6O1OO from December 4 to 19.

MICRONESIA; Haru, JA1XGI will be active as V6K from Kosrae, IOTA OC-059, from December 2 to 9. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL 160 Metre contest.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Gerald, WA2TTI will be active as VP5/WA2TTI from Turtle Cove, Providenciales Island, IOTA NA-002, from December 2 to 7. Activity will be holiday style.

INDIA; Datta, VU2DSI is active as AU2JCB until December 16 to commemorate the birthdate of Indian physicist and radio pioneer Jagadish Chandra Bose. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres.

BURKINA FASO; Harald, DF2WO will be active as XT2AW from Ouagadougou from December 2 to 20. Activity will be on the HF bands with a focus on 160, 80 and 60 metres and also on various satellites.

MYANMAR; Martti, OH2BH is active as XZ2D until April 17, 2020. Activity is generally on 15 and 10 metres.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint and the Russian Worldwide MultiMode Contest are on this weekend.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for December 3.

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 is still providing some communications support in the current bushfire emergency. Focus is now on the Mid North Coast and further north, with WICEN ACT providing an operator at Kempsey Fire Control. It is anticipated further WICEN support will be provided to this area next week. Other VRA Squads are also active in provision of support to the RFS.

WICEN Members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

WICEN will be present at the Wyong Field Day on Sunday, the 23rd of February. Also in February next year, WICEN groups across Australia will be supporting Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events. These short Sunday morning events start in February, and run for several months.

WICEN's website is at nsw.wicen.org.au, and includes a web contact form. Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group. On the Facebook page, there is more information and photos of recent activities.

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, next Saturday December the 7th, is a car racing event for female drivers. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria was supporting the Alpine Rally, concluding today, 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 the recent Stockmans rally, 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 December Friday night gathering, starting at 7pm on the 20th of December, in the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie.

This morning, club members provided safety communications for the White Ribbon Liberty Coastal Walk Against Domestic and Family Violence. The walk along the beaches started at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club and finished at Westport Park in Port Macquarie.

The club's 2019 Christmas Party is next 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.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444; training and assessments will be held early in the new year.

The club's 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.

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 November 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

The last event of the group for the year, is the Christmas Luncheon on Saturday the 7th of December. It's at the Windale Bowling Club, Lake road Windale, starting at noon.

Bookings are required, so please contact our President, Len, on 49 57 77 85 and advise him of your attendance.

The Group's Monday night broadcast starts at 7:30pm, on the 2 metre repeater 146.9MHz, and the 70cm repeater on 438.025MHz. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

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

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the society is on Tuesday the 10th of December. 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.

Meeting are now held at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre located on Springhill Road, on the southern side of the CBD of Wollongong. The new venue has fantastic facilities along with 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.

The December meeting is the Society's very popular Christmas Dinner night, with the Club's resident chef Vinnie VK2VIN once again preparing a delicious menu of Entrée, Main and Desert items for Members. Visitors are most welcome to come along and enjoy Vinnie's gastronomic delights, but must let Club Secretary Keith VK2KQB know by emailing him on secretary@iars.org.au. Coffee and tea in the venue's foyer with your fellow diners will complete the night; remember to email secretary@iars.org.au if you plan to come along.

A reminder of the Club's two weekly Nets; one is the Saturday morning Chit-Chat Net run by Steve VK2BGL; Listeners can join-in from 9:30am on either one of the Club's 2 metre repeaters - VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, and out-of-towners can call-in on Echolink via VK2BGL-R. The Club's second weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings, except meeting nights, from 8:30pm. The usual frequency is 3.666MHz, plus or minus for other usage.

For more information about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, visit iars.org.au, or check them out on Facebook.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 10th of December, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road Wollongong.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

As previously mentioned on VK2WI News, the 2020 Wyong Field Day is on Sunday the 23rd of February 2020. If you are looking to part with some unused equipment, spaces for the car boot sales in the dedicated undercover area are filling up fast! For more information, head on over to the field day website, www.fieldday.org.au.

At the club's examination day last weekend, one candidate sat for an advanced licence. If you are interested in obtaining or updating your licence, you can contact the club's education facilitator by emailing education@ccarc.org.au.

The annual Christmas luncheon is on the 7th of December; all past and present members are invited. RSVP by Wednesday 4th December.

Club nets are on Thursday evenings 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 G'day. On Thursday evenings, the repeater is connected to Echolink conference server "CCARCNSW"; at other times it can be found at VK2RAG-R, node 7060. Alternatively, IRLP node #6060; just make sure to disconnect the node when you have finished. The club wishes to thank Alan VK2MG, for his recent streaming assistance.

Listeners can "join" the net by checking into the live Facebook video stream, or by emailing netmaster@ccarc.org.au, and their comments will be read out.

Speaking of Digital, the club's P25 repeater on 439.95MHz is no longer permanently linked to the 10-400 Pacific talk group. Please remember to program in your desired talk group as well as talkgroup "9999" to disconnect the reflector once finished. D-star digital service is currently inactive due to hardware failure, however, progress has been made in sourcing new equipment.

There is a packet radio BBS on 147.6MHz, operating as VK2EHQ; it can also be accessed via the digipeater VK2RAG-1.

The Central Coast Amateur Radio club is located in Dandaloo Street Kariong, Just past the fire station. The clubrooms open from around 10:30am each Saturday with meetings kicking off at 1pm.

For more information about the club, the website is 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.

St George Amateur Radio Society

The final gathering of the society for 2019, will be on Wednesday the 4th of December. Members, family, friends and visitors are welcome to attend the end of year festivities, commencing at 6pm with a family BBQ, on the picturesque shore of Kyle Bay, adjacent to the meeting rooms in Donnelly Park.

The chef will be cooking up sausage sandwiches and a selection of soft drinks will be available, at a small charge. For catering purposes, please pre-order by using the link on the society's website - www.sgars.org

You can test your direction finding skills by participating in a friendly fox hunt; Sniffers will be available or bring your own.

If you would like any additional information, please email info@sgars.org

Following the BBQ will be the annual general meeting and awards presentation. This will be followed by the usual friendly chat with tea, coffee, biscuits and Christmas cake.

The meeting rooms of the Society are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville. The BBQ starts at 6pm, followed by the AGM at about 7:30pm, on Wednesday 4th of December.

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

The Club's annual end-of-year/Christmas function is on Sunday the 15th of December. It is a lunchtime event at Magpies from about noon onwards. RSVP Chris VK2YMW to reserve your seat.

The Club is planning a BBQ for mid-January, with venue and timings to be advised.

In February, the Mid-Monthly meeting on Tuesday the 11th February won't be at Mount Colah; in its place will be a family dinner/evening at Magpies.

The Club runs three nets each week, which continue throughout the holiday period. 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;

December

SGARS gathering at Connells Point on the 4th
Oxley Region ARC Christmas party on the 7th
Hunter Radio Group Christmas lunch also on the 7th
CCARC Christmas lunch on the 7th
Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 10th
Blue Mountains ARC Licence training weekend, 14th and 15th
HADARC End of year lunch on the 15th
Waverley ARS Christmas party on the 18th
Oxley Region ARC Friday Night gathering on the 20th
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.

February 2020

HADARC family dinner evening on the 11th
Central Coast ARC - Wyong Field Day on Sunday the 23rd