

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

Seasons Greetings to all our listeners.

Tonight is the last VK2WI Evening news bulletin for the year; from next week, VK2WI News bulletins continue in the morning only, for three weeks. Evening bulletins resume on Sunday the 19th of January, 2020. The ARNSW Library is also in recess until Monday the 20th.

The first Trash & Treasure at Dural for 2020 is on Sunday the 26th of January. Also on this date is the first meeting of the ARNSW Radio Experimenter's Group for 2020. At the meeting, there will be a presentation on "LoRa", which is a low-power wide-area network technology, based on spread-spectrum modulation techniques.

The first ARNSW Foundation course in 2020 is planned for the weekend of the 14th and 15th of March. Bookings close at 5pm on Friday the 28th of February, and are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

The VK2RSY 6 metre beacon on 50.289MHz, was recently operating with very low output due to a failed driver transistor. Following some attention from the Engineering team on Thursday, it has now returned to service with more than 20 watts RF output. Reports would be welcome, to callbacks@arnsw.org.au. The Hunter region's 6 metre beacon - VK2RHV, normally on 50.288, is currently off air as well; its transmitter has more serious ailments and has been sent to the doctor, to bring it back to health.

ARNSW has recently upgraded some of the chairs in the meeting area. So now, there is an assorted collection of more than 30 chairs that are no longer required. If you are interested in obtaining some, advise the office - office@arnsw.org.au and you can arrange to collect on a Sunday morning. Any left will be at the January T & T.

Many listeners will be aware that the VK2WI News bulletins are relayed through a network of regional repeaters. The Hunter Radio Group with VK2RNC on 146.975; The Central Coast ARC with VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725; To the west of Sydney, the St. George ARS with VK2RDX on 146.650 and to the south, the Illawarra ARS VK2RMP on 53.650 and 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675; we thank these clubs for their continued

support of our news Service. We also wish to thank the ANZEL group, with John VK3HJQ, Norm ZL4NORM and Dave GW8SZL for relays of our Evening news via the Echolink network.

We are interested in working with any interested individuals and groups on expanding the coverage of our news bulletins. We can provide linking facilities via HF, VHF and various internet methods; please email news@arnsw.org.au for more information. Currently we receive nearly 200 callbacks each week to our news bulletins, as an indication of listeners who contact us.

Finally, bulletins and selected events here at VK2WI are streamed live from our website, <http://arnsw.org.au/audio> and on the page you can download audio recordings of these live streams, usually for at least 6 weeks afterwards.

US Licence Exams at Wyong Field Day

The 2020 Wyong Field Day is on Sunday the 23rd of February, and the Australian VE team will once again be running exam sessions for you to sit for a new US licence, or to upgrade.

There is a wide range of study material is available, including books and e-books from the ARRL, and online resources such as HamTestOnline.com. 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, the Australian VE team website is vea.org.au.

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 13th to the 19th of December.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
10cm flux	69	70	71	70	71	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	2	5	1	2	12	12 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	2	3	1	1	10	6 estimated
T index	-25	-33	-30	-27	-36	-35	-16

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 13th and 14th and mostly quiet on the 15th, quiet on the 16th and 17th before becoming quiet to unsettled on the 18th and 19th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted monthly values. Depressions of 15% were observed during local night hours on the 15th, and during local daylight hours on the 17th and 18th.

Now, the forecast for the 20th to the 26th of December;

Solar activity is expected to be very low; there are currently no sunspots or returning regions expected.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be moderately depressed at times, 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 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

So far for December, we expect a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates from the 9th to the 13th

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

Minimum of 70, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With no peak prediction apparent at the moment.

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-FCAL077.wav]

Duration: 1m21s

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

ROTUMA ISLAND; 3D2AG/p is active until January 5, 2020. Activity is on 160 to 2 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8.

GHANA; Ruetzger, DL8MEZ is active as 9G5RV until December 22 while on a business trip. Activity is in his spare time on 20 metres using SSB and FT8.

EASTER ISLAND; Oleh, KD7WPJ will be active as CE0Y/UR5BCP from Hanga Roa, IOTA SA-001, from December 26 to 31. Activity will be on 60 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

MOROCCO; Special event station CN19JIM will be active this weekend during the Journee Internationale de la Montagne.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY; Volker, DL1WH will be active from Borkum, IOTA EU-047, until December 31. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW with some SSB.

LIECHTENSTEIN; Kasimir, DL2SBY will be active as HB0/DL2SBY until December 28. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ECUADOR; Antonio, EA5RM is active as HC3AGT from Loja. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

OGASAWARA; Harry, JG7PSJ will be active as JD1BMH from December 22 to January 3, 2020. Activity will be in his spare time on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

AUSTRIA; Members of the Amateur Radio Contest DX Club are active with special call sign 4U1XMAS until December 31 from the station at the United Nations Vienna International Centre. Activity is on 80, 40, 20 and 15 metres using CW and SSB.

ARUBA; Ben, DL6RAI is active as P4/DL6RAI until December 26. Activity is holiday style on 160 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some FT8.

SURINAME; Arie, PA4ARI is active as PZ/PA4ARI from Paramaribo until January 7, 2020. Activity is on 80, 40 and 20 metres using SSB, FT8 and FT4.

GABON; Roland, TR8CR has been active on 30 metres using CW around 2000 and 2200UTC.

CHAD; Nicolas, F8FQX is active as TT8SN from N'Djamena for the next three to four years. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 metres.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Special event stations R95WURC, R95WBZ, R95WFT, R95WGK, R95WJV, RW95WJ and RX95WN are active until December 25th, to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the UFA Radio Club and the beginning of amateur radio in the Republic of Bashkortostan.

SOUTH SUDAN; Diya, YI1DZ is active as Z81D from Juba for at least six months. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB, FT8 and possibly FT4. This includes possibly being active on 60 metres as well.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, AGB-Party Contest, Russian 160-Metre Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, OK DX RTTY Contest, Padang DX SSB Contest and the Croatian CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The SKCC CW Sprint, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for December 25.

During December, look for a number of stations active with the YOTA suffix for Youngsters On The Air.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, operating event runs until the end of the year, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

WICEN News

WICEN, along with other VRA squads, continue to support the RFS at various Fire Control Centres, and at the Bush Fire Info Line at Olympic Park. Other WICEN members are active on the fire-ground with the RFS, and with the SES.

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.

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. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting a fun run at Dromana and Rosebud on January the 26th. In February, the Pajero Challenge runs from February 7th to 9th at Walhalla in Gippsland, and February 14th to 16th is the Oscar's 100 "Hut to Hut", raising funds for Autism. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria can be found on their website, vic.wicen.org.au.

WICEN wishes members and listeners a Happy Christmas, and a safe new year.

[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 monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of January 2020, at the SES Building in Central Road, Port Macquarie. Amateurs visiting the area will be made particularly welcome; it is a great opportunity to meet the local amateurs.

The January Friday night gathering will be on Friday the 17th of January from 7pm, also in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's very popular 2020 Calendar is now available, and will be available at all the upcoming club meetings and activities. As usual, the calendar has photos of club members, which is a great aid to putting a face to callsigns. In addition, the calendar has a lot of useful club information; including the dates of upcoming club meetings.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444; training and assessments are planned for 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 Group would like to wish all members and listeners, Seasons Greetings.

The first meeting of the group for 2020, will be on the 2nd Friday in February, the 14th. Its at the Adamstown Bowling Club, Glebe Road, Adamstown, starting at 7:30pm.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

As previously mentioned on VK2WI News, the 2020 Wyong Field Day is on Sunday the 23rd of February 2020. Preparations are full steam ahead, with plenty of interest for car boot sales, commercial traders and exhibitors.

Remember there are no reserved spaces for boot sales; it is first come first serve. Gates open for traders at 6am and general public at 8:30am.

The CCARC will be providing examination and license upgrade facilities on the day; to register interest, please email the clubs education officer at education@ccarc.org.au. For more information on what is happening, head over to www.fieldday.org.au

The club is continuing to work on implementing a DMR 70cm repeater. If you happen to have spare parts for a Tait T800, the club is interested in hearing from you.

The Club's Thursday evening nets are taking a short break until the new year. The VK2RAG 2 metre repeater can be found via Echolink 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.

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

The CCARC is seeking interest from surrounding clubs for a collaboration workshop on ideas and concepts surrounding the overall Amateur Radio Hobby. If your club is interested, please email ccarc@ccarc.org.au.

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.

The Club's website is at www.ccarc.org.au and 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

St. George Amateur Radio Society will be back in 2020 with their first meeting of the year on Wednesday the 5th of February. Members are reminded of the Society's 2 metre contest over summer, running until 29th February.

St. George Amateur Radio Society would like to wish all listeners a Healthy and Safe Christmas and New Year.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
for the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club is planning a BBQ for mid-January, subject to weather conditions. The venue and timings will be advised in a future bulletin.

In February, the Mid-Monthly meeting on Tuesday the 11th February will be a family dinner/evening at Magpies. The first Mt Colah meeting will be on the 25th.

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 70 cm repeater on 439.975 MHz is back, but at northern Hornsby, sharing the VK2RNS callsign. The offset is minus 5 MHz, with a 91.5 Hz tone in and out; or a NAC of 293 for P25 users. VK2RHT is a 70 cm DMR repeater, located high above Chatswood.

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.

Finally, a very Happy Christmas to members and listeners.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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Summary of coming events;

December

Christmas Day is on the 25th

January 2020

Oxley Region ARC monthly general meeting on the 4th

Waverley ARS project day on the 4th

Oxley Region ARC Friday Night gathering on the 17th

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

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

February 2020

St George ARS meeting on the 5th

HADARC family dinner evening on the 11th

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 11th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 14th

Central Coast ARC - Wyong Field Day on Sunday the 23rd

HADARC monthly meeting on the 25th