

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

We hope that all members have now received the 2017 magnetic calendar. Last year there were some minor typo's and to give you something to look for - there is still one this year. If you haven't found it already, take a look now - we will give you the answer later in the bulletin.

Next Sunday will be the January Trash & Treasure at Dural with the formal start at a bit after 9 am. Early arrivals will have the free table on the veranda to search through for bargains.

Boot sellers, as usual, are most welcome. Left over donations **ONLY** by arrangement, otherwise take home anything that did not sell.

There will be the usual sausage sandwich or roll from the BBQ. The catering is first-come, first-served, so you may want to arrive early if you plan on having lunch.

Next Sunday is also the cutoff for the current ARNSW Membership badge offer. Bring your form or fill out one on the day and give it to Bob VK2CAN, our Membership committee officer. Bob can also handle renewals or new memberships. If you are posting in a badge request, make sure its in the post earlier in the week, to meet the cutoff time.

Council Elections

The Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday 29th April 2017.

At the AGM a new council is to be appointed. Nominations will shortly be open for those members who wish to be on the council for the year 2017 and 2018. Nomination forms will shortly be available for download from the website arnsw.org.au, or from the divisional office.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 18th March 2017.

*Peter O'Connell VK2EMU
Divisional Returning Officer*

Note: Amateur Radio New South Wales is a business name of the company registered as Wireless Institute of Australia New South Wales Division. This company was originally incorporated in New South Wales in 1922.

Since 2004, the company uses the business name Amateur Radio New South Wales to avoid confusion with the independent incorporated entity, The Wireless Institute of Australia.

Education Update

Places are filling fast for the next ARNSW Foundation weekend in March, on the 18th and 19th. Enquires are best made by email to education@arnsw.org.au.

Waverley is also running a Foundation weekend on the 11th and 12th of February.

In the ACT, the Canberra Region ARC is also running a Foundation weekend in March, details can be found on their website, www.crarc.ampr.org.

Other education activities include Standard Courses, and ARNSW is running a weekly series of classes starting on Monday the 6th of March and continuing until November, excluding public holidays. Classes start at 7pm and run until about 9pm. The classes are suitable for both Foundation Licence holders, as well as for beginners. Enquiries and bookings to the usual email address; education@arnsw.org.au.

In early March - the Summerland A R C at Lismore has a Standard course from Monday the 6th until Thursday the 9th of March, followed by a Foundation course on the following weekend; Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th.

Finally, if you are interested in obtaining a US Amateur Licence, examinations will be held at this year's Wyong Field Day, under the ARRL/VEC. Examinations will commence at 9:00 am.

Note that candidates need to do all papers up to the level of the licence they desire. The fee will be US\$15, or around A\$21, covering one to three papers, with licences issued for free.

Candidates will need a US postal address, such as that of a friend, or a ShopMate address; and then to use this address to obtain an FCC Registration Number, or FRN, from the FCC website.

More details are on the ARRL exams search page. There is a Facebook group, search for "USA Hams in Oz"

[page link: facebook.com/usahamsinoz]

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

The next bi-monthly meeting of the group is on Sunday the 29th, after the next Trash and Treasure. It's at the usual location - here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

This month, Michael VK2BMR will be giving a presentation on using the free LT Spice circuit simulation software, for the design of power supplies.

He will be focusing on a high voltage low current design for a 4CX250B amplifier. He will also be demonstrating how the choice of capacitor values can affect the design of low voltage, high current supplies where ripple before a regulator can cause problems with dropouts. Particular attention will be paid to the production of graphs.

The meeting will start with the usual "Show and Tell" segment where members of the audience get up to show some project that they have been working on.

There will also be the presentation of the Homebrew Challenge - build something in a Christmas Biscuit Tin - only rule - no 240 Volts AC. So, if you have built something in a biscuit tin, then bring it along to show.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 13th to the 19th of January.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
10cm flux	75	77	78	78	79	79	80
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	3	2	2	3	11	14 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	2	4	1	4	11	9 estimated
T index	-1	-11	-1	-2	1	23	4

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet from the 14th to the 16th, then quiet to unsettled from the 17th to the 19th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out 15% depressed on the 13th and 14th. The 15th and 16th saw depressions of 15% during local day but near predicted monthly values during local nights. Conditions recovered further, remaining near predicted monthly values from the 17th to the 19th.

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

Solar flare activity should be very low, to low.

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

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be depressed around the 20th, otherwise 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.

Firstly the figures for December were;

Minimum 71 Average 76 Maximum 86
Peak dates from the 1st to the 8th

Now the prediction for January,

Minimum 71 Average 76 Maximum 80
Peak dates between the 16th and 25th

And looking ahead to the prediction for February;

Minimum 75 Average 77 Maximum 80
With peak dates between the 16th and 23nd

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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ARRL DX news

MALTA, 9H. Special event station 9H2017EU is active until June 2017 to mark the 2017 Maltese European Union Presidency. QSL direct to 9H1SP.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. Rich, PA0RRS is active as 9M2MRS from Penang Island, IOTA AS-015, until the end of January 2018. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW, RTTY, JT65, JT9 and some SSB. QSL to home call.

TONGA, A3. Tack, JE1CKA, Miho, JJ2VLY, Yutaka, JQ2GYU and Hiro, A31MM will be active as A35W and A35NN from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, from January 24 to 31. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL A35MM and A35NN via JJ2VLY.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Jean-Pierre, F6ITD is active as TO7D and FG/F6ITD from La Desirade Island, IOTA NA-102, until March 9. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

HONDURAS, HR. Jesse, KB2OBQ is active as KB2OBQ/HR1 from Tegucigalpa for the next few months. Activity is with QRP power on 40 and 20 metres. QSL via operator's instructions.

MONGOLIA, JT. Khos, JT1CD is active as JT1CD/3 from Umnudelger Soum Village until January 21. QSL to home call.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC, OM. Special event station OM42KYSUCE is active until the end of June 2017 during the context of the 42nd ARDF Kysuca Cup that will be held on June 16 to 18. QSL via OM3CND.

CURACAO, PJ2. Jeff, K8ND, and Jim, W8WTS are active as PJ2/K8ND and PJ2/W8WTS, respectively, until February 1. They plan to be active as PJ2T in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL PJ2/K8ND via K8ND, PJ2/W8WTS via W8WTS, and PJ2T via W3HMK.

IVORY COAST, TU. Operators Bertrand, DF3FS, Norbert, DJ7JC, Emil, DL8JJ and Heye, DJ9RR will be active as TU5MH until February 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via DJ5BWD.

CANADA, VE. Members of the Eureka Amateur Radio Club station VY0ERC will be active from Eureka, Ellesmere Island, IOTA NA-008, until early April. Activity will be when conditions allow. QSL direct to M0OXO.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Dave, VP8CLE and Carol, VP8DKW are active from Bleaker Island, IOTA SA-002, from January 23 to 30. Activity will be mainly on 160 and 80 metres, as well as the higher bands depending on conditions, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL direct to G1OCN.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Hugolin, XT2HB has been active on 20 metres from around 0750 to 0830z. QSL contacts made beginning January 1, 2017 via F5MVB.

INDONESIA, YB. Leo, YC9MLL will be active from Flores Island, IOTA OC-151, on January 21, 22, and 24. Activity will be mostly on 15 metres, but also on 40 and 20 metres using SSB. QSL via M0OXO.

VANUATU, YJ. Minekazu, JA2NQG, Yuji, JH2BNL and Shigehiko, JI2UAY are active as YJ0WW, YJ0AA and YJ0FM, respectively, until January 23. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FM with three stations active. QSL via operators' instructions.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Stan, K5GO is active as ZF9CW until February 23. Activity will be mainly on 160 metres, with a focus on the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW and ARRL DX CW contests. QSL direct to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL January VHF Contest, North American SSB QSO Party, The NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, LZ Open CW Contest, Hungarian DX Contest and the Feld Hell Sprint are all on this weekend.

The SKCC CW Sprint, NAQCC 160-Meter CW Sprint, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, are all scheduled for January 25.

WICEN News

On Sunday, February 26th, WICEN will be represented at the CCARC Field Day, which is an opportunity for members to renew their membership.

Also on the 26th is the first of a series of Memory Walk and Jog events. The first is at Wollongong, and the Penrith walk is March 12th.

The previously announced training day has postponed to a date to be advised.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at nsw.wicen.org.au - includes contact details, a web contact form, and membership information. WICEN members can log in on the site and then see meeting Agendas on the main page.

WICEN has a twitter account: @wicennsw. Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

Northern Rivers region runs a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8:00pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The website is crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 2030 on or near 3.6 MHz. Their next events are a Fun Run on the Mornington Peninsula on January 26, and the Field Weekend at Yea is on March 4th and 5th. Their website is: vic.wicen.org.au.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
on behalf of the WICEN NSW State Management Committee.*

Now, about that Calendar....

Have you spotted it yet?

Take a look at the month of February on you 2017 calendar... The abbreviation for Friday has been spelt as FREE...

But all is not lost. If you remember your morse code - then 'e' is one dot and since there are two e's and that is the code for ' i ' - you can still read the scrambled word as the abbreviation for Friday, F R I .

The calendar proof was very carefully checked so the computer has to be blamed - not the human.

There will be a few spare calendars at next weeks Trash and Treasure. See Bob VK2CAN at the Membership table.

[Play Evening ID3]

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the Club is the Monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of February.

The club's annual Antenna Shootout and Foxhunt, is on Sunday the 12th of February at the Tuffins Lane Sportsfields in Port Macquarie. Setting up will be from 9 am. The club's Communications Caravan will be on site. There will be a bacon and egg breakfast from the barbeque followed by a sausage sizzle lunch. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available from the caravan. Bring your VHF and UHF antennas along to see how they perform on the antenna testing range. Several 2 metre and 80 metre foxhunts will be run during the day; a perfect opportunity to hone your hunting skills.

The club's 2017 calendar is available at club activities, and orders are being taken for a second batch of 2017 WIA Callbooks.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net takes place from 9am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater, 146.7MHz. This repeater requires a 91.5Hz subaudible tone for access.

Visitors are always made very welcome at monthly general meetings, at 2pm on the first Saturday of the month, as well as at Friday night gatherings, at 7pm on the third Friday of the month. The venue for all club meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. There you will find a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The January 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now available, its packed with articles complete with photographs reporting on recent club activities, together with some interesting history. Past issues are also available on the website.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday the 14th of February. The general meeting starts at 7.30pm, right after the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall located in Bridge Street Coniston, which is just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong. The hall is located right next door to the Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

The next meeting is a "Show us your Shack" night, with attendees invited to bring along photos or videos of their shack, antennas or even favourite project to be shown on the big screen. The last time this was done, we ran out of time looking at all the interestingly different set-ups everyone had at home. Additionally, raffle tickets will be available for a fantastic prize to be won at the meeting. You'll have to come along to see what it is!

The VK2RUW 146.675MHz repeater at Knights Hill is currently off the air awaiting a total refurbishment and hopefully even better coverage.

ARNSW News Broadcasts are relayed through two of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's repeaters, they being on 6 metres on 53.650MHz and 2 metres on 146.850MHz at Maddens Plains, servicing Wollongong and much of Sydney.

As the VK2RMP two metre repeater is also linked to Echolink, the AR NSW Broadcast can also be heard through Echolink stations VK2MT-R and VK2BGL-R.

If you're interested in having a bit of a chinwag on Saturday mornings, Steve VK2BGL runs a very popular net on the 6850 repeater starting at 9.30am. As this repeater is connected to Echolink, the Net gets call-ins from all over Australia as well as many different other countries. So put the time of 9.30am in your diary & call-in next Saturday morning on 6850 repeater or on Echolink via VK2MT-R and VK2BGL-R.

Additionally, the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society is presently trialling a Yaesu Fusion C4FM repeater on VK2RMP 438.725MHz at Maddens Plains. The 70cm repeater operates with the usual 5MHz negative offset with a 123Hz CTCSS access tone necessary for FM users.

The repeater is operating in Auto Mode, so analogue FM transmissions are retransmitted in FM, while digital C4FM signals are retransmitted in C4FM. Any users of this new digital mode are invited to make use of this UHF repeater on 8725.

So don't forget, for a great evening of entertainment and information, come along to the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's next meeting at 7:30pm on February the 14th at the Coniston Community Hall.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of HADARC will be Tuesday, February 14th. However, given the date, this will now be an informal dinner gathering at Magpies Waitara, with partners welcome, commencing at 6:00pm. The first formal meeting for the year, will be Mount Colah Community Centre at 8:00pm on 28th February.

The club runs three nets each week; Monday nights at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Its on 147.25MHz, No tone is required, but a 91.5Hz tone is sent. The Wednesday evening net is on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm; And Morning Tea with HADARC – is on or near 7104kHz from 9:00 am on Fridays.

The Club operates has a dual mode FM and P25 repeater, located at Chatswood. It is on 438.350 MHz, with a -5.4 MHz offset, meaning users transmit on 432.950 MHz. A 91.5Hz tone is required for FM users, or the default NAC of 293 for digital users.

HADARC's website is at: www.hadarc.org.au. The club has a group on Facebook. which can be found by searching for VK2MA. The Club's twitter feed is @VK2MA. You can also see it on the web, at twitter.com/VK2MA.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS.

[Play Evening ID 4]

Summary of coming events;

January

Australia Day on the 26th (you can use the AX prefix on your own callsign)
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Homebrew group meeting, on the 29th

February

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 1st
Waverley ARS shack night, also on the 1st
Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 4th
Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 10th
Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 14th
HADARC dinner on the 14th
Manly-Warringah lecture night on the 15th
CCARC Wyong Field Day, last Sunday of the month, the 26th
St George ARS Summer Contest concludes on the 28th
HADARC Monthly general Meeting on the 28th

March

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 1st
ARNSW Council nominations close on the 18th
ARNSW Foundation weekend, on the 18th and 19th
John Moyle Field Day Contest also, on the 18th and 19th