

Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

Maurice Findlay, VK2PW passed away on the 21st of January. Maurie had a long involvement with electronics in Australia, working for the popular Radio and Hobbies magazine in the 1940s and 1950s. Later, he established Findlay communications, which specialised in the production of mobile and marine HF equipment.

Maurie's funeral will be held at 2pm on Monday the 30th January, at Grace Funerals, Emu Plains.

Please pause with us, while we remember Maurie.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Maurice Findlay VK2PW.

Advised by Bernie VK2ABN

[Play Evening ID1]

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

The Education section of ARNSW has been receiving a lot of inquiries for Foundation courses. But, due to clashes with other major activities, we have to change the date for the previously advised weekends in both March and May.

For those who have already registered and provided email addresses, we will be getting in touch to let you know of the updated arrangements. Otherwise, please email your enquiry to education@arnsw.org.au.

Today was the first of Trash & Treasure events for 2017, at VK2WI. The next is at the end of March, Sunday the 26th.

Also on the events calendar, the activity day at VK2WI planned for Sunday February the 12th has been deferred. The next activity day at Dural will be on Sunday the 2nd July.

Tomorrow is the cut off for requests for the current production run of ARNSW membership badges. So there is still some time to get your request in by email, to office@arnsw.org.au. The next production will be in about three months.

Several items have been added to the catalogue of clothing and merchandise featuring the ARNSW logo, available online. These products are printed by a commercial supplier, and mailed directly to the purchaser. Details are available on the ARNSW website at: arnsw.org.au.

If you were listening last Sunday, you may have noticed a few drop outs during the bulleting. We had a problem with the electricity supply here at Dural, and an inspection on Monday traced the problem down to a hot joint in one of the supply authority meters. It is now bridged out, pending replacement.

While we considered the possibilities of receiving some 'free' electricity, it looks like we will still receive a bill based on 'estimated usage' – it appears theres no free electricity, after all.

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 are now 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.

Winter 2017 Classic Exchange CW

The Classic Exchange, or CX, is a no-pressure contest celebrating the older commercial and homebrew equipment that was the pride and joy of ham shacks many decades ago. The object is to encourage restoration, operation and enjoyment of this older Classic equipment.

Coming up is the CW CX, running from 1400 UTC 29th January to 0800 UTC 30th January, and from 1400 UTC 31st January to 0800 UTC 1st February.

Suggested Frequencies -- plus/minus QRM - Listen up and down 5 to 10 kilohertz for crystal controlled stations – 1810kHz, 3545kHz, 7045kHz, 14045 khz, 21045kHz, 28045kHz, 50.1MHz and 144.1MHz.

There are new Bonus Scores for using the same model rigs as your Novice station and for using a military receiver or military transmitter.

Awards will be given in two classes: 1. Three or fewer receiver-transmitter pairs 2. Four or more receiver-transmitter pairs.

Send logs, comments, anecdotes, pictures, etc. to J.D. "Mac" Mac Aulay, WQ8U, at wq8u@arrl.net

For more details, visit the website at www.classicexchange.org.

Thanks to Brian VK2GCE

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20th to the 26th of January.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
10cm flux	83	86	87	84	82	85	83
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	9	9	8	2	3	4	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	7	7	3	2	3	10 estimated
T index	12	19	5	0	2	13	9

Solar flare activity was low on the 21st, and very low otherwise.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled from the 20th to the 22nd, quiet from the 23rd to the 25th, then quiet to unsettled on the 26th with a weak impulse of about 20nT observed in magnetometer data, at 0816UT.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted during local day and 20% depressed during local night of the 20th. The 21st was near predicted all day, as was local night on the 22nd, though local day saw depressions of 15%. Conditions deteriorated on the 23rd with 20% depressions during the day and 15% night, and the 24th was 15% depressed throughout. The 25th recovered to near predicted, but the 26th saw depressions of 25% during local day, returning to near predicted monthly values during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 27th of January to the 2nd of February;

Solar flare activity should be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be unsettled to active on the 27th and 28th, active on the 1st to the 2nd, then otherwise at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to range between near predicted monthly values, to moderately depressed.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Nearing the end of January, the values look like;

Minimum 71 Average 78 Maximum 87
With peak dates from the 18th to the 29th.

Now, the prediction for February,

Minimum 75 Average 79 Maximum 85
Peak dates between the 16th and 25th

And looking ahead to the prediction for March;

Minimum 75 Average 76 Maximum 78
With peak dates between the 14th 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>]

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

MAURITANIA, 5T. Jean, ON8RA is active with special call sign 5T0ITU until December 31, and tentatively active during ITU events. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW. QSL to home call.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. A group of operators will be active as 9M4LI from Lalang-Lalang Island, IOTA AS-072, from February 3 to 5. Activity will be on various HF bands and modes. QSL direct to 9W2NDQ.

TONGA, A3. A group of operators are active as A35NN from Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, until January 31. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes being active as A35W in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

AZORES, CU. Antonio, CU8AS will be active as CU9AB from Corvo Island, IOTA EU-089, during the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via HB9CRV.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Special event station DB20ENERGY is active until the end of 2017 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the German company DB Energie. QSL via bureau.

CURACAO, PJ2. Jeff, K8ND is active as PJ2/K8ND. He will be active as PJ2T during the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL PJ2/K8ND direct via K8ND and PJ2T via W3HMK.

SURINAME, PZ. Matt, K0BBC plans to be active as PZ5W from Lelydorp until January 30. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via N0AT.

WESTERN SAHARA, S0. Station S01WS has been active on 160 metres around 0200 to 0300z. QSL via operator's instructions.

CRETE, SV9. Keijo, OG55W and Raili, OH2NOD are active as SV9/OG55W and SV9/OH2NOD, respectively, from Rethymno, IOTA EU-015, until April 10. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

CENTRAL AFRICA, TL. A group of operators will be active as TL8TT from February 1 to 14. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. RTTY will be restricted to 20 metres. QSL via operators' instructions.

KALININGRAD, UA2. Special event stations R1336FO and R680FBO are active until April 20 during the celebration of the 680th anniversary of the town of Chernyakhovsk. QSL via R2FBO.

KAZAKHSTAN, UN. In celebration of the 2017 28th Winter Games taking place in Almaty between January 29 and February 8, amateur radio operators from the Association of Amateur Radio Services of Kazakhstan will be active with the special UP28 prefix. QSL via operators' instructions.

CANADA, VE. Special event station VE100VIMY/VE5 will be active from January 29 to February 4. QSL via N7RO.

INDONESIA, YB. Manu, F5LIT is active as YB9/F5LIT from Bali, IOTA OC-022, until February 7. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 metres using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

ALBANIA, ZA. Pertti, OG2M and Martti, OH2BH are active as ZA/home calls and will be active in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Montana QSO Party, REF CW Contest, BARTG RTTY Sprint, UBA SSB DX Contest and the Winter Field Day are all on this weekend.

The Phone Fray, UKEICC 80-Meter Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are all scheduled for February 1.

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. Please indicate if you are available to help staff the stand.

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. Coming events include the Field Weekend at Yea on March 3rd to 5th, a 4 wheel drive event on March 25th & 26th, Duncan's Run on April 1, and the Sunraysia 600 on April 22. Their website is: vic.wicen.org.au.

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

[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. Setup is from 9 am.. 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

Monthly meetings of the Hunter Radio Group are on the second Friday of each month except December and January.

Meetings are at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm. After general business, a technical lecture is presented, followed by supper. The next meeting is on the 10th of February.

The Group's weekly Monday night broadcasts are at 7:30pm, through the 2 metre repeater VK2RNC on 146.9MHz and 438.025MHz; listen out for VK2AWX.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle. They operate on VHF 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with EchoLink, UHF on 438.025MHz as well as a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz.

Charlie VK2CLH for Rodney VK2CN secretary

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of The St George Amateur Radio Society is this coming Wednesday evening, the 1st of February.

To start off the year, its a “show and tell” – the theme “what I did during summer.” It can be radio related or not. For many of us, amateur radio is only one of our hobbies, so come along and give others an insight into the rest of the world.

As well as the show and tell, there will be the usual free refreshments. All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point (near South Hurstville). The gathering starts at 7.30pm.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".
[<http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted>]

Members are also reminded of the club’s 2 metre contest over summer. It runs until the last day of February – check the club’s webpage for details.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

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.

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;

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
Summerland ARC AGM on the 12th
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
St George Foundation training and assessment weekend on the 4th and 5th
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

April

ARNSW AGM on the 29th