

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

Last Sunday was another well-attended Trash & Treasure and Home Brew event and there were enough sausages to feed everybody this time. The next event is at the end of March; Sunday the 26th.

In the past week, there were two commercial power outages which took down the Dural repeaters and beacons; late Monday afternoon for four and a half hours; and again on Tuesday, in the early afternoon for one hour.

As you may have heard through other news outlets, there is a major field day at Wyong on Sunday the 26th of February. As has been the practice for many years now, VK2WI News does not run a morning bulletin on this day; instead it is on the Saturday evening the 25th, at the usual evening time of 7.30pm. We invite the automated relay station operators to make any required adjustments to take the news. Sunday evening on the 26th will be the normal format.

ARNSW has received some 2017 WIA Call Books. There are a few spare at the moment - available for personal pick up from the Dural site on a Sunday morning with a cash transaction. You can reserve a copy by emailing office@arnsw.org.au or leaving a message and contact details on the office phone 9651 1490. Should you require a copy by mail then do so through the WIA Bookshop.

In the UHF spectrum, a band of frequencies is set aside for CB users. There were plans to terminate the use of 40 channel sets at the end of June 2017 and permit only 80 channel units to operate. In the past week this requirement has been shelved and operation of 40 channel transceivers is allowed to continue, in the existing spectrum, along with the 80 channel units. More details are available at the ACMA web site.

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.

Education Update

The Licence upgrade course at ARNSW commences next month. Classes are on Monday evenings between 7 and 9pm – except the public holidays – and the course runs until November. While it is mainly intended for those who already hold a Foundation licence, beginners can be accommodated as well.

If you know of anyone who would like to begin, or upgrade, please let them know about the course. Enquiries and bookings can be made by email to; education@arnsw.org.au. The starting date is Monday the 6th of March at the VK2WI Dural site. Allow a few days to receive a reply to an email, our education team also have to work for a living. Also on these nights the ARNSW library is open between 4 and 8 pm.

Bookings are heavy for the ARNSW Foundation courses and the next possible one is in May. You can book or inquire by the usual email education@arnsw.org.au.

Other Sydney clubs also have Foundation courses and assessment weekends coming up soon; Next weekend is by Waverley then in March, the St. George amateur radio society. Our news team aims to keep up to date on courses throughout the state – if you are aware of a course, please let us know; news@arnsw.org.au.

For those interested in US licences, Julian VK2YJS advises us that examinations under the ARRL/VEC will be held during the morning at the Central Coast Field Day at Wyong on Sunday, February 26, commencing at 9:00 am.

There are three levels of licence available; Technician, General, and Extra. Candidates need to do all papers up to the level of the licence they desire. A fee will be payable on the day to cover one to three papers for examination, but licences are issued free of charge.

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

Details are on the ARRL exams search page; while Facebook users can enter "USA Hams in Oz" as a single word into the search bar on the site.

JOTA Forum at Field Day

The NSW JOTA/JOTI team would like to invite any groups or persons with an interest in the scout and guide's Jamboree on the air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the internet (JOTI) program, and radio scouting in general, to an open forum about the Programs.

The forum will be held at the CCARC Wyong field Day, on Sunday the 26th of February, in the conference room at 2pm. Bring your ideas, questions, suggestions and comments.

Chairing the discussions will be Karl "Buzz" Humphreys, the NSW JOTA/JOTI Coordinator for Scouts NSW.

*Advised By Karl VK2KFH
For the NSW JOTA/JOTI Team*

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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27th of January to the 2nd of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd
10cm flux	80	79	77	77	76	76	75
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	17	7	5	5	16	19	17 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	12	5	4	5	13	20	12 estimated
T index	13	-11	2	-6	14	-19	3

Solar flare activity was very low on the 27th, low on the 28th, then very low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 27th, quiet from the 28th to the 30th, reaching active level on the 31st. The 1st of February saw unsettled to minor storm conditions, and then the 2nd was quiet to active.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted on the 27th, then were depressed 20% on the 28th and local day of the 29th, though night recovered briefly to near predicted before again being depressed 20% on the 30th. The 31st saw some depression of 25% after local dawn but was otherwise near predicted. The 1st was depressed 25% by day and 20% by night, then the 2nd recovered slightly with depressions of 15% throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 3rd to the 9th of February;

Solar flare activity should be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet to unsettled with some active periods possible on the 3rd.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to 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 January, the final values look like;

Minimum 71 Average 77 Maximum 87
With peak dates from the 20th to the 28th.

Now, the prediction as we start February,

Minimum 74 Average 78 Maximum 85
Peak dates between the 16th and 25th

And looking ahead to the prediction for March;

Minimum 72 Average 78 Maximum 85
With peak dates between the 14th and 20th

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

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Paul, HB9ARY is active as 3B8HC from Pointe aux Sables until February 15. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. QSL via NI5DX.

CYPRUS, 5B. Members of the Paphos Radio Club are active with special event station H2017PFO throughout 2017, for Europe's Capital of Culture in 2017. Activity is on the HF bands using all modes. QSL direct to 5B4AIE.

RWANDA, 9X. Harald, DF2WO is active as 9X2AW from Kigali until March 11. Activity is on all HF bands using CW and various digital modes. QSL via M0OXO.

BAHAMAS, C6. Operators Tim, N4UM, Mike, K4RUM and Bob, N4BP will be active as C6ARU, C6AUM and C6AKQ, respectively, from Abaco Island, IOTA NA-080, from February 7 to 21. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW and some RTTY. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

URUGUAY, CX. Henry, LU4DXU will be active as CX/LU4DXU from Lobos and Goritti Islands, both IOTA SA-039, until February 11. QSL to home call.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Milan, OK1DWC is active as E51DWC from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until sometime in March. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes entries in the upcoming ARRL DX contests and possibly the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB DX contest. QSL to home call.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI. Gianluca, IU4FMR is active as HI7/IU4FMR from Punta Cana until the end of February. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

BULGARIA, LZ. Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are active as LZ235SIR during February for All Saints 2017. QSL via bureau.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, PY0F. Leo, PP1CZ is active as PY0F/PP1CZ until February 8. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SB and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

COSTA RICA, TI. Gerry, W1VE will be active as TI7/W1VE from Playa Negra in the Guanacaste Province, until February 11. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres, and possibly 80 metres, using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL direct to home call.

CENTRAL AFRICA, TL. A group of operators are active as TL8TT until February 14. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via I2YSB.

BELIZE, V3. Bob, K7YB is moving to Belize and will be active as V31YB from San Ignacio. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres. QSL via operator's instructions.

NAMIBIA, V5. Georg, DD8ZX and Klaus, DJ9KM will be active as V5/DJ9KM and V5/DD8ZX, respectively, from Omaruru from February 6 to 18. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 6 metres using SSB, RTTY and PSK. They may be active as V55V in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY WPX contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American CW Sprint, 10-10 International SSB Winter Contest, Mexico RTTY International Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, YLRL YL-OM Contest, Vermont QSO Party, Triathlon DX Contest, Black Sea Cup International, F9AA CW Cup, Minnesota QSO Party, FYBO Winter QRP Sprint, AGCW 80-Meter Straight Key Party, British Columbia QSO Party and FISTS Winter Slow Speed CW Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Meter Club SSB Championship is scheduled for February 6. The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for February 7. The Phone Fray, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are all scheduled for February 8.

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.

WICEN Northern Rivers region will have their next regular bi-monthly meeting on Sunday February the 12th, at the Summerland Amateur Radio Club starting at 10am. The weekly net is 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 Hunter Radio Group.

The first monthly meeting of the group for this year is on this Friday, the 10th of February. Its at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm.

After general business, a technical lecture will be presented, on “SDR & Whisper Q Labs kits”, followed by supper.

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, 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, but 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 with improved coverage being planned, or at least, hoped for!

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. Both of these repeaters cover Wollongong and much of Sydney.

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.

The 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, for a great evening of entertainment, fun 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

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is the Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 17th 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. 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.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. The Advanced Licence classes are again running on Friday nights. The next training course and assessments for the Foundation licence will be run when sufficient candidates have registered.

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 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", along with past issues, can be viewed on the website.

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

Jesmond Electronics Club

The Club conducts study of Electricity, Electronics, and Radio.

Notes are circulated by email attachments.

Contact with the Club can be made by emailing
john81913@gmail.com.

*Advised by John VK2PJM
For the Jesmond Electronics Club*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society would like to announce their Training and Assessment program for 2017.

Training courses for the Foundation Licence and upgrades will be available. The courses are generally held near Sutherland Railway Station, easily assessable by public transport and provide a good opportunity for those from the southern Suburbs of Sydney, Wollongong or even further afield to gain the amateur licence or upgrade.

Consult the club's website www.sgars.org for more details of location and costs.

The proposed dates are:

4th & 5th March

20th & 21st May

19th & 20th August

18th & 19th November

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. Please RSVP.

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

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
Oxley Region ARC Friday Night Gathering on the 17th
ARNSW Homebrew Group net on the 21st
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