

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

No further call books are available from ARNSW, so if you still need a copy, you can check the WIA Bookshop or pick one up at Wyong.

Talking about Wyong - remember that there is no morning broadcast on Sunday the 26th February; instead we will have a bulletin on Saturday evening the 25th, with a 7.30pm start.

The VK2WI site will have some short power interruptions during the day on Friday the 17th while new power meters are installed.

Booking have been heavy for the next ARNSW Foundation course. There may still be vacancies in the following course in May; to get your name on the waiting list, send an email to; education@arnsw.org.au.

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.

As has been previously reported, the ABC shut down both domestic and International Shortwave broadcasts on January 31 this year. However, in an apparent nod to radio amateurs who may have tuned in, the VL8A transmitter in Alice Springs sent one last message... in CW.

The station sent "73 de VL8A QRT," before pulling the big switch.

The ABC shut down the domestic HF service operating from Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Roe Creek (Alice Springs) transmitters at the end of January. However, ABC radio continues to broadcast on the FM and AM bands, via satellite, and via online streaming and mobile applications.

US Licence Exams at Wyong

For those interested in US licences; 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. There is a range of books, websites, audio CDs, and 'phone or tablet applications, with both training material and practice examinations.

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.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS

[Exam details: www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/australia-fg-00000-4]

[Facebook: [facebook.com/usahamsinoz/](https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/)]

[NCVEC: <http://www.ncvec.org/>]

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*

“QRP by the Bay” in Sydney

Following a visit last weekend to Melbourne, which included taking part in "QRP by the Bay", Peter VK2TPM is keen to see a similar event in Sydney in March.

"QRP by the Bay" is the lead article in this month's AR magazine and more information can be found by on the Web.

Peter is currently investigating a number of locations for suitability, which would include ready access by car and public transport. He would like to hear from anyone interested in being involved in such an event.

Peter can be contacted by email to homebrew@arnsw.org.au.

Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

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 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 3rd to the 9th of February.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
10cm flux	75	74	73	73	72	73	73
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	14	8	11	10	5	3	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	9	6	8	8	5	6	5 estimated
T index	11	0	-3	5	-4	2	7

Solar flare activity was very low from the 3rd to the 8th, and low on the 9th.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled from the 3rd to the 6th, Quiet on the 7th, again briefly quiet to unsettled on the 8th, then back to quiet on the 9th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 3rd and during local night on the 4th, though the 4th saw depressions of 20% after local dawn, improving to 15% through the day. The 5th was depressed 15% day and 20% night, the 6th returned briefly to near predicted during the day but was again depressed 15% during local night. The 7th was the opposite – depressed 15% local day, but night returning to near predicted. The 8th was near predicted during day and 20% depressed at night; and the 9th was near predicted all day.

Now, the forecast for the 10th to the 16th of February;

Solar flare activity should be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be active between the 14th and 15th, but quiet to unsettled on other days.

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 for February,

Minimum 74 Average 76 Maximum 82
Peak dates between the 14th and 24th

And looking ahead to the prediction for March;

Minimum 72 Average 76 Maximum 82
With peak dates between the 17th and 23rd

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

LESOTHO, 7P. Pista, HA5AO is active as 7P8EUDXF until February 26 while working at an orphanage. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using mostly CW. QSL via operator's instructions.

KUWAIT, 9K. Special event station 9K56NLD is active until the end of February to celebrate the 56th anniversary of Kuwait's National and Liberation Day. QSL via operators' instructions.

BHUTAN, A5. Zorro, JH1AJT, JayCiem E20NKB and Champ, E21EIC are active as A5A until February 17. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JH1AJT.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. Michael, DF8AN is active as CE0Y/DF8AN until February 17. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Girts, YL2KL will be active as D4C from Sao Vicente Island, IOTA AF-086, from February 13 to 20. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW. This may include 60 metres as well. He will be a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. QSL direct to HB9DUR.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA, HK0. Will, AA4NC is active as 5K0N from San Andres, IOTA NA-033, until March 8. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. He will also be active with LW9EOC as 5J0NA in the upcoming ARRL DX contests. Look for AA4VK to be active as AA4VK/HK0 for a few weeks using SSB. Will may also be active as 5K0N/HK5 while on a trip to Cali. QSL via operators' instructions.

DENMARK, OZ. Torben, OZ9GA will be active using special callsign OV90EDR during the CQ World Wide RTTY WPX contest to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Denmark's IARU Society, the EDR. QSL via operator's instructions.

ARUBA, P4. John, W2GD is active as P40W from Santa Cruz until February 20. Activity is on the HF bands, including the newer bands, using CW and SSB. This includes being a Single Op/All Band entry in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. QSL direct to N2MM.

TURKEY, TA. Special event station TC4LOVE is active until the end of February to mark St. Valentine's Day. QSL via TA3X.

BELIZE, V3. Victor, WB0TEV, is active as V31VP from Blackman Eddy until February 14. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using mostly SSB and RTTY. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide RTTY WPX contest. QSL direct to home call. In addition, Art, NN7A will be active as V31JZ/p from South Water Caye, IOTA NA-180, from February 15 to 21. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using mostly CW. This includes being a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest. QSL direct to home call.

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

MACAO, XX9. A group of operators will be active as XX9D from February 13 to 26. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres, and 160 and 6 metres if local conditions permit, using CW, SSB and RTTY with up to three stations active. QSL via DL4SVA.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, SARL Field Day Contest, Asia-Pacific CW Spring Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, KCJ Topband CW Contest, Dutch PACC Contest, OMISS SSB QSO Party, FISTS Winter Unlimited CW Sprint, AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party and the Balkan HF Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from February 13 to 17.
The CQC Winter CW QSO Party is scheduled for February 13.

The PODXS 070 Club Valentine PSK31 Sprint is scheduled for February 14.

The RSGB 80-Meter Club Data Championship, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, AGCW Semi-Automatic Key CW Evening, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for February 15.

WICEN News

WICEN will have a stand the CCARC Field Day on Sunday February 26th, 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 had their next regular bi-monthly meeting today at the Summerland Amateur Radio Club. The weekly net is on Tuesdays at 8:00pm local time, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz which requires 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 Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

Their next meeting 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, was on today at the Tuffins Lane Sportsfields in Port Macquarie.

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.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

It's only four weeks to go until the second annual Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest, sponsored by the club. The first one last year was a great success so why not join us this year to make it an even bigger success. Last year's winner was from the South Coast and travelled up especially to join in. Remember you can ride the ferries all day for only \$2.50 so it makes a great day out for all the family; and to play a bit of Ham Radio at the same time. The club's station will again be set up close to the Rose Bay wharf so drop in and visit for an eyeball QSO. All details of the competition can be found on the club's website, vk2bv.org.

The next monthly meeting of the club is this coming Wednesday, February 15th. At the meeting Tony, VK2KZ, will be giving a short talk entitled "A Whale of a Time". Also at this meeting will be a planning discussion on our annual excursion to Tooraweenah for the John Moyle weekend, led by John, VK2LWB. As always, tea, coffee and soft drinks are available at meetings.

The next "Shack night", is on Wednesday the 1st of March commencing at 7:30pm. Its a good time to bring along that new rig or to get some help to program it or learn how to use it or test it on the club's antennae.

On most Tuesdays there is a working bee at the clubhouse from around 10am to 4pm. A quick call on the Paddington 2 metre repeater will confirm that it is open.

The next Project Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 4th commencing around 1:30pm usually running through to about 4:30 or 5:00pm. The next space special interest group get together is scheduled for this coming Tuesday, February 14th, from 7:00pm.

The club runs a weekly net every Monday evening, commencing at 8pm on our VK2RBV Fusion repeater in FM mode on 438.1125MHz, minus 5.4MHz offset and 91.5Hz CTCSS tone. A listening watch is still kept on the Paddington 2m repeater as well.

A test was recently done on the repeater with the new 7MHz split but there may be a few technical issues to iron out before we can change. 7MHz is the new WIA recommended repeater offset for all new 70cm repeaters, as it moves the repeater inputs away from the LIPD segment around 433MHz, and our repeater is currently licenced for both splits, 5.4MHz and 7MHz. More news as it comes to hand.

Skip's Morse sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings, initially on 20m, around 14.020MHz, from 2000 to about 2015, then moving to the Paddington 70cm repeater using AFSK.

The club runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends. One is running this weekend. The next scheduled course and upgrade assessments for 2017, run by the club, will be over the weekend of June 17th and 18th. To book and reserve your place, see our website, under Education and Training, for details. Following training weekends will be in September and November. See the events calendar on the website for dates.

Waverley's clubhouse is located in the Scout Hall in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay with parking available in the grounds. Visitors are always welcome at any of the club's activities.

There is full information about the club on its regularly updated website at vk2bv.org. It includes the capability to renew membership, purchase items such as Powerpole kits or book and pay for courses or assessments online. There is also an enquiry form on the webpage.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

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 at Mount Colah Community Centre at 8:00pm on 28th of February. The Centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station. Suitable buses are the 598 to Cowan Road, or the 595, stopping on the Highway. March meetings are also on the 14th and 28th, both at Mt Colah.

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

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 14th

HADARC dinner on the 14th

Waverley ARS Meeting on the 15th

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

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest on the 12th

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

HADARC Monthly Meeting on the 28th

April

ARNSW AGM on the 29th