

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

In case you went looking for our News bulletin this morning and didn't find it... well, as part of the annual Wyong field day – in place of the Sunday Morning news bulleting, there was instead a special bulletin on Saturday Evening. If you missed it, we are trialling an 'on demand' audio service on our website, its at arnsw.org.au/audio – and you can download it there.

The ARNSW Upgrade course commences Monday week, the 6th of March 2017. It runs every Monday night, except for Public holidays, until November. There are still vacancies available, so if you are interested in either upgrading from a Foundation license or starting from the basics - register your interest by an email to education@arnsw.org.au. If you know anyone wishing to undertake a course – let them know to drop us an email, to register their interest.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change the dates for next month's ARNSW Foundation Weekend and license assessment days. The Foundation course will now take place on the 11th and 12th of March, with all assessments on Sunday the 12th.

As we mentioned last week, ARNSW will soon be seeking expressions of interest from duly constituted VK2 clubs and groups, to apply for Development Fund Grants. Application forms and guidelines will be sent to groups who register their interest, by either an email to office@arnsw.org.au or by mail to; ARNSW, P. O. Box 6044, Dural Delivery Centre NSW 2158. The application period is open during the month of March.

Speaking of grants, earlier this month the Armidale and District Amateur Radio Club applied for a grant from one of their local financial organizations. The selection method was by the number of email votes that each group received, and the club was this month's successful group. Congratulations.

CCARC Field Day

This morning saw the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club's Wyong Field Day, held at Wyong racecourse.

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We will have a more detailed report in next week's bulletin.

QRP by the Harbour

Following a recent visit to Melbourne, which included taking part in "QRP by the Bay", Peter VK2TPM is now organising a similar event in Sydney – "QRP by the Harbour".

Its on Sunday the 12th of March, a 3pm. The location is Mcilwaine [Mac-ILL-Wayne] Park at Rhodes, on the edge of the Parramatta River. For those with a good memory, this used to be the site of the Phillips two-way radio factory.

The park is on the side of Concord Road and is serviced by the M41 express bus at 20 minute intervals and is 200 metres from the Rhodes Railway station, so easily accessible by both car and public transport.

Everyone is invited, to bring along their QRP rigs, either homebrewed or commercial and meet up with other like-minded amateurs. Look for "QRP by the Harbour" on Facebook or in your favourite search engine.

Peter VK2EMU

Council Elections

The Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday 29th of 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 17th to the 23rd of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm flux	75	77	78	81	83	83	83
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	16	11	9	8	4	8	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	9	5	6	1	6	8 estimated
T index	29	6	18	19	13	32	21

Solar flare activity was very low from the 17th to the 21st, then low on the 22nd and 23rd.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled, except for some isolated active periods on the 17th, and a slight increase of activity on the 21st reaching Quiet levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out 20% depressed after local dawn on the 17th, before recovering to near predicted values. Depressions during local night of 20% on the 18th and 15% on the 19th were observed, with daytime frequencies remaining near predicted. The 20th was near predicted throughout. The 21st saw depressions of 15% day and 20% night, before the 22nd and 23rd returned to near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 24th of February to the 2nd of March;

Solar flare activity should be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at active levels, except for some quiet to unsettled periods on the 26th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be mildly depressed in line with the increased geomagnetic activity.

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 January were;

Minimum 71 Average 77 Maximum 87
Peak dates from the 20th to the 28th

As we near the end of February, the figures so far are...

Minimum 72 Average 77 Maximum 85
Peak dates between the 21st and the 28th

And the prediction for March;

Minimum 72 Average 77 Maximum 85
With peak dates between the 1st and 4th, and the 22nd to the 26th.

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

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Tom, DL7UZO will be active as EA8/DL7UZO from Fuerteventura, IOTA AF-004, until March 11. He will be active on the HF bands. He also plans to activate various EAFF references and lighthouses.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FO. A group of operators are active as TX5T from Raivavae Island, IOTA OC-114, until March 3. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SVALBARD, JW. Kamil, SQ8KFH is active as JW/SQ8KFH from the Polish Polar Station Hornsund until May 20. Activity is during his free time on 20 metres using SSB, RTTY and PSK.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. John, KK9A will be active as WP2AA from St. Croix, IOTA NA-106, from February 27 to March 6. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. This includes being an entry in the upcoming ARRL SSB DX contest.

DENMARK, OZ. Special event station OZ1AARHUS is active to draw attention to the city of Aarhus which is one of the two European Capitals of Culture in 2017.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PA2017BP is active until March 20 to commemorate Lord Baden-Powell who founded the Scout Movement, also known as the Boy Scouts.

CURACAO, PJ2. Gerhard, OE3GEA is active as PJ2/OE3GEA from Westpunt until March 1. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using only CW.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Noah, K2NG, David, NA2AA and Steve, K3SW will be active as PJ4/homecalls from until March 11. They will be joined by Hans, PJ4LS and Steve, PJ4DX and will be active as PJ4G in the upcoming ARRL SSB DX contest.

DODECANESE, SV5. Stathis, SV5DKL and Panos, SV2DSJ will be active as SX5R from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, in the CQ World Wide 160-Meter SSB Contest.

TURKEY, TA. Look for TC7C to be active in the CQ World Wide 160-Meter SSB contest from grid locator KN90rx.

UKRAINE, UR. Members of the Druzhkivka Club of Radioamateurs are active with special event callsign EN90IWA until the end of 2017 to celebrate the club's 90th anniversary.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Bodo, DK8DX will be active as RA/DK8DX from Novosibirsk until March 12.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Babs, DL7AFS and Lot, DJ7ZG will be active as V21ZG from Antigua, IOTA NA-100, from February 28 to March 26. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using mostly SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK.

MONTSERAT, VP2M. Charlie, K1XX will be active as VP2MMF until March 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. He plans to be active in the upcoming ARRL SSB DX contest.

PITCAIRN ISLAND, VP6. A group of operators are active as VP6EU until March 5. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Elvira, IV3FSG is active as XT2SE from Ouagadougou until March 13. Activity is in her spare time on 80 to 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and PSK31.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Scott, KA9P and Ron, W9XS are active as ZF2SC and ZF2FB, respectively, until February 28. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres, as well as various active satellites.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest, North American RTTY QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, REF SSB Contest, UBA DX CW Contest, South Carolina QSO Party, High Speed Club CW Contest, SARL Digital Contest and the North Carolina QSO Party are all on thisweekend.

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

WICEN News

WICEN was at today's CCARC Field Day; for anybody who picked up a membership form, most clubs have several WICEN members, who are able to complete the proposer and seconder sections.

Today was also the first of a series of Alzheimer's Australia NSW's Memory Walk and Jog events – the first was at Stuart Park North Wollongong. March 12th is the Western Sydney walk at Tench Reserve, Penrith. May 7 is the Sydney walk, commencing at Leichhardt Oval #3, on the waterfront at Lilyfield, while the 13th is the Hunter event at the northern end of Lake Macquarie. These are short events, and are suitable for new members.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region has their next monthly meeting on Saturday 4th March, at SES HQ Central Road, Port Macquarie, starting at 3:30pm.

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 be holding their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 9th at 10am. The venue is the Summerland ARC at 412 Richmond Hill Road, Richmond Hill. 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 weekend of April 1st and 2nd is the Canberra Two Day Walk. The website is crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, 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 1st, and the Sunraysia 600 on April 22nd. Their website is vic.wicen.org.au.

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

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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; 2pm on Saturday the 4th of March.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. Assessments for the Advanced licence will take place on Sunday the 5th of March. The next training course and assessments for the Foundation licence will 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 sub-audible 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, and lookout for the March edition which will be published soon.

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

Hunter Radio Group

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 11th of March.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 1st of March.

This month there will be a presentation by Peter VK2EMU about WSPR [Whisper] and the proposed installation of a multi band WSPR station at the Mt. Bindo repeater site.

WSPR is Weak Signal Propagation Reporter, a very low powered digital transmission and associated receiver system that automatically posts information to the internet, to show real time information about propagation paths. See what the system will do and how it will work. Also see what has been done so far and what still needs to be done – and how you can help.

As well as the presentation, 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.

The Society's "training and assessment" weekend is on the 4th and 5th of March. Location will be Sutherland and so is suitable for people in the southern half of Sydney and Wollongong. For more details, see the website www.sgars.org.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The second annual Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest is just two weeks away!

It takes place on Sydney Harbour on Sunday March 12th from 10am to 4pm local time.

This unique contest hopes to attract hams from all over the nation to make VHF/UHF contacts from any of the system's ferries and 36 wharves.

With all-day travel for just \$2.50 using an Opal Card, this is a great way to spend a Sunday!

Operation is restricted to hand-held radios (any mode) and can include repeater, simplex or "eyeball" (a handshake and an exchange of QSL cards) contacts.

Multipliers are gained by working multiple ferries and/or wharves. A number of awards, including the prestigious "Worked All Ferries Award" are available.

The event is run by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society (VK2BV) and we will be running a club station at Rose Bay Ferry Wharf for the duration of the contest. We hope to eyeball as many contestants as we can during the day. This is a fun contest for the amateur radio community, but also a great way to promote amateur radio to the community at large.

Full contest details and rules can be found at the club website, vk2bv.org.

There is also a "Sydney AR Ferry Contest" Facebook group. Please join the group and join the conversation.

If you have any questions prior to the event, please contact the Contest Manager, Laurie VK2GZ.

Hoping to see you on the Harbour,

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

For those who picked up a membership form, bring it along to the next meeting, which will this Tuesday, February 28th, at the Mount Colah Community Centre at 8:00pm. 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.

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Summary of coming events;

February

CCARC Wyong Field Day was today

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

QRP by the Harbour, also on the 12th

ARNSW Foundation weekend - the new date is the 11th and 12th

ARNSW Council nominations close on the 18th

John Moyle Field Day Contest also, on the 18th and 19th

HADARC Monthly Meeting on the 28th

April

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 5th

Urunga Convention on the weekend of the 15th and 16th

ANZAC day is the 25th

ARNSW AGM on the 29th