

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

Last weekend all candidates for the Foundation course and upgrade examinations here at ARNSW, were successful. The next Foundation course and assessment weekend is in May on the 13th and 14th – which is a change from the date originally planned, shown on the 2017 ARNSW calendar. The Monday evening Upgrade course is well underway and there is still time to join. This course will run until November, except on public holidays. All course inquiries can be made by email to education@arnsw.org.au.

Member name badges have arrived and most will be posted this week, but a few are still on back order. A further order will be placed soon at the end of the month, so get your request in at next weekend's Trash & Treasure, or if you won't be there, contact the ARNSW office this week. Best by email to; office@arnsw.org.au.

The March Trash & Treasure is on next Sunday - the 26th - with the opening round 9 am. The early arrivals can search of bargains on the free table out on the verandah.

Looking ahead to next month - over the Easter weekend is the annual Urunga Convention at the Senior Citizens' Hall in Bowra Street. There are a full range of fox hunts, a dinner on Saturday evening and the famous Urunga Scramble for a half hour on Sunday morning starting at 9 am. The full program and more information is on the Web, search for "Urunga Radio Convention" [<http://users.tpg.com.au/goldy2/>]

Hopefully the weather has not deterred stations going out in this weekend's John Moyle Field Day. For those who may not have known of John Moyle VK2JU - he was the Editor of Radio and Hobbies in the middle of the last century and was the first Amateur Radio delegate to be part of the Australian delegation to a World Administrative Radio Conference, held in Geneva in 1959.

If you are also a WIA member, a reminder that the ballot closes on Monday the 27th – be sure to allow for the slow postal system these days - complete and post your ballot today.

QRP by the Harbour

For the past five years, Melbourne amateurs have enjoyed Peter VK3YE's "QRP by the bay" event. This year it was Sydney's turn to run an equivalent event. Another Peter, VK2TPM, sent us this report;

[Play file: B-TPM-QRP.wav Dur: 01:34].

In: "We're just wrapping up QRP by the harbour"
Out "VK2TPM signing off"

The plan is to run the event annually. To find out more, search for "QRP by the harbour" and stay tuned to the news from VK2WI.

73 from Peter VK2TPM

ARNSW Council Elections

At the close of nominations at 11am on Saturday 18th March, there was a total of nine nominations for the nine positions. As a result, an election this year will not be required. The council will remain the same as last year.

Also there were no motions or special resolutions submitted at that time.

*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 first registered as an incorporated entity 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.

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 15th, the Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

The net starts at 8:00pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147.0MHz and then at about 8:30pm will transfer over to HF. Depending upon conditions, the net may be on either 80m or 40m.

The 80m frequency will be 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency will be 7159kHz – both of which are cheap crystal frequencies. As well as store bought equipment, participants are encouraged to use homebrewed equipment on AM, DSB or SSB.

So for those interested in building their own equipment, experimenting with radios or just looking for a new aspect of amateur radio, then join the net.

The next bi-monthly meeting of the group is on next Sunday the 26th, after the Trash and Treasure. It's at the usual location - here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

This month, Bernie VK2ABN will be giving a presentation on building high power linear amplifiers. We hear and see a lot about build QRP or low powered rigs, but this will be about the challenges of high voltage and high power.

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, 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 10th to the 16th of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
10cm flux	71	70	70	70	70	70	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	14	4	7	2	3	5	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	10	2	4	1	2	4	2 estimated
T index	9	2	11	5	9	6	15

Solar flare activity was very low for the week.

Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, started out quiet to active with some isolated minor storms on the 10th, but settled soon after – with the exception of some unsettled periods on the 12th, activity remained at quiet levels for the rest of the week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region started out near predicted on the 10th, were depressed 15% during local day on the 11th though returned to near predicted on the night of the 11th. Frequencies remained near predicted on the 12th, 13th and local day of the 14th. Local night on the 14th saw depressions of 15%, but then the 15th and 16th again returned to near predicted values.

Now, the forecast for the 17th to the 23rd of March;

Solar flare activity should be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet, with some unsettled conditions possible.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly remain near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Nigel, G3TXF is active as 3B8/G3TXF until March 21. This includes being an entry in the Russian DX contest. Activity is on the HF bands, including the WARC bands, using mostly CW.

UGANDA, 5X. Anton, ON6NL is active as 5X8C from Entebbe. His length of stay is unknown. Activity is on various HF bands.

NEPAL, 9N. Kazik, SP6AXW is active as 9N7XW until March 31. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands. In addition, a group of operators are active as 9N7EI until March 20, with activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

CEUTA AND MELILLA, EA9. Tom, DJ6TF, Sigi, DL7DF, Juergen, DL7UFN and Frank, DL7UFR are active as EA9/home calls from Melilla until March 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 with two stations active simultaneously.

JERSEY, GJ. Kazu, M0CFW is active as MJ0CFW. He will be active as MJ5Z in the Russian DX contest.

BULGARIA, LZ. Special event station LZ139LO is active during March to commemorate Bulgaria's liberation 139 years ago.

SINT MAARTEN, PJ7. Ed, WA1ZAM will be active as PJ7PL until April 3. Activity will be on 30 to 10 metres using SSB and RTTY. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

BANGLADESH, S2. A large group of operators are active as S21ZED and S21ZEE until March 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes being active in the Russian DX contest, and as S21ZEE as a Multi Op entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

TUVALU, T2. Jacek, SP5EAQ and Marek, SP7DQR are active as T2AQ and T2QR, respectively, until April 4. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and CW, respectively. In addition, Tim, NL8F will be active as T2TT from March 23 to April 13. Activity will be on various HF bands using SSB and digital modes. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event station RY83HN is active until April 2 in celebration of the 83rd International Festival of the North from Murmanskaya Oblast.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON and Cathy, W5HAM are active as V47JA and V47HAM, respectively, from Calypso Bay until April 5. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using SSB. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

MICRONESIA, V6. Kaku, JA6REX and Toshiya, JH6HZH will be active as V633KS and V633ZH, respectively, from Chuuk Island, IOTA OC-011, until April 3. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with a focus on the low bands.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Clint, W9AV and Quent, W6RI will be active as VP5/W9AV and VP5/W6RI, respectively, from Providenciales, IOTA NA-002, until March 21. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

MEXICO, XE. A group of operators will be active with special call 6E3MAYA from some Mayan archaeological sites until March 21, while commemorating the Spring Equinox. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, various digital modes, and various satellites.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Fred, K5QBX and Royce, KE5TC will be active as ZF2FL and ZF2TC, respectively, from Grand Cayman, IOTA NA-016, from March 21 to 26. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. BARTG HF RTTY Contest, Russian DX Contest, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest, Louisiana QSO Party, Virginia QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint and the UBA 80-Meter Spring SSB Contest are all on this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest and Bucharest 80 and 40 Meter Contest are scheduled for March 20. The CLARA Chatter Party and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 21. Finally, the Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for March 22.

WICEN News

The next Memory Walk and Jog, run by Alzheimer's Australia NSW, is the Sydney walk on May 7th, commencing at Leichhardt Oval #3, on the waterfront at Lilyfield. Then, May 13th is the Hunter event at the northern end of Lake Macquarie and the 4th of June is at Westport Park, Port Macquarie. These are short events, and are suitable for new members.

Looking further ahead, the True Grit mud running event is on June 10 and 11 in Lower Portland, north-west of Sydney. Then on the 24th and 25th of June is Navshield, a major bush navigation event held somewhere in the "N-S-W" region. Ahead of this event there will be a recce and radio survey on Sunday 23rd of April.

Several training days are being planned. One is expected to be a day at Dural dedicated to a first aid qualification to satisfy the requirements of PUA21312. Please let WICEN know what dates are suitable for you to attend.

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.

*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 Group held both its monthly meeting and AGM, last Friday, the 10th of March. After reports were presented by the office bearers, the election of new Office Bearers was held for 2017/18.

Trustee and President, Len VK2ZFD

Vice President, Greg VK2HT

Secretary/Treasurer, Rodney VK2CN

Repeater/Beacon Officer, Greg VK2HT

ECHOLINK SYSOP, Grahame VK2FA

Broadcast Officers, Len VK2ZFD; Michael VK2CMM; Charlie VK2CLH.

Social Secretary, Ardel Prout

Education Officer, Steve VK2LW.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held on the 7th of April; a week earlier than usual, due to Easter holidays. The location, as usual is the NBN T.V. Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm.

Rodney VK2CN

Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The club is holding their 8th annual car boot sale, on Saturday the 1st of April.

Its at the club grounds in York st, Teralba, starting around 8am.

Anything can be sold - as long as its legal!! - from pot plants, to tools, and even radio gear.

A BBQ, with hot and cold drinks will be available,

There's no cost to set up a stall, but bring your own table,

No entry cost, so don't be an April fool get there early for the bargains, all welcome.

Barrie VK2QG

Vice president, Westlakes ARC

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

Firstly this week; due to the severe weather currently affecting the region and Northern NSW in general - the Club called off the planned outing to Sancrox for the John Moyle Field Day.

The next meeting of the Club is the April monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 1st of April.

Mark your diary for the club's annual Field Day, on the weekend of the 10th and 11th of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. It's at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall, Matthew Flinders Drive, Port Macquarie. All the usual field day attractions including fox hunts, trade displays, disposals and home brew competition, will be there. The Field Day Dinner will as usual be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday night. Remember to book accommodation early, as Port Macquarie is a popular destination for the June long weekend.

The next training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will run when sufficient candidates have registered; contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible, to register your interest.

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. The March 2017 issue of "Oxtales" is larger than usual with reports on recent events, including lots of photographs, plus many other articles of interest. All this and of course past issues can be viewed on the website, too.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 5th of April.

Are crystal sets simple or complex? They were there at the beginning of radio-telephony and they're still alive and kicking strongly today. But there is a strangely hidden story about why they work at all. And it's not in the crystal!

Brian VK2GCE will take you through some of the ins and outs of this long-enduring design. There will be some simple construction ideas as well as some hints on improving performance. The chances are you have most of the components already to hand to make your own. Brian will bring some of the more difficult to find components to help you get started.

Bring along your own crystal set, and tell us about it: what worked for you, and what got in the way. Alternately, bring a photo and a circuit diagram in electronic form so we can see it in Technicolor on the big Cinerama screen - an image or two on a USB stick will be just fine.

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".

[\[http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted\]](http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted)

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club will be on Tuesday the 28th of March, starting at 8pm. Short show-and-tell presentations will replace the business meeting.

Meetings are at the Mount Colah Community Centre, which 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.

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 a dual mode FM - P25 repeater, located at Chatswood, on 438.350 MHz, with an LIPD-dodging -5.4 MHz offset; meaning users transmit on 432.950 MHz. A 91.5 HZ tone or the default NAC of 293 is required for access.

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;

March

John Moyle Field Day Contest was this weekend.
Manly-Warringah special lecture night on the 22nd
ARNSW Trash and Treasure on the 26th
with the ARNSW Homebrew group meeting right after.
HADARC Monthly Meeting is on the 28th
Manly-Warringah HF Show and Tell night on the 29th

April

Waverley ARS Project Day on the 1st
Westlakes ARC Car boot sale, also on the 1st
St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 5th
Waverley ARS Shack night, also on the 5th
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 7th
WICEN Northern Rivers AGM on the 9th
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 14th
Urunga Convention on the weekend of the 15th and 16th
Manly-Warringah lecture on the 19th
ANZAC day is the 25th
ARNSW AGM on the 29th

May

ARNSW Foundation weekend, 13th and 14th
Manly-Warringah lecture on the 17th
St. George Foundation weekend, 20th and 21st
Manly-Warringah theme night – Microphones - ends the month, on the 31st