

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

Next Sunday the 2nd of April, VK2 and other States end Daylight saving time. VK2WI News for both morning and evening maintains the same local time - that is the morning at 10am and the evening at 7.30pm – though of course there may be some changes in HF propagation with the resulting one hour time shift.

If you have problems with HF reception, we now have live audio streaming on the internet, at arnsw.org.au/audio. Alternatively, for a more radio-oriented option, and for an interesting view of the HF spectrum in general - the Manly Warringah SDR website usually has good reception of 160, 80, 40 and 20 metres VK2WI transmissions.

Membership badge orders were taken at today's Trash & Treasure; if you missed out, tomorrow, Monday the 27th is the last date for the current order intake. Any last minute requests can be emailed to office@arnsw.org.au. The next production run will then be in about three months' time.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17th to the 23rd of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm flux	71	70	71	73	71	73	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	1	2	2	18	19	13 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	0	0	0	15	15	7 estimated
T index	10	6	11	13	18	14	18

Solar flare activity was very low for the week. Geomagnetic activity observed for the Australian region, was quiet from the 17th to the 20th, then ranging from quiet to active on the 21st, at mostly unsettled to active levels on the 22nd, before settling a little to quiet to unsettled levels on the 23rd.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were near predicted monthly values from the 17th to the 20th. Then on the 21st, frequencies with depressed 20% after local dawn, returning to near predicted values during local day, and then were enhanced up to 20% on during local night. The 22nd was depressed 20% during local day, though near predicted again during local night, and the 23rd saw some enhancement of up to 20% right after local dawn, but otherwise remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 24th to the 30th of March;

Solar flare activity should be very low. Geomagnetic activity may see active and minor storm conditions on the 24th and 28th, and some activity is also possible on the 29th and 30th. Mostly quiet to unsettled conditions are expected otherwise. Maximum Usable Frequencies may see minor to moderate depressions on the 24th, and from the 28th to 30th, otherwise mostly 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.

Firstly, in the last week of March, the figures are;

Minimum 70 Average 73 Maximum 82
Peak dates from the 1st to the 4th

The prediction for April is...

Minimum 70 Average 71 Maximum 75
With peak dates between the 1st and 5th, and the 20th to the 30th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for May;

Minimum 70 Average 71 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 1st and the 2nd.

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

A number of stations are active for this weekend's CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest;

BARBADOS; Tom, W2SC will be active as 8P5A as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

KUWAIT; Operator 9K2GS will be active as 9K2K as a Single Op/All Band entry.

TAIWAN; A large group of operators will be active as BP0P as a Multi/2 entry.

CUBA; A group of operators will be active as T40A as a Multi Single/Low Power entry.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA; A group of operators will be active as E7DX as a Multi/Single entry.

CEUTA AND MELILLA; Enrique, EA9KB will be active from Ceuta as a Single Op/High Power/Single Band entry on 20 metres.

ITALY; Members of the Marconi Memorial Station in Pontecchio Marconi will be active as IY4FGM.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS; Yuri, N2TTA will be active as NP2P.

NETHERLANDS; Operators Bert, PA1BK, Alfred, PA7AL, Laurens, PD9X and Frank, PF5T will be active as PA10A as a Multi/Single entry.

And in other DX activity for this week;

GRENADA, J3. Franz, OE2SNL is active as J3/OE2SNL until March 30. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres.

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

TUVALU, T2. Tim, NL8F is active as T2TT until April 13. Activity is on the various HF bands using SSB and digital modes. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Milan, OK1DWC is active as E51DWC from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until the end of March. He is active on 160 to 10 metres each day using CW, SSB and RTTY. He plans to be a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

TONGA, A3. Masa, JA0RQV is active as A35JP/p from Niuafu'ou Island, IOTA OC-123, until March 28. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. He plans to also be active for a few days from Niuatoputapu, IOTA OC-191.

MALI, TZ. Laurent, F5IXR is active as TZ5XR until 2019. Activity is on 40, 20, 17, 12 and 10 metres using mostly CW.

NORWAY, LA. Special event station LA1742K is active until the end of 2017 to commemorate the 275th anniversary of the city of Kristiansund.

BELIZE, V3. Victor, WB0TEV is active as V31VP until March 28. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using mostly SSB with some RTTY. This includes being active in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. Outside the contest he will focus on working into Asia using RTTY on the high bands around 2200 to 0200z, and possibly 0930 to 1200z on 40 metres.

CANADA, VE. Members of the Canam Contest Club are active as XO1X from Whitehorse, Yukon during all of 2017 in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9. Jim, ND9M is active as VQ917JC from Diego Garcia Island, IOTA AF-006. His length of stay is unknown. He is generally active from 1200 to 1600z, with a focus on 30, 20 and 17 metres. He may be active on the satellites as well.

ALBANIA, ZA. Lisa, PA2LS, Lennart, PD5LKM and Kees, PE1KL are active as ZA/PA2LS until March 29. Activity is on 160 to 2 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operation has been approved for DXCC credit: Palestine, E44CM, November 2016 operation.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, FOC CW QSO Party and the UBA Spring 6-Meter Contest are all on this weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 29.

WICEN News

It is with much regret that we report that June Ridgley, Treasurer and long-standing member of Central Coast WICEN, and wife of Bob VK2ZAR, passed away peacefully last weekend after a short illness. For many years June, along side her husband Bob, was an active member of WICEN, being a motivational force at Shazada and the one day rides. She will be missed by all at Central Coast WICEN.

Vale June Ridgley.

The BWRS Navshield, a major bush navigation event, is on June 24th and 25th, with WICEN setup the afternoon before. Its typically held within a few hours' drive of Sydney, with the location only disclosed publicly close to the event. The recce and radio survey is planned for Sunday the 23rd of April.

On the weekend of April 29 and 30, WICEN Northern Rivers will be providing communications assistance for the Tenterfield Endurance Riders Club 2017 event. The location is Girard State Forest, west of Drake.

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.

Several training days are being planned, including a one-day first aid course in Sydney, 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.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Their website, which includes the coming year's WICEN events is crarc.ampr.org.

Events include the weekend of April 1st and 2nd is the Canberra Two Day Walk, Sunday May 7 is the Carriage Driving at Witwood, while the 26th to 28th are the BMSC - National Capital Rally.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 2030 on or near 3.6 MHz. The Pajero Challenge is near Avoca is this weekend, Duncan's Run is April 1 in the Tarra Bulga State Forest in Gippsland, and the Sunraysia 600 on April 22 is at Keera Station near Lake Cullulleraine, south-west of Wentworth, NSW; or 1000km west of Wollongong. 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 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 are welcome.

Barrie VK2QG

Vice president, Westlakes ARC

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

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

The club's annual Field Day is 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" as well as past issues, are available on the website.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The next Monthly Meeting will be held on the 7th of April; a week earlier than usual, due to the second Friday of the month being Good Friday.

The location, as usual is the NBN T.V. Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, starting at 8pm.

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.

*Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next Meeting is on this Wednesday, the 29th of March in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

The Club's weekly VHF net on 147.500MHz simplex is on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at;
www.fgarc.net.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost 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. At this meeting, John VK2ZOI will give a presentation on NVIS, or Near Vertical Incident Skywave.

When working HF nets over a long period of time and with the ever-changing solar conditions, we have all experienced the drop-out effects of the “Skip Zone” where regular net participants are sometimes not heard by everybody on the net. Even with local HF nets, day to day changes in propagation can mean some net participants will be heard 5/9+ one day and down in the noise the next.

NVIS propagation is a technique which uses an antenna designed to have a very high take-off angle (vertical or near vertical) to cause the signal returning from the ionosphere to give an omnidirectional footprint, covering ground-wave drop-out areas and into the Skip Zone.

To make NVIS work you need a suitable NVIS antenna and suitable ionospheric conditions - these will be discussed during John’s talk. An interesting and informative talk for sure — be there on Tuesday 28 March.

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.

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;

March

ARNSW Homebrew group meeting was this afternoon
HADARC Monthly Meeting is on the 28th
Manly-Warringah HF Show and Tell night on the 29th
Fisher's Ghost ARC Meeting also 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

St George ARS Meeting at Connells Point on the 3rd
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