

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

A Happy Mothers Day to all our XYL's.

The May ARNSW Foundation course had the training day yesterday. The assessments will be held next Sunday. Bookings are now open for the next course, scheduled for the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of July. Enquiries can be made by email to; education@arnsw.org.au.

The next Trash & Treasure is at the end of this month - on Sunday the 28 th of May.

A reminder that the VK2WI morse transmission on 3699 kHz recently had more text added to its memory so some portions will be new and fresh to those who like using the service. You can report your interest by an email to callbacks@arnsw.org.au.

We have recently been informed that the VK2WI News relay through the Mt. Bindo repeater is currently off line due to a link receiver failure. It is yet known when the broadcast relay will be resumed.

Alternatives for listening to the news bulleting include the morning relay via VKE580, on 5425kHz USB. Both bulletins are available live on line, or downloaded on demand, from our wesite, at arnsw.org.au/audio.

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 16th, 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. 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.

Coming up in a fortnight's time is the next bi-monthly meeting of the group on Sunday the 28th, after the next Trash and Treasure. It's at the usual location – here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

This month there will be a presentation by Mark VK2WTF on 3D printers and how they can be used in amateur radio. While most people think of 3D printing as being useful for making toys and figurines, they can also be useful for making parts for the radio amateur. Among these are coil formers for RF inductors and RF chokes as well as antenna mounting brackets. They can also be used for custom-built boxes for homebrewed projects. The sky is the limit as to what these printers can make. Just as software is changing how radios work, software is also changing how parts are made.

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.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 5th to the 11th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
10cm flux	74	73	72	71	69	69	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	5	7	7	5	6	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	2	4	4	3	3	5 estimated
T index	6	4	13	17	12	13	4

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, saw some unsettled periods on the 5th, 7th and 11th, but was quiet otherwise.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted throughout during local daytimes, however some significant enhancements were observed during local nights. Local night on the 7th saw enhancement of up to 15%, on the 8th up to 35% and on the 9th up to 40%. Local night on the 10th was enhanced by 35% then the 11th saw enhancement of up to 60% over predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 12th to the 18th of May;

Solar flare activity should be very low.

Geomagnetic activity will be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should return to near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Space Weather Summary for April 2017

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was at moderate to high levels early in the month, then dropped back, to very low to low levels.

After four months without any solar flares, solar region 2644 showed significant flare activity. Whilst coronal mass ejections were observed along with some of these flares, the geo-effectiveness of these ejections appears to have been minimal. Due to the local time of this solar activity, no significant associated short wave fadeouts were observed over mainland Australia. No solar proton events were observed in association with the M class flare activity.

Solar region 2644 returned to the solar disk on the 18th of April as solar region 2651, but no significant flare activity followed. However, a long duration C5.5 flare and Earth-directed coronal mass ejection was observed on 18th of April.

A total of 7 M-flares were observed during the month – all occurring between April 1st and 3rd. The largest flare for the month was an M5.8 flare on April the 3rd. No X-flares were observed. However, there were solar coronal holes of significant area and some associated geo-effective high speed solar wind streams.

No Australian region-wide deep ionospheric depressions were observed this month, though moderately depressed ionospheric conditions were observed on 15th April. MUFs were depressed 15-25% on this day, predominately in southern Australian region. Depressions on other days were isolated to either northern or southern Australian regions. In the southern region, the largest depressions were 25%, occurring on the 15th and the 24th.

The strongest geomagnetic disturbance for the month was observed on the 22nd April, with a local A index of 30. This continued into the 23rd, with a local index of 26. This activity appears to be predominately associated with solar coronal hole high-speed wind streams, together with a possible weak solar wind shock from the C5.5 flare and mass ejection, on the 18th April. Active periods were also observed on the 20th of April.

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ARRL DX news

ALGERIA, 7X. Members of the World Djelfa Radio Club will be active with special call sign 7Y9TWD from May 15 to 18 to celebrate World Telecommunication Day. Activity will be on all bands and modes.

MALTA, 9H. Mek, SQ3RX will be active as 9H3SQ from Gozo, IOTA EU-023, from May 15 to 24. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

CHINA, BY. Operators BD4TS, BH4TVU and BU4SCC are active as home calls/5 from Dongfu Island, IOTA AS-137, until May 15. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Harald, DF2WO is active as D44TWO from Praia, Santiago Island, IOTA AF-005, until June 2. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres.

PHILIPPINES, DU. SP5APW is active as DU9/SP5APW Siargao Island, IOTA OC-235, until May 16. Activity is on the HF bands.

PALESTINE, E4. Janusz, SP9FIH plans to be active as E44WE from May 16 to 30. Activity will be on 17, 10 and 6 metres.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Tim, LW9EOC is active as HC8/LW9EOC until May 29. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with a focus on 30, 17 and 12 metres.

HONDURAS, HR. John, AD8J will be active as AD8J/HR9 from Dunbar Rock Island, IOTA NA-057, from May 13 to 27. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands with an effort on 160 and 80 metres using mostly CW with some SSB.

JAPAN, JA. Special event station 8J1ITU is active until May 31 to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the ITU and Information Society Day. This activity counts for Honshu Island, IOTA AS-007, as well as Kasumigaura City.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ will be active as JG8NQJ/JD1 from May 15 to July 15. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW and RTTY.

MONGOLIA, JT. Roman, RN5M is active as JT5MA from Zuunburen until the end of May. Activity has been on 20 metres using SSB between 1600 and 1730z.

WESTERN SAHARA, S0. Operators 7X2RO, 7X2UV, 7X5FG, 7X2DF and 7X2OR are active as S07X from Bir Lehlou until May 15. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and various digital modes.

BANGLADESH, S2. Jun, OE1ZKC will be active as S21ZBD from Dhaka until May 17 while on work assignment. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres in his spare time.

POLAND, SP. Special event station HF79TG is active until May 23 to celebrate the pilot Tadeusz Gora and his historic gliding flight with the Shark in 1938.

PALAU, T8. Operators Akira, JH0CKF, Kay, JJ0RIK and Kunio, JA8VE are active as T88MZ, T8KA and T8VE, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until May 19. Activity is on the HF bands.

GABON, TR. Roland, F8EN will be active as TR8CR from May 18 to June 3. Activity will be on 30 and 20 metres using only CW.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. Krish, VU2VKU and Pai, VU2PAI will be active as VU7KP from Bangaram Island, IOTA AS-011, from May 15 to 19. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

CHATHAM ISLANDS, ZL7. Chris, ZL2DX and Catherine, ZL2QT are active as ZL7DX and ZL7QT, respectively, for the next three years.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Jakarta 40-Meter SSB DX Contest, Portuguese Navy Day Contest, VOLTA World Wide RTTY Contest, CQ-M International DX Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, HPC World Wide DX Contest, MARAC County Hunters Contest, Arkansas QSO Party, FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint, 50MHz Spring Sprint and the WAB 7 MHz Phone will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for May 15.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 17.

WICEN News

The Hunter Memory Walk and Jog, run by Alzheimer's Australia NSW, is on next Sunday the 21st of May at Tulkaba Park in Teralba, then the Port Macquarie event is at Westport Park, on the 4th of June. These are short events, suitable for new members.

June 10th and 11th is True Grit, promoted as a "military inspired obstacle challenge", in Lower Portland, north-west of Sydney. As one of the competition classes in this event continues overnight, additional operators are needed, in order to work in shifts.

BSAR, Bush Search and Rescue New South Wales, organises Navshield, a major bush navigation event, is on June 24th and 25th, with WICEN setup the afternoon before.

The weekend of 21st to 23rd July will be a recce for the VH-MDX search, which will be held on 15th to 17th September.

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 to see meeting Agendas and events throughout the year. Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group. On Twitter, look for @wicennsw.

WICEN Northern Rivers has a weekly net 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. Coming events include the BMSC National Capital Rally, May 26th to 28th, and the SCSCC Bega Rally on the weekend of June 10th and 11th, and the BMSC Rallye des Femmes on June 17th.

At the CRARC club meeting on Wednesday 24th May, there will be WICEN Training and preparation for the NatCap Rally. Doors open at 7:30 pm at the Mount Mugga Scout Hall, 17 Astrolabe Street, Red Hill. Their website is: crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. The Mallee Rally is on the weekend of the 10th and 11th June, at the spectacular Lake Tyrell, near Sealake. Sunday, August 6 is the Rainbow Desert Rally. 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 Friday night gathering at 7pm on Friday the 19th of May.

It is now only 4 weeks to 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. Don't forget to book accommodation early; as Port Macquarie is a popular destination during 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 May 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well.

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

At the AGM last month, the following people were elected to the new committee: President John VK2LJ, vice President Al, VK2OK, Secretary Rob VK2XRH, Treasurer Raffy VK2RF, Committee John VK2LWB, Rob VK2YV, Doug VK2DCR, Eric VK2VE, Tony VK2KZ and Alex VK2PSF. We also presented certificates and prizes to the winner of the ferry contest Patrick VK2FPAT and his dad, Cameron VK2CKP.

The next monthly meeting of the club is this Wednesday, May 17th. The next "Shack night", is on Wednesday, June 7th. It starts at 7:30pm and is a good time to bring along a new rig, get some programming it, or learn how to use it and test it on the club's antennae. Some improvements have been done in the shack and we now have some new tools available at the bench.

On most Tuesdays there is a working bee at the clubhouse from around 10am to 4pm. A quick call on one of the club repeaters will confirm that it is open. The next Project Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd, 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 Tuesday, May 23rd, 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 repeaters as well.

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. The next scheduled course and upgrade assessments 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 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

St George Amateur Radio Society

Do you know someone who would like to obtain an amateur radio licence or upgrade their existing licence?

The St George Amateur Radio Society has a team of educators dedicated to assisting new comers to amateur radio in obtain their licence, and for existing licensees to upgrade to a higher licence category.

The next training and assessment weekend on the first weekend in June – that's Saturday the 3rd and Sunday the 4th. The classes and assessment will be in Sutherland, a short walk from the railway station.

For more information, or to reserve a place, send an email to education@sgars.org.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Annual General Meeting. Its on Tuesday 23rd of May at the Mount Colah Community Centre, starting at 8:00pm. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, very close 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.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS.

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Summary of coming events;

May

Manly-Warringah lecture on the 17th

Waverley ARS Meeting also on the 17th

HADARC AGM on the 23rd

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 28th

Manly-Warringah theme night – Microphones - ends the month, on the 31st

June

Blue Mountains ARC meeting on the 2nd

St George ARS Foundation and assessment weekend on the 3rd and 4th

Port Macquarie Field Day, on the weekend of the 10th and 11th

Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, also on the 10th and 11th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend is the 17th and 18th

Manly-Warringah lecture night - Foxhunting – on the 21st

BWRS Navshield 2017, a WICEN event, on the weekend of the 24th and 25th

July

St George ARS meeting on the 5th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 14th

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend on the 23rd and 24th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 30th