

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

The ARNSW Website and email service was offline for a short period of time on Friday, but all is back up and running now, with a new service provider. Our apologies to anybody who could not reach us online during that time.

The next ARNSW Trash & Treasure event is coming up next Sunday, with the treasure room opening at 9am. The early arrivals can search the free table on the veranda for a range of goodies.

The day is also when you can pay ARNSW membership or renewals, advise changes of membership details or order a membership badge.

The BBQ will be available during the morning for lunch or a late breakfast and at midday the Home Brew and Experimenters Group meets. More details later in this bulletin.

Today was the ARNSW Foundation course and upgrade assessments. The next ARNSW Foundation course weekend is in July, on the 22nd and 23rd. Bookings can be made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

Next month there are a few Foundation courses around the Sydney Area. The St. George ARS has one on the weekend of the 3rd and 4th.

[[http://sgars.org/index.php/training-assessment/cat.listevents/2017/05/16/-](http://sgars.org/index.php/training-assessment/cat.listevents/2017/05/16/)]

Blue Mountains ARC on the 10th and 11th [<http://www.bmarc.org/education>]
and Waverley ARS on the 17 th and 18 th

[<http://vk2bv.org/home/education-and-training/>]

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

Coming up Next Sunday is the next bi-monthly meeting of the group. The meeting starts at noon, after the Trash and Treasure, 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	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th
10cm flux	69	70	71	71	72	71	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	5	11	17	10	9	13 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	2	7	8	7	6	4 estimated
T index	1	2	0	6	15	11	14

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 12th and 13th, quiet to unsettled on the 14th, quiet to active on the 15th, then quiet to unsettled on the 16th and 17th and on the 18th, with some isolated active periods as well.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 12th and 13th. The 14th and 15th saw depressions of up to 15% during local day, though these recovered to to near predicted at night. The 16th and 17th improved conditions - while near predicted in the day, enhancements of 25% were observed during local night. Then the 18th remained near predicted during the day but less enhancement – up to 15% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 19th to the 25th of May;

Solar flare activity should be very low.

Geomagnetic activity will be at minor storm levels between the 19th and 21st with some major storm periods possible on the 20th. Quiet to unsettled levels after that, with some possibility of active periods on the 22nd.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 19th and 22nd, with moderate depressions expected on the 20th and 21st. After that, they should return to 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, for April, the figures were;

Minimum 71 Average 81 Maximum 112
With peak dates between the 1st and 6th, and the 20th to the 27th.

Now the prediction for the rest of May;

Minimum 69 Average 73 Maximum 77
With peak dates between the 1st and 4th, and the 26th to the 29th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 70 Average 74 Maximum 76
With peak dates between the 19th and 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>]

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

KENYA, 5Z. Thomas, OZ1AA is active on HF bands as 5Z4/OZ1AA until June 15.

ERITREA, E3. Zorro, JH1AJT, Franz, DJ9ZB, Champ, E21EIC and Dima, RA9USU are active as E31A until May 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

PALESTINE, E4. Janusz, SP9FIH is active as E44WE until May 30. Activity is on 17, 10 and 6 metres using mostly SSB but also PSK63 or JT65.

CEUTA AND MELILLA, EA9. Members of the Tortugas CW Team will be active as ED9T from Melilla during the His Majesty King of Spain CW contest.

FAROE ISLANDS, OY. Operators DF3MC and DL8JJ are active as OY/DF3MC and OY/DL8JJ, respectively, from IOTA EU-018, until May 25. They may also be active with /P after their calls while activating summits from various areas on the island. Activity is on 40 to 15 metres using CW and SSB.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Tony, PD1TV and Henry, PA4HM will be active as PH00GEVEEN until June 6, during the annual Wings and Wheels event.

SWEDEN, SM. Members of the Gotlands Radioklubb are active with special callsigns 7S1GRK and SK70BL from Gotland Island, IOTA EU-020, until December 31 to celebrate the club's 70th anniversary. Activity is on various HF bands.

GREECE, SV. Laci, HA0HW will be active as SW8WW from Thassos Island, IOTA EU-174, from May 24 to June 11. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using mainly CW with some SSB, RTTY and PSK. He may be active as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

TUVALU, T2. John, KK7L will be active as T2R from Funafuti, IOTA OC-015, from May 23 to 29. Activity is on the HF bands, including an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

PALAU, T8. Munehiro, JR6DRH is active as T88RH from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until May 23. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

CAMEROON, TJ. Dan, AA9WO is now active as TJ3PD from Yaounde. Activity is when his time, the weather, and available electricity permit, on 40, 20, and 10 metres using SSB. He plans to eventually be active on 80 to 10 metres.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO, TN. Ken, LA7GIA will be active as TN5E from Brazzaville from May 25 to June 4. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres, and possibly 6 metres, using CW and SSB.

GABON, TR. Roland, F8EN is active as TR8CR until June 3. Activity is on 30 and 20 metres using CW.

MONTSERAT, VP2M. George, K2DM will be active as VP2MDG from May 25 to 29. This includes begin active as a Single Op/All Band entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. Tom, KC0W will be active as Z25DX from May 23 to June 18. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Slobozhansky Sprint Contest, UN DX Contest, NZART Sangster Shield 80-Meter CW Contest, EU PSK DX Contest, Aegean RTTY Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, Baltic 80-Meter Contest and the UA2 QSO Party are all on this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is scheduled for May 22.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are all scheduled for May 24.

WICEN News

This morning was the Hunter Memory Walk and Jog, run by Alzheimer's Australia NSW, at Tulkaba Park in Teralba. The next event is in Port Macquarie 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. Today sees the WICEN recce for this event.

The weekend of 21st to 23rd July will be a recce for the VH-MDX Search and Rescue Exercise, 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.

The next WICEN Mid North Coast Region monthly meeting is on Saturday the 3rd of June, at SES HQ Central Road, Port Macquarie, starting at 3:30pm.

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 this Wednesday night, 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, which is an off-road buggy event. 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club is the June monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd of June.

At the last Friday night get together, the repeater committee presented a demonstration of C4FM digital voice and analogue FM using a Yaesu DR-1X repeater operating into a dummy load at the meeting. Hand held radios were used to demonstrate how the Automatic Mode Selection (AMS) feature enabled the repeater to automatically switch between digital and analog FM modes.

It is now only 3 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 get your projects ready for the home brew competition – and the full Field Day programme is available on the club's website. Remember 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 site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

Last month's lecture was an informative one given by Phil VK2FGBR on his career from his cadetship in the Royal Navy in various Vessels to his service in Submarines as a CW radio operator then immigrating to Australia.

He then displayed & demonstrated several of his large collection of his keys along with a copy of the original Marconi key he has constructed from the original plans.

The June monthly meeting will be on Friday the 2nd of June – a week earlier than usual as the second Friday, is the Queen's Birthday weekend. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

The Lecture for the evening, will be a report on the WIA AGM at Hahndorf.

After the meeting, tea, coffee and ragchew.

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. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

Rodney VK2CN secretary

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society meets on the second Tuesday of every month, with the next meeting on the 13th of June. The general meeting starts at 7.30pm, right after the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall 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 will have a presentation by Club Secretary, Keith VK2KQB, on transformers and power supplies. Keith is professionally involved in the design and building of power supplies, both linear and switch mode. He will explain the re-use of old transformers, volts per turn ratios, wire sizing and rewinding. Also, the repurposing of switch mode power supplies to suit usage in your shack. Keith's decades of knowledge on the subject should prove both interesting and valuable.

After Keith's presentation, everyone is invited to join-in with the usual ragchew over a hot cuppa' and chocolate biscuits.

At the May meeting the raffle prize of a fantastic soldering/desoldering station was drawn, with John VK2AAL being the lucky winner, although he was not aware of his luck until he exited the hall toilets. The congratulatory applause he received when he walked out was rather confusing to him at and led to great amusement with all.

The Club's VK2RUW Knights Hill repeater on 146.675MHz has returned to service after an extensive refit. Coverage appears to have improved greatly in all directions, with access from Narooma in the south, Goulburn to the south-west, Lithgow to the north-west and much of Sydney to the north. The entire installation took considerable time and co-ordination as it had to be done to the strict professional requirements of the tower's owner.

With the return to service of the VK2RUW repeater, ARNSW News Bulletins are now relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres, and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres on 53.65MHz and 2 metres on 146.85MHz. These three repeaters provide Broadcast coverage over much of Sydney, Wollongong, the Southern Highlands and the Shoalhaven areas.

The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society is also presently trialling a Yaesu Fusion C4FM repeater on 438.725MHz at VK2RMP Maddens Plains. This 70 centimetre 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 and digital C4FM signals retransmitted in C4FM. Any users of this new digital mode are invited to make use of this UHF repeater on 438.725.

Additionally, if you're interested in having a bit of a chinwag on Saturday mornings, Steve VK2BGL runs a very popular net on the VK2RMP and VK2RUW 2m repeaters, starting at 9.30am local. As these repeaters are also connected to Echolink, the Net receives 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 either 2m repeater or on Echolink via VK2BGL-R or VK2MT-R.

To conclude, for a great evening of entertainment, fun and information, come along to the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's next meeting - 7:30pm on June the 13th, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Annual General Meeting of the club is this 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

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

Hunter Radio Group meeting – early this month, on the 2nd

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

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 13th

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