

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

Today was the Trash & Treasure at the ARNSW Dural site; the next event is at the end of July on Sunday the 30th.

Due to an outage of our webserver last week, we were not able to post up a list of items available for sale. Now that all is back up and running, any new items will be shown on the website, starting next week.

Last Sunday, ARNSW had an assessment day for the Foundation course and licence upgrades – all those undertaking the exams were successful. The next ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend is in July on Saturday the 22nd and Sunday the 23rd. Bookings can be made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au. Places are limited on the weekend, so register your interest as soon as possible.

June sees three Foundation weekends in the Sydney region; next weekend is a course run by the St. George Amateur Radio Society at Sutherland. The Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club has one on the long weekend - the 10th and 11th, and the Waverley Amateur Radio Society's course, at their Rose Bay club house, in on the 17th and 18th of June.

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Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19th to the 25th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm flux	72	72	74	74	76	78	76
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	13	23	10	9	8	4	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	11	17	7	8	5	1	0 estimated
T index	10	26	18	8	10	8	3

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to active on the 19th and reached minor storm levels on the 20th. The 21st saw mostly quiet to unsettled conditions with isolated active periods, the 22nd was quiet to unsettled, then quiet conditions returned from the 23rd to the 25th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted monthly values on the 19th and during local day on the 20th, then became enhanced by 35% during local night on the 20th. The 21st saw daytime remain near predicted but again, enhancements during night of up to 15%. Frequencies then returned to near predicted, from the 22nd through to the 25th.

Now, the forecast for the 26th of May to the 1st of June;

Solar flare activity should be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity will reach active levels on the 26th and 27th, but will be Quiet to unsettled after that.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be briefly depressed after local dawn on the 26th and 27th but should be near predicted monthly values on other days.

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 nearly at the end of May, the figures are looking like;

Minimum 69 Average 73 Maximum 78
With peak dates between the 1st and 4th, and the 25th to the 29th.

Then, looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 70 Average 73 Maximum 76
With peak dates between the 1st and 2nd, and the 20th to the 24th.

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

KUWAIT, 9K. Abdallah, 9K2GS will be active as 9K2K in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest as an All Band entry.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Jack, R2AA will be active as EG8AA from AF-004 in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

FRANCE, F. Special event station TM500LH is active until May 31 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Le Havre.

ENGLAND, G. Paul, M0XDX and Mark, M0NCG are active as GB1HMB until June 2 to provide points for the Beaches on the Air award program. Activity is mainly on 40 and 20 metres, and possibly 10 and 6 metres if conditions permit.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Pasi, OH3WS will be active as OJ0W until June 3. Activity will be in his spare time mostly on 30 and 60 metres using CW.

NETHERLANDS, PA. A group of operators are active with special event callsign PA150LIM until June 10, to mark the 150th anniversary of the province of Limburg. Activity is on the HF and V/UHF bands. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

GREECE, SV. Members of the Radio Amateur Union of North Aegean are active as J48GEO from the Geo Park on Lesbos, IOTA EU-049, until June 23. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. During the Geopark weekend they will be located at the Natural History Museum of the Lesbos Petrified Forest.

PALAU, T8. Naoki, JS3LSQ is active as T88WJ until May 29. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using mostly RTTY.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO, TN. Ken, LA7GIA is active as TN5E from Brazzaville until June 4. Activity is on 80 to 10, and possibly 6 metres.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0. Vlad, UA0FAM will be active as UA0FAM/p from Kunashir Island, IOTA AS-025, for one week beginning on May 29. Activity will be on the HF bands.

CANADA, VE. Bob, VE1RSM is active with special call sign XM1150CAN and will be active in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest on all bands.

MONTserrat, VP2M. George, K2DM is active as VP2MDG until May 29. This includes being active as a Single Op/All Band entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2V. Kevin, K6TOP will be active as VP2V/K6TOP until June 5. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Art, KZ5D is active as VP5/KZ5D until May 31. He will be active as VQ5D in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

MEXICO, XE. A group of operators will be active as XF2L from Isla de Lobos, IOTA NA-221, in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

ZIMBABWE, Z2. Tom, KC0W is active as Z25DX until June 18. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW.

ALBANIA, ZA. Henning, OZ1BII is active as ZA/OU2I from Golem until May 29. Activity is on the HF bands with a focus on 30, 17 and 12 metres. This includes being a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry in the CQ World Wide WPX CW contest.

ST. HELENA, ZD7. Peter, ZD7FT has been active on 17 and 15 metres at various times.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, SARL Digital Contest and QRP ARCI Hootowl CW Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for May 31..

WICEN News

The final Memory Walk and jog, run Alzheimer's Australia NSW, is in Port Macquarie at Westport Park on the 4th of June.

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

Bush Search and Rescue New South Wales, BSAR, 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 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.

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 SCSCC Bega Rally on the weekend of June 10th and 11th, and the BMSC Rallye des Femmes on June 17th.

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.*

[Play Evening ID3]

Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting of the club is the June monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd of June.

It is now only 2 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

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

At the meeting, Rodney VK2CN will give a report on the recent WIA AGM at Hahndorf.

After the meeting, tea, coffee and ragchew.

The Group's weekly Monday night broadcasts are at 7:30pm local time, through VK2RNC on 146.9MHz and 438.025MHz; listen out for VK2AWX. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mount Sugarloaf, west of Newcastle; On 2 metres, 146.900 MHz, 146.975 MHz and 70cm on 438.025MHz. There is also a 6 metre beacon on 50.288 MHz.

*Charlie VK2CLH
Broadcast Officer.*

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*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next General Meeting of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club is this Wednesday, 31st of May. Its 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 7th of June.

There will be a presentation by Roland Riede VK2YAD on RF Modelling - An Introduction to RF modelling of the Environment, using various programs and also data provided from the International space station, Topographical Radar Mission and LandSat. All programs and data are freely available to Amateur Radio Operators.

As well as the presentation, there will be the usual 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>]

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Annual General Meeting of the club was held last Tuesday, and the previous committee was re-elected for another year.

The next meeting of the club is the informal mid-monthly on Tuesday the 13th June, at the Mount Colah Community Centre from 8:00pm. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, close to Mount Colah Railway Station.

As this coming Tuesday is the fifth in the month, there will be two Tuesdays without a meeting.

The September mid-monthly, on the 12th, will be a dinner at the usual dinner venue in Waitara.

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
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

[Play Evening ID 4]

Summary of coming events;

May

Fisher's Ghost ARC Meeting at Campbelltown on the 31st
Manly-Warringah theme night – on Microphones - is 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
St George ARS meeting on the 7th – with a presentation on RF Modelling
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
The Winter VHF/UHF field day is on the 24th and 25th
BWRS Navshield, a WICEN event, also 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