

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

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, so register your interest as soon as possible.

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, there is a group of ARRL recognised Volunteer Examiners in Sydney. They are planning to hold an exam session in July, tentatively around the Bankstown area in Sydney.

There are a range of online, printed, and audio learning resources available.

Note that candidates need to study all grades up to the one which they wish to obtain, but the examinations for as many papers as necessary can be sat for the one flat fee.

For more information, contact Julian VK2YJS, or look up the Facebook group "USA Amateur Radio Licence Exams in Australia"
[<https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/>]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 9th to the 15th of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
10cm flux	74	75	74	75	75	74	77
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	5	14	6	6	6	12 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	0	7	5	5	2	1 estimated
T index	4	13	9	12	15	3	4

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet to unsettled on the 11th, but otherwise quiet all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted monthly values on the 9th. The 10th was near predicted during local day and enhanced 25% during local night, the 11th was again near predicted during local day, then enhanced 15% during local night, the 12th was enhanced 35% during local night, and 13th enhanced 20% during local night. Then the 14th and 15th returned to near predicted values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 16th to the 22nd of June;

Solar flare activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at Quiet to Active levels on the 16th and 17th with some Minor Storm periods possible on 16th. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies might be mildly depressed on the 16th and 17th, 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, the figures for May were;

Minimum 69 Average 74 Maximum 82
With peak dates between the 1st and 4th, and the 25th to the 30th.

Now for June, the figures so far;

Minimum 70 Average 76 Maximum 80
With peak dates between the 3rd and the 6th, and the 16th to the 24th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for July;

Minimum 70 Average 74 Maximum 78
With peak dates between the 9th and 12th, and the 25th to the 30th.

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>]

Space Weather Summary for May 2017

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was predominately at Very Low levels all month, only three days did activity reach Low levels. No significant solar flares were observed, however, a partial halo CME was observed on 23rd May, associated with a disappearing solar filament. This CME arrived at Earth late on the 27th May. It was first observed by the DSCOVR spacecraft on the 27th, at 1450UT.

Initially the density of the solar wind jumped from about 5 to 23 particles per cubic centimetre and later peaked at 70 particles per cubic centimetre at 2027UT. The solar wind speed stepped up from ~300 to 365 km/s, and later peaked at 385 km/s at 1827UT. The Interplanetary Magnetic Field B total, initially jumped from ~3 to 10 Nanoteslas (nT) and later peaked at 21nT at 2049UT. The Bz component initially dipped to -7 nT and then proceeded to -20 at minimum.

Throughout the month there were minor depressions in ionospheric activity, mainly in the northern Australian region, most likely due to the low EUV levels from the Sun associated with the low sunspot number.

Due to a Geomagnetic storm on the 28th of May, there were some enhanced MUFs, particularly in the Northern Australian region. However, at the same time, ionograms from stations such as Antarctica and Hobart between 08-21UT on the 28th, showed no foF2 layer.

That geomagnetic storm on the 28th was the strongest disturbance for the month, reaching a local A index of 21. This activity was associated with a CME which was observed on the 23rd. Geomagnetic activity hit severe storm levels (kp=7) between 03-06UT and was at Storm levels of activity for the first half of the UT day, due to the prolonged negative IMF Bz component (dipping to -20 nT), which led to strong reconnection with the Earth's magnetic field.

A Geomagnetic disturbance resulting in Australian A index of 17, was also observed on the 20th. This increase in activity was due to a recurrent coronal hole.

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

BELIZE, V3. Look for David, KG5CCI to be active as V31CI from Ambergris Caye (NA-073), from June 21 to 27, including Field Day. Listen for him on Satellites, 6 metres (digital and SSB) and possibly on the HF bands.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. John, G4SKA will be active as GD4SKA on the HF bands using RTTY and JT65 from June 29 to July 9.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Tim, VE6SH will be active from July 23 to August 7 as V29SH. Listen for his vacation style operation mostly on 30 and 17 metres.

SINT MAARTEN, PJ7. K9UK, KK9N, W9AEB, W9KXQ and W9DR will be active as PJ7/home calls, until June 28. Listen for them on 80 through 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. They will also be on 6 metres as PJ7/W9DR.

ALBANIA, ZA. Roumen, LZ4IR is active as ZA1IR. Look for him on 40 and 20 metres using PSK-31, JT65, RTTY, SSB and CW.

GREECE, SV. Dave, SV8/GM0LVI/p will be operating holiday style until July 6, then from August 31 to September 19. He will be QRP.

PALAU, T8. Ops T88FM (JM1LIG), T88HY (JL1HYH), T88MK (JO3LVG), T88NC (JI6NCY), T88RR (JA6UBY) and T88VV (JH6DUL) will be active until June 23. Look for them on HF and 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

POLAND, SN. SN0RX will be active in the IOTA Contest July 29 and 30, with DJ0IF operating from EU-132, Wollin Island.

AZERBAIJAN, 4J. Alex, 4J3DJ is active as 4JF1EU until June 25. This is a special call sign being used to celebrate the running of Formula 1 Grand Prix in Baku, June 23 to 25. .

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Operators Janusz, SP9FIH, Bogdan, SP2FUD and Zenon, SP2GCJ will be active as HB0/home calls until June 24. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

EASTERN KIRIBATI[kir-uh-BAS], T32. Ken, KH6QJ will be active as T32AZ from June 28 to July 4. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB. He will also be in the RAC Canada Day Contest on July 1.

CORSICA, TK. Operators Alex, IZ5CMI and Alex, IW5ELA will be active as TK/IZ5CMI from June 18 to 24. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

CRETE, SV9. Mike, SV9/YO9GVW will operate from his hotel until June 23. This is IOTA EU-015.

FRANZ JOSEF LAND, RI1. Eugene, UA4RX will be active as RI1FJ from Heiss Island (EU-019) starting sometime in July until August 2017. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The All Asian DX Contest, CW, SMIRK Contest, Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest, ARR BPSK63 Contest, AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, IARU Region 1 50 MHz Contest, Stew Perry Topband Challenge, West Virginia QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint, WAB 50 MHz Phone, Kid's Day Contest are all on throughout this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is June 19.

WICEN News

Next weekend, June 24th and 25th, Bush Search and Rescue New South Wales, BSAR, is organising Navshield, a major bush navigation event. WICEN setup on Friday afternoon before the 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 tentative date for the WICEN AGM is Saturday the 26th of August.

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.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Coming events include the BMSC Narooma Rally, tentatively planned for July 22.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. The Mallee Rally is on this at the spectacular Lake Tyrell, near Sealake. Sunday the 6th of August 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, and as we reported last week, the club's annual Field Day was on during the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Despite the wet weather, there were 93 registrations with total attendance of at least 105 people over the two days. Everyone enjoyed the weekend under cover in the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club Hall with lots of interesting demonstrations of digital communications, well stocked disposal tables and trade displays with bargains for everyone, and plenty of delicious food. On Saturday night 63 people enjoyed the Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club.

The rain held off for most of the foxhunts. Gerard VK2IO was Foxhunt Champion with Chris VK2YMW the runner-up. Lyle VK2SMI took out the trophy for the best presented Home Brew display, with his portable APRS digipeater. He also had the best presented Amateur Vehicle.

The next meeting of the Club is the July monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 1st of July, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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 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 in July, on Friday the 14th. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

At the meeting there will be a "Do it yourself" discussion, so bring along your current technical project and give a short presentation.

The mid-year Social Luncheon of the Group will be held on Saturday, 15th July, 2017. Its at the Windale Bowling Club, at Windale, Lake Macquarie, starting at 11:30am. Please contact our President Len, VK2ZFD for bookings.

*Submitted by Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

Westlakes ARC in lakeside Teralba New South Wales, is once again holding a car boot sale.

This will be held at the Club grounds on July 15th, these car boot sale days were introduced to bring locals together and are for the sale of any items, not just radio related gear.

Always interesting to see what is on offer, setup is free, grounds are free, tea and coffee on site is free, camaraderie and goodwill are free! Generally start time is around 9am but some buyers/sellers may be early! Any enquiries please contact the Club Secretary via email, to secretary@westlakesarc.org.au

Advised by Jeff VK2MCD

Secretary Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This coming Wednesday is lecture night at the Manly-Warringah Radio Society. The topic this month is Amateur Radio Direction Finding and Fox Hunting. As usual, doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Upcoming lectures for July and August will be on the subjects of Digital Radio Broadcasting, and 3D printing, respectively. We'll have more details next month.

Finally, a reminder that the club's new Web-accessible Software Defined Radio is now operational. Any time, from anywhere, you can tune your computer or mobile device into any of five HF bands and hear what signals are audible in Sydney. This project has been generously sponsored by Amateur Radio New South Wales, and is proving to be very popular. Just go to the club web site, www.mwrs.org.au and click on the WebSDR link in the top menu.

[direct link, <http://websdr.mwrs.org.au:8901>]

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the 1st Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start, and visitors are always welcome. If you need directions, call in on the club's two metre repeater on 146.875 MHz, or visit the club's web site at www.mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The St. George Amateur Radio Society would like to announce that the relay of the VK2WI Sunday broadcasts, have been restored through the Mt. Bindo repeater.

The repeater, situated between Jenolan Caves and Lithgow, provides coverage out to Bathurst, Orange and beyond.

The repeater has an output of 146.650MHz and with a standard minus 600kHz offset input, with no tone required. It is also accessible from many parts of the Sydney Basin.

*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 monthly general meeting on Tuesday the 27th of 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.

Next weekend HADARC will be operating in the Winter VHF-UHF contest from about 2:30pm through to 10:30pm, local time. Look for VK2MA on or near 50.150, 144.150, or 432.150 MHz, all upper side band. The site will be one of the club-rooms at the Hornsby Rifle Range.

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.*

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Summary of coming events;

June

Homebrew Group monthly net on the 20th

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

Oxley Region ARC Meeting on the 1st

St George ARS meeting on the 5th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 14th

Hunter Radio Group social lunch at Windale Bowling Club, on the 15th

Westlakes Car boot sale also on the 15th

Manly-Warringah lecture night – on Digital Radio Broadcasting - on the 19th

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend on the 22nd and 23rd

Also this weekend, Canberra Region ARC has a Foundation course as well.

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

August

St George ARS meeting on the 2nd

Blue Mountains ARC foundation weekend, on the 12th and 13th

Manly-Warringah Flagpole Contest on the 19th and 20th

St George ARS Foundation weekend, also on the 19th and 20th