

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 is 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"
[\[https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/\]](https://www.facebook.com/usahamsinoz/)

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the group is coming up at the end of this month, on July 30th. At this meeting there will be a build-a-thon, to construct a high powered dummy load.

The group has a limited number of kits available for construction on the day. These include a 250 Watt 50 Ohm RF resistor, a massive aluminium die cast heatsink, a copper heat spreader and other bits. There will be tools available including a drill press, taps and soldering irons.

The dummy load will be a copy of one made several years ago, with a VSWR measured of 1.1 to 1 at 70cm, and 1.2 to 1 at 23cm.

There are only a very limited number of kits and they are only available for building on the day.

For more details, send an email to <homebrew@arnsw.org.au>

At the last Homebrew meeting, an amateur spoke with Peter VK2EMU with an offer of a presentation on "lightning protection". Peter has mislaid his details, so could that person contact Peter at homebrew@arnsw.org.au or via the office.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 23rd to the 29th of June.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th
10cm flux	74	74	74	74	74	72	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	8	11	9	5	5	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	7	6	6	2	3	2 estimated
T index	4	8	16	7	9	4	8

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 23rd, quiet to unsettled from the 24th to the 26th, then quiet again for the rest of the week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted on the 24th. On the 25th and 26th, local days were near predicted but enhancement of 15% was observed during local night. The 27th was near predicted during the day but up to 20% enhanced during local night. Then the 28th and 29th returned to near predicted values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 30th of June to the 6th of July;

Solar flare activity is expected to be very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at Quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be 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, the figures for June were;

Minimum 72 Average 75 Maximum 79
With peak dates between the 2nd and the 8th

Now as we start July, the figures so far;

Minimum 72 Average 74 Maximum 77
With peak dates between the 16th and 17th, and the 26th to the 29th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for August;

Minimum 72 Average 75 Maximum 76
With peak dates between the 12th and the 13th.

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>]

Historical Feature

We now have a short historical feature looking back at the past 50 years of Amateur Radio repeaters in Australia. Here's Tim VK2ZTM;

[Play File: E-H-2jul-id.wav]

Duration: 4m11s

In: Today there are nearly...

Out: ...(ident) with this evening's news.

ID2 INTEGRATED

ARRL DX news

MALDIVES, 8Q. John, G4IRN is active as 8Q7RN from Kureda Beach Resort until July 6. Activity is holiday style on 30, 20 and 17 metres using CW.

BOLIVIA, CP. Antonio, EA5RM is active as CP1XRM until August 14 while working as a NGO volunteer doing maintenance to the emergency radio network that both Solidaridad Medica and the Radioamateur Without Frontiers have on duty. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

ST PIERRE AND MIQUELON, FP. Eric, KV1J will be active as FP/KV1J from Miquelon Island, IOTA NA-032, from July 4 to 18. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using primarily SSB and RTTY with some CW and other digital modes. He plans to be active on the linear satellites as well as the upcoming IARU, NAQP RTTY, and CQ VHF contests.

HAITI, HH. Chris, W3CMP and Dale, N3BNA are active as 4V1G until July 6 with activity on 6 and 4 metres.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Gary, K9AW is active as J68GD until July 16 while on vacation. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres. This includes an entry in the IARU HF World Championship contest.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Gerben, PG5M and Johannes, PA5X will be active as LX/homecalls from July 6 to 9 while testing their stations. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and JT65.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. A group of operators will be active as OJ0V until July 7. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC, OM. Special event station OM2017WYAC is active until July for the first World Youth ARDF Championships being held in Tucianske Teplice.

CRETE, SV9. Ron, WB2GAI will be active as SV9/WB2GAI/p until September 29. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres.

EAST KIRIBATI [*pron. Kir-uh-BAS*], T32. Ken, KH6QJ is active as T32AZ from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, until July 4. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

ANTIGUA, V2. Bill, KG4ZNX is active as V21XN throughout July. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Rich, KE1B and Anna, W6NN are active as V4/homecalls from Nevis, IOTA NA-104, until July 9. This includes an entry in the upcoming the IARU HF World Championship.

BERMUDA, VP9. Operators Bob, N2OO and Steve, KU9C will be active as N2OO/VP9 and KU9C/VP9 from July 6 to 11. Activity will be on the HF bands, as well as 6 metres and various satellites. This includes being active as VP9HQ in the upcoming IARU HF World Championship.

LAOS, XW. Bruce, 3W3B will be active as XW4XR from Vientiane from July 3 to 14. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres, and possibly 6 metres, using CW, RTTY and JT65.

VANUATU, YJ. Geoff, ZL3GA will be active as YJ0GA from the Benjor Beach Club on Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, from July 6 to 13. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and JT65 if operating conditions deteriorate. He will also be in the upcoming IARU HF World Championship.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, RAC Canada Day Contest, Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, FISTS Summer Slow Speed CW Sprint, DL-DX RTTY Contest, Marconi Memorial HF CW Contest, Original QRP CW Contest and the PODXS 070 Club 40-Meter Firecracker Sprint are all on this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Meter Club CW Championship is scheduled for July 3. The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for July 4. The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT CW Test are scheduled for July 5.

Additionally, the 10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party runs from July 3 to 9, as does the IQRP Quarterly Marathon.

WICEN News

The weekend of 21 to 23rd July will be a recce for the VH-MDX SAREX, with the event on the 15th to 17th September. This is a search and rescue exercise built around the search a light aircraft missing since 1981, in the rugged Barrington Tops.

The tentative date for the WICEN AGM is Saturday the 26th of August.

In October, the Trek for Timor in Kangaroo Valley is on 7th and 8th, and the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is held overnight, subject to confirmation, on the weekend of the 28th and 29th of October.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at nsw.wicen.org.au - includes that printable membership form you've been meaning to download, a web contact form, other contact details, and some useful links. Facebook users will find the official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group, which does include some photos from NavShield last weekend.

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. Members will be providing communications for the Jackadgery Horse Enduro on July 29 and 30.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. July 22 is penciled in as the BMSC Narooma Rally, September 2nd and 3rd is the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Enduro on the north-west border of the Territory. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. Sunday the 6th of August is the Rainbow Desert Rally, an off-road buggy event in the state's west, and the Stockman's Rally on September 17 is a non-competitive motorcycle event in Big River State Forest. 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 Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday the 11th of July. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are held at the Coniston Community Hall located 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.

Due to popular demand, the next meeting will be another "Show and Tell" night, with attendees invited to bring along photos or videos showing their shack, tower, antenna system, latest project or anything else that they are proud of or gives them enjoyable distraction! The last "Show and Tell" night was such a success, that time totally ran out, leading to disappointment all round. A projector and laptop will be provided on the night to allow for full and unrestricted showing and telling.

Hopefully, after all the presentations, there will still be enough time for the favourite ragchew over a hot cuppa' and chocolate biscuits.

A reminder to all Illawarra Amateur Radio Society members that the following meeting in August is the club's Annual General meeting, with some constitutional changes as well as positions to be voted on.

The Society is also 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.

These Sunday ARNSW News bulletins are relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society's repeaters; through VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres on 53.650MHz and 2 metres on 146.850MHz. These three repeaters provide Broadcast coverage over much of Sydney, Wollongong, the Southern Highlands and the Shoalhaven areas.

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 and 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 at 7:30pm on July the 11th at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club is the Friday night gathering on the 21st of July, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's Annual General Meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday the 5th of August 2017 in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The August Monthly General Meeting will be held immediately after the AGM. The formal notice of the AGM will accompany the July issue of Oxtales when it is sent to members during the coming week.

Club membership is now due and members are asked to please renew promptly.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible. The next training courses and assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run when sufficient candidates have registered.

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. . Look for July Oxtales during the coming next week. It will be a larger than usual edition with a full report in words and pictures of the club's 2017 Field Day.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is coming up 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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

It's now just under a week until the clubs Annual Auction on Saturday, July 8th. Gates open at 8:30am, with the auction commencing at 10am. Come along and sell some of your no longer needed gear or buy something you really need for the shack. Full details and auction rules can be found on the club's website.

Waverley's clubhouse is located in the Scout Hall in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay. Parking for the auction is available in the adjacent public carpark.

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

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 5th of July.

There will be a presentation on digital voice. There is an evolution in voice communications in amateur radio - it started with AM, which was largely replaced by SSB and FM, and now there is digital voice. Digital voice has a number of advantages over the older formats, including narrower bandwidths and working with noisy environments.

There are a number of different digital voice packages, suitable for VHF & UHF as well as HF.

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 next meeting of the club is on Tuesday, 11th July, starting at 8:00pm. It is 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.

The meeting will feature a presentation by Stephen VK2AAV, which will look at the application of modern digital electronics to the generation of SSB signals using the phasing method.

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;

July

St George ARS meeting on the 5th

Waverley ARS Auction on the 8th

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 11th

HADARC Meeting on the 11th

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

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 21st

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

Oxley Region ARC AGM is on the 5th

Illawarra ARS AGM on the 8th

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

Shahzada Horse Enduro, 21st to the 25th

Summerland SARCfest on the 27th

September

St George ARS meeting on the 6th

SAREX for VH-MDX in the Barrington Tops, 15th to the 17th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure, and Homebrew group on the 24th