

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

The July Foundation and assessment weekend at ARNSW is now fully booked. The next courses and assessments weekend at Dural is September 16th and 17th. Enquiries and bookings are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

The Next Trash & Treasure at ARNSW is coming up at the end of the month, Sunday the 30th. Some of the major items available for sale are now on the website, at arnsw.org.au.

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/)

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A call for callbacks

VK2WI News bulletins are relayed through several repeater facilities, and we would like to find out more about where we are being heard.

While we regularly receive callbacks from the Central Coast, and occasionally from Tamworth, we are always interested in hearing more from the regional relays of the news service.

We invite other regions to provide reports directly to us here at VK2WI News, and these can be made by email to; callbacks@arnsw.org.au

We would also be interested if anybody is willing to volunteer to take the callbacks in these areas and forward the figures to us. This information help us find out more about the reach and audience for these news bulletins. Of course comments on the content of the bulletins are welcome as well; the email address is; callbacks@arnsw.org.au.

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 30th of June to the 6th of July.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
10cm flux	72	71	71	72	72	73	76
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	14	20	7	5	2	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	5	14	3	1	0	3 estimated
T index	4	10	19	15	3	6	5

Solar flare activity was very low from the 30th of June until the 2nd of July. The 3rd of July saw moderate solar activity, with an M1.3 flare observed at 1615UT. The 4th of July saw low activity, and the 5th and 6th returned to very low levels.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet all week except for the 2nd of July, which reached Active levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during local day on the 30th of June and enhanced 15% during local night. While the 1st of July remained near predicted throughout, the 2nd was near predicted during the day and enhanced 25% during local night. Then the rest of the week remained at near predicted values throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 7th to the 13th of July;

Solar flare activity is expected to be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels on the 8th, 9th and 13th, and be at Quiet to unsettled levels on other days.

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 70 Average 73 Maximum 78
With peak dates between the 7th and the 15th

And looking ahead to the prediction for August;

Minimum 70 Average 71 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 13th and the 16th.

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 June 2017

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

June was a quiet month overall for space weather.

Solar activity was predominately at Very Low levels this month, with no significant solar flares observed. In fact, no M-class or X-class flares at all, were observed.

There were no significant geomagnetic disturbances – and no days with an A-index exceeding 16. The only geomagnetic alert for the month was on the 16th.

The ionosphere was also relatively stable; the southern Australian region saw a depression of 15% on the 23rd, but otherwise MUFs were largely in line with the predicted monthly values.

In the solar and geophysical report each week, we talk about the maximum usable frequencies both observed in the report period, and in the forecast for the next week. This is based on observations of foF2, which is the maximum frequency reflected vertically by the ionosphere. While a vertical propagation path in itself is not particularly useful, the data is a reference point, from which estimates of frequencies for any oblique circuit can be made.

The foF2 is the most important parameter describing the state of the ionosphere at a particular location. Along with the T-index, foF2 is a key indicator of ionospheric conditions.

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

CHINA, BY. Members of the Chinese Radio Amateurs Club (CRAC) and the Amateur Radio Branch of Xi'an Radio are going to team up as B9HQ for the IARU HF World Championship. They will be active on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

SPAIN, EA. The EA Digital Federation (FEDI-EA) celebrates its 25th anniversary during July with the call AM25FEDIA. Spanish stations may substitute their prefix as follows: AM for EA, AN for EB, AO for EC, together with the additional numerals 25.

FRANCE, F. TM007TF will operate until July 22, during the Tour de France. Likewise, TM39TDF is active until July 10 and then again from July 16 to 23.

HUNGARY, HA. Members of the radio club FMV (HA5FMV and HG7F) celebrate their club's 60th anniversary until June 30, 2018 with the call HA60FMV.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Gary, K9AW is active as J68GD until July 16. He is active on 80 to 10 metres and will join in the IARU HF World Championship.

BERMUDA, VP9. Bob, N2OO and Steve, KU9C will be active until July 11 as N2OO/VP9 and KU9C/VP9, respectively. Look for them on HF, 6 metres and the satellites. During the IARU HF World Championship, they will be active as VP9HQ.

LAOS, XW. Bruce, 3W3B is active as XW4XR until July 14 on 40 to 6 metres using CW, RTTY and JT65. QSL via E21EIC, LoTW. Also, XW1IC, operator E21EIC, will be active from July 7 to 11, including the IARU HF World Championship. Before and after the contest he will focus on 6 metres.

VANUATU, YJ. Geoff, ZL3GA plans to operate holiday-style until July 13 from Efate (OC-035) as YJ0GA. He will focus on his local sunrise and sunset periods for Western Europe on 20 and 30 metres, as well using RTTY and JT65.

NICARAGUA, YN. Rafael, NN3RP will be active as YN2RP until August 4 on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, PSK31 and RTTY.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Max, N5NHJ is going to operate holiday-style until July 15 as ZF2NH. He will be active on 20 to 6 metres, using mostly CW with some RTTY and PSK31.

BOTSWANA, A2. Pavel, R2AD, Yuri, RM0F, and Elena, RC5A are planning to operate as A25BE, A25BI, and A25SP, respectively, from September 15 to 25 on 160 to 6 metres, using CW and SSB.

BALKANS TOUR. Throughout August, Costa, IZ7GXB plans to be active as 4O7GXB, ZA/IZ7GXB and Z38/IZ7GXB from Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia, respectively. Activity will be primarily on 6 metres (50.150 MHz).

DENMARK, OZ. OZ17SJ will be active from July 22 to 30 at a big Scout Jamboree in Snoderborg.

ARCTIC OCEAN WATER GRIDS. The RRS James Clark Ross is heading to the Arctic. The shipboard station manned by Mike, GM0HCQ, should be workable from water grids JP, JQ, KQ and KR over the next few weeks. KQ and KR are probably the rarest ones. The ship is under way but specific dates for the particular grids are not known, due to the variables of ocean voyages in the Arctic. There is a daily update page, at gm0hcq.com.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The IARU HF World Championship, FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush and the QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint are all on this weekend.

The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship SSB, is on July 12.

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, 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.

WICEN Northern Rivers has a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm 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. Sunday 13th August is a group meeting starting at 10am.

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.*

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*

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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. Formal notice of the AGM accompanied the July issue of Oxtales when it was send to members last 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 this 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 the 12th, is the Society's Annual General Meeting. In the time-honoured club tradition, non-attendees risk being elected to positions *in absentia*, so members would be well advised to turn up! As usual, doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

The club monthly lecture will be on next Wednesday, the 19th will be on the subject of Digital Radio Broadcasting; more details next week.

The club station VK2MB/portable will active next week in the Trans-Tasman Low Band Contest, next Saturday the 15th. Hope to catch you on the low bands! The station will also be active from Barrenjoey Lighthouse at Palm Beach for International Lighthouse Weekend on 19-20 August.

Finally, the Society is pleased to announce a new event to replace the old Flagpole Contest. The Manly-Warringah Radio Society Postcode Challenge will take place on Saturday 16th September. More details closer to the event, or you can go to the MWRS web site and follow the Postcode Challenge link on the main menu.

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 mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The second period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge for 2017 is now complete. Contest entries can be made until the 14th of July.

If you have worked any DX over the past 3 months, head over to the website, at vk2au.org and submit your entry. There are several easy ways to enter.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society's 80m contest will once again be in full swing on the last Saturday of July, that's the 29th. The contest runs from 6pm to midnight local Sydney time, and is open to all license classes, including foundation.

CW, Phone and Digital modes can be used; Additional points are awarded for contacts with foundation license holders and interstate and DX contacts.

For more information and contest rules, visit the web site at sgars.org and follow the link to SGARS Upcoming Events.

*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. If you are planning to travel by bus from Hornsby, you can take either the 595 straight up the original Pacific Highway, or the 598 via the backstreets of Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road.

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

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.

St George 80 Metre contest on the 29th

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

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

International Lighthouse and Lightship 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

Manly-Warringah Postcode Challenge on the 16th

ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend, 16th and 17th

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