

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

Tomorrow night, Monday the 13th, will be the last night of the 2017 ARNSW Upgrade class. The 2018 class will commence in March.

Next weekend is the last scheduled ARNSW Foundation course for this year. Courses are planned for five weekends in 2018; first on the 11th and 12th of March, then; May 12th and 13th; July 14th 15th; September 15th 16th; then, November 10th and 11th.

For any enquiry about ARNSW courses - please email education@arnsw.org.au.

The 2018 ARNSW AGM is planned for Saturday the 28th of April.

Also in 2018, on the 25th of February, is Central Coast Amateur Radio Club Field Day; in fact, 2018 will be the 60th year.

Just one of the activities at the Field Day, will be run by the Australian ARRL VEC, or Volunteer Examination Co-ordinator group - they will be holding an exam session for those wishing to obtain a US Amateur radio license. We will have more details, closer to the event.

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

In two weeks time, Sunday the 26th, is the bi-monthly meeting of the group. Bob, VK2ZRM will be giving a presentation on TFT touch screens.

"Jazz up your next project with a colour, TFT touch screen".

The talk covers what a TFT touch screen is, how it works, and how to use them.

The talk will include a brief introduction to programming a TFT screen. It will be part presentation and part show and tell of a couple of TFT screen projects.

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.

So come along at noon, to VK2WI at 63 Quarry Road, Dural, on Sunday the 26th.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 3rd to the 9th of November.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
10cm flux	73	72	71	69	68	68	66
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	2	1	0	26	39	16 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	3	1	0	22	17	14 estimated
T index	-4	-3	-4	-6	2	-29	-16

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, started out quiet to unsettled on the 3rd, remained quiet from the 4th to the 6th, but then reached minor storm levels on the 7th, and ranged from quiet to active on the 8th and 9th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out depressed by 15% during local day on 3rd, recovering at night to near predicted monthly values. The 4th to the 6th remained near predicted. The 7th was mostly near predicted, with depressions of up to 20% after local dawn. The 8th saw significant depressions – 25% during local day, improving only slightly to 20% during local night, and the 9th remained 20% below predicted values all day.

Now, the forecast for the 10th to the 16th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels on the 10th and 11th, with quiet to unsettled conditions expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to stay depressed about 15% on the 10th and 11th, but recovering to near predicted monthly values for the rest of the week.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

The figures for October were;

Minimum 69 Average 77 Maximum 89
Peak dates between the 1st and the 8th, and the 24th to the 26th

Almost halfway through November, the prediction so far;

Minimum 66 Average 72 Maximum 75
Peak dates between the 1st and the 3rd, and the 17th to the 30th

And looking ahead to the prediction for December;

Minimum 70 Average 73 Maximum 75
With peak dates between the 1st and the 2nd, and the 14th to the 27th

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

UGANDA, 5X. Jonathan, KK7PW is active as 5X1O until November 20. Activity is in his spare time on 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB, WSPR and possibly JT65 and FT8.

SIERRA LEONE, 9L. Mark, KW4XJ is active as 9L/KW4XJ from Freetown. He is waiting for his permanent 9L call sign. His length of stay is unknown. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW and various digital modes.

BURUNDI, 9U. Members of the Mediterraneo DX Club are active as 9U4M until November 17. Activity is with five stations on the HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY.

NAURU, C2. Kuni, JA8VE, Mat, JA1JQY and Kaoru, JA3MCA are active as C21VE, C21JY and C21MA, respectively, until November 14. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

QATAR, A7. Justin, NE5JK is living and working in Doha and active as A71/NE5JK until he receives his A75 call. He's currently running QRP power on the HF bands.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Mike, DF8AN is active as DU7/DF8AN from Negros Island, IOTA OC-129, until November 16. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, RTTY, PSK and FT8.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Giovanni, IZ2DPX will be active as EA8/IZ2DPX from Lanzarote, IOTA AF-004, from November 13 to 20. Activity is on the HF bands using only SSB.

SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA, HK0. Members of the Yaguarete DXers Group will be active as 5K0T from San Andres Island, IOTA NA-033, until November 25. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

HONDURAS, HR. Dennis, W1UE, Paul, K1XM and Charlotte, KQ1F will be active as HR9/home calls from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057. They will be active as HQ9X in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. A group of operators will be active as J5T from Bubaque Island, IOTA AF-020, from November 13 to 26. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with three stations active.

SVALBARD, JW. Rene, DL2JRM is active as JW/DL2JRM from Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, until November 13. Activity is on the HF bands.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Scott, NE9U will be active on the HF bands as NE9U/KP2, until December 5. He will be active as NP2X in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW and ARRL 160-Meter contests.

BONAIRE, PJ4. Operators Olli, DH8BQA, Paul, DL5CW and Tom, DL5LYM are active as PJ4/home calls until November 29. They will be active as PJ4Y in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Gary, G0FWX is active as V47FWX from Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, until November 15. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands.

MICRONESIA, V6. Shu, JA1FMN will be active as V63PSK from Moen Island, IOTA OC-011, from November 14 to 18. Activity will be on 20 to 10 metres using PSK, JT9, JT65 and FT8.

MELLISH REEF, VK9M. A group of operators are active as VK9MA until November 16. Activity is with five stations on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZS. Members of the Bo-Karoo Amateur Radio Club are active during November with special event call sign ZS40VDK to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the commissioning of the Van-derkloof Dam.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Worked All Europe DX RTTY Contest, 10-10 International Fall Digital Contest, Japan International DX Phone Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, CQ-WE Contest, North American SSB Sprint Contest and the 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Meter Autumn Data Series is scheduled for November 13. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for November 15.

WICEN News

Planning is underway for a training and equipment maintenance day at Dural, on Sunday December 17.

WICEN will be at the CCARC Field Day on Sunday, 25 February 2018.

Saturday, May 5 is the proposed date for Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley.

The WICEN New South Wales website, at nsw.wicen.org.au - includes a printable membership form, a web contact form, which is the best way to contact WICEN, as well as 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 holds 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. Their next meeting is Sunday, 10th of December, starting at 10am.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region meets at 3:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The region is also running an HF net on Thursday evenings from 7pm, using the 10 metre WICEN frequency of 28.45MHz. The Region is supporting the White Ribbon Walk on 26th November.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Today saw the NSW Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. December 1st to 3rd is the Alpine Rally covering 700 km in East Gippsland. 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 is the Friday night gathering, at 7pm on the evening of Friday 17th of November, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

On the morning of Sunday the 26th of November, club members will be providing safety communications for the White Ribbon Coastal Walk, which starts at the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club and finishes on the Port Macquarie Town Green. Radio communications between the checkpoints is challenging due to the high steep coastal topography along the route.

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 run, once 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 September 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online and past issues are on the website as well. Look for the November 2017 issue of Oxtales, early in the coming week.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The group's last event for the year will be The Christmas Social Dinner.

Its on Thursday evening the 14th of December, at the Windale Bowling Club.

It starts at 6pm local time and bookings are essential; please contact the Social Secretary, Ardel, or President, Len, VK2ZFC.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The next CCARC Lecture and Workshop on "Building simple antennas for satellite use" will now be held a week later, on Saturday the 25th of November. The club welcomes both members and visitors for this event.

In some news about the Wyong Field Day 2018, to be held on Sunday the 25th of February; the CCARC has confirmed that Phill Maher, will be in attendance representing BOM Space Weather Services. Both Dr Vickal Kumar and Dr Murray Parkinson have indicated a desire to be in attendance. This years Space Weather Workshop will be presented later this month in Sydney, and is a 2 day event.

The Wyong Field Day 2018 committee are looking forward to this presentation and further details will follow. Stay Tuned for more details in coming broadcasts.

*Bob VK2AOR
President CCARC*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting on the 14th of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at Coniston Community Hall, 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.

This coming meeting is the Society's Annual Auction, where there will be lots of pre-loved equipment and accessories available to be bid upon and taken home with pride. Listeners are also invited to avail themselves of the opportunity to bring along any unused radio gear that may be taking up space in the shack and put it up for auction. The booking-in of gear for the auction will start at 7pm.

As well as the opportunity to sell or buy something, the auction itself will be very entertaining, with Simon VK2XQX bringing his unique style as auctioneer. At the conclusion of the auction, there will be the usual fun rag-chew over a hot cup of tea or coffee, with a bunch of friendly, like-minded individuals.

Listeners who are interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas can contact our team of enthusiastic Amateurs led by Ted VK2ARA to assist, mentor, teach and then examine for your licence. The team runs learning programs for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced licenses and can be contacted via email to vk2ara@wia.org.au. That address again is, vk2ara@wia.org.au.

Sunday News broadcasts from ARNSW Broadcasts are relayed via three of the Society's repeaters; VK2RUW at Knights Hill on 2 metres 146.675MHz and VK2RMP at Maddens Plains on both 6 metres 53.650MHz and 2 metres 146.850MHz. These three repeaters provide Broadcast coverage over much of Sydney, Wollongong, the Southern Highlands and the Shoalhaven areas.

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 time.

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 Annual Auction at 7:30pm on November the 14th at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The club's website has recently been suffering some temporary outages which are being investigated. If you are having problems, try again later or next day. Hopefully it will be resolved in the very near future.

The club's next monthly meeting is coming up on Wednesday November 15th, commencing at 7:30pm. At this meeting, Raffy VK2RF will talk about his recent experiences with the installation of solar at his place and how it is performing. Tea, coffee and a chat afterwards as usual. Many attendees also meet in the RSL next door for dinner prior to the meeting; all are welcome to join us there.

The club's Christmas party will be a BBQ lunch on Saturday, December 16th at the QTH of Eric VK2VE, commencing at 10am for a 12:30 catered lunch. Al, VK2OK will shortly be sending out details to all members and calling for numbers. All members, partners and families are welcome.

The next Shack night will be on Wednesday, December 6th, commencing at 1930, a good time to bring along something to test or get some help with that new rig. A few changes are also happening in the shack to put more of our services on the UPS, following some power problems we had recently.

There is a working bee at the clubhouse from around 10am until 4pm, most Tuesdays. A quick call on one of the club repeaters will confirm that the club is open and the barista is working.

The next Project Day is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd, commencing around 1:30pm and usually running through to about 4:30 or 5pm.

The club runs a weekly net every Monday evening, commencing at 8pm on its VK2RBV Fusion repeater, in FM mode on 438.1125MHz, usually run by Richard, VK2XRC. All are welcome to join. Skip's Morse sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings, see the club website for details.

The club is running its last Foundation course and assessments for 2017 this weekend. Dates for next year's courses are available on the website with the first being in February over the weekend of 10th & 11th. To book and reserve your place see the website, under Education and Training. The club also offers a scholarship for students under the age of 18 to assist in obtaining their Amateur Licence, see the website for details.

Waverley's clubhouse is located in the Scout Hall, in Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay, with parking normally available in the grounds. Visitors are always welcome at any of the club's activities.

There is full information about the club on the 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 which is normally answered within a day or two.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

St George Amateur Radio Society

Do you know someone who would like to obtain an amateur radio licence or upgrade their existing licence? The St George Amateur Radio Society has a team of educators dedicated to assisting new comers to amateur radio in obtain their licence, and for existing licensees to upgrade to a higher licence category.

The next training and assessment weekend is on next weekend – Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th of November. The classes and assessment will be in Sutherland, a short walk from the railway station.

For more information, or to reserve a place, send an email to education@sgars.org or check out the society's website at sgars.org.

Advised by Peter VK2EMU

For the St George Amateur Radio Society

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday, the 15th, is lecture night at the club. This month's lecture will be out of this world: Patrick Wang will be speaking on Space Operations. Patrick is the CEO of Space Ops Australia, a company that launches nano-satellites with payloads of up to 25kg, to altitudes of up to 600km. He is also part of the University of Sydney's Rocketry Club, and he's interested in discussing radio communications with experienced Amateurs. As usual, door open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

The next Foundation licence training and exam day is at the clubhouse on Saturday the 18th. You're probably too late to book a spot, but if you'd like to get in on the next one, email education@mwr.org.au to reserve your place.

Then on the 29th, the club will be having another Show and Tell night. The theme this time is Portable Lighting. If you have any interesting rare, or oddball portable lighting gear, bring it along and perhaps win a prize. Or just come along to see what the others have brought.

The live audio stream from the club's 2m repeater is still in operation, though there have been some issues with the internet link; these issues are being investigated. To listen in on the repeater when you don't have a radio to hand, go to the Broadcastify.com web site, or get the free Scanner Radio app from your favourite app store, and search for "VK2RMB".

Finally, the Society is happy to have been awarded this year's ARNSW Development Fund Grant; the money will go towards upgrading the club's field day operations and public display capability. Many thanks to ARNSW for actively promoting the hobby of Amateur Radio! News of the progress of this project will appear on later broadcasts and in the pages of Amateur Radio magazine.

Visit the club web site at mwr.org.au for more information about these and other club projects such as the WebSDR (sponsored by ARNSW), the club YouTube channel VK2MB-TV, the club's Scouting program and much more.

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 for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is an informal mid-monthly meeting this Tuesday 14th of November, at Mt Colah Community Centre, from 8:00pm. Since there was a fifth Tuesday in October, there was 2 weeks without meetings. The venue is near the northern end of Pierre Close, and opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station. Additionally, two buses from Hornsby can be used: the 595 straight up the original Pacific Highway, or the 598 via Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road.

The year's last Mt Colah meeting will be on the 28th of November.

The Club's Christmas party will be in Waitara on Sunday 3rd December, starting at noon. It is essential to book with Colin VK2JCC, as there will be no seats available for "walk-ins".

HADARC and the Kur-ring-gai Historical Society are planning celebrations for the Centenary of the Reception of the first direct Wireless message from the UK to Australia for next year.

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. Due to noise issues, Morning Tea with HADARC has moved up the band slightly, to be on or near 7106 kHz, but same time, from 9:00 am on Fridays.

VK2RHT at Chatswood is now a DMR-only repeater, operating with 438.350MHz transmit frequency and -5.4 MHz split. The P25 - FM dual mod unit will be moved to Hornsby.

HADARC's website is at: www.hadarc.org.au. The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

[Play Evening ID 4]

Summary of coming events;

November

Illawarra ARS Meeting on the 14th

HADARC Mid-monthly meeting on the 14th

Waverley ARS meeting on the 15th

Manly-Warringah Radio Society meeting on the 15th

Westlakes ARC Car Boot Sale at the club rooms in Teralba, on the 18th

ARNSW Foundation training and assessment weekend, 18th and 19th

St. George ARS Foundation weekend as well.

CCARC Lecture and Workshop; new date, the 25th

Fishers Ghost ARC Foundation and exam weekend, the 25th and 26th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend on the 25th and 26th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew group, on the 26th

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 28th

Manly-Warringah theme night, on Portable lights, on the 29th

Fishers Ghost ARC Meeting on the 29th

December

HADARC Christmas party at Waitara on the 3rd

George ARS Christmas BBQ & Annual General Meeting on the 6th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend the 9th and 10th

Hunter Radio Group Christmas Dinner, at Windale on the 14th

And don't forget... Christmas Day on the 25th

January 2018

The Ross Hull contest – all month, from the 1st to the 31st

Australia Day – you can use the AX prefix – on the 26th