

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

The 2018 ARNSW magnetic calendar is currently in production, and should arrive with members during December. To ensure postal delivery, please make sure that your address is up to date; if you have recently changed your address, notify membership@arnsw.org.au without delay, so that the right address label can be printed.

Last weekend's ARNSW Foundation course was a family affair; among the candidates were two father and son pairs, as well as a mother and daughter. Except for the daughter, who missed the theory by a few marks - the parents and sons were all successful. A new equipment supplier donated the boys each a hand held, to get them started when their new calls come through.

The next ARNSW Foundation weekend is in March 2018, though some other Sydney clubs will have Foundation weekends before the end of the year - check the coming events later in the news for details.

Today was the final ARNSW Trash and Treasure for the year. The next will be the 28th of January 2018.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17th to the 23rd of November.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm flux	76	76	74	74	73	73	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	5	5	7	16	7	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	4	3	5	15	8	6 estimated
T index	-14	-6	2	7	34	-1	+1

Solar flare activity, was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, started out quiet to unsettled on the 17th, then was quiet from the 18th to the 20th, unsettled on the 21st, and quiet to unsettled on the 22nd and 23rd.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out depressed 15% during local day on the 17th, though they returned to near predicted values during local night. Frequencies then remained near predicted from the 18th to the 20th. The 21st saw enhancements of 15% during local day, with predicted values at night; the 22nd remained near predicted all day, then then 23rd was near predicted during the day and enhanced up to 15% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 24th to the 30th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly at quiet levels, though isolated periods of unsettled conditions are possible on the 24th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly remain 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.

Near the end of November, the figures so far;

Minimum 66 Average 72 Maximum 76
Peak dates between the 1st and the 4th, and the 15th to the 23rd

The prediction for December;

Minimum 68 Average 72 Maximum 75
Peak dates between the 12th and the 25th

And looking ahead to the prediction for January;

Minimum 68 Average 71 Maximum 73
With peak dates between the 5th and the 8th

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

A number of stations are active especially for this weekend's CQ World Wide DX CW contest;

ITU HQ; Look for 4U1ITU to be active in the contest.

CHINA; Stations B1Z and B7Q will be active for the contest.

GEORGIA; Operator 4L2M plans to be active as a Single Op/Single Band on 20 metres.

GUERNSEY; Bob, GU4YOX plans to be a Single Op/Single Band on 15 metres.

HONG KONG; VR2XAN will be active as a Single Op/Single Band/High Power entry, using 160 metres.

OMAN; Members of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society will be active as A44A as a Multi/Multi entry.

SURINAME; Members of the Voodoo Contest Group will be active as PZ5V from Paramaribo, as a Multi/2 entry.

THAILAND; A group of operators will be active as HS0ZAR from the Ban Ta Bong, Korat province as a Multi/2 entry.

TONGA; Hiro, JA6WFM will be active as A31MM from Nuku'alofa on Tongatapu Island, IOTA OC-049, as a Single Op/Single Band on 15 metres.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Operators K4QPL and AA4NC plan to be active as VP5M as a Multi Op entry.

In other activity this week;

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Olof, G0CKV is active as 3B9HA until December 12. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using CW and possibly FT8. He will be a Single Op/All Band entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

MONTENEGRO, 4O. Ark, UA4CC is active as 4O7CC until November 30. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes, including FT8. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

TOGO, 5V. John, N9MDH is active as 5V1JE from Lome until the end of May 2018. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

UGANDA, 5X. Andy, DL3YM is active as 5X8B from Nkozi until December 1. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

GHANA, 9G. A group of operators are active as 9G5W until November 29. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Andre, ON7YK is active as C5YK from Kerr Serign until January 30, 2018. Activity is on 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres using mostly digital modes, with a focus on FT8, and some CW.

MADEIRA ISLANDS, CT3. Operator OK6TA is active as CT9/OK6TA until November 27. He plans to be a Single Op/Single Band on 40 metres entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Oliver, F6ARC is active as FG/F6ARC until November 29. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using only CW. He will also be active as a Single Op/Single Band on 15 metres entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. Hartwig, DL7BC will be active as FY/DL7BC/p near Cayenne, until December 7.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. A group of operators will be active as HC8LUT from San Cristobal Island, from November 29 to December 8. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using mainly SSB, and also PSK31, JT65, WSPR and FT8. This also includes satellite activity on both the FM and analog satellites. They may also have a 6 metre beacon.

ARUBA, P4. John, W2GD is active as P40W until November 28. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being an entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

CAMBODIA, XU. Tom, KC0W is active as XU7XXX. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using only CW. His length of stay is unknown.

ALBANIA, ZA. A group of amateurs are active as ZA1WW from the coastal area of Durrës. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes a Multi/Multi entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ Worldwide DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint and NCCC CW Sprint are scheduled for this weekend.

WICEN News

Last weekend, WICEN assisted with the Bridge 2 Bridge Ski Boat Race. With only 3 days' notice, WICEN mobilised about 16 operators, along with CREST also providing valuable support. WICEN also set up a VHF High Band DMR network using IP linking, with the three repeaters strategically placed to provide coverage of the entire course.

December 17 will be the WICEN Christmas BBQ, incorporating training sessions and equipment maintenance activities, here at Dural. More details will be sent to members shortly.

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. Further info is available at: www.kvrp.net.au.

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 today.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country; 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 club's Christmas Party is on Saturday the 2nd of December 2017 in the picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. Members and their families and visitors are all cordially invited. Starting time is 10am. As usual, there will be a sausage sizzle lunch, followed by fruit salad and ice cream. There will not be a December general meeting, so the next monthly general meeting will be on Saturday the 6th of January 2018, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

This morning, club members will be providing safety communications for the White Ribbon Coastal Walk in Port Macquarie.

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 November 2017 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, along with past issues as well.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The group is holding a Christmas Social Dinner, on Thursday evening the 14th of December, at the Windale Bowling Club. There will also be a raffle, so if you can, please bring a gift to add to it.

Bookings are required; so please contact the Social Secretary, Ardel, on 49 44 83 93 or club President, Len VK2ZFD, on 49 57 77 85, to advise if you are coming.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters in Newcastle and the Lower Hunter area. They are on 2 metres; 146.9MHz and 146.975MHz with ECHO Link, and 438.025MHZ in the 70cm band.

On the 6 metre band the group operates CW Beacon on 50.288MHz.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 6th of December. This is the Annual General meeting as well as the annual Christmas BBQ.

The event will start at 6pm, with the BBQ for members and their family. For catering purposes, please advise food and drink orders using the on-line form on the club website.

There will also be a 2m fox-hunt with equipment supplied by various members. This will be a good opportunity for anyone who would like to give it a try.

Following this will be the AGM, which will include the presentation of the trophies for the societies' annual 80m and 2m contests.

After the meeting, 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

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The final Monthly General Meeting of the Club for 2017, is on this coming Wednesday the 29th of November, 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 Christmas BBQ will be at Cataract Scout Park on the 2nd of December from noon. Bookings are not required, just show up and BYO food and drinks. The Christmas dinner will be held at Sizzler Woodbine on the 16th December starting at 6:30pm.

All members and their family are welcome at both Christmas events.

The Club's weekly net, on Thursday evenings, starts at 7:30pm on the Club repeater, VK2RFG. Anyone is welcome to check-in. The repeater has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz CTCSS tone is required for access. A 91.5Hz tone is also sent.

To find out more about the Club's activities, visit their website at fgarc.org.au.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday the 29th, is one of the club's regular themed Show and Tell nights. 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. Bonus points if you have a good story to go along with the hardware! 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, which are being investigated. To listen in on the repeater, go to the broadcastify.com web site, or get the free Scanner Radio app from your favourite app store, and search for "VK2RMB".

Visit the club web site at mwrs.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 at mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The final meeting at Mount Colah for the year will be the monthly meeting on Tuesday 28th at Mt Colah Community Centre, starting at 8:00 pm. The centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, and opposite the eastern entrance to Mount Colah Railway Station.

At this meeting, John VK2ZOI will talk on "The Lightning Strike"; his QTH took a lightning strike, which caused a some damage to equipment. He will share his experience and observations of the event and what he is planning to do to help prevent a disastrous re-occurrence.

Bob VK2ZRM will also talk about "Updating a classic Electronics Australia project with modern, microprocessor technology", incorporating microprocessor monitoring and control to the 1993 project for a "Versatile 40 Volt / 3 Amp Lab Power Supply".

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".

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 is now on or near 7106 kHz, from 9:00 am on Fridays.

VK2RHT at Chatswood is now a DMR-only repeater, but still operating with 438.350MHz transmit frequency and -5.4 MHz split.

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

HADARC Monthly meeting on the 28th

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

Fishers Ghost ARC Meeting on the 29th

December

Oxley Region ARC Christmas party on the 2nd

Fishers Ghost ARC Christmas BBQ at Cataract Scout Park on the 2nd

HADARC Christmas party at Waitara on the 3rd

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

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation weekend the 9th and 10th

Summerland ARC Christmas lunch on the 10th

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

Waverley ARS Christmas lunch on the 16th

Fishers Ghost ARC Christmas dinner on the 16th

Last Evening VK2WI Bulletin for the year on the 17th

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

January 2018

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

Oxley Region ARC Monthly general meeting on the 6th

VK2WI Evening Bulletins resume on the 14th

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

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew on the 28th