

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

The enveloping of the 2018 magnetic calendar for ARNSW members was completed on Saturday. The calendars have been submitted to various post boxes around Sydney for delivery, hopefully in time for Christmas. Our thanks to John VK2JV, Paul VK2APA, Issy VK2CAA, Stuart VK2BMX and Tim VK2ZTM for their assistance in this task.

The ARNSW merchandise collection has been updated, and our supplier claims that orders placed this weekend, can be delivered by Christmas. So check out the website, arnsw.org.au for more details.

Tonight is the last evening news session for the year; evening news will resume on the 14th of January 2018. Morning bulletins continue at 10am local time, throughout the holiday period.

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening, the 19th, the Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

It starts at 8pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147MHz and then at about 8:30pm will transfer over to HF. Depending upon conditions the net may be on either 80m or 40m.

The 80m frequency is 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency is 7159kHz. As well as store bought equipment, participants are encouraged to use homebrewed equipment on AM, DSB or SSB.

So for those interested in building their own equipment, experimenting with radios or just looking for a new aspect of amateur radio, then join the net.

Over the last Christmas season, the Group challenge was – to build “something in a Christmas biscuit tin”.

This year we are holding another challenge – “build a receiver for any of the VK2WI Sunday broadcasts”. It can be simple or it can be complex. It can be traditional or it could be ultra-modern. Whatever you want. So, dig out the soldering iron and give it a go.

*73 de Peter O'Connell VK2EMU
Coordinator ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 8th to the 14th of December.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
10cm flux	70	71	72	72	71	72	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	3	2	8	9	4	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	4	1	8	7	5	3 estimated
T index	-7	-6	-12	-7	-29	-28	-5

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet from the 8th to the 10th, quiet to unsettled on the 11th and 12th, then back to quiet again, on the 13th and 14th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were 15% depressed during local day on the 8th through to the 10th, though recovering at night to near predicted monthly values. The 11th was depressed 15% during local day and 20% after local dawn, though returning to near predicted at night. The 12th was depressed 15% during local day and 20% night, the 13th was depressed 25 during the day but improved at night to near predicted, and the 14th remained at near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 15th to the 21st of December;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at active levels on the 18th, and quiet to unsettled on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be briefly depressed after local dawn on the 18th, otherwise 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.

The figures for November were;

Minimum 66 Average 72 Maximum 76
Peak dates between the 1st and the 4th, and the 15th to the 30th

For December, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 68 Average 71 Maximum 75
Peak dates between the 19th and the 24th

And looking ahead to the prediction for January;

Minimum 70 Average 72 Maximum 74
With peak dates between the 11th and the 20th

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>]

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ARRL DX news

VIETNAM, 3W. Dirk, DF2XG is active as 3W9XG from Hai Phong while here on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 10 metres using CW. His length of stay is unknown.

GEORGIA, 4L. Vlad, UA4WHX will soon be active as 4L/UA4WHX. Activity will be on 40 to 17 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

CYPRUS, 5B. Alex, 5B4ALX is active as special event station 5B4XMAS until December 31. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

BARBADOS, 8P. Ernest, J69Z is active as 8P9JB until January 2, 2018. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

PALESTINE, E4. Elvira, IV3FSG is active as E44YL from Bethlehem until December 18. Activity is on the various HF bands using SSB and possibly digital modes.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Mauri, AG1LE is active as E51DXX from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, until December 29. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using SSB, PSK31 and FT8.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Rieder, HB9FIH is active as EA8/HB9FIH from El Hierro Island, IOTA AF-004, until the end of March 2018. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, and possibly 6 metres, using CW, RTTY, PSK, and some SSB.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Shane, VK4KHZ is active as H44DA from Busone, Malaita Province until early January 2018. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, and satellite SO-50, but with a primary emphasis on 6 metres.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Special event call DT23WOP is active until February 28, 2018 during the Winter Olympic Games.

SVALBARD, JW. Morten, LA4JSA is active as JW4JSA from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, until June 1, 2018 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on the various HF bands.

BELGIUM, ON. Members of the Club Radio Durnal will be active as OT100BCA on December 17 from the Royal Castle of Laeken.

POLAND, SP. Special event station SN20WHL is active until December 20 to draw attention to the city of Torun that was put on the UNESCO World Heritage List 20 years ago.

CORSICA, TK. Georg, NZ1C will be active as TK/NZ1C until December 24. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW, with some SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8.

UKRAINE, UR. Members of the amateur radio club Band are active as EM25IWW until the end of the year to celebrate the club's 25th anniversary.

INDIA, VU. Members of the Manipal Institute of Technology radio club are active as AT6MIT until January 7, 2018 to celebrate the institution's 60th anniversary.

ROMANIA, YO. Special event station YP2018HNY will be active until January 15, 2018 to celebrate Christmas and the New Year 2018. Activity will be on the HF bands.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, NCCC RTTY Sprint, 80-Meter QRP CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, UN DIGI Contest, AGB-Party Contest, Russian 160-Meter Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, OKDX RTTY Contest, Padang DX Contest and the Croatian CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for December 18.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and 40-Meter QRP CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for December 20.

WICEN News

Today was the WICEN Christmas BBQ here at Dural. Training topics included voice procedures with Eric VK2VE, operation of Digital Mobile Radio equipment on VHF Hi-Band, a CPR theory refresher; and the repeater and communications trailers.

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

Saturday, May 5 is the 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.

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.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. Saturday the 24th of February, is the BMSC Rallye des Femme. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. A Fun Run from Safety Beach or Dromana to Rosebud will be on January 26. 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.

The next meeting of the club is the monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 6th of January 2018, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. It is a great opportunity for Amateurs visiting the area during the holiday period, to meet some of the locals. The club's highly sought after 2018 calendar and a small number of 2018 WIA Callbooks will be available for purchase on the night.

The club's January Friday night gathering will take place at 7pm on Friday the 19th of January 2018.

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 held their Christmas Social Dinner, last Thursday evening. All members, YL's and XYL's had a good time and the ladies were given chocolates.

The next monthly meeting of the Hunter Radio Group will be held on Friday the 9th of February, 2018. More details of this meeting in future broadcasts.

Merry Christmas to all from the Hunter Radio Group.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The club now has the computer running SATPC32, connected to the IC-910 with Eggbeater antenna on 2 and 70 Centimetres and preliminary testing has proved successful.

Following up on the recent lecture about simple antennas for working satellites, the club will be holding a test and checkout day on the 23rd December for those building the IOIO antenna and setting up your hand held radio with frequencies to make it easier to operate. You may wish to provide an SMA to BNC adaptor to suit your radio.

This is mainly for the FM satellites, with SO-50 still working and now AO-91 which is very easy to hear and operate with 5 watts. The IOIO antenna can also be operated with a laptop computer and two FT-817's as an example on the SSB satellites FO-29, AO-07, and the fairly recent crop of Cubesats launched by China. They are XW-2A, WX-2B , XW-2C through to XW-2F on SSB and easy to work and hear as they have 5 watt transmitters.

The Club is also planning Saturday 30th of December as an open day for activity with satellites, but check on our 2m repeater before turning up; 146.725Mhz -600 split and 91.5 Hz access tone.

Saturday the 27th January is a training and Assessment day at the Club, so if you are looking to complete your foundation license or an upgrade, contact Mark VK2MP via email to vk2mp@wia.org.au or Karen VK2AKB, kahdraft@ozemail.com.au as soon as possible to lock in your spot.

There will also be assessments for all grades at the Wyong Field Day on Sunday the 25th February. For upgrades and assessments at the Field Day contact Chris vk2yychris@gmail.com.

*Submitted by Bob VK2AOR
President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The club is planning a BBQ in late January, potentially Tuesday 23rd, and dinner at Magpies, on Tuesday the 13th February, in place of the mid-monthly meeting. February 27th will be the first Mt Colah meeting for the 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. Morning Tea with HADARC is now on or near 7106 kHz, from 9:00 am on Fridays. The nets continue, right throughout the holiday period, including public holidays.

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.*

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Summary of coming events;

December

CCARC satellite antenna and radio checkout day on the 23rd

Christmas Day on the 25th

CCARC satellite activity open day, proposed on the 30th

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

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 19th

CCARC Lecture and Demonstration on drones on the 20th

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

CCARC Training and assessment day on the 27th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Homebrew on the 28th

February 2018

QRP by the Harbour on Sunday the 4th

Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 9th

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend 10th and 11th

St. George Foundation training and assessment weekend, the 17th and 18th

BMSC Rallye des Femme, a WICEN ACT event, on the 24th

CCARC Wyong Field day on the 25th

HADARC Monthly general meeting at Mt Colah on the 27th