

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

Welcome to the first ARNSW Evening News bulletin for 2018.

The ARNSW Trash & Treasure events are on the last Sunday of the odd-numbered months, so the first one for the year is coming up at the end of this month, Sunday the 28th of January.

The next ARNSW Foundation and assessment weekend is in March and places are already filling up; Enquiries and bookings can be made by email to education@arnsw.org.au.

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 15th is the monthly Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group 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.

The next meeting of the group is on Sunday the 28th January, after the Trash and Treasure, at ARNSW Dural. At this meeting, Peter VK2TPM will be giving a presentation on tracking aircraft by means of ADS-B.

Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast, or ADS-B, is a surveillance technology in which an aircraft determines its position via satellite navigation and periodically broadcasts it; enabling it to be tracked. The information can be received by air traffic control ground stations as a replacement for secondary radar, as no interrogation signal is needed from the ground. It can also be received by other aircraft, to provide situational awareness and allow self-separation.

While dedicated receivers for ADS-B are very expensive, it is possible to receive and decode the transmissions using an inexpensive TV receiver dongle and a Raspberry Pi single board computer. Peter will demonstrate his set up and how it can easily be duplicated.

The meeting starts with a “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 28th.

And finally, the weekend after, Sunday 4th February is “QRP by the Harbour” at Mcilwaine Park in Rhodes. The event starts around midday, and continues till late in the afternoon, retiring to the café a short stroll along the Kakoda Track Memorial Walkway. People at the event will be monitoring both the Dural 2 metre repeater on 147MHz, and also 147.5MHz simplex.

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

ARNSW Council Elections

The next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday 28th of April 2018.

At the AGM, a new management council is to be appointed. Nominations will shortly be open for members who wish to be on the council for the year 2018 and 2019. Nomination forms will be available to download from the website, arnsw.org.au, or from the divisional office.

Nominations close at 11am on Saturday 17th March 2018.

Peter VK2EMU
Divisional Returning Officer

Note: Amateur Radio New South Wales is a business name of the company registered as Wireless Institute of Australia New South Wales Division. This company was originally incorporated in New South Wales in 1922.

Since 2004, the company uses the business name Amateur Radio New South Wales to avoid confusion with the independent incorporated entity, The Wireless Institute of Australia.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 5th to the 11th of January.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th
10cm flux	69	69	70	70	71	70	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	2	2	9	7	4	2 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	1	2	11	6	3	2 estimated
T index	-7	-12	-12	-14	-12	-11	-15

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet from the 5th to the 7th. The 8th saw quiet to active conditions, with SWS magnetometer data recording a weak impulse of 26nT at 0648UT, and an 11nT impulse at 1251UT. The 9th then saw quiet to unsettled conditions, and the 10th and 11th returned to quiet levels of activity.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were 15% depressed on the 5th. The 6th saw daytime frequencies near predicted but depressions of 15% during local night. The 7th and 8th were depressed 15% during the day, recovering at night to near predicted. The 9th remained near predicted during the day, but then was depressed 15% at night, the 10th was depressed 15% during the day and 20% at night, and the 11th was depressed 15% during the day and 25% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 12th to the 18th of January;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to range from quiet to active levels on the 13th and 14th, then returning to quiet conditions on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted on the 13th but minor to moderate depressions are expected otherwise.

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 December were;

Minimum 68 Average 72 Maximum 76
Peak dates between the 21st and 26th

Halfway through January, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 69 Average 70 Maximum 72
Peak dates between the 23rd and the 27th

And looking ahead to the prediction for February;

Minimum 70 Average 70 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 19th and the 24th

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

SOMALIA, 6O. Operators Ken, LA7GIA and Adrian, KO8SCA are active as 6O6O until January 16. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

MALAWI, 7Q. John, N6JW is active as 7Q7JW, on 40 and 20 metres using SSB.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y. Thomas, DL9OBQ is active as 9Z4/DL9OBQ from Saint Augustine, Trinidad Island, IOTA SA-011, until February 7. Activity is on 30, 17 and 15 metres using mostly CW.

BAHAMAS, C6. Steve, KG4LJB is active as C6AJB from Eleuthera Island, IOTA NA-001, until January 20. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 17 Metres.

PHILIPPINES, DU. A group of operators will be active as DU0DM from Corregidor Island, IOTA OC-244, on January 13 and 14. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ERITREA, E3. A group of operators will be active as E31A until January 23. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. The main objective of this trip is to support the Eritrean National Olympic Committee.

FRANCE, F. Operators Franck, F4DTO and Patrick, F4GFE are active using special event call sign TM390SR until June 16 to commemorate the siege of La Rochelle 390 years ago.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Heli, DD0VR will be active as FG/DD0VR until January 20. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using only SSB.

NORWAY, LA. Members of the NRRL are active with special calls LM90NRRL, LM90HQ and LM90C throughout 2018 to celebrate their 90th year as the IARU Society.

BULGARIA, LZ. Special event station LZ140LO is active until the end of March to celebrate the 140th anniversary of Bulgarian Independence.

CURACAO, PJ2. Joeke, PA0VDV will be active as PJ2/PA0VDV from January 16 to February 8. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using only CW.

ANTARCTICA. Nikolai, RW6ACM is active as RI1ANA from the Molodezhnaya Base Station, IOTA AN-016, until sometime in February. Activity is in his spare time on all HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

NAMIBIA, V5. Rudi, DK7PE is active as V5/DK7PE until the end of January. Activity is on the HF bands, but with a focus on 160 and 60 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX 160 Metre contest.

MICRONESIA, V6. Sumio, JI1MDM will be active as V63AKB48 using SSB, and V63AKB using FT8, from Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC-010, from January 15 to 18. Activity will be on 20, 17, 15 and 12 metres.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO is active as XT2AW from Ouagadougou until January 22. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and JT65. He may also try to be active on 60 metres.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Pete, K8PGJ will be active as ZF2PG until January 21. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using SSB. This includes being active in the upcoming North America SSB QSO Party.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American CW QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, YB DX SSB Contest, Old New Year Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest, NRAU-Baltic Contest and DARC 10-Metre Contest are all on this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for January 15.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for January 17.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.

WICEN News

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

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 next meeting is Sunday, 11 February, at 10:00 am.

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. January 26th sees a Fun Run on Mornington Peninsula. The Queens Baton Relay passes through Warragul in Gippsland on Sunday, 11 February. Field Weekend at Yea runs for three days from Friday, March 2. Duncan's Run in the Tarra Bulga State Forest is listed tentatively for Saturday, March 24. 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 Friday night gathering, at 7pm on the 19th of January, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's 2017 calendar is still available at club activities.

The club's annual Antenna Shootout is on Sunday the 11th of February, at the Tuffins Lane Sports fields in Port Macquarie. Facilities will be available to test both home brew and commercial antennas on 6 metres, 2 metres and 70 centimetres.

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 January 2018 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 first meeting of the group for 2018 is coming up on Friday the 9th February. It's at the NBN TV Studios, Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and starts at 8pm.

The first Hunter Radio Group Monday night broadcast will be on the 4th February, 2018. You can find this broadcast on the Groups Repeaters 6900 in the 2 metre band and 438.025 MHZ in the 70 cm band, starting time for VK2AWX is 7.30 p.m. local.

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

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Illawarra Amateur Radio Society meets on the second Tuesday of every month except for January, with the next meeting on the 13th of February. General meetings start at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

The Society's meetings are normally held at Coniston Community Hall, however, due to repairs being done to the hall, the February and March meetings will instead be at the North Wollongong Scout Hall. The Scout Hall is on the corner of Virginia Street and Squires Way at North Wollongong, opposite Stuart Park. For more information, check the IARS website at www.iars.net.au. That address again, is www.iars.net.au.

For those interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven regions, the Society has a 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; so contact Ted by email, vk2ara@wia.org.au. That address again, is vk2ara@wia.org.au.

Sunday ARNSW News Bulletins are relayed on three of the Illawarra Amateur Radio 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 cover 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, and overseas as well. 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, don't forget that the next two meetings of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society are at the North Wollongong Scout Hall, and the next meeting is on Tuesday the 13th of February.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer, Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club will be running a licence course and assessment weekend over 17-18 February 2018.

Foundation licence course – 17 February

Foundation regulations and theory exams – 18 February

Foundation practical exam – 18 February

Standard or Advanced theory and/or regulations exams – 18 February

They need a minimum of 3 Foundation candidates for the Saturday course to cover costs. Sunday exams can be run with a minimum of 1 candidate. The course and assessments will be conducted in the Macarthur area. For more information, including costs or to book your place, contact the Club's Learning Organiser, Frank VK2FRW, on (02) 4681 8334, or email vk2frw@wia.org.au.

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday 31 January at McDonald's Woodbine, commencing at 7:30pm. Visitors wishing to learn more about the hobby of Amateur Radio are most welcome to attend.

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.

Submitted by Peter VK2PR

On behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The third annual Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest will take place on Sydney Harbour, on Sunday March 11th from 10am to 4pm, local time.

This unique contest aims to gather hams to Sydney Harbour and invites them to make VHF / UHF contacts from any of the system's ferries and 36 wharves.

With flat rate all-day travel available using an Opal Card, this is a great way to spend a Sunday!

Operation is restricted to hand-held radios (any mode) and can include repeater, simplex or "eyeball" (a handshake) contacts. Contestants can obtain points multipliers by working multiple ferries and multiple wharves during the six hour contest. A number of awards, including the prestigious "Worked All Ferry Lines" are available.

The event is being run by the Waverley Amateur Radio Society and club station, VK2BV, will be operating from Rose Bay Ferry Wharf for the duration of the contest. We hope to eyeball as many contestants as we can during the day.

This is a fun contest for the amateur radio community but also a great way to promote amateur radio to the community at large.

Full contest details are on the society's website, at vk2bv.org.

*73 Rob VK2XRH
Secretary - Waverley Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

On Tuesday the 13th February, in place of the mid-monthly meeting will be a dinner at Magpies. 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.

April 21 is International Marconi Day, so VK2IMD will be active. Further events will be run through the year, as 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the first direct UK to Australia message.

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;

January

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

QRP by the Harbour on Sunday the 4th
SGARS HF by the bay on the 7th
Hunter Radio Group meeting on the 9th
Waverley ARS Foundation weekend 10th and 11th
Oxley Region antenna shootout on the 11th
Illawarra ARS Meeting, at North Wollongong Scout Hall, on the 13th
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

March

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 10th and 11th
Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest on the 11th
John Moyle Memorial Field Day, 17th and 18th