

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

Education courses at ARNSW will commence in March; the upgrade course starts on Monday the 5th, at 7 pm at the VK2WI Dural site and finishes at 9 pm. The upgrade course continues each Monday evening until November except on public holidays. While the course is intended for those who already hold a Foundation license, it is suitable for anyone to undertake, as all required electronic and license topics are covered. The upgrade course uses a handbook produced by Ron VK2DQ and copies are available from ARNSW.

The following weekend - the 10th and 11th of March – is the first ARNSW Foundation weekend for 2018. This weekend is filling fast so book now if you wish to attend. This course uses the WIA Foundation Manual and copies are available from ARNSW or from the WIA Bookshop.

Enquiries and bookings for the ARNSW courses are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au, so that further information can be sent to you.

Elsewhere in this news bulletin are details of Foundation weekends being conducted during February in the Sydney region.

While on the topic of amateur radio licencing; if you are interested in obtaining a US Amateur licence, there will be exams available at the Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 25th of February. Details can be found on the ARRL Website, under Find an Exam Session.

A reminder that there is only 10 days left for ARNSW members to place an order for a membership badge; this offer closes on the 31st of January.

ARNSW Radio Homebrew and Experimenters Group

The next bi-monthly 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

As previously announced, 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 12th to the 18th of January.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th
10cm flux	71	71	71	70	71	71	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	7	11	7	3	1	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	8	7	6	4	2	1 estimated
T index	-6	-12	-4	-5	+5	+4	-4

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 12th and quiet to unsettled on the 13th, then the 14th was quiet to unsettled with some isolated Active periods. The 15th was mostly quiet with some isolated unsettled periods, then activity returned to quiet levels, from the 16th to the 18th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region started out near predicted monthly values during daylight the 12th but became depressed 15% at local night. The 13th was 15% depressed throughout then the 14th was near predicted during the day and 15% depressed at night. The 15th through to the 17th remained near predicted, then the 18th was near predicted during the day, but 20% depressed during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 19th to the 25th of January;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to range from quiet to active levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may see minor to moderate depressions on the 20th and 21st, but should be near predicted 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

Into January, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 69 Average 71 Maximum 72
Peak dates between the 27th and the 28th

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>]

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ARRL DX news

LIBYA, 5A. Abubaker, 5A1AL has been active using FT8 on 30 metres from 1900 to 2200z.

MALAWI, 7Q. John, N6JW is active as 7Q7JW. Activity of late has been on 40 and 20 metres using SSB. His length of stay is unknown.

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. Brian, VE3VWP is active as VE3VWP/C6A from Paradise Island until January 25. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using SSB, PSK31 and FT8.

ETHIOPIA, ET. Ulli, DL9WVM is active from the ET3AA club station until January 29. Activity is on 30 to 15 metres using CW.

ECUADOR, HC. Members of the Ecuador DX Club station are active as HD0DX until January 20. Activity is on 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres using SSB and FT8.

SARDINIA, IS. Simone, IS0AFM will be active with special call IR0FOC to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the First Class CW Operators' Club.

GUINEA-BISSAU, J5. Livio, IZ3BUR will be active as J52EC from a mission in Cumura from January 24 to February 21.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Brian, GW4DVB will be active as J88PI from Palm Island, IOTA NA-025, until January 27.

ANTARCTICA. LU1ZAB is active from the Argentine Antarctic Matienzo Base located in Graham Land, IOTA AN-016, and has been active on 40 metres using SSB around 0015 to 0100z and then again from 0300 to 0415z.

ARUBA, P4. Mathias, DL4MM will be active as P4/DL4MM from January 24 to 31. Activity is on the low bands. He will be active as P40AA in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

CURACAO, PJ2. Jeff, K8ND is active as PJ2ND from the Signal Point station until February 5. Activity is on the HF bands. He and Jim, W8WTS will be active as PJ2T in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

NAMIBIA, V5. Rudi, DK7PE plans to be active as V5/DK7PE from Omarura from January 24 to 31. Activity will be on the HF bands with an emphasis on 160 and 60 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre CW contest.

MONTSERAT, VP2M. Daniel, KD9HNL is active as VP2MDH until January 29. Activity is on various FM satellites.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL January VHF Contest, North American SSB QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, Nebraska QSO Party, LZ Open CW Contest, Hungarian DX Contest, RSGB AFS Data Contest, WAB 1.8 MHz Phone, Feld Hell Sprint and the Classic CW Exchange are all on tap for this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is scheduled for January 22.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NAQCC 160-Metre CW Sprint and SKCC CW Sprint are all scheduled for January 24.

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 February monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's 2018 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, which are on 146.9MHz on 2 metres, and 438.025 MHz in the 70 cm band. Starting time for the VK2AWX bulletin is 7.30 pm 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 on the 17th and 18th of February 2018, in the Macarthur area, on the south-western edge of Sydney - near Campbelltown.

The Foundation Licence course is on the 17th, then all the examinations - Regulations, theory and practical – are on Sunday the 18th. Exams for Standard or Advanced theory and regulations, are also held on the 18th.

A minimum of 3 Foundation candidates are needed for Saturday, to cover costs, but the Sunday exams can run with a minimum of 1 candidate. For more information, including costs, or to book a place, contact the Club's Learning Organiser, Frank VK2FRW, on (02) 4681 8334, or email vk2frw@wia.org.au.

Results of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge have been released; Congratulations to VK5GR for winning both the Most Wanted and Top 5 categories. Full results can be found on the contest website, vk2au.org. To get involved in the current period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge, simply log at least 1 contact with any DX station, (or even VK), between January and March, then head over to vk2au.org during the entry submission period in April to send in your entry.

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Club is on Wednesday 31st of 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.

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

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The club's Christmas party was held last month at the QTH of Eric, VK2VE and Megan, VK2FGGL with about 28 in attendance for a catered lunch. A great time was had by all.

Last Wednesday, January the 17th was the club's January monthly meeting. At this meeting there was quite a bit of discussion about the club's activities for the coming year and our centenary year in 2019. Our weekend away at Tooraweenah for the John Moyle field day was discussed, as well as several contest weekends and a proposed working bee at Barrie's country estate to erect more contest antennae.

A short show and tell was presented by Eric, VK2VE, of a small, basic 3D printer and some discussion ensued about 3D printing. The next meeting of the club is on Wednesday February 21st.

Coming up on Sunday, March 11th is the Club's annual Sydney Harbour Ferry Contest. This is proving to be a popular contest with some people travelling quite long distances to participate. The contest runs from 10am until 4pm on beautiful Sydney Harbour with early check-ins from 8am. You can ride Sydney Ferries all day for one very low price so it isn't an expensive day. Contesters can use any available repeaters and simplex frequencies and can operate from any of the Sydney Ferries and wharves, using handhelds only. Home stations are also encouraged to work operators riding the ferries. Full details, rules and a downloadable log sheet are available on the society's website, at vk2bv.org.

The next Shack night is on Wednesday, February 7th commencing at 7:30pm. This can be a good time to bring along something to test or get some help with a new rig. Working bees at the clubhouse are from around 10am to 4pm on 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, February 3rd, commencing around 1:30pm and usually running through to about 4:30 or 5pm.

There is a weekly net every Monday at 8pm on the VK2RBV Fusion repeater, in FM mode on 438.1125MHz, usually run by Richard, VK2XRC. All are welcome to join in.

Skip's Morse sessions are continuing on Thursday evenings as well as new eyeball sessions on a Sunday morning at the clubrooms from 11am; see the website for details.

The club runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends. The first course for 2018 will be over the weekend of February 10th and 11th. Please see our website for details and to reserve your place.

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 its regularly updated 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 actioned within a couple of days.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

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 general meeting for the year, as usual at the Mt Colah community centre in Pierre Close, on the eastern side of the railway station.

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.*

[Play Evening ID 4]

Summary of coming events;

January

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

CCARC Training and assessment day on the 27th

ARNSW Trash and Treasure and Experimenter's Group meeting on the 28th

Fisher's Ghost ARC Meeting on the 31st

February

ORARC Monthly general meeting on the 3rd

QRP by the Harbour in Sydney, 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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society Meeting on the 21st

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