

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

During the coming week, we are planning to undertake some electrical upgrades and maintenance at the VK2WI Dural site. During these works there will be some interruption to the operation of the VK2RWI repeaters, VK2RSY beacons and the VK2WI 80 metre morse transmission.

Education courses at ARNSW will commence in March; the upgrade course starts on Monday the 5th and the following weekend - the 10th and 11th of March – is the first ARNSW Foundation weekend for 2018. Enquiries and bookings for the ARNSW courses are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au, so that more information can be sent to you.

Wyong Field Day 2018

Coming up in three weeks, Sunday the 25th of February, is the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club's Wyong Field Day, 2018.

Entry to the grounds for Car boot sales, Traders and Exhibitors will be open from 6am at the Howarth Street entrance – directions will be given by the Gate Staff staff wearing Hi Vis vests with the words "Floor Warden".

General admission is by the Rose Street car park entrance, with parking on the grass and bitumen car parks.

Disabled Person car parking spots are available; from the Rose Street entry, extra Disabled Parking will be directly in front and along the cyclone fence, but be aware of the footpath and do not park right up to the fence. It is an easy walk through the new pedestrian entry point.

All tickets will be purchased at the Rose St and Howarth St gates. Traders, Exhibitors and Lectures passes will be available there as well.

For those visiting and staying in the area over night, we are planning to congregate at the Grand Hotel, opposite the railway overpass in Wyong. If you are visiting or local, please join us for a meal from 6pm.

*Regards, Bob VK2AOR
President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

ARNSW 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 are now open for members who wish to be on the council for the year 2018 and 2019. Nomination forms can be found at the link on the front page of our website arnsw.org.au, or contact the office.

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

Peter VK2EMU
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 26th of January to the 1st of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st
10cm flux	70	69	69	68	69	69	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	5	2	3	3	5	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	5	4	2	4	6	3 estimated
T index	+1	-6	-9	-8	-9	-8	-4

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 26th and 27th, quiet to unsettled on the 28th, quiet on the 29th and 30th, quiet to unsettled on the 31st, then back to quiet again on the 1st of February.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly on the 26th. On the 27th and 28th, frequencies were depressed 15% during local day but near predicted at night, the 29th saw depressions of 20% during local day, recovering to near predicted at night; then the 30th through to the 1st, saw frequencies depressed 15% during local days, recovering to near predicted at night.

Now, the forecast for the 2nd to the 8th of February;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to show quiet to unsettled conditions.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should range from near predicted to slightly depressed.

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 January were;

Minimum 68 Average 70 Maximum 71
Peak dates between the 12th and the 20th

At the start of February, the figures so far;

Minimum 69 Average 70 Maximum 71
Peak dates between the 4th and the 9th

And looking ahead to the prediction for March;

Minimum 69 Average 70 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 6th and the 18th

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

VIETNAM, 3W. Chuck, W0DLE is active as 3W9DLE from Ho Chi Minh City until April 30. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes entries in the upcoming ARRL DX and Russian DX contests.

BOUVET, 3Y. A group of operators will be active as 3Y0Z until February 28. Activity will be on 160 to 2 metres with multiple stations using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8, with EME on 6 and 2 metres.

SAMOA, 5W. Dick, AD7AF will be active as 5W0LR until February 22. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres, and possibly 80 metres, using primarily CW and FT8 with some SSB, depending on band conditions. This includes being active in the upcoming ARRL DX CW contest.

BAHAMAS, C6. Operators Tim, N4UM, Bob, N4BP and Mike, K4RUM will be active as C6ARU, C6AKQ, and C6AUM, respectively, from Great Abaco Island, IOTA NA-080, from February 6 to 20. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres with a focus on CW, and the upcoming CQ WPX RTTY and ARRL DX CW contests.

COMOROS, D6. Giovanni, IK5BCM, Giuseppe, IK5CBE and Giovanni, IK5CRH are active as D68I until February 10. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Chris, F4EBK is active as DU3/F4EBK from Baliuag on Luzon, IOTA OC-042, throughout February. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB.

ESTONIA; A number of amateur radio operators are active with an ES100 prefix until March 31, to mark the 100th birthday of the Estonian Republic.

ITALY; Various members of the Amateur Radio Club of United Nations Global Service Centre are active as 4U13FEB from Brindisi until March 31 to promote United Nations World Radio Day. Activity is on various HF bands.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Haru, JA1XGI is active as P29VXG from New Britain Island, IOTA OC-008, until February 7. Activity is on 160, 80, 40, 30 and 20 metres.

SOLOMON ISLANDS; Bernard, DL2GAC is active as H44MS until May 2.

PALAU, T8. Misuhiko, JL3WXS is active as T88XS from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until February 5. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

MALI, TZ. Youma is now active as TZ5YL. She has been active on 17 metres using CW.

BELIZE, V3. Victor, WB0TEV and Scott, KK7JS will be active as V31VP and V31CQ, respectively, from Blackman Eddy from February 8 to 12. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres. This includes being active as V31VP in the upcoming CQ WPX RTTY contest.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Bernie, W3UR is active as V47UR from St. Kitts, IOTA NA 104, until February 12. Activity is holiday style on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and some FT8 from grid square FK87.

CANADA, VE. Pierre, VE3KTB and Alex, VE1RUS will be active as VY0ERC from Nunavut, Ellesmere Island, IOTA NA-008, until April 1. Activity will be in their spare time mostly on 40 and 20 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

KOSOVO, Z6. Station Z60A is active on HF bands, and Z61DX has been active on 20 metres using CW and SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The AM Rally, NRAU 10-Metre Activity Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, Vermont QSO Party, 10-10 International SSB Winter Contest, Mexico RTTY International Contest, Black Sea Cup International, F9AA CW Cup, Minnesota QSO Party, FYBO Winter QRP Sprint, AGCW 80-Metre CW Straight Key Party, British Columbia QSO Party, FISTS Winter Slow Speed CW Sprint and North American CW Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club SSB Championship is scheduled for February 5. The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for February 6. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for February 7.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.

WICEN News

A training day will be held on Sunday 18th February, from 9:30 am. This includes formal competencies on operating communications equipment, and assisting in rescue operations. Lunch will be provided.

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.

A planning meeting for Navshield will be on Tuesday the 27th of February; as well as providing communication support; there is the possibility of a WICEN team.

The WICEN website at nsw.wicen.org.au includes a printable membership form, a web contact form, often the best way to contact WICEN, as well as other contact details and useful links. Logging in gives members access to further coming events, and various manuals.

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 on Sunday, 11th 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. Easter Sunday, April 1st, is the National Carriage Driving Championships at Witwood, and the Canberra Two Day Walk is on April the 7th and 8th. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. The Queens Baton Relay passes through Warragul in Gippsland on Sunday, 11th February. The Eureka Rally around Ballarat is March 2 and 4. Duncan's Run in the Tarra Bulga State Forest is listed tentatively for Saturday, March 24. The Sunraysia Safari Rally will be held in the far north-west corner of Victoria, south of Wentworth, on April 21 and 22. 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 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, starting at 8pm. After General Business, a lecture will be presented by Grahame VK2FA, on the new digital mode, FT8.

Tea, coffee and ragchew after the meeting.

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

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the Friday night gathering, at 7pm on of Friday the 16th, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

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. Set up commences at 9 am. There will be bacon and eggs from the barbeque for those who arrive early. Lunch will be a sausage sizzle.

This year the Club's annual Field Day, on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of June, will be held in the hall of the Camden Haven High School on Ocean Drive near Kew. This is an excellent venue with facilities for all the Field Day activities. The change of venue is because the Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club hall, is being renovated during June. The Field Day dinner will be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club as in past years.

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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The 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.

Meetings are usually 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; its 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.

At the February meeting, long-term member Max VK2ARZ will be presenting an informative talk on the design, construction and testing of HF wire antennas. Max has decades of knowledge and experience in this area, so his presentation will be of great interest to all those attending.

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 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.

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.

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 7th of February and in place of the normal gathering, will be "HF Portable by the Bay".

Bring along your HF portable setup to the picturesque shores of Kyle Bay. Setup and show others your portable HF equipment in operation, from 6.30pm.

Band pass filters will be available to facilitate simultaneous operation on different bands. Come along and see what your fellow amateur radio operators have created for great HF portable operation. This event would be a great introduction to the John Moyle contest in March.

After the meeting, there will be the usual refreshments. All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

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*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

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

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 3608.5kHz, also from 8pm. Morning Tea with HADARC is 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.

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;

February

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

ORARC Friday night gathering on the 16th

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

Fisher's Ghost training and assessment weekend, also on 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

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 25th

April

International Marconi Day on the 21st

ARNSW AGM on the 28th