

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

With the Wyong Field Day next Sunday, there will not be a morning VK2WI News bulletin; in its place will be a special Saturday evening bulletin, at 7.30pm, with the morning format.

The ARNSW upgrade course starts in two weeks' time, on Monday the 5th of March, then the weekend of the 10th and 11th of March – is the first ARNSW Foundation weekend for 2018. Enquiries and bookings for ARNSW courses are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

We are currently planning a Talkfest and antenna day at VK2WI Dural in early April; the date is still to be confirmed. The day will consist of short talks, then lunch and in the afternoon, practical field activities.

Wyong Field Day 2018

As just mentioned, the Field Day is on next Sunday, and here's the latest from CCARC President and Field Day team member, Bob VK2AOR.

The dedicated Field Day website, at fieldday.org.au, is continually being updated – it's worthwhile to check before you head to Wyong on Sunday morning. On the site, you can find maps and photos showing the entry points. Signs will be posted in nearby streets, directing you to the changed facilities.

In the past, the Bistro has been knocked for the quality of the food, so this year the club has worked with the caterers to ensure a selection of high quality food. The Bistro will be on the Second Floor, open from 8.30am till 2.30pm. If you have some distance to travel you may wish to top up the tanks before heading off.

The Field Day organisers received many suggestions about what attendees wanted to see and while it wasn't possible to include everything, this year you will find some different slants on Field Day activities. A highlight of the workshop program is a live demonstration of Satellite Operation – along with a talk about the current satellites will be a demonstration of how to build an "ioio" antenna. Kits will be available with the bits you need and a pre-drilled boom.

Workshops will be in the lower bistro area on the ground floor. There will be a banner for "Lecture Room 2" near the door, listing whats on and times.

Don't forget to get your raffle tickets this year for some great prizes. First prize is an HF/6m transceiver.

There will be a meeting of the Sydney Basin Clubs in the Lord Hybrow Lounge near the Bistro at 12 noon, chaired by Rob VK2XRH from the Waverley ARS, and facilitated by Mark VK2CCR from CCARC.

Check out the new air-conditioned Marquee this year where the traders will be keeping cool this year - or warm, depending on weather conditions on the day. There are a few new traders this year.

Field Day entry is \$10, and for those under 17 years old, entry is free.

The Field Day organisers wish to thank all attendees, Traders, Exhibitors, Lecturers and workers for your support over the past 60 years of providing an Amateur Radio Field Day on the Central Coast, and on this 25th year of Field Day at the Wyong Race Club, wishes all attendees a most enjoyable day.

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

US Licence Exams at Field Day

As part of the activities at this year's Wyong Field Day, the OZ-VE group will be making US Amateur Licence exams available.

If you wish to operate in the US, but are ineligible to use reciprocal arrangements due to citizenship, want something extra for the CV, just want a challenge, or want to become a Volunteer Examiner yourself – the full range of exams are available. A single affordable fee allows you to attempt all three papers, should you wish to go from no licence to Extra.

For more information, check the group's new website, at hamexam.space.

*Julian VK2YJS
on behalf of the OZ-VE group.*

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 20th, the ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group will be holding their monthly net.

The net starts at 8:00pm on the Dural 2 metre repeater, 147.0MHz 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 will be 3686.4 kHz and the 40m frequency will be 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.

The group will have a display at the Wyong Field Day next Sunday; anyone interested in experimenting with radio and homebrewing their own equipment is invited to drop in and meet members of the group there.

73 from Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.

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 9th to the 15th of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
10cm flux	78	78	78	79	76	75	73
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	7	2	3	3	2	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	7	1	3	2	1	9 estimated
T index	4	9	6	6	1	3	8

Solar flare activity was very low on the 9th, low on the 10th, very low on the 11th, low on the 12th, then very low from the 13th through to the 15th.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet on the 9th, quiet to unsettled on the 10th, then quiet from the 11th to the 14th. However, the 15th showed quiet to active conditions, with the SWS magnetometer showing a weak impulse of 8 nanoteslas, at 0836UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values on the 9th and 10th. The 11th saw enhancements of 25% after local dawn, returning to near predicted for the rest of the day. The 12th remained near predicted, then the 13th was near predicted during local day with enhancements of 15% during local night. The 14th was again near predicted, then the 15th was mostly near predicted with enhancements of 35% observed after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 16th to the 22nd of February;

Solar activity is expected to be very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to range from unsettled to active levels on the 16th and 17th, then returning to quiet to unsettled conditions for the rest of the week.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should 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.

The figures for January were;

Minimum 68 Average 70 Maximum 71
Peak dates between the 10th and the 20th

For February, the figures so far;

Minimum 68 Average 72 Maximum 789
Peak dates between the 5th and the 15th

And looking ahead to the prediction for March;

Minimum 69 Average 714 Maximum 78
With peak dates between the 3rd and the 16th

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

KUWAIT, 9K. Special event station 9K57NLD is active until February 28 to mark Kuwait's 57th National and Liberation Day.

TAIWAN, BV. Randson, BV2DQ, Terry, BU2CC, James, BV2EL and Steven, VK2HSL, who is active as BW/VK2HSL, are all active until February 18 to mark the Chinese New Year. Activity is on 40, 20 and 15 metres using CW and SSB.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. Michael, DF8AN will be active as CE0Y/DF8AN from February 21 to 28. Activity will be on the HF bands, concentrating mainly on RTTY, PSK, JT-modes and FT8.

CUBA, CO. Members of the Las Tunas Contest Crew will be active as T48K in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Multi/2 entry.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Henning, OZ1BII is active as D44EE from Santiago Island, IOTA AF-005, until February 20. Activity is on the HF bands using CW. This includes an entry in the ARRL International DX CW contest.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Arnaud, JG1XMV plans to be active as FK/JG1XMV from Grande Terre, IOTA OC-032, Lifou and Mare, both IOTA OC-033, until March 3. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands. Yves, FK4RD will accompany him.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ will be active as JD1BOW from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, from February 21 to 24. Activity will be on 160 to 15 metres using CW and various digital modes.

GUAM, KH2. Operators Toshinobu, JI3ERV and Mikawa, JR7OMD will be active as AH2R in the ARRL International DX CW contest.

ARUBA, P4. Bruce, AA5B, Steve, AA7V, Ray, K9RS and Art, N3DXX will be active as P40E in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Multi/Single entry.

BRAZIL, PY. Members of the CDR Group will be active as PX2S from the Boqueirao Beach Lighthouse, ARLHS BRA-284, in the 10th South American Lighthouse Weekend.

SLOVENIA, S5. Special event station S510SOTA is active during 2018 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the S5 SOTA Association.

PALAU, T8. Will, AA4NC will be active as T8NC in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry.

COSTA RICA, TI. Nathan, N4YDU is active as TI5/N4YDU. He will be active as TI7W in the ARRL International DX CW contest.

BENIN, TY. Wim, ON6DX will be active as TY1TT from February 20 to 28. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Alan, N3AD is active as V26M from Antigua until February 19. This includes an entry in the ARRL International DX CW contest.

BELIZE, V3. Operators Torsten, DG7RO and Alexandra, DO5ALX are active as V31TF and V31RU, respectively, until February 25. Activity is on the various HF bands using SSB, RTTY and some FT8. This includes being active in the ARRL International DX CW contest and the upcoming CQ World Wide 160 Metre SSB contest.

KOSOVO, Z6. Look for Z60A to be active in the ARRL International DX CW contest.

ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8. Randy, WW6RG plans to be active as ZD8RA on February 20. Activity will be from 0830 to 1100UTC and again from 1730 to 1930UTC.

NEW ZEALAND, ZL. Operators ZL3PAH, ZL3GA and ZL3AB will be active as ZL3X in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Mutli/2 entry.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International DX CW Contest, 10th South American Lighthouse Weekend, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint, SARL Youth Day 40-Metre SSB Sprint, Russian PSK World Wide Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party and Classic Phone Exchange will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for February 19.

The AGCW 80-Metre Semi-Automatic Key CW Evening, Phone Fray, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for February 21.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.

WICEN News

WICEN will be at the Wyong Field Day next Sunday, and membership renewals will be accepted on the day.

New to the WICEN calendar are four Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events. They are each held on a Sunday morning; first one is at Stuart Park, North Wollongong on the 4th of March, then Tench Reserve Penrith on the 25th March; then Leichhardt Oval #3 at Lilyfield on the 6th May; and the Hunter event at Speers Point Park, on the 25th of May.

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 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 female drivers. 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. Events include Field Weekend at Yea, which runs from Friday, March 2 to Sunday the 4th. The Eureka Rally around Ballarat is on the weekend of March 3 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, as will a 4WD event at Toolangi State Forest. May 6th is the Kenda Rally, a motorcycle event. 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 March General meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

The club's annual Antenna Shootout was last Sunday, at Tuffins Lane Sports fields in Port Macquarie. The day was a great success, with a record number of homebrew and commercial antennas for 6 and 2 metres and 70 centimetres tested. Those attending enjoyed a bacon and egg breakfast and a sausage sizzle lunch from the barbeque. It was a warm day, but the fridge in the club's communications caravan provided cold soft drinks and water.

The new venue for the Club's annual Field Day, on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of June, is the Wauchope High School hall in Nelson Street, Wauchope. This is an excellent venue, which will support all the traditional Field Day activities. The Field Day dinner will still be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club, as in past years.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444; the next training courses and assessments 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.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

This Wednesday the 21st, will be the club's monthly meeting commencing at 7:30pm. At the meeting will be planning discussion for both the Ferry Contest on March 11th, as well as operation Equinox, the club's annual expedition to Tooraweenah over the John Moyle weekend. As usual some members will meet at the RSL next door for dinner from about 6pm. All are welcome to join them.

Coming up on Sunday March 11th, is the annual Sydney Harbour Ferry Contest run by the Society; 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 its not 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 club website.

The next Shack is on Wednesday, March 7th, commencing at 7:30pm and going to about 9:30pm. This can be a good time to bring along something to test or get some help with a new rig.

There is a working bee at the clubhouse 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 on duty.

The next Project Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 3rd, commencing around 1:30pm and usually running through to about 4:30pm or 5:00pm.

There is a weekly net every Monday evening, from 8pm on the VK2RBV Fusion repeater, in FM mode on 438.1125MHz, with 91.5Hz CTCSS tone, 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 society runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends. The first course for 2018 was last weekend, with three candidates in attendance.

The next is over the weekend of the 12th and 13th of May. 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. The site 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 site, which is normally actioned within a couple of days.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday the 21st is lecture night at the Society. Rod VK2ZZM will talk about producing videos for YouTube, using the "Power Director" software. Rod's work also features on the club's YouTube channel, VK2MB-TV on the "Members and Friends" playlist.

Then on the 28th, the society will be hosting a Balun Workshop with Geoff VK2TGO. As well as construction techniques, Geoff's presentation will feature the use of the club's Rig Expert AA-600 antenna analyser.

The club station, VK2MB/p, will be active next month, in the John Moyle Field Day, 17-18 March. Catch you on air!

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 146.875MHz, or visit the web site, mwrs.org.au for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club on Tuesday the 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.

April 21 is International Marconi Day, and VK2IMD will be active on various HF bands.

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;

February

ARNSW Experimenters Group net on the 20th

Waverley Amateur Radio Society Meeting on the 21st

MWRS Lecture night – producing video for Youtube - also 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

MWRS Balun Night on the 28th

March

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 3rd

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 10th and 11th

Also in March - ARNSW celebrates the 108th year since its foundation, which was on the 11th March 1910.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society Training and Licensing Day on the 7th

International Marconi Day on the 21st

Westlakes ARC open day on the 21st

ARNSW AGM on the 28th