

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

The ARNSW upgrade course starts next week, on Monday the 5th of March, then the weekend after, 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.

Wyong Field Day 2018

Today was the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club's Wyong Field Day, and here with a report is Mathew VK2YAP;

[Play File: E-WFD18-1.wav]

Duration: 3m02s

In: [noise] "here at the 2018..."

Out: "...wyong field day2018."

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 16th to the 22nd of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd
10cm flux	72	69	70	69	70	68	68
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	10	14	11	3	3	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	10	7	9	11	2	2	8 estimated
T index	8	10	10	15	-4	-11	-7

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region started out at quiet to active levels on the 16th, with the SWS magnetometer showing a weak impulse of 10 nanoteslas, at 0758UTC. Conditions remained quiet to unsettled on the 17th and 18th, reaching minor storm levels on the 19th. The 20th and 21st then remained quiet, but the 22nd showed quiet to unsettled conditions.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values on the 16th and 17th, but the 18th saw depressions of 15% during local day, returning to near predicted at night. The 19th remained near predicted throughout, and the 20th was near predicted during the day but 20% depressed during local night. Similarly the 21st was near predicted in the day and 15% depressed at night, then the 22nd remained near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 23rd of February to the 1st of March;

Solar activity is expected to be very low all week.

Geomagnetic conditions are expected to be quiet to unsettled.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain mostly near predicted monthly values, with some minor depressions.

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 78
Peak dates between the 5th and the 17th

And looking ahead to the prediction for March;

Minimum 69 Average 73 Maximum 76
With peak dates between the 4th and the 14th, and the 28th to the 31st.

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

ROTUMA ISLAND, 3D2. A group of operators are active as 3D2EU until March 16. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

TANZANIA, 5H. John, KB7LBY will be active as 5H2LBY while ascending Mount Kilimanjaro, until March 2. Activity will be limited during his climb to 40 and 20 metres using QRP power.

NEPAL, 9N. Charles, KE5GD is active as 9N7CR until March 1. He is active on 20 metres using SSB from around 1200 to 1400UTC.

ETHIOPIA, ET. Mike, OM2DX is active from Addis Ababa from the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society station ET3AA.

MARTINIQUE, FM. A group of operators are active as TO972A until March 2. Activity is on all HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes being active in the REF contest.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Yves, FK4RD and Arnaud, FK/JG1XMV are active from Lifou Island, IOTA OC-033, until February 26. They will then be active from Mare Island, IOTA OC-033, from February 26 to March 2.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Chungki, VA7YM will be active as H44YM from Honiara, IOTA OC-047, until February 26.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. After his Honiara operation, Chungki, VA7YM will be active as H40YM from Lata in Nendo Island, IOTA OC-100, from February 27 to March 12.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Will, AA4NC and Ronald, AA4VK are active as KH0/home calls from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, until February 28.

ARUBA, P4. Paul, K9PG, Mike, K9NW, Chad, WE9V and John, W6LD will be active as P40L until March 9. Activity will be on all HF bands, including a Multi/2 entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

GUATEMALA, TG. Chris, PA2CHR and Jos, PA3FYC are active as TD9CHR and TD9FYC, respectively, until March 3. Activity is on 2 metres, and 70 and 23 centimetres using EME.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Bud, AA3B will be active as V26K from Antigua from February 28 to March 5. Activity will be on the HF bands. This includes a Single Op/Assisted/All Band/High Power entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

BELIZE, V3. Victor, WB0TEV and Michael, K5MDK will be active as V31VP and V31MK, respectively, from Blackman Eddy from March 1 to 5. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres. This includes being active as V31VP in the upcoming ARRL International DX SSB contest.

VIETNAM, XV. Sookun, HL1AHS and Jinho, HL1LUA will be active as XV9HL from Ho Chi Minh City from February 26 to March 6. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. In addition, some members of the Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club are active as XV9DLH from Phu Quoc Island, IOTA AS-128.

NICARAGUA, YN. Operators Jim, WB2REM and Mark, WY1G will be active as H72DX from Granada from February 26 to March 6. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

SERBIA, YU. Special event stations YU100WWI and YT100SF are active until December 31, 2018 to commemorate the 100 years since the end of World War I and the 100 years since the breakthrough of the Salonika Front.

KOSOVO, Z6. Mome, Z32ZM is active as Z68M until March 6.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ 160-Metre SSB Contest, North American RTTY QSO Party, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, REF Contest, UBA DX CW Contest, South Carolina QSO Party, High Speed Club CW Contest, SARL Digital Contest and the North Carolina QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt and SKCC CW Sprint are all scheduled for February 28.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.

WICEN News

WICEN is supporting 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 this 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. 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 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. It is wise to book accommodation well before the Field Day as Port Macquarie is a very popular destination for the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

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. The March issue of Oxtales is in preparation and will be published early in the month.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group is the AGM, on Friday the 9th of March. Location is as usual, the NBN TV Studios in Mosbri Crescent, Newcastle, and the meeting starts at 8pm.

Tea, coffee & ragchew after the meeting.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters from Mount Sugarloaf west of Newcastle. These repeaters are on 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with Echo Link and on UHF, 438.025MHz. They cover Newcastle and the lower Hunter Valley.

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

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be their Annual General Meeting, Wednesday the 28th of February in Block M at the Campbelltown School of Performing Arts, Beverley Rd. Campbelltown. The meeting starts at 7:30pm, followed by the Monthly General Meeting.

All financial members are encouraged to attend the AGM to vote for their 2018 committee, and as usual, 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 the Club's activities, visit the website, fgarc.org.au.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This Wednesday 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!

For listeners who would like to earn their Amateur Radio ticket, or upgrade their existing licence, the Society runs regular One-Day Training and Assessment Events. The next one is on Saturday 7 April. Please email education@mwrs.org.au for more information, or to register for the event.

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*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 7th of March.

At the gathering, there will be a presentation on working amateur satellites by Bob VK2NRC and Roland VK2YAD. The present on the topic of "amateur satellites", consisting of a practical demonstration and a theoretical presentation, will show how easy it was to work the satellites without the need for a complicated or expensive setup.

In other "satellites made easy" or "satellites for dummies".

As well as the presentation, there will be the usual refreshments.

All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville.

The gathering starts at 7.30pm. 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

The next meeting of the club on Tuesday the 27th will be the first general meeting for the year.

The presentation will be by Rob VK2DIO, on the Allstar Link Hotspot Project. Many of us are familiar with IRLP and Echolink, which allow analogue repeaters and users to be linked over the internet, extending VHF/UHF coverage worldwide. We are also seeing a lot of talk these days about Hot Spots for the digital modes such as D-Star and DMR so amateurs can participate in those networks when they have no suitable repeater access. Well, how about a hot spot for FM, built on top of an alternative linking system called Allstar Link? This is a project that can be put together relatively inexpensively. It also provides a test bed for a highly programmable repeater controller based on a Raspberry Pi.

Be there on Tuesday 27 February, Mt Colah Community Centre at 8pm. This is in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station. Additionally, two buses from Hornsby can be used: the 595 straight up the original Pacific Highway, or the 598 via Hornsby North and across to Cowan Road.

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.

To celebrate the anniversary of Marconi's birthday, 25 April 1874, International Marconi Day, is an annual event held on the nearest UTC Saturday. VK2IMD will be active on various HF bands from 10am Saturday 21st April, until 9.59am on Sunday 22nd.

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

HADARC Monthly general meeting at Mt Colah on the 27th
MWRS Balun Night on the 28th
Fisher's Ghost ARC AGM on the 28th

March

Oxley Region ARC meeting on the 3rd
St George ARS gatering on the 7th
Hunter Radio Group AGM on the 9th
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