

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

This news bulletin is also being streamed online - which you can access from our website at; arnsw.org.au/audio.

This weekend has been the ARNSW Foundation course - the next will be on the 12th and 13th of May.

The Upgrade course commences here at the VK2WI Dural tomorrow evening, Monday the 12th. Candidates should attend from 6pm, for a 7pm start. The address is 63 Quarry Road, Dural.

Inquiries for all ARNSW education courses, are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

The annual John Moyle field day is next weekend; Best wishes to those going out in the field.

The next ARNSW Trash & Treasure is in two weeks time on Sunday the 25th of March.

The paperwork for the ARNSW AGM will be sent out in a few weeks time - a reminder to Members to advise of any corrections to their email or postal address. This can be done by an email to; membership@arnsw.org.au or by mail, to P. O. Box 6044 Dural Delivery Centre 2158.

And a quick historical note; on this day 108 years ago - the 11th March 1910 - was the foundation in Sydney of the organisation that became ARNSW.

US Amateur Exams at Wyong Field Day

Again at this year's Wyong Field Day, volunteer examiners were on hand to conduct examinations for US amateur radio licencing. All four candidates passed their exams at the level for which they had prepared.

While three are still waiting for callsigns to be issued, Armen KF6RCW left the session able to sign with the suffix AG, meaning "Authorized General" on the HF bands he is now able to use, due to the system of instant upgrades.

Congratulations to all candidates, and thanks to CCARC and all involved.

Training material and other information is available on the website:

hamexam.space

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS & AG6LE

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

In two week's time, Sunday the 25th, is the bi-monthly meeting of the group.

Mike, VK2BMR, will present a homebrew, 2.5kV, 1 kilowatt, switch-mode power supply which has a regulated, variable voltage output. It uses off-the-shelf components and, although designed for high power linear amplifiers, it can be adapted for other voltage and power outputs.

The talk will focus on the design decisions taken and the more unusual components involved. Also covered will be setting up Spice simulations, and how best to test a 1 kilowatt supply.

The meeting will start with the usual "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 25th.

*Advised by 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 2nd to the 8th of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
10cm flux	68	68	68	68	68	68	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	5	7	5	4	3	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	5	5	4	5	2	2 estimated
T index	-1	-5	3	-6	-7	+2	+2

Solar flare activity was low on the 2nd, then very low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region started out quiet on the 2nd and 3rd, was quiet to unsettled on the 4th, quiet on the 5th, quiet to unsettled again on the 6th, then back to quiet on the 7th and 8th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values on the 2nd. The 3rd was near predicted during local day but depressed 15% at night. The 4th again was near predicted during the day but depressed 20% at night, then the 5th through to the 8th remained near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for 9th to the 15th of March;

Solar activity is expected to be very low all week.

Geomagnetic conditions should be mostly quiet to unsettled.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly near predicted, but there could be some depressions of between 10 to 30 percent.

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 February were;

Minimum 67 Average 72 Maximum 79
Peak dates between the 5th and the 16th

Now into March, the figures so far are;

Minimum 67 Average 70 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 18th and the 30th

And looking ahead to the prediction for April;

Minimum 68 Average 70 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 14th and the 23rd.

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

SPRATLY ISLANDS. A large group of operators are active as 9M0W from Layang Layang Island, IOTA AS-051, until March 13. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Nigel, G3TXF will be active as 3B8XF in the RSGB Commonwealth CW contest.

ANNOBON, 3C0. Operators YL2GM, YL1ZF and YL2KL are active as 3C0W from Annobon, IOTA AF-039, until March 27. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y. Operators Arkadiy, UA4CC and Arunas, LY2IJ are active as 9Y4/UA4CC and 9Y4/LY2IJ, respectively, from Tobago Island, IOTA SA-009, until March 12. Activity is holiday style on the various HF bands using CW, SSB and possibly RTTY and FT8.

BHUTAN; Look for A5A to be active from March 14 to 18. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Jacek, SP5APW will be active as DU1/SP5APW from Palawan Island, IOTA OC-129, from March 12 to 18. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20, and 17 metres using SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8.

FRENCH POLYNESIA; Will, W0ZRJ and Bill, KH6OO will be active as TX5X from Tahiti, IOTA OC-046, until March 17. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, JT9, JT65 and FT8.

AUSTRIA, OE. Operators OE3DMB and OE8AIR will be active with special calls OE100DMB and OE100AIR, respectively, until November 13 to celebrate Austria's declaration of becoming a democratic republic on November 12, 1918.

CURACAO, PJ2. Ben, DL1RNT is active as PJ2/DL1RNT until March 15. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some RTTY and PSK.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5. Operators SP2FUD, SP2GCJ and SP9FIH will be active as PJ5/home calls beginning March 12. Activity is on the HF bands. They will be active as PJ5T in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as a Multi Op entry.

PALAU, T8. Kiyoshi, JA0EKI is active as T88XH from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, until March 14. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

CAMEROON, TJ. A group of operators will be active as TJ3TT from March 15 to 29. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

CONGO, TN. Members of the DX Friends Team are active as TN5R from Pointe Noire until March 19. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

BENIN, TY. A group of operators are active as TY7C until March 18. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes including FT8, with four stations active.

MACAO, XX9. A group of operators are active as XX9B until March 17. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SB, RTTY and FT8 with three stations active.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Operators K0NR and KB9DPF will be active as ZF2NR and ZF2PF, respectively, from Grand Cayman Island from March 10 to 17. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8. This includes some FM Satellite activity from grid square EK99.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Stew Perry Topband CW Challenge, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest, RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, F9AA SSB Cup, South America 10 Metre Contest, AGCW QRP CW Contest, Oklahoma QSO Party, EA PSK63 Contest, TESLA Memorial 80-Metre HF CW Contest, QCWA QSO Party, Idaho QSO Party, QRP ARCI Spring Thaw SSB Shootout, North American RTTY Sprint, UBA Spring 2-Metre Contest, Wisconsin QSO Party and the WAB 3.5 MHz Phone will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for March 12.

The CLARA Chatter Party is scheduled for March 13.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club CW Championship, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 14.

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.

WICEN News

WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events; at Tench Reserve Penrith on the 25th March; 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.

True Grit, on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of June will be followed by the Obstacle Course Racing World Championship the next weekend, the 9th and 10th, both at Lower Portland, in north-west Sydney.

Navshield, held within 4 hours' drive of Sydney, is on June 23 and 24; 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. Their next meeting is the AGM from 10am on Sunday, 8th April.

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. The National Capital Rally will be the 1st to 3rd of June. 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 Duncan's Run in the Tarra Bulga State Forest, 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. The Mallee Rally is 9 and 10 June at Sealake. 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 Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

The society meets on the second Tuesday of every month except for January, with the next meeting on Tuesday, the 13th of March. 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 next meeting 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.

At the March meeting, Mick VK2BZE will be presenting a most informative talk on the long distance propagation of VHF and UHF signals. Mick has previously written articles on the subject that were published in AR magazine with some different and thought provoking ideas that some may even consider controversial. His experience in this area will make for a very interesting presentation for 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.

To conclude, see you at the next meetings of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on Tuesday the 13th of March – and don't forget, its at North Wollongong Scout Hall.

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

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

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

Members of the Club will be providing safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally at Herons Creek on Saturday the 17th of March; The club's Communications Caravan will be at Kew for the car rally. Club station VK2BOR will participate in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day from the caravan on the Saturday night and Sunday morning.

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. 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 in the coming week.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

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

Wednesday the 21st is lecture night at the Society. Doctor Philip Leong VK2APL will present a talk entitled “FPGAs - EPIC Benefits”. FPGA stands for Field Programmable Gate Array, an integrated circuit that can be programmed... yes, “in the field”. EPIC stands for Energy, Parallelism, Interface and Customisation.

A typical modern FPGA is the Xilinx ZU29DR, which includes a quad-core ARM processor, 16 digital-to-analogue convertors (and 16 more analogue-to-digital), plus digital signal processing circuits and more, all in a single device.

Philip is Professor of Computer Systems at the University of Sydney, and has a resumé way too long to detail here; he’s also a proud Manly-Warringah member. If you don’t learn something new at Philip’s lecture, have a doctor check for a pulse (HI)!

The following Wednesday, the 28th, the club is 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.

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 7th of April. Please email education@mwrs.org.au for more information or to register.

Visit the website at mwrs.org.au, for more information about these and other 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 146.875 MHz, or visit the club’s web site at mwrs.org.au, for more information.

*73 Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next club meeting will be the informal mid monthly meeting, this Tuesday the 13th. It's at Mt Colah Community centre in Pierre Close, 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 formal monthly meeting will be on the 27th.

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;

March

HADARC Mid monthly gathering on the 13th

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 13th

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 16th

John Moyle Memorial Field Day, 17th and 18th

MWRS lecture night on Field-Programmable Gate Arrays on the 21st

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

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 27th

MWRS Balun Workshop on the 28th

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

May

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 12th and 13th

Also, Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, 12th and 13th

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 27th