

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

Next Sunday will be the March Trash & Treasure, followed by the Experimenters Group meeting, at VK2WI Dural. A list of major equipment disposals items will soon be on the ARNSW web site; enquiries about these can only be made by email to disposals@arnsw.org.au. Telephone calls regarding disposals items are not accepted.

At the T & T you will be able to pay for membership and renewals as well as order a membership name badge. Most of the membership badges requested at the beginning of this year have been mailed out in the last few days. Further orders will now be delivered in May.

With the ARNSW AGM next month, a reminder to Members to advise any updates to email address and or postal address. These can be emailed to membership@arnsw.org.au, posted to P.O. Box 6044 Dural Delivery Centre NSW 2158, or leave a message on the telephone 02 9651 1490.

The 2018 ARNSW Upgrade course commenced last Monday with five candidates. There is still time to join. Be at the Dural site from 6pm on-wards for a 7pm start; the evening concluded around 9pm. The course continues every Monday evening until November.

Last weekend was the March Foundation course and upgrades and all candidates were successful. The day and a half of tuition provided to Foundation candidates, increases their ability to be successful.

The next Foundation weekend and assessments is the 12th and 13th May. Education enquiries are best made by email to education@arnsw.org.au.

US Amateur Licence Exams

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.

Congratulations go to Jacquie KI7VBS, Mark KM6RHY, and Peter AG7ML on their new licences, and to Armen KF6RCW on his upgrade.

There are tentative plans for an exam session early on Sunday, 1 July, using the newly issued Technician question pool effective on that date.

Training material and other information is available on the website:
hamexam.space

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS & AG6LE

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.

Next Sunday the 25th is the bi-monthly meeting of the group, and 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*

Urunga Radio Convention

It will be 70 years this Easter, since the group of Amateurs who were gathered in front of the "Do me" boat shed, owned by Crief (Moncrief) Ritallick VK2XO, agreed to meet each following year at Urunga.

That makes next year, the 70th anniversary of the Convention. The convention committee has some thoughts on how to celebrate the occasion and would like to hear your thoughts too.

The format for the Convention this year, 2018, will start off with the first event on Saturday, beginning at 10am. The dinner this year will instead be earlier on Saturday night before the Night Fox Hunt. There are three raffles, guessing competitions, a Technical and a General quiz, in which everyone is very competitive.

The journey to Urunga has been improved; by the opening of the Macksville bypass and the new Nambucca River Bridge, you will be spared the extreme traffic queue. Take the first or second Valla interchange or the Urunga interchange.

All of the convention committee looks forward to seeing you there.

Ken VK2DGT

On behalf of the Urunga Radio Convention Committee

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 closed at 11am on Saturday 17th of March 2018 and at the close of nominations, there were nine only nominations, for the nine positions on council. Therefore, there will not be a need for an election this year. Nor were there any motions or special resolutions on notice.

The nominations are (in no particular order)

Tim Mills VK2ZTM
Eric van de Weyer VK2VE
Raymond Morris VK2ASE
Robert Yorston VK2CAN
Alan Hirschel VK2OK
John Harper VK2LJ
Paul Anslow VK2APA
Mathew Magee VK2YAP
Mark Blackmore VK2XOF

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 March.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
10cm flux	68	68	68	68	69	68	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	9	7	2	3	6	15 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	8	8	4	1	2	9	10 estimated
T index	6	14	8	2	4	4	10

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region started out quiet to unsettled on the 9th of March, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 10 nanoTeslas, at 1809UTC. The 10th and 11th remained at quiet to unsettled levels, then the 12th and 13th returned to quiet. The 14th showed quiet to active conditions, then the 15th returned back to quiet to unsettled levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values on the 9th. The 10th was enhanced 15% during local day, returning to near predicted at night. Frequencies then remained near predicted from the 11th through to the 14th, then the 15th was near predicted during the day but depressed 15% at night.

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

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic conditions should be mostly quiet to unsettled, with possible active periods early in the week.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be 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 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 69 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 24th 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 26th.

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

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y. Rich, KE1B and Anna, W6NN will be active as 9Y4/home calls from March 19 to 31 from Tobago, IOTA SA-009. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

BHUTAN, A5. Zorro, JH1AJT, Jin, JF1IST and Champ, E21EIC are active as A5A until March 18. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. There is a focus on using FT8 as well.

IRELAND, EI. Oliver, ON4EI will be active as EI8GQB until March 28. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using mainly green energy. He will be active as EI7T in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Alex, 5B4ALX will be active as FK/5B4ALX from March 20 to April 4. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and JT65. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

FRENCH GUIANA, FY. Hartwig, DL7BC is active as FY/DL7BC/p near Cayenne until March 26. He plans to be active as TO2BC in the BARTG RTTY contest and the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

HONDURAS, HR. Dave, VE3VSM is active as VE3VSM/HR9 from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, until March 19. Activity is holiday style on 20 and 15 metres using CW. This includes an entry in the Russian DX contest.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ is active as JG8NQJ/JD1 for three months. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and RTTY.

AUSTRIA, OE. Operators RW3AH and HB9RB will be active as 4U1A in the Russian DX contest from one of the stations at the Vienna International Centre.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. While preparing for the 2018 World Radio Team Championship, operators OH6KZP and OH6UM will be active as OH0X in the Russian DX contest.

CURACAO, PJ2. Andreas, DK5ON is active as PJ2/DK5ON until March 27. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres, and possibly 160 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes. This includes an entry in the Russian DX contest and the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

BONAIRE, PJ4. John, KK9A will be active as PJ4/KK9A from March 19 to 25. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. He plans to be active as PJ4R in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as a Single Op/All Band entry.

CAMEROON, TJ. A group of operators are active as TJ3TT until March 29. Activity is on the HF bands.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO, TN. Members of the Tifariti Gang and DXFriends are active as TN5R from Brazzaville until March 19. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Ross, W2TT and John, AF3K will be active as VP5/home calls from Caicos, IOTA NA-002, from March 20 to 27. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and MSK on 6 metres. This includes being active as VP5P in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

INDIA, VU. Special call AU2ODI is active until March 19 to celebrate the 2018 East India Ham Meet at Puri Beach, Odisha. Activity is on 40, 20 and 15 metres.

MEXICO, XE. Special event station 6E3MAYA will be active from March 17 to 21 from several regions in Mexico to commemorate Maya culture.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Harald, DF2WO will be active as XT2AW from March 19 to April 10. Max, DK1MAX will join him and be active as XT2MAX from March 23 to April 2. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 metres, using CW and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The BARTG HF RTTY Contest, Russian DX Contest, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, AGCW VHF/UHF CW Contest, Louisiana QSO Party, Virginia QSO Party, Feld Hell Sprint and the UBA 80-Metre Spring SSB Contest are all on this weekend.

The Bucharest Contest and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are scheduled for March 19.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 21.

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; "The Bay Run" commencing at Leichhardt Oval #3 at Lilyfield on the 6th May; and the Hunter event at Speers Point Park, on the 25th of May. These are great "on-the-job" training events for new members.

Saturday, May 5 is the Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley. Further info is available at: www.kvrp.net.au.

The recce for the VH-MDX SAREX in mid September, will be on Sunday May 19.

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, a bush navigation contest, held within 4 hours' drive of Sydney, is on June 23 and 24.

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 9th and 10th 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting of the club is the monthly general meeting at 2pm on Saturday the 7th of April, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Yesterday, members of the Club provided safety communications for the AMSAG Car Rally at Herons Creek. The club's Communications Caravan was set up at Kew for the car rally. After the conclusion of the rally, Club station VK2BOR participated in the John Moyle Memorial Field Day from the caravan last night and into this 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. 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 club information. The March 2018 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, with the results of the recent Antenna Shootout plus lots of photos from the 2018 Wyong Field Day.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The Annual General meeting of the group was held last Friday the 9th of March.

Office Bearers for 2018-19 are;

President - Len VK2ZFD

Vice President - Greg VK2HT

Secretary/Treasurer - Rodney VK2CN

Repeater/Beacon Officer - Greg VK2HT

Education Officer - Steve VK2LW

Broadcast & WIA Web Officer - Rodney VK2CN

Systems Op. Officer - Grahame VK2FA

Social Secretary - Ardel Prout.

The President took the chair and closed the meeting.

The General Monthly meeting followed, and included a lecture by Rodney VK2CN, on Antenna Gamma Matching Systems.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Friday the 13th April.

Details in future broadcasts.

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

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

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 converters (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*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

Last Sunday saw the club's annual Sydney Harbour Ferry Contest, with many participants enjoying a great day out on beautiful Sydney Harbour in glorious weather. A great time was had by all with some travelling quite great distances to participate.

Wednesday March the 21st will be the club's monthly meeting commencing at 7:30pm. At the meeting there will be debrief discussions of both the Ferry Contest and 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.

The next Shack night is on Wednesday April 4th, 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 weekly working bee at the clubhouse from around 10am to 3 or 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, April 7th, commencing around 1:30pm and usually running through to about 4:30pm or 5:00pm. Some work is planned for this day on the moving of some of our digital infrastructure so internet access may be off for some of the time.

The club runs a weekly net every Monday evening, commencing at 8pm on its 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 club website for details.

The club runs regular Foundation course and assessment weekends. The next foundation course, and assessments for all levels, will be over the weekend of 12th – 13th 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. 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

The next club meeting is the monthly general meeting on Tuesday the 27th, starting at 8pm. The meeting is at 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.

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. Further events will be held later in the year to mark 100 years since that first official direct message from Britain to Australia, which is the link to Marconi that allows HADARC to run this award station.

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;

March

John Moyle Memorial Field Day, 17th and 18th

Waverley ARS meeting on the 21st

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

St George ARS gathering on the 4th

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

Oxley Region ARC General meeting on the 7th

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 10th

Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 13th

International Marconi Day on the 21st

Westlakes ARC open day on the 21st

Anzac Day on the 25th – You can use the AX prefix with your callsign

ARNSW AGM on the 28th

May

St George ARS gathering on the 2nd

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