

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

With daylight saving ending next Sunday, remember that VK2WI News maintains the same local times, of 10am and 7.30pm. With the current difficult propagation, there may be some differences in conditions. If you have difficulties in reception, VK2WI News is also being streamed, which can be found at arnsw.org.au/audio.

The change back to standard time – is also a good reminder, to change batteries in clock and importantly, smoke alarms.

The Licence Upgrade course classes are on again tomorrow evening, and there are still a couple of free places for anyone still wishing to join. There will be no course on the following Monday evening, being the Easter Monday public holiday.

Urunga Radio Convention

It's on again this year; from the 31st of March till the 1st of April, the Urunga Radio Convention 2018.

There are fox hunts and convention activities across the weekend, along with quizzes, raffles, trade tables, pre loved gear, and so on.

The new road deviation is now open, so Urunga is a lot less busy. It's ideal to make it a break from your busy lifestyle and slow down a bit at quiet restful Urunga, "where the rivers meet the sea" and the longest running "fox hunt convention" in Australia.

The social gathering for the Saturday night dinner at the Bowling Club is always well attended, and the Saturday Night Fox Hunt is also proving to be very popular; safety vests are available but you may need to BYO lighting.

Last year's convention went off without a hitch and was well attended, with many Fox hunters competing for the "Arnold Austin Memorial Award" and the "Brian Slarke Memorial Award" for two days, in Mobile and Pedestrian Hunts.

The Venue is the "Senior Citizens hall", Bowra street Urunga.

To get there, note the Pacific Highway deviation is open, so coming from the South, turn into Ballards Road at Valla turn off, and travel on the old section. It may be quicker to turn in on Waterfall Way North of Urunga.

For more information, contact Ken VK2DGT, by email to; krgolden46@hotmail.com, or phone 02 66523177.

Ken VK2DGT

On behalf of the Urunga Radio Convention Committee

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 16th to the 22nd of March.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd
10cm flux	69	69	69	70	69	69	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	13	10	16	13	7	3	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	15	7	11	8	2	2	4 estimated
T index	11	-10	-5	-14	-3	6	4

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region started out quiet to active on the 16th of March, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 9 nanoTeslas, at 1644UTC. The 17th was quiet to unsettled, the 18th ranged from quiet to active levels, and the 19th from quiet to unsettled again. The 20th and 21st remained quiet, then the 22nd was at quiet to unsettled levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted monthly values on the 16th. The 17th was depressed 30% returning to near predicted at night. The 18th was depressed 20% after local dawn, returning to near predicted during the day but again falling to 20% depressed during local night. The 19th was depressed 30% throughout, but some improvement was seen on the 20th, which returned to near predicted during the day and was 15% depressed during local night. The 21st and 22nd then remained near predicted monthly values throughout.

Now, the forecast for 23rd to the 29th of March;

Solar activity is expected to be low. Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels on the 24th and 25th, but should be quiet to unsettled on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed 15% on the 24th, slightly depressed after local dawn on the 25th, otherwise 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 nearing the end March, the figures so far are;

Minimum 67 Average 68 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 14th and the 23rd

And looking ahead to the prediction for April;

Minimum 68 Average 69 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 6th 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>]

[Play Evening ID2]

ARRL DX news

Several stations are on air especially for the CW World Wide WPX SSB contest;

GEORGIA; Mamuka, 4L2M will be active as a Single Op on 40 metres.

CHINA; Look for B1Z, active as a Multi Op entry.

TAIWAN; Operators BM2AAV, BV2DD, BV2KS and BV3UB will be active as BP0P.

MOROCCO; A group of operators will be active as CN2AA as a Multi/Single entry.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Operator DU1KIR plans to be active as 4H1K.

CEUTA AND MELILLA; Members of the Amateur Radio Union of Ceuta will be active as ED9E, and Jorge, EA9LZ will be active as EF9R.

ISLE OF MAN; Gordon, MM0GOR will be active as MD1E.

THAILAND; A group of operators plan to be active as HS0AC, as a Multi/2 entry.

ARUBA; Andy, AE6Y will be active as P49Y from Pos Chiquito, IOTA SA-036, as a Single Op/All Band entry.

INDONESIA; Hans, YB2DX will be active as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry.

And in other activity;

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Mart, DL6UAA will be active as 3B8MM from March 27 to April 11. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, various digital modes and some SSB.

VIETNAM, 3W. Yuri, RA0FU plans to be active as 3W9CI from Cham Island, IOTA AS-163, until March 27. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

MALAWI, 7Q. Members of the EIDX Group will be active as 7Q7EI until April 2. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY with four stations active.

BAHAMAS, C6. Operators Joe, W8GEX and Janet, W8CAA are active as C6ADX and C6AYL, respectively, from the Exuma Islands, IOTA NA-001, until March 26. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Operators K1ZE, KE0UI and WA0ROI are active as KP2/home calls from St. Croix. They will also be active as NP2N in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest as either a Multi 2 or Multi/Single entry.

CAMEROON, TJ. Members of the IDXT are now active with new call TJ2TT until March 29. Activity is on the HF bands.

BELIZE, V3. Victor, WB0TEV is active as V31VP from Blackman Eddy until March 27. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Nobu, JA0JHQ is active as V73NC from Majuro, IOTA OC-029, until March 26. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using mostly SSB and some FT8. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Max, DK1MAX is active as XT2MAX until April 2. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 metres using mostly CW and some FT8.

CAMBODIA, XU. Li, BG4HRM is active as XU7AKL until March 28. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres. This includes being active as a Multi/Single entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. In addition, look for members of the Haiyan Contest Club to be active as XU7AEY in the contest.

VIETNAM, XV. Igor, RW0BG is active as XV9BG from Phu Quoc Island, IOTA AS-128, until March 26. Activity is on 40 to 15 metres using CW and SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, FOC CW QSO Party and the UBA Spring 6-Metre Contest are all on this weekend.

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

The ARRL International Grid Chase runs throughout 2018.

WICEN News

WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events; at Tench Reserve Penrith was on this morning; "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. 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 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.

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's a good idea 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, and past issues are available on the website 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 10th of April. General meetings start at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

This month's meetings was planned to return to Coniston Community Hall, however, repairs at the hall are taking longer than expected, so the meeting will, again 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 this meeting, Jesse VK2XJB will be presenting information on the progress of the digital repeater project. He has spent many months researching, integrating and building a multi-mode digital UHF repeater for use by all Amateurs. It will operate on D-Star, P25 & DMR modes and will be located at the VK2RMP repeater site of Maddens Plains. As well as talking about the project, he will be bringing-in the repeater, as well as all the associated equipment for a full demonstration. This will make for a most 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.

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, as well as many different other countries. 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, see you at the next meetings of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on Tuesday the 10th of April – and don't forget, its at North Wollongong Scout Hall.

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

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday the 13th April.

In place of the usual monthly meeting, there will be a technical visit to the Westpac Helicopter Service at Broadmeadow, Newcastle. Members are requested to be at the base at 6.30pm.

Then on Saturday the 14th April, a further technical visit will be at Aeropelican, Belmont, at 11.30am, to see the maintenance operation.

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

The Waverley Amateur Radio Society is pleased to announce that at its April Meeting, on the 18th, they will have a special talk by Ross Clements entitled "Cracking Germany's Enigma Code in World War II".

Ross is an established speaker, with many years experience at various venues, as well as being president of the Model Makers Club. He has built a replica Enigma machine, which he demonstrates.

Instead of the normal meeting venue, it will take place in the Monash Room at Club Rose Bay, which is in the Rose Bay RSL club, next door to the Waverley club's normal location and is on the corner of Old South Head Road and Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay.

All will be most welcome to join us and there will be plenty of room for additional attendees for this special talk.

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 will feature a talk by Jo Harris OAM, on "Early Wireless, Marconi and Fisk, and the upcoming Centenary event in September". Its on this 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

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on today

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 27th

MWRS Balun Workshop on the 28th

The Urunga Radio Convention is over Easter – March 31st through to 1st of April.

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

Waverley ARS meeting - “Cracking Germany’s Enigma Code” on the 18th

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