

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

As no more long weekends until June, the Upgrade class and the Library will be operating at Dural tomorrow evening, Monday the 9th. While the class started a few weeks ago, its not too late to join - come to VK2WI tomorrow evening between 6 and 7pm. The course runs every Monday evening until November except for the public holiday Mondays in June and October.

The next Foundation weekend at ARNSW is on Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th of May – and, if you wish to Upgrade, assessments are also conducted on Sunday. Bookings and Enquires to ARNSW Education are best made by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 30th of March to the 5th of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
10cm flux	69	69	69	68	68	69	66
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	6	4	4	3	4	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	3	4	3	2	3	5 estimated
T index	8	8	13	8	5	2	10

Solar flare activity was low on the 30th of March, then very low for the rest of the week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet from the 30th of March to the 4th of April, then quiet to unsettled on the 5th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during local day on the 30th of March, and 20% enhanced at night. Critical frequencies remained near predicted monthly values from the 31st of March until the 4th of April. The 5th was near predicted during local day, with enhancements of 25% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 6th to the 12th of April;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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.

Having just finished March, the figures were;

Minimum 67 Average 68 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 16th and the 23rd, and the 29th to the 31st.

At the start of April, we have so far...

Minimum 66 Average 68 Maximum 69
With peak dates between the 1st and the 5th, and the 24th to the 30th

And looking ahead to the prediction for May;

Minimum 68 Average 68 Maximum 69
With peak dates between the 1st and the 7th.

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

AGALEGA AND ST. BRANDON ISLANDS. A large group of operators are active as 3B7A from Saint Brandon Island, IOTA AF-015, until April 17. Activity is on the HF bands with five stations active using CW, SSB and RTTY.

KENYA, 5Z. Kees, 5Z4ZC is active on 40 to 10 metres using PSK31, JT65 and FT8.

CROATIA, 9A. Dusan, S52DG will be active as 9A/S52DG/p from Krk Island, IOTA EU-136, from April 12 to 15. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

BHUTAN, A5. Zorro, JH1AJT, Jin, JF1IST and Champ, E21EIC are active as A5A until April 11, while meeting with an official from the ministry of health, sports federations and the BOC National Olympic Committee. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

THE GAMBIA, C5. C5WP is active until April 13 while performing charity work. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using SSB and FT8, with some activity on 60 metres as well, and listening for sporadic-E openings on 10 metres.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Mike, CT1IUA is active as D4IA from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until April 9. Activity is on the various HF bands using mostly CW.

LIECHTENSTEIN, HB0. Operators PA2HGJ, PA2RDK, PA3CNO, PA3DRF, PE0MGB and PE1FLO will be active as HB0/home calls until April 14. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some SSB and various digital modes.

OGASAWARA, JD1. JN2AMD is active as JN2AMD/JD1. His length of stay is unknown.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5/6. Rick, AI5P will be active as PJ5/AI5P from April 9 to 16. Activity will be on the HF bands.

FRANZ JOSEF LAND, R1/F. Eugeny, UA4RX is active as RI1FJ from Heiss Island until September 2018. Activity is generally on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9. Helio, CT1ENW is active as S92HP from Sao Tome City, and is there until January 31, 2019. Activity is on the HF bands, and 6 metres, using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

TUVALU, T2. Antoine, 3D2AG will be active as T2AR from Funafuti, IOTA OC-015, until April 15. Activity will be in his spare time on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event stations UE57G, UE12APR, R12APR, and R108M are active until April 15 to commemorate Yuri Gagarin's first flight.

UKRAINE; Special event call EM30N is active until the end of 2018 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the International Radioamateur Club WW.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Andy, VK5MAV will be active as VK5MAV/9 from Cato Reef, IOTA OC-265, from April 9 to 18.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American SSB Sprint Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, LZ Open 40-Metre CW Sprint Contest, PODXS 070 Club 20-Metre PSK 31 Flavors Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Mississippi QSO Party, Missouri QSO Party, Texas State Parks on the Air, Florida State Parks on the Air, SP DX Contest and the EA RTTY Contest are all on this weekend.

The 144 MHz Spring Sprint and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are scheduled for April 9.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, RSGB 80-Metre Club SSB Championship, Phone Fray and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for April 11.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

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

WICEN is supporting Dementia Australia, Memory Walk and Jog events. "The Bay Run" commencing at Leichhardt Oval #3 at Lilyfield is on the 6th May and the Hunter event is at Speers Point Park, near the lake named "Awaba", on the 25th of May. These are great "on-the-job" training events for new members.

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.

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. The Canberra Two Day Walk is on this weekend. The National Capital Rally will be the 1st to 3rd of June and the following weekend, the 9th and 10th, is the SCSCC Bega Rally. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria holds a net every Tuesday at 8:30pm, on or near 3.6 MHz. 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, then The Mallee Rally is on the 9th and 10th of June at the spectacular Lake Tyrell, 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. For this month's meeting, there is both a change of date and venue. The meeting will be on this Wednesday, the 11th of April, with the general meeting starting at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm.

As repairs to the usual venue of Coniston Community Hall are continuing, this month's meeting is again 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, on Wednesday the 11th, 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.

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 meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society. For this month, its on Wednesday the 11th of April, 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 the 20th of April in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

During the evening, Paul VK2ICQ will run a clinic to update the firmware in members' Yaesu FT-991 transceivers. The previous clinic last year to update FT-991 firmware was very popular. A new update is now available.

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 these 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday the 13th April. In place of the regular meeting this month, there will be some technical site visits.

On Friday night, 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

Just a reminder that, at the April Meeting on the 18th, the society will present a special talk by Ross Clements entitled “Cracking Germany’s Enigma Code in World War II”.

Ross has many years of experience speaking at various venues, as well as being president of the Model Makers Club. He has built a replica Enigma machine, which he demonstrates. This should be a fascinating talk, especially as some members as well as many others, have been to the Bletchley Park site where much of the code breaking took place.

Instead of the normal meeting venue, it will take place in the Monash Hall 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 New 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.

Many members will also congregate in the bistro in the RSL from about 6:00pm for dinner and all are welcome to join them. Ross and his wife will also be in attendance.

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. The clubs webmasters are working on stabilising the website and apologise for the problems it has recently been having.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The January - March period of the Ted Powell Memorial DX Challenge for 2018 has now closed and entries can be submitted until the 14th of April.

The objective of the challenge is to work the most wanted DXCC entities based on their ranking in Clublog's "Most Wanted" list, which is published on the contest website. All Australian amateurs are eligible to enter and entering is easy. You don't need to be a serious DX'er - If you've worked any DX from January to March, head over to vk2au.org and submit an entry.

The website is tidy and easy to understand. Scroll down to the "Entry Submission" section where you will find a number of simple ways to submit your entry. This is a fun and relaxed challenge where you work DX in your own time over a 3 month period. It's easy, and submitting an entry only takes a few minutes. The website again, is vk2au.org.

The next Monthly General Meeting of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club is on Wednesday 18th April in Block M at McDonald's Woodbine, commencing at 7:30pm. This meeting is 1 week earlier than usual because their scheduled meeting date falls on Anzac Day. 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 at <http://fgarc.org.au>.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
For the Fishers Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next club meeting will be the informal mid-monthly meeting on Tuesday the 10th. Its at Mt Colah Community Centre, Pierre Close, Mt Colah, starting at 8pm. This month's General meeting is on the 24th.

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. Given that the original message was sent on behalf of Prime Minister Billy Hughes, there is high-level interest in the centenary celebration in September.

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;

April

HADARC meeting on the 10th

Illawarra ARS meeting – Change of date, now on the 11th

Hunter Radio Group Meeting – site visits on the 13th and 14th

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

Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting on the 18th

International Marconi Day on the 21st

Westlakes ARC open day on the 21st

HADARC monthly General meeting on the 24th

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

WIA AGM on the Gold Coast, the 18th to the 20th

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

June

St George ARS gathering on the 6th

Oxley Region ARC Field Day, the weekend of the 9th and 10th

The VK Shires Contest, also on the weekend of the 9th and 10th