

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

ARNSW members should have received the documents the forthcoming AGM, by either email or post. It was sent to those members who were financial as at the end of March. To check your membership status – you can refer to the expiry date on your membership card, enquire by email to membership@arnsw.org.au, or telephone the office on 02 9651 1490 and leave a message.

The ARNSW AGM will be held at the VK2WI Dural site, on Saturday the 28th April 2018 starting at 11am.

The next ARNSW Foundation weekend is on Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th of May, with assessments for all license grades available on Sunday. Bookings for this weekend are best made by email to education@arnsw.org.au. Also on this weekend - the Waverley A R S is conducting a Foundation course and assessments, details later in this bulletin.

Remember that the ARNSW library at VK2WI Dural is open on Mondays, from 4 to 8pm. You can visit at this time, or telephone on 02 9651 1489 and follow the prompts. Email at any time to library@arnsw.org.au.

Looking ahead, ARNSW has scheduled a day in the Talk Fest series with the topic being antennas. It will be on Sunday the 17th June, in the morning will be several short talks then after lunch, a range of practical field activities. More details closer to the event.

Work is currently underway to upgrade the VK2RSY beacon network at Dural. So far, the 2 metre and 6 metre units have been renewed, with the remaining units to be replaced later in the year. Reports can be sent by email to callbacks@arnsw.org.au.

Urunga Radio Convention

As we mentioned on VK2WI news last month, this year's Urunga Radio Convention was held over the Easter weekend. The Urunga Radio Convention Committee have provided us with a report on the weekend's proceedings.

The autumn weather was perfect for the weekend and the numbers were up on previous years. All events ran smoothly and on time.

- Rodney VK2TI, had a good day taking out the Arnold Austin Memorial Award.
- Darrian VK3FAST took out the Brian Slarke Memorial Award for overall point score for the two days.
- Bryan VK3YNG blitzed the Night Hunt in 25 minutes with all 6 foxes found, he was clearly ahead of the other competitors.
- Grahame VK2FA easily won the Urunga Scrambles with the most contacts in 30 minutes on Sunday morning.
- Judy VK2HZV won the Technical Quiz and Helen Williams won the General Quiz.
- Paul VK2YX, assisted by his daughter and his grandchildren, won the 2 metre Mobile Talk-in event.
- Henry VK2ZHE won the Hand Held Radio raffle. Henry has been the attending since Convention 1968.

Our thanks go to Jeff VK2BYY for the Technical Quiz, which was a masterpiece. Thanks to Kevin VK2CKD for joining the crafty Fox Team and upholding the standard of fox setting. The Foxes eluded the hounds with only 3 transmitters out of 4 in each of 3 events being found. Thanks to Peter VK2EVB for his 3D printer demonstration. Peter had a continuous flow of interested persons throughout the weekend.

Thanks to the Port Macquarie people and all the visitors who helped us to pack up the Hall. You did a marvellous job. The Committee wishes to thank all those who attended, and especially those who helped us along the way. Easter next Year will be the 70th Urunga Convention, we hope to see you there.

*Submitted by Ken VK2DGT
For the Urunga Radio Convention Committee.*

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

This Tuesday evening the 17th, 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.

73 from Peter VK2EMU

Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 6th to the 12th of April.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
10cm flux	67	67	68	69	69	68	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	4	5	11	14	12	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	2	2	8	12	6	7 estimated
T index	14	5	4	13	15	9	6

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet from the 6th to the 8th, then quiet to unsettled from the 9th to the 12th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during local day on the 6th of March, and 20% enhanced at night. The 7th was near predicted during the day, but with night time enhancements of up to 55%, compared to the monthly predicted values. The 8th was again near predicted during the day, with enhancement of only 20% at night. The 9th was again, near predicted during the day and enhanced up to 40% at night. The 10th and 11th remained near predicted throughout, then the 12th was near predicted during local day, with enhancements of 15% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 13th to the 19th of April;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels with isolated active periods likely on the 13th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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.

Midway through April, we have so far...

Minimum 66 Average 69 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 12 and the 20th

And looking ahead to the prediction for May;

Minimum 66 Average 67 Maximum 68
With peak dates between the 1st and the 6th, and the 21st to 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>]

Space Weather Summary for March 2018

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

As we appear to be approaching the lowest part of the solar cycle, again this month we see very low levels of solar activity. In fact, there were no M-class or X-class solar flares observed this month.

No significant geomagnetic activity was observed during the month. The A index remained below 16 all month, signifying only some unsettled periods.

The largest Ionospheric depressions in the southern Australian region this month, reached 30% below monthly predicted Maximum Usable Frequencies (MUFs) on the 17th, 19th, and 26th to the 28th of March. These depressions were associated with weak geomagnetic activity due to high speed solar wind stream influence associated with coronal holes.

Also, lower than normal maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were observed at times during the month in the northern Australian region, possibly in association with generally low solar flux levels.

[Play Evening ID2]

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.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS; Oleh, UR5BCP will be active as E51BCP from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, until April 20. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FM and various digital modes, and will include some SOTA activations.

CANARY ISLANDS; Mike, DG5LAC is active as EA8/DG5LAC from Fuerteventura, IOTA AF-004, until April 28. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Bodo, DF8DX will be active as DU1WQY/1 from Palawan Island, IOTA OC-128, until April 18.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. Antonio, AH0D is active from Saipan Island, IOTA OC-086.

DENMARK, OZ. Special event station 5P0WARD will be active on April 18 to mark the 93rd World Amateur Radio Day. The station will be active with various call sign extensions.

TUVALU, T2. Antoine, 3D2AG is active as T2AR from Funafuti, IOTA OC-015, until April 21. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8.

PALAU, T8. Kazuhiro, JA7WFT and Shinichi, JI6IHG will be active as T88FT and T88IH, respectively, from Koror Island, IOTA OC-009, from April 17 to 25. Activity will be on the HF bands.

EAST KIRIBATI[kir-uh-BAS], T32. Ken, KH6QJ will be active as T32AZ from Christmas Island, IOTA OC-024, from April 17 to 24. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming Worked All Provinces China contest.

MICRONESIA, V6. Sho, JA7HMZ will be active as V63DX from Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC-010, from April 18 to 24. Activity will primarily be on 160 metres using FT8.

VANUATU, YJ. Grant, VK5GR will be active as YJ0AG from Efate Island, IOTA OC-035, from April 16 to 30. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using some CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes an entry in the upcoming SP DX RTTY Contest.

ROMANIA, YO. Special event station YR57GC is active until April 20 to commemorate the first manned space flight 57 years ago by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

KOSOVO, Z6. A group of operators will be active as Z66D from April 14 to 22. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 with several stations active.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL SSB Rookie Roundup, Japan International DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, QRP ARCI Spring CW QSO Party, OK/OM DX SSB Contest, F9AA PSK Cup, New Mexico QSO Party, Georgia QSO Party, North Dakota QSO Party, Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest, International Vintage HF Contest, WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes and the Hungarian 80-Metre Straight Key CW Contest are scheduled for this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for April 16.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for April 18.

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. For members without current First Aid training, or whose certificate expires shortly, attention is drawn to an email sent on the 3rd regarding the possibility of such training via the RFS.

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 Region is supporting two horse enduros in May, the Girrad event near Drake on the 5th and 6th, and the Spring Mountain event near Brisbane on the 19th and 20th.

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 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 about the Tri-Cub Picnic.

Listeners of this broadcast are invited to attend the next Tri-Club Picnic which is on next Saturday the 21st of April. Following the previous well-attended picnic last September, the Goulburn Amateur Radio Society, the Mid-South Amateur Radio Club and the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society decided it was time to do it again.

The location is the same place as last time, that being, the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir Picnic ground near the township of Robertson, on the Southern Highlands. Note, this picnic area is not at the Fitzroy Falls themselves where the Fitzroy Falls Visitors Centre is located - it is actually next to the large reservoir, a few kilometres away.

The picnic will start at 10am and run through to about 3pm. Everyone is most welcome to attend, both club members and non-members alike. A lunch of sausage sandwiches with tea and coffee will be provided free of charge, with soft drinks available for a donation.

If you are member of one of these three clubs, please let your Secretary know of your planned attendance. If you are a non-member, please RSVP to the IARS Secretary Keith VK2KQB on his email address of iars.keithb@gmail.com . Keith's address again, iars.keithb@gmail.com.

As the picnic area has a very low RF noise floor, it is a great place to set-up portable radios and antennas. Additionally, there will be the showing-off of various home-built equipment, all accompanied with the obligatory discussions about the "one that got away"!

So to conclude, everyone is welcome to come along and have a great day at the Tri-Club Picnic next Saturday the 21st of April, from 10am at the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir Picnic Ground on the Southern Highlands.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

On behalf of the Goulburn Amateur Radio Society, the Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club and the 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, and A new update is now available.

Tomorrow, Monday the 16th of April, there will be a working bee at the VK2RCN repeater site at Telegraph Point to carry out site maintenance and prepare for the installation of the club's 53.8 MHz 6 metre repeater.

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 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, 11th May.
Details of location and Lecture in future broadcasts.

The Hunter Radio Group operates three repeaters at Mt. Sugarloaf west of Newcastle, serving Newcastle and the lower Hunter. They are on 146.9MHz, 146.975MHz with Echo Link, and on 70cm 438.025MHz. There is also a 6metre beacon on 50.288 MHz.

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

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

This is a reminder that, at the Meeting on this Wednesday the 18th, the society will present a special talk by Ross Clements entitled "Cracking Germany's Enigma Code in World War II".

Ross is president of the Model Makers Club and 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.

As it is anticipated that there will be a lot of interest in this talk, instead of the normal meeting venue, the meeting will take place upstairs in the Monash Hall at Club Rose Bay, which is in the Rose Bay RSL club. This is right next door to the Waverley club's normal meeting location and is on the corner of New South Head Road and Vickery Avenue, Rose Bay. There is plenty of parking available in the adjoining public carpark or there are busses available from Edgecliff Station or the city.

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.

At our last project day, several members, led by Alex, VK2PSF, successfully moved all the data and remote equipment into its new cabinets, so it is all now housed in an enclosed area and more accessible when it needs to be worked on. Thanks to all those involved in this move. The next project day will be on Saturday May 5th from 1pm to about 4 or 5pm.

The next foundation course and assessments for all levels will be run over the weekend of May 12th & 13th. Either register on the website or send an email to; education@vk2bv.org.

As usual, the club is open most Tuesdays for all those who can make it along from about 10am to about 4pm.

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 recent problems on the site.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

This coming Wednesday, the 18th, is usually lecture night at the club. However, there will instead be an excursion to the Waverley Amateur Radio Society in Rose Bay to attend their lecture on the German Enigma machine. The clubhouse at Terrey Hills will still be open for a casual meeting night.

Last month's lecture by Dr. Philip Leong VK2APL, on Field Programmable Gate Arrays, should be up on YouTube by the time this broadcast goes to air. This will be followed later by video of the recent Balun Workshop with Geoff Osbourne VK2TGO.

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 July. Please email education@mwrs.org.au for more information or to register for the event.

Visit the club web site at www.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 7.30p.m. for an 8p.m. 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 www.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 monthly general meeting on Tuesday the 24th. Its at Mt Colah Community Centre, Pierre Close, Mt Colah, starting at 8pm.

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 next 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.*

[Play Evening ID 4]

Summary of coming events;

April

Waverley ARS meeting - "Cracking Germany's Enigma Code" on the 18th

Fisher's Ghost ARC meeting on the 18th

The 18th is also World Amateur Radio Day

International Marconi Day on the 21st

Tri-Club picnic day – also the 21st

Westlakes ARC open day – correction – its on next Sunday the 22nd

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

Hunter Radio Group Meeting on the 11th

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

St George ARS Foundation Weekend on the 19th and 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

ARNSW Talkfest - on antennas, on the 17th