

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

ARNSW members are reminded that the AGM will be held at the VK2WI Dural site, on Saturday the 28th April 2018 starting at 11am. Your attendance is welcomed as there has to be sufficient persons in attendance to create the required quorum. A BBQ lunch will be available for those members staying on after the meeting.

For members who can't get to the meeting, we are undertaking a trial of streaming the meeting live on the VK2WI webstream, which can be found at arnsw.org.au/audio.

ARNSW AGM

As just mentioned, the AGM for Amateur Radio New South Wales is on next Saturday, the 28th of April, starting at 11am at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural.

As per the articles of association, "appointment of proxy" forms must be lodged no less than 4 hours prior to the meeting.

Proxy forms can be mailed to arrive by Friday the 27th, or delivered in person. The returning officer, Peter VK2EMU, will be at the VK2WI site from 7am on Saturday to receive proxy forms.

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
ARNSW Returning Officer*

ARISS operation on Cosmonauts Day

From the 11th to the 14th of April, the International Space Station (ISS) conducted SSTV transmissions on 2 metres, on 145.8MHz. The ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) activity was undertaken from the Russian segment of the space station, and various images were available to decode, over the course of these 4 days.

The ISS orbits earth approximately every 90 minutes, at a speed of 27,000km/h and an altitude of 415km above the earth's surface. So during the ARISS operation, there were numerous passes over Australia.

Marty VK2GIB was able to decode some of these transmissions; Using the FTM350 mobile radio from his car in conjunction with a smartphone app to decode the SSTV signals, the PD180 SSTV transmissions from the ISS were able to be well received. With 3 minute transmissions followed by 3 minute pauses, in many cases 2 decodes were possible during a space station pass.

In recognition of his success, Marty received an ARISS SSTV award.

The images can be found on the ISS fan page on Facebook.

There are also apps and websites available to track the ISS position in real time, so if you are looking for something entertaining and a little bit different, keep an eye out for the next ARISS activity.

Meccano Exhibition

Amateurs with memories of Meccano sets in their younger days may be interested in the annual exhibition of the Meccano Modellers Association, on Saturday 28th April.

On show will be a wide range of Meccano models, many of them powered and some of them Arduino controlled. Bring your grand kids along for the free Children's Area where parts will be available to build anything which takes your fancy.

The exhibition will be held at Frenchs Forest Baptist Church, 615 Warringah Rd, Forestville. Doors are open from 10am until 4pm and there is a small admission charge.

Submitted by Peter VK2BEU

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 13th to the 19th of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
10cm flux	70	70	71	69	69	71	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	6	5	3	3	6	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	3	3	1	1	4	1 estimated
T index	9	4	6	1	1	8	6

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region was quiet, except for some unsettled periods on the 15th and the 18th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during local day on the 13th of March, and 15% enhanced during local night. The 14th remained near predicted throughout, then the 15th saw enhancements of 20% during local night. The 16th was again, near predicted all day. Then from the 17th to the 19th, frequencies remained near predicted during the day, but with enhancements of 25% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 20th to the 26th of April;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

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

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.

Now in April, we have so far...

Minimum 66 Average 70 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 20th and the 28th

And looking ahead to the prediction for May;

Minimum 69 Average 70 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 14th and the 20th.

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

MAURITIUS, 3B8. Giulio, IW3HVB is active as 3B8MB until April 27. Activity is on 2 metres and 23cm using EME.

ZAMBIA, 9J. Brian, 9J2BO plans to be active in the CQMM DX contest.

SIERRA LEONE, 9L. Mark, KW4XJ plans to be active as 9L/KW4XJ near Freetown in the CQMM DX contest.

NEPAL, 9N. Sergei, R4WAA is active as 9N7WA until April 27. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and various digital modes.

MOROCCO; Special event station 5C13SIA will be active from April 24 to 28 to commemorate the 13th International Exhibition of Agriculture being held in Meknes City.

BOLIVIA, CP. Enrique, CP6UA plans to be active in the CQMM DX contest, using CW and SSB.

SAINT BARTHELEMY, FJ. Rick, AI5P, Barry, N0KV, Gregory, W0ZA and James, WD0E are active as FJ/AI5P and FJ/N0KV until April 27. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, with some Satellite activity as well.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernhard, DL2GAC and Cezar, VE3LYC will be active as H44R from Mbanika Island, IOTA OC-168, until April 25. Activity will be on 40 to 17 metres using CW and SSB with two stations active.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Brian, GW4DVB will be active as J88PI from Palm Island, IOTA NA-025, until April 29. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using SSB only.

JAPAN, JA. Special event station 8J1ITU is active from Honshu Island, IOTA AS-007, until May 31 to commemorate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which is on May 17.

SLOVENIA, S5. Special event station S50RTVS is active until December 31, 2018 to celebrate 90 years of radio broadcasting and 60 years of television programs broadcasting by the Public Institute Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia.

TURKEY, TA. Ben, DL7UCX and Bernd, DL7VBJ are active as TA0/homecalls from Marmara Island, IOTA AS-201, until April 26. Activity is on the HF bands. In addition, special event station TC23TC will be active until April 23 to celebrate the 23rd April Children Fest.

ST KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Alex, W1CDC will be active as V47CDC from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from April 23 to May 5. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using only CW.

MICRONESIA, V6. Sho, JA7HMZ is active as V63DX from Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC-010, until April 24. Activity is on the HF bands with a focus on 160 metres using FT8.

KOSOVO, Z6. Uwe, DG8NCO plans to be active as Z66EME until April 30. Activity will be on 2 metres and 70 cm using EME.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Holyland DX Contest, ES Open HF Championship, Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest, QRP to the Field, CQMM CW DX Contest, YU DX Contest, Nebraska QSO Party, Michigan QSO Party, EA-QRP CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and the Ontario QSO Party are all on this weekend.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, 432 MHz Spring Sprint, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, Phone Fray and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for April 25.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

Saturday, May 5 is the Trek for Timor, in Kangaroo Valley, assisting rural students studying in Dili. 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 on Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th, 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 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

As mentioned in the news last week, yesterday saw the Tri-Club Picnic, hosted by the Goulburn Amateur Radio Society, the Mid South Coast Amateur Radio Club and the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society. Many turned-up for a fun day, with antennas set-up, radios connected and many stories about that rare DX station. Another picnic day will be organised in the future with even more attendees coming along.

Now, with more news from the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society; their next meeting is on Tuesday evening the 8th of May. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings finally return to the newly renovated Coniston Community Hall, in Bridge Street Coniston. It's just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong and located right next door to the Coniston Railway Station.

Following on from last month's very interesting presentation from Jesse VK2ZJB on the Club's new digital repeater, some more time will be allowed for discussion on the various digital modes plus the plans to do a bulk order on some digital handhelds. Additionally, a Show and Tell by some members of their Shacks will be held. The night will include with a hot cuppa and chocky biscuits.

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.

The Saturday morning Net run by Steve VK2BGL seems to be getting bigger each week. You can join in on either VK2RMP or VK2RUW 2m repeaters from 9.30am local time, Alternatively, call-in on Echolink using either VK2BGL-R or VK2MT-R.

To conclude, for a great evening of entertainment, fun and information, come along to the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 8th of May at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is the monthly general meeting, at 2pm on Saturday the 5th of May in the SES Building, Port Macquarie.

During club's monthly get together last Friday night, the 20th of April, Paul VK2ICQ ran a very successful clinic to update the firmware in members' Yaesu FT-991 transceivers. A total of seven members' FT-991 transceivers now have the latest version of firmware.

Last Monday the 16th of April, there was a well-attended working bee at the VK2RCN repeater site at Telegraph Point to carry out site maintenance and prepare for the installation of the club's 53.8MHz 6 metre repeater, including erection of an antenna for the repeater.

The 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 in advance, 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 assessments will be on Saturday the 28th of April, in the SES Building at Port Macquarie.

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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 2nd of May.

The presentation topic will be Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) for Beginners, including an introduction to the DMR network, updated talk groups, improved repeater coverage, available equipment and getting started. A transceiver will be operational for those who would like to give DMR a try.

After the meeting, there will be the usual refreshments. All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".
[<http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted>]

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
For the St George Amateur Radio Society*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next club meeting will be the monthly general meeting on this 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.

If you contacted VK2IMD this weekend, the address for QSLs is:

VK2IMD HADARC
PO Box 362
HORNSBY NSW 1630

Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Further Centenary celebration events are being planned for 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 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

Trek for Timor, a WICEN event, on the 5th

Oxley Region ARC monthly meeting on the 5th

Illawarra ARS Meeting, back at Coniston Community Hall, on the 8th

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

The WICEN VH-MDX SAREX Survey is on 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

ARNSW Talkfest - on antennas, on the 17th

Navshield, a WICEN event, on the 23rd and 24th