

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

The ARNSW Foundation weekend will be conducted at Dural in two weeks' time, on the 12th and Sunday the 13th of May. Upgrade assessments will also be conducted on Sunday the 13th May. The cut off for bookings is Monday the 7th of May, so enquiries should be made this week, by email to education@arnsw.org.au. Following this weekend, the next Foundation course will be in July.

The next major activity at VK2WU Dural is the Trash & Treasure at the end of May, and a Talk Fest on antennas in mid June.

ARNSW AGM Report

The AGM of ARNSW was held yesterday at the VK2WI Dural. Despite some light rain in the early morning, 36 members attended, and 11 took advantage of the audio streaming trial. Thanks to those who attended and to those who took advantage of the streaming. To those who took the streaming, we would be interested in your report on how you found it, you can email callbacks@arnsw.org.au, with your comments.

The meeting commenced at 11am, with President Mathew VK2YAP in the chair. There were 7 apologies and 2 proxies submitted. Working through the agenda - the various reports were quickly dealt with, up to the declaring of the new committee by Returning Officer Peter VK2EMU. As there were 9 candidates nominated for the 9 positions - there was no need for an election this year. Two new members joined the committee - being Eric VK2VE and Ray VK2ASE. Retiring were Peter VK2VG and Ken VK2BBQ and the meeting passed a vote of thanks for their contributions.

Those remaining on the committee for the year 2018 / 2019 are Paul VK2APA, Mark VK2XOF, John VK2LJ, Al VK2OK, Mathew VK2YAP, Tim VK2ZTM and Bob VK2CAN. Peter VK2EMU was voted in as Returning Officer and Erik VK2EJH was voted as Alternate Returning Officer.

The Development Fund Grant for 2017 had been awarded to the Manly Warringah Radio Society to partly fund their portable radio facilities for field day operation and public displays. Greg VK2XE on behalf of MWRS gave a presentation on how the funding had been utilised. Awards were made for services provided to ARNSW, by Greg VK2TEQ for his library involvement, and to Nic VK2KXN and Lindsay VK2FLEA for the maintenance of our HF antenna installation.

John VK2LJ reported on the library progress, that all magazines have now been catalogued and work has begun on cataloguing the books. Storage space has become a problem and magazines stocks are being reduced to a single paper copy and a reserve, where available, for future scanning and digitizing. John also advised further on projects including the proposed new pole for the repeater antennas, the plans to carry out improvements to the Centenary Building, and work on establishing site bushfire and emergency management plans.

A report was also given on the renewal of the site Licence agreement with our tenant, for a further five years.

Then followed General Business where several members asked questions or commented on aspects of our operations.

The meeting was concluded after 65 minutes, and those who remained enjoyed the BBQ lunch.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20th to the 26th of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
10cm flux	73	77	76	74	73	71	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	29	10	5	6	4	4	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	30	8	3	2	1	1	2 estimated
T index	17	-2	-2	+3	5	9	6

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region started off reaching major storm levels on the 20th, with the SWS magnetometer recording a weak impulse of 10 nanoTeslas, at 0022UTC. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 21st, then settled down to quiet conditions for the rest of the week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were depressed 20% after local dawn on the 20th, though improved through the day to be near predicted values, and enhanced of 25% during local night. The enhancement didn't last long however, with the 21st being depressed 25% during the day and 20% at night, and the 22nd being near predicted during the day and 20% depressed at night. The 23rd remained near predicted throughout. The rest of the week was near predicted during the day with enhanced conditions during local night; 15% on the night of the 24th, 30% on the 25th, and 25% during local night of the 26th.

Now, the forecast for the 27th of April to the 3rd of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet, with some unsettled and possibly isolated active conditions on the 27th of April. Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values, except for some minor depressions possible on the 27th of April.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Nearing the end of April, we have so far a...

Minimum 66 Average 70 Maximum 77
With peak dates between the 21st and the 25th

The prediction for May is;

Minimum 68 Average 72 Maximum 75
With peak dates between the 18th and the 30th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 70 Average 70 Maximum 71
With peak dates between the 1st and the 11th.

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

NIGER, 5U. Torbjon, SM7RME is active as 5U7R from Niamey. Activity is on the HF bands in his spare time. His length of stay is unknown.

JAMAICA, 6Y. Chris, VO1IDX will be active as 6Y5IDX from Negril, IOTA NA-097, until May 6. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

CROATIA, 9A. Jan, PA4JJ will be active as 9A/PA4JJ until June 8. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using FT8.

RWANDA, 9X. Alan, 9X0TA is active until December 31. He has been active on the HF bands using FT8.

BHUTAN, A5. Kay, WA0WOF and Mio, JR3MVF will be active as A52YL until May 6. They will be active on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. They are joined by Junichi, JH3AEF and Jusei, JA3IVU who will be active as A52AEF and A52IVU, respectively, on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9. Vasily, R7AL, Vasily, RA1ZZ, Al, RZ3K and Vlad, RK8A will be active as C96RRC from Mozambique Island, IOTA AF-088, until May 3. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. Special event station DM152ZYA is active until the end of 2018 to commemorate the rollout and maiden flight 60 years ago of the first German passenger aircraft equipped with a jet engine, that was built in Dresden.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Cezar, VE3LYC will be active as H40D from Taumako Island, IOTA OC-179, from April 29 to May 3. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

ITALY; The UN Global Service Centre ARC, 4U1GSC, in Brindisi, Italy, will change its call to 4U29MAY from May 1 to June 30. This promotes the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, which is May 29. Despite the UN call sign, it will count as Italy.

OGASAWARA, JD1. Harry, JG7PSJ will be active as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until May 4. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Pasi, OH3WS will be active as OJ0W until May 4. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and some SSB.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS, PJ5. Rick, AI5P will be active as PJ6/AI5P from Saba Island, IOTA NA-145, until May 5. Activity will be on the HF bands.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Michael, VK4EF is active as S79LD from Mahe Island and La Digue Island, both IOTA AF-024, until May 31. Activity is in his spare time on 80, 40, 20 and possibly 10 metres using SSB, JT65, FT8 and QRS CW.

CRETE, SV9. Seppo, OH1VR is active as SV9/OH1VR from Stalos Island, IOTA EU-015, until May 2. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Alex, W1CDC is active on the HF bands, as V47CDC from St. Kitts until May 5.

INDIA, VU. Special event call VU8FOC will be active from May 1 to 31 to celebrate the FOC's 80th anniversary.

LAOS, XW. Bruce, 3W3B is active as XW4XR from Vientiane until May 4. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres, and possibly 6 metres, using CW, RTTY and JT65.

INDONESIA, YB. Look for YB3MM/8 and YB3LZ/8 to be active from Tinabo Island, IOTA OC-242, until May 1. On May 1 and 2, they will also be active from Salayar Island, IOTA OC-236. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres with two stations active.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operation is approved for DXCC Credit: Socorro Island, Revillagigedo [re'βija xi'xeðo] 4B4B, 2018 operation.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Spring Digital Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, SP DX RTTY Contest, Helvetia Contest, Florida QSO Party, BARTG Sprint 75 and the AGCW QRP/QRP Party are all on this weekend.

The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for May 2.

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 next Sunday the 6th of 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 the weekend of the 19th and 20th of May.

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, now on the 80 metre WICEN frequency of 3.6MHz.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country. The National Capital Rally is on the 1st to the 3rd of June then the following weekend, the 9th and 10th, is the SCSCC Bega Rally. For more information visit: www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria's next event is the Kenda Rally on May 6th, 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Their next meeting is at 2pm on Saturday the 5th of May in the SES Building, Port Macquarie.

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. Assessments were carried out yesterday, Saturday the 28th of April, and the next session will be conducted 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. The May 2018 issue of Oxtales will be published early in the month.

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

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society 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, some members will take part in a Show and Tell of their Shacks. 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.*

Hunter Radio Group

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday, 11th May.

However, note there is a change of venue; the meeting will be held at the Belmore Function Room of Adamstown Bowling Club, 504 Glebe Road, Adamstown, Newcastle. Starting time is 7.30pm.

The Lecture for the evening will be on Electric Motor cars.

The Hunter Radio Group conducts a news broadcast every Monday evening at 7.30pm, on the Group Repeaters 146.9MHz in the 2 metre band and 438.025MHz in the 70 cm band. There are callbacks after the broadcast.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this coming 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 meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville. The gathering starts at 7.30pm.

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 meeting will be on Tuesday the 8th of May, at Mt Colah Community Centre, from 8pm. This is in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station. Notice has also been given for the AGM on Tuesday, May 22nd, at 8:00 pm.

Further Centenary celebration events are being planned for September, including a special callsign, VK100MARCONI.

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.

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;

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

HADARC Meeting on the 8th

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

Hunter Radio Group Meeting, at Adamstown Bowling Club, 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

HADARC AGM on the 22nd

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

July

St George ARS gathering on the 4th

MWRS Training and Licensing Day on the 7th

ARNSW Foundation course and assessment weekend, 14th and 15th

Trans-Tasman Low-Band Contest on the 21st

ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Experimenters Group meeting on the 29th