

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

Due to illness within the ARNSW Assessor team, our planned Foundation and assessment course next weekend, has been cancelled. Our thanks to the Waverley Amateur Radio Society for making positions available for all of our prospective candidates, at their next course, which is next weekend at their Rose Bay club house.

The recent ARNSW AGM had the audio streamed via the internet; the audio is now available on the Audio page of our website, at arnsw.org.au/audio. Also on our audio page you can live stream or listen back to the VK2WI News bulletins. Based on the feedback from this event, We are planning to live stream further events at VK2WI Dural, like the Experimenters meeting held after the Trash & Treasure event on the last Sunday of the odd numbered month - the next being this month on the 27th.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 27th of April to the 3rd of May.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
10cm flux	69	70	71	70	68	67	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	5	3	10	3	5	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	2	2	3	1	1	2 estimated
T index	5	7	6	1	1	-3	-2

Solar flare activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted during daylight hours on the 27th and 28th, with enhancements of 15% during local night. Frequencies then remained near predicted monthly values, from the 29th of April until the 2nd of May, and then the 3rd of May saw frequencies near predicted during local day, with conditions enhanced 15% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 4th to the 10th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, as there are currently no active regions and no returning regions expected.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach Active to Minor Storm levels on the 6th, with Unsettled to Active periods likely on the 7th and 8th. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies will possibly be depressed between the 6th and the 8th of May, due to geomagnetic activity, but are otherwise expected to 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 finished April, the figures were...

Minimum 66 Average 70 Maximum 77
With peak dates between the 19th and the 25th

As we begin May, the prediction so far is;

Minimum 67 Average 69 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 15th and the 29th.

And looking ahead to the prediction for June;

Minimum 68 Average 69 Maximum 70
With peak dates between the 11th and the 17th.

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 April 2018

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was again at very low levels this month, with no M or X class flares observed. However, there were Coronal holes were visible on the solar disk during the month. In particular, the Earth entered a coronal hole high speed solar wind stream on the 20th of April.

This only significant geomagnetic disturbance for the month was observed on the 20th April, due to the Earth's entry into a high-speed solar wind stream, induced by a coronal hole.

The Australian A index reaching 30, corresponding with Minor Storm levels, and minor to major geomagnetic storm conditions were observed during local night hours. Auroral observations were also reported in association with this geomagnetic activity.

Generally lower than normal maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) were observed during April in the Australian region, probably in association with lower solar flux levels. The deepest depression was observed on 21 April, in the southern Australian region, with MUF depressed by 30% overall, compared with predicted monthly values. This ionospheric depression followed the geomagnetic activity on the 20th of April, but was not expected.

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ARRL DX news

QATAR, A7. Rasto, OM6AA is active as A75GR while living in Doha.

MOZAMBIQUE; A group of operators are active as C8T until May 15. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY, and possibly PSK and FT8 with four stations. This may include a fifth station running 2 metre EME.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Press, N6SS is active as DU6/N6SS from Sibalom, Antique Province, Panay Island, IOTA OC-129, until May 17. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and FT8.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Bruce, WB7OTC will be active as E51OTC from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013, Aitutaki Island, IOTA OC-083, and Atiu Island, IOTA OC-083, from until May 17. Activity will be on the HF bands using QRP power.

BELARUS; Special event station EV73K will be active until May 10 to commemorate the 73 years since victory in the great patriotic war.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Ari, OH3KAV will be active as OH0KA until May 10. Activity will be on the HF bands, including 60 metres, using CW and FT8.

NETHERLANDS; Operators Tonny, PD1TV and Henri, PA4HM will be active with special call sign PH00GEVEEN from may 5 to 22 during the annual Wings and Wheels event at Hoogeveen Airfield. Activity will be on the various HF bands using SSB.

CURACAO, PJ2. Savas, SV2AEL will be active as PJ2/SV2AEL from May 10 to 15. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands.

TURKEY, TA. Col, MM0NDX, Max, IK8LOV and Bjoern, ON9CFG will be active as TA0/home calls and as TC0AX from May 7 to 11. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 2 metres.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. A number of Russian stations will switch to the RP73 prefix from May 5 to 9. The P in the prefix stands for the Russian word pobeda, or victory, And the 73 stands for the number of years since the end of World War II.

MACQUARIE ISLAND, VK0. Norbert, VK5MQ is active as VK0AI and will be on the island with the next winter team for one year. Activity has been on 30 and 20 metres using FT8 between 0400 to 0630UTC.

SERBIA, YU. Special event station YU100APV is active through December 31, 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the unification of Vojvodina and Serbia.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The New England QSO Party, 10-10 International Spring CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, MIE 33 Contest, Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest, SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge, Microwave Spring Sprint, ARI International DX Contest, 7th Call Area QSO Party, Indiana QSO Party, Delaware QSO Party and the FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint are all on this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club SSB Championship is scheduled for May 7.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for May 8.

The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled for May 9.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

Yesterday was 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 was on this morning, and the Hunter event is at Speers Point Park, near the lake named "Awaba", on the 20th 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. Bush Search and Rescue, which runs these two events, has announced that it has joined with the State Emergency Service, and is now the NSW SES BSAR group.

The 30th annual Navshield bush navigation contest, is on June 23 and 24. The course is set in a secret location, approximately 2.5hours from Sydney.

The WICEN website at nsw.wicen.org.au includes membership information, a web contact form, 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 the Girrad horse Enduro near Drake this weekend, and the Spring Mountain event near Brisbane on the 19th and 20th of May.

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 band-plan's 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 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.

The next meeting of the Society is on this coming 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.

This coming meeting should be a most interesting night with quite a few different discussions and presentations. Following on from last meeting's digital repeater talk by Jesse VK2ZJB, there will be a progress update plus plans for a bulk purchase order on some digital handhelds. There will also be a presentation on aircraft communications, in particular the Aircraft Tracking System. And finally, a Show and Tell by some members of their latest technical issues and problems. The night will conclude with the very popular 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.

Don't forget about the Saturday morning Net run by Steve VK2BGL; 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 and information, with a dot and dash of fun, 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 Friday night gathering, 7pm on Friday the 18th 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; 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 coming week.

*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 11th of 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.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be the informal mid-monthly meeting, this 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.

The AGM will be 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

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

Waverley ARS Foundation weekend, 12th and 13th

ORARC Friday Night Gathering on the 18th

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