

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

Last Sunday's Trash & Treasure was well attended on a fine mild Autumn day. A number of attendees visited from out of town, as usual, and a check of the attendance book at the end of the day found that 75 attendees had signed in. The next Trash & Treasure will be at the end of July.

On Sunday the 17th of June, there is to be a Talk Fest day on the topic of antennas. There will be six speakers, covering types of antennas such as dipoles, buddipoles and inverted V's, G5RV's, screwdrivers plus a flowerpot antenna. There will also be a presentation on feedlines, and antenna analysis, with a practical component - where members may bring along their own 'quick erect' antenna for testing.

Due to popular demand, we'll be having a raffle with the first prize being a 160 to 2 metre antenna analyser, and second, third and fourth prizes as well. No RSVP, just turn up, with the presentations starting at 10 am and the usual sumptuous barbeque lunch.

Note that the field activities will require some changes to parking arrangements for the event - the area adjacent to the Centenary Building will be reserved for the antenna testing, so parking will be restricted to the east side of the property, beyond the VK2WI brick building.

Mark the date, Sunday 17th June.

US Licence exams in Sydney

If you are interested in obtaining a US amateur licence, the Sydney-based ARRL Volunteer Examiner team are conducting an assessment session on Sunday the 1st July, at Bankstown Airport, starting at 8am.

The examinations will use the new Technician question pool, and training material and further information can be found at the website, hamexam.space.

Information about exam registration and booking, can be found on the new site: veexams.com.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 25th to the 31st of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st
10cm flux	76	73	75	77	75	75	77
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	5	5	4	5	5	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	0	2	1	1	1	7 estimated
T index	4	2	3	4	9	5	4

Solar flare activity was very low all week, except on the 28th where some low level activity was observed, in the form of one C-class solar flare and a few B class flares.

Geomagnetic activity in the Australian region, was quiet from the 25th through to the 30th, then quiet to unsettled on the 31st.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values during local daytime, but with some enhancements observed at local night; nighttime frequencies were enhanced by 20% on the 25th, 15% on the 26th, 25% on the 27th, 20% on the 28th, and 25% on the 29th and 30th. The 31st remained near predicted throughout.

Now, the forecast for the 1st to the 7th of June;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels from the 1st to the 3rd of June, before returning to quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should 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 finished May, the figures were...

Minimum 67 Average 71 Maximum 77
With peak dates between the 24th and the 31st.

At the beginning of June, the prediction so far is a;

Minimum 70 Average 73 Maximum 77
With peak dates between the 1st and the 6th

And looking ahead to the prediction for July;

Minimum 70 Average 71 Maximum 72
With peak dates between the 8th and the 12th.

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

ALGERIA, 7X. Members of the Amateurs Radio Algeriens are active with special event station 7X2FIFA for the 2018 FIFA World Cup until July 15.

RWANDA, 9X. Harald, DF2WO will be active as 9X2AW from Kigali from June 5 to 24. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

MOROCCO, CN. Special event station CN18FWC is active until July 15 during the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

ECUADOR; Fausto, HC5VF is active as HD18FIFA for the 2018 FIFA World Cup until July 15.

GRENADA, J3. Special event station J32FIFA is active until July 15 during the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

BULGARIA, LZ. Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik are active during the month of June as LZ430PPW, honouring the memory of Bulgarian Saints.

ALAND ISLAND, OH0. A group of operators will be active as OG0C and OG0C/p from Kokar, IOTA EU-002, until June 6. Activity will be on 80 to 2 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

SURINAME, PZ. Special event station PZ18FIFA is active until July 15 during the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9. David, EB7DX is active as S9ZZ from Sao Tome Island, IOTA AF-023, until June 9. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

SWEDEN; Members of the Swedish Ham Radio IARU Society are active as special event station SF18FWC until July 15 for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

SOMALIA ; Baldur, DJ6SI is active as 6OX from Hargeisa until June 6. Activity is on 30 and 20 metres using CW.

AUSTRALIA, VK. Members of the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia are active as VK18FIFA until July 15 for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9L. Doug, VK3YQS is active as VK9LA from IOTA OC-004. Activity is on the HF bands.

IRAQ, YI. Special event station YI0FIFA is active until July 15 during the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

KOSOVO, Z6. Members of SHRAK are active with special call Z60FIFA until July 15 during the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

NEW ZEALAND, ZL. Special event station ZM50LA is active in commemoration of maritime tragedies that occurred 50 years ago. During June the respective event is the sinking of the freighter MV Maranui.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, HA3NS Sprint Memorial CW Contest, PVRC Reunion, DigiFest, Wake-Up QRP CW Sprint, SEANET Contest, UKSMG Summer 6-Metre Contest, Kentucky QSO Party, Dutch Kingdom Contest, IARU Region 1 CW Field Day and the RSGB National CW Field Day are all on this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship is scheduled for June 4.
The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for June 5.
The CWops Mini-CWT CW Test and Phone Fray are scheduled June 6.

The ARRL International Grid Chase continues throughout 2018.

WICEN News

True Grit, has been running over this weekend, and concludes today. The Obstacle Course Racing World Championship is coming up on Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th, also at Lower Portland, in north-west Sydney.

A new event is the GWT, or Glow Worm Tunnel Trail Running Weekend at Newnes, north of Lithgow, on the 16th and 17th of June. This will provide experience operating in a remote location.

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. A meeting is planned for Sunday, 10 June at 10am, at the SARC club site.

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 concludes today, then next weekend is the SCSCC Bega Rally. Saturday, July 21 is the BMSC Narooma Rally, and the Batemans Bay Rally is on August 11. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria has a net on 3.6 MHz each Wednesday at 8:30pm local time. The Mallee Rally is on next weekend, the 9th and 10th of June at the spectacular Lake Tyrell, Sealake. Visit their website at 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.

The Club's annual Field Day is on next weekend, Saturday the 9th and Sunday the 10th of June. The venue is the Wauchope High School hall, in Nelson Street, at the end of Campbell Street which runs off High Street in the Wauchope CBD. Its 20 kilometres west from Port Macquarie via the Oxley Highway, and driving time is approximately 20 minutes.

All the usual Field Day activities will be there; remember to bring your projects along for the home brew display and competition. Don't miss the trade and special interest displays. Bring your surplus items for the disposals. There will be demonstrations of live HF, VHF and UHF digital voice and weak signal communications. Fox hunts will be run on both the Saturday and Sunday. Everyone will be well fed from the barbeque. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available.

The Field Day dinner will be at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on the Saturday night as in past years. It is wise to book accommodation before the Field Day as Port Macquarie is a very popular destination for the Queens Birthday long weekend.

The club's VK2RCN 53.800 MHz 6 metre repeater at Telegraph Point is now operational. No CTCSS is required and the offset is minus 1MHz.

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.

The next meeting of the club will be the Friday night gathering, 7pm on the evening of Friday the 15th of June in the SES Building in Port Macquarie, and as always, visitors are welcome.

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 May 2018 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", along with past issues, can be viewed on the website.

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

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting on the 12th of June. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Meetings are at the Coniston Community Hall, in Bridge Street Coniston. It's just a little south of the CBD of Wollongong and right next door to Coniston Railway Station, so access to meetings by train is very easy.

This year is the Society's 70th Anniversary, and several activities are planned to celebrate this milestone. Firstly, the Society has been allocated a special callsign of VI2AMW70 for the duration of the anniversary period. Secondly, the next meeting night on the 12th of June is coincidentally the actual date of the official formation of the Society, back in 1948.

On the Saturday following the meeting, the 16th of June, an anniversary luncheon will be held at the Wollongong Golf Club. All past and present members, along with their partners, are most cordially invited to join in the celebration.

On the weekend of the 30th of June and 1st of July, the Society is holding a Field Day weekend at the Good Hope Resort camping area on Burrinjuck Dam, located just south of Yass. Members and listeners alike are most welcome to come along and have fun with antennas, radios, telescopic masts, good food and great comradeship with the special event callsign being active all weekend.

Finally, the big anniversary event will be at the Field Day weekend on Sunday the 1st of July, with the launch of a high altitude balloon. The balloon's payload will contain APRS along with a CW beacon transmitting on 28.636MHz. The APRS transmission will be sending balloon height, location and general status.

For more information on all anniversary activities, please contact the Society's Secretary Keith VK2KQB, via email on iars.keithb@gmail.com. That address again, is iars.keithb@gmail.com.

For those interested in gaining their Amateur Radio license in the Illawarra or Shoalhaven areas, 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 and can be contacted via the email address of vk2ara@wia.org.au.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, 7.30pm on Tuesday the 12th of June, the Society's 70th Anniversary night, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on Wednesday evening, the 6th of June.

There will be a presentation by Dr. Brian Clarke VK2GCE on Antenna Coupling Units, or ACUs.

These are not the same as Antenna Tuning Units (ATUs) – all you need for ATUs are side-cutters, or if you were too enthusiastic, a soldering iron.

Where does the ACU fit among all the other components in the total system between sender and receiver? Why do we need ACUs and how do they work?

Brian VK2GCE will discuss these questions and then proceed to show how to design a simple ACU, including consideration of power, frequency, Voltage and current on the ACU's components.

If you are offered an ACU that is alleged to handle 1 kW, you will learn to ask:

- at what frequency
- at what output impedance
- to match what range of antenna impedances
- at what cost?

After the presentation, there will be the usual refreshments.

All members, local amateurs and others interested are invited to attend.

There will be the usual tables full of disposal equipment looking for a new home.

The meeting rooms are at Donnelly Park, Kyle Parade, Connells Point – near South Hurstville, and the gathering starts at 7.30pm.

The What Three Words address for the club is "torch bath frosted".

[\[http://map.what3words.com/torch.bath.frosted \]](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 HADARC meeting is on Tuesday the 12th of June. This will be the informal mid-monthly meeting, consisting of discussions on all things radio, and beyond. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah, on the eastern side of the railway station. As this Tuesday is the 5th in May, there are two Tuesdays without a meeting.

Celebrations of the first direct radio message from UK to Australia 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;

June

St George ARS gathering on the 6th

Hunter Radio Group meeting, at Adamstown Bowling Club, on the 8th

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

Illawarra ARS meeting, at Coniston community hall, on the 12th

HADARC mid monthly meeting on the 12th

Illawarra ARS 70th anniversary lunch on the 16th

ARNSW Talkfest - on antennas, on the 17th

Blue Mountains ARC Foundation course weekend, 16th and 17th

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

July

US Amateur Licence exams at Bankstown Airport, on the 1st

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

August

St George ARS gathering on the 1st

Remembrance Day Contest on the 11th and 12th

International Lighthouse & lightship weekend, 18th and 19th

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 29th