

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

In the 2019 calendar mailout to ARNSW members late last year, there was a form included to request a membership badge. All the badge requests received in that round have now been mailed out to members.

If you missed out, you can request one by an email to office@arnsw.org.au with your given name, callsign, address and contact number. Remember, we only order a production run once there are sufficient orders, so there may now be a delay until your badge is received.

Its just two weeks until the CCARC's Wyong Field Day at the end of the month, Sunday the 24th of February. Instead of the normal morning bulletin, VK2WI News will have a special edition on Saturday evening before the field day, starting at 7:30pm local time, including National news, as well as club news and any last-minute Field Day updates. On the evening of the 24th, VK2WI News will on at 7:30pm as normal, and will include a brief report from the Field Day.

As we reported last week, the administration of Amateur Radio Examinations and licencing changed this month. The Australian Maritime College (AMC) – part of the University of Tasmania – will now deliver amateur radio examinations, issue amateur certificates of proficiency and undertake related callsign management. Until the AMC commences delivery of services from 25 February, there are no assessments or examinations available.

US Licence Exams at Wyong

The Oz-VE group will again run US licence exams at the Wyong field day – on Sunday the 24th of February.

With only two weeks to go until Wyong, several candidates have already booked, but there are still places available.

Further information on the benefits of having a US licence, along with booking forms and links to study material, can be found on the Oz-VE group website, at veexams.com.

JOTA Conference at the Wyong Field Day

Anyone participating or involved in the organisation of an amateur radio station for Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) for a guide or scout group, is invited to attend a JOTA Conference at The Wyong Field Day.

Scouts NSW have recently introduced changes relating on the organisation of amateur radio stations participating in JOTA. These changes relate to;

- the participation of adult amateur radio operators at JOTA radio stations over the JOTA weekend, and,
- the proficiency badges that may be earned by youth members over the JOTA weekend.
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To find out more about these changes, as well as general information about JOT, come along to the JOTA conference at the Wyong Field Day, Sunday 24th February. The conference will be in Lecture Room 2, from noon until 1pm. Come along and catch up with others involved in Jamboree On The Air.

The JOTA Conference is sponsored by The St George Amateur Radio Society.

Item submitted by Paul VK2GX

ARNSW Elections

The next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 13th of April 2019.

At the AGM, a new management council is to be appointed.

Nominations are open for members who wish to be on the council for the year 2019 and 2020. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website, arnsw.org.au or can be obtained from the office.

Nominations close at midday on Saturday 2nd of March 2019.

Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer

Note: Amateur Radio New South Wales is a business name of the company registered as Wireless Institute of Australia New South Wales Division. This company was originally incorporated in New South Wales in 1922.

Since 2004, the company uses the business name, Amateur Radio New South Wales, to avoid confusion with the independent incorporated entity, The Wireless Institute of Australia.

40 Metre Dipole Buildathon

ARNSW is holding a 40 metre antenna buildathon, on Sunday the 10th of March, here at VK2WI Dural. While the day is primarily intended to be of interest to Foundation licencees, all members are of course welcome to attend.

The session will start at 10am with a brief presentation on the how and why of the dipole antenna. Following this, you will sit beside an experienced ham to assist you in constructing your own 1:1 balun. This is fairly easy, as it is in kit form, with half of the assembly already done

After completion, your dipole will be tested and following this...lunch.

The attendance fee on the day includes the antenna kit, consisting of the 1:1 balun, two insulators and 20 metres of hi-quality Kevlar antenna wire.

Also, for an additional fee we will have available kit-sets to make up some feedlines – with a 15m run of RG58 type coax, and a couple of PL-259 connectors. Again, on the day you will make this up yourself under supervision.

So, at the end of the day, you will have a fully functioning dipole antenna complete with a 1:1 balun and 15metres of feedline, ready to go on air; All of which you made yourself.

All this stage we only require an expression of interest, not confirmation of attendance – so if you are interested please send us an email, to events@arnsw.org.au – including your name, callsign, and a contact phone number.

*AI VK2OK
Event Co-ordinator, ARNSW*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 1st to the 7th of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
10cm flux	72	71	71	71	71	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	11	8	5	3	7	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	11	5	4	2	7	2 estimated
T index	-30	-16	-19	-20	-21	-7	-21

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity ranged from quiet to active on the 1st and 2nd, settling down on the 3rd to be mostly quiet with some isolated unsettled periods, and then remaining quiet from the 4th to the 7th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started off depressed 25% on the 1st, 25% during the day and 20% during the night of the 2nd; 15% depressed on the 3rd; 15% depressed on the 4th with a brief depression of 20% after local dawn. The 5th showed some improvement, while depressed 20% during the day, conditions improved to near predicted at night. The 6th remained near predicted throughout, while the 7th showed depressions of up to 15%.

Now, the forecast for the 8th to the 14th of February;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with some active periods possible on the 8th and 9th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies are expected to range from near predicted monthly values, to depressions of up to 30%.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

The figures for January were;

Minimum of 68, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 77
With peak dates between the 3rd and 4th, and the 27th to the 31st

So far for February, the prediction is a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 1st and 2nd, and the 17th to the 26th

And looking ahead to the prediction for March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates between the 13th to the 25th.

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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Space Weather Summary for January 2019

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was predominately at Very Low levels this month, with no significant solar flares. No M-class or X-class flares at all, were observed, and the largest flare was a C5 flare, at 1322UTC on the 26th of January.

There were no significant geomagnetic disturbances – and no days with an A-index exceeding 16. No geomagnetic alerts were issued.

The ionosphere was relatively stable; with no significant depressions – the largest disturbances in the Southern Australian region were depressions of no more than 15%. MUFs were generally lower than normal, probably due to the low solar flux levels.

What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with the series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: E-FCAL034.wav]

Duration: 2m20s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

ARRL DX news

BAHAMAS; Operators KN4EEI, N6MZ and AA7JV are active as C6AGU from Water Cay, IOTA NA-001, until February 18. Activity is mainly on 160, 80 and 40 metres using mostly CW and FT8.

CUBA; Members of the Mayabeque Contest Group will be active as T43MY from Mayabeque in the CQ World Wide RTTY WPX contest.

FRANCE; Special event station TM16AAW will be active until February 24 from Macon during the 16th Antarctic Activity Week. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using mostly SSB.

FRENCH GUIANA; Armin, DK9PY is active as FY/DK9PY until February 17. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest.

DOMINICA; David, KK4WW and Gaynell, KK4WWW will be active as J79WW, J79WWW, and J79USA, respectively, from February 12 to 19. Activity will be holiday style on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SVALBARD; Jon, LA1QH is active as JW1QH from Spitsbergen, IOTA EU-026, until February 11. Activity is on 80 and 20 metres using only SSB.

FINLAND; A group of operators are active as OH10X from Inakari Island, IOTA EU-192, a new IOTA, until February 11. Activity is on 80 to 15 metres using CW and SSB with two stations active.

GREENLAND; Nils, SM3UQK will be active as OX/SE3A from Ilulissat until February 21. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres as a portable station.

SABA, ST. EUSTATIUS; Fred, N6YEU will be active as PJ5/N6YEU from St. Eustatius, IOTA NA-145, from February 11 to 19. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres using CW and SSB. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW contest.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA; A group of operators will be active as PY0F from February 13 to 18. Activity will be mainly on the low bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

UKRAINE; Special event station EM16UAP is active until February 28 to commemorate the Academic Vernadsky Ukrainian Antarctic station.

MACAO; A large group of operators will be active as XX9D from February 11 to 26. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 with several stations active.

EL SALVADOR; Will, AA4NC will be active as YS1/AA4NC from San Salvador from February 13 to 20. Activity will be all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8. This includes an entry in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band entry.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, SARL Field Day Contest, Asia-Pacific Spring CW Sprint, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, KCJ Topband CW Contest, Dutch PACC Contest, YLRL YL-OM Contest, OMISS SSB QSO Party, FISTS Winter Unlimited CW Sprint, RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest and the Balkan HF Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from February 11 to 15.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and CQC Winter CW QSO Party are scheduled for February 11.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt, Phone Fray and NAQCC CW Sprint are scheduled for February 13.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, event runs throughout 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

WICEN News

WICEN has been asked to assist NSW SES Bush Search and Rescue during a remote canyon exercise on February 15-17 in the Waratah Ridge - Bungleboori Creek area of the Wollemi National Park. This exercise is to test and compare the effectiveness of three systems, GRN, HF and Satellite-based text messaging, in a remote canyon environment. Please contact WICEN Operations if you can assist.

There was a WICEN training day held here at ARNSW in Dural, earlier today. (Ask a participant what they learnt about NVIS antennas).

WICEN will be at the Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 24th of February. This is a good opportunity for members to pay their annual membership. Volunteers are sought, to staff the stand.

The 2nd and 3rd of March are planned as a training weekend at Newnes, near Lithgow. This is the site of the Glow Worm Marathon, which WICEN will again support, in mid-June.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au and includes a web contact form. Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

WICEN Northern Rivers holds a weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm, on the Lismore repeater VK2RSC on 146.8 MHz, requiring a 123 Hz tone. Listen for VK2WIR.

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, 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, and on the South Coast of NSW. Dementia Australia is kicking off the 2019 Memory Walk & Jog season in Canberra, on the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin, on the 24th of February, supported by WICEN ACT. The Canberra Two Day walk is March 30 and 31. See the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting Duncan's Run, an Ultra-Marathon on Saturday the 23rd of March, and the Sunraysia 400 is on the 27th and 28th of April. The group runs a net on 3.6 MHz each Tuesday from 8:30pm local time. More information can be found on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. Their next meeting is the Friday night gathering on the 15th of February, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

Today saw the club's annual Antenna Shootout is next Sunday the 10th of February, at Tuffins Lane Sportsfields in Port Macquarie. We will have a full report on the day, in next week's news.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 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 the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each month. The venue for all these meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The January 2019 edition of the Club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for ORARC.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

It's now just two weeks until the largest hamfest in the Southern Hemisphere; the CCARC Wyong Field Day, on Sunday the 24th February, at Wyong Racecourse.

Naturally, there will be a free bus service run by the CCARC to and from Wyong railway station. There will be plenty of interesting parts and radio gear on offer, as well as displays including an Outside Broadcast van from a local community station, along with a local communications company.

However, due to the recent changes in licencing administration, there will regrettably be no licence assessments held this year.

There are two presentation streams running again this year, covering a wide range of topics.

In lecture room 1, Ray Palmer will be discussing the Australian Touring HF Club, and digital HF; Ray VK2NO will talk about Historic Radio and "RAVEN"; Brian VK2GCE will discuss, "How Science Works"; do you really know why and how things work? Vickal Kumar will discuss Space Weather, and how it affects aviation; and David VK2DGR will give a talk on FreeDV.

In Lecture Room 2, Lindsay VK2AMV will talk about the Multi-Mode Digital Voice Modem (MMDVM), and how easy it is to cross various digital borders; Cameron McKay will talk about satellite telemetry and CubeSats; And there will be a Scouting and JOTA conference, run by Greg VK2GX.

Club Vice-President, Jaye VK2FOMG, is interested in collecting some early history of the club. Especially if you have any photographs of old Field Days, he would love to hear from you.

Further information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club, including more detail on the Field day program, and other club activities, can be found on the website, www.ccarc.org.au.

Dave VK2KFU

Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month, and the next meeting is on this coming Tuesday evening, the 12th of February. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm.

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

At the next meeting there will be presentations showing the work done in erecting for Amateur antenna systems in today's suburbia. The two Robs - VK2XIC and VK2MT - have both been recently working on two different types of towers - self-supporting and guyed - and they will be discussing the problems they encountered in an effort to get their antennas as high-in-the-sky as possible.

Following the presentations, there will be the usual ragchew over a cup of tea or coffee with chocolate biscuits, and based on past meeting nights, this ragchewing will continue out in the carpark long after the hall has been locked up.

The Society now has two weekly Nets, with the addition of an 80m net on Friday nights starting at 8:30pm local time on 3.630MHz, plus or minus for usage. The very popular Saturday morning chit-chat Net continues to grow, ably run by Steve VK2BGL. Listeners can join-in by either using one of the Club's 2 metre repeaters - VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 6675, while out-of-towners can call in on Echolink via VK2BGL-R.

The Society's 70cm DMR repeater continues to get a lot of use. It is located at the VK2RMP Maddens Plains site and is on 438.725MHz, with a 5MHz negative offset. On Slot 1 it is presently connected to World Wide Talk Group 91 and on Slot 2, it is connected to the Australian and NSW Talk Groups of 505 and 5052. All listeners in the Wollongong and Sydney region are invited to use the repeater.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening the 12th of February, at the Coniston Community Hall in Wollongong.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The 12th of February meeting will be replaced with a family-friendly dinner at Magpies, opposite Waitara railway station, starting at 6pm. RSVP to Bob VK2ZRM.

The next meeting at Mt Colah will be on the 26th of February and will feature a number of short talks. The Mt Colah Community Centre is near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Railway Station.

The Club will have a stand at the Wyong field day, shared with ALARA, in the air-conditioned grandstand.

The Club runs three nets each week. Monday's net starts at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, 147.250MHz No tone is required, but a 91.5 Hz tone is sent. The 80 metre net is on Wednesday evenings on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm, and Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz from 9am 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;

February

HADARC family dinner meeting at Waitara, on the 12th

Illawarra ARS meeting on the 12th

Oxley Region ARC Friday night gathering on the 15th

Special pre-field day News bulletin from VK2WI, on Saturday evening the 23rd

The CCARC's Wyong Field Day, Sunday the 24th

At Wyong on the 24th, there is also the Oz-VE group US licence exams and the JOTA conference.

HADARC monthly general meeting on the 26th

March

ARNSW Council nominations close on the 2nd

WICEN training weekend at Newnes on the 2nd and 3rd

Westlakes ARC Special General Meeting on the 9th

40 Metre Dipole Buildathon at ARNSW on the 10th

Sydney Amateur Radio Ferry Contest, Sunday the 10th

Westlakes ARC car boot sale, from 9am on the 30th

April

ARNSW AGM on the 13th

Urunga Convention on the Easter weekend, 20th and 21st