

VK2 news

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Season Greetings, as we put another year behind us. ARNSW has advised that their 2018 AGM will be held on Saturday the 28 th. April 2018 at the VK2WI Dural site with an 11 am start. As has become the practice during the holiday period VK2WI News, will for three weeks, be a morning only transmission on the 24 th and 31 st December and 7 th January. A weekly report of the Solar Flux Index is given in the news which is provided by Noel VK2FUL.

The 2018 Upgrade course conducted by ARNSW will be from March to November on a Monday evening. The ARNSW Foundation weekend for next year will be bi-monthly on the odd numbered months, most likely two weekends before the regular ARNSW Trash & Treasure. The ARNSW Home Brew and Experimenters Group scheduled a second 'QRP by the Harbour' in October but after setting up and making a few contacts they suffered a rare occurrence, it rained. There will be another event on the 4 th of February 2018. ARNSW members will be receiving the 2018 magnetic calendar and an invitation to obtain or up grade, a membership badge.

The Hunter Radio Group in Newcastle celebrated their 94 th anniversary in October. First formed as the Newcastle Radio Club, they became the Hunter Branch of the NSW Division, then the Hunter Radio Group when the changes occurred with the WIA in 2004. Their last meeting in this year was in November and they will resume on the second Friday in February.

Also celebrating a 60 th anniversary is the Central Coast A R C who were formed on the 8 th October 1957. They were for a time the Central Coast Branch of the NSW Division but became a separate club when they needed to develop firstly the club rooms at Kariong and later the Somersby repeater site. They have conducted an annual field day since their formation, at first at the Gosford Sailing Club, then the Gosford Showground before moving to the present Wyong Racecourse site where WFD2018 will be held on Sunday the 25 th February 2018. Check out ccarc.org.au

Westlakes ARC have had a small production of a receiver kit. Called a Globe Band Receiver, it's an all-band world wide regenerative receiver. Only twenty kits have been produced, which comes with a CD of construction and operating instructions. www.westlakesarc.org.au The Illawarra ARS held an auction on their meeting night in November. It is this time of year when many clubs do not hold a meeting for a couple of months. They should however maintain their weekly nets to keep members interested, lest they drift off into other activities and be lost to the club.

Trek for Timor, a WICEN NSW activity, which was cancelled this year due to the concern of dry conditions and a bush fire risk is expected to be rescheduled to April 2018. St. George ARS provided a large operation for the 60 th JOTA at their regular site of Kurnell. They operated with the special call sign VI2JOTA60. HADARC held an auction night in October and found while there was a good attendance, it was mostly sellers. The Oxley Region ARC will be holding the December monthly meeting, their Xmas function, on Saturday the 2 nd at the same venue as last year.

Interest and operating of the various digital modes is on the increase and this has required the expansion of the VK sub bands to align as much as possible with the world. On 80 metres, for example, the digital window has been aligned as much as possible to Regions 1 & 2 with the upper limit at 3600 kHz. WSPR in 80 metres currently operates round 3594.0 to 3594.2 kHz. There are many existing club nets and VK2WI 3595 in the sub band who may now need to relocate to avoid the increasing digital traffic.

Those who have had the opportunity to attend the 2017 or earlier Dayton annual Hamvention may be sad to learn that the venue – the Hara Arena – is no more, It has been sold and will be demolished. Looking at the ads in RadCom, the RSGB magazine, one retailer – ML & S - is stocking the Australian Bushcomm antennas. 73 – Tim VK2ZTM.