

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

With the restrictions introduced as part of managing the ongoing Covid19 public health emergency, Many clubs and groups have increased on air activities, and we have a summary of some of these later in this bulletin.

Here at ARNSW, we are currently continuing with VK2WI Morning News bulletins, and later in the bulletin we have a summary of on air activities from various groups in Sydney and across News South Wales.

If there is a new activity happening in your area, please let us know; you can email the details to news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need formatted news items, just the details of the activity and contacts. We also welcome any updates on the progress in these activities; which we can report on VK2WI News, and tell listeners how it went.

We should also remind our listeners of some telephone services that are available, if you have health concerns at this time. The National COVID hotline is 1800 020 080, providing general advice; If you are feeling unwell, Healthdirect is on 1800 022 222. Both of these services are available 24 hours a day, and are a free call from most telephone services.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

Last Month's ARNSW Radio Experimenter's Group meeting moved from the traditional meeting format, to an online one using Skype.

Skype is available on all platforms including Linux and is free for group calls which can be shared via a simple link.

As the meeting seems to be quite successful, the group is planning to have another meeting this month; next Sunday the 26th of April, at noon. To participate you need a computer, with a microphone and ideally a camera and a reasonable internet connection.

The URL to join the conference is on the ARNSW web site.

[link for text version: <https://join.skype.com/PFCoaE95dVMs>]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 10th to the 16th of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
10cm flux	69	71	71	70	69	68	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	4	5	4	7	6	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	6	6	4	3	4	1 estimated
T index	-4	-2	-2	-1	-2	0	-3

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 11th and 12th, remaining quiet otherwise.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week. The 10th and 11th saw enhancement of 30% during local night; the 12th was depressed 15% during local day but enhanced 40% during local night; the 13th was enhanced of 35% during local night; the 14th was enhanced 30% during local night and 20% after local dawn; the 15th was enhanced 35% during local night and 25% after local dawn; and the 16th saw enhancements of 15% during local night and 25% after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 17th to the 23rd of April;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at 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.

For March, we had a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 72
With peak dates from the 10th to the 13th, and the 18th to the 22nd

So far for April, we expect a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 12th to the 13th, and the 25th to the 30th

And looking ahead to May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 1st to the 8th, and the 22nd to the 31st.

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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What use is an F-call?

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

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Duration: 2m22s

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

First up this week, there are many special event stations on air to promote "STAY-AT-HOME" and raise awareness for the restrictions necessary to fight the spread of Covid19.

These stations include: AX2020STAYHOME (Australia), 8A1STAYHOME (Indonesia), 9K9STAYHOME (Kuwait), A60SH/1 SH=StayHome (United Arab Emirates), A60SH/2, A60SH/3, A60SH/4, A60SH/5, GB5NHS (NHS=National Health Service in the UK), HZ1STAYHOME (Saudi Arabia), TC1STAYHOME (Turkey), VC2STAYHOM (Canada), XM2STAYHOM (Canada).

Joining them this week, is E7STAYHOME (Bosnia & Herzegovina), on air until May 31 with activity on all bands and modes; and in the Philippines, where special event station DX0STAYHOME is from the Philippine Amateur Radio Association for the duration of their community quarantine. Eddie, DU1EV says, "We encourage everyone to stay home and operate their amateur radio stations."

Other activities this week include;

FRANCE; TM95WARD is active on all bands until April 19 for World Amateur Radio Day.

SPAIN; Special event station EE1MGY is active throughout April, to commemorate the inauguration and subsequent sinking of the legendary ship R. M. S. Titanic. Activity will take place on the 160 metre band only. Operations will be on CW, FT8 and WSPR.

NORWAY; The Norwegian National Guard's Radio Amateur Club (LA1V) is active as LN1V during all of 2020, but mainly during the month of May, to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Norway at the end of World War II. Operations will be on 160 metres to 70 centimetres (including 60 and 4 metres) using CW, SSB and the digital modes.

ANTARCTICA; Alexander, RX3ABI will be active as RI1ANM from the Russian Mirny Station in Queen Mary Land, (AN-016), on the coast of the Davis Sea, until early 2021. Activity will be on various HF bands during his spare time.

UNITED NATIONS; United Nations HQ station 4U1UN was reported on F/H FT8 on 20 and 40 metres.

BELARUS; Station EV75F commemorates the 75 years since the end of World War II.

BRAZIL; ZW8THANKS is a tribute to health care professionals fighting COVID-19. Look for them on all bands and modes including satellites. The operator team includes PS8TV, PS8DX, PS8CW, PS8RF, PS8ET, PS8HF, PS8NF, PS8BR, PY3YD and PT9AL.

SPANISH ENTITIES; Spain, Balearic Islands, Canary islands and Ceuta and Melilla will participate in World Amateur Radio Day activities and the 95th anniversary of the IARU. Stations from Spain will be AM1WARD, AM2WARD, AM3WARD, AM4WARD, AM5WARD and AM7WARD. Ops in EA6 will use AM6WARD. AM8WARD will be active from EA8. AM9WARD will be used from EA9.

CANADA; The Radio Amateurs of Canada will activate the following special event calls for the World Amateur Radio Day on April 18: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC, and VY2RAC.

SAUDI ARABIA; Celebrating World Radio Amateur Radio day, HZ1WARD will be active until April 18.

DENMARK, OZ. 5P0WARD and 5P0WHD will be active April 18 for World Amateur Radio Day. QSL via OQRS, LoTW, eQSL or to OZ1ACB.

Later in the year there are some activities planned, subject to confirmation closer to the date.

TAJIKISTAN; Look for EY8BS with EME operations from April 30 to May 5 from grid MM48il.

ENGLAND; Special call GB75PEACE will be used by RSGB members as part of VE Day and VJ Day celebrations, May 1 to 31 and August 1 to 31. They will be active on the HF bands and 6 metres using phone, CW and digital.

UGANDA; Shabu, M0KRI, ex-9U4RI, plans to be active as 5X1RI sometime during the end of July to mid-August.

EASTER ISLAND; Hans-Martin, DK2HM will be active as XR0YHM from August 27 to September 7, on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and digital modes.

MALDIVES; Yusuke, JJ1DQR is planning to be active as 8Q7QR from Male Island (AS-013) from September 4 to 8. Activity will be on various HF bands using SSB and FT8. He will also be in the All Asian DX SSB Contest, September 5 and 6.

GUATEMALA; Dwight, VE7BV plans to be active as TG9BBV from November 1 to 30. Activity will be holiday style on most bands using mostly CW with some SSB and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ES Open HF Championship, Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest, YU DX Contest, QRP To the Field, CQMM DX Contest, Texas State Parks On the Air, Michigan QSO Party, EA QRP CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, Ontario QSO Party and ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB will keep contesters busy this weekend.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, WICEN has cancelled participation in all but emergency activations, and moving training and meeting to radio and other electronic means.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

WICEN is running checkin nets twice daily. In Sydney, the repeaters are VK2RWC on 2m and VK2RWS and VK2RWK on 70cm. For members outside the Sydney basin, there is also a morning-only net on the User Activated Talk Group 3810 on the VK-DMR network, which has reasonable coverage across the state.

More details are on WICEN's website, at nsw.wicen.org.au.

Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page; and an informal national WICEN group.

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. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz and the website is at vic.wicen.org.au.

[OEM link; <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/>]

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Club News

We start this week with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

Like many organisations, the Club is operating without face-to-face meetings. Club business continues with Individual members contributing by undertaking the various tasks that the club has committed to.

Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible. There are two nets each week; the club's 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 on 146.7MHz, which requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. Access to VK2RPM is also available via EchoLink, for those outside the coverage area of the repeater.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The March 2020 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now available, and past issues are available on the website as well. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Due to the current health pandemic, access to the club rooms are closed and all future face to face activities are on hold until further notice. The club's executive team are currently working on a solution for alternate means to host business meetings.

Work continues in the background with the clubs Brandmeister DMR repeater and there is now an interlinked for VK DMR Talk Group 3810. Please program in TG50510 Time Slot 1 into your code plug. This is especially useful for the WICEN daily net at 9am. Speaking of DMR, The Club will soon be adding a VK-DMR based repeater system.

The Club wishes to thank those that submitted their expression of interest for the MMDVM build day. E-mails have been sent out to those who expressed their interest for final details.

The Clubs Newsletter Smoke Signals is receiving a make over and is almost ready for distribution.

The Club has set a tentative date of Sunday the 28th February for the 2021 Wyong Field Day; so mark that down in your calendar.

The Club hosts a Morning Tea net at 10am each day; grab a cuppa and come along for a chat. We would like to thank Bob VK2AOR for facilitating this. The club also runs a weekly Thursday evening net starting at 8:00 PM. Both nets are available via the VK2RAG 2 Meter repeater 146.725.

Do you have a suggestion for the clubs next weekly net topic or a burning question? Feel free to leave a comment on the club's Facebook page or reach out to the club via email.

Remember, you can view the live stream of the Thursday evening net from Facebook, watch later on the clubs YouTube channel or join in via Echo link using the *CCARCNSW* conference server.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au.

Brad VK2NMZ

Vice-President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

St George Amateur Radio Society

This year, many amateur radio operators will not only miss out on catching up with friends at local amateur radio club gatherings, but also will not be able to attend an ANZAC Day service.

To help overcome the current restrictions, The St George Amateur Radio Society is sponsoring a QSO Party on Anzac Day, Saturday 25th April 2020. The intention of the QSO party is for amateur radio operators to keep in contact “on air” with fellow operators, and to recognise the service of many amateur radio operators from both sides of the Tasman Sea, in defending our freedom.

The Anzac Day QSO Party commences at 3pm local Sydney time, and concludes at 9.00pm. Bands and modes of communication are 40m and 80m SSB, VK2RLE and VK2RDX 2m VHF FM repeaters and the VK DMR network.

The QSO Party is open to all amateur radio operators with a participation certificate available, which recognises of the aims of this event.

Complete operating and participation details are available on The St George Amateur Radio Society web site, www.sgars.org.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

In lieu of in person meetings, extra nets are run on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, starting at 8pm. Net control will be VK2WAH, using the phonetics "We Are Home"; or VK2MA.

HADARC is also experimenting with using Jitsi Meet to supplement the 2m meeting net. You can use your browser – Chrome or Chomium are preferred, but Firefox and Safari should also work - and go to:

<https://meet.jit.si/HADARC>.

Make sure you give the page permission to use your Microphone and/or Camera. If using the Jitsi Meet app on a smart device, enter the Room Name: HADARC

The Club runs a number of 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.

International Marconi Day has been cancelled, although there may be some independent operations.

HADARC's website is at www.hadarc.org.au. The site has full details of the changes to meeting arrangements, including the delay of the AGM which was scheduled for May.

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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Activities on the air

Here is a summary of current on air activities, notified to us here at VK2WI News;

Oxley Region ARC nets at 7:30pm Thursday and 9am Sunday.
VK2RPM repeater, 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

Westlakes nets Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9:30am on 3565kHz.

Hunter Radio Group news 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz repeaters, with callbacks after.

Central Coast ARC net Thursday night on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; also on Echolink *CCARCNSW*. Morning tea net daily from 10am, also on VK2RAG.

Illawarra ARS Nets - Tuesday at 8:30pm on on 80m, 3666kHz. Saturday 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675.

WICEN daily nets at 9am on the VK-DMR network on Talk group 3810, VK2RWC on 147.150 and VK2RWS 438.275. Evening net at 7pm, on the Sydney repeaters only.

Waverley ARS net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV

Fishers Ghost ARC net 8:30pm Thursday on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz

St George ARS net 8pm Thursday, on VK2RLE 146.8MHz. Sponsoring the Anzac Day QSO party on Saturday the 25th – and also on Anzac Day, remember all VK amateurs can use the AX prefix on their own callsign.

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz. Meeting net on Tuesday at 8pm, also on VK2RNS.

Manly-Warringah on air meeting net – Wednesdays at 8pm on 146.875MHz

At ARNSW, Morning News bulletins continue, and the next **ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group** online meeting, noon Sunday the 26th – link on the ARNSW home page