

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

In response to restrictions introduced as part of managing the ongoing Covid19 public health emergency, many clubs and groups have increased on air activities. 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 New 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.

For those who receive *Amateur Radio* magazine; the WIA office has advised that, due to ongoing production issues, publication of the March/April edition of the magazine has been delayed.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

Last Month's 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.

The group is planning to have another meeting today, Sunday the 26th of April, at noon. To participate you need a computer, with a microphone, ideally a camera, and a reasonable internet connection.

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

If you can't join in live, the audio will be available later to download from the ARNSW audio page, at arnsw.org.au/audio.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 17th to the 23rd of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
10cm flux	68	70	69	68	69	71	69
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	4	2	16	8	10	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	2	0	13	9	4	1 estimated
T index	-2	+3	+1	+1	+1	-1	-3

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 17th to the 19th; on the 20th, activity went from quiet to minor storm levels, with the SWS magnetometer recording a weak impulse of 10nanoTesla, at 0232UTC. The 21st and 22nd then were at quiet to unsettled levels, before conditions returned to quiet levels, on the 23rd.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values, though with some periods of enhanced conditions. The 17th was enhanced 25% during local night and 30% after local dawn; the 18th, 30% during local night and 20% after local dawn. The 19th was enhanced 20% during local night, the 20th was enhanced 25% during local night and 20% after local dawn. The 21st was enhanced 25% during local night, and 22nd was enhanced 15% during local night; and the 23rd saw enhancements of 20% during local night and after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 24th to the 30th of April;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be mostly 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

Nearing the end of 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 26th to the 30th

And looking ahead to May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd.

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.

[Play File: 6-FCAL101.wav]

Duration: 1m53s

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

AZERBAIJAN; Members of the Federation of Radiosport have activated two special event stations, 4J0STAYHOME and 4K0STAYHOME, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOROCCO; A group of operators will be using the COVID-19 Awareness special event call sign CN20SH until April 30.

NORTHERN IRELAND; Stevie, M10GTA has activated special event station GB1SOS from Co Derry until May 11. Activity is to thank all health care workers who put their lives at risk every day during the current pandemic. Operations will be on 20 to 10 metres using SSB.

GREECE; Members of the Association of Radio Amateurs of the Western Peloponnese (ERDYP) are active as SZ3STAYHOME.

UNITED STATES; Look for special event station W2H to be operating during its inaugural year in honour of World Pulmonary Hypertension Day 2020 on May 5. They will be active on 80, 40 and 20 metres using SSB, FT8/FT4 as well as other bands and modes as conditions permit.

BRAZIL; Special event call sign ZW8THANKS is a tribute to health care professionals fighting COVID-19. Activity will be on all bands and modes including satellites.

CAMBODIA; Chenxing, BG9XD is active as XU7AMG from Phnom Penh until June 14. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

SOUTH KOREA; South Korea celebrates the 40th anniversary of the May 18 Democratic Uprising with special event station D73M. Activity will be on all bands and modes from May 1 to 31.

CANADA; For the next two months Ian, VO2IR will be operating with special call CH2IR to remind all of the COVID-19 pandemic and friendly reminder to stay home. Also, XN1BOA will be operated by members of the Grassroots HAM Radio Club, commemorating the end of the Battle of the Atlantic 75 years ago, operating until May 15.

CROATIA; Members of the Hrvatski radioamaterski Savez are celebrating World Amateur Radio Day with special call sign 9A20WARD until April 30.

ENGLAND; Members of the Bury Radio Society urge everyone to "Wash Your Hands". They are using the call sign GB9WYH until May 11 on SSB, FM, FT4, FT8 and CW.

HUNGARY; The following special event calls will be active until May 15: HG20ST, HG20AY, HG20AT, HG20HO, and HG20ME.

AUSTRIA; The Documentary Archive for the History of Radio Communication and Electronic Media special event station OE20M, marks Marconi's birthday until April 26.

STAY AT HOME; More COVID-19 special event call signs include 4J0STAYHOME, 4K0STAYHOME, 8C2WFH, CB3SH, CN20SH, CV7STAYHOME, I19SH, OE1STAYHOME, OP2STAYHOME, OR20STAYHOME, OR8STAYHOME, OS0STAYHOME, YO19STAYHOME, Z60STAYHOME and ZW8THANKS.

BRUNEI; Members of the Brunei Darussalam Amateur Radio Association are celebrating World Amateur Radio Day with the call sign V84SAR until May 2 on HF using SSB, CW and digital modes.

AUSTRALIA; The Wireless Institute of Australia celebrates its 110th anniversary and World Amateur Radio Day with the following call signs over the next six months: VK1WIA, VK2WIA, VK3WIA, VK4WIA, VK5WIA, VK6WIA, VK7WIA, VK8WIA and VI110WIA.

PERU; Yuri, N3QQ will be active as OA7/N3QQ from Machu Picchu from August 6 to 12. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands.

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

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The 10-10 International Spring Contest, Digital, SP DX RTTY Contest, Helvetia Contest, Florida QSO Party and the BARTG Sprint 75 are all on for this weekend. The QCX Challenge is on April 27 and the UKEICC 80 Metre Contest is on April 29.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Due to COVID-19, 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, which includes a report on assistance provided to Rotuma (3D2R) during TC Sarai over the New Year period.

[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 interlink 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.

CCARC club member Jim VK2EWI is currently in France and has made contact with CCARC members via 40 metres, using the local callsign F4WBZ. He arrived in the country only a short time before restrictions were implemented. The club sends their regards.

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 on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater 146.725MHz.

If 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 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.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be on the air; this Tuesday the 28th of April, on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, starting at 8pm. Net control will be VK2WAH, using the phonetics "We Are Home"; or VK2MA.

You can also access the meeting via the HADARC room on Jitsi.

The Club's website has details on this and other changes to club activities during the current pandemic restrictions, including the delay of the AGM which was scheduled for May. The address is www.hadarc.org.au.

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.

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.*

[Jitsi room; <https://meet.jit.si/HADARC>]

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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.

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz. Meeting net Tuesday the 28th from 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, from noon today – link on the ARNSW home page.