

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

While some restrictions are still in place due to Covid-19, there are no events at VK2WI Dural for the month of May. The May Foundation course and the Trash and Treasure have been cancelled, and the ARNSW Radio Experimenter's group is planning an online meeting. However, many clubs and groups have increased on air activities and later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on air activities, from various groups in Sydney and across News South Wales.

We would like to hear about activities happening in your area, please let us know; by emailing 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.

A note to ARNSW Members from the Secretary

As mentioned last week, this year's Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales, will take place on Saturday May 30th, via video conference.

Just over a week ago, the AGM notice, Agenda and reports were sent out either by email or by post depending on indicated preferences. You may have already received them or will in the near future.

The ARNSW office saw notices that a number of the email notifications bounced. If you were expecting an email and haven't yet seen it, it might be because we don't have a current email address for you, in our membership records. Please get in touch with the office, preferably by email to office@arnsw.org.au if you haven't already received your AGM documentation.

If you elected to receive notices by post, you may notice the address label has your renewal date at the end of the first line highlighted; this means that you are currently unfinancial and will need to renew prior to the AGM, in order to be eligible to participate. There is a note with a renewal form included with those packages only.

Please renew as soon as possible to make sure you are financial by the AGM date. The easiest is if you use direct deposit, but other methods are also available. The mailbox will be checked Friday afternoon for any renewals or proxies.

For an hour prior to the commencement of the AGM at 11 am, the meeting link will be active so that you can join and get your name marked off as being present. The meeting will also be recorded, as in previous years.

Full details on how to join the meeting are on the inside front cover of the AGM documentation. Note that if you don't have internet access, you can still join the meeting via telephone

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Secretary, ARNSW*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 15th to the 21st of May.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
10cm flux	68	69	70	70	69	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	4	4	3	5	6	3	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	2	0	2	2	0	2 estimated
T index	-4	-1	0	+4	+7	-2	+2

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity also remained at quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week. Night hours and immediately after local dawn, enhanced conditions were observed, compared to the predicted monthly values.

On the 15th, conditions were enhanced 45% during local night and 35% after local dawn; on the 16th, enhancement reached 50% during local night and 20% after local dawn. The 17th was enhanced 45% during local night, the 18th was enhanced 35% during local night and after local dawn. The 19th was enhanced 50% during local night, the 20th was enhanced 20%; and the 21st saw enhancement of 15% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 15th to the 21st of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet, to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values with some enhanced periods possible.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

For April, we had a;

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

So far for May, we expect a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 71
With peak dates from the 9th to the 10th, and the 21st to the 30th

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With no peak prediction at the moment.

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-FCAL163.wav]

Duration: 3m22s

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

ZAMBIA; Mario, IZ3KVD is active as 9J2MYT until the end of May. Activity has been on 20, 17, 15 and 10 metre SSB.

CHINA; Members of the ZhangJiaGang Amateur Radio Association will be active as BI4WXD during the CQWW WPX CW Contest as a Multi-2/High-Power entry.

AUSTRIA; Hannes, OE1SGU is active as OE30MAGICBAND until June 30. Activity is to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the allocation of the 6 metre band (50-52 MHz) to Austrian amateurs. Activity will be mainly on 6 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

GUATEMALA; Enrique, YS1RM is active as TG9/YS1RM. His length of his stay is unknown. Activity is on various HF bands and modes.

FRANCE; Members of the Ondes et Micro-Informatique Radio Club are active as TM0BEE until May 24. Activity is to celebrate United Nations World Bee Day. Operations will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8/FT4 and PSK.

CANARY ISLANDS; Members of the Radio Club Laurilsiva (EA8RKL) from Gran Canaria (AF-004) celebrate the Day of the Canary Islands on the air until May 31, with the callsign EH8DDC.

SWITZERLAND; The SOTA Group Switzerland celebrates its 15th anniversary with special event call sign HB15SOTA until May 9, 2021.

COLOMBIA; Members of the Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados (LCRA, HK3LR) support the current pandemic restrictions with the call sign 5JSTAYHOME.

ITALY; 4U9STAYHOME operates from the UN Global Service Centre's Amateur Radio Club (4U1GSC) until June 15.

LITHUANIA; LY56BC remains active until the end of May, commemorating the 56th Baltic Contest.

RUSSIA; Special event stations R115MS, RM35MS and UE35MS celebrate the 115th birthday of Mikhail Sholokhov, recipient of the 1965 Nobel Prize for Literature, until June 24.

POLAND; 3Z100KW will be active until May 31, celebrating the 100th birthday of Pope John Paul II (Karol Wojtyla) [KA-ruhl voy-TEE-wuh] from his birthplace of Wadowice [VAH-duh-vit-suh].

INDIA; Subbu, VU2NSL operates the COVID-19 special event callsign AT9SS until July 28.

ROMANIA; YO1STAYHOME and YO19STAYHOME are active until September 15.

SOUTH AFRICA; Special event station ZS1820S is active throughout 2020, celebrating the arrival of the first British settlers at the South African Cape, 200 years ago.

GEORGIA; Op Vaho, 4L8A will be active during the CQWW WPX CW Contest as a Single-Op/Single-Band 20 metre entry.

DENMARK, 5Q6. Henning, OZ2I/OZ1BI will be active as 5Q6EE from the EDR HQ station in Odense during the CQWW WPX CW Contest as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry.

UNITED STATES; Allan, KV4T and his wife Bridget, KS4YT will be active on Grand Isle from May 22 to 25, signing home calls /p. They will be on 80, 40, 30 and 20 metres using SSB, CW, FT4 and FT8.

ENGLAND; David, G4YVM will be active as GB4DLS until June 2 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the pivotal role played by the Dunkirk Little Ships during Operation Dynamo, May 26 to June 4, 1940. He will operate mainly CW, but with some SSB as well.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The Baltic Contest, QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint and QCX Challenge are on tap over this weekend.

The SKCC Sprint is May 27. The RSGB 80-Metre Club Championship is on May 28. The PODXS 070 Club 3-Day Weekend Contest is on May 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.

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.

Should it be safe to do so, training in the use of chainsaws will be provided on 3 to 5 July, most likely in northern Sydney. In the meantime, members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

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. Their first event back may be Ballarat's Eureka Rally on August 22. 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 various tasks to keep the club operating.

Next Saturday, the June Committee meeting will be held virtually, by email. The minutes of this meeting will be emailed to members to keep them abreast of club affairs. There will not be a June Monthly General Meeting due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets, which appear to be attracting a larger number of participants each week. 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 May 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

With state government progressively easing restrictions, the club is looking forward to resuming in person activities soon.

However, activity has not stalled in the meantime, and in particular, the club would like to welcome the following new members; Geoff VK2FGSE, Dave VK2FBRA, Matthew VK2FAEM, Fiona VK2FTEA, Jesse VK2FGOD, David VK2JDD and Ray VK2HJW.

Geoff, Dave, Matthew, Fiona and Jesse Sat for their foundation training & assessment earlier this year with our club's education facilitator Karen VK2AKB and all passed successfully.

Did you know; the Club's education facilitator, Karen VK2AKB, is an AMC Level 3 assessor and the club has the capability to perform remote education and assessment sessions? If you are interested, please contact Karen by email, to; education@ccarc.org.au.

The club's executive team have been in discussions with surrounding clubs on future collaboration initiatives, with a key focus on how amateur radio is perceived today amongst the community and would love to hear from other clubs within Australia who may be interested.

With many club members spending more time at their QTH, we're hoping that you have been able to do some work on your shack or finish a long-standing project. The Clubs Website Admin, Henrick VK2FTDR, would love to have a few photos and a small write up for the club's future publications.

The club wishes to say a special thanks to Bob VK2AOR for hosting the "Are you okay" net at 10am each day, on the VK2RAG repeater on 146.725MHz. This has been an incredible initiative, with an average of 15 check-ins each day from stations both local and afar. Today will now be day 51 of this net, which has even had a few international stations drop by to say hello. An amazing effort!

If you're within range of our repeater, why not drop by? Check ins are also welcomed via the clubs Echolink & IRLP services.

There is also the Thursday evening net starting at 8pm with varying topics of discussion each week. A special mention goes to Robert KA0YCU from Kansas who checks in each week via Echolink. This net is also on the VK2RAG 2 metre repeater, plus you can also view the live stream on Facebook, watch later on the clubs YouTube channel, or join via EchoLink, using the *CCARCNSW* conference server.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au; or on Facebook, just search for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Brad VK2NMZ

Vice-President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be this Thursday the 28th of May, on the club repeater VK2RFG, commencing at 7:30pm. The Club's weekly net will follow the meeting and anyone is welcome to check-in

The repeater frequency is 438.650MHz. It has a negative 7MHz input and a 91.5Hz tone is required for FM access.

The Club's Facebook page can be found by searching for VK2FG, or to find out more about the Club's activities, visit the website at fgarc.org.au.

*Submitted by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Given the ongoing "QRM from COVID", HADARC will be replacing My Colah meetings with extra nets on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater.

The next net is this Tuesday the 26th of May, starting at 8pm. Net control will be using the callsign VK2WAH, with the phonetics "We Are Home". This will be supplemented by the Jitsi video conferencing system.

The Club's website has more details on this and other changes to club activities, along with information on how to use Jitsi; the address is www.hadarc.org.au. The site also includes a contact form.

The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

The Club runs three regular 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.

*Submitted by Julian AX2YJS
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, 438.1125MHz. Other club activities online, see website for details.

Fishers Ghost ARC meeting 7:30pm this Thursday on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz. Regular weekly net following.

St George ARS net 8pm Thursday, on VK2RLE 146.8MHz.

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz. Next meeting net this Tuesday 26th from 8pm on VK2RNS and on Jitsi – net control is VK2 “We Are Home”.

Manly-Warringah on air meeting net is every Wednesday from 8pm on 146.875MHz.

At ARNSW, Morning News bulletins continue, and audio can be downloaded or streamed live from the website.