

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

With the restrictions currently in place due to Covid-19, there are no events currently planned at VK2WI Dural. We continue to follow the updates to public health advice, and plan to resume in person activities once it is practical. But for now, the site remains closed to visitors. You can still make contact via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by phone message to 02 9651 1490.

Due to public health restrictions, many clubs and groups have increased on air activities. 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.

The RD Contest is on again this weekend; held on the weekend closest to "VP Day"- the 15th of August, the contest commemorates those Amateurs who died during World War II, by encouraging friendly participation and helping to improve the operating skills of participants. The contest finished at 1pm today, and if you make any contacts – even if only just a few – be sure to send off your log without delay, as every point helps your State score. Details are on the WIA website.

For many years now, these VK2WI News bulletins have been relayed via many VHF and UHF repeaters. We would like to thank those clubs for their continued support of this news service.

[RD contest information;
<https://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2020/20200815-2/index.php>]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 7th to the 13th of August.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th
10cm flux	74	75	74	74	74	73	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	5	3	3	3	3	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	3	1	0	0	1	1 estimated
T index	10	15	10	9	5	10	6

Solar activity was very low on the 7th, low on the 8th; and very low from the 9th to the 13th. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, again this saw considerable enhancements, compared to predicted monthly values.

The 7th was enhanced 20% during the day, 40% after local dawn and 75% at night; the 8th was enhanced 20% during the day, 30% after local dawn and 45% at night.

The 9th and 10th were both enhanced 20% during the day, 40% at night and after local dawn. The 11th was enhanced 15% during the day, 25% after local dawn and 30% at night; the 12th, 20% during the day, 30% after local dawn and 45% at night; and the 13th was enhanced 20% during the day, 25% after local dawn and 35% at night.

Now, the forecast for the 14th to the 20th of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low, to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with isolated active periods possible between the 20th and 22nd of August.

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.

Having just finished July, we had a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 69, and a Maximum of 73
With peak dates from the 22nd to the 31st

For August, we expect a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 73, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates from the 8th to the 16th; and the 29th to the 31st

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 73, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th; and the 27th to the 29th

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 1m32s

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

MEXICO; Ramon, XE1KK will be using special call sign 6E6E until December 31. He plans to use it in the CQWW DX SSB Contest in October and possibly in other contests. Most of his activity outside of the contests will be on FT8/FT4 on 160 to 6 metres.

GHANA; Matteo, IZ4YGS will be active as 9G5GS from Sanzule, until September 15. Activity will be limited to his spare time on 160 to 10 metres using mostly FT8 (F/H) and SSB. He will also be active through the QO-100 geostationary satellite, USB mode.

CHILE; Members of the Radio Club Eternautas (CE3ETR) are now active as CB33M until October 13. Activity is to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the August 2010 landslide in a mine in northern Chile, where 33 miners were trapped for 3 months before being rescued. Operations will be on 80 metres through 70 cm using CW, SSB and digital modes FT8/FT4, JS8, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV.

TURKEY; Look for special event stations TC3GP and TC3GS to be active until August 23, commemorating the 105th anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli.

FRANCE; Operators Christian, F5OHH and Didier, F4ELJ will be active as TM2LW from the Kerprigent Lighthouse (ILLW FR-031, ARLHS FRA-769, DFCF 22-036, DMF 22-011, WW Locator IN88GS) near Lannion during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW), August 22 and 23. Activity will be on various HF and VHF bands using CW, SSB and the digital modes.

FRANCE; Members of the Radio Club du Val d'Issole (F8KGH) will use special call sign TM76DP until August 22 to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Provence Beach Landings (DRAGOON operation) in August 1944. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and digital modes.

HONG KONG; Members of Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (HARTS) will be active with special call sign VR2HK9O in celebration of the 90th anniversary of their Society. Operations have been on 20 metre SSB.

CAMBODIA; Tad, JA1DFK will be active as XU7AKU and XU7AKV from Phnom Penh. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using mostly CW and SSB.

DENMARK; OZ200EM is on the air until the end of the year, honoring the memory of Hans Christian Orsted, who discovered the principle of electromagnetism, 200 years ago.

CHATHAM ISLANDS; Stuart, ZL3STU has moved to Canterbury on the Chatham Islands (OC-038) and now uses the call sign ZL7STU on 80 to 6 metre using SSB and FT8.

SARDINIA; Gil, IZ2DLV will be active holiday style until August 28 signing IS0/IZ2DLV on 60 to 15 metres using SSB, CW and FT8.

FINLAND; Operators Vesa, OH5MNH, Orvo, OH5NE and SWL Aki plan to operate OH5B during the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW), August 22 and 23 from the Luovukkaluoto lighthouse in Southern Carelia.

INDIA; In celebration of the 74th anniversary of India's Independence Day, August 15th, special event station AT5AUG will be active by members of the West Bengal Radio Club from August 14 to 16.

BALEARIC ISLANDS; Rolf, DL8AZ will be operating holiday style as EA6/DL8AZ until August 17. He will use SSB on 40 through 10 metres.

BONAIRE; PJ4TEN is a special event station during October for the 10th anniversary of 10-10-10, the date the Netherlands Antilles was dissolved and Bonaire became a special municipality of the Netherlands and a new DXCC entity.

GREECE; SV1AHH and SV1GGF will be active as SX1AFM from September 1 to 30, celebrating the 70 years of the Hellenic Air Force History Museum. They will be on 80 to 6 using all modes.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; the SARTG WW RTTY Contest, ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, Russian District Award Contest, Keyman's Club of Japan Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, North American QSO Party, CVA DX Contest, SARL HF Digital Contest, NJQRP Skeeter Hunt, ARRL Rookie Roundup and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest are all on this weekend.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. WICEN has currently limited non-emergency activations, and has moved meetings to radio and other electronic means. Volunteers are still required for logistic and administrative tasks; including ongoing repeater and APRS management, and asset management.

The WICEN 2 metre repeater at Chatswood, on 147.15MHz, will be operating on a back-up antenna for the next week or so, while waterproofing works are carried out on the building's roof. The 23cm repeater on 1273.200 MHz, also remains ON-AIR.

Preparations continue for the 2020 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic, planned for the 24th and 25th of October, subject to "Return to Sport" rules. Volunteer Memorial Day for 2020 is at Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Domain, at 11am on Sunday the 11th of October.

WICEN members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management. Members should also check their VRA email, for information regarding training for RFS communications support roles.

WICEN has weekly nets on Sunday evenings, with the main net at 6pm and a check-in net at 6:30pm. On the 1st, 4th and 5th Sundays this will be on the Chatswood 2m repeater, then on 2nd and 3rd Sundays the Kurrajong - Berowra 70 cm FM system, followed at 6:30pm by a net on User Activated Talk Group 3810 on the VK-DMR network.

The WICEN website, at nsw.wicen.org.au; includes membership information and a web contact form. 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, which has moved all events, including its enthralling lectures, online or on-air. The next event planned is the LCCC "Blue Range Rallysprint" on September 5, followed by the BMSC Narooma Rally on the 19th. In October, ANU's "Inward Bound" runs from the 9th to the 11th, and the Brookvale Horse Enduro is planned for the 11th. For more information, visit the website at the new address of crarc.org.au or the CRARC Facebook page.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on the IARU and WIA recommended emergency frequency of 3.6MHz. They are planning to resume involvement in events, starting with the Baw-Baw Extreme, which runs, bikes and paddles, 84km from Walhalla to Mt Baw Baw, from October 31 to November 1. More details on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

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

Club News

We start this week with news from the Great Lakes Radio Club.

The next meeting of the club is the AGM, on Tuesday the 25th of August. It is at the studios of Great Lakes FM Community Radio, 16 Douglas Avenue Tuncurry. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm.

The AGM will be followed by a regular business meeting... which will be followed by the usual cuppa and biscuits.

Members should note that annual membership fees will become due at the conclusion of the AGM.

Visitors are welcomed at our meetings but please note that in accordance with restrictions regarding the four-square metre rule and distancing guidelines, the meeting room cannot cater for large numbers. Attendees are required to adhere to the prevailing health advice and guidelines.

For visitors and those unfamiliar with the venue, entry is via the rear door accessed from the car parking area.

Great Lakes Radio Club serves the mid-north coast area of NSW, centred on the twin towns of Forster-Tuncurry. The club operates the VK2RGL repeaters from Cabbage Tree Mountain on 147.1 MHz with a 91.5 Hz tone required and 439.775 MHz with no tone required. The informal weekly club net is on the 2m repeater, commencing at 7:00pm every Monday evening.

The club also has a Facebook group; just search for Great Lakes Radio Club.

*Andy VK2AAK
Secretary, Great Lakes Radio Club.*

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Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

As previously mentioned, the Club's AGM will take place as an online video conference, at 2pm on Saturday the 5th of September. Members will soon receive an email with the conference details.

There is a short video conference planned for the evening of Friday the 21st of August, in lieu of the usual Friday night get-together; this will give members a chance to become familiar with Microsoft Teams video conferencing, and to provide an opportunity to test microphones, speakers and web cameras. The email will provide the details.

In response to the current public health situation, the Club's Committee has reluctantly suspended in person activities. As it is not possible to maintain the mandated physical separation within the club's Communications Caravan, the planned VK2BOR participation in the RD Contest and the ILLW, is also cancelled.

In the absence of meetings, members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible. There are 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 on 146.7MHz, which requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access. 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 July 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

The Club has resumed in person training and examination session, having received approval from the AMC. One of the sessions is on today at the club rooms, with assessment date is set the 30th of August. Due to popular demand, a second training day has been scheduled on Saturday the 29th of August. With limited places available, bookings are essential; RSVP to the Club's education facilitator, Karen VK2AKB. Booking information is on the website, at; ccarc.org.au/education.

The Club's AGM was held yesterday the 15th of August, with members attending both at the clubroom and via video conference. The executive positions appointed on the day, were President; Jay VK2FOMG; vice president Brad VK2NMZ, and Treasurer Dave VK2DLS. Congratulations.

The club will be hosting a trip to Mount Elliot VK2/HU-093 on the 29th of August. With many having been surrounded by the same 4 walls as of late; some open space, minimal QRM and a sneaky long path DX station can be good for one's health and wellbeing. There might even be a sneaky Pedestrian fox hunt, weather permitting of course!

If you are an avid portable operator, this would be a fantastic opportunity to show others your portable setup, maybe even some side by side comparisons between different radios?

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ, with discussion ranging from home brew power supplies to the efficiency and usability of linked dipole antennas for portable operations (in light of the upcoming club outing). With stations checking in from USA, UK, Germany and Caribbean Islands, It was an incredibly diverse net.

Thursday evening nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725Mhz; If you're within range of our repeater, why not drop by? You also join via EchoLink using the *CCARCNSW* conference server, via IRLP reflector 9509, and you can view the live stream on the club's Facebook page.

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.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

As public health restrictions continue, the next meeting of the society will be via Zoom, this coming Wednesday 19th of July. Look for an email prior to the meeting, with the details. There is likely to be some interesting discussion to show others what you have been doing in the meantime.

However, the society's special guest speaker, Kerrie Dougherty, has been rescheduled for the September meeting. Kerrie's talk will be on the Australis OSCAR-5, the satellite built in Melbourne and launched by NASA.

The talk was originally planned for the ANZAC room at the Rose Bay RSL club, but it currently can only hold a maximum of 10 people. Fortunately, Kerry has indicated that the talk can go ahead via Zoom if necessary. There will be further details next month.

The next project day will probably be virtual, be on Saturday September 5th commencing at 1:30 pm through to 4 or 5 pm. Working bee Tuesdays have temporarily moved to Wednesday, with a few are meeting in the Club Rose Bay bistro for lunch as the bistro isn't open on a Tuesday. It is also available on Zoom.

The club's Morse code group meets on the first Sunday of each month at so the next one is on September 6th. The next meeting of the digital special interest group is scheduled for September 8th from 7:30pm on Zoom.

It looks like the next Foundation weekend, scheduled for September 19th and 20th, will most likely have to be cancelled as well. The following one is scheduled for November 14th & 15th.

Don't forget the club's weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually run by Richard VK2XRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets.

There is full information about the Society on the website at vk2bv.org. You can book for courses or assessments online, and the contact form on the website to get in touch or for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

On last week's news, we mentions that the Society's participation in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, on the 22nd and 23rd of August was looking doubtful.

But, in some good news; the Society has been given last-minute permission to use the Lighthouse Keeper's cottage for the event, and sufficient operators have committed to running the station. So, next weekend, keep an ear out on all bands for VK2MB portable at Barrenjoey Lighthouse, AU0046!

Please note though that the lighthouse is still closed to the public, so unfortunately no visitors will be permitted.

Also, a reminder that in place of meetings at the clubhouse, the Society is now running a weekly net, on the two metre repeater VK2RMB, on 146.875 MHz FM with a -600 kHz offset. All are welcome, including shortwave listeners - you'll find the repeater audio link on the menu at mwrs.org.au.

73 and stay safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Given the ongoing "QRM from COVID", HADARC has replaced Mount Colah meetings with extra nets on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. Net control is using the callsign VK2WAH, with the phonetics "We Are Home". The next net is on Tuesday August 25th, at 8pm.

On air nets are supplemented by Jitsi video conferencing; not only adding the "show" to the "Show & Tell" segments, but allowing participation in the meeting by out-of-area members.

The Club's website has more details on this and other changes to club activities, along with information on how to use Jitsi; it's at www.hadarc.org.au.

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

HADARC's VK2RHT repeater on 70 cm, or specifically 438.350 MHz with a - 5.4MHz offset, remains ON-AIR, while works are underway at the Chatswood site. It is part of the VK-DMR network.

The Club's three regular nets continue 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 VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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Activities on the air

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

Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net 7pm Monday on VK2RGL, 147.1MHz.

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

Hunter Radio Group meeting net Wednesday 7:30pm on 146.9MHz.
VK2AWX News 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz.

Central Coast ARC net Thursday night on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; also Echolink *CCARCNSW*.

Amateur Radio Central West Group afternoon tea net 4pm, Monday and Friday night at 8pm, on VK2RCW. HF net 8pm Wednesday on 3653kHz.

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

Blue Mountains ARC nets 8pm Tuesday on 3543kHz, 8pm Wednesday on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone.

WICEN nets now on Sunday evenings from 6pm.

Waverley ARS net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and in person, see website for details.

Fishers Ghost ARC net 7:30pm Thursday on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz. Monthly meeting net has moved; now on Thursday, August 27th.

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

HADARC Monday night 8pm on VK2RNS, 147.25MHz, on air net Tuesday at 8pm on VK2RNS – net control VK2WAH[we are home].

Manly-Warringah on air meeting net, Wednesdays 8pm on 146.875MHz.

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