

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

As today is Father's Day, we hope that any fathers today have an enjoyable day, and perhaps will receive a little something for the shack...

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.

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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 28th of August to the 3rd of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
10cm flux	70	70	70	70	70	68	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	8	14	8	19	16	8	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	6	9	6	16	11	8	2 estimated
T index	4	13	6	3	1	-7	-13

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity ranged from quiet to active, with isolated minor storm periods on the 28th; then was quiet to unsettled on the 29th and 30th. The 31st ranged from quiet to minor storm levels, before condition returned to quiet to unsettled on the 1st and 2nd of September, and quiet on the 3rd.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region saw considerable enhancements, especially early in the week.

The 28st was enhanced 15% during local day, 40% after local dawn and 65% during local night; the 29th was enhanced 15% during local day, 30% after local dawn and 55% during local night; and the 30th was enhanced 15% during local day, 20% after local dawn and 40% during local night. The 31st was enhanced 15% during day and 50% at night; the 1st and 2nd of September were enhanced 25% during local night and the 3rd saw enhancement of 20% after local dawn, otherwise remaining near predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 4th to the 10th of September;

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

Having finished August, we saw a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 13th

As we start September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 6th to the 10th;

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With no peak prediction just yet.

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>]

Space Weather Summary for August 2020

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was again very low this month, with no M-class or X-class flares solar flares observed. Several coronal-hole induced high-speed solar wind streams were observed, however most were not very geo-effective as the orientation of the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) within these wind streams, was predominately northward.

From the 3rd to the 4th of August, a high-speed solar wind stream reached a peak speed of 754km/sec, but this had little effect on the Earth due to predominately northward IMF orientation. Another high-speed wind stream was observed from the 29th to the 31st of August; with peak solar wind speed of 530km/sec, but this time some southward IMF direction fluctuations; it produced a brief period of geomagnetic activity.

A few minor coronal mass ejections (CME) were also observed this month but in general, they did not appear to be directed at the Earth. A CME observed on the 16th of August, possibly related to a solar filament eruption, was initially expected to be potentially partially geo-effective, but subsequently did not cause any significant increase in geomagnetic activity.

The strongest geomagnetic disturbance for the month was at Minor Storm level about midnight local time on the 31st of August, reaching a local A index of 16. This was associated with the Earth's entry into a high-speed solar wind stream induced by a coronal hole. A very minor increase in geomagnetic activity was observed on the 3rd of August, also due to a coronal hole wind stream. But otherwise, the Australian regional geomagnetic field August, was very quiet.

There were no significant ionospheric depressions in August for the Australian regional ionosphere; the Northern Australian region saw a minor depression of 15%, on the 25th.

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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 1m34s

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

CROATIA; Neno, 9A5N and Tom, 9A2AA are active on the HF bands, as home calls/p from Lastovo Island, IOTA EU-016, as well as several other nearby islands, until September 11.

MALTA; Reiner, DL2AAZ is active as 9H3TI from Gozo, IOTA EU-023, until September 18. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. He is also active as 9H3SAT on Satellite QO-100 using CW and SSB.

QATAR; Station A71SDC is active until September 13 to join the Spanish celebrations of Asturias.

SPAIN; Members of Cartagena Team will be active as AO5CLE from Cartagena from September 5 to 20 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Spanish Legion. Activity will be on various HF and VHF bands using CW, SSB, FT8 and other digital modes.

FRANCE; Special call sign TM5SF will be active from September 5 to 19 for the 51st edition of the Solitaire du Figaro multi-stage sailing race.

ENGLAND; Members of the RAF Amateur Radio Society are active with special call GB80BOB until September 28 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

LITHUANIA; Special event station LY784A is active during September to celebrate the 784th anniversary of the city of Siauliai.

ARUBA; Members of the Aruba Amateur Radio Club are active as P42WW until September 30, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PD538RNI is active until September 30 to commemorate Radio Northsea International and Radio Veronica.

GREECE; Special event station SX300ML will be active from September 5 to 19 to commemorate the Battle of Thermopylae.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event station R450STAR is active during September to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Starocherkasskaya. In addition, special event station R450AKSU is active during September to celebrate the founding of Aksayskaya, now known as Aksay City.

MEXICO; Members of the Radio Club de Radio Aficionados Hidrocalidos are active with special event call 4A50CRH until the end of 2020 to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FM and digital modes. This includes some Satellite activity as well.

GIBRALTAR; Stations from Gibraltar may use the ZG prefix until September 10 to celebrate Gibraltar National Week.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The All Asian DX Phone Contest, IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day, RSGB SSB Field Day, G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, NRAU 10-Metre Activity Contest, RTTYOPS Weeksprint, SKCC Sprint Europe, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Russian RTTY World Wide Contest, CWops CW Open, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, Colorado QSO Party, AGCW Straight Key Party, IARU Region 1 145 MHz Contest, PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80-Metre PSK31 Sprint, WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone and Tennessee QSO Party will certainly keep contesters busy over this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre SSB Autumn Series and MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint are scheduled for September 7.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for September 8.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for September 9..

WICEN News

The 2020 Annual General Meeting for WICEN NSW will be held by teleconference, on Saturday the 26th September, commencing at 2pm. Members will be advised via their VRA email address, on how to join the meeting.

Due to the current public health situation, the organisers of the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic have reluctantly decided to cancel the event for this year, which was originally planned for October.

The WICEN 2 metre repeater at Chatswood, on 147.15MHz, is still operating on the backup antenna. The 23cm repeater on 1273.2MHz remains on-air.

Volunteer Memorial Day for 2020 is at Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Domain, at 11am on Sunday the 11th of October.

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 the main net is on the Chatswood 2m repeater, then on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays the Kurrajong - Berowra 70cm FM system, followed at 6:30pm by a net VK-DMR Talk Group 3810.

Volunteers are still required for logistic and administrative tasks; including ongoing repeater and APRS management, and asset management. The WICEN Tech Team is currently looking for some assistance with getting a JS8Call setup running; please get in touch if you can assist.

The WICEN website, at nsw.wicen.org.au; includes membership information, Covid19 safety 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. The next event planned is now the Brookvale Horse Enduro on October the 11th, and the LCCC Monaro Stages Rally on the 31st. The BMSC "National Capital Rally" is planned for November 28 and 29. For more information, including recordings of recent Club presentations, visit the website at the new address of crarc.org.au or check out 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. The next event planned is the Baw-Baw Extreme, a multi-sport event that 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.

Club News

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

In response to risks arising from the current public health situation, the Club's Committee has suspended in person activities until further notice.

The Club's rescheduled AGM took place yesterday, Saturday the 5th of September, which took the form of an online video conference. There was no a September monthly general meeting; however, the minutes of the September Committee Meeting will be emailed to members.

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 September issue of Oxtales is in preparation; it will include the list of office holders elected at yesterday's AGM. 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.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The club conducted training and examinations at the clubrooms last week, with 1 standard, 1 advanced and 5 foundation level examinations completed. The next training and assessment session is scheduled for Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th of October. 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 held their monthly general business meeting yesterday at the clubrooms and via online conference facilities. As always, Resident Grill master Steve VK2SKC cooked up a feast on the BBQ, with full bellies all around.

The club is planning another outdoor activity on the 17th of October, although the location is yet to be decided.

The club held a combined net earlier in the week with the HamCom Central Florida Amateur Radio group facilitated by Kirk KR4KZ via Echolink. A great collaboration, which strengthens international club relationships.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Alan VK2MG. Topic for the evening was, *"What other aspects of Amateur Radio are you interested in but haven't yet experienced?"* It was discovered that many operators shared similar interests of chasing Satellites, experimenting with point-to-point microwave technology and exploring the world of digital modes such as JS-8 Call and FT-8.

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.

The Club's Morning tea net continues daily on the Club's 2m repeater, as strong as ever running consecutively for over 150 days. The Club thanks Bob VK2AOR for his continued efforts in hosting the net.

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.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is coming up this Tuesday, the 8th of September. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Committee Meeting at 6:30pm. Attendees are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

The meetings are at the BlueScope Steel Visitor's Centre, located on the southern side of Wollongong CBD. After turning off Springhill Road into the main entrance of BlueScope Steel, immediately turn right just before the security gates, and follow the signs to the Visitors Centre. Due to the large size of the Visitor Centre, physical distancing requirements can easily be maintained.

At Tuesday night's meeting IARS Member Ned VK2AGV will give a presentation on "Life before GPS". Before his current employment involving satellite up-linking of live TV programmes and sport, Ned was employed in the Merchant Marine for many years where the use of pre-GPS devices, such as Sextants, was necessary to provide precise and safe navigation. This presentation will surely be interesting and will provide an insight into the more "simple times".

The night will conclude with coffee, tea and cake in the venue's large foyer, where you can socialise with fellow attendees while still maintaining the necessary physical distancing.

A reminder of the Society's weekly Nets; the Saturday morning net starts at 9:30am, run by Steve VK2BGL. You can join on the 2 metre repeaters, on 6850 or 6675, or call-in on EchoLink, via VK2BGL-R. The second weekly Net is on 80 metres on Tuesday evenings, except for meeting nights; the usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage, and it starts at 8:30pm.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society on the web at iars.org.au, and the society is also on Facebook. The website again; iars.org.au.

To conclude, all listeners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society at 7.30pm this coming Tuesday the 8th of September; at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club will run a licence training and assessment weekend on the 10th and 11th of October 2020. It will be at the Clubhouse, 4 Moore Street, Glenbrook, face-to-face, under COVID-SAFE conditions.

Training for foundation licensees will take place on Saturday, with Assessment for all licence grades planned for Sunday; exams are available for Standard or Advanced theory, regulations and practical components of amateur radio proficiency.

Details of the syllabus, exam fees, and other information, can be found on the AMC website. For more information or to book for the licence weekend; contact the Blue Mountains ARC Secretary, Irene VK2VAN.

The Club has two on air nets each week; the 80 metre net Starts at 8pm on Tuesday evenings, on 3543 kHz, and the 2 metre net starts at 8pm on Wednesday, on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at <http://www.bmarc.org>.

*73 from James VK2GOH
Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

[AMC information <https://www.amc.edu.au/industry/amateur-radio>]

St George Amateur Radio Society

The society operates the VK2RDX 2m FM repeater, located at Mt. Bindo in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, between Lithgow and Jenolan Caves.

Last Sunday, a team of amateur radio operators made a visit to the site to investigate interference issues on the repeater. The repeater is now operating on a temporary 2m vertical antenna.

Signal reports would be appreciated following this VK2WI News Bulletin. Callback will be taken on the Mt Bindo repeater today, by Terry VK2MTJ.

Paul VK2GX

On behalf of the St George Amateur Radio Society.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

At the September meeting, the Society welcomes the return of special guest speaker, Kerrie Dougherty.

The meeting is next Wednesday the 16th of September, and will be via Zoom. At the meeting, Kerrie's will talk about Australis OSCAR-5, the satellite built in Melbourne in the 1960s, and launched by NASA on the 23rd of January 1970. Details on to how join the meeting will be sent by an email invitation and will be available on the Society's website.

The Society have been informed by Scouts, that some major works will be taking place shortly at the normal meeting venue – with the entire façade of the building undergoing refurbishment. To this end, much of the Society's equipment will need to be moved into storage for the duration of the works. The committee may soon be calling for assistance from members to help move the equipment; arrangements will commence once the dates for the works are finalised.

Working bees have temporarily moved to Wednesday, as a few are meeting in the Club Rose Bay bistro for lunch, which isn't open on a Tuesday. The working bee is also available on Zoom.

The next Foundation weekend, scheduled for September 19th and 20th, has been cancelled; so the next one is scheduled for November 14th & 15th, subject to completion of the building works.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually MC'ed by Richard VK2XRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets and all members and other visitors are always welcomed on the nets.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the website at vk2bv.org. You can book for courses or assessments or use the contact form on the website to get in contact for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club has currently 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 this Tuesday September the 8th, 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. Jitsi is open source, and available via a web browser, an App, or by dialling in from any 'phone.

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.

Members are asked to view the proposed procedures for the upcoming AGM in QUA, a hybrid of face-to-face, Jitsi, and 2 metres. This will be shortly, at a date to be announced.

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

HADARC's 70cm VK2RHT repeater on 438.350 MHz with a -5.4MHz offset, remains ON-AIR, while works are underway at the Chatswood site.

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.*

[Play ID File: 8-OP ID4.wav]

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; next is on Thursday, 24th of September.

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.