

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, and 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. We continue to follow the updates to public health advice, and plan to resume in person activities once it is practical.

While some public health restrictions are still in place, 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, to tell listeners how it went.

We also wish to remind our listeners of some telephone services that are available, if you currently have any health concerns – 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 11th to the 17th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
10cm flux	69	69	70	69	69	70	70
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	6	7	10	8	3	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	2	4	7	2	1	2 estimated
T index	-3	+3	3	4	4	-2	-2

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 11th and 12th, becoming quiet to unsettled levels on the 13th and 14th, then returning to quiet levels from the 15th to the 17th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with some enhanced conditions; the 11th was enhanced 35% during local night and 25% after local dawn; the 12th was enhanced 15% during the day, then 30% at night and after local dawn; and the 13th was enhanced 15% during the day, 25% after local dawn, and 70% during local night. The 14th was enhanced 20% during day and 25% at night; the 15th was enhanced 50% at night; the 16th was enhanced 40% at night; and the 17th was 30% enhanced at night and 20% after local dawn.

Now, the forecast for the 18th to the 24th of September;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to mostly be at quiet 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.

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

So far for September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 8th to the 11th;

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>]

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: 5-FCAL115.wav]

Duration 1m50s

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.

[Play ID File: 6-OP ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

KUWAIT; Members of the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society are active with special call sign 9K90KSA until September 25, to celebrate Saudi Arabia's 90th National Day.

BALEARIC ISLANDS; Philippe, EA4NF is active as EA6/EA4NF from Formentera Island, IOTA EU-004, until February 21. Activity is on the LEO Satellites.

SCOTLAND; Paul, G4PVM will be active as GM4PVM from the Isle of Mull, IOTA EU-008, from September 22 to 26. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

SAUDI ARABIA; Special event stations 7Z90AL, 7Z90SJ, 7Z90AQ, 7Z90WW, 7Z90OO, HZ90SK, HZ90SM, HZ90BW, HZ90TL, HZ90LG, HZ90BT, HZ90DG, and HZ90ND are active until September 25 to celebrate Saudi Arabia's 90th National Day. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

ITALY; Members of the Oriental Sicily Contest Team are active as ID9OSC from Panarea Island, IOTA EU-017, until September 20 to celebrate the team's 10th anniversary.

JAN MAYEN; Erik, LA2US will be active as JX2US from Olonkinbyen from October 2020 to March 2021. Activity will be in his spare time on 160, 80, 40, 30, and 20 metres using CW and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

BELGIUM; Members of the Pajottenlandse Radio Amateur Club will be active with special call sign OT5ABI until October 18th, to raise awareness of the work being done by the NAH Liga for Acquired Brain Injury.

FAROE ISLANDS; Operators Torsten, DL4APJ and Udo, DL2AQI are active as OY/DL4APJ and OY/DL2AQI, respectively, until September 23. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

BONAIRE; Rich, M5RIC plans to be active as PJ4/M5RIC from September 22 to 29. This includes being active as PJ4CC in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX RTTY contest.

SWEDEN; Ric, DL2VFR and Klaus, DL7UXG are active as SD7V/3 and SD3G, respectively, from Alnon Island, IOTA EU-087, until September 21. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4 and includes an entry in the Scandinavian Activity CW contest.

DODECANESE; Claudio, HB9OAU is active as SV5/HB9OAU from Karpathos Island, IOTA EU-001, until September 25. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8.

INDONESIA; Members of the Indonesian Amateur Radio Organization of the Local City of Bandung are active with special call sign 8A100GB from Bandung, Java Island, IOTA OC-021, until September 30 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Gedung Sate. Activity is on all bands and modes, and possibly various Satellites and EME.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, North American RTTY Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, AGB 80-Metre NEMIGA Contest, Collegiate QSO Party, Scandinavian Activity CW Contest, SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest, All Africa International DX Contest, Iowa QSO Party, QRP Afield, New Hampshire QSO Party, New Jersey QSO Party, Washington State Salmon Run, Wisconsin Parks on the Air, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, Feld Hell Sprint, BARTG Sprint 75 and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed Test and 144 MHz Fall Sprint are scheduled for September 21.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for September 22.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for September 23.

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.

Volunteer Memorial Day for 2020 is at Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Domain, at 11am on Sunday the 11th of October. In-person attendance is via invitation only, but the event will also be streamed online.

WICEN weekly nets are 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.

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

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 3.6MHz. The next event planned is the Baw-Baw Extreme, a multi-sport event 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 Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

In response to risks arising from the current public health situation, the Club's Committee has reluctantly suspended in person activities, including monthly general meetings and Friday night get-togethers. However, club business continues, with individual Committee members working on the many tasks which still need to be completed.

In the absence of in-person 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 site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to the club information. The newly published September 2020 web edition 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 includes the list of office holders elected at the recent virtual 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 will be holding an HF Operating night at the clubrooms, on Tuesday the 29th of September, starting at 5:30pm. This will be focused towards foundation licence holders and those new to hobby, as well as those who may not have the capability to operate on HF frequencies at their QTH. If you are interested, please contact the club directly via telephone or email; details are available on the club's website.

The Club will be hosting a training and assessment day at the club rooms on Saturday the 17th of October, with assessments to be held on Sunday the 18th. 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.

Also on the 17th of October, the Club is planning another outdoor activity day, coinciding with the JOTA weekend. The location is yet to be decided, and the Club would welcome suggestions from those interested in attending.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Alan VK2MG; the topic for the evening was about Software Defined Radios and the concept of live streaming repeater activity. There was quite a bit of interest in the topic with some great ideas and suggestions; the club will take these suggestions on board and look at ways to provide alternate streaming services to the Central Coast Area. The club also had Angelo VK2FJCM from the Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club drop by via IRLP during the evening which was fantastic to see the club's footprint growing further. If your club has Echolink or IRLP and would be interested in joining in on a combined net, please contact the club directly.

The Club's Morning tea net continues daily on the Club's 2m repeater, running consecutively for 165 days now. The Club thanks Bob VK2AOR for his continued dedicated efforts in hosting the net, which continues to receive check-ins from both local and international stations. Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone.

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.

Hunter Radio Group

The Group operates three repeaters at Mt. Sugarloaf west of Newcastle.

On 2 metres, the repeaters are on 146.9MHz and 146.975MHz with EchoLink. On 70cm the repeater on 438.025MHz serves Newcastle and the lower Hunter area. There is also a 6 metre beacon on 50.288MHz.

The Hunter Radio Group has a news broadcast on Monday nights starting at 7:30pm, on the 2 metre repeater 146.9MHz, and the 70cm repeater on 438.025MHz. Callbacks are taken after the broadcast.

*Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on Tuesday, the 13th of October. 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 the next meeting, IARS Member and secretary, Keith VK2KQB, will be hosting a Trivia night. The trivia questions will be radio-related, with some great prizes on offer for winners. Keith ran a trivia night last year and it was a lot of fun for everyone and he is planning to increase the fun in an effort to overcome the downbeat mood from the current virus situation.

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 on Tuesday the 13th of October; at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Notice has been provided to members of the Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, of the 43rd Annual General Meeting to be held at the address of the Vice President, in Cherrybrook. Members who can do so are however asked to attend via Jitsi Meet, and/or the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. The brief meeting will be this coming Tuesday the 22nd September, commencing at 12.00 noon.

Members who wish to attend the face-to-face meeting must pre-book either by email to hadarc@hadarc.org.au, or by phoning Rod VK2DAY. Such attendees must comply with the NSW Public Health Order requirements.

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 Tuesday September the 22nd at 8pm.

On air nets are supplemented by Jitsi video conferencing; not only adding the "show" to the "Show & Tell" segments, but also 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 current 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.

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; 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.