

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

With 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.

In response to these restrictions, many clubs and groups have increased on-air activities. Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of activities from Sydney and across the state.

You can let us know about the activities happening in your area; you can email 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.

On this weekend is JOTA/JOTI 2020. Jamboree on the Air – Jamboree on the Internet is an international event supported across the Worldwide Scouting Movement, and it represents an introduction to Amateur Radio for many young people, through Scouts and Girl guides. While many Jamboree activities have been suspended this year, we would like to welcome any Scouts or Guides listening to our News bulletin this morning, and we would invite you to take part in the callbacks, at the end of this news service.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of 9th to the 15th of October.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
10cm flux	73	74	73	74	72	75	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	1	2	2	3	3	0	3 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	1	1	3	2	0	1 estimated
T index	-13	-12	-7	-10	+1	-7	-4

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

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian remained near predicted monthly values during daylight hours, all week. Some enhanced conditions were observed during local night and after local dawns, with enhancements of 20% after dawn and 25% during the night of the 11th; 20% enhancement during the night of the 12th; 20% after dawn and 25% during the night of the 13th; 20% during the night of the 14th; and enhancement of 35% during local night on the 15th.

Now, the forecast for the 16th to the 22nd of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with possible active periods on the 21st and 22nd.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 September, we saw a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 70, and a Maximum of 74
With peak dates from the 23rd to the 30th

So far for October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd; and the 10th to the 18th;

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 71, and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 9th to the 12th; and the 24th to the 30th.

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-FCAL118.wav]

Duration 2m53s

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.

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ARRL DX news

UGANDA; John, 5X1JT is active from Nansana while on work assignment for the next two years.

MALAWI; Don, K6ZO is active as 7Q6M while working at the Embangweni Mission Hospital project. He is active in his spare time until December 5.

GHANA; Tom, DL2RMC is active as 9G5FI and is there for at least one year. Activity is on all HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8, and on Satellite QO-100.

EAST MALAYSIA; Special event station 9M4JAY will be active from Miri, Sarawak during the 63rd Scouts Jamboree On The Air.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; A number of stations are active as A6050Y and A6050Y/1-9 until October 31 to promote the next 50 years in the Emirates and as part of the Emirate Centennial Plan.

BAHAMAS; Richard, KN4CV will be active as KN4CV/C6A from Alice Town, Bimini Islands, IOTA NA-001. Activity will be on the various HF bands.

GUADELOUPE; Philippe, F1DUZ is active as FG4KH until November 5. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest.

THAILAND; The new callsign for His Majesty the King Vajiralongkorn [*wah-JEE-ruh-long-korn*] is HS10A.

ITALY; In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, members of the UN Global Service Center ARC in Brindisi are active as 4U75B until December 31.

ANTARCTICA; Members and operators of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition team are active as 8J1RL from Showa Research Station, Queen Maud Land, IOTA AN-015, until January 2021. Activity is on various HF bands using CW and various digital modes.

ST. VINCENT; Mac, 8P5AB is active as J88/8P5AB until December 3. Activity is on various HF bands using FT8 and VHF bands using various digital modes.

SVALBARD; Erwann, LB1QI is active as JW/LB1QI from Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, until October 18.

AUSTRIA; Jo, OE6VIE is active with special event call sign OE65VIE from Styria until December 31 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Austrian State Treaty.

ARUBA; Members of the Aruba Amateur Radio Club are active as P42WW until October 31 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

NETHERLANDS; Special call PA5150EVH is active until January 31, 2021 to pay tribute to famous rock guitarist Eddie van Halen who was born in Amsterdam in 1955.

EGYPT; Members of the Egyptian Radio Amateurs Society are active as SU8J until October 18 to commemorate the official opening of the nature reserve Tigris Valley. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using SSB, FT8 and FT4.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; JOTA, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, JARTS World Wide RTTY Contest, Araucaria World Wide VHF Contest, 10-10 International Fall CW Contest, New York QSO Party, Worked All Germany Contest, Stew Perry Topband Challenge, Feld Hell Sprint, Argentina National 7 MHz SSB Contest, Asia-Pacific Fall CW Sprint, UBA ON 2-Metre Contest, Classic Phone Exchange, Illinois QSO Party, RSGB RoLo 80-Metre CW and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are all on over this weekend.

The ARRL School Club Roundup runs from October 19 to 23.

The RSGB FT4 Contest Series, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and Telephone Pioneers QSO Party are scheduled for October 19.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for October 20.

The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for October 21.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Due to COVID-19, administrative and training functions have been moved on-air or online. Volunteers are still wanted to assist with tasks such as repeater and APRS management, and asset management.

Trek for Timor Blue Mountains is now a "virtual" event; the upside being it is possible for you, or a group from your club, to take a sponsored walk in any location. Details on the website, trekfortimorbm.org.au.

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 have been experimenting with WINLINK and JS8CALL to pass short text messages on Monday evenings, supported by a Google Meeting. Details are on the calendar in the VRA email system.

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

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 LCCC Monaro Stages Rally is on the 31st, with WUCEN providing equipment and advice; and the BMSC "National Capital Rally" is planned for November 28 and 29. For more information, including recordings of recent Club presentations and licence training courses, visit the website at 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 Baw-Baw Extreme has been rescheduled for the 21st to the 23rd of April 2021. More details on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

[OEM link: <https://www.emtraining.nsw.gov.au/> Messaging software at: <http://js8call.com/> and <http://winlink.org/>]

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Club News

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

While the October Monthly General Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation, the committee still took place and minutes have been emailed to members, to keep them up to date with club affairs. Club business continues, with individual Committee members working on the many tasks which still need to be completed.

In response to risks arising from the current public health situation, the Club's Committee has reluctantly suspended all in person activities. Unfortunately this includes participation of club station VK2BOR, in JOTA for 2020. This is the first year since its founding, that that the club has been unable to run a JOTA station, but it is not possible to maintain physical distancing during such a hands-on activity.

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 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The next HF operating night is planned for Tuesday the 27th of October. Clubroom doors open from about 5:30pm for a 6pm start; if you are interested in attending, please contact the club directly.

A training and assessment weekend is planned for Saturday the 21st and Sunday the 22nd of November. If you are interested in obtaining or upgrading your Amateur licence, contact the Club's education facilitator, Karen VK2AKB. Booking information is on the website, at; ccarc.org.au/education.

Yesterday saw another outdoor activity day, this time at Kincumba Mountain Reserve. The weather was kind and the day was successful, including some visitors from Sydney arriving in tow. There was plenty of banter and as the day also coincided with JOTA, a number of stations that had the opportunity to speak with some Scouts interstate. There was even a surprise Fox Hunt.

The Club would like to thank all those who attended on the day and planning has already begun for the next activity day, planned for Saturday the 21st of November. There will be more details in future news bulletins. If you are interested in attending the next event, please let the club know; you can get in touch by phone, email or social media.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Alan VK2MG; topic for the evening was "*What other licences do you have? And What do you consider your strongest proficiency?*" it was a short net but some fantastic discussions were had, thank you to all those who participated.

Today marks day 199 of the Morning Tea Net, hosted by Bob VK2AOR. The Club would like to acknowledge Bob for the enormous effort he has dedicated to the net, that continues to receive check-ins from both local and overseas stations. Thanks Bob! If you have checked into the morning tea net either via the local repeater or EchoLink, the club would like to hear from you. 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, Twitter and Instagram. Simply search for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club - and give the club a "like" to follow for updates.

Brad VK2NMZ

Vice-President, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Amateur Radio Repeater Group

The Group will be running a 2m Fox Hunt on Sunday the 22nd of November, somewhere along the M5 Corridor south from Liverpool towards Campbelltown.

The fox will be hidden in a public space like a park or bush land and the exact suburb would be given on the local chosen repeater, on the morning of the event at 9am.

There will then be a BBQ lunch after the event, in the area of the fox find.

If there is sufficient interest, the group is hoping to run similar events every second month, in the new year.

We would like to invite anyone who is interested and may like to attend to get in contact via email, to info@arrg.club to register your interest.

This would be a great event to get your kids involved and have a great day out.

For more information and further updates, visit the group's website at www.arrg.club.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club has been 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".

For the next meeting on October 27th, the Club is planning a return to in-person meetings at the Mt Colah Community Centre, with COVID safety measures in place, including a requirement to book a seat with the Secretary.

The meeting will be at Mt Colah Community Centre, Pierre Close, Mt Colah, opposite the eastern entrance to Mt Colah Railway Station,

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 up to date details on club activities and arrangements for meetings, 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, and are supplemented with Jitsi as well. 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, 29th of October.

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.