

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

While no events are 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.

With recent changes to public health restrictions, work is underway to resume some in person activities. The ARNSW education team is planning a training and assessment weekend for the 5th and 6th of December, which will be held subject to Covid19 safety plan approval. If you are interested in attending, please email the Education team as soon as possible, to education@arnsw.org.au – with the extra procedures in place, plans need to be confirmed well in advance.

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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 23rd to the 29th of October.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th
10cm flux	72	72	74	75	82	88	85
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	10	16	9	15	7	9	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	10	11	11	10	5	8	7 estimated
T index	-15	-9	-22	-33	-37	-31	-30

Solar activity was very low from the 23rd to the 26th, and low from the 27th to the 29th. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to active levels on the 23rd and 25th, with quiet to unsettled conditions at other times.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were near predicted monthly values during local day on the 23rd and enhanced 15% during local night. The 24th remained near predicted throughout, then the rest of the week saw some depressions compared to monthly predicted values - 15% depressed during local day on the 25th; 20% depressed on the 26th; 25% during local day on the 27th; 15% during local day on the 28th; and depressions of 20% during the day and 15% during local night on the 29th.

Now, the forecast for the 30th of October to the 5th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels early in the week.

Geomagnetic activity is be at quiet to unsettled 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 October, we saw a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 74, and a Maximum of 88
With peak dates from the 19th to the 21st; and the 27th to the 31st

As we start November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 73, and a Maximum of 88
With peak dates from the 1st to the 13th; and the 29th to the 30th;

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 73, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates from the 1st to the 10th.

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.

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Duration 2m20s

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

TURKEY; Special call sign TC35FSF will be active from November 9th to 11th, celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Free Software Foundation, formed in 1985 in order to promote open-source software. Look for activity on 20 and 15 metres using SSB, PSK31 and Olivia 8/250.

MALDIVES; Remo, HB9SHD plans to be active as 8Q7RM from Kandolhu Island (AS-013) from November 2 to 29. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands using CW, SSB and digital modes.

BELIZE; Bob, W0YBS will be active as V31CO from Cay Caulker until November 13. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres including 30, 17 and 12 metres, using CW, SSB, FT8 and RTTY.

NEW ZEALAND; Operators Ark, ZL/EI9KC, Michael, ZL2MY, Holger, ZL3IO, Wes, ZL3TE (W3SE), Xenia, ZL4YL and possibly Gary, ZL2IFB will be active as ZM4T during the CQWW DX CW Contest as a Multi-2 entry.

AFGHANISTAN; Robert, S53R plans to remain in the capital city working in his spare time as T6AA until mid-December.

CHILE; CB500AM, operated by members of El Grupo Magallanes DX, will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Strait of Magellan on November 1 on 3685, 7138, 14230, 21330 and 28445 kHz. Operators are Pedro, CE8PVT, Walter, CE8MGZ, Alfonso, CE8APC, Carlos, CD8CKV, Ricardo, CD8RFU, and Giovanni, CD8GOO.

MOROCCO; CN45MS from Oujda commemorates the 45th anniversary of the Green March, until November 7.

SPAIN; The URE section San Fernando (EA7URF) joins the Strait of Magellan celebrations with the call sign AM500ETS until November 8. They are active on HF on SSB, CW and digital modes.

FRANCE; Members of the Radio Club Vendéen (F6KUF) will be active with the call sign TM9VG until November 15 celebrating the 9th Vendée Globe, a single-handed non-stop yacht race around the world. Also, TM50CDG operated by Michel, F8GGZ, will be active from November 9 to 22 to mark 130 years since the birth of Charles de Gaulle, who died 50 years ago. Michel plans to be on 160 to 20 metres using SSB and CW.

ENGLAND; Members of the Rotary International Fellowship are currently operating as GB0RPP to promote World Polio Day and raise awareness of the Polio Plus organization. They will be active until November 7.

ECUADOR; The Azuay Radio Club celebrates the 200th anniversary of the city Cuenca until November 3rd, with the call sign HD200C. Also, members of the HC DX Group plan to operate as HD1X until November 3 from a tropical rain forest in the Choco region. They will be active on HF using SSB, SSTV, FT8 and FT4.

ITALY; The ARI Fidenza Club (IQ4FE) has several special event call signs on the air during 2020, commemorating the life and achievements of Guglielmo Marconi. During November, I14RVT commemorates the beginnings of Radio Vatican in 1931.

BELGIUM; Special event station OP20FENIKS honours the memory of the women and men who were involved in the reconstruction efforts in and around Westhoek after the end of World War I. Look for them on HF on SSB, CW and digital modes.

NETHERLANDS; Frank, PF1SCT honours the memory of rock guitarist Eddie Han Halen (1955-2020) with the call sign PA5150EVH, until January 31, 2021. Also, look for Ray, PA5DX and Wim, PD8DX to be activating PA20XMAS, PD20SANTA and PD20HNY during the 2020 Christmas Holiday Season.

POLAND; The club station SP6PRT in Wroclaw celebrates its 60th anniversary with the call sign SP60PRT until the end of 2020.

CANADA; Michael, VE3NOO celebrates the founding of the Hudson Bay Company 350 years ago with the call sign XM3B. He will be active through November.

HAWAII; Jim, N6TJ will travel to the KH7M station on the Big Island for the CQWW DX CW Contest. He plans to be a single op, all band entry.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Zombie Shuffle CW, Russian WW MultiMode Contest, UK/EI DX Contest, North American SSB Sprint, Silent Key Memorial Contest CW and the Classic Exchange CW.

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.

Last month, WICEN NSW presented Bob VK2ZAR with his certificate of Honorary Life Membership. Bob has been a member with the Central Coast Regional Group for over 30 years and is still active, at 92.

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 requested to activate, and periodically check their VRA email addresses. 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, 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 BMSC "National Capital Rally" is planned for November 28th and 29th. 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. 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.

In response to risks arising from the current public health situation, the Club's Committee has reluctantly suspended all in person activities, including monthly general meetings and get-togethers.

Club business continues, with individual Committee members working on the many tasks which still need to be completed. The Committee will meet on Saturday the 7th of November and minutes will be emailed to members, to keep them abreast of club affairs.

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.*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club is planning a car boot sale on Saturday the 21st of November, in the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, starting at 8am, with physical distancing in place.

You can set up a stall at no charge; but bring your own table. There will also be a BBQ and hot and cold drinks available.

All are welcome. For more information, contact the club on 0478228983.

Westlakes has a net every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 09:30am on 3565kHz.

Barrie VK2QG

Vice president, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Club held their second HF operating night last Tuesday the 27th of October. The Club would like to thank Adrian VK2ABS, Ryan VK2FRTS, Myles VK2ASS, Jaye VK2FOMG and Brad VK2NMZ for attending, with the next evening to be announced soon.

Next weekend is the next monthly general meeting of the club, at clubrooms in Dandaloo Street, Kariong. Attendance is possible both in person at the clubrooms and online via video / telephone conference. Club members should check their emails for details.

Later this month sees the Club take on another outdoor adventure. On Saturday the 21st of November, in conjunction with the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club, there's an afternoon outdoor picnic at Mount Sugarloaf, after their scheduled car boot sale. More details soon; if you are interested in attending, please contact the club by telephone, email or social media.

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.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Alan VK2MG; the evening's topic was *"What is the most surprising thing you have learned in your time in Amateur Radio?"*. It was an engaging topic, with several stations sharing their varying experiences in the hobby. Thank you, Alan.

Today marks day 213 – or seven months - of the Morning Tea Net, hosted by Bob VK2AOR on the Club's VK2RAG 2 metre repeater. This week, the net had stations joining from the United Arab Emirates and Kentucky, USA after reading about the Bob's success in the article recently published internationally in AR Newslines. The club would like to acknowledge Bob for the enormous effort he has dedicated to the net, which continues to receive check-ins from both local and international stations. Thank you, Bob!

Both club 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.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

On Saturday the 7th of November, the Club will be holding a build-a-thon, to help make your own RF instrument. This is a follow-up to the last club build-a-thon which was on Saturday 7th March. Specifically, there will be a focus on showing what you made; troubleshooting if your instrument is not working properly; and making an instrument if you did not finish.

The session will be run by Alf VK2YAC and Laurie VK2LLB. For more information, contact the club Secretary, Irene VK2VAN – her email address is secretary@bmarc.org.

The Club has two on air nets each week; the 80 metre net Starts at 8pm on Tuesday evenings, on 3543 kHz. On Wednesday night from 8pm, there is a net on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access, and on the 6 metre repeater on 53.875MHz.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at www.bmarc.org.

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

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society will have its next monthly gathering online, on Wednesday the 4th of November.

The meeting will feature a presentation on NanoVNA - from the beginning, to now. NanoVNA is a credit-card sized VNA. It has a built in LCD screen that can be used to display graphs directly, or it can be connected to a PC.

Con VK2MDB will present NanoVNA from the beginning, from EDY555 creation, to Hugen, using the RF demo kit and some translations from Chinese.

The presentation will begin at 7.30pm, Wednesday evening the 4th November 2020, and you can join in from anywhere you have a computer or smart device screen.

For more information about The St George Amateur Radio Society, including information to join the virtual gathering on Wednesday night, visit the website, at www.sgars.org.

*Peter VK2EMU
Publicity Officer, St George Amateur Radio Society.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

Club meetings have returned to the Mt Colah Community Centre. With COVID safety measures in place, the centre has 35 places available. Attendees are required to book with the Secretary. However, there is still interaction with remote members via Jitsi; such as the demonstration of astronomy equipment by Bill VK2ZZF, in "berry-cold" Berridale.

The next meeting is an informal mid-monthly gathering on November the 10th.

In person attendance is at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah - opposite the eastern entrance to Mt Colah Railway Station.

Jitsi is an open source conferencing system, accessible via web browser, 'phone or tablet App; or by dialling in from any 'phone. It provides video transmission, if your device supports this. Visiting and out-of-town folks are most welcome to participate in any events where Jitsi is used.

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. Net control is using VK2MA or VK2WAH, "We Are Home".

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 daily; Monday
and Friday night net at 8pm, on VK2RCW. HF net 8pm Wednesday 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 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.