

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.

For those listing to us that are near to the ACT; The Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club is planning a licence course for the weekend of November 21st and 22nd, with examinations for all Australian licence grades, available on the Sunday. You can find out more on their website, crarc.org.au.

Many clubs and groups have recently modified or increased their on-air activities, and 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 30th of October to the 5th of November.

First, the summary;

| Dates across the columns are | 30 th | 31 st | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 10cm flux | 80 | 77 | 77 | 82 | 83 | 88 | 91 |
| Fredericksburg Index (Afr) | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 estimated |
| Australian Index (Aaus) | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 estimated |
| T index | -38 | -19 | -24 | -28 | -16 | +1 | -5 |

Solar activity was very low on the 30th and 31st of October, low on the 1st of November, very low on the 2nd, then low from the 3rd to the 5th. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels on the 30th, quiet to unsettled on the 31st of October and 1st of November, quiet from the 2nd to the 4th, and again quiet to unsettled conditions on the 5th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted monthly values, but there were some periods of depressions. during local day on the 23rd and enhanced 15% during local night. The 30th of October saw depressions of 25% during the day and 15% at night. The 1st of November was depressed 20% after local dawn and 15% otherwise. The 2nd was depressed 20% during the day and 15% at night; and the 3rd was depressed 15% during local daylight hours.

Now, the forecast for the 6th to the 12th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels early in the week, with the possibility of some low level M-class flares.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at mostly quiet to unsettled levels, with a chance of active periods on the 6th of November.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values, with some minor short-wave fadeouts possible.

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

So far, for November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 81, and a Maximum of 91
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 14th;

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 74, and a Maximum of 76
With peak dates from the 13th to the 21st.

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 October 2020

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was mostly at very low levels all month, with no M or X-class flares observed. Low solar activity occurred on the 16th, and from the 27th to the 29th of October. Solar Region 2777 produced two low-level C-class flares on the 16th of October. Region 2778 produced five low-level C flares on the 27th and 28th, and region 2779 produced six low-level C flares on the 28th and 29th.

Apart from a weak solar wind shock on the 19th of October, probably due to a CME on the 15th, there were no other Earth directed CMEs. Solar wind speed gradually declined from around 550 km/s earlier in the month and remained at nominal levels until the 23rd, when recurrent coronal holes increased wind speed again, to peak at 639km/s on the 26th. Sustained periods of southward IMF occurred on the 5th, 24th and 25th of October.

Geomagnetic conditions in the Australian region were mostly quiet to unsettled, with isolated active periods on the 5th, 23rd and 26th of October. Activity on the 5th was due to a short period of mild southward IMF (Bz). The effect of a recurrent north-pole coronal hole extension, that caused activity in late September, was weaker this month, resulting in the activity on the 23rd and 25th of October. The peak Australian region A index of 11 occurred on the 24th and 25 October due to the recurrent coronal hole.

In comparison to the Australian region, global geomagnetic activity was stronger, with a maximum Kp of 4 on the 21st, 23rd to 27th and the 29th of October, and a maximum Ap of from the 18th to the 24th. Aurora watches were issued on the 23rd and 25th of October.

The ionosphere was relatively stable, with the Australian region mostly near predicted monthly values. Mild to moderate depressions occurred between the 26th and 30th, due to mild recurrent geomagnetic activity. Ionospheric depressions in the Australian region were deeper in October compared to September, even though recurrent geomagnetic activity was stronger in September. The Australian region T index was lowest, at -38, on the 30th of October. Propagation conditions were degraded from the 25th to the 31st of October, with MUF depressions of up to 25%.

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-FCAL138.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

UNITED NATIONS; Special event station 4U75UN is active until the end of 2020, to celebrate the United Nations' 75th anniversary.

ISRAEL; Special event station 4X0RMN will be active from Ramon Crater on November 13 and 14.

MALAWI; Members of the Russian Robinson Club Team will be active as 7Q7RU near Embangweni from November 7 to 18. Activity will be on 160 metres to 70 centimetres using CW, SSB and FT8 in DXpedition mode, and on various satellites.

CHINA; Dale, BA4TB is active as B9/BA4TB from Xining[*SHIN-ing*] city in the Qinghai[*CHING-high*] province.

FRANCE; Michel, F8GGZ will be active with special event call sign TM50GDG from November 9 to 22, to commemorate the 130th birthday and the death of Charles de Gaulle 50 years ago. Activity will be on 160 to 20 metres using CW and SSB.

PANAMA; Special event station 3E1FP is active throughout November to celebrate the 116th anniversary of Vida Republicana of Panama. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

DJIBOUTI; Rene, DL2JRM will be active as J28XX. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

ARGENTINA; Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano will be active as LU4AAO, LU4AAO/A and LU4AAO/D to celebrate Dia de la Tradicion, until November 15. Activity will be on all HF and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

LITHUANIA; Members of the Radistu Asociacija are active with special event call LY111A until November 30 to commemorate the 111th anniversary of General Jonas Zemaitis, Chairman of the Presidium of the LLKS. Activity is on various HF bands using CW and SSB.

BELGIUM; Members of the UBA-KTK are active with special event call sign OP0PEACE from Kortrijk[*KAWT-rik*] until November 30 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

NETHERLANDS; Henk, PE4T is active as special event station PE75T from Peize until December 31 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Dutch Radio Amateur Organization, Veron. Activity is on the HF bands and with FT8.

WESTERN SAHARA; S01WS has been active on 17 metres using SSB around 1800UTC.

COSTA RICA; Special event station TI200I is active to mark the bicentennial of the independence of Costa Rica.

MALI; Ulmar, DK1CE will be active as TZ1CE from Bamako for a month. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using FT8.

SOUTH SUDAN; Sigfrido, IW9FMD is active in his free time as Z81S, while working with the United Nations Mission here. His length of stay is unknown.

ALBANIA; Sandro, IN3PPH is active as ZA/IN3PPH from Qerret. Activity of late has been on 80, 40 and 20 metres using FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, Day of the YLs Contest, IPARC Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Ukrainian DX Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 CW QSO Party and EANET Sprint are all on over this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint is scheduled for November 9.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for November 10.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, RSGB 80-Metre Autumn SSB Series, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, 40-Metre QRP CW Fox Hunt and Phone Fray are scheduled for November 11.

WICEN News

At the WICEN NSW training event last Sunday, several members were presented with the NSW Bushfire Emergency Citation. There were 30 WICEN NSW members who volunteered their time in several roles during the 2019-20 Bush Fire season, including providing emergency communications infrastructure for the Bega Valley, radio operators and logistics support in a number of regional RFS Fire Control Centres, and call centre operators in the RFS Bush Fire Information Line.

Members are reminded to regularly check their vrarescue.org email address; from January 1 next year, WICEN emails will only be sent to a member's VRA address.

WICEN weekly nets are on Sunday evenings. Tonight, the main net will be at 6pm on the Kurrajong - Berowra 70cm FM system, followed at 6:30pm by a check-in net on 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.

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

The first official WICEN NSW field operation in some time, is assisting WICEN ACT in the provision of communications support for the BMSC "National Capital Rally". This is being held south and west of Canberra, in the Brindabella and Tidbinbilla areas, on November 28th and 29th. A remote training exercise will be conducted on January 9 and 10, 2021.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. For more information, visit the website at crarc.org.au. WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on their website at; vic.wicen.org.au.

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

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 met yesterday, Saturday the 7th of November; the minutes of the meeting will be emailed to members, to keep them abreast of club affairs.

The annual Coastal Walk Against Domestic and Family Violence from the Tacking Point Surf Club to Westport Park in Port Macquarie for 2020 has been cancelled. The club provides safety communications for this event each year and will do so again for next year's walk.

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 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 online and past issues are available on the website as well. Look for the November issue of Oxtales in the coming week. 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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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's monthly general meeting was yesterday; it was a bumper of a meeting with much discussion. The club would also like to welcome Peter VK2FALF and David VK2NU whose membership was passed through and approved by unanimous vote from club members.

Coming up on the 14th of November, the club in conjunction with WICEN Central Coast, will present a lecture on JS8Call, which is a fantastic digital mode that can facilitate message passing in times of challenging conditions.

Then the Club takes 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.

The next training and assessment weekend, planned for Saturday the 21st and Sunday the 22nd of November, is fully booked. The Club is planning the next education weekend for early next year.

Also looking ahead to next year; planning is underway for the 2021 Wyong Field Day in motion. Subject to health conditions and restrictions, the tentative date will be Sunday the 28th of February 2021.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ, with the topic "*Radio Experimentation - Is it still alive?*" and wow! The responses received were incredible. One key callout is the club's youngest member who is still in High school – Adrian VK2ABS, who has built all of his own antennas and they are top performers with very low SWR across the board on his first try. One member spoke about his enjoyment of building add on components for portable operations including audio filters, another told of his experiences transporting a Number 19 wireless set home on the train and to this day still loves experimenting with building antennas. A fantastic topic, and the consensus you ask...is experimentation still alive? Absolutely it is!

Today marks day 220 - of the Morning Tea Net, hosted by Bob VK2AOR on the Club's VK2RAG 2 metre repeater. 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.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is this coming Tuesday, the 10th of November. 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.

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.

The meeting this coming Tuesday will be the Society's very popular Annual Auction night, with Simon VK2XQX once again as auctioneer. Simon creates both a very entertaining night while giving the opportunity to pick-up a great bargain. Anyone wishing to bring along something to sell, can arrive from 6.30pm, preferably before 7pm, so that it can be booked-in before the start of the meeting. The night will conclude with coffee, tea and cake in the venue's large foyer, where you can socialise with fellow attendees; all while 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, VK2RMP on 6850 or VK2RUW on 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 10th of November; 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

Several exciting events are happening at the club over the next few weekends.

Saturday the 21st of November, is a radio communications field day with WICEN members. The clubhouse will also be open for tea and coffee.

On Friday 4th December, the club will be holding its annual Christmas Party, then on Saturday the 5th and Sunday the 6th, the club will be running a Foundation Training Weekend.

For more information, please contact club secretary, Irene VK2VAN by email to secretary@bmarc.org, or visit the website, at www.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.

73 from James VK2GOH

Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.

Amateur Radio Repeater Group

The Group will be running a 2m Fox Hunt on Sunday the 22nd of November, close by to the M5 Corridor, between Crossroads and Campbelltown.

The Fox frequency is 145.3MHz, so get your tape-measure antenna ready.

Co-ordination will start from around 8:30am on the Fisher's Ghost 70cm Repeater VK2RFG, on 438.650MHz with negative 7MHz input and 91.5Hz tone required.

Then, once the hunters are close by, the group will move to a simplex frequency, announce a suburb and turn on the fox. No speeding, it's not a race; it's a bit of fun, the aim is to *find* the Fox.

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 resumed in-person meetings, with COVID safety measures in place; which includes a requirement for attendees book a seat with the Secretary. However, there is still interaction with remote members via Jitsi.

The next meeting is an informal mid-monthly gathering this Tuesdya, the 10th of November.

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. Visitors and out-of-town members 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 and
Echolink. Next monthly meeting on-air Thursday, 26th of November.

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.