

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.

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.

Yesterday, Saturday the 21st of November, was World Television Day; a day started by the UN to recognise the impact TV has had on the world. It is therefore perhaps fitting, if not somewhat ironic, that yesterday also saw the last program to originate from the Willoughby studios of TCN Channel 9 in Sydney. Built on a former dairy farm, Willoughby had been operating continuously since the commencement of television broadcasting in Australia in 1956.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 13th to the 19th of November.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
10cm flux	82	80	79	77	79	77	77
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	2	2	0	3	3	2
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	1	1	1	1	1	2 estimated
T index	-11	-9	-1	-15	-10	-8	-13

Solar activity was low, and geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, all week.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted monthly values, with depressions of 15% were observed during local daylight hours on the 14th and the 16th.

Now, the forecast for the 20th to the 26th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels early in the week, with a chance of an active period.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values, with some minor short-wave fadeouts, and sporadic E possible at times.

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 94
With peak dates from the 3rd to the 14th;

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 14th; and the 26th to the 31st.

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-FCAL188.wav]

Duration 2m43s

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

OMAN; Members of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society may use the A450 prefix to mark Oman's 50th National Day.

SAUDI ARABIA; Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society operate special event stations HZ20G, 7Z20G and 8Z20G until November 23 to recognize the G20 summit in Riyadh.

ST. VINCENT; Oleh, KD7WPJ will be active as J8/UR5BCP until November 28. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

MINAMI TORISHIMA; Take-san, JG8NQJ/JD1 has been active on 40 metres using CW around 0900UTC.

OGASAWARA; Station JD1BHA has been active on 40 metres using CW around 1200UTC.

AUSTRIA; Members of the VIC Amateur Radio Contest DX Club are active with special call sign 4U2STAYHOME until December 31.

ARUBA; John, W2GD will be active as P40W from November 23 to December 1. Activity will be on all bands as time permits, including an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

POLAND; Members of the Ostrow Radio Amateur Radio Club are active as SN3ISS until December 21 is to celebrate the 20th anniversary of active amateur radio communication service on the International Space Station.

GREECE; Special event call sign SX40ARES is active to celebrate the 40 years of the Hellenic Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

SOMALIA; Ali, EP3CQ is active as 6O1OO until January 15, 2021 while working for the UN Department of Safety and Security in Mogadishu. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

MALI; Ulmar, DK1CE is active as TZ1CE until December 8.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Vladimir, R0FP is now a resident on Iturup Island, IOTA AS-025, and is active on various bands and modes.

INDIA; Datta, VU2DSI is active with special call sign AU2JCB until December 15 to celebrate the birthday of scientist and radio pioneer Jagadish Chandra Bose. In addition, look for special calls AT2JCB, AU3JCB, VU5JCB and AU8JCB to be active as well.

LAOS; Simon, XW0LP is now active on 160 to 10 metres, except 60 metres. QSL to home call.

INDONESIA; Members of the ORARI Darerah Jawa Timur Lokal, Surabaya, are active as 8A10N until December 10, to celebrate Indonesia's National Heroes Day 2020. Activity is on various HF bands and modes. In addition, members of the ORARI Tangerang Selatan Club are active as YH1RI, 8G12TS, 8H12TS and 8I12TS until November 25 to celebrate the 12th anniversary of South Tangerang City's independence. Activity is on 80 and 40 metres using mostly SSB.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, YO International PSK31 Contest, LZ DX Contest, All Austrian 160-Metre CW Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, REF 160-Metre CW Contest and the RSGB 1.8 MHz CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy over this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test is scheduled for November 23.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for November 24.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for November 25.

WICEN News

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.

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 next weekend, November 28th and 29th.

A remote training exercise will be conducted on January 9 and 10, 2021. This will be conducted in small, physically distributed, teams, and will include practising field operations.

WICEN weekly nets are on Sunday evenings. Tonight, the main net will be at 6pm on the 2m Repeater at Chatswood, on 147.15MHz.

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.

WICEN hopes to be at the CCARC Field Day at Wyong on February 28, 2021.

WICEN 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 ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. For more information, visit the website at www.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 in person activities until February 2021, with one exception; The Club's 2020 Christmas Party, which will be held outdoors, in the covered outdoor picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery near Lake Cathie. This is the same very popular venue where the club's Christmas Party was held last year.

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 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 November 2020 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales", is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. 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.*

[Play ID File: 7-OP 3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday the club made a visit to the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club's car boot sale, and what an amazing day it was with bargains to be had all around. The Club set up a table at the Teralba clubrooms and had there were some great conversations and banter during the event.

As the weather was kind to us, both the CCARC and Westlakes then headed up to Mount Sugarloaf for an outdoor adventure. With a BBQ and some Portable HF operations, it was the first combined club activity for many years and the club looks forward to working closely with the Westlakes team for future events. A thanks goes to all the club members who assisted with both sorting through the equipment and taking part on the day.

The club is running licence and training assessments this weeken. Classes were held yesterday and as this news bulletin goes to air, examinations are now underway.

Planning is underway for the next education weekend, early next year; for more details or to book a seat, please email the Club's education facilitator, Karen VK2AKB at; education@ccarc.org.au.

The Club is in planning mode for the 2021 Wyong Field Day. Lock in the date – its Sunday the 28th of February 2021, subject to public health directives remaining favourable. There will be more updates on the Club's website, and here on VK2WI News.

The Clubs repeater team have also been busy planning and preparing for the rollout of a new DMR repeater on the Central Coast. It might be a good time to get your Codeplugs ready, and program in 438.850 MHz with 7.0mhz offset, and with VK-DMR talk groups.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Brad VK2NMZ, with the evenings topic of *"car boot sales & flea markets – what is your best buy?"* One station recalled purchasing a Bird Watt meter with all the connectors for \$10, whilst another purchased a portable QRP for an incredibly cheap price. A Thank you to all the stations that participate in the net both locally and interstate.

Today marks day 233 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.

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 and Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday, the 21st November, the club ran a radio communications field day with WICEN members. The clubhouse was also open for anyone wishing to complete any practical projects as well as meet for an informal catch up.

Coming up on Friday 4th December is the Club's annual Christmas Party at the clubhouse in Glenbrook. The Clubhouse will be open from 5pm and subject to Covid Restrictions. Members are required to bring their own food, however barbeque sausages will be provided to all visitors and guests. Please email Club secretary, Irene VK2VAN, at; secretary@bmarc.org if you plan on attending.

On Saturday the 5th and Sunday the 6th, the club will be running a Foundation Training Weekend; and for those who already have their Foundation licence, there is an opportunity for you undertake exams to upgrade to the Standard or Advanced licence. Please contact club secretary, Irene VK2VAN email secretary@bmarc.org for more information

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.

St George Amateur Radio Society

The annual general meeting of the St. George Amateur Radio Society will be held on the evening of Wednesday 2nd December. This will be a combined in person and online meeting. Attendance at the Kyle Bay Scout Hall will be limited to 20 members, while others can join in online.

The doors of the scout hall will open at 7:20pm for a 7:30pm gathering before the AGM gets underway at 8:00pm. Members wishing to attend in person will need to register beforehand - details will shortly be posted on the Society's website www.sgars.org. All members will be sent instructions for joining the online meeting a few days beforehand.

The Society and WICEN NSW are jointly conducting a test of a temporary 70cm FM repeater at Mt. Bindo, in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. The purpose of this test is to determine UHF coverage from the location.

The repeater VK2RAH is on 439.875 MHz with a standard negative 5.0 MHz offset and no CTCSS tone is required or sent.

Amateurs with UHF FM radios in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the mid-west and further afield are encouraged to try out the repeater and send any reports to callback@sgars.org

After this morning's VK2WI News bulletin, members of the Society will monitor the repeater for contacts.

And finally, the Society's annual summer 2 metre contest will start on 1st December and run through until the 28th February 2021.

Further information about The St George Amateur Radio Society can be found on the website, at www.sgars.org or follow us on Facebook.

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

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The Club's pre-Christmas lunch is on Sunday the 13th of December at noon. As attendance is strictly limited to 20, contact club secretary, Steve VK2AAV, for bookings and details.

In person meetings have resumed with COVID safety measures in place, which includes a requirement for attendees book a seat with the Secretary. However, Jitsi is still available.

The next meeting is the monthly general meeting this Tuesday the 24th of November, from 8pm. In person attendance is at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, Mt Colah - opposite the eastern entrance to Mt Colah Railway Station. Wearing a mask is recommended, and supper is BYO.

Jitsi is an open source conferencing system, accessible via web browser, smartphone app, or even by dialling in from an landline. It provides video transmission, if your device supports this. Visitors and out-of-town members are encouraged to participate in events where Jitsi is used.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities and arrangements for meetings, including the Covid Safety plan, 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. This repeater is now connected to Allstarlink on Node 41646. Echolink node 311266 / VK2RNS-R has been "associated" with this system.

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 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.