

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.

VK2WI News has been running morning-only bulletins for the past few months; however, we are planning to resume our regular evening bulletins from next week, Sunday the 6th of December at the regular time of 7:30pm, which will continue over the holiday period.

Evening bulletins contain full club news from around the state and other items, and will be transmitted via VK2WI and automated relays, with callbacks taken after the news. Morning bulletins will continue with a relay of WIA National news and club news items, with a summary of activity around the state.

The ARNSW Education team has postponed training and assessment activities until the new year. If there is enough interest, the team is considering a weekend in January subject to Covid19 safety plan approval; so please email the Education team at education@arnsw.org.au – so that plans can be confirmed 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.

VK-DMR Update

Users of the VK-DMR network are advised that the Australian "I P S C" server for hotspots has changed. The old server has been removed from service, and you will need to update your settings to access the network.

Please ensure you have updated your hotspot and have selected "I P S C 2 - VK HOTSPOT " from the server drop down.

*Advised by Matt VK2FLY
Co-ordinator, ARNSW Radio Network Group.*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 20th to the 26th of November.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
10cm Flux	82	85	88	96	100	104	106
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	9	9	19	7	4	4	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	5	6	16	4	2	4	5 estimated
T index	-5	-8	-8	-32	-14	+9	-8

Solar activity was low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels from the 20th to the 22nd, quiet from the 23rd to the 25th before becoming unsettled again on the 26th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, were mostly near predicted monthly values, though some depressed periods were observed; with depressions of 15% during local daylight hours on the 21st, 15% during the day and 20% after dawn on the 22nd, 25% during the day and 15% during local night of the 23rd, 20% during local day on the 24th, 20% after local dawn on the 25th; and 20% depressed during local day on the 26th.

Now, the forecast for the 27th of November to the 3rd of December;

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

Geomagnetic activity is expected to 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 nearly finished November, we saw a;

Minimum of 77, Average of 87, and a Maximum of 108
With peak dates from the 5th to the 12th; and the 23rd to the 31st

For December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 87, and a Maximum of 102
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th; and the 21st to the 31st

And looking ahead to January 2021, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 82, and a Maximum of 92
With peak dates from the 1st to the 4th.

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 2m18s

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

Several special stations are on air to take part in the CQ worldwide DX CW contest this weekend;

ALAND ISLANDS; Juha, OH2N, Kari, OH2XX, Jukka, OH6DD and Tomi, OH6EI plan to be active as OH0Z.

EAST MALAYSIA; Saty, JE1JKL is active as 9M6NA, on 40 to 10 metres.

GUERNSEY; Bob, GU4YOX will be active on 40 metres. In addition, look for Dick, GU4CHY to be active on 20 metres.

INDONESIA; Look for YB0ECT to be active on 20 metres. In addition, Yohanes, YB2DX plans to be active as an All Band entry.

ITALY; Raf, IH9YMC will be active from Pantelleria Island, IOTA AF-018.

NEW ZEALAND; Geoff, ZL3GA, Paul, ZL4TT and Phil, ZL3PAH will be active as ZL3X.

PARAGUAY; Manu, ZP9MCE plans to be active with a focus on the low bands.

SWEDEN; Lars, SM3EAE and Goran, SM5SIC will be active as SI9AM, from the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Amateur Radio Society Visitor's station.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; Jim, K4QPL will be active as VP5M.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS; Daniel, K8RF will be active as NP2J on 160 metres.

...and in other DX activity;

MALDIVES; Marko, N5ZO and Oliver, W6NV are active as 8Q7ZO and 8Q7NV, respectively, until December 2. They will be active as 8Q7ZO in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

CUBA; Members of the Radio Club de Caibarien are active as T46W until December 29 to commemorate the first transmissions 100 years ago by the Cuban radio pioneer, Manolin Alvarez. Activity is on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SPAIN; Special event station EF42C will be active from until December 13 to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Spanish Constitution.

JAN MAYEN; Erik, LA2US is active as JX2US until the end of March, 2021. Activity is on 160 to 12 metres using CW and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

FINLAND; Members of the Market Reef DX Association will be active as OG1XMAS until December 26, on all bands and modes.

ARUBA; John, W2GD is active as P40W until December 1. Activity is on 30, 17 and 12 metres as time permits. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest.

NETHERLANDS; Special event stations PA20XMAS, PB20CLAUS and PD20SANTA will be active during December.

BONAIRE; Martin, DL6KR plans to be active as PJ4/DL6KR in the CQ World Wide DX CW contest. Operators DL3KMS, DL1COP and DC7MO are active as PJ4/homecalls until November 29.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL EME Contest, CQ Worldwide DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint and RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint are all on over this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, QCX CW Challenge and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for November 30.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and QCX CW Challenge are scheduled for December 1.

WICEN News

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

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. The BMSC National Capital Rally concludes this afternoon. 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, next Saturday the 5th of December. The venue is the covered outdoor picnic area at 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. Directions to site are in the November 2020 Oxtales. There will be a sausage sizzle barbeque, though attendees are requested to bring their own salads, nibbles and drinks. Attendees must observe the current COVID safety requirements; but this should be easy to do in the outdoor environment. The club's 2021 50th Anniversary calendar will be available at the party.

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.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

Last weekend, the club made a visit to the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club's car boot sale. The club advises that there is some equipment is still available, so contact the club directly with any enquiries.

Also last weekend, was a licence and assessment session at the Clubrooms. Kudos to the Club's education facilitator Karen VK2AKB, for single-handedly facilitating these sessions; the feedback received has been incredibly positive. Best of luck to Heath, Roger, Catherine, Paul, Robert and Stephen who eagerly await the exam results. Planning is underway for the next education weekend, early next year; for more details or to book a seat, please email Karen at; education@ccarc.org.au.

The club Christmas luncheon is on the 12th of December and all club members are welcome. To ensure Covid compliance, please contact the Club directly if you are planning to attend.

Planning is underway 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; 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 Alan VK2MG, with the evenings topic of *"With Summer coming on, do you have any plans with an amateur radio focus"*. Many stations spoke about wanting to get more involved in the outdoors and finish off some long-awaited antenna builds. A Thank you to all the stations that participate in the net both locally and interstate.

Today marks day 240 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.

If you are interested in Packet Radio; the Club has a digipeater VK2RAG-1 which connects to VK2EHQ and is available via 147.6Mhz.

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

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 Society's AGM is on this coming Wednesday, the 2nd of 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 are on the website at 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, though regular meeting will resume in early 2021.

A BBQ is being planned for January, details TBA, subject to the health situation.

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 2 metre repeater, VK2RNS on 147.250 MHz is now connected to Allstarlink on Node 41646. This also provides access to the repeater via Echolink node 311266, or VK2RNS-R, which has been associated with this system.

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.

Nets are supplemented with Jitsi, which is an open source audio and video conferencing system, available via a web browser, an App; or by dialling in from any 'phone. Out-of-town members and visitors are most welcome to participate in any events where Jitsi is used.

*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.