

****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.

The ARNSW Education will resume training and assessment activities in the new year; the team is considering a weekend in January subject to Covid19 safety plan approval. If you are interested, please let the Education team know by email to education@arnsw.org.au – so that plans can be confirmed in advance.

Later in this bulletin we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state. You can let us know what is happening in your area by email; to news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need full 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.

A note from our Secretary

In the news last week, we had a note about the 2021 ARNSW magnetic calendar. Earlier today, a group of volunteers spent the morning and early afternoon labelling and enveloping the calendars, to go out to all members.

When you get yours in the mail, please check the address label carefully for the renewal date at the end of the top line. To make it easier to check, we have highlighted the dates this year, as follows;

If it is not highlighted; your renewal is not due for at least 6 months.

If it is highlighted in green; your renewal is due within the next 6 months, so it's time to renew.

If it is highlighted in pink; renewal is due immediately.

If it is highlighted in yellow; your membership is overdue, please renew as soon as possible.

If it is highlighted in Orange; your membership lapsed more than 2 years ago.

If you renew immediately, we will count your renewal from this year's anniversary of your renewal date.

This information is also included in the letter with the calendar, as is a renewal form. All methods of renewal are listed on the new form and you can also request a member badge on the form at the same time; just tick the box at the top and fill in your callsign and preferred name.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Secretary of Amateur Radio NSW.*

Ross Hull VHF/UHF Memorial Contest

Established in 1950, this contest honours the memory of the late Ross A. Hull – an Australian who, through his pioneering achievements in the study of tropospheric propagation, developed new equipment and techniques for the higher bands.

The contest is open to all amateur radio operators, and they are encouraged to work as many VHF and UHF stations as possible over January 2021. This year, the contest manager is looking to increase interest in this long running contest.

It's a DX contest where points are awarded for distances worked; there are also band multipliers to encourage activity on higher bands. Stations in New Zealand have been frequently worked and logged and in 2012, Bob ZL3TY, was the first New Zealand station to win the contest.

Stations outside VK such as in New Zealand, Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and other countries, are encouraged to enter a log and obtain a score. Contacts don't have to only be with Australian stations; they are only a matter of DX and tropospheric propagation.

For more information about the Ross Hull VHF UHF Memorial Contest, visit the contest page on the WIA website. You don't need to be a WIA member to take part; all you have to do is make contacts, have fun and enjoy our hobby.

*Rob VK2XIC
Manager, Ross Hull Memorial Contest.*

[contest page <https://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/roshull/>]

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 4th to the 10th of December.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
10cm Flux	96	100	91	90	82	82	82
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	1	4	4	2	4	6	11 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	3	5	1	3	6	7 estimated
T index	30	18	19	18	29	17	6

Solar activity was low from the 4th to the 7th, then very low from the 8th to the 10th. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 4th to the 8th, then quiet to unsettled on the 9th. The 10th saw quiet to active conditions, with the SWS magnetometer recording a weak impulse of 7 nanoTesla, at 0209UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values, except for some enhancement of up to 15%, during local night on the 4th of December.

Now, the forecast for the 11th to the 17th of December;

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

Geomagnetic activity is expected to at quiet, to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values. Mild to moderate depressions are likely from the 11th to the 13th, as a result of the recent increase in geomagnetic activity.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished November, we saw a;

Minimum of 77, Average of 87, and a Maximum of 116
With peak dates from the 5th to the 12th; and the 23rd to the 30th

So far for December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 80, Average of 90, and a Maximum of 109
With peak dates from the 1st to the 6th; and the 20th to the 31st

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

Minimum of 84, Average of 90, and a Maximum of 94
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd; and the 16th to the 27th

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?

Tonight, 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 2m31s

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 File: 16-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

ROTUMA; Tony, 3D2AG is active as 3D2AG/p until mid-January 2021. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres, including 60 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

MAURITANIA; Tom, DL7BO is active as 5T7OO from Nouakchott for the next few days. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres, and possibly 160 and 80 metres, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8.

SENEGAL; Look for a group of operators to be active as 6V1A from Goree Island, IOTA AF-045, from December 18 to 20. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW and SSB.

ZAMBIA; Rob, IK2LON is active as 9J2RD while living in Ndola. Activity is on the HF, VHF and UHF bands using SSB, RTTY and FT8.

SPAIN; Special event station AO50UPC will be active on the HF bands, from December 15 to 30 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

ITALY; Members of the ARI Club of Grosseto are active with special event station IO5CNPP until December 20, in remembrance of the Heroes of Chernobyl.

OGASAWARA; Harry, JG7PSJ will be active as JD1BMH from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, from December 14 to January 9, 2021. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY.

JAN MAYEN; Erik, JX2US has been active on 20 metres CW between 1300 and 1500UTC.

LITHUANIA; Valerijus, LY2QT is active as LY20XMAS during December for the Christmas holiday.

PERU; Members of the Radio Club Peruano are active with special event call OA90O until the end of 2020 to celebrates the club's 90th anniversary.

FINLAND; Special event station OH9SCL is active from Lapland during the month of December.

GREECE; Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Greece are active with special event call SX2500S during December to commemorate the Battle of Salamis. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

AFGHANISTAN; Robert, S53R is active as T6AA from Kabul until December 15. Activity is in his spare time.

MARSHALL ISLANDS; Neil, WD8CRT is active as V73NS from Kwajalein Atoll, IOTA OC-028. Activity is on 20, 17 and 15 metres using CW. His length of stay is unknown.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL 10-Metre Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, TRC Digi Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, ARI 40/80 Contest, International Naval Contest, RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint, QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint, CQC Great Colorado 20-Metre CW Snowshoe Run are all taking place over this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, MWC, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint are scheduled for December 14.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for December 15.

The NAQCC CW Sprint, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray and QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for December 16.

WICEN News

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

The group was recently presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the NSW RFS - Hawkesbury District for the contributions of its radio operators and Incident Management Team at the NSW RFS Hawkesbury Fire Control Centre. This included assisting in coordinating the response to the Gosper Mountain fire during the 2019-20 bushfire season.

WICEN and the St. George Amateur Radio Society are jointly conducting a test of a 70cm FM repeater at Mt. Bindo on the Great Dividing Range. VK2RAH is on 439.875 MHz, with the standard negative 5.0 MHz offset. No CTCSS tone is required or sent. Please "give it a go" and let callback@sgars.org know how it went.

There will be a remote training exercise 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; the main net is at 6pm with a secondary digital voice check-in net at 6:30pm.

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 is planning 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. The exception to this was the Club's 2020 Christmas Party, which was held outdoors, on Saturday the 5th of December.

The club's 2021 50th Anniversary calendar was unveiled and distributed at the party; arrangements are being made to safely hand deliver calendars to the members who were not at the party. Calendars will also be available at the Monthly General Meeting on Saturday the 6th of February 2021.

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. Due to a server failure, it was not available for last Thursday's net, but the server has since been repaired and the VK2RPM EchoLink node is now back on line.

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

Yesterday the club held their annual combined Christmas luncheon with Central Coast WICEN. It was wonderful turnout with plenty of full tummy's all around. The club wishes to thank Karen VK2AKB for arranging the amazing feast.

As discussed at the club's most recent general meeting, the club will be closing for a short period during the festive season with the last operational day of 2020 being Saturday the 19th of December and reopening on Saturday the 9th of January 2021.

The Clubs repeater team have been busy preparing for the rollout of a new DMR repeater for the Central Coast Region, in conjunction with the ARNSW Radio Network Group. It might be a good time to update your DMR Codeplugs; program in 438.850 MHz with 7MHz offset, and VK-DMR talk groups.

The Club is well underway with planning for the 2021 Wyong Field Day. If you are a trader interested in attending or are looking to sell goods at the car boot sale and would like to register or obtain further information, please email fieldday@ccarc.org.au.

Lock in the date –Sunday the 28th of February 2021. The event is subject to public health directives and updates will be provided as progress continues. There will be more updates on the Club's website, and here on VK2WI News.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was facilitated by Alan VK2MG, on the topic of *"If you were in charge, what would you do to showcase Amateur Radio to the masses?"* This brought some great conversations and creative ideas of engaging and branching out to the community. A huge thanks to all those that participated.

If you interested in Packet Radio, remember that the Club has a digipeater VK2RAG-1 which connects to VK2EHQ and a 2metre Winlink gateway VK2EHQ-3. It is available via 147.6MHz.

Today marks day 254 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, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Last weekend saw licence training and assessments at the at the Clubhouse, attended by Caleb and Brendan. Both candidates successfully completed and passed the theoretical and practical assessment. Well done!

Also, two new members have joined, Brendan Moss VK2BRM and Jordan Woolley VK2JJW.

The club also held its annual Christmas party last Friday evening at Glenbrook. A total of 12 members enjoyed their own snacks along with complementary sausage sizzle. Thank you to cook, Stephen VK2YE for a job well done!

There was also an informal discussion amongst the committee members about potential activities in 2021 with easing Covid restrictions. The committee is very much excited to make 2021 a memorable year.

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.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

As work continues on refurbishment of the Scout Hall, on-site activities are currently suspended. With the constantly changing situation with Covid over the last few months, it was decided not to hold a Christmas party or dinner this year. Consequently, the normal monthly meeting will be held this coming Wednesday on Zoom; see club email for details.

Working bee days are currently Wednesdays, as a few members meet in the Club Rose Bay bistro for lunch. They may also be available on Zoom.

The next project day will be on Saturday January 2nd 2021, on Zoom, commencing at 1:30 pm through to 4 or 5 pm. The next Morse code group meeting is scheduled for January 3rd.

Shack nights continue on Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of the month; with the next one on January 6th. The next meeting of the digital special interest group is scheduled for January 12th from 7:30pm on Zoom.

The first foundation weekend for 2021 has been scheduled for February 13th and 14th, subject to availability of the clubhouse. There will be further updates here on VK2WI News.

The society is once again planning to hit Tooraweenah for the John Moyle contest weekend next year. There has also been a fair amount of contest activity at the Robertson site with several members involved; see the website for details and photos.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually run by Richard VK2XRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets.

There is full information about the Society on the website at <http://vk2bv.org>. You can purchase kits, pay membership or use the contact form on the website to contact the society.

The society would like to wish all its members and friends a merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, etc... as well as a Happy and Covid-free 2021. Stay safe.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

A BBQ is being planned for Tuesday the 12 of January, the venue will be advised shortly.

The next general meeting at Mt Colah is planned February the 23rd. An informal meeting is being planned for February the 8th.

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 throughout the holidays, including on the 25th of December. 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.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities and arrangements for meetings, including the Covid Safety plan, and 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.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

[Play ID File: 18-E-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 and 53.875MHz.

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 Thursdays on VK2RFG, 438.65MHz with - 7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone required, also on Echolink.

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.