

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 first training weekend for ARNSW Education, originally scheduled for mid-March, has been postponed until the end of the month. Bookings for this weekend can be accepted until Friday this week; please contact team by email to education@arnsw.org.au for further details.

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 items, just the details of the activity and contacts. We would also welcome reports on the outcome of recent group activities, which we can report to our listeners.

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 services are available 24 hours a day; and are a free call from most telephone services.

Once again this week, we welcome listeners on the EchoLink “HAM” conference, and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network. Callbacks will also be taken tonight on the network after the bulletin. Our thanks to John VK3HJQ and the Australian & New Zealand EchoLink Network team, for making this relay available to VK2WI News.

ARNSW Elections

The next Annual General Meeting of Amateur Radio New South Wales is on Saturday the 17th of April 2021.

Nominations are open for eligible members who wish to nominate to be a director on the ARNSW Board. Five positions will up for re-election at this AGM, for a two-year term until the AGM in 2023.

Forms are available on the website, arnsw.org.au, or from the office.

Nominations close at midday on Saturday 6th of March.

*Peter VK2EMU
Returning Officer*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 19th to the 25th of February.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
10cm Flux	73	76	75	76	78	81	80
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	0	0	18	13	10	16	12 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	15	13	10	7	12	6 estimated
T index	-5	-16	+2	+3	12	3	-9

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to active levels from the 19th to the 21st, quiet to unsettled on the 22nd and 23rd, quiet to active again on the 24th, before returning to quiet to unsettled conditions on the 25th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values, with some periods of depressions. Depression of 25% after local dawn and 15% during local day on the 19th; depression of 25% during the day and 20% during local night of the 20th; 15% depressed during local day on the on the 21st; 15% depressed during the day and 20% after local dawn on the 24th; and 25% depressed during day and 20% during the night, of the 25th.

Now, the forecast for the 26th of February to the 4th of March;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity should be at quiet to unsettled levels, with active conditions possible on the 1st and 2nd of March.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should mostly be near predicted monthly values, with some mild to moderate depressions possible on the 1st and 2nd of March.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

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

Having finished January, we saw a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 76, and a Maximum of 82
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th; and the 17th to the 26th

On the last day of February, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 74, and a Maximum of 81
With peak dates from the 21st to the 28th.

And looking ahead to March, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 73, and a Maximum of 80
With peak dates from the 1st to the 8th; and the 24th 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?

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 2m12s

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

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; several special event stations are active to celebrate Kuwait National and Liberation Day. Look for stations A60KWT, and A60KWT/0 to /13 to be active until February 28.

GERMANY; Special event stations DQ100JL and DR100JL will be active from March 1 to May 31 to commemorate the founding 100 years ago of Junkers Luftverkehr, an early airline in Germany.

MARTINIQUE, FM. Romanic, W7ROM is active as FM4WDM from Le Morne-Vert. Activity is on 15 metres using FT8.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Special event station D90EXPO will be active from March 1 to October 17 to promote the 2021 World Military Culture Expo that will take place in the city of Gyeryong in October.

SARDINIA; Special event station IIOQSE will be active from Quartu Sant'Elena, IOTA EU-024, until June 30 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the local branch of the ARI.

ST. LUCIA; Operators K9HZ, W0CN and WA4PGM will be active as J68HZ, J68CN, and J68PG, respectively, from March 2 to 11. This includes being active as J68HZ as a Multi/Single/High Power entry in the upcoming ARRL International SSB DX contest.

WAKE ISLAND; Thomas, NL7RR is active as KH9/NL7RR until April 2. Activity is in his spare time on 40 and 20 metres using SSB.

ARGENTINA; Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano are active as LU4AAO, LU4AAO/A and LU4AAO/D until March 1 to commemorate the club's 53rd anniversary. Activity is on the HF, VHF and UHF bands using CW, SSB, SSTV and FT8.

CURACAO; Operators N1ZZ, AF4Z, WB5ZGA and K4JC will be active as PJ2/home calls from March 1 to 9. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and possibly FT8. They plan to be active as PJ2T in the upcoming ARRL International SSB DX contest.

ST. MAARTEN; Thomas, AA9A will be active as PJ7AA until March 28. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

GREECE; Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Western Peloponnese will be active with special call signs SZ21AD, SZ21GK, SZ21LB, SZ21PF, SZ21TK and SZ1821P from March 1 to 31 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Revolution of 1821.

AUSTRALIA; Special event stations VI100AF and VK100AF will be active from March 1 to May 29, and March 1 to August 31, respectively, to commemorate the founding of the Royal Australian Air Force 100 years ago.

CAMBODIA; Tad, JA1DFK is active as XU7AKU. Activity is on the HF bands, and possibly 6 metres, using CW.

INDONESIA; Heru, YG8VAS is now active from Ternate Island, IOTA OC-145. Activity of late has been on 80 and 40 metres using SSB.

SOUTH SUDAN; Massimo, IZ0EGB is active as Z81B from Juba while working there. Activity is generally in his spare time on 20 metres using SSB. His length of stay is unknown.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ 160-Metre SSB Contest, North American RTTY Party, North American Collegiate RTTY Championship, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, REF SSB Contest, FT4 DX Contest, UBA DX CW test, South Carolina QSO Party, Classic CW Exchange, High Speed Club CW Contest and North Carolina QSO Party are all on over this weekend.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and OK1WC CW Memorial are scheduled for March 1.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint, ARS Spartan CW Sprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for March 2.

The UKEICC 80-Metre SSB Contest, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, CWops Mini-CWT Test, Phone Fray, and the 40-Metre QRP CW Fox Hunt are scheduled for March 3.

WICEN News

WICEN is providing support for Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events. NSW walks are planned for the Hunter on the 21st of March, with Sydney events in May. These events are ideal for new WICEN members to get hands-on experience in emergency communications. The interstate events will be supported by WICEN ACT, WICEN Victoria and WICEN South Australia.

Upcoming community support events include True Grit 2021 and the Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon.

WICEN weekly voice nets are on Sunday evenings; the main net is at 6pm with a secondary net using DMR voice, at 6:30pm. A digital messaging net using WINLINK and JS8CALL is active Monday evenings.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. The website is at nsw.wicen.org.au. WICEN NSW is also on Facebook; along with an informal, national WICEN page.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club. Their website includes WICEN and general Club information; its at www.crarc.org.au.

WICEN Victoria has a weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30pm, on 3.6MHz. More details on the website at vic.wicen.org.au.

[Messaging software at: <http://js8call.com/> and <http://winlink.org/>]

Club News

We start this week, with news from the HARAOA radio club.

The club is planning a DXpedition for early November 2021, to Willis Island, VK9W, for about 11 days.

Situated about 450km east of Cairns in the Coral Sea, Willis Island is in the top most-wanted DXpedition sites in the world.

If you're interested in this exciting adventure and enjoy working with experienced DX operators; you can send an expression of interest and a request for further information, to Tommy VK2IR via email; vk2ir@vk2ir.com.

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the Club will be the monthly general meeting on Saturday the 6th of March, in the SES Building, Port Macquarie. The meeting will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. The Committee continues to closely monitor the public health situation to ensure that activities comply with restrictions, which may change at short notice.

The club's 2021 50th Anniversary calendar has proven to be very popular, and a few copies are still available.

Now is the time to plan to attend the Club's 2021 annual Field Day. It is on Saturday and Sunday the 12th and 13th of June, during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Please plan and book accommodation early, as the Port Macquarie area is certain to be even more popular than usual this year.

There are two club 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 January 2021 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues can be viewed 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.*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club is planning a car boot sale for Saturday the 27th of March. Its 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
President, Westlakes Amateur Radio Club*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

A reminder about the Club's "Mayham" event, on Sunday the 30th of May 2021 at Wyong Race Course. For those who have attend previous Wyong Field Days, this event will be very similar, but with a new name and new date. If you are looking to attend, be a trader or exhibitor, please email the team at mayham@ccarc.org.au. For the latest news and information regarding this event, please check out the club's website and social media, as well as updates in future VK2WI bulletins.

The latest issue of Club newsletter *Smoke Signals*, was emailed to members earlier in the week. Thanks to editor, Henrick VK2FTDR. Members are encouraged to take a look each month and provide feedback. Henrick is also on the prowl for content; big or small, even just a few sentences and a photo.

The next Monthly general meeting will next week on Saturday the 6th of March in the clubrooms from 1pm. This meeting will also be available online via Google Meet and details will be distributed shortly.

The next education, training and examination session at the Clubrooms is on the 27th and 28th of March. If you are interested in obtaining your licence or upgrading; contact the club's education facilitator Karen VK2AKB, at education@ccarc.org.au.

The Club will be at the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club car boot sale on Saturday the 27th of March, with many items available for purchase.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was hosted Adrian VK2ABS, with a weekly catch up from club members and their adventures. Thank you to Adrian for stepping up and running the net.

Adrian also hosted an SSTV net last Friday however, no stations checked in. Adrian is looking at re-visiting the structure and how often the net is run and would love to hear your feedback, by email to ccarc@ccarc.org.au.

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue the clubs Morning Tea net, with check-ins still coming in strong. A huge thanks go out to Bob and Dave for running the nets, it's greatly appreciated.

Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone. EchoLink and IRLP have now been restored on the repeater.

The club's IT infrastructure upgrade has been successfully completed at the repeater site, with some services migrated over to 44net, a dedicated IP service for Radio Amateurs. The club would like to thank all those involved with the upgrade effort; it is well appreciated.

Club members Jaye VK2FOMG and Brad VK2NMZ will be activating special event callsign VI100AF & VK100AF over the coming weeks via VT8 and SSB contacts, so keep an ear out! The club looking for more operators to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the RAAF, operating portable or otherwise; if you are interested in participating, please contact the Club directly.

You can find out more about the CCARC on the web at ccarc.org.au; or on social media by searching for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club. Remember to give the club a "like" to follow for updates.

Brad VK2NMZ

Vice-President and Publicity, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday the 9th of March. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm; directly after 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, on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD. After turning off Springhill Road into the main entrance road, 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.

At the March meeting, IARS member Mal VK2DXM will be presenting information about the clever beamforming system used by the 5G network. Beamforming uses arrays of multiple antennas to improve directivity and propagation, and is particularly useful in directing transmission and reception of millimetre wavelength signals as used in 5G networks.

The night concludes with coffee, tea and cake in the venue's large foyer, where you can also relax on the very comfortable lounges, while of course 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, including details on upcoming Amateur Radio training and examination activities, 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– its at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 9th of March at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

*Submitted by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The next gathering of the Society is on this Wednesday the 3rd of March. This will be a virtual gathering, with log in details available on the society's website and also sent to members by email.

At this gathering, there will be a brief update on the society's activities and then a presentation by Society president, Cameron VK2CKP.

The ACMA have entered a public consultation period proposing a new licensing regime for the amateur radio service in Australia. Cameron, VK2CKP, will present the options available, some opinions and answer questions and clarifications.

And finally, don't forget the Society's annual summer 2 metre contest ends today, the 28th of February.

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 next meeting of the club will be an informal event on Tuesday the 9th of March. The next formal general meeting will be on the 23rd of March.

Both meetings meeting start at 8pm and are at the Mt Colah Community Centre near the northern end of Pierre Close.

International Marconi Day this year is on the UTC day of the 24th of April, and on the 24th and 25th HADARC will activate the only Australian station, VK2IMD. This station marks the reception of the first direct message from the UK to Australia, sent from north-west Wales, to Fisk's home in Wahroonga, by Marconi.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities, plus contact information and the Covid Safety plan; 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, can be accessed on Allstarlink Node 41646, and on EchoLink VK2RNS-R. No tone is required for access but a 91.5Hz tone is sent.

The Club's three regular nets continue each week. Monday's net starts at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater. 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, an open source audio and video conferencing system. Out-of-town members and visitors are most welcome to participate in any nets via Jitsi or linked repeaters.

*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 VK2AWX News 7:30pm Monday, on 146.9Mhz and 438.025MHz. Meeting net Wednesday 7:30pm on 146.9MHz.

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, Wednesday from 8pm on 3608.5kHz, Friday 9am on 7106kHz. Meeting 23rd at Mt Colah.

Manly-Warringah Meetings return every Wednesday from 7:30pm, net Wednesdays 8pm on 146.875MHz.