

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

Last week saw a licence training and assessment weekend here at VK2WI Dural. Due to current lead time requirements with the examination provider, our next weekend is currently planned for July 10th and 11th; with applications received no later than Friday, the 18th of June. Enquires about training and assessments can be sent to our education team by email, to education@arnsw.org.au.

The ARNSW HF Operations Group operations are currently scheduled for Monday afternoons, continuing into the evening. If you are interested, please email HFgroup@arnsw.org.au for more details.

We 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.

Later in the 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.

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.

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Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 9th to the 15th of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
10cm Flux	78	70	73	83	73	74	72
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	3	5	4	5	7	12 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	2	3	4	4	5	9 estimated
T index	5	5	9	11	12	9	17

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, from the 9th to the 14th, except for some unsettled periods on the 12th. However, the 15th saw active periods, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 8 nanoTesla, at 0649UTC.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, except for some depressions of up to 15%, on the 11th.

Now, the forecast for the 16th to the 22nd of April;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at active levels from the 16th to the 18th, with minor storm periods possible. Quiet to unsettled conditions are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be depressed on the 17th and 18th, otherwise mostly 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 finished March, we saw a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 78 and a Maximum of 84
With peak dates from the 9th to the 17th; and the 23rd to the 28th.

So far for April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 74 and a Maximum of 83
With peak dates from the 8th to the 13th; and the 23rd to the 30th.

And looking ahead to May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 74, and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates from the 1st to the 9th; and the 19th to the 30th.

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.

[Play File: 15-FCAL145.wav]

Duration 2m50s

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

Some special stations are active for the CQMM DX contest this weekend;

ARMENIA; EK6RL will be active

NEW CALEDONIA; FK8IK

SWAZILAND; 3DA0AQ

US VIRGIN ISLANDS; Dan, K8RF will be active as NP2J, as a Single Band/High Power entry on 40 metres.

And in other DX activity for this week;

AZERBAIJAN; Special event station 4J880M is active to commemorate the 880th anniversary of the birth of 12th century Persian Sunni Muslim poet, Nizami Ganjavi.

ISRAEL; Jan, 4X1VF and Ruben, 4Z5FI are active as 4X73T during the Holyland Contest and active from the rare Holyland Square L19BL.

BAHRAIN; Members of the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society are active as A91WARD until April 18 to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day.

CHILE; Members of the Radio Club de Chile will be active as XR3IARU on April 18 to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day.

ENGLAND; Special event station GB0DOE is active until May to honour the memory of the recently deceased Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

HUNGARY; In celebration of the 230th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse, members of Hungary's Radio Amateur Society will be active with special event stations HA230MSE, HA230S, HA230A, HA230M, HA230U, HA230E, HA230L, HA230O, HA230R and HG230MSE, until April 27. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB.

ECUADOR; Members of the Ecuador DX Club will be active as HD1DX and HD2DX on April 17 and 18 commemorate World Amateur Radio Day.

SAUDI ARABIA; Abdulaziz, 7Z1AL is active as HZ1WARD until April 18 to commemorate World Amateur Radio Day. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres using FT8.

JAPAN; Special event station 8N1MORSE is active until February 28, 2022 to celebrate the 230th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F. B. Morse and the 120th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's first successful transatlantic radio communication by Morse Code.

ANTARCTICA; Mark, W5MED is active as KC4USV from McMurdo Station on Ross Island, IOTA AN-011, until October. He is active on 20 metres using SSB and FT8 at various times of the day.

LUXEMBOURG; Special event station LX5WARD is active until April 25 to mark World Amateur Radio Day. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

SEYCHELLES; Members of the Seychelles Amateur Radio Society will be active as S77SARA from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024, on April 18 for World Amateur Radio Day.

GREECE; Juergen, DK3SJ is active as SV8/DK3SJ from Lesbos Island, IOTA EU-049, until April 24. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW and SSB.

FALKLAND ISLANDS; Clint, VP8DKP is usually active on 40 metres using FT8 during his evenings.

INDIA; Special event stations AU8WAR, AT2WAR, and AU2WAR will be active on April 18 to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. Activity will be on the HF bands.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; World Amateur Radio Day, The ARRL SSB Rookie Roundup, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Holyland DX Contest, ES Open HF Championship, Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest, YU DX Contest, CQMM DX CW Contest, VERON PACCdigi Contest, Texas State Parks on the Air, Michigan QSO Party, EA-QRP CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint, Ontario QSO Party and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and OK1WC Memorial are scheduled for April 19. The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for April 20. The 432 MHz Spring Sprint, RSGB 80-Metre Club SSB Championship, CWops Mini-CWT Test and Phone Fray, are scheduled for April 21.

WICEN News

Coming WICEN activities include Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events; in Penrith on the 9th of May and at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on the 23rd of May. Volunteers are still needed for both events, which are an ideal training ground in emergency communications for WICEN members.

The Glow Worm Tunnel Marathon is held in and around Newnes and the Wolgon Valley area in the Blue Mountains, on the weekend of the 18th to the 20th of June.

Last weekend saw a training day for this event, in the form of an on-site radio Survey. Several new WICEN members participated, and we hope the great weather will be repeated for the actual event.

The next training day will be at VK2WI Dural on Sunday the 2nd of May; on the topic of NVIS antennas.

WICEN weekly voice nets are on Sunday evenings, starting at 6pm, on either the Chatswood 2 metre repeater, or the Kurrajong 70cm repeater. Please check the WICEN website for details.

Please note, the Berowra 70cm repeater is temporarily off air.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. The website is at nsw.wicen.org.au.

Membership renewal invoices have been sent out to member's VRA email address. If you have not received your renewal, please contact wicen.treasurer@vrarescue.org.

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.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

The next meeting will be the May Monthly General Meeting at 2 pm on Saturday the 1st of May, in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. The meeting will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. The Committee will continue to closely monitor the public health advice, to ensure that activities comply with current restrictions, which may change at short notice.

The club conducted Foundation training and assessments, this weekend in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. This weekend was fully booked, so those interested in the next training and assessment weekend are requested to contact the Education Officer Larry VK2CLL, at the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

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 March 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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

A reminder that "Mayham" is just six weeks away; Sunday the 30th of May 2021 at Wyong Racecourse. There will be both pedestrian and mobile fox hunt on Saturday the 29th. If you have attended Wyong Field Days in previous years, this event will be familiar; even with a fresh new name and a new date.

The website has just been updated with the current traders and exhibitors who will be attending; for all the latest news you can check the website www.mayham.org.au, as well as updates in future VK2WI bulletins.

The next training and assessment weekend at the Club is on the 29th and 30th of May; training will be at the clubrooms on Saturday, with examinations at Mayham on Sunday. 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 is making a change to repeater operations at VK2RAG, to conserve power coming into the winter months. Between the hours of 10pm and 6am EST, VK2RAG repeaters on 23cm, 6 Meter, 70cm 438.075 MHz including link to Rylstone, MMDVM 438.875 MHz and 2 metre packet will be switched off.

The operation of the VK2RAG 2 metre 146.725 MHz and the 2m and 70cm WICEN repeaters, is not affected. The club's repeater committee will monitor operations and will revisit these changes in the in the future.

Speaking of WICEN, some Central Coast WICEN members are currently assisting in communications for the large Watagan Mountains Endurance Ride event this weekend. Thank you to the members who were able to assist.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was hosted by Alan VK2MG with a discussion about Contesting and do you enjoy it? Some stations spoke about enjoying the chase of rare stations and others were just starting to get into it. Thank you, Alan, for running the net.

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue the clubs daily Morning Tea net; even while many people returning to the workplace, the net is still well attended. A huge thanks to Bob and Dave for running these nets, which represent a stellar effort; having run daily, for over 12 months!

Both nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone. EchoLink access is via the CCARCNSW conference server, and IRLP on node 9509.

The next SSTV net, hosted by Adrian VK2ABS, is coming up on Friday the 23rd at 7:30pm on the VK2RAG WICEN 2 metre Repeater. This fortnight's theme will be Portable Operations, so will be a great opportunity to put a new series of images together. For feedback or suggestions regarding this net, please reach out to the club directly at ccarc@ccarc.org.au.

The club is looking for more operators to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the RAAF. This is a great opportunity to get out on the bands and share in celebrating this momentous occasion, 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.

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St George Amateur Radio Society

The society announces two upcoming events.

Next Sunday sees the 2021 Anzac Day QSO party. Last year, many amateur radio operators not only missed out on catching up with friends at their local club gatherings, but also were not able to attend an ANZAC Day service. To help overcome those restrictions, the St George Amateur Radio Society sponsored a QSO Party on Anzac Day. The event was very popular with many amateurs; local, interstate and overseas.

So, the society has decided to hold the ANZAC Day QSO Party again this year, on Sunday 25th April 2021. The intention of the QSO party is for amateur radio operators to keep in contact on-air with fellow operators, and to recognise the service of many amateur radio operators from both sides of the Tasman Sea, in defending our freedom.

The Anzac Day QSO Party commences at 3pm local Sydney time, and concludes at 9pm. Bands and modes of communication are 40m and 80m SSB, VK2RLE and VK2RDX 2m VHF FM repeaters and the VK DMR network. It is open to all amateur radio operators and a participation certificate is available, recognising the aims of this event. Amateurs are reminded that all VK amateurs can use the AX prefix on ANZAC Day.

Complete operating and participation details are available on Society's web site www.sgars.org.

Recently, the Society lost one of its longest active members, Don Edwards VK2NV. Don was a very keen CW operator, encouraging other amateurs to get out their keys and get on the air with Morse.

In recognition of Don, the inaugural "Don Edwards Memorial slow Morse contest" is on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of May. The contest will be in two sections; 80 metres on Saturday evening from 6pm to 9pm (0800 - 1100 UTC) and 40 metres on Sunday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm (0300 - 0600 UTC). The contest is open to all VK amateurs, and participants can enter either or both sessions.

Many amateurs have rarely ever used Morse code since they passed their exam, or never needed to learn Morse for their licences. This contest is to encourage inexperienced or rusty operators to try their hand or fist at Morse.

For this reason, it is a "Slow Morse contest" with a speed limit of 10 words per minute, no keyboards or screens - all sent by hand and received by ear. To encourage those amateurs who did not need to pass a Morse exam for their licence, they will be able to claim an extra 2 points per session.

So, if you have been looking for an excuse to get out the Morse key, then this is your opportunity.

More details on the contests, along with further information about The St George Amateur Radio Society can be found on the website, at www.sgars.org. The society is also on Facebook.

Peter VK2EMU

Publicity Officer for the St George Amateur Radio Society.

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

A late update from the Society – the next general meeting, this coming Wednesday April the 21st, will be an in-person meeting at Rose Bay.

For more details, check in on the Society's net on Monday night starting at 8pm, on the VK2RBV repeater.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society on the website, vk2bv.org. You can purchase kits, pay membership or get in touch using the contact form on the website.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next general meeting, on April 27th is at the Mt Colah Community Centre, starting at 8pm. At this meeting, Mick VK2CMP will give a presentation on EME or "moonbounce".

International Marconi Day this year is on the UTC day of the 24th of April; so next weekend HADARC will activate the only Australian station, VK2IMD, from 10am local time Saturday, until 10am Sunday. Operation is on a range of HF bands. Details are on the HADARC website.

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, is connected to Allstarlink and is available on EchoLink.

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.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

... and just an update; as some listeners may know, Julian broke an ankle, in an accident a few weeks ago. We are pleased to report that he is now recovering at home, albeit with some additional equipment still attached. All of our best wishes for a speedy recovery, and we hope to hear you on air soon.

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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; Echolink *CCARCNSW*. SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz.

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.

Manly-Warringah Meetings return every Wednesday from 7:30pm.