

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

The ARNSW HF Operations Group operations are currently scheduled for Monday afternoons, continuing into the evening, operating club station VK2AWI. If you are interested, please email [HFgroup@arnsw.org.au](mailto:HFgroup@arnsw.org.au) for more details.

A reminder about the ARNSW Library, which has a large collection of reference materials, with a collection that continues to grow. If you are looking for something in particular, or would like to get involved, you can contact the group by email to [library@arnsw.org.au](mailto:library@arnsw.org.au).

The next scheduled licence training and assessment weekend is currently planned for July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Due to current protracted lead times from the examination provider, bookings must in no later than Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of June. Enquires about training and assessments can be sent to our education team by email, to [education@arnsw.org.au](mailto:education@arnsw.org.au).

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](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
10cm Flux	77	75	78	86	80	78	84
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	15	20	13	15	10	7	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	13	18	15	12	10	5	3 estimated
T index	14	23	24	25	22	15	15

Solar activity was very low from the 16<sup>th</sup> until the 19<sup>th</sup>. The 20<sup>th</sup> saw moderate activity with an M1.0 flare at 2344UTC. Activity returned to low levels on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to active levels, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, quiet to unsettled on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and quiet on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, started out near predicted monthly values. Depression of 25% was observed after local dawn on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The 17<sup>th</sup> saw depression of 30% during the local day before turning around to 25% enhancement during local night. The 18<sup>th</sup> was enhanced 15% during local night, before frequencies then returned to predicted monthly values.

Now, the forecast for the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of April;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with quiet to unsettled with isolated active periods on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; active periods on the 24<sup>th</sup>; and Unsettled to active conditions, with the possibility of some minor storm, periods on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, with minor to moderate depression expected on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Frequencies otherwise should be 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 9<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>; and the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>.

So far for April, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 77 and a Maximum of 86  
With peak dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

And looking ahead to May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 68, Average of 72, and a Maximum of 78  
With peak dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

*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 2m53s*

*In: "What use is an F-call?"*

*Out: "I'm Onno VK6FLAB"*

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For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; [vk6flab.com](http://vk6flab.com), or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

## **ARRL DX news**

**BELARUS;** Special event station EV76F is active as part of the Brest Hero-Fortress memorial station in honour of the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II.

**VATICAN;** Special event station HV9SMG will be active April 24 from the Vatican Radio Broadcasting Centre at Santa Maria di Galeria. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

**JAPAN;** Members of the A1 and Denpaken clubs are active with special event call sign 8N1MORSE until the end of 2022 to celebrate Samuel Morse's 230<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Marconi's first transatlantic transmission.

**MONGOLIA;** Members of the JTDXA Team are active with special event call sign JU100DX to commemorate the 100 years since the Mongolian People's Revolution.

**SVALBARD;** Tom, LA6VDA will be active as JW6VDA from Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, from April 26 to May 9. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB.

**POLAND;** Members of the Niepolomice Radio Club are active with special event call sign SN0IMED from the European Bison Breeding Centre in Puszcza Niepolomicka until April 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Earth Day.

**GREECE;** Special event station SZ200P is active until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821.

**SOMALIA;** Ali, EP3CQ will be active as 6O1OO from Mogadishu for two months beginning on April 25. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mostly FT8.

**KALININGRAD;** Special call signs RK75AK, RK75FF, and RK75FU are active until July 31 to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kaliningrad.

**MEXICO;** Members of the Asociacion de Radio Aficionados de la Republica Mexicana are active with special event calls 6D1A, 6D2A, and 6D3A until May 16 to celebrate the club's 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed Test, 10-10 International Spring Digital Contest, QRP to the Field, SP DX RTTY Contest, International Marconi Day, Helvetia Contest, VHF SSB/CW 2-Metre Sprint Classic, Florida QSO Party, UA1DZ Memorial Cup and BARTG Sprint 75 are all on over this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, QCX CW Challenge and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for April 26.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for April 27.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, UKEICC 80-Metre CW Contest, Phone Fray and SKCC Sprint are scheduled for April 28.

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## WICEN News

Coming WICEN activities include Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog events; in Penrith on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May and at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 next Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://vic.wicen.org.au).

## 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, 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.

Today, the club is commissioning its new VK2RCN DMR repeater at Telegraph Point, on 438.425MHz. This repeater is part of RadNet, supported by the ARNSW Radio Network group, and will provide DMR coverage to the Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Camden Haven areas. The analog/C4FM Fusion repeater, previously on 438.425 MHz, is temporarily out of service until a new frequency is assigned.

The club conducted a successful Foundation training course and license assessment session last weekend, with the three candidates now looking forward to receiving their results.

Now is the time to plan to attend the Club's 2021 annual Field Day. It is on Saturday and Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

The Club regretfully advises of the passing of Alex Lee VK2HAT.

Alex was a kind, generous, compassionate and very well-respected member of the local community. He was a talented and clever professional, he also was very giving of his time to many deserving endeavours, to anyone in need. Alex was a key piece in the forming and creation of a major communications business on the Central Coast, and a dear friend to us all. The Club shares their condolences with the family and friends of Alex.

A Service will be held in Wyong next week; please contact the Club directly for details. Vale Alex, VK2HAT.

A reminder that "Mayham" is now five weeks away; Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 at Wyong Racecourse. There will be both pedestrian and mobile fox hunt on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>. 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. For those are looking to attend, be a trader or exhibitor, please email the team at [mayham@ccarc.org.au](mailto:mayham@ccarc.org.au).

The website has an up to date list of traders and exhibitors who will be attending; for all the latest news, check the website [www.mayham.org.au](http://www.mayham.org.au), as well as updates in future VK2WI bulletins.

A reminder for members that the next business meeting is scheduled for next Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, at the Clubrooms starting at 1pm. Online meeting links will be distributed soon.

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, the only VK2RAG repeaters operating will be 2 metre 146.725 MHz and the WICEN repeaters on 2m 147.125 MHz and 70cm 438.8MHz.

Speaking of WICEN; last week, Central Coast WICEN members assisted with communications for the Watagan Mountains Endurance Ride event. The only casualty reported was a member's exhaust pipe that decided to detach itself. Thank you to the members who were able to assist.

The Club's Thursday evening net this week was hosted by Brad VK2NMZ with an open discussion about New toys and what have you purchased lately? Some members spoke about new Yaesu HF radios arriving, Antenna Matchers and comparing performances of the units and components to complete a kit build. It's great to see that many are still getting out there and experimenting with new things. Thank you, Brad, 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.

Adrian VK2ABS hosted an SSTV net last Friday, the theme was Portable Operations. Many stations shared images of getting out and about which was fantastic to see. The next net will be at 7:30pm on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, on the 2m WICEN repeater 147.125MHz. For feedback or suggestions regarding this net, contact the club directly at [ccarc@ccarc.org.au](mailto:ccarc@ccarc.org.au).

The club is looking for more operators to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 AX2NMZ*

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

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## Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Yesterday, club members James VK2GOH, Jan VK2FEB and Robin VK2HRG assisted with running amateur radio activities with the Scouting Association. The activities involved using amateur radio to assemble a tanagram, connecting different parts of a radio together and a table for practicing morse code.

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> May. The official positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Committee members are available, along with the 3 non-official roles of Education Officer, Technical Manager, Publicity Officer and Repeater Manager. Members who would like to be on the committee for 2021 to 2022 should start thinking about what roles they would like to have.

Members not seeking a role are also encouraged to come along and see how the process works. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the clubhouse in Glenbrook and will conclude with a sausage sizzle at the end of the meeting.

Standard and Advanced licence upgrade courses continue Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm, at the clubhouse. Foundation or Standard Licence holders are encouraged to come these very informative courses. A gold coin donation is requested, to go towards the tea and coffee served during the night. An exam will be scheduled toward the end of the school year.

The clubhouse is now open every first and third Saturday from 10am, providing an opportunity for visitors to seek assistance with personal projects, take part in maintenance of clubhouse facilities or just to say hello over a cup of tea and biscuits.

On air nets continue weekly; on 80 metres from 8pm Tuesday evenings, on 3543 kHz, on Wednesday night from 8pm, on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access, and on the 6 metre repeater, 53.875MHz.

More information about the club can be found on the website, at [www.bmarc.org](http://www.bmarc.org).

*73 from James VK2GOH  
Publicity Officer, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club.*

## Sydney ATV Group

The Sydney ATV group has two nets; Thursday afternoon starting at 2:30pm, and Monday nights from 7pm.

The Blue Mountains ATV repeater at Lawson transmits high definition TV on 445.50MHz, with analogue and digital inputs on 23cm. Reception is possible over the Sydney Metro area, or via the British Amateur TV Club streaming web site; select the VK2 callsign and the HTML5 option. You can also text to say that you're watching.

We regularly have technical talks, show our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call on the Lawson repeater, 147.325 MHz with positive offset, with reports, questions or help with receiving Amateur Television. Why not join in and find out more about this fascinating and fast-growing aspect of digital amateur radio.

*Advised by John VK2ATU  
on behalf of the Sydney ATV Group.*

## St George Amateur Radio Society

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; it started at 3pm local time today and will conclude at 9pm tonight.

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.

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](http://www.sgars.org).

The next meeting of the St. George Amateur Radio Society will be on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. Currently plans are for it to be an in person meeting back at the usual venue of the Sea Scout's hall in Donnelly Park at Kyle Bay - however this may change. More details on next Sunday's broadcast.

The first meeting of the St. George Amateur Radio Society was held in May 1971 and the Society has obtained the special event callsign of VI50SG until the end of 2021.

*Peter VK2EMU*

*Publicity Officer for the St George Amateur Radio Society.*

## Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

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

For those who worked VK2IMD yesterday or this morning, QSLs can be obtained by including a Stamped Self Addressed Envelope to:

VK2IMD HADARC  
PO Box 707  
Cherrybrook NSW 2126

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](http://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.*

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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.