

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 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.

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.

[Play File: 14-E-ID1.wav]

US Licence examinations

The VEA team is planning a US licence exam at the CCARC Mayham event at Wyong, on May the 30th.

This may be the last opportunity to get a US licence before the US\$35 licence fee kicks in.

For more information, or to register your interest, please contact the team via the website, vea.org.au.

Submitted by Julian VK2YJS (and AG6LE)

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 30th of April to the 6th of May.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
10cm Flux	73	72	72	72	70	70	71
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	6	12	6	5	3	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	4	7	3	2	0	1 estimated
T index	11	10	19	13	9	9	6

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels all week, except for some unsettled periods on the 2nd of May.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, mostly remained near predicted monthly values, except for some enhancement of 25%, that was observed during local night on the 2nd.

Now, the forecast for the 7th to the 13th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with possible active periods on the 12th and 13th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may have minor to moderate depression on the 13th, otherwise ranging from mildly depressed to 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 April, we saw a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 76 and a Maximum of 86
With peak dates from the 19th to the 30th.

So far for May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 74 and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 13th to the 25th

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 75, and a Maximum of 79
With peak dates from the 11th to the 18th.

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>]

Space Weather Summary for April 2021

Compiled with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was mostly very low to low; moderate activity was observed on the 19th of April when active region 2816 produced an M1.1 flare at 2342 UTC with associated type II, III and IV radio sweeps. There were numerous C-class flares between the 20th and 23rd, from AR 2816 and 2817, the largest being a C8.5 at 2011 UTC on the 22nd April from AR 2817, which was located on the northwest limb at the time. A weak CME from a prominence eruption on the northwest limb on may have caused an elevation in solar wind parameters on 14th and 15th. There was a non-Earth directed CME associated with the M1.1 flare on the 19th; an Earth directed CME occurred with a C3.8 flare and type II and IV sweeps, from AR2816 on the 22nd at 0435 UTC, arriving at Earth at 2220 UTC on the 24th, mildly elevating solar wind parameters in the first half of the 25th. Coronal hole wind streams resulted in mild to moderate elevations in solar wind parameters on the 5th, 7th, 8th, 16th to the 20th, and the 23rd of April.

Mild geomagnetic activity occurred on the 7th, 15th, 16th, 19th, 20th and 23rd to the 25th of April. The strongest disturbance was on the 17th with an Australian region A index of 18. Coronal hole wind streams caused active periods on the 7th, 16th to the 20th, and the 23rd. A CME launched on the 22nd produced active conditions on the 25th. Weak sudden impulses were observed; 8 nanoTesla on the 15th at 0649UTC, and 6 nanoTesla on the 24th at 0310 UTC.

No significant region wide depressions in the Maximum Usable Frequencies (MUFs) were observed in April; the largest depression in the Southern Australian regio was observed on the 17th, with MUFs 25% below predicted monthly values. The development of a number of solar sunspot groups increased background solar flux levels in the second half of the month, with higher MUFs being observed then.

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 1m57s

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

NIGER; Adrien, F4IHM will be active as 5UAIHM from Niamey from May 10 to June 15. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres using CW.

MOROCCO; Stations in Morocco can use the special prefix CN18 until May 10 to celebrate the 18th birthday of Morocco's Crown Prince Moulay Hassan.

GERMANY; Special call sign DL65ESSEN is active until December 31 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the DARC's Ortsverband Essen.

SPAIN; Members of the URE club Cullera and of Les Basores DX group will be active as AN5ITU until May 23 to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the ITU. Activity is on the HF and V/UHF bands, and Satellite QO-100, using CW, SSB, RTTY and other digital modes.

FRANCE; Michel, F8GGZ and Serge, F6HFI are active with special event call sign TM200NB until May 15 to commemorate the death 200 years ago of Napoleon Bonaparte.

GUERNSEY; Members of the Guernsey Amateur Radio Society will be active as GB5LIB until May 14 to celebrate the liberation of Guernsey. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres and Satellite QO-100.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Special call signs HL41GDM and D73M are active until May 31 to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the Gwangju Uprising, also known as the Gwangju Democratization Movement.

JAPAN; Special event stations 8N1OLP, 8N2OLP, 8N3OLP, 8N4OLP, 8N5OLP, 8N6OLP, 8N7OLP, 8N8OLP, 8N9OLP and 8N0OLP are active until September 5 for the World Olympic and Paralympic Games.

LITHUANIA; Members of the Lithuanian Radio Sports Federation are active with special call sign LY57BC during May to promote and participate in the 57th edition of the Baltic Contest.

PERU; Special event call sign OC200P is active during May to celebrate the Bicentennial of the independence of the Republic of Peru. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

BELGIUM; Members of the radio club Noord Oost Limburg are active with special call sign OR40NOL until the end of 2021 to celebrate the club's 40th anniversary.

NETHERLANDS; Special event station PD21EUROSONG will be active until May 22 to bring attention to the 2021 Eurovision Song Contest taking place in Rotterdam.

SWEDEN; Members of the Hisingens Radio Club are active with special call sign SE400G until July 31 during the celebration of Gothenburg City's 400th anniversary. Activity is on various HF bands and modes.

TURKEY; Special event station TC568FA is active until June 28 to commemorate the conquest of Istanbul in 1453. Activity is on 160 to 2 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

SOUTH SUDAN; Sigfrido, IW9FMD is active as Z81S while working with the United Nations Mission. Activity is in his spare time. He has been active on 15 metres SSB so far.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The CQ-M International DX Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest, VOLTA World Wide RTTY Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Arkansas QSO Party, 50 MHz Spring Sprint and WAB 7 MHz Phone Contest are all on this weekend.

The OK1WC Memorial, RSGB 80-Metre Club SSB Championship, 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for May 10.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for May 11.

The VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for May 12.

WICEN News

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; if you are interested in participating, please contact wicen.ops@vrarescue.org.

The Dementia Australia Memory Walk in Penrith was on this morning; the next event is at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, on the 23rd. Volunteers are still needed for this event; which is an ideal training ground in emergency communications for WICEN members.

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 currently off air.

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

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.

Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting will be the May Friday night get-together, at 7pm on the 21st 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.

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; that's only six weeks away. Please book accommodation as soon as you can, as the Port Macquarie area is proving to be even more popular than usual this year. Note that it is possible to camp on site at the Wauchope Showground, but only a small number of sites are available; booking details are on the Wauchope Show Society website.

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 May 2021 issue is in preparation and will be published soon. 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

A reminder that “Mayham” is now only three weeks away; Sunday the 30th of May 2021 at Wyong Racecourse. There will be a raffle for attendees, with a great line up of prizes; including a First Prize of an Icom IC-705, second prize an Anytone AT-578 and Third prize is the Anytone AT-D878. Tickets will be available for purchase on the day.

On Saturday the 29th, there will be both pedestrian and mobile fox hunts plus an informal dinner in the evening. If you have attended Wyong Field Days in previous years, the 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.

The website has an up to date list of pricing, as well as confirmed traders and exhibitors. For all the latest news, 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 has changed 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.

For those digitally inclined, A reminder that the Central Coast has a VKDMR repeater in conjunction with ARNSW Radnet, available on 438.850MHz.

There was no Thursday evening net this week due to some calendar clashes, but it will return next week.

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 nearly 13 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, will be at 7:30pm on Friday the 21st 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.

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.

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is on this Tuesday the 11th of May. 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, 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 Tuesday's meeting, IARS member Rob VK2MT will be presenting and discussing the Society's repeaters and sites. Rob has been helping to build and maintain the Society's repeaters for several decades and will have lots of photos and videos to share, so the presentation should be quite interesting.

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 ever-changing physical distancing requirements.

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—at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 11th of May, at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, Springhill Road, Wollongong.

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

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.*

Amateur Radio Repeater Group

The Group's next 2m Fox Hunt is coming up on Sunday the 23rd of May. Like previous hunts, the fox is somewhere along the M5 Corridor, south from Crossroads towards Campbelltown. The fox will be hidden in a public space, park or bushland; hidden down low, up high, or perhaps somewhere in between.

Co-ordination starts from around 8am on the Fisher's Ghost 70cm Repeater VK2RFG; which is on 438.650MHz with a negative 7MHz offset and 91.5Hz tone required. The fox is on 145.3MHz FM.

It's not a race, it's a bit of FUN to exercise your Amateur Radio Direction Finding skills and we would love to see more people come along and have some fun.

For more information and further updates, visit the group's website at www.arrg.club.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting will be an informal mid-monthly gathering on Tuesday the 11th of May starting at 8pm. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, which is roughly 55 metres away from the railway station of the same name – just look for the big illuminated letter “T”.

The Annual General Meeting will be on May 25th, also at this venue.

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.*

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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.