

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 7th to the 13th of May.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th
10cm Flux	75	76	76	77	76	75	75
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	3	4	6	8	4	25	7 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	0	1	1	5	0	25	5 estimated
T index	2	3	1	8	14	10	27

Solar activity was moderate on the 7th, with an M3.9 flare at 1940UTC. Activity was low on the 8th, 9th and 13th, and very low otherwise.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 7th to the 11th, except for some unsettled periods on the 10th. The 12th then reached Major storm levels, with SWS magnetometer data showing a weak impulse of 25 nanoTesla at 0638UTC, and a weak impulse of 14 nanoTesla at 0949UTC. The 13th returned to quiet levels.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, varied quite a bit. Some depressions were observed during local daylight hours; 15% on the 8th, 20% on the 9th, 15% on the 10th and the 12th. At the same time, local nights showed enhancements in frequencies; 15% on the 8th and 9th, 30% on the 10th, 20% on the 11th, and 30% on the 12th and 13th.

Now, the forecast for the 14th to the 20th of May;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity may reach unsettled to active levels on the 16th and 17th, if the CME observed on May the 13th arrives. Mostly quiet to unsettled conditions are expected otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 17th to the 30th.

So far for May, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 74 and a Maximum of 80
With peak dates from the 8th to the 20th; and the 24th to the 27th

And looking ahead to June, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 70, Average of 76 and a Maximum of 84
With peak dates from the 11th to the 23rd.

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-FCAL140.wav]

Duration 1m32s

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.

ARRL DX news

ARGENTINA; Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano will be active as LU4AAO, LU4AAO/A and LU4AAO/D from May 18th to 25th to commemorate the anniversary related to the independence of Argentina. Activity will be on the HF and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, SSTV and FT8.

AUSTRIA; Special event station OE60VHSC is active until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club.

DENMARK; Special event station OZ60VHSC is active until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club.

NETHERLANDS; Special call sign PD21EUROSONG is active until May 22nd, to celebrate the 65th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest being held in Rotterdam. In addition, special event stations PA60VHSC and PH60VHSC are active until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club.

CRETE; Station DD1GG will be active as SV9/DD1GG until May 24. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using SSB and FT8.

TURKEY; Special event station TC568FA is active until June 28 to commemorate the anniversary of the Fall of Constantinople on May 29, 1453. Activity is on all bands and modes.

BENIN; Ian, ZS6JSI is active as TY5AB. Activity has been on 20 metres using FT8.

AUSTRALIA; Special event station VI50SG is active until December 31 to commemorate the 50 years of the St. George Amateur Radio Society.

VENEZUELA; Special event station YW200BC is active during 2021 to commemorate the Battle of Carabobo 200 years ago, which paved the way for Venezuela's independence. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes.

MACEDONIA; Special event station Z360VHSC is active until June 7 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Very High Speed Club.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Kazakhstan DX Contest, NZART Sangster Shield Contest, His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Feld Hell Sprint, FISTS Sunday Sprint and Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest are all on this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and OK1WC Memorial are scheduled for May 17.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are scheduled for May 18.

The RSGB 80-Metre Club Data Championship, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for May 19.

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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 next Dementia Australia Memory Walk is at Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield, next Sunday the 23rd.

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.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

A reminder that “Mayham” is now only two 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 here on 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, the DMR repeater on 438.85MHz which is also part of ARNSW RadNet, and the WICEN repeaters on 2m 147.125 MHz and 70cm 438.8MHz.

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.

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 have run daily, for 14 months – just over 7 dog years! An amazing effort.

Club 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 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.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Last Saturday, due to the current COVID-19 situation, instead of the proposed Annual General Meeting, the club had a radio sales auction which was well attended. This followed with a sausage sizzle afterwards. Further details regarding the Annual General Meeting will be announced in the future.

The following official positions are open to members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Ordinary Committee member positions. In addition, there are 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 next Foundation Licence training will be on the weekend of June 12th and 13th. For more information, or to book for the licence weekend; contact the Blue Mountains ARC Secretary, Irene VK2VAN – her email address is secretary@bmarc.org.

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.

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

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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 next 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.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society

Monthly lectures are finally back! This coming Wednesday the 19th, guest speaker is Simone Douglas, Professor of Photography at "The New School, Parsons" School of Design in New York City. She will speak about her upcoming multidisciplinary art/science project, called "Ice Boat", at Broken Hill.

As the name suggests, the Ice Boat will take the form of a 35-metre-long boat of ice, built on the bed of a prehistoric Australian ocean that is visible from Earth orbit. As the Ice Boat melts over the course of a month, it will tilt towards the Sun, following its arc across the sky, and will re-form into a "sea" of water.

The Ice Boat project involves the local Land Council, the wider outback community, scientists and engineers, and will be built and powered with sustainable materials and technologies.

Find out more about this fascinating project on Wednesday. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

[Professor Douglas' profile:

<https://www.newschool.edu/parsons/faculty/simone-douglas/>]

On Saturday 5 June, the Society will be hosting its "Sale of the (Last) Century" auction. On offer will be "Interesting Museum Quality Items, Collectibles, Valves, Early Light Globes, Silent key Transceivers and more." The catalogue of auction items will be available shortly on the Society's website, at mwrs.org.au. There's also a short teaser video of the items to be auctioned. More info closer to the event.

The Manly-Warringah Radio Society meets every Wednesday evening at the First Terrey Hills Guides Hall, Beltana Avenue, Terrey Hills. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. If you need directions, call in on the club's 2 metre repeater on 146.875, or check the web site for details. The web site again is at mwrs.org.au.

73 and stay COVID-safe everyone!

*Richard VK2SKY
MWRS Publicity Officer.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

On Monday evening April 26th, the society facilitated a school contact with the ISS at the St. Scholastica School in Glebe. This was accomplished via telebridge through Shane VK4KHZ and Jan ON4ISS who was the ground station for the ISS. Quite a few questions were asked by the girls at the school with some of them quite deep and interesting. The club congratulates Tony VK2KZ who was instrumental in organising the contact over the last several years and moderated it at the school on the night. Several other members including the president were in attendance. There is a news item on the website, which includes a list of the questions asked. Congratulations to all involved.

[item at <https://vk2bv.org/home/general-information/latest-news/>]

A small, intrepid group of members went to Tooraweenah for the John Moyle weekend in March. Due to the current mouse plague in the area, they were unable to use the top of the hill where they usually work but instead used the shearing shed back at the homestead area. A fun weekend was had by those attending.

The Society's education team provided several assessors and admin for the ARNSW foundation and assessment weekend in April whilst their lead, Bob VK2TG was in hospital. They wish Bob a speedy recovery. Preparations are in hand for the next ARNSW event over the weekend of July 10th & 11th. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the ARNSW team at education@arnsw.org.au. Local courses will resume at the Rose Bay clubhouse as soon as the premises are again available.

With the clubhouse still unavailable for in person meetings, the next meeting of the Society, at 7:30pm this coming Wednesday, May the 19th, will once again be on Zoom. The June meeting and AGM, is likely to again be a virtual meeting, due to ongoing issues with access to the hall.

Working bee Tuesdays are still being held on Wednesdays, so those involved can meet in the Club Rose Bay bistro for lunch, which isn't open on a Tuesday. They are generally there from about midday to 2:30 or 3 pm.

Most other activities are being held on Zoom until we can get back into our meeting rooms. Scheduled dates for June are project day on 5th, shack night on 2nd, Morse group on 6th, digital group on 8th and, of course, the monthly meeting on 16th.

The Society's weekly net is from 8pm on Monday night, on the VK2RBV repeater. It is usually run by Richard VK2XRC or Bob VK2NRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets.

There is full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, and its history, 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

Coming up is the Club's Annual General Meeting, at 8pm on Tuesday the 25th of May. Its at the Mt Colah Community Centre in Pierre Close, roughly 55 metres away from the railway station of the same name – just look for the big illuminated letter "T".

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.