

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

With public health restrictions still in place across the Greater Sydney area, events at VK2WI Dural are currently suspended and the site is closed to visitors. You can still make contact via email, to office@arnsw.org.au, or by leaving a phone message with the office, on 02 9651 1490.

We have included updated details in the bulletin of events rescheduled or moved online, where we have been informed or have been able to get a response from officials in various groups. However, if you are planning on attending an event, it would be best to check in with the local group net or websites, as restrictions continue to change at short notice.

This month's edition of the ARNSW Newsletter, *All Access*, has been emailed to members. If you haven't received a copy, it may be that we don't have your current contact details. Please let our membership team know by email, to membership@arnsw.org.au.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state which we know about. We would welcome any updates from club and groups especially regarding any new meeting and check in nets in response to current restrictions. You can email news@arnsw.org.au – we don't need full items, just the details of the activity and contacts. As always, we also welcome reports to follow up on the outcome of recent activities, which we can report to our listeners.

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.

Tonight we again 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 July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
10cm Flux	74	74	74	72	72	72	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	7	8	4	7	7	10	9 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	4	0	5	1	9	6 estimated
T index	14	14	14	9	8	10	18

Solar activity was low on the 9th, then very low from the 10th to the 15th.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 9th until the 13th, with some unsettled periods on the 12th. The 14th saw quiet to active conditions, with SWS magnetometers recording a weak impulse of 8 nanoTesla, at 1006UTC. After this, activity returned to mostly quiet levels on the 15th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained mostly near predicted monthly values. Depressions of 15% were observed during local daylight hours on the 12th. At night, there were some enhanced periods; 15% on the 9th, 30% on the 13th, 20% on the 14th, and 35% enhancement observed during the local night hours of the 15th.

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

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity should be mostly at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies 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 June, we had a;

Minimum of 69, Average of 79 and a Maximum of 93
With peak dates from the 8th to the 9th and the 23rd to the 30th

So far for July, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 79 and a Maximum of 85
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th and the 25th to the 29th

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 76 and a Maximum of 81
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd and the 17th to the 29th.

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.

ARRL DX news

SENEGAL; Dani, EA4ATI is active with his temporary call sign 6W1/EA4ATI and for about three months. He is active on 80 to 10 metres using mainly SSB.

AZORES; Jim, W6PQL will be active as CT8/W6PQL from Pico Island, IOTA EU-175, from July 25 to September 4. Activity will be on 40 to 15 metres using SSB and FT8, and EME and FT8 tropo on 2 metres.

SPAIN; Special event station AM1ASX is active until July 30 to mark the Jacobean Holy Year 2021. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, FT8 and FT4.

FRANCE; Michel, F8GGZ will be active as TM108TDF this weekend to celebrate the 108th edition of the Tour de France cycling race.

ECUADOR; Members of the Quito Radio Club will be active as HD1QRC90 from until July 25 celebrating the club's 90th anniversary.

PANAMA; Special event stations 3F200AT and 3F200NG are active until November 30 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Panama's independence.

SVBALBARD; Look for a group of operators to be active as JW0W from Prins Karls Forland, IOTA EU-063, from July 21 to 26. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8 with four to five stations active.

BRAZIL; Mor, PT7ZT is active with special call ZV32ZT until August 13 to celebrate the 32nd Olympics. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; A group of operators are active as RI0FM from Moneron Island, IOTA AS-149, until July 31. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8 with two stations active.

BRUNEI; In celebration of the Sultan of Brunei's 75th Royal Birthday, special event station V84SKP is active until July 24. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB, CW and FT8.

INDONESIA; Special event station 8B53BG is active to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the nation's amateur radio organisation, ORARI, and of ORARI Lokal Bogor.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The North American RTTY QSO Party, CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Russian Radio Team Championship, Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge, Feld Hell Sprint, IARU Region 1 70 MHz Contest, RSGB International Low Power CW Contest, YOTA Contest, CQC Great Colorado 20-Metre CW Gold Rush and the Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy over this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test is scheduled for July 19.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for July 20.

The Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for July 21.

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WICEN News

The Shahzada Horse Enduro Ride at St Albans is currently still planned for the 23rd to the 27th of August. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Colin Hodgson at; colin.hodgson@vrarescue.org.

The Watagan State Forest Ride has been rescheduled for the 11th and 12th of September.

This year's WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting will be held at 2:30pm on Saturday the 18th of September, at ARNSW Dural. It will move online if there are any COVID-19 restrictions.

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 of the club is the AGM, currently planned for 2pm on Saturday the 7th of August, with the August general meeting following immediately after. The notice of the AGM has been emailed to members. If it is not possible to hold the meeting on this date, it will be postponed to Saturday the 4th of September.

All meetings are held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan. The Committee continues to closely monitor public health directives, to ensure that club activities comply with restrictions which may change at short notice.

Candidates for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 as soon as possible; Assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run once sufficient candidates have registered.

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. Members and visitors are encouraged to participate in the club on air nets as often as possible.

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 May 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 July 2021 issue is currently in preparation but will be published a little later than usual, due to unforeseen circumstances.

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

With public health restrictions being extended, the Clubrooms currently remain closed. The clubs executive team continue to monitor the ongoing public health situation and are hopeful the doors can reopen again soon.

The club will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday the 21st of August at 1pm. The current executive team will not be standing again this year and nominations forms have been distributed to club members via E-mail. If you have not received this form, please reach out to the club's executive team who will send a form to you. Hopefully, the current greater Sydney restrictions will be relaxed by then and in-person activities can resume.

After several weeks of tweaking and testing, D-Star facilities are now back at VK2RAG, providing further digital services to the central coast with all systems and is available for open use.

Adrian, VK2ABS hosting his SSTV net last Friday evening, the topic was "Show pictures of your antenna setups" with many stations checking in, on the 147.125 MHz 2 Metre WICEN Repeater. The club thanks Adrian for putting together a great show for all the stations that checked in during the night.

Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue with the clubs Morning Tea net every day. And with the travel bubble recently placed onto the greater Sydney area, it is a prime time to check in on your mate! A massive thanks go out to Bob and Dave for running these nets, it sure brightens up everyone's day.

Club nets are on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725MHz with a 91.5Hz sub audible tone. While D-Star is fully functional, EchoLink and IRLP are still offline due to hardware failure; the repeater team hopes to have the service restored soon.

The club is looking for more operators to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the RAAF at the end of August. This is a great opportunity to get out on the bands and share in celebrating this momentous occasion, operating portable or otherwise, as operation doesn't have to be from the club rooms. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Club directly.

Did you know the club has a YouTube channel? It contains lecture information from previous events as well as numerous technical videos covering a range of topics and as Peter VK3YE says... “Smash that like button”

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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Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

Despite the lockdown, the Club's committee has been undertaking some online meetings to discuss the club's direction for the future, both online and face-to-face. There are plans for building on the great capabilities the club already has in terms of education, publicity, and workshop days.

Last weekend saw a successful turnout to the trial 2 metre net on Sunday afternoon at 3pm, run by James VK2GOH. There was active participation from Steve, VK2YE, Pip VK2SJ, Jan VK2FEB, Steven VK2BOS, Robin VK2LRD, Bob VK2NRC, John VK2SOL, Brian VK2AAF and Robin VK2HRG. The plan will be to run the net again this Sunday.

On air nets continue each week; the 80 metre net Starts at 8pm on Tuesday evenings, on 3543 kHz. On Wednesday night from 8pm, there is a net on the club's 2 metre repeater on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone for access, and on the 6 metre repeater on 53.875MHz. No access tone is needed for the 6 metre repeater. At the request of members, the club is considering running more VHF nets during the week.

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.*

Sydney ATV Group

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.

There are two nets; Thursday afternoon starting at 2:30pm, and Monday nights from 7pm.

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

Give us a call during net times 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.*

Waverley Amateur Radio Society

With current restrictions in Sydney, the Society's activities continue, on-air and online via Zoom.

Just before the lockdown occurred, the club held its AGM as a hybrid meeting with several members at the ANZAC room of the RSL and others on Zoom. The Society wishes to thank the outgoing committee for their service and welcome the incoming committee, which includes a couple of new faces for 2021-22; welcome Matt VK2FLY and Bob VK2NRC.

Apart from the weekly nets on a Monday evening, there is a get together on the first Saturday of the month, being "project Day" as well as the other activities. See the website for details.

This coming Wednesday, the 21st, will be the monthly general meeting starting at 7:30 pm. Please see the club emails for the Zoom link details if it's not already in your calendar.

Don't forget the weekly net on the VK2RBV repeater from 8pm every Monday evening, usually run by Richard VK2XRC. Some interesting discussions take place on these nets.

There is full information about the Society on the website at <http://vk2bv.org>. You can purchase kits, pay membership, or use the contact form on the website to contact the society.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

The Society is once again this year holding their annual 80m metre contest. The contest, on the last Saturday in July, is run as a practice for the Remembrance Day Contest that is held in August.

The contest is open to all amateurs and is held on the evening of the 31st July, from 6pm to midnight. Full details are on the society's website, sgars.org.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting is the Monthly general meeting on Tuesday the 27th of July, starting at 8pm. This will be online using Jitsi Meet, and on the 2 metre repeater.

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.

The Club's website has up to date details on club activities, getting setup for Jitsi Meet, 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.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

[Jitsi Meet details:
Phone: 08 7150 1136 and enter 3145759306#
Web: <https://meet.jit.si/HADARC>]

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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 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9:30am on new frequency of 3675kHz, 2m nets on 146.775MHz, see website for details.

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; 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 and 53.875MHz. 2m Net Sundays 3pm.

WICEN nets on Sunday evenings from 6pm.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society meeting net 8pm Wednesdays on VK2RMB 146.875MHz.

Waverley ARS net 8pm Monday on VK2RBV, 438.1125MHz. Activities online and on air, 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.