

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.

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

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of 16th to the 22nd of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd
10cm Flux	75	77	80	83	87	94	89
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	4	5	4	9	6	8 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	1	2	1	4	9	4	9 estimated
T index	10	12	9	19	19	24	30

Solar activity started out low on the 16th, dropping to very low levels on the 17th and 18th. Activity then remained low from the 19th to the 21st, dropping again on the 22nd to very low levels.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels from the 16th until the 18th, quiet to unsettled on the 19th and 20th, quiet again on the 21st, then reaching quiet to active levels on the 22nd.

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 16th. At night, there were some enhanced periods; 25% on the 17th, 20% on the 20th, 15% on the 21st, and 30% enhancement observed during the local night hours of the 22nd.

Now, the forecast for the 23rd to the 29th of July;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity may reach active levels on the 23rd and 24th, with a small chance that the CME observed on the 20th from active region 2846 could cause a glancing blow at Earth. Active conditions are possible on the 27th, and mostly quiet to unsettled are expected on other days.

Maximum Usable Frequencies may be mildly depressed on the 24th and the 28th, 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 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 83 and a Maximum of 95
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th and the 20th to the 31st

And looking ahead to August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 83 and a Maximum of 90
With peak dates from the 1st to the 3rd and the 17th 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-FCAL167.wav]

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

Several stations are active especially for the RGSB Islands on the air (IOTA) contest this weekend;

ALASKA; Henry, NL0H is active from St. Lawrence Island, IOTA NA-040.

CRETE; SV9RNG is active from Crete, IOTA EU-015, as an All Band entry.

CROATIA; A group of operators are active as 9A0CI from Vis Island, IOTA EU-016.

FAROE ISLANDS; Carsten, OY1CT, is active from Streymoy Island, IOTA EU-018, as a Single Op/CW/High Power entry, on 20 to 10 metres.

GREECE; Spiros, SV8CS and Norbert, OM6NM are active as SV8CS from Zante Island, IOTA EU-052.

ITALY; Station IF9A will be a 24 Hours/Assisted/CW/Low Power entry from Favignana Island, IOTA EU-054.

VENEZUELA; Mayra, YV7MAY is active from Margarita Island, IOTA SA-012.

And in other DX activity.....

OMAN; A group of operators are active as A44M from Masirah Island, IOTA AS-014, until July 27. They are also active in the contest at A43MI.

CHINA; A large group of operators are active as BI4SSB from Kaishan Island, IOTA AS-135. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8. They are also active in the contest as B4T.

ESTONIA; Yuris, YL2GM and Ziedonis, YL2GN are active as ES6JP/0 and ES6TZ/0, respectively, from Hiiumaa Island, IOTA EU-034, until July 25, including entries in the IOTA contest.

GUERNSEY; Members of the Three A's Contest Group are active as MP5A from Alderney Island, IOTA EU-114, and are a Multi Op entry in the contest.

SCOTLAND; Col, MM0NDX and Jonathan, MM0OKG are active as MS0INT from Horse Island, IOTA EU-092. They are also active as GM5DX in the IOTA contest.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; A group of operators are active as D70EXPO from Pukkyongnyolbi Island, IOTA AS-080. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres, including an entry in the contest.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; A group of operators are active as RI0FWA from Kunashir Island, IOTA AS-025, until July 29, including activity in contest.

VANUATU; Rod, YJ8RN is active from Emae Island, IOTA OC-111, until July 27. Activity is on 40, 30, and 20 metres using mostly FT8, and also an entry in the IOTA contest.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; Special event station HI95RCD is active until the end of 2021 to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the Dominican Radio Club. Activity is on 160 metres to 70 centimetres using CW, SSB, FM, and FT8.

PANAMA; Operators HP2AT and HP2NG are active as 3F200AT and 3F200NG, respectively, until November 30 to celebrate the bicentennial of the independence of Panama from Spain.

ST. VINCENT; Brian, GW4DVB is active as J88PI from Palm Island, IOTA NA-025, until August 1. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, FT8, and some CW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The RSGB IOTA Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test and the ARS Flight of the Bumblebees are all on this weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, QCX CW Challenge and RSGB FT4 Contest Series are all scheduled for July 26.

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

The SKCC CW Sprint, Phone Fray, and CWops Mini-CWT Test are all scheduled for July 28.

[Play File: 16-E-ID2.wav]

WICEN News

The Shahzada Horse Enduro Ride at St Albans has been cancelled for this year; It is hoped it will return bigger and better, next year.

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, which has now been rescheduled for 2pm on Saturday the 4th of September. The September general meeting will follow immediately after. The August General meeting has been cancelled, and minutes of the August Committee Meeting will be emailed to members to keep them abreast of club affairs.

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 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. Signed and scanned copies of committee nomination must be received no later than noon on Wednesday the 18th of August.

The Clubs IT Team are currently working on a SDR receiver solution for the club's website which will allow anybody to listen and monitor the club's available repeaters live over the internet anywhere in the world. Stay tuned!

Adrian, VK2ABS will be hosting the next SSTV net on Friday the 30th of July, starting at 7:30pm. The topic will be announced on the evening via Social Media and prior to the net on the 147.125 MHz 2 Metre WICEN Repeater.

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, the club's Brand Meister DMR repeater on 438.375MHz, is currently offline due to an unknown power related fault. Echolink and IRLP facilities are also currently offline due to hardware failure; The hopes to be able to return these facilities once travel restrictions ease.

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.

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.

[Play ID File: 17-E-ID3.wav]

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The Society regularly meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Meeting start at 7:30pm, directly following the committee meeting at 6:30pm. Meetings are normally held at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, on the Southern side of Wollongong CBD.

The next meeting, on Tuesday the 10th of August, will be the Society's AGM, with most current Executive and Committee Members offering to stand again; if re-elected of course.

With that said, due to the current Lockdown, the last meeting of the Society was not in-person, but instead was held over the air on the Society's linked 2 metre repeaters of VK2RMP and VK2RUW. It was an excellent roll-up with 27 attendees checking-in. Most were on 2m, a few via EchoLink and a couple of listeners checked-in via text messaging.

After check-ins, minutes and reports were read, followed by an update from Simon VK2KU on his HF Active Noise Canceller project, a report from Steve VK2BGL on the Saturday morning East Coast Net that he hosts and then some information from Tony VK2TS on recent 6 metre band openings. All attendees then gave a quick update about what was happening in their lives, many noting the affects the Lockdown was having on them.

Since the current public health situation suggests that the current Lockdown will extend past the next meeting date of the 10th of August, Members will be advised as to the meeting location directly via email and it will be posted on the Society's website and Facebook page. Additionally, it will be publicised here on VK2WI News, on Sunday the 8th of August.

Something that Lockdowns don't prevent is the Society's two 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, on the air at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 10th of August; either at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre on Springhill Road in Wollongong or on the air via the 2m repeaters of VK2RMP and VK2RUW.....stay tuned!

Submitted by Rob VK2MT

Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

During 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.

At the most recent meeting, topics of discussion included the clubhouse, moving to online mode of attendance for future meetings, discussion of running workshops and projects online as well as the upcoming Jamboree On The Air for this year.

Jan, VK2FEB, has also been running the Wednesday night licence upgrade course online through zoom as well for 2 weeks now. In this course, Jan gives detailed explanations about how the concepts work in real-life as well as using interactive videos to support his teachings. If you are a BMARC member with a foundation licence and are interested in upgrading to a Standard or Advanced licence, contact the club secretary, Irene.

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.*

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 coming up next Saturday evening, the 31st of July, running 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>]

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID4.wav]

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.