

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; However, we recommend checking with the local group nets or websites, as restrictions continue to change at short notice.

Later in this bulletin, we have a summary of on-air activities from Sydney and across the state. We would welcome any updates from club and groups especially regarding any new meeting and check in nets. 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.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 6th to the 12th of August.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
10cm Flux	74	74	74	73	73	74	74
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	9	9	6	6	9	7	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	6	3	1	4	3	2 estimated
T index	13	21	11	4	10	11	11

Solar activity was very low all week. Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels from the 6th until the 8st of August, quiet on the 9th, quiet with some unsettled periods on the 10th, and then quiet again, on the 11th and 12th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, with some periods of depressed conditions observed during local daylight hours. The 7th saw daytime depressions of 15%, with up to 30% depressions at Hobart, from 10am local time. The 8th and 9th were depressed up to 20% during local daylight, and the 10th and 11th were depressed 15%, during local daylight hours.

Now, the forecast for the 13th to the 19th of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values with some depressions possible during local daylight hours.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

Having finished July, we had a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 82 and a Maximum of 95
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th and the 20th to the 26th

So far for August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 74 and a Maximum of 76
With peak dates from the 1st to the 4th and the 22nd to the 31st

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 73 and a Maximum of 75
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd and the 18th to the 27th.

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 2m06s

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.

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ARRL DX news

UGANDA; Elvira, IV3FSG is active as 5X3R until September 2. She has 100 watts to a dipole, doing SSB, digital and CW.

SPAIN; Members of the URE Burgos are active until August 18 with the special call sign AM1CCB to mark the 800th anniversary of the Burgos Cathedral. In 1984, the Cathedral was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Operators include EA1FE, EA1BHB, EA1GLY, EA1JAI, EA1EC, EA1XY, EA1FGJ, EA1IUM and EA1ARW.

TAIWAN; Ken, JP1RIW will be active as BX30ARL from New Taipei City until the end of the year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres. Ken operates mainly on the digital modes on weekends.

CAPE VERDE; Paco, EA7KNT will be active as EA7KNT/D4 or D4ASL from Sal Island (AF-086) from August 23 to September 5.

KYRGYZSTAN; Andrea, HB9DUR is active as EX0DX from Bishkek. The length of his stay is unknown. Activity will be as time permits on various HF bands.

SAN ANDREAS ISLAND; Pedro, HK3JJH is currently active as HK0/HK3X. His length of stay is unknown. Activity has been mainly on 20 metres using FT8.

SOUTH KOREA; Members of the Korean Amateur Radio League (KARL) Chungbuk HQ have activated special event station HL76V to celebrate the 76th anniversary of South Korea's Liberation. Activity will continue until August 31.

PERU; Arno, DL1CW will be active as OA7/DL1CW until September 1. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres.

ARUBA; John, W2GD will be active as P40W from October 18 to 31. Activity will be on the various HF bands, with some focus on the 30, 17 and 12 metres and 160 metres using mostly CW. His activity will also include an entry in the CQWW DX SSB Contest as a Single Op/All Band entry.

DODECANESE; Mort, G2JL is active as SV5/G2JL from Lipsi Island for the next three months. Activity will be on all bands and modes, propagation permitting. Current operations have been on 20 metres CW. Also, Reiner, DL2AAZ will be active as SV5/DL2AAZ from Rhodes (EU-001) from September 5 to 19. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres and the QO-100 satellite, using CW and SSB.

TURKEY; Rene, DL2JRM will be signing TA2/DL2JRM until August 16. Activity will be mainly on CW on various HF bands and will include an entry in the Worked All Europe DX CW Contest, August 14 and 15.

CORSICA; Frans, DJ0TP is now active as TK/DJ0TP from Linguizetta until September 14.

ALAND ISLANDS; The SP1KRF Team will activate OH0KRF from August 23 to 29. They plan to be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB, CW, FT8/4 and RTTY. Ops include SP1EG, SP1F, SP1IVL, SP1VAX, SP1Z and SQ1WO.

CAYMAN ISLANDS; Pete, K8PGJ will be active as ZF2PG until August 21. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres. This includes an entry in the upcoming North American SSB QSO Party.

CANADA; The Moncton Area Amateur Radio Club celebrates its 85th anniversary with the call sign VE9M85A until the end of August.

RWANDA; Members of the Holy Land DX Group (HDXG) will be active as 9X4X from November 24 to December 1. Operators include Mark, 4Z4KX, Hilik, 4X6YA, Ruben, 4Z5FI, Ruslan, 4Z5LA, Hanan, 4Z1DZ, Slava, 4Z5MU and Jan, 4X1VF. They will run three stations on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8, and maybe satellites also. They will also participate in the CQWW DX CW Contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The WAE DX Contest, CW, QRP ARCI European Sprint, SARL Youth Sprint, Kentucky State Parks on the Air, Maryland-DC QSO Party, 50 MHz Fall Sprint, SARL HF Digital Contest, NJQRP Skeeter Hunt, FISTS Sunday Sprint and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest are all on tap over this weekend.

WICEN News

The Watagan State Forest Ride is currently scheduled 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, at 2pm on Saturday the 4th of September. Due to public health restriction continuing across NSW, the AGM will only be held online using Microsoft Teams; there will be no in-person meeting. A notice has been emailed to members, and a link to join the meeting will be emailed to members closer to the meeting date.

The September Monthly General Meeting and the August and September Friday night get togethers have been cancelled.

The August Committee Meeting was held last Saturday. The minutes of the meeting were emailed to members to keep them abreast of club affairs. 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, and public health regulations permit.

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 July 2021 web edition of the club's bimonthly newsletter "Oxtales" is now online, and past issues can be viewed on the website as well. This bumper edition includes a full report on the club Field Day weekend, and an informative article on DMR. 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

With public health restrictions currently in force, the Clubrooms are currently closed until further notice.

A reminder that the Club's Annual General Meeting is on next Saturday the 21st of August at 1pm. This will be held as a virtual meeting having both Online and Telephone facilities available for you to join. Online meetings were facilitated, as they have become essential for most organisations to continue operating and are the new accepted normal, with these types of meetings running for well over 12 months. It is incredibly important to know that the current executive team will not be standing for re-election, and all board positions will be open.

Nominations forms have been sent to club members via E-mail. With the current restrictions, the club's executive team will accept signed and scanned copies of committee nomination forms no later than 12 noon on Wednesday the 18th of August. The Club would like to thank Jaye VK2FOMG, Brad VK2NMZ and Dave VK2DLS for the work that has been put in over the last few years and looks forward to seeing where the new committee takes the club.

The club would like to thank Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU, who continue the clubs daily Morning Tea net. With stay-at-home orders expanding to now include the Hunter region, it is a terrific way to get to know your fellow operators. This week the club would like to give a shout out to Hank VK2BHL from the Heathcote Region who has dropped in to say hello every day. A massive thanks go out to Bob and Dave for running these nets, you will be sure to learn a little piece of history each day.

Brad VK2NMZ hosted the Thursday evening Net with a topic of *"what is the most unique callsign you have seen"*, and discussion on the RD Contest which has run over this weekend.

Some very interesting examples were given, including a Swedish station with a very unique callsign of Sierra Echo Three X-Ray which sure raised some eyebrows. Check out their QRZ page!

Club nets are held on the VK2RAG 2 Metre repeater, 146.725Mhz with a 91.5hz sub audible tone.

A reminder that the club's Brand Meister DMR repeater is currently offline due to an unknown power related fault. The team have not yet been able to fully locate the cause of the issue and are hoping to investigate further once travel restrictions ease. EchoLink and IRLP facilities are also currently offline due to hardware failure.

The club is looking for more operators to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the RAAF at the end of August; only 2 stations have registered so far. This is a great opportunity to get out on the bands and share in celebrating this momentous occasion – note that operation does not have to be from the clubrooms, it can be portable or at other locations. 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.

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 restrictions continuing across Sydney, all activities are currently happening on the radio or via Zoom.

A few members have already received their IoT breakout boards from Ben VK2XUF and have been busy building them up. They're a great adjunct to the board and should make using them much easier.

The Society welcomes the new members who have joined in recent months. We hope that they will enjoy their time in the society, especially once in-person activities can resume.

This coming Wednesday, the 18th, will be the monthly general meeting starting at 7:30 pm. Please see the member emails for the Zoom link details if it's not already in your calendar.

Apart from the weekly nets on a Monday evening, on the VK2RBV repeater, the Society has get-togethers on the first Saturday of the month, being "project Day" as well as the other activities. See the website for details.

There is full information about the society on the website at <https://vk2bv.org>. You can book for courses or assessments or use the contact form on the website to get in contact for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The August general meeting will be on Tuesday the 24th of August, starting at 8pm. This will be online using Jitsi Meet, and on the 2 metre repeater. Members and visitors can join the Jitsi meeting online, using a web browser, on a smartphone app, or even from a landline phone.

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. These nets may be supplemented with Jitsi as well.

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

WinterNet Mondays 8pm on 1860kHz, Net Control Steve VK2STG.

Oxley Region ARC nets 7:30pm Thursday, 9am Sunday, VK2RPM 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 3565kHz, 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 – Meeting net this Tuesday 7:30pm, Saturday 9:30am on VK2RMP 146.850 and VK2RUW on 146.675. Tuesday 8:30pm, 3666kHz.

Blue Mountains ARC nets 8pm Tuesday on 3543kHz, 8pm Wednesday on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz and 53.875MHz. 2m Net Sundays 3pm.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society meeting net 8pm Wednesdays 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.