

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.

Last weekend was the RD Contest – and if you made any contacts – even only just a few – be sure to send off your log without delay, as every point helps your State score. Details are on the WIA website.

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.

Repeater Notes

We have received updates on the status of various repeaters this week;

In Sydney – Compton VK2HRX has advised us that the Chatswood 23cm Repeater has developed a power supply issue, after nearly 9 years of continuous fault-free operation. The supply is now on the bench and will be repaired and restored to service as soon as possible.

On the Central Coast – the CCARC's Brandmeister DMR repeater is currently offline due to an unknown power related fault. The Club's repeater team will investigate further once travel restrictions ease.

In the Forster-Tuncurry area, the Great Lakes Radio Club has advised that their VHF voice repeater on 147.1 is currently off the air. We will have more details on this and alternative club net arrangements, later in the bulletin.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 13th to the 19th of August.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
10cm Flux	73	73	75	74	73	75	75
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	9	4	13	8	7	6	5 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	3	1	8	4	3	3	3 estimated
T index	13	13	19	15	16	21	16

Solar activity was low on the 13th, then very low from the 14th to the 19th.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet levels, except for some quiet to unsettled conditions on the 15th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region, remained near predicted monthly values, with some enhancements of up to 25% observed, during local nigh hours on the 13th.

Now, the forecast for the 20th to the 26th of August;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to remain at quiet to unsettled levels, with active conditions likely on the 25th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should be near predicted monthly values with depressions of up to 20% possible.

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 19th to the 21st

And looking ahead to September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 72, Average of 73 and a Maximum of 74
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd and the 27th 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.

[Play File: 15-FCAL198.wav]

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.

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

ARRL DX news

We start this week with some special stations operating for the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend;

AUSTRALIA; A group of operators are active as VK2FM from the Solitary Island Lighthouse, ILLW AU0054. Activity will be on 80, 40 and 20 metres.

DENMARK; Members of the OZ4EDR club station are active as OZ4HAM from Hammeren Lighthouse, ILLW DK0015, on Bornholm Island, IOTA EU-030. Activity will be on 80, 40, and 20 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

ENGLAND; Look for station GB1PBL to be active from the Portland Bill Lighthouse, ILLW UK0073, the Portland Bill Old Lower Lighthouse, ILLW UK0020, and the Portland Bill Old Higher Lighthouse, ILLW UK0019. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

GERMANY; A large group of operators are be active as DL0MFK/LH from the Karnin Lighthouse, ILLW DE0013, on Usedom Island, IOTA EU-129.

INDIA; A group of operators are active as AT8KLH from Kapu Lighthouse, ILLW IN0023. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

ITALY; Members of the ARI section San Benedetto del Tronto will be active as IQ6SB/LT from the San Benedetto del Tronto Lighthouse, ILLW IT-0009.

TURKEY; Members of the Tango Alfa Ham Radio Club will be active as TC1LHS from the Rumeli Karaburun Lighthouse, ILLW TR0002.

... and in other DX activity for this week;

TANZANIA; Josep, EA3BT and Nuria, EA3WL are active as 5I3B and 5I3W, respectively, from Zanzibar Island, IOTA AF-032, until August 26. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and FT8.

UGANDA; Elvira, IV3FSG is active as 5X3R until September 2. Activity is in her spare time on 80 to 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and PSK31.

AZORES; Giovanni, IZ2DPX is active as CT8/IZ2DPX from Faial Island, IOTA EU-175, until August 23. Activity is on all HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

CAPE VERDE; Paco, EA7KNT will be active as D4SAL from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, from August 23 to September 5. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

IRELAND; A group of operators will be active as EJ7NET from Gola Island, IOTA EU-121, until August 25. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, and FT8.

SARDINIA; Alessio, IU5MOT is active as IS0/IU5MOT until August 26.

ST. LUCIA; Bill, K9HZ will be active as J68HZ until November 8. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8.

OGASAWARA; Takashi, JH1FFW will be active as JD1/JH1FFW until August 25. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

MARKET REEF; Pasi, OH3WS will be active as OJ0WS until August 28. Activity will be on the HF bands using only CW.

BRAZIL; Mor, PT7ZT is active as ZW16ZT until September 5 in celebration of the XVI Paralympic Games held in Tokyo. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event station R1221NN is active until August 29 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the city of Nizhny Novgorod, formerly known as Gorky.

INDONESIA; Members of the ORARI Daerah Bali are active as 8A63BALI from Bali Island, IOTA OC-022, until August 22 to celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the Bali Provincial Government. Activity is on 80, 40, and 2 metres using SSB and RTTY.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL RTTY Rookie Roundup, 24th Annual International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, North American SSB QSO Party, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, SARTG World Wide RTTY Contest, Russian District Award Contest, Keyman's Club of Japan CW Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and CVA DX CW Contests are all on tap over this weekend.

The RTTYOPS Weeksprint and Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest are all scheduled for August 24.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC Sprint and Phone Fray are scheduled for August 25.

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. With ongoing public health restrictions, the AGM will only be held online using Microsoft Teams; there will be no in-person meeting. 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 Committee continues to closely monitor public health directives, to ensure that club activities comply with restrictions which may change at short notice. When club face-to-face meetings are able to resume, they will be held in accordance with the club's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

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.*

Great Lakes Radio Club

As we mentioned earlier in the bulletin, the Club's VHF voice repeater VK2RGL on 147.1MHz, is currently off air following a hardware failure.

The club is unable to give any estimate of when the repeater may be restored to service as the site is quite remote and we face restrictions due to the current state-wide lockdown.

The Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net usually held on the VK2RGL repeater on Monday evenings will still go ahead; however, the net will be conducted predominantly via EchoLink supplemented by simplex on 147.1MHz in the Forster-Tuncurry area.

Those intending to join the net should note that only stations in the immediate vicinity of Forster-Tuncurry will be able to access the EchoLink node by radio. We would therefore encourage participants outside the immediate area to join via EchoLink.

*Andy VK2AAK
Secretary, Great Lakes Radio Club.*

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With public health restrictions currently in force, the Clubrooms are currently closed; The club's executive team continue to monitor the ongoing public health situation with a view to reopen again soon.

Yesterday, the Club held its Annual General Meeting. The club would like to welcome to newly elected executive committee for 2021 of Club President – Sam VK2ZZ, Vice President – David VK2VGA, Secretary – Brian VK2BDU and Treasurer – James VK2FJEG. Congratulations to the newly elected team, and we look forward to their new ideas once they get up to speed.

The Club would also like to thank the outgoing executive team of President Jaye VK2QRZ, Vice President Brad VK2NMZ and Treasurer VK2DLS – for all they work and effort they put in over the years.

The Club's daily Morning Tea net continues, and with Stay-at-home orders currently including the Central Coast and Hunter regions, it's a terrific way to get to know your fellow operators. Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU continue to put in a stellar effort in running these nets; you will be sure to learn a little piece of history each day.

A reminder that the club's Brand Meister DMR repeater is currently offline due to a power related fault, and EchoLink and IRLP facilities are also currently offline due to hardware failure. The repeater team hopes to investigate further once travel restrictions ease. However, D-Star and the RadNet DMR repeaters remain fully operational.

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; via phone on 02 43402500 or on social media by searching for Central Coast Amateur Radio Club; remember to “like” to follow for updates.

Brad VK2NMZ

**Outgoing* 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.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

While in-person activities are suspended, the club is still running regular events online and on-air, such as the Wednesday evening licence upgrade courses and the regular weekly nets.

The next online members meeting will be on Friday 3rd September at 7:30pm. The club is appreciative to have returning speaker Darren Spoor present a talk entitled "The Energy Transition - towards renewables". Darren has previously presented a technical talk with the club which was well- received by all.

Licence upgrade courses are still run by Jan VK2FEB, from 6pm on Wednesday nights. If you would like to upgrade to a Standard or Advanced licence, contact Irene, VK2VAN. The Club is planning a Foundation Licence weekend, restrictions permitting, on the 9th and 10th of October; contact Irene to register your interest.

Jamboree On The Air is still planned to go ahead, however more than likely it will be on-air and online. If you are interested in helping out and joining the JOTA subcommittee, please contact James VK2GOH.

On air nets continue weekly; The 80 metre net is 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; and on Sunday Afternoons at 3pm, on the 2 metre repeater as well.

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.*

St George Amateur Radio Society

With lockdown continuing, the Society will continue with on-line meetings in September.

Several months ago, Brian VK2GCE gave a presentation entitled "An Introduction to Operational amplifiers." Now he's back with a sequel.

Brian has been designing op amp circuits since 1968, when he wanted to multi-track record his playing in bands and orchestras. His designs were kicked off by chance comments from a fellow Master's degree student and an air-conditioning engineer. The pathway was strewn with hurdles; not least because op amp ICs back then, weren't all that wonderful.

He started with Jim Rowe's 1969 Electronics Australia circuit, using the Fairchild 709 before moving through more and more sophisticated ICs. In 1974 he started working for De Lane Lea, one of the big-name recoding firms in London. Here he designed IC-based pre-amplifiers. Mixers and audio amplifiers when most studio equipment was valve-based and massive. Some of Brian's designs ended up being used on well-known recordings, including the London recordings of Pink Floyd's 'The Wall'.

Brian will take us through the iterative process of designing a very good, balanced-input audio pre-amplifier. He will then take us on the next stage of the journey to design a mixer using several of these pre-amps. Major concerns and the workarounds include noise, EMI, headroom, frequency response - and compromise.

The meeting will be on Wednesday 1st September at 7:30pm. More information including login details, can be found on the society's website <https://sgars.org>.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
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>]

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

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, currently simplex on 147.1MHz and EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

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.