

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.

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 3rd to the 9th of September.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
10cm Flux	84	87	94	100	101	100	100
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	5	8	8	10	14	6 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	7	4	3	3	5	9	2 estimated
T index	26	25	26	24	25	26	27

Solar activity was very low from the 3rd to the 6th, then low from the 7th to the 9th.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to active levels on the 3rd, mostly quiet of the 4th, then quiet from the 5th to the 7th. Activity again reached active levels on the 8th, before returning to quiet levels on the 9th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted monthly values, with some enhanced periods; enhancements of 15% were observed during local night on the 5th, 6th and the 8th.

Now, the forecast for the 10th to the 16th of September;

Solar activity is expected to be low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels, with possible isolated active periods on the 11th and 12th.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain 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 August, we had a;

Minimum of 71, Average of 77 and a Maximum of 91
With peak dates from the 24th to the 31st

So far for September, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 84, Average of 92 and a Maximum of 101
With peak dates from the 6th to the 18th and the 25th to the 29th.

And looking ahead to October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 85, Average of 88 and a Maximum of 92
With peak dates from the 4th to the 9th and the 22nd to the 26th.

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-FCAL197.wav]

Duration 2m02s

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

GUINEA; Jean-Philippe, F1TMY, expects to be active as 3X2021 from Conakry beginning in mid-September, and there for a few years. He plans to be active on 160 to 6 metres, and Satellite QO-100. He also plans side trips to the Los Islands, IOTA AF-051.

NIGER; Adrian, F4IHM will be active as 5UAIHM from Niamey until October 22. Activity will be on 40 and 20 metres using CW and SSB.

MALAWI; Vasco, 7Q7CT is currently active mainly on 40, 20, and 15 metres using SSB and FT8.

RWANDA; Harald, DF2WO will be active as 9X2AW from Kigali from September 13 to 28. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.

COMOROS; Janusz [*YAH-noosh*] SP9FIH, and Leszek, SP6CIK will be active as D60AC and D60AD, respectively, from Moroni later in September.

SAUDI ARABIA; Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society are active as 7Z91ND, 8Z91ND, and HZ91ND until September 23 to commemorate their country's national holiday.

MINAMI TORISHIMNA; Take [*tah-KEH*] JG8NQJ expects to be active as JG8NQJ/JD1 at the weather station there beginning in mid-September. He will be there for about three months and active in his spare time.

GREECE; Special event station SX021IEEE is active until September 15 during the 26th IEEE Symposium on Computers and Communications, taking place in Athens.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA; Special event station R875TULA is active until the end of September to celebrate the 875th anniversary of the city of Tula.

MEXICO; Special event station 6I1M is active until September 27 to celebrate 200 years of Mexican independence. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4.

KOSOVO; Rene, DL2JRM is active as Z68XX until September 13. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly CW. This includes an entry in the Worked All Europe SSB DX contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The ARRL September VHF Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC Sprint Ladder, K1USN Slow Speed Test, Worked All Europe SSB DX Contest, FOC QSO Party, SARL Field Day Contest, YB7-DX Contest, SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, Ohio State Parks on the Air, Alabama QSO Party, Russian Cup Digital Contest, and the North American CW Sprint are all on over this upcoming weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and the K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for September 13.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for September 14.

The RSGB 80-Metre Autumn CW Series, Phone Fray and CWops Mini-CWT Test are scheduled for September 15.

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WICEN News

This year's WICEN NSW Annual General Meeting will be held at 2:30pm on Saturday the 18th of September. With public health restrictions continuing, the meeting will be online; members will have received the documentation and meeting invitation for the AGM, via their VRA email. Please contact the WICEN secretary if you did not receive the AGM information.

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 Club's Annual General Meeting was held last Saturday, the 4th of September, as an online video meeting. All of last year's office holders were re-elected. Henry VK2ZHE is president and Public Officer, Paul VK2ICQ is vice president and Dennis VK2DAM is treasurer. The other Committee members are Larry VK2CLL, Rob VK2CRF and Ian VK2GL. Thanks go to Thomas VK2ATR for setting up the Microsoft Teams video meeting, and for acting as Returning Officer. Congratulations to Ian VK2GL on being awarded Clubman of the Year. A formal presentation of the award will be made once in-person meetings resume, and a full list of Office holders will appear in the soon to be published September 2021 issue of Oxtales.

In-person meetings have cancelled for September and October; when in-person activities can resume, they will be held in accordance with the club's Covid 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.

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. The club is also on Facebook; just search for Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.

*Advised by Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With public health restrictions currently in force, the Clubrooms are currently closed; The club continues to monitor the ongoing public health situation, hopeful that the doors can reopen again soon.

A thank you to Karen VK2AKB and Peter VK2EHQ who, along with Jaye VK2FOMG and Brad VK2NMZ, participated in both VI100AF and VK100AF special event operation, commemorating the centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force. Peter had 469 contacts, working 58 countries and 41 out of 50 US states in 48 hours. Karen had 204 contacts, with 46 countries worked.

The daily morning tea net continues, and the club would like to thank Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU for their amazing efforts. With stay-at-home orders still in effect it is a terrific way to get to know your fellow operators. 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.

Adrian VK2ABS, the Club's youngest member and avid SSTV fan, hosts a fortnightly SSTV net on the Club's 2 metre WICEN repeater, 147.125 MHz with 91.5 Hz tone. The net consists of 2-3 rounds predominately in Scottie-2 mode. You don't even need a computer; if you can record the audio, there are many tools available for you not only record but the encode your own images into audio files and transmit via your radio. The net attracts many participants, and Adrian would love to see you drop in. The next net is scheduled for Friday the 24th of September, at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was hosted by Alan VK2MG, with the topic; *"What test equipment do you have around the shack?"*. Responses ranged from *"A screwdriver, a smaller screwdriver and a multimeter"*, through to large collections of expensive test equipment gathered over decades. The net runs on Thursday night at 8:00pm on the club's 2m VK2RAG repeater – 146.725 with 91.5Hz tone. The SSTV and Weekly nets are also video streamed live to the club's Facebook page.

The club's BrandMeister DMR repeater is currently offline, as are EchoLink and IRLP facilities. The team hopes to have these services restored, once travel restrictions have eased. D-Star and the RadNet DMR repeaters remain fully operational.

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.

Alan VK2MG

Publicity, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.

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Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is coming up this Tuesday the 14th of September. Meetings are normally held at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, but with the current travel restrictions, this month's meeting will again be over-the-air. The last two meetings were also held over-the-air with about 25 attendees checking in.

The meeting will commence at 7:30pm on the VK2RMP 6850 and VK2RUW 6675 repeaters, as well as via EchoLink connecting to VK2MT-R. Check-ins will be taken first, followed by the usual Club business and then there will be some interesting presentations by various Society Members. Past verbal presentations have been most interesting, giving an insight into Members' other interests outside of Amateur radio.

In the meantime, apart from the over-the-air meeting, the Society has two other Nets; which continue without any interference from lockdowns!

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; the usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage. It usually starts at 8:30pm, but this coming Tuesday night, it will start following the conclusion of the formal meeting on the 2 metre repeaters.

You can find out more about the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, including details on 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, which will instead be on-the-air at 7.30pm this coming Tuesday the 14th of September; via the 2m repeaters of VK2RMP 6850 and VK2RUW 6675, EchoLink VK2MT-R. So, get your cuppa ready and have your radio tuned for the meeting, starting at 7:30pm.

*Advised by Rob VK2MT
Publicity Officer for the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society.*

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 Sydney continuing in lockdown, all the usual activities are continuing on the radio or online via Zoom.

It was discovered a week or so ago, that the Echo/IRLP node had died and upon inspection it was found to have had a catastrophic failure. With thanks to Matt VK2FLY, the node has been replaced and now provides service including Echolink, Allstar, IRLP and VKMultiNET. It is now operational and appears to be working well.

The operation is a little different from previously, so you will need to familiarise yourself with the new commands; see the list at vk2rot.vk2bv.org for details. Reports of any problems would be appreciated.

Apart from the weekly nets on Monday evenings, there is a get together on the first Saturday of the month, being “project Day”, as well as the other activities. Last weekend’s project day was well attended; there is a detailed report on the website.

Wednesday morning Zoom get togethers from 11 am are also being well attended; come along and join in.

This coming Wednesday the 15th, is 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.

You can keep up to date with full information about the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, on the website at vk2bv.org. On the site you can also find out more about kits available, update your membership details, and use the contact form to get in touch for more information.

*73 from Eric VK2VE
Broadcast Publicity Officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next informal mid-monthly meeting is on Tuesday the 14th of September, starting at 8pm. This will be online using Jitsi Meet, and on the 2 metre repeater. Like Zoom, you 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.

Listen for VK2WAH, We Are Home.

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 – 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.