

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.

This morning saw the start of Daylight Saving Time in New South Wales. Since VK2WI News remains at the same local time, propagation conditions may have changed. If you are having difficulty with this news bulletin on your usual frequency, news bulletins can also be streamed live, or downloaded later, from the audio page of our website, <https://arnsw.org.au/audio>.

JOTA and JOTI 2021

Each year, Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet is held on the third weekend of October; this year it's on the weekend of the 17th and 18th. As in previous years, VK2WI will transmit the opening address, subject to delivery - at 1pm local time, on Saturday the 17th.

JOTA is an on-air event in which members of Scouts and Guides worldwide communicate with each other over Amateur Radio and the internet. The educational event brings together more than 2 million Scouts and Guides each year, with young people learning about communications technology and connecting with fellow Scouts and Guides from over 171 countries.

Scouts NSW would like to thank all clubs, groups and radio amateurs who directly help scouts to run sites over the event. It's a weekend where the amateur radio community opens the airwaves to some heavy band usage, soft voices, and questions or with some shy long silences from scout and guide members.

The Covid 19 situation requires some changes to activities for this year; luckily, unlike many other scouting activities, JOTA and JOTI can still proceed with a bit of creative thinking.

The NSW HQ JOTA/JOTI station will be on air and online as VK2SCJ and VK2KFH on most bands and modes over the event weekend. Scouts NSW hopes to hear about lots of great contacts over the weekend.

*Buzz VK2KFH
JOTA / JOTI Coordinator, Scouts NSW*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 24th to the 30th of September;
This report issued on Friday the 1st of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th
10cm Flux	88	88	86	85	86	102	95
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	6	7	2	6	9	4	6 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	125	5	1	6	7	3	7 estimated
T index	31	37	26	37	37	31	35

Solar activity dropped to very low levels on the 27th and was low otherwise.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 24th, 28th and 30th, otherwise quiet.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted monthly values, with depression of 15% during local night on the 24th, 25% during local night on the 27th, and enhancement of 20% during local night on the 28th.

Now, the forecast for the 1st to the 7th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate.

Geomagnetic activity is expected be at unsettled to active levels on the 1st and 2nd, with quiet to unsettled conditions otherwise.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values, with some slight depressions possible on the 2nd and 3rd.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures, last updated on the 30th of September;

At the end of September, we had a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 87 and a Maximum of 102
With peak dates from the 6th to the 13th and the 23rd to the 30th

As we start October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 73, Average of 85 and a Maximum of 95
With peak dates from the 1st to the 6th and the 17th to the 26th

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 74, Average of 80 and a Maximum of 88
With peak dates from the 11th to the 15th.

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 2m0s

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

MALDIVES; Nobby, G0VJG is active as 8Q7CQ from Innahura Island, IOTA AS-013, until October 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, including 60 metres, using SSB and various digital modes.

MOZAMBIQUE; Elvira, IV3FSG plans to be active as C92R beginning sometime in October. Activity will be in her spare time on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

GERMANY; Members of the DARC club in Backnang are active with special call sign DP70BAC until the end of 2021 to celebrates the club's 70th anniversary.

IRAN; Mohammed, EP2MRK has been active on 20 metres using SSB between 1520 and 1800UTC.

TAJIKISTAN; Ken, K4ZW is active as EY8/K4ZW until October 7 while on work assignment.

HUNGARY; Tamas, HA6LT is active as HA60ANT until the end of 2021 to commemorate the Antarctic Treaty celebrations.

ITALY; Station I16OANT is active until the end of 2021 to commemorate the Antarctic Treaty celebrations.

AUSTRIA; Station OE60ANT is active until the end of 2021 to commemorate the Antarctic Treaty celebrations. QSL via OE3DMA.

ANTARCTICA; A group of operators are active as KC4USV from McMurdo Station on Ross Island, IOTA AN-011, until October 31. Activity is on 40 and 20 metres using SSB and FT8.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. Pasi, OH3WS will be active as OJ0WS from October 3 to 9. Activity will be on the HF bands, and on 160 metres using only CW. He plans on possibly being active in the upcoming Scandinavian Activity SSB contest.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE; Members of the Czech DXpedition Group are active as S9OK from Sao Tome, IOTA AF-023, until October 5. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.

DODECANESE; A group of operators are active as SV5/HB9COG from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, until October 5. Activity is EME on 70, 23, 13, 9, 6, and 3 centimetres, at various times, using JT65C, Q65C, Q65D, and CW.

CRETE; John, SV9CJO is active with special event call SX200CJO until December 31 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Hellenic revolution against the Ottoman Empire.

TURKEY; Vasily, R7AA is active as TA0/R7AA from Buyukada Island, IOTA AS-201. Activity of late has been on 20 metres using CW and FT8.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO; The Oceania DX Phone Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, TRC DX Contest, German Telegraphy Contest, Russian World Wide Digital Contest, Two-Metre Classic Sprint, IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest, California QSO Party, International HELL-Contest, SKCC CW QSO Party, RSGB DX Contest, UBA ON SSB Contest and Peanut Power QRP Sprint are all on over this upcoming weekend.

The K1USN Slow Speed Test and RSGB 80-Metre Autumn CW Series are scheduled for October 4.

The ARS Spartan Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are on tap for October 5.

The Phone Fray, CWops Mini-CWT Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, 432 MHz Fall Sprint, and UKEICC 80-Metre Contest are scheduled for October 6.

WICEN News

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.

The VK2RWS 70cm repeater is now back on the air. Formerly at Berowra, it is now operating from Hornsby, but it is not currently linked to the Kurrajong repeater. Signal reports are welcomed and can be emailed to tech.team@nsw.wicen.org.au.

WICEN NSW, is a communications support squad of VRA Rescue NSW. 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. On Saturday the 2nd of October, the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club turned 50 years old. A celebratory dinner to mark this anniversary will be held once the Covid situation improves.

With the Port Macquarie region currently in lockdown, the October committee meeting was held online; minutes of this meeting will be emailed to members to keep them abreast of club affairs. When in-person activities can resume, they will be held in accordance with the club's Covid 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. The assessments for the Advanced, Standard and Foundation licences will be run when sufficient candidates have registered, and COVID restrictions 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. The VK2RPM-R Echolink node has been unavailable for the last week due to an equipment failure but will be restored as soon as possible. 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 newly published September 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 current issue contains a full report on the club's recent AGM, including a list of the office holders elected at the meeting. 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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is coming up on Tuesday the 12th of October, starting at 7:30pm. The meeting is normally held at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, on the Southern side of the Wollongong CBD.

With public health restrictions changing the day before, the Society is planning for an in-person meeting. At the time this news goes to air, the Society is awaiting confirmation from the operator of the meeting place. Once a decision is confirmed it will be advertised on the Society's web page, Facebook page and on next week's VK2WI News.

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 at 8:30pm; the usual frequency is 3666kHz, plus or minus for other usage.

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, at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 12th of October. This meeting will be either on-air using the Society's repeaters, or in person at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre; check the Society's website or listen to next week's VK2WI News for confirmation.

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

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Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With public health restrictions currently continuing, the Clubrooms are currently closed; This topic was discussed in yesterday's monthly meeting, with changes occurring in the health order on Monday.

The daily morning tea net continues, and the club would like to thank Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU for their ongoing 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 need a computer connection to your radio; 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. Adrian has had a large amount of support from members and would love to see you drop in; the next net is scheduled for this coming Friday the 8th of October at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was hosted by Alan VK2MG, with the topic of *"What projects have you meant to do, but have never quite got to?"* Responses ranged from various electrical and radio related projects through to building a steam traction engine. 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 are 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.*

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

With restrictions continuing, the Society will have an online meeting on Wednesday, the 6th of October. The meeting will have a presentation by Roger VK2ZRH, on G A Taylor: The Wireless Messiah and Very Naughty Boy.

George Augustine Taylor organised and chaired a meeting of radio experimenters in Sydney in 1910, leading to the establishment of the Wireless institute of Australia.

But only months before that, he was the first man to fly a heavier than aircraft in Australia, on 5 December 1909 at Narrabeen, having established the Aerial League of Australia earlier that year.

In the early-1900s, George Taylor "saw the future" in aviation and the new wireless technology. He was the right guy, in the right place, at the right time, with the vision, the connections and "the push".

He became the "wireless messiah", promoting the nascent broadcasting industry; however, he came to that position from an unexpected direction.

Unable to get work as an architect in the mid-late 1890s, he exploited his latent talent as an artist, producing cartoons for The Bulletin, the Melbourne Punch and The Worker, a union newspaper. He befriended well-known artists, writers, journalists, and poets, and they formed The Dawn and Dusk Club - an excuse for the Bohemians of Sydney to get together, eat drink and make merry. He was a very naughty boy. Better yet, he wrote a tell-all book about it!

The meeting will start at 7:30pm, on Wednesday the 6th of October. More information, including login details, can be found on the society's website at sgars.org.

*73 de Peter VK2EMU
Publicity officer*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

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.

HADARC operates two repeaters at VK2RNS Hornsby; On 2 metres at 147.25MHz with a +600 kHz offset and sends a 91.5Hz tone. On 70cm VK2RNS is on 439.975 MHz -5 MHz, requiring either a 91.5Hz tone for FM, or NAC 293 for P25.

The VK2RHT repeater at Chatswood, VK2RHT, is on 438.35Mhz with a -5.4MHz offset. It is part of ARNSW RadNet.

The club's next informal mid-monthly meeting is on Tuesday the 12th of October, starting at 8pm. This will be online using Jitsi Meet, and on the 2 metre repeater. You can join the Jitsi meeting online, using a web browser, on a smartphone app, or even from a landline phone.

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

Lightning Net – formerly WinterNet – 8pm Mondays 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 nets on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz; Morning tea at 10am daily, and Thursday night at 8pm. SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz; next net October 8.

Amateur Radio Central West Group *lunchtime net* 1pm daily; evening net Monday and Friday night net at 8pm, on VK2RCW and EchoLink VK2BLO. 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.