

In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

While the VK2WI Dural site is currently closed to visitors; with public health orders changing, we are planning to re-introduce some on-site activities later in the year. In the meantime, 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 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.

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 current or planned changes to activities. 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.

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.

Daylight Saving Time started in New South Wales last weekend, and since VK2WI News remains at the same local time, HF 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; its on next weekend, the 16th and 17th. As in previous years, VK2WI will transmit the opening address at 1pm local time, on Saturday the 16th.

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.

It's a weekend where the Amateur Radio community gets to show its community spirit and demonstrate the capability and benefits of the Amateur Radio Service to a broader audience; temporarily filling the airwaves with young people, for 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, and would like to thank all clubs, groups and radio amateurs who directly help scouts to run sites during this international event.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 1st to the 7th of October;
This report issued on Friday the 8th of October.
First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
10cm Flux	91	87	86	84	82	85	86
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	13	6	6	4	6	6	3 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	12	5	6	1	2	6	4 estimated
T index	39	21	24	28	31	38	27

Solar activity was very low on the 1st, low on the 2nd and 3rd, very low from the 4th to the 6th, and again low on the 7th.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to active levels on the 1st, becoming quiet to unsettled on the 2nd and 3rd, and quiet from the 4th to the 7th.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, were mostly near predicted monthly values. Enhancement 15% was observed during local night on the 1st, 20% on the 6th, and 30% during local night on the 7th.

Now, the forecast for the 8th to the 14th of October;

Solar activity is expected to be very low to low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected be at quiet to unsettled levels.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain near predicted monthly values.

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

So far for October, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 86 and a Maximum of 100
With peak dates from the 1st to the 3rd and the 20th to the 31st

And looking ahead to November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 75, Average of 84 and a Maximum of 90
With peak dates from the 1st to the 7th and the 15th to the 22nd.

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>]

Space Weather Summary for September 2021

Complied with data courtesy of Space Weather Services

Solar activity was at Very low to low levels this month. Moderate activity was observed on the 23rd due two low-level M-class flares; M2.8 at 0442UTC and M1.8 at 1528UTC. The M2.8 flare produced a brief minor shortwave fadeout in the Western Australian region, and was also associated with a minor coronal mass ejection(CME). Weak coronal hole high-speed solar wind streams were observed at times during the month, though they induced only minor activity. A solar filament eruption and CME was observed on the 13th.

No significant geomagnetic disturbances were observed in the Australian regional geomagnetic field during the month of September. Isolated active periods were observed on the 3rd, 8th, 17th and 21st. Minor activity on the 17th was possibly because of the solar filament eruption and weak CME on the 13th. The US SWPC planetary Kp index reached 5 (ASWAS G1) on the 17th; this was stronger than the activity observed in the Australian region.

Australian region Maximum Usable Frequencies remained mostly near the predicted values through the month; a moderate depressed of up to 25% was observed in the Southern Australian region on the 18th, probably due to geomagnetic activity on the 17th.

[Play File: 15-E-ID2.wav]

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: 16-FCAL195.wav]

Duration 1m59s

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

RODRIGUEZ ISLAND; Robert, 3B9FR has been active using mainly CW with some occasional SSB and FT8.

KINGDOM OF ESWATINI; A group of operators will be active as 3DA0WW from October 12 to 26. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

MALDIVES; Tommy, DL8KX is active on the HF bands as 8Q7KX from North Male Atoll, IOTA AS-013, until October 11.

CROATIA; Tom, 9A2AA is active with special event call sign 9A302AA until July 2022 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Croatia's independence.

MOZAMBIQUE; Elvira, IV3FSG is active as C92R. Activity is in her spare time on 80 to 10 metres using SSB and various digital modes.

CANARY ISLANDS; Chris, DL4FO will be active as EA8/DL4FO/p from La Gomera, IOTA AF-004, until October 21. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some SSB and may also include some SOTA and WWFF activations.

FRENCH GUIANA; Curtis, KC5CW is active as FY/KC5CW until November 3. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using slow CW, SSB, PSK, and FT8 in DXpedition mode.

SCOTLAND; Members of the West of Scotland ARS are active with special call sign GB4GDS until November 2 to draw attention to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association Scotland.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA; Special call sign HL30UN is active until October 31 to celebrate the 30th anniversary since the Republic of Korea was admitted to membership in the United Nations.

GUINEA-BISSAU; Members of the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as J5T and J5HKT from Bubaque Island, IOTA AF-020, until October 22 using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres.

SVAlBARD; Stations JW7XK, JW9DL and JW6VM are active from Longyearbyen, IOTA EU-026, until October 11. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being active as JW5X in the Scandinavian Activity SSB contest.

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.

AUSTRIA; Members of the Amateur Radio Contest DX Club will be active as 4U1A until October 31 to celebrate United Nations Day.

SURINAME; Sascha, PF9Z will be active as PZ5ZS from October 12 to 20. Activity will be on 80 to 10 metres using SSB.

CANADA; Alex, VE1RUS and Pierre, VE3TKB will be active as VY0ERC from the Eureka Amateur Radio Club on Ellesmere Island, IOTA NA-008, from October 12 to November 22. Activity is on the HF bands and includes entries in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB and ARRL Sweepstakes contests.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, Makrothen RTTY Contest, QRP ARCI Fall CW QSO Party, Nevada QSO Party, Oceania DX CW Contest, SKCC Weekend CW Sprintathon, Scandinavian Activity SSB Contest, Arizona QSO Party, Pennsylvania QSO Party, Cosack's Honor VHF/UHF Contest, South Dakota QSO Party, PODXS 070 Club 160-Metre Great Pumpkin Sprint, 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint and UBA ON CW Contest are all on over this weekend.

The 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint and K1USN Slow Speed Test are scheduled for October 11.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are on tap for October 12.

The NAQCC CW Sprint, RSGB 80-Metre Autumn Data Series, CWops Mini-CWT Test, and Phone Fray are scheduled for October 13.

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 Club turned 50 years old. A celebratory dinner to mark this anniversary will be held once the Covid situation improves.

The club station VK2BOR will not be participating in JOTA next weekend due to the COVID-19 situation. The Committee continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation to ensure that future activities comply with Public Health restrictions which may change at short notice. 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 their interest.

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. Access to VK2RPM is 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 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.*

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Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is coming this Tuesday the 12th of October. Meetings are normally held at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre; but with ongoing public health restrictions, this month's meeting will be over-the-air on the Society's linked 2-metre repeaters. The last three meetings have been held this way, with good attendance on all occasions.

The over-the-air meeting will commence at 7:30pm on the VK2RMP 6850 and VK2RUW 6675 repeaters as well as via EchoLink, connecting to VK2BGL-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. Rob VK2XIC will be sharing his experiences of using the Amateur microwave bands of 13 and 9 centimetres, while Shane VK2HCO has some interesting information of his experimentation and use of SDR receivers and transmitters.

It is planned that the next meeting of the Society on the 8th of November will be back to being in-person at the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre. This will be the Society's annual auction night, so this will be a great night to finally get back together.

In the meantime, 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. This week's Net will take place straight after the Society's 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, over-the-air at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 12th of October, on VK2RMP 6850, VK2RUW 6675, and EchoLink VK2BGL-R.

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

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

With the most recent change to public health orders, the Club is planning to open the Clubrooms next Saturday, October 16th. An Email has been sent to club members explaining the rules that we have to follow, and further updates will be sent if there are any changes to the rules.

The daily morning tea net continues, and the club would like to thank Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU for their ongoing efforts. 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 Friday the 22nd of October at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was hosted by Alan VK2MG, with the topic of "How did you get in to radio?" We had some wonderful stories of crystal sets and meeting amateurs while young as well as many folks whose path started in the CB ranks. 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 still offline; however work is progressing on restoring EchoLink and IRLP facilities, with the replacement equipment ready to be installed soon. D-Star and the RadNet DMR repeaters are fully functional.

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.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

With public health restrictions being lifter, the Club is planning to resume in-person soon.

Participation in next weekend's JOTA, Jamboree On The Air, will be online and on-air this year. BMARC operators will be assisting in providing radio communications for an exciting game of battleships on both Saturday and Sunday.

An 80m net will also be run by Pete VK2EMS, at 7pm on Saturday the 16th. This is to allow members of the Amateur Radio and Scouting community across New South Wales and Victoria to connect to each other. The committee would like to thank in advance Pip VK2SJ, Steve VK2YE, Paul VK2FPWA, Karl VK2KFH, Irene VK2VAN and Jan VK2FEB for volunteering their time to assist on this weekend. A huge thank you and appreciation also goes to Robin VK2HRG and of course James VK2GOH for playing a key role in making the weekend happen.

The next Foundation Licence weekend will be on Saturday 11th December and Sunday 12th December. During this weekend, candidates who have been attending the Wednesday night upgrade course will also be allowed to sit for their Standard or Advanced licence. If you would like to participate in the Foundation Licence weekend or sit for the upgrade examination please contact Irene, VK2VAN.

On air nets continue weekly; on the club's 2 metre repeater VK2RBM, on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone. Wednesday night nets start at 8pm and Sunday Afternoons nets are from 3pm.

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.*

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

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. The Club's next monthly general meeting will be on October the 26th.

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 website has up to date details on club activities, getting setup for Jitsi Meet, plus contact information, a web-based contact form 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

Lightning Net 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 – after news on Sundays – and Thursday night at 8pm. SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz; next net October 22.

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. On air meeting net Tuesday 12th.

Blue Mountains ARC Nets on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm and 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.