

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. 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 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 changes to activities or planned events. 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.

An online special event.

Coming up later this month is a live online event, on the Ham Radio DX Youtube channel. Here's Hayden VK7HH...

[Play File: 15-HRDX-1.wav]

Duration: 0m58s

In: Dick Smith VK2DIK...

Out:....for Ham Radio DX.

For more information, check the website at hamradiodx.net.

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 29th of October to the 4th of November;
This report issued on Friday the 5th of November.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
10cm Flux	108	107	103	98	97	89	94
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	2	8	8	8	12	14	42 observed
Australian Index (Aaus)	2	8	10	9	9	11	33 estimated
T index	37	40	27	33	24	19	32

Solar activity was moderate on the 29th, with an M1.5 flare at 0243UTC. Low activity levels were then observed on the 30th and 31st. The 1st of November saw moderate activity, again with an M1 flare at 0145UTC, which continued into the 2nd with an M1.6 at 0254UTC. The 3rd and 4th saw low solar activity.

Geomagnetic activity was quiet on the 29th and quiet to unsettled on the 30th. Active levels were observed on the 31st with a weak geomagnetic impulse of 9 nanoTesla at 1013UTC. The 1st of November was active, becoming quiet to unsettled on the 2nd. The 3rd and 4th saw activity at Major Storm levels.

F2 critical frequencies in Southern Australia, remained largely near predicted, with some depressed periods; the 31st of October was depressed 15% during local day. The 3rd and 4th of November saw depressions of 25% after local dawn, and on the 4th of November there were further depressions of 40% during local night.

Now, the forecast for the 5th to the 11th of November;

Solar activity is expected to be low to moderate. Geomagnetic activity is expected to be quiet to unsettled, with isolated active periods on the 8th. Maximum Usable Frequencies are likely to be depressed on the 5th and 6th, with mild depressions possible at other times.

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 October, we had a;

Minimum of 76, Average of 89 and a Maximum of 114
With peak dates from the 1st to the 2nd and the 25th to the 31st

As we start November, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 82, Average of 92 and a Maximum of 114
With peak dates from the 1st to the 6th and the 22nd to the 30th

And looking ahead to December, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 82, Average of 85 and a Maximum of 92
With peak dates from the 1st to the 5th.

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: 16-FCAL126.wav]

Duration 1m31s

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: 17-E-ID2.wav]

ARRL DX news

GUINEA; Jean Philippe, F1TMY is now active as 3X2021 from Conakry, on 160 to 6 metres using SSB, and on Satellite QO-100. This includes some portable operations from the Los Islands, IOTA AF-051.

MALAWI; Don, K6ZO is active as 7Q6M while on work assignment. Activity is on the HF bands and includes possible SOTA activity from Mount Mulanje.

NEPAL; Robert, S53R has been issued 9N7AA and plans to soon be active on 40 to 6 metres with limited activity.

THE GAMBIA; Members of the C5C team are active from Kololi until November 19. Activity is on 80 to 10 metres, depending on propagation, using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4, and on Satellite QO-100.

MADEIRA ISLAND; Rosel, DL3KWR and Hardy, DL3KWF are active as CT9/home calls from Canico de Baixo, IOTA AF-014, until November 24. Activity is on the HF bands, and possibly 60 metres, using CW and FT8.

THAILAND; Lars, SM6NT will be active as HS0ZME from Hua Hin from November 9 to April 5, 2022. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using only CW.

JAPAN; Tashi, JR2TER is active as JR2TER/p from Yonaguni Island, IOTA AS-024, until March 2022. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8.

ARGENTINA; Members of the Radio Club QRM Belgrano will be active as LU4AAO, LU4AAO/A and LU4AAO/D until November 14 to commemorate Dia de la Tradicion, which celebrates the birthday of Argentina poet Jose Hernandez. Activity will be on the HF and V/UHF bands using CW, SSB, SSTV, FT8, and on the FM Satellites.

BELGIUM; Special event station OT5IDPD is active until December 3 to commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities, that takes place on December 3. Activity is on the HF bands.

BRAZIL; Special event station PV60CRASC is active until November 30 to celebrate 60 years of the Clube dos Radioamadores de Sao Carlos.

TURKEY; Special event call sign TC83ATA is active until November 11 to commemorate Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who founded the Turkish Republic and was the first President. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC; Ken, LA7GIA is active as TL7M from Bangui until November 15. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and FT8.

NAMIBIA; Gunter, DK2WH is active as V51WH until March 2022. Activity is on the HF bands. During contests, he will be active as V55Y.

NORFOLK ISLAND; Nick, VK2DX is active as VK9DX and has been active on 15 metres using CW around 1800UTC.

INDIA; Abie, AB1F is active as VU2ABE from Shillong in the Meghalaya State until December 18. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15, and 10 metres. This includes participating in various upcoming contests.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contest, QRP 80-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, IPARC Contest, Ukrainian DX Contest, Two-Metre Classic Sprint, EANET Sprint and the High Speed Club CW Contest will certainly keep contesters busy throughout this weekend.

The Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest and RTTYOPS Weeksprint are scheduled for November 9.

The CWops Mini-CWT Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, RSGB 80-Metre Autumn Series, QRP 40-Metre CW Fox Hunt and Phone Fray are all scheduled for November 10.

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 Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club.

The Club's weekly net is on Saturdays at 7:30pm local time, on the South East Network; VK2RFS on 146.75MHz; VK2RSE near Cooma on 147.375MHz; and VK3RDH 146.625MHz. No tone is required for access. The network can also be accessed via EchoLink node 685091.

Angelo VK2NWT

For the Snowy Mountains Amateur Radio Club.

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club

The club's November general meeting was held yesterday; After four months without an in-person meeting, the easing of the COVID-19 safety restrictions has enabled a welcome return to in person meetings for those who are fully vaccinated. The meeting was 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. 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 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 November 2021 issue is in preparation and will be published soon. 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.*

Westlakes Amateur Radio Club

The Club is planning a field day on Sunday the 21st of November, in the Club grounds, 6a York Street Teralba, subject to public health regulations. Proof of full vaccination and Covid check-in will be required.

You can set up a stall at no charge; but bring your own table. There will also be an auction, raffle, and a BBQ with hot and cold drinks available.

Westlakes has a net every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 09:30am on 3565kHz.

*Advised by Barrie VK2QG
For the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club*

[Play ID File: 18-E-ID3.wav]

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The Clubrooms have been reopened, subject to the restrictions in the current public health orders. The November General meeting was held yesterday, and there is an examination day planned for Saturday the 20th of November.

At the VK2RAG Somersby site, D-Star and RadNet DMR repeaters are now fully functional. The Brand Meister DMR repeater is still having problems.

The daily morning tea net continues, thanks to the commitment of Bob VK2AOR and Dave VK2KFU; 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. 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 19th of November at 7:30pm.

Last week's Thursday night net was run by Alan VK2MG, on the topic "*What is the most useful bit of home-brew kit that you've made?*", with responses ranging from a 12-volt distribution board with voltage and current meters, through to a satellite antenna tracking system. The net runs every 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 IT Team are experimenting with a webSDR, destined for the Somersby repeater site. websdr.ccarc.org.au is currently configured to allow four users to listen on 2 metres with several presets.

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.*

Illawarra Amateur Radio Society

The next meeting of the Society is coming this Tuesday the 9th of November. The general meeting starts at 7:30pm, directly following the Society's Committee Meeting which starts at 6:30pm. Attendees are most welcome to arrive from 6.30 onwards to enjoy a pre-meeting chat and cuppa in the foyer.

Meetings return to the BlueScope Steel Visitors Centre, on the southern side of the Wollongong CBD. After turning off Springhill Road into the BlueScope main entrance road, attendees then turn immediately right before the security gates, following the large signs towards the Visitors Centre.

After four months of the meetings over the air, this meeting coming Tuesday will be of the "old-fashioned type" and will be face-to-face. There are concerns that Members may have forgotten what each other look like, so the renewing of friendships, sending of QSL cards and tall stories will be first and foremost. But the excitement of seeing each other again may well be overshadowed by the excitement that is the annual IARS November Auction. Resident auctioneer Simon VK2XQX has gone out and got a haircut so that he will be presentable and recognisable to all present. So, come along and pick-up a bargain or offer something up for auction. All auction items need to be booked in by 7pm.

In the meantime, the Society has two other Nets; which continued throughout the 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, except for meeting nights, 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 and Annual auction of the Illawarra Amateur Radio Society, at 7.30pm this Tuesday the 9th of November, at the BlueScope Steel Visitor Centre in Wollongong.

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

Sydney ATV Group

If you are interested in Amateur TV; 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.

Nets are now on Monday evenings starting at 7:30pm. We regularly have technical talks, show our latest projects, general interest videos and much more.

Give us a call during the net 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

At the club's monthly meeting on Friday, Stephen Sutherland, a transmitter engineer at ReachBeyond Australia, gave a talk about their Kununurra Broadcast Facility, and the history of the site from its inception in 2003 until today. The station is the only remaining high-power, non-for-profit Shortwave station in Australia, broadcasting to the Asia Pacific region in 24 languages.

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.

Wednesday night licence upgrade courses are still running by Jan VK2FEB from 6pm. If you would like to upgrade to a Standard or Advanced licence, contact Irene, VK2VAN.

The Club Christmas party and annual Auction will be on Sunday the 5th of December. Members invited to bring any unwanted gear to the clubhouse for testing prior to auction. A barbeque will also be held during the day as well to top off the event.

On air nets are on the club's 2 metre repeater VK2RBM, on 147.050MHz with a 123Hz tone. Wednesday night nets start at 8pm and Sunday nets are now on the second Sunday of the month, from 5pm.

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*

[Play ID File: 19-E-ID4.wav]

Activities on the air

Lightning Net 8pm Mondays on 1860kHz, Net control Steve VK2STG.

Snowy Mountains ARC net 7:30pm Saturday on South east network; VK2RFS 146.75MHz, VK2RSE 147.375, VK3RDH 146.625, and EchoLink.

Oxley Region ARC nets 7:30pm Thursday, 9am Sunday, VK2RPM 146.7Mhz with 91.5Hz tone.

Great Lakes Radio Club weekly net 7pm Monday, back on the VK2RGL Repeater, 147.1MHz with 91.5Hz tone, EchoLink VK2RGL-R.

Westlakes 80 metre nets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 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 146.9.

Central Coast ARC nets on VK2RAG 146.725Mhz, 91.5Hz and EchoLink; Morning tea at 10am daily – after news on Sundays – and Thursday night at 8pm. SSTV net every second Friday on 147.125MHz; next net November 19.

Amateur Radio Central West Group lunchtime net 1pm daily; evening net Monday and Friday at 8pm, 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 on VK2RBM, 147.050MHz with 123Hz tone; Wednesdays from 8pm; Second Sunday of the month from 5pm.

Manly-Warringah Radio Society net 8pm Wednesdays VK2RMB 146.875.

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. Next meeting November 23rd.